

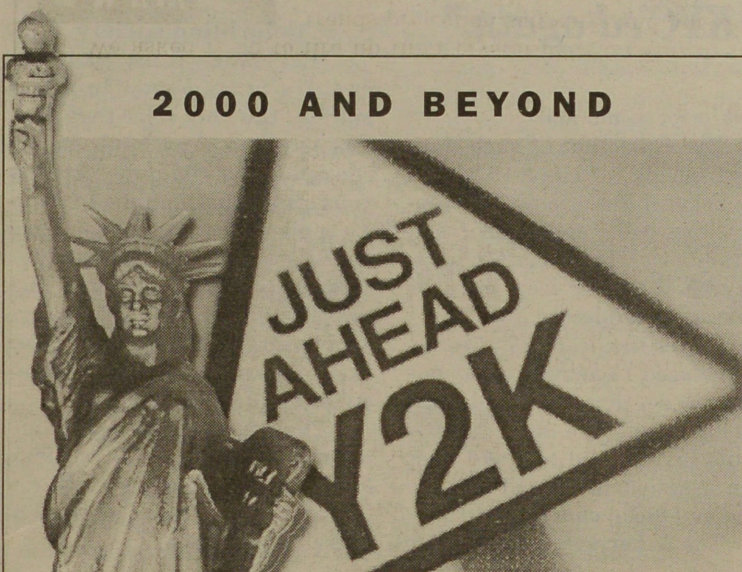
LIBERTARIAN PARTY LP NEWS

The Party of Principle

January 2000

The Official Monthly Newspaper of the Libertarian Party ★ Volume 15 / Issue 1

2000 AND BEYOND



What's next for the LP?

Edited by Bill Winter
LP NEWS EDITOR

The 1990s are history. The future — the year 2000 — is here. Technically, this isn't the dawn of the new millennium (that doesn't happen until January 1, 2001) but it is a good opportunity for Libertarians to pause for a moment and reflect about what that future will bring.

In the last issue of *LP News*, we reviewed the previous 10 years of the Libertarian Party, looking at the year-by-year political highlights and milestones of the '90s.

In this issue, we turn our sights to the next 10 years. What will the coming decade mean for the Libertarian Party? When the history of the LP from 2000 to 2010 is someday written, what will it say?

To answer that question, we turned to several dozen prominent LP members — State Chairs and state Executive Directors, LP candidates, past and present party officers and staff members, and elected officials.

We asked them to fire up their crystal balls (or run their trends-projection software) and answer one of the three following questions:

- What one interesting or historic milestone do you predict the Libertarian Party will achieve within the next decade? When will it happen, and why?
- What will be the one most significant political issue of the next decade that the Libertarian Party can capitalize on? Why?
- What one strategic or tactical idea should the Libertarian Party implement to generate more political success over the next decade? Why?

Here are their answers. Only time will tell if they are accurate, but, in the meantime — as we prepare for the calendar to flip over to 2000 — they provide a fascinating and multifaceted perspective on the "future history" of the Libertarian Party.

Issue: Keeping e-commerce tax free. Taxes is our best issue. Computer/Web users are our best constituency. And promoting the status quo will preempt the usual tactic of branding us and our proposals as "radical."

See **LOOKING TO 2000** Page 10

LP launches new campaign against 'racist' Regulation B

Proposal would make banks collect racial, ethnic information

The Libertarian Party has joined a campaign to repeal Regulation B — a new proposal by the Federal Reserve Board that may force banks to collect information about the race, gender, and ethnic background of loan applicants.

Since launching the anti-Regulation B campaign on November 17, party spokespeople have appeared on 312 radio stations to warn Americans about the proposal, and the party has set up a special website link to give activists anti-Regulation B lobbying information.

Force the Feds

"We learned from the success of the Know Your Customer campaign that if you pick the proper issue, you can force the feds to back down," said LP Press Secretary George Getz, who is coordinating the effort. "We hope to stop

To lobby against Regulation B, visit:
www.lp.org/lp-regb.html

Regulation B, too, since it is another example of the government using race to pit one group against another."

The growing campaign against Regulation B has already attracted the attention of the Associated Press, earning the LP national publicity on December 7.

In a story that appeared in such newspapers as *Newsday* (New York), the *Tampa Bay Tribune* (Florida), and the *Daily News* (New York), the AP noted that the proposal has "drawn criticism" from the Libertarian Party, the Eagle Forum, and some Republican senators.

Lobbying information about Regulation B can be found via a

link on the party's website: www.lp.org/lp-regb.html. The link includes more information about the proposal, a fax number for the Federal Reserve, and phone numbers for people to call their Congressional representatives.

The public comment period for Regulation B ended in mid-November, said Getz, but sources say the Federal Reserve is still "unofficially" taking comments.

On the fence

"Apparently, the Federal Reserve is on the fence still about Regulation B," he said. "If we put pressure on them now, we may be able to turn the tide against this racist proposal."

However, the Federal Reserve is not accepting e-mail comments about Regulation B, said Getz, apparently in response to the barrage of e-mail the anti-

See **REGULATION B** Page 2

Ohio city councilman joins party

Nick Hogan also plans run for U.S. Congress

By Peter Orvetti

LP NEWS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

An Ohio city councilman joined the Libertarian Party, won re-election, and announced plans to run for Congress as an LP candidate — all within the last few months.

Nick Hogan, who has served on the city council of Gahanna, a town just outside Columbus, for the last six years, joined the LP in August. He kept his decision quiet until after the November election, he said, because his political affiliation shouldn't play a role in the non-partisan race.

"I have been a Libertarian for years. I just didn't know it," said Hogan about his switch.

Ohio LP State Chair Dena

Bruedigam welcomed Hogan to the party.

"I'm pleased and excited to have an experienced campaigner and elected official like Nick Hogan join the Libertarian cause," she said.

Hogan, 49, was re-elected to the city council in November 1999 in a non-partisan race, coming in third with 19% in a race for three open seats.

He was the only incumbent re-elected, he said, after other council members campaigned

hard to defeat him — neglecting their own races and losing.

Now, he said, "I have a four-

year term, so I'll be around for a while."

Gahanna voters have been supportive of his decision to join

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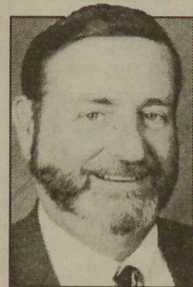
How Libertarians influence talk radio

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David Nolan: Why I'm running for Congress

■ PAGE 16

An activist's tip: The organizing tour



■ Nick Hogan: "Didn't know."

NewsBriefs

Arizona LP gets re-affiliated

The Libertarian Party is back up to its full strength of 50 state parties, now that the Libertarian National Committee has re-affiliated the LP of Arizona.

In a teleconference on November 30, the LNC voted 13-0 (with four abstentions) to recognize the "Libertarian Party of Arizona, Inc." — with State Chair Peter Schmerl — as the party's official affiliate in the state.

The LNC vote echoed the results of a referendum of all Arizona LP members earlier in the month, when 64.7% of the respondents indicated support for that organization, which was one of two groups lobbying to be recognized as the "official" state affiliate. The LPA, Inc. won the referendum in all geographic areas of the state.

"Libertarians in Arizona have spoken: They want to put any disagreements behind them, and work together to build an effective and successful state party," said David Bergland, LP National Chair. "With this vote, Libertarians in Arizona can once again focus on our common opponents — big-government Republicans and Democrats."

In August, the LNC had voted to disaffiliate the Arizona LP in an attempt to resolve a long-running dispute between two state party factions. Arizona Libertarians had been divided over issues of strategy, interpretations of the state LP bylaws, and state law regulating political parties.

The vote to re-affiliate the state party came in time for the Arizona LP to send a delegation to the 2000 LP National Convention in Anaheim, California, June 30-July 3, 2000.

Libertarian of the Century

Who is the Libertarian of the century? Famed Austrian economist Ludwig von Mises, says *Liberty* magazine.

"We chose an individual whose intellectual achievements surpassed [all] others, [and] whose contributions to the development of libertarian social theory was greatest," said *Liberty* editor R.W. Bradford.

Von Mises, who was born in pre-World War I Austria-Hungary and died in 1973, was selected by a vote of more than two dozen contributing *Liberty* editors. The selection was announced in the January 2000 issue.

Von Mises is perhaps best known as the author of *Human Action* (1949), which "provided a rational means of understanding how the market economy actually functions," said Bradford. He also wrote *Liberalism* (1927), *Omnipotent Government* (1944), and *Socialism* (1922), which critiqued nationalism and the failed experiment of socialism.

Von Mises was "a great economist and an original political thinker" who "never abandoned or softened his intransigent advocacy of laissez-faire and of political liberty," said Bradford.

Coming in a close second to von Mises for "Libertarian of the Century" honors were Nobel Prize-winning economist Milton Friedman, iconoclastic author and professor Murray Rothbard, economist Friedrich A. Hayek, and novelist Ayn Rand.

Gun group strikes back with lawsuit

After two dozen cities filed lawsuits against gun manufacturers, a pro-Second Amendment group is striking back with a lawsuit of its own.

On November 30, the Second Amendment Foundation (SAF) sued the U.S. Conference of Mayors, as well as some individual mayors, charging that their anti-gun lawsuits violated the First, Second, and Ninth Amendments.

"The mayors are on notice that their lawsuits will not be free," said SAF founder Alan Gottlieb. "The Second Amendment Foundation and gun owners across the country will make them accountable for attempting to steal in the judicial branch what they have failed to rob in the legislative branch."

Besides claiming that the cities are trying to illegally bankrupt makers of a legal product, the SAF also took the unique step of charging the mayors with violating the First Amendment by trying to kill the ability of gun makers to purchase advertising in the future.

The SAF, which has over 600,000 supporters nationwide, was founded in 1974 to defend the civil rights of firearms owners. The group has successfully brought lawsuits against several cities for Second Amendment rights violations.

For information about this lawsuit, visit www.saf.org.



■ Von Mises: "The greatest."

LP works to stop Regulation B

Continued from Page 1

Know Your Customer campaign generated.

"They don't want to get KYC'ed again," he said. "We've even heard that one Federal Reserve official defended their no e-mail decision by saying, 'Too much democracy is a bad thing.' Well, Libertarians think that racist government laws are a bad thing, and too much government arrogance is a bad thing."

Other groups active in the anti-Regulation B campaign include the Free Congress Foundation, the Independent Community Bankers of America, and other banking organizations.

No decision

No decision about Regulation B is expected from the Federal Reserve until Spring 2000.

Regulation B would amend the Equal Credit Opportunity Act to "encourage" banks to collect data on the race, religion, gender, and national origin of anyone applying for an auto loan, credit

GEORGE GETZ:

The Federal Reserve doesn't "want to get KYC'ed again."

card, or personal loan.

The collection of such data has been illegal since 1976, but the Federal Reserve wants to reverse that policy and make it "voluntary" — which, critics note, may be the first step towards making it mandatory.

Under the proposal, if someone refused to answer questions about race, gender, and ethnic background, the loan officer would be required to make their own assessment "based on skin tone and facial characteristics."

The Libertarian Party also

attacked Regulation B in a press release, calling it a "backward" and "unnecessary" proposal.

"There's only one way to describe Regulation B: Backward," said Steve Dasbach, the party's national director. "This embarrassing throwback to the Jim Crow era should be withdrawn immediately."

Colorblind society

"Regulation B isn't only unjust; it's unnecessary. In a free market, the only color that matters is green. Any bank foolish enough to discriminate virtually guarantees that qualified minority applicants will take their business elsewhere, and even invites massive consumer boycotts. In a colorblind society, banks judge people not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their credit application," he said.

The Federal Reserve first announced Regulation B in 1995, but it was withdrawn after a firestorm of criticism. It was reintroduced in 1998.

Nick Hogan joins Libertarian Party

Continued from Page 1

the LP, said Hogan — "although maybe a little uneasy in that they will have to choose between voting for me or following their old party line, be that Republican or Democrat."

Before joining the LP, Hogan was a lifelong Republican.

"The problem today is that there is no difference between the Republicans and Democrats anymore," he said. "Their only concern is winning an election. They have both decided the way to do it is to play Santa."

Hogan said he had considered joining the LP for some time before formalizing his decision.

After taking the World's Smallest Political Quiz and visiting the LP website, "I knew I had no choice but to join," he said.

But he said his party switch will not affect the way he votes.

An American

"I am an American. I have been and always will be," said Hogan. "I guess what I am saying is that there is nothing more American than being a Libertarian."

Hogan, the managing partner for an agency that trains insurance agents for several companies, has lived in Gahanna for over 20 years and is active in the community. He said his long residency and lengthy tenure on the council will be a plus in his next campaign: As the Libertarian candidate for the open 12th District U.S. House seat.

"Being a sitting council member definitely adds credibility to

NICK HOGAN:

"There is nothing more American than being a Libertarian."

my campaign," he said. "I have a reputation for defending the little guy and exposing government waste. I have quite a bit of name recognition, possibly as much as Republican candidate Pat Tiberi."

Bruedigam expressed high hopes about Hogan's Congressional bid.

"Nick Hogan will be an excellent torchbearer for the Libertarian Party as he carries our message to Ohio voters in his Congressional race," she said. "The

impact of a well-run campaign such as Hogan's can only result in increased membership and activism in our state."

The same ideas that led Hogan to join the LP will become the themes of his Congressional campaign, he said: "I will be campaigning on individual freedom, responsibility and removing the unnecessary intrusion of government into personal lives."

Win or lose

Whether he wins or loses in November, Hogan said his new party affiliation is important as he pursues his political goals.

"I have always fought for individual rights and responsibility," he said. "Our Constitution guarantees the right to pursue happiness, but it does not guarantee to make everyone happy. Santa is great for children, but a government-run North Pole creates a society based on dependency instead of freedom."

LIBERTARIAN PARTY LPNews

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McWilliams accepts medical marijuana plea bargain

Bestselling author and LP activist now faces five years in federal prison

Bestselling author and LP member Peter McWilliams has accepted a plea bargain in his medical marijuana case in California, and now faces five years in prison.

On November 19, McWilliams pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to manufacture and distribute marijuana, after a judge ruled earlier in the month that he could not use "medical necessity" as a defense against federal drug charges.

"We had no place else to go," said McWilliams. "We couldn't present our medical marijuana defense, so we would be automatically found guilty, taken into custody on the spot, and begin serving a mandatory 10-year sentence."

"By pleading guilty, we take the crime out of the mandatory-minimum category and permit the judge to use compassion in his sentencing."

McWilliams and fellow medical marijuana activist Todd McCormick were arrested in July on federal marijuana charges, even though California law allows marijuana to be used for medical reasons.

McWilliams, who has AIDS and cancer, and McCormick, who has bone cancer, had hoped to cite California's Proposition 215 — which legalized the use of medical marijuana — during their trial.

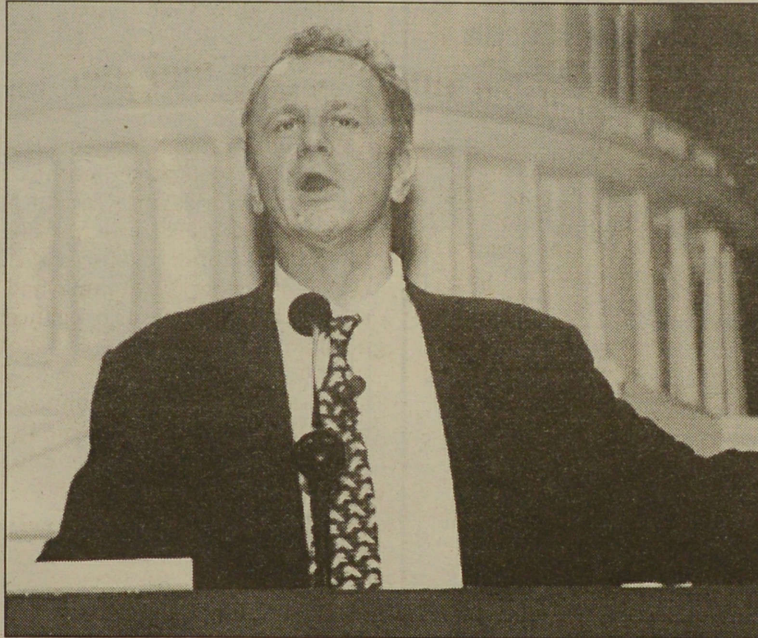
But U.S. District Judge George King ruled on November 5 that McWilliams and McCormick could not refer to their medical conditions during their trial, nor could they mention any legitimate medical uses of marijuana.

Life-threatening

Sentencing for both men was set for February 28, 2000. At the sentencing hearing, McWilliams will be able to mention his life-threatening medical condition.

"We believe Judge King will [use compassion in his sentencing]," said McWilliams.

Since Proposition 215 passed in 1996, the federal government has argued that state laws do not apply to federal offenses, and has continued to prosecute medical marijuana users. However, also since 1996, voters in six additional states have passed medical marijuana referendums.



■ The federal investigation of Peter McWilliams began not long after the bestselling author gave a nationally broadcast speech at the LP National Convention in 1998, touting the benefits of medical marijuana. He now faces five years in jail.

California LP leaders expressed dismay about McWilliams's plea bargain.

"I was saddened and shocked to learn of Peter's plea bargain acceptance," said California LP executive director Juan Ros. "The fact is, the court's earlier decision to disallow any sort of medical marijuana defense or even a mention of Peter's health condition

amounted to a death sentence."

"If government has a legitimate function, it is to protect the lives of its citizens, and the judge's decision runs directly counter to that. The court decision against Peter was a fundamental violation of every doctrine on which this country was founded."

The California LP will continue to work to help McWilliams,

said Ros — and to help 1998 gubernatorial candidate Steve Kubby, who also faces medical marijuana charges in a separate trial.

"With Steve Kubby's trial still to come, I guarantee that the California LP will continue to fight at the front lines of the medical marijuana battle in the coming year," he said. "We will work with Peter and Steve to come up with suitable strategies in order to help not only them but all medical marijuana patients. Media and public relations will certainly be an element in our overall strategy. Lobbying in Sacramento is also likely. Further, many of our candidates for office will stress the medical marijuana issue while campaigning."

Proposition 215

The California LP has also set up a website to promote Proposition 215 and medical marijuana, he said, and has sent representatives to the Attorney General's Medical Marijuana Task Force to make sure state law enforcement will "adhere to the spirit of Proposition 215."

Libertarians around the country can also help McWilliams, said Ros, by working to pass more medical marijuana laws, lobbying to get marijuana out of the

See **MCWILLIAMS** Page 17

'I'm a Libertarian,' says pop/folk singer Melanie

Melanie — the pop/folk singer best known for her early '70s hit, "Brand New Key" — has announced that she is a Libertarian.

In the liner notes of a new greatest hits CD entitled *Ring the Living Bell: A Collection* (issued in 1999 by Renaissance Records), Melanie declared, "I'm a total Libertarian, and I am not a Democrat, a Socialist, or a Republican."

The mono-named singer — who has parlayed an appearance at the original Woodstock and a unique blend of pop and folk into a career that has spanned three decades — advised her fans: "Vote Libertarian, [and] don't worry about wasting your vote."

Clean slate

Melanie also had a suggestion about what to do with the Democrats and Republicans who currently hold office: "We've got to get all of them out of there. That's the only way. We need to clean the slate and start over again."

And she offered a definition of the proper role of government: "Totally leave us alone and we'll be better off."

MELANIE:

"Vote Libertarian, [and] don't worry about wasting your vote."



■ Pop/folk singer Melanie has declared on her new greatest hits CD, *Ring The Living Bell: A Collection*, that she is "not a Democrat, a Socialist, or Republican," but a Libertarian.

ing sign, said Crickenberger.

"It's a very positive development when libertarianism has even started to win over the Woodstock Generation," he said.

Melanie, born Melanie Safka in 1947, first came to public prominence in 1969 with an appearance at the famous Woodstock music festival.

Over the next five years, she had a string of hits in the USA and Great Britain, including "Lay Down (Candles in the Rain)," "The

Nickel Song," and "Brand New Key," which hit #1 in 1971.

Over the years, Melanie has released 25 albums, won an Emmy Award in 1989 for a song for the television show *Beauty and the Beast*, and served as a spokesperson for UNICEF.

She returned to the public eye with an appearance on a Spice Girls album in 1996, and when "Brand New Key" was featured on the soundtrack of the 1998 hit film *Boogie Nights*.

Libertarian influence on talk radio

Libertarians have a disproportionate influence on talk radio — with more than one in five listeners describing themselves as "fiscally conservative/socially liberal" and at least four libertarian-leaning talk show hosts among the industry's most popular, says a new report from *Talkers* magazine.

According to *Talkers'* Talk Radio Research Project, 21% of all regular radio listeners in 1999 described their political philosophy as "fiscally conservative/socially liberal," which is one popular shorthand description of libertarianism. By comparison 31% put themselves in the "conservative" camp, 13% are "liberal," and 27% are "moderate."

Primary affiliation

Even more surprising, a full 9% of radio fans say their primary political affiliate is with the Libertarian Party, a number that is substantially larger than the party's base of registered voters.

This is a trend that radio radio
See **TALK RADIO** Page 19

Political News

McDaniels announces presidential run

The Libertarian Party has a new candidate for its presidential nomination:

Edison McDaniels, a 76-year-old retired trial attorney from San Bernardino, California.

McDaniels, who joined the LP in November 1999, has run for president as a Democrat and an independent twice before, and said he may also seek the Reform Party nomination in 2000.

His chief qualification for the presidency, he said, is his "34 years of private practice enforcing the U.S. Constitution as an attorney."

If elected, McDaniels promised to "rebuild America," increase "trust in government," "slow down on foreign aid and aid Americans" and "stress butter instead of swords in foreign policy." He also called for a "productive" approach to crime prevention to "terminate the prison explosion."

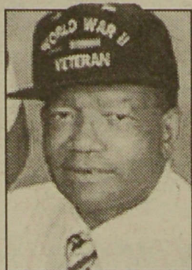
"I truly want to represent 'We The People,'" he said.

"It is my intention to obtain the nomination for President" at the 2000 Libertarian convention, McDaniels said, but he declined to discuss his strategy for winning the nomination.

"That's like handing your opponent your plans so he can copy them or block them," he said.

However, McDaniels did say he planned to campaign by train, "and speak to every hamlet and village all over the country."

For more information about the McDaniels campaign, visit: campaign.votenet.com/EdisonMcDaniels.



■ **McDaniels:** Rebuild America

New website reveals GOP hypocrisy

There's a new website that offers "irrefutable evidence" that Republicans are really a bunch of "Libertarian Wannabees" — who talk about reducing the size of government while pursuing big-government programs.

"This is where we document why the Republican Party is not the home of those who labor for a Constitutional and moral government," said Greg Cunningham, executive director of the Virginia-based Libertywon, which set up the site at www.libertywon.com/wannabee.htm.

On the site, the Republicans' own words are used against them: The page mainly consists of pro-government quotes from GOP leaders. The harshest scrutiny is reserved for Texas Gov. George W. Bush, who gets his own section with comments like, "The federal government now spends \$8 million on promoting character education efforts. My administration will triple that funding."

"I like the quotes to speak for themselves," said Cunningham.

On the site, an animated bee represents the "Wanna-bee Republicans" and their efforts to promote the growth of government. The site also links to longer articles that offer more evidence of the GOP's pro-government agenda.

"We hope the site will be a useful tool for Libertarians who are attempting to illustrate that elected Republicans' rhetoric doesn't match up with their records," said Cunningham.

Harry Browne wins university poll

If a Monmouth University political science class proves to be a bellwether, Harry Browne will be the next president of the United States.

The Libertarian hopeful won a straw poll of students in October after Professor Richard Johnston, who stood in for Browne in the Monmouth, Illinois, mock debate, called Browne the candidate of "sex, drugs and rock and roll."

"I prefer to think of myself as the marriage, moderate wine, and classical music candidate," quipped Browne when he heard the news. "Of course, I appreciate support from like-minded people regardless of their beverage or musical tastes."

As Browne, Johnston called for personal responsibility and bashed the war on drugs and the war on poverty as failures. Browne was the only third-party candidate represented in the unscientific classroom poll.

"Once again, we see pleasing proof that when a great Libertarian offer is heard, we win," said Browne.

Browne garnered a dozen votes, three more than second-place finisher Senator John McCain (R-AZ). Libertarian presidential candidate Larry Hines received one vote — even though he was not represented in the forum — enough to tie him with GOP hopeful Gary Bauer.



■ **Browne:** Wins college poll.



Photo by Peter Orvetti

Dasbach shares cyberadvocacy tips at conference

LP National Director Steve Dasbach (right) explains to an audience of political experts at the PoliticsOnline Conference how the Libertarian Party used its DefendYourPrivacy.com website to stop the "Know Your Customer" regulation. The event, sponsored by the George Washington University Graduate School for Political Management, was held on December 6 in Washington, DC.

The conference examined how the Internet is changing campaigning and lobbying, and attracted a crowd of journalists, Web experts, and political professionals.

"For the LP to be invited to offer tips on successful Internet activism shows just how successful this campaign was," said Dasbach. "Our effectiveness is being noticed."

Dasbach's panel — which examined the issue of cyberadvocacy — also included Peter Hong of America's Community Bankers, who lauded the LP effort. "[The FDIC] is not used to getting a flood of e-mail from individual consumers and I think that's what turned the tide [against] Know Your Customer," he said.

Also participating in the conference were the *New York Times*, the Democratic National Committee, the *Washington Post*, FreedomChannel.com, America Online, Microsoft, and the McCain for President committee.

ELECTED LIBERTARIANS IN ACTION

City Commissioner Bob DeBrosse is fighting 'selective enforcement'

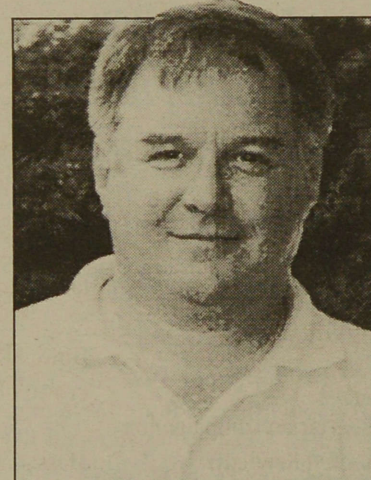
What can one Libertarian in office accomplish?

If you're Bob DeBrosse, a City Commissioner in Piqua, Ohio, you can hold the line on tax increases for five and a half years, roll back laws that restrict what kinds of work people can do on their own property, and weaken a proposal that would have allowed police to selectively enforce a public noise ordinance.

"The issues that energize me the most are those involving civil liberties and property rights," said DeBrosse, who is serving his second term as Piqua City Commissioner. "[But] the statist law enforcement policy that really sets me to twitchin' is the concept of selective enforcement."

DeBrosse, 45, had an opportunity to fight such selective enforcement when Piqua police decided to crack down on public noise by proposing a law that would make it illegal for a stereo to be 'plainly audible' from 50 feet.

If found guilty of the proposed fourth-degree misdemeanor,



■ **Bob DeBrosse:** Noise pollution law was "like going after a gnat with a sledge hammer."

criminal record for cranking it up too high. This is like going after a gnat with a sledgehammer."

Instead, DeBrosse suggested to the Commission that the law should more narrowly target the low-frequency bass vibrations that were most irritating.

"Not surprisingly, I got nowhere with this suggestion," he said. "It was obvious that this law was intended to be a fishing net for police to target people they didn't like."

Chief of police

In fact, the chief of police admitted he would selectively enforce the law, said DeBrosse.

Trying another strategy at the next City Commission meeting, DeBrosse then suggested that the confiscation clause be dropped. His amendment passed — but so did the noise abatement law.

The semi-victory with the boombox law wasn't DeBrosse's only accomplishment, said Pearl Pullman, a local LP member who

See **DEBROSSE** Page 17

Carla Howell

small government is beautifulsm

Carla Howell's Libertarian U.S. Senate Campaign Against Ted Kennedy

Front page, Sunday newspaper article: "If Hollywood needed to invent a challenger to Democratic Sen. Edward Kennedy, they couldn't have created anyone whose views differ more than Libertarian Carla Howell." (*MetroWest Daily News*, 11/7/99)

Why run against Ted Kennedy?

Because he's famous. Because he's powerful.

Because he's a key architect of today's Big Government.

Ted Kennedy is news. Local and national news.

Running against Kennedy is newsworthy. Challenging his philosophy and positions is newsworthy. Sharing a stage with Senator Kennedy is newsworthy.

Carla Howell is the Libertarian candidate for Ted Kennedy's U.S. Senate seat.

Credibility

In 1998, Carla Howell won 102,198 votes as the Libertarian candidate for State Auditor in Massachusetts — the highest total of any Libertarian candidate in Massachusetts history.

Carla Howell was endorsed by the *Boston Herald*, which described her as a "serious, savvy, and well-qualified candidate . . . well worth a vote." She was endorsed by *Boston Globe* columnist Jeff Jacoby — and political powerhouse Barbara Anderson, Director, Citizens for Limited Taxation.

Carla Howell has an MBA from Babson College. She is a marketing and management strategy consultant.

Capability

Carla Howell Chaired the Massachusetts Libertarian Party from 1997 through 1999. Results? The strongest growth in membership, activism, campaigning, and office holders in state party history.

In 1996, Carla Howell and Muni Savyon ran the biggest Harry Browne Presidential fund-raiser in the country. Over \$33,000.

During the last 4 years, Howell has built coalitions with single-issue groups that promote liberty. Privatization, ending rent control, Gun Owners Action League, Citizens for Limited Taxation, and MassCann/NORML.

The Campaign

How would you organize a Libertarian campaign for U.S. Senate — if your opponent was Ted Kennedy?

We put together the best Libertarian campaign team we could.

Michael Cloud. Barbara Goushaw. Muni Savyon. Kay Pirrello. Celeste Parent.

Kamal Jain. Elaine Berchin. Dennis Corrigan. Bob O'Keefe. Mike Conway.

We set an ambitious campaign goal: **The Most Successful Libertarian U.S. Senate Campaign Ever!**

Our Libertarian Message is Simple: small government is beautiful. Our issue is simple: Big Government vs. small government.

Big Government problems. Or small government



Carla Howell

solutions. Big Government complexity. Or small government simplicity.

Big Government taxes. Or small government savings.

Big Government waste. Or small government thrift.

We're asking voters, "Which do you want: Big Government or small government?"

Carla Howell says, "As a Libertarian U.S. Senator, I'll ACT to make government small. *Every issue. Every time.* No exceptions. No excuses."

Our message is simple.

Communicating it to 3,000,000 voters is hard. It'll take brains. And a lot of volunteers and money.

We mobilized 63 Libertarian volunteers for the Carla Howell Campaign kickoff on November 5th. We drew a crowd of 203. We raised over \$23,178.

We have 7,528 registered Libertarian voters in Massachusetts. Soon . . . 10,000.

Imagine 10,000 Carla Howell, Libertarian for U.S. Senate Yard Signs in their front yards.

Imagine 10,000 Carla Howell, Libertarian for U.S. Senate bumper stickers on their cars. Imagine just 100 other drivers seeing each Libertarian "small government is beautiful" bumper sticker. 1,000,000 people exposed to our Libertarian campaign each week.

We'll recruit volunteers to go to these 10,000 Libertarian homes.

But we need your help to fund the 10,000 bumper stickers and 10,000 yard signs.

Imagine that Carla Howell gives her Libertarian

"small government is beautiful" speech to 500 groups in the next 10 months. That's right: 50 speeches a month. To 40 people per audience. 2,000 people hearing our Libertarian message in person each month.

We need campaign brochures and handouts for 20,000 people. Will you help us fund them?

Now imagine something extraordinary. Imagine \$300,000 in Television and Radio advertising.

Imagine Carla Howell, Libertarian for U.S. Senate TV and Radio ads — offering 3,000,000 Massachusetts voters the Libertarian alternative to Ted Kennedy.

Can you imagine this?

If you can, we need your donation to help pay for it.

If you can't imagine it, if it seems too fantastic, will you help fund producing and putting on 10,000 Libertarian bumper stickers?

If you can't imagine it, if it seems too much to hope for, will you help fund the production and placement of 10,000 Carla Howell Libertarian yard signs?

If you can't imagine it, if it seems too extraordinary, will you help fund the campaign handouts for the 20,000 voters who will personally meet Carla Howell?

We'll do the work. Help us buy the materials.

\$85 would fund 100 Carla Howell bumper stickers.

\$65 would fund 26 Libertarian Yard Signs.

Please help us confront Big Government Ted Kennedy with the Libertarian alternative. *Please donate today.*

small government is beautiful

Carla Howell

The Most Successful Libertarian U.S. Senate Campaign Ever!

Here's my best contribution to make this happen:

One-time Contribution: ☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250
☐ \$100 ☐ \$85 ☐ \$65 ☐ Other: \$_____. I'll pay by:
☐ Check: "Carla Howell for US Senate" (no corporate checks) ☐ Credit card.

Monthly Pledge: ☐ \$100 per month ☐ \$75 per month
☐ \$50 per month ☐ \$30 per month ☐ Other: \$_____. per month
Please: ☐ Bill my credit card. ☐ Send a monthly reminder.

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OCCUPATION _____ EMPLOYER _____

Note: Federal law requires political committees to report the name, mailing address, and occupation and name of employer for each individual whose contribution aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year. Political contributions are not tax deductible.

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Affiliate News

The traffic 'spy' camera menace and a books-to-Belarus project

■ ALABAMA

Libertarians help beat 'bad bet' state lottery

With the help of Libertarians, Alabama citizens rejected a state-run lottery referendum by over 100,000 votes on October 12.

The state LP said the publication of longtime LP activist **Mark Thornton's** op-ed, "Lottery a Sure Loser for Alabama," in the *Birmingham News* — the state's largest newspaper — helped turn the tide.

"After an in-depth study of all the scientific evidence on the lottery, I could not find one positive thing to say about the lottery," wrote Thornton. "I refer to the state lottery as a Sheriff of Nottingham policy because, like the character in Robin Hood, it takes from the poor in order to give to the bureaucrats, politicians and the rich."

In a public statement before the vote, the Alabama LP also blasted the lottery as a bad bet.

"While we believe that lotteries should be legal, we do not believe that the State of Alabama should be your bookie," said Mobile District activist **Mike Kelly**.

■ CALIFORNIA

Registered voter base grows for California LP

The state LP boasted a nearly 4% increase in registered voters over the past year — at the same time overall statewide registration declined.

"These numbers are a clear sign of our party's strength," said California LP State Chair **Mark Hinkle**. "The two-party system is becoming a thing of the past."

While the LP was growing, 188,144 registered voters fled the Republicans as 200,964 deserted the Democrats.

"The Democrats and Republicans are repelling voters, and those voters are increasingly turning to the Libertarian Party," said Hinkle. "The parties with the strongest ideas thrive, which is why the Democrats and Republicans are on the way out and Libertarians are here to stay."

The LP now boasts 84,947 registered voters in California, just 607 fewer than the Reform Party, which spent hundreds of thousands of dollars just four years ago on a massive voter registration drive. In fact, LP registrations grew by 3.87% as Reform registrations slipped by 3.57%.

■ COLORADO

El Paso Libertarians send message to gun-grabbers

The LP of El Paso County helped round up a huge crowd of gun rights advocates when a representative of Handgun Control, Inc., visited Colorado Springs on October 14.

"Nearly 800 people showed up to defend their Second Amendment rights before the city council," said LPEP Chair **John Berntson** — sending a strong hands-off message to the "gun grabbers."

Handgun Control's Arthur Kellerman had been invited to explain to the City Council how private gun ownership is a "threat" to public health. But the LPEP and the Pikes Peak Firearms Coalition (PPFC) worked together to make sure his anti-gun biases did not go unchallenged, said Berntson.

And the successful event could have another payoff next November, said Berntson.

"We will be sure to remind the [firearms coalition] about how we helped their cause when our candidates are running for office next year," he said.

■ COLORADO

Libertarian seeks help for books-to-Belarus project

Colorado LP member Bert Wiener is collecting libertarian literature to ship off to an unlikely destination — the former Soviet

Republic of Belarus — in an effort to spread the word about the freedom philosophy to the Eastern Bloc nations.

"Learning, via the Internet, that there is a great demand for information about libertarianism in Belarus, Bert responded by boxing up books by the bushel and shipping them off," said **Bette Rose Smith**, editor of the *Colorado Liberty* newsletter.

Wiener has already sent multiple shipments of books — including novels by Ayn Rand — to fledgling pro-freedom activists in Minsk, Belarus, and the literary Libertarian packages have begun to bear intellectual fruit.

"I am getting more supporters" because of the books, said libertarian activist Jaroslav Romanchuk. "Signs of intellectual victory are already visible. You have contributed to it."

Weiner is looking for more books to send, and Libertarians who have pro-liberty fiction or non-fiction to contribute can reach Wiener at badbert@earthling.net. Or, call him at 303-934-3245.

■ COLORADO

County LP registration skyrockets by one-third

The Libertarian Party is booming in El Paso County, with LP registration up by nearly a third in the last two years.

Thanks in part to a well-publicized protest against Handgun Control, Inc., a high-profile alliance with a local gun coalition,

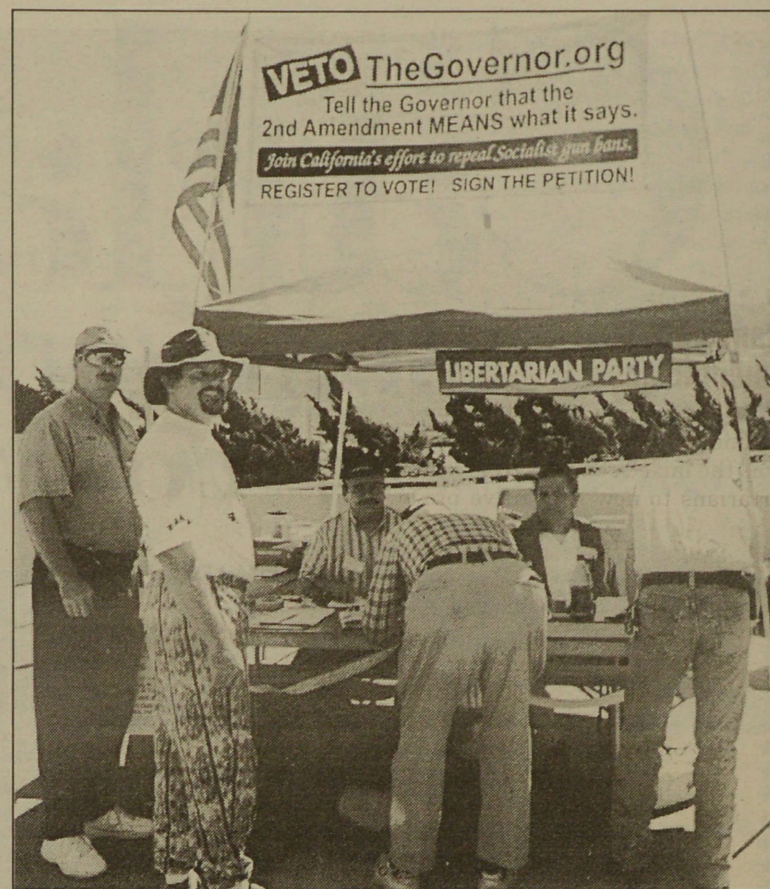


Photo by Max Newbury

LP works to "Repeal the Governor"

■ California Libertarian activists at the Del Mar Gun Show in San Diego County collect petitions for the "Veto the Governor" ballot initiative in November. If they can collect 419,000 signatures from registered voters, a referendum to repeal an "assault weapons" ban (which was signed into law by Governor Gray Davis) will appear on the March 7, 2000 primary ballot. The referendum has already been officially endorsed by the California Libertarian Party.

and work against restrictive zoning laws, LP registrations jumped by 32.4% since 1998, reported LPEP Chair **John Berntson**.

"Our growth has been the result of a number of outreach activities and a lot of media attention," he said. "The past year has seen us get a five-page spread in the city's second-largest paper, letters to the editor on an almost weekly basis, and a half-dozen appearances on a local radio talk show."

During the same period, Republican registrations increased by just 2.9% and Democrats grew by just 4.2%. And while El Paso County now boasts 378 registered Libertarians, the Reform Party can claim just 15, noted Berntson.

■ KENTUCKY

Jefferson Co. LP activists launch online newspaper

Jefferson County Libertarians are going high-tech to fight the latest tax-and-spend proposals — and Louisville's biggest newspaper, too.

"We're setting up an online newspaper for the whole community, not just LP members," said state Vice-Chair **Resa Camoriano** on December 15. "With the *Courier-Journal*, you never get the whole story."

The electronic publication should be online within the next few months.

For now, LP members are using letters to the editor and calls to elected officials to fight the county's proposed light rail sys-

tem, which Camoriano said was an "extremely wasteful boondoggle." The steady drumbeat from Libertarians even convinced a *Courier-Journal* columnist to argue in print that the rail proposal was a bad idea, she said.

"Our research showed it was just an extravagant expense," said Camoriano. "We've concentrated on spreading the idea that ending the government monopoly on cabs would solve the transit problem and save taxpayers' money, not waste it."

■ MICHIGAN

Prescription plan is just 'senior ripoff,' says LP

The LP of Oakland County has blasted a new plan by the County Board of Commissioners to get involved in the prescription medicine business, calling it a "ripoff" for seniors.

On December 2, Oakland County Libertarians passed a resolution formally opposing the Commission's "20/20 Rx Program," which would give seniors a 20% discount on prescription drugs for \$20 per year — at taxpayers' expense.

"I say shame on the Board for creating yet another unnecessary program," said LPOC Vice Chair **Greg Dirasian**, who also called 20/20 Rx an "over-priced, under-performing program which will probably also remain a mystery to seniors."

Noting that the AARP and other organizations already offer discount prescription programs



A "successful" graduating class

■ LP National Director Steve Dasbach (center) congratulates three "graduates" of the party's Success '99 activist training seminar: Gerhard Langguth (Vice Chair, Arkansas LP), Sherry Lee Kerstetter (3rd Dist. Rep., Arkansas LP), and Cheryl Spehar (Assistant 3rd Dist. Rep., Arkansas LP). The Success '99 event took place in St. Louis, Missouri on November 20-21, and "was very motivational," said Kerstetter. "It will help energize the Arkansas Libertarian Party."

for \$15 per year, Dirasian said, "The free market has already solved a problem that the Commissioners have just realized exists. It is time that the Board of Commissioners realizes that they are more often the problem than the solution."

■ MICHIGAN Hands off our daycare, Libertarians urge state

Tax breaks: Good. More government inspectors: Bad. That was the mixed reaction from Libertarians to new legislative proposals to "reform" daycare in Michigan.

The LP "both approves and disapproves of recent proposals," said State Chair **Stacy Van Oast** in November.

On the positive side, a proposal to give parents a \$10,000 income tax deduction for children is a "great idea," she said. "This addresses the underlying cause of our need for so much commercial daycare — a tax rate that has become so burdensome that both parents are forced to work."

But Libertarians reject proposals to triple the number of government daycare inspectors and fiddle with daycare regulations, which would just "institutionalize" the daycare business, she said.

"Libertarians want the best possible daycare for our children" — but understand that lower taxes and less government are the best way to achieve that goal, said Van Oast.

■ NORTH CAROLINA LP protests drug raid that leaves senior citizen dead

The Durham County LP has joined with the NAACP to request an apology from the county district attorney, after police strip-searched and beat a senior citizen in a botched drug raid.

At a joint presentation in City Hall on November 4, North Carolina LP State Chair **Sean Haugh** and the head of the Durham NAACP also requested a review of the use of confidential informants by police.

The demands were triggered by a raid on the home of Catherine Capps, 72. Based on a tip from a confidential informant, police claimed that Capps, who had no criminal record, was a crack cocaine dealer. No drugs were found, and Capps died a few months later from the trauma, said her niece.

"Such tactics are unacceptable in this country," charged Haugh. "Apparently [the district attorney] is unfamiliar with the Bill of Rights, at least as it applies to the victims of this raid."

■ NORTH CAROLINA New fund makes joining LP easier (and cheaper)

Thanks to the Thomas Paine Fund, joining the Libertarian Party is just "common sense" — and cheaper — for North Carolin-



Libertarians "show the flag" at New York gun rights event

■ **Audrey Capozzi-Pappaeliou**, Vice-Chair of the New York LP, represents the Libertarian Party at the 1999 Right To Carry Conference of the Sportsmen's Association for Firearms Education in October. Noting that both Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican Rudolph Giuliani support gun control, NYLP Media Director Richard Cooper, who also attended the event, said, "Only next year's Libertarian Party candidate for Senate will promote the right to bear arms as vitally necessary [for freedom]."

ians, according to State Chair **Sean Haugh**.

"I know it's a cliché, but joining the Libertarian Party has truly never been easier!" he said, thanks to the new fund that will contribute \$10 of the \$25 membership fee for every new member.

Chapel Hill Libertarian **Simon Spero** set up the fund last summer by contributing \$2,000 to the LPNC to help increase LP membership, said Haugh.

Besides the fee help, Spero's gift also gives Libertarian candidates an incentive to register new Libertarians while on the campaign trail: For each person a campaign registers Libertarian, the Thomas Paine Fund will contribute \$5 to that campaign.

"It really is a wonderful gift," said Haugh. "Simon's contribution will help us tremendously as we continue our phenomenal growth in North Carolina."

■ NEW YORK City interference won't stop 'racist' NYC cabbies

The Libertarian Party of Queens County has a tip for the City of New York: Leave cabbies alone.

After actor Danny Glover complained that taxis refused to stop for him because he is black, "the city responded with a crack-down on cab drivers, saying they would be fined if they discriminated against passengers for any reason. I believe several drivers

have even had their cabs taken away," said LPQC Chair **Jim Strawhorn** on November 28.

But it's the city's tight control over the taxi industry that's causing the trouble, and more rules won't help, he said.

"The city is again taking a sledgehammer to a social program in the name of 'fairness' but only making things worse," said Strawhorn. "The real problem is a basic distrust between the city's cab drivers and its African-American residents. Fining drivers will do nothing to foster better relations between the two groups and will give them an incentive to find more creative ways to avoid African-American passengers."

■ OREGON Multnomah Co. LP tries to squash new smoking ban

Multnomah County Libertarians are working to "snuff out" a proposed county-wide ban on workplace smoking before it takes effect in July 2000.

At a public meeting of the Multnomah County Commission in Portland on December 9, LP members called the proposal a violation of individual and business rights.

"This ordinance is no service," said **Bruce A. Knight**, an LP candidate for the U.S. House in 2000. "It's a county-wide prohibition, implemented by force, without regard for individual rights." Also speaking out against the proposal

were LP members **Howard Hodges** and **John McEnroe**.

Unfortunately, even though "many citizens at the hearing seemed receptive to libertarian ideas, and at least two commissioners appeared to take them seriously," the Commission voted 3-2 to pass the ban, said Knight.

However, there will be a second hearing in December, and Libertarians will be there again to continue the fight, he said.

■ VERMONT City telephone company is bad idea, says local LP

A plan by Burlington, Vermont, to start its own telecommunications company has drawn sharp criticism from Libertarian Party of Burlington Chair **Hugh Douglas**, who said the city has a history of incompetence in business affairs.

"City bureaucrats are not business people and never will be," charged Douglas. "Everything they touch goes bad, from the mismanagement of the waterfront to the placement of a police station on prime real estate to public ownership of parking garages built with tax dollars."

Vermont LP State Chair **Scott Berkey** concurred.

"Open competition in a free market is the only way to ensure the best service. Government, by its coercive nature, cannot compete efficiently," he said.

The plan has already cost Burlington taxpayers \$400,000 in feasibility studies.

■ VERMONT Libertarians tell state: Don't mess with marriage

Vermont is known for its bed and breakfasts — but that doesn't give the state the right to peek into married people's bedrooms,

said the Vermont Libertarian Party on November 28.

"The government should play no role that regulates or sanctions private sexual practices among consenting adults, or how they express their affection for one another," said Vermont LP State Chair **Scott Berkey**.

The state's Supreme Court is mulling over the legal recognition of same-sex marriages after a lower court dismissed the cases of three same-sex couples seeking marriage licenses in 1998. Berkey said that, while Vermont is quite free regarding personal sexual practices, the state should have no role in sanctioning marriage — same-sex or not.

"In Vermont, the only significant aspect of government-sanctioned marriage is the array of legal advantages accruing from it, such as tax benefits," Berkey said. "Libertarians believe that government should not create such advantages to encourage or discourage any aspect of private life."

■ VIRGINIA Traffic 'spy' cameras are threat to privacy, says LP

Police are keeping an eye on you — but now the Virginia LP is keeping an eye on the police, and asking about a sudden proliferation of traffic cameras.

"Under the guise of traffic monitoring, the Virginia Department of Transportation has installed cameras on virtually all feeder bridges [into] the District of Columbia," noted **Greg Cunningham**, Communications Director of the state LP. "The agency is reportedly recording license plates and checking each car's point of origin."

Cameras have also been set up on the George Washington Parkway just outside Washington, and at local traffic lights in towns — which raises troubling concerns about privacy, he said.

"I don't recall Virginians having lost their inalienable right to privacy, but maybe I've missed something," he said.

■ WEST VIRGINIA LP urges: Don't let EPA push around college team

The EPA is a "fanatical federal bully" — and West Virginians shouldn't allow it to push them around, said LP State Chair **Richard Kerr** in October.

What's gotten Libertarians so riled up? A threat by the federal agency to shut down the West Virginia University Coliseum because of a "phony" asbestos scare, which would force the popular basketball team to cancel its home season and play every game on the road.

"Send the EPA back to Washington; instruct the college to refuse to obey any EPA demands unless federal jurisdiction is affirmed by the Supreme Court; and reopen the Coliseum," Kerr suggested to the state's Democratic governor. "No bully was ever stopped by appeasement."

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Walking Points

Politicians' embarrassing quotes and the worst federal employees

■ Poll: Cut Taxes

According to the Roper Center for Public Opinion, Americans — across all demographic categories — believe that the highest percentage of income that a family should pay in taxes is 25% (rather than the current 40%).

— DOLLARS & SENSE

(National Taxpayers Union)
September/October 1999

■ Trump: Raise Taxes

[Potential Reform Party presidential candidate Donald] Trump would impose a one-time 14.25% tax on the net worth of people and trusts worth more than \$10 million.

The \$5.7 trillion he expects to raise in a single year is about two-thirds of the nation's gross domestic product.

— THE WASHINGTON TIMES

November 10, 1999

■ Don't Quote Me

From the notoriously slippery ("It depends on what the meaning of the word *is* is" — President Clinton) to the geographically challenged ("It's wonderful to be here in the great state of Chicago" — Dan Quayle), [the new book] *The Stupidest Things Ever Said by Politicians* will give you a serious aversion to a voting booth.

Marion Barry, mayor of Washington, DC: "If you take out the killings, Washington actually has a very low crime rate."

Vice President Al Gore, referring to the busts of Washington, Jefferson, [and] Franklin: "Who are these guys?"

[And] White House spokesman Barry Toiv once said: "It's not easy getting up here and saying nothing. It takes preparation."

— QUALITY PAPERBACK BOOK REVIEW, Winter 1999

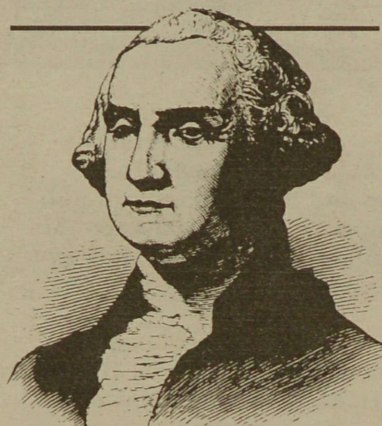
■ A \$2 billion failure

The next time you hear a politician or a National Education Association spokesperson say that more money means better schools, remind them of the ignominious failure of the Kansas City School District.

In response to a desegregation lawsuit and orders from U.S. District Judge Russell Clark, Kansas City spent \$2 billion building the most expensive school system in the world. Beginning teacher salaries rose from a low of \$17,000 to a high of \$47,851.

Fifteen new schools were constructed and 70 had additions or

EDITED BY
Marc Beauchamp



AL GORE:

Referring to busts of Washington, Jefferson, and Franklin: "Who are these guys?"

renovations. The luxurious facilities include a planetarium, a vivarium, greenhouses, a model United Nations wired for language translation, radio and television studios, movie editing and screening rooms, swimming pools, a zoo, a farm, a wildland area, a temperature-controlled art gallery, and 15 computers per classroom. Students can study Suzuki violin, animal science, and robotics. Language instruction spans French to Swahili.

Despite the extraordinary facilities and massive sums of money, student performance is so low that recently the state had to strip the Kansas City School District of its accreditation.

The school district has fewer students and is less integrated today than in 1984 when Judge Clark took control of the school district in order to achieve "mathematical racial balance."

— PAUL CRAIG ROBERTS

The Washington Times
December 9, 1999

■ 89.7% Say "NO"

Give tax dollars to politicians? Forget about it, most taxpayers say. New IRS figures show a further decline in the percentage of taxpayers who put a

checkmark in the "yes" box on their [income tax] return asking if they want to send \$3 of their taxes to the presidential election campaign fund. Based on a sampling of returns filed through August, only 11.3% of individual income-tax returns included a "yes" check mark. That was down from 12.6% in the same period [last year]. The figure has been declining steadily from nearly 29% in the early 1980s.

— THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

November 10, 1999

■ Stupid? Thank a Teacher

[In his new book], *The Conspiracy of Ignorance: The Failure of American Public Schools*, author Martin L. Gross [notes]:

- Since 1960, the number of teachers in the U.S. has doubled, while the number of "support personnel" has quadrupled.

- Would-be teachers usually come from the bottom third of their high school graduating classes.

- [Most] teacher exams are geared towards the 10th-grade level. When Massachusetts teachers were tested last year at a somewhat higher standard, 59% of them flunked.

- 12% of all students now qualify for federal grants under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

— CAPITAL IDEAS

September/October 1999

■ Who's a monopoly?

If we're really concerned about monopolistic practices injurious to consumers, we'd call for Justice Department actions against the U.S. Postal Service. Microsoft has never done the kind of despicable acts committed by the Postal Service.

Suppose you and I agree I will deliver First Class mail to your house. What happens? I will be arrested for competing with the Postal Service.

In fact, by law I cannot even put anything in the mailbox belonging to you.

The Justice Department's claim that Microsoft's actions harm consumers is a sham.

The overall pattern of the high-tech industry has been a precipitous fall in prices and a rise in quality over time. We needn't mention the pattern of prices and quality of postal services.

— WALTER WILLIAMS

The Washington Times
November 26, 1999

■ I want my ATM

San Francisco and Santa Monica have banned surcharges that banks apply when non-customers use their automated teller machines. If we are lucky, the courts will overturn these new laws — since the activities and fees of national banks cannot be regulated by local governments.

The banking industry has spent roughly \$4 billion to install new machines in the past five years. It costs about \$1,000 a month to maintain each one.

Consumers are used to paying for convenience. We pay more to shop at a convenience store. We pay more for soda from a vending machine.

Why should withdrawing cash be any different? Why should a business provide a free, convenient service to people who do not otherwise patronize it? A ban on ATM access fees will backfire against consumers. We should allow the marketplace to determine the value of convenience.

— WILLIAM M. ISAAC

The New York Times
November 24, 1999

■ Incompetence

Quotes were reportedly taken from federal [government] employee performance evaluations:

- He sets low personal standards and then consistently fails to achieve them.

- Works well when under constant supervision and cornered like a rat in a trap.

- This employee is depriving a village somewhere of an idiot.

- [A] gross ignoramus: 144 times worse than an ordinary ignoramus.

- If he were any more stupid, he'd have to be watered twice a week.

— CAMPAIGNS & ELECTIONS

December/January 2000

■ Freedom Index

The 2000 edition of the Index of Economic Freedom, published by the Heritage Foundation and the *Wall Street Journal*, [has just been released]. The broad conclusion: The more open a nation's economy, the better off its people.

As Adam Smith told us more than 200 years ago, it's not from the benevolence of the baker that we expect our daily bread. The Index reminds us that it is not from the benevolence of the world's political leaders that we can explain the expansion of freedom.

In the age of the microchip, the real decision about the direction of the world's economy is made not by government, but by the tens of millions of individuals making their own buying, selling, and investing choices each day.

— THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

November 30, 1999

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■ Dangerous Drugs?

In the wake of the recent wave of shootings in America's government schools, there has been an orgy of hand-wringing and finger-pointing. Blame for these tragedies is ascribed to the availability of firearms or the violent content of movies, television and video games.

Amidst all the clamor there have been a few voices sounding a very different alarm: that millions of American children are on psychotropic drugs — many of which have violent side-effects.

Samuel L. Blumenfeld, writing in *WorldNetDaily* (July 7) noted: "What is most disturbing, however, is the growing awareness that the increased violence among school children may have more to do with the drugs they take than with the guns they use."

Kelly O'Meara, writing in the June 28, 1999 issue of *Insight* magazine, reports that there are now over five million school children on psychotropic drugs, most of which are prescribed and administered in the government schools themselves. The December 1996 *Teacher Magazine* reports that there are four million on Ritalin alone, while Alexander Cockburn, writing in the *Los Angeles Times* (July 6), reports that Ritalin is being given to about two million American school children.

Eighteen-year-old Eric Harris, who with his friend Dylan Klebold, 17, massacred their classmates at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, had been taking Luvox for Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder.

T. J. Solomon, 15, who shot and wounded six fellow students at Heritage High School in Conyers, Georgia, was on Ritalin for depression. Also on Ritalin for Bi-polar Disorder was 15-year-old Shawn Cooper, who fired two shotgun rounds, narrowly missing classmates and teachers in Notus, Idaho. Kip Kinkel, 15, who first killed his parents and later killed two students and wounded 22 more in his Oregon school, was on Ritalin and Prozac.

Mitchell Johnson, 13, who, with his friend, Andrew Golden, 11, shot several children and a teacher at Westside Middle School in Jonesboro, Arkansas, was being treated by a psychiatrist and is presumed to have been on some sort of medication.

— MARK VALVERDE

Freedom Network News
August-October 1999

■ Jail Boomers?

Though [New Mexico Governor Gary] Johnson now advocates a drug-free lifestyle, he still does not think drug users should be treated like criminals.

In 1997, Johnson noted, state and local officials arrested 1.6 million people for drug offenses, and about 400,000 drug offenders are behind bars right now. "I don't think we can continue to lock Americans up [for] bad choices," he said. "This has got to end."

— REASON MAGAZINE

December 1999

victory

- vik'tər ē n. 1. The winning of a struggle. 2. The overcoming of an antagonist. 3. Success. 4. Achievement against great odds or difficulty.**

What's the goal of the Libertarian Party? Nothing less than *victory* — a free America.

The 2000 National Libertarian Convention will give you a taste of what that future victory will be like by showcasing some of today's officeholders — Libertarians who are working *right now* to roll back the size, cost, and intrusiveness of government.

Remember: Victory isn't something we have to wait for. It's something we're building *today* — one elected Libertarian at a time.

You can share in the excitement of that victory at the National Convention, with 1,450 other LP delegates from around the nation. It's the party's celebration of "America's Future: Liberty, Responsibility & Community."

And it's your opportunity to help nominate the party's 2000 presidential ticket; select LP leadership for the new millennium; and craft the new LP Platform.

Mark the date: June 30-July 3, 2000, Anaheim, California. Register today: Prices go up April 15, 2000. *It's where the party's future starts!*



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■ **Phil Miller.** His election to the city council in 1999 shocked the Greenfield, Indiana, political establishment: Phil Miller not only beat an incumbent, he beat him in a *partisan* race. And not only that, the man he beat was the County Chair of the GOP in a heavily Republican district. Find out how he did it at the 2000 National Convention.

■ **Bill Masters.** A county sheriff in favor of ending Drug Prohibition? *Unheard of* — and a sure guarantee that he would lose his 1998 re-election bid in San Miguel County, said critics. But Bill Masters didn't just win, he won with 80% of the vote. He'll explain why drug legalization isn't the "taboo" political topic it once was — even if you're a sheriff.

■ **Bonnie Flickinger.** It can be difficult for Libertarians to get elected — so imagine how tough it is to do it *three times!* With her re-election to the Moreno Valley (CA) city council in 1998, Bonnie Flickinger became one of the longest-serving (and most successful) LP office holders in party history. She will share the secrets of her political victory(s).

Discount Hotel Rates

Special discount room prices of only \$104 per night (single or double) are available at the Anaheim Marriott Hotel. Call Marriott directly to make your reservation. Tell them that you are attending the 2000 Libertarian Convention. For special rates, make your reservation no later than June 2, 2000! (Room rate does not include 15% sales tax.) For reservations, call: (800) 228-9290

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THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY: 2000 AND BEYOND

What's next for the LP?

Continued from Page 1

Further, competition from a cyber "free trade zone" will put pressure on state governments to either cut their own sales/use taxes or allow their commercial sectors to be devastated. This may be the best opportunity the LP has ever had.

If we can't win this one, we may as well hang it up and go Web surfing (after getting a license and paying all the applicable new taxes, of course).

— **TIM O'BRIEN**
(Executive Director,
LP of Michigan)

Milestone: I have not made any predictions — political or financial — in over 20 years. I don't believe anyone can predict the future reliably.

However, the most likely milestone will be the LP's breakthrough to permanent national visibility — probably by getting 5% in a presidential election.

If it happens in 2000, I believe we can win some Congressional elections in 2002, possibly elect a President in 2004, and get a Libertarian Congress in 2006. If we don't achieve the breakthrough in 2000, we can at least set the stage for one in 2002.

I want to live in a libertarian America for most of the remaining years of my life, and so I'm determined to bring this about.

— **HARRY BROWNE**
(LP candidate, 2000
presidential nomination)

Strategy: I'd like to see our candidates take the concept of relentless incrementalism and apply it to solutions for today's problems and today's voters.



Let's talk about doing away with small specific portions of government now, instead of doing away with 90% of it all at once. Let's talk about property owners building fences without zoning appeals, instead of doing away with zoning all together. After we win that, then we can talk about legalizing home-based businesses.

While many people may agree with the big fix, they don't see these ideas as immediately realistic and will look to someone they are more comfortable with.

— **PHIL MILLER**
(City Council,
Greenfield, Indiana)

Issue: Education will be the issue providing the greatest opportunities for the Libertarian Party to move society in a libertarian direction in the next decade.

The evidence is increasingly clear that government-operated



schools (America's most socialist institution) are failing and cannot do otherwise. Large school districts, the worst, will go belly up as private alternatives continue to grow. The healthy economy will make private schools increasingly available to more students, particularly children of the poor. The information economy is already providing entrepreneurial opportunity for bright youngsters with little formal schooling.

Children educated free of government school statist propaganda will love the libertarian message of freedom.

— **DAVID BERGLAND**
(LP National Chairman)

Milestone: Our team of elected Libertarians will produce Libertarian leaders whose experience in local office will propel them into victories in partisan elections at the state level.

With 20 recently elected office holders [in 1999], we have over 200 potential state-legislators-in-training. We will create several tripartisan state legislatures in the next decade.

To facilitate these victories, we will support the Libertarians who win local elections. Websites and newsletters will showcase our office holders; check-writers will support the winning causes; and activists will be welcomed at rallies and real victory parties. The first such opportunity will occur in California in the year 2000.

— **BONNIE FLICKINGER**
(City Council,
Simi Valley, California)

Issue: There is no doubt in my mind that the "wedge" issue of the coming decade will be the insane, evil, destructive "War on Drugs" . . . more accurately described as the War on The Bill of Rights, or the War on the American People.



As the majority of voters

come to realize how destructive this monstrosity really is, and the old-party politicians continue to defend it, the Libertarian Party will gain tremendous support as a result.

— **DAVID NOLAN**
(Founder, Libertarian Party)

Issue: Social Security. Once considered the third rail of politics, Democrats and Republicans are finally acknowledging that something needs to be done. Unfortunately, both parties are talking about "saving Social Security" rather than privatizing it.

Social Security will begin running deficits in 2013. Baby boomers will be retiring in greater numbers over the next decade, which means the problems associated with Social Security will increase dramatically.

The Libertarian Party has been calling for an end to Social Security for 30 years, and the public will finally agree with us by the next decade. Unless Social Security is privatized, Americans will be faced with draconian tax increases just to keep the system solvent.

The Libertarian Party's leadership and foresight on this issue

will benefit all Americans, and the LP will receive credit for solving the problem.

— **JUAN ROS**
(Executive Director,
LP of California)

Strategy: Many people equate "individual rights" with a "win" for the advantaged and a "lose" for the disadvantaged.



Our mission, therefore, is to remind others of history's unanimous verdict: liberty is win-win and helps the downtrodden most of all.

Our message must change from "Don't tread on me!" to the more inclusive "Help the poor, save the environment, discourage crime, and create a better world for all through liberty!"

— **MARY RUWART**
(Author, *Healing Our World*)

Strategy: "All Politics is Local." Based on my own 20 years of activism, I've come to the conclusion that a relentless focus on local organizing is the key to our future electoral success.

In the years to come, I will continue to advocate an increased focus on providing the training and materials to support this effort. Establishing more local LP organizations creates a group of activists within a structure which is permanent, and is constantly available for the next campaign to rely on.

The "local organization" approach compliments our direct-mail efforts via Project Archimedes. To the extent we continue to add new members from any source, having an established local organization gives that new member a political home — a place to go that is immediate, personal, and relevant.

— **MARK TUNIEWICZ**
(LP National Treasurer)

Milestone: By 2002, the percentage of Americans who identify themselves with core Libertarian beliefs will cross 10%, when all of the early adopters have joined up. This will mark the beginning of the mainstream adoption of Libertarian policy ideas.

After that point, the growth of the party will take another sharp turn upwards. Analysis shows that 10% is a magic number. When market penetration for any product or idea reaches 10%, suddenly everyone has heard of it, and it will gain a new surge of support. When the LP is on the cover of *Time* magazine, you'll know we've reached this mark.

— **ELIAS ISRAEL**
(State Chair,
LP of Massachusetts)

Strategy: The LP should target young people. We should be speaking to high school classes and on college campuses. We should put together a media campaign designed specifically for young people, and advertise on MTV and Comedy Central. Our ideas resonate with the youth. They want to be free and independent. The LP is the only party that offers them that freedom.

The youth of America is an untapped political force. Jesse Ventura unleashed the youth vote successfully in Minnesota, and that's exactly what the LP needs to do all over the country. Best of all, we could create an entirely new generation of freedom-loving Americans — with loyalty to the LP — that would last for many years to come.

— **CHRIS AZZARO**
(State Director, LP of Nevada)

Milestone: The most important milestone the LP will achieve in the next 10 years will be to grow to the point where we can make ourselves visible to the entire electorate on a regular basis. This will make us a part of the national political debate.

I feel confident that this is going to happen because of what we accomplished in the 1990s. The growth we experienced in the '96 campaign, followed by the growth generated by Project Archimedes, will allow the 2000 campaign to be substantially more visible than our last national campaign. Greater visibility in 2000 will result in more growth, and will set the stage for the rest of the decade.

Step by step, and member by member, we will place ourselves in a position to become visible to everyone, everywhere, everyday.

— **PERRY WILLIS**
(Past LP National Director)

Strategy: "It takes zealous social movements to provoke a political sea change," writes Michael Kazin in the *Los Angeles Times*. He is dead right. We need one issue that unites our party with the kind of moral fervor that motivated such groups as the civil



"Proclaim liberty throughout the land."

— The Bible (Leviticus 25:10)

As Libertarians, it's our responsibility to proclaim the blessings of liberty "throughout the land." Now, there's a way to continue to proclaim in a mighty voice, even when your voice has been stilled. How? By naming the Libertarian Party in your will or insurance policy. So, you can make a contribution to liberty that lasts beyond one lifetime. For a confidential discussion of this option, please contact national LP Treasurer Mark Tuniewicz at (781) 883-5295. Or e-mail him at: Treasurer@lp.org.

THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY: 2000 AND BEYOND

What's next for the LP?

rights movement. Drug legalization is such an issue, but we are not using it effectively.

During the early Seventies, we won over campuses with our anti-draft stand. The issue of drug legalization can do the same by mobilizing youth who exude moral fervor and are usually first to oppose injustice. Drug legalization also exemplifies the Libertarian ideology of fiscal conservatism and social tolerance — a position polls show is held by a majority of voters and therefore can win political support for our party.

— **TONIE NATHAN**

(1972 LP Vice Presidential candidate)

Issue: Small Government Is Beautiful. We must re-define and re-position the Libertarian Party as the party of small government. As strategy and issue. A simple issue, a simple choice for America: Big Government or small government. Big Government problems or small government solutions. Big Government complexity or small government simplicity. Big Government taxes or small government savings. Big Government waste or small government thrift.

Libertarians *act* to make government small. Every issue. Every time. No exceptions. No excuses. Why Big Government versus small government? In a complex, confusing world, people crave clear and simple choices. Small government is the Libertarian solution.

— **MICHAEL CLOUD**

(Creator, *The Art of Political Persuasion*)

Petitioners Needed!

Want to help the Libertarian Party get its candidates on the ballot for the 2000 elections — and earn money at the same time?

The Libertarian Party is recruiting petitioners for **full-time work NOW**. Compensation is based on production, and good petitioners can earn **\$750 a week** or more.

Contact Political Director **Ron Crickenberger** at the LP national headquarters today for more information. **E-mail:** RonCrickenberger@compuserve.com
Or call: (202) 333-0008, ext. 227.

SARA COTHAM:

"If we craft an agreeable and inspiring message, they will come."

Strategy: Marketing our message. Most voters agree with our principles, but they either can't find us or can't identify with our persistent image as a "fringe" political party.

We must improve our visibility and credibility by maintaining a positive, year-round presence in our communities and by running dedicated and prepared candidates.

If we craft an understandable, agreeable, and inspiring message — and back it up with active local affiliates — they will come.

— **SARA COTHAM**
(Executive Director, LP of Indiana)

Strategy: The most important strategic move for the Libertarian Party to make should be at the local level. In order for us to achieve liberty in our lifetime we must gain political power.

To do this we must start at the bottom and work our way up.

If more Libertarians took volunteer positions in their communities, and ran for their city councils, then more voters would be exposed to our ideas.

After seeing us correct the system at the local level, the voters will want us to continue the job and elect us for higher offices.

— **FRED COLLINS**
(City Council, Berkley, Michigan)

Strategy: The dependence upon government is like dependence on a drug: abuse and addiction lead to powerlessness. As bad as this is when it happens to an individual, it is worse when it afflicts society.

Anti-addiction advertising campaigns have been remarkably successful in curbing the overuse of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco. I think a similar approach would help people realize our unhealthy societal addiction to government, empowering them to "just say no." I recommend we develop this theme in advertising for campaigns, as well as in generic image advertising for the party.

If we spend the decade pro-

ducing media presentations that speak to "addiction to government," we will end the decade with an impressive, pro-liberty library that could serve us well in opening minds to the libertarian alternative throughout the 21st century.

— **JAMES MERRITT**
(AOL Libertarian Forum Host)

Issue: While continuing to spread the Libertarian message on policy issues, the LP and its candidates need to advocate the adoption of alternative voting systems — specifically, Instant Run-off Voting (IRV) in single winner races and Proportional Representation (PR) in legislative elections.

For now, Libertarians are a political minority in a winner-take-all (Single Member Plurality) voting system. IRV would eliminate the "wasted vote" syndrome that keeps so many voters from voting for us when they prefer our candidates. PR would immediately elect Libertarians to legislative bodies up to, and including, Congress.

— **BILL REDPATH**
(Past National LP Ballot Access Coordinator)

Prediction: At least one Libertarian will be elected to a major partisan office (U.S. House, U.S. Senate, or Governor). While this could happen in 2000, I think it is likely to happen by 2004.

Why? The growing size and strength of the Libertarian Party, and our ever-increasing "farm-team" of experienced candidates, campaign managers, and elected officials.

Plus, I think we can rely on the Democrats and Republicans to continue taxing, spending, regulating, and interfering — giving the American people even more reasons to "throw the bums out" and take a chance on a Libertarian.

— **STEVE DASBACH**
(LP National Director)

Strategy: A visitor to our regional meeting asked, "Since Libertarians oppose taxation because it's an initiation of force, how will you get the money to run the government?" Our strategy should begin by answering this question.

Contract insurance is my answer. But if it is wrong, we should discover what is right. Politicians are hired to protect life and property, and if we sound like we can do it better than the other parties, we probably will get the job; however, political success involves more than just winning elections. To ensure our continued success, we need to get the job done.

— **DAVE HOLLIST**
(LP candidate, 2000 presidential nomination)

Issue: Social Security. Over the next two decades, a massive number of Baby Boomers will retire, fully expecting to get "their fair share" from the next generation of victims: Gen Xers.

Trouble is, the number of young Americans who believe in the Social Security scheme is roughly equal to the number who believed Bill Clinton "never had sex with that woman." They're not going to want to pay up to bail out the bankrupt system — and we need to be there for them.

Our job will be to say: Democrats and Republicans got you into this mess; only the Libertarians can get you out.

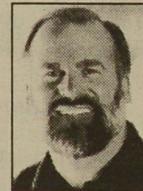
— **GEORGE GETZ**
LP Press Secretary

Strategy: The LP should focus on leadership: its own, of the individualist movement, its members, of their respective communities, and its candidates, of their constituencies.

The core competence of Libertarians is to pilot wisely through chaos. As government's power diminishes and the public antipathy for its size increases, a cusp or inflection point will be reached where the strength of the individual vis-a-vis the state will propagate rapidly (or be turned back).

If the LP is ready to lead at this crucial time, it will enjoy a steep rise in followership. When others less familiar or comfortable with free minds and markets find us ready to help, we will have earned our place in the American story and served our country well.

— **HUGH A. BUTLER**
(National LP Vice Chairman)



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CAMPAIGN 2000 REPORT

Carla Howell for U.S. Senate campaign starts with a bang

November kick-off event in Massachusetts raises \$23,000 for bid against Ted Kennedy

In one of the largest campaign kick-off events in Libertarian Party history, Carla Howell launched her 2000 U.S. Senate race against Ted Kennedy with an event in Waltham, Massachusetts that attracted more than 200 people and raised more than \$23,000 in donations.

"I was blown away!" said Howell about the success of the November 5 event. "203 people at a Libertarian campaign kick-off. \$23,178 raised. The crowd was sophisticated, the event professionally run. And this was only the kick-off!"

The audience included more than two dozen LP candidates, as well as representatives from the Gun Owners Action League, Mass-Cann/NORML, and Citizens for Limited Taxation — and the event was described as "swank," "professional," and "exciting."

"I have attended major Republican campaign kick-off events, and the Carla Howell U.S. Senate Campaign kick-off is the best I've ever seen," said Bob O'Keefe, a former Republican activist turned Libertarian.

Howell will run against fading liberal legend Ted Kennedy

(D-MA) in 2000, in a race she hopes will attract national attention.

Admitting that she is a "long shot" in the race, Howell said she can still "win without winning. We'll grow the party, build support for future Libertarian campaigns, and start to open the minds of millions of voters who will find out they don't have to vote for the lesser of two evils."

Biggest campaign

To accomplish that, Howell said she is planning the "biggest Libertarian U.S. Senate campaign ever" in party history.

Included in her plans are "[speaking] to hundreds of non-Libertarian audiences across Massachusetts, a huge volunteer team, nationwide fund-raising, 10,000 yard signs, 10,000 bumper stickers, a secure website, solid database support, policy researchers, [and] professional media relations," she said. "Plus the largest non-presidential advertising program in party history."

At the kick-off event in the Westin Hotel — standing in front of a giant "Carla Howell, Libertarian for U.S. Senate" banner —



Using the theme "Small Government Is Beautiful," Carla Howell launched her campaign against Senator Ted Kennedy (D-MA) with an event in November that attracted more than 200 people and raised more than \$23,000. Now, she's planning the "biggest Libertarian U.S. Senate campaign" in LP history.

Howell announced the theme of her campaign: "Small government is beautiful."

Her campaign will stress "a prosperous and generous and tolerant America — and a small and simple and thrifty federal government," she said.

Singular theme

"We are offering a simple choice: Small government versus big government. And with Ted Kennedy as my opponent, it doesn't take a lot of explaining. This is our singular theme."

After the speech, the campaign raised \$23,178 in donations. By Election Day 2000, she expects to raise more than a quarter-million dollars, said Howell.

In her campaign for State Auditor in 1998, Howell won 102,198 votes (6%), which was enough to qualify the LP for "major party" status in the state. She also won the endorsement of the *Boston Herald*, one of the two largest newspapers in the state.

This year, the Howell for Senate campaign has already generated media coverage from the Associated Press, the *Boston Globe*, *MetroWest Daily*, WBUR, WRKO, and WXTK.

For more information about Howell's campaign, visit: www.carlahowell.org.

LP founder David Nolan: Why I'm running for U.S. Congress

Editor's note: David Nolan, one of the founders of the Libertarian Party, is running for U.S. Representative in California's 47th Congressional District. His campaign theme: "Vote Libertarian . . . for the Bill of Rights." In this essay, he explains why he decided to run.

By David Nolan

CANDIDATE, 47TH HOUSE DIST., CA

I firmly believe that there is one issue so overwhelming in its implications that Libertarians must make it our top priority in the 2000 elections: End the Drug War Now!

The misnamed "War on Drugs" — more accurately dubbed the War on the Bill of Rights — is being used to attack every one of our liberties and create an American Police State. It is rotten to the core, and an affront to every American who believes in each individual's right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Now, for the first time, the tide of public opinion is turning toward the Libertarian position on the War on Drugs. While a majority of voters have not yet

awakened to the true danger this monstrous war represents, a sizable minority have done so, and more are awakening every day.

By November of 2000, I believe that well over one-third of the voters will oppose the Drug War. And with the great majority of Democratic and Republican politicians vying to see who can be "toughest on drugs," this creates a tremendous opening for Libertarians to make major advances by being opposed to it.

Most effective

I also believe that the most effective way to focus our efforts toward ending the Drug War is to field as many strong candidates for U.S. Congress as is possible. I believe this for a number of reasons:

1) Survey after survey shows



David Nolan: End the "war."

that voters hold the Congress in low esteem . . . even lower than the President.

2) We can field candidates in a majority (218+) of the districts. This will differentiate us from other "alternative" parties like the Reform Party and the Green Party, and will give us a credibility that they will lack.

3) We can compete on a somewhat equal basis at the Congressional level. Unlike our Presidential candidates, our candidates for Congress have often managed to get included in debates. A good, articulate Congressional candidate with a few thousand dollars can have a real impact in his or her race!

4) We can support our entire slate of Congressional candidates with TV spots and standardized literature. We can convey our message — "End the Drug War Now!" — cost-effectively and consistently.

2000 is the year for the Libertarian Party to seize the high ground on ending the Drug War. I believe in this strategy so strongly that I will be putting my prin-



ciples on the line by running for Congress in 2000. I've already qualified for the ballot, along with more than 40 other Libertarians who are running for Congress from California.

Most libertarian

The 47th Congressional District is one of the most libertarian-minded places in the United States. Our major daily newspaper, the *Orange County Register*, takes libertarian editorial stands on a regular basis.

In recent months, they've run a series of profiles on leading libertarians of the 20th century . . . including one on me!

This is a very favorable climate for our ideas. I believe we can garner a significant percentage of the vote by taking a strong stand for the Bill of Rights, and

pointing out how the GOP has failed to defend the guarantees spelled out in that document.

I urge every Libertarian Party member to join me in this fight. Let's stop the turf wars that cut down our children on city streets. Let's stop the corruption of our public officials. Let's stop the torture of people who need "unapproved" medicines. Let's stop the jailing of hundreds of thousands of Americans who have committed no crime.

Let's end the drug war!

Please join with me in this battle by becoming a Libertarian Congressional candidate in your state. The time is now!

■ To contribute to David Nolan's campaign, send checks to: Nolan for Congress, P.O. Box 1149, El Toro, CA 92630.

■ Interested in becoming an LP candidate in 2000? Contact Libertarian Party Political Director Ron Crickenberger: RonCrickenberger@compuserve.com or call (202) 333-0008, Ext. 227.

LITERATURE BUTTONS & MUCH MORE!

LP Literature & Books

■ **Ain't Nobody's Business If You Do** by Peter McWilliams. The definitive argument against "consensual crimes," packed with facts, quotes, and statistics. Paperback, 693 pages. **Cost:** \$9.95

■ **Why Government Doesn't Work** by Harry Browne. The 1996 Presidential campaign manifesto: Explains why government doesn't work, and why it will never work as well as voluntary solutions. Outlines a Libertarian plan for victory. Hardbound, 245 pages. **Cost:** \$11.95

■ **Libertarianism In One Lesson** by David Bergland. Expanded 7th edition. The classic introductory work. Outlines Libertarian positions on all major political issues and contrasts them to liberals and conservatives. A must-read. Softbound, 158 pages. **Cost:** \$10 each; or 5 for \$35.

■ **Which Political Party is 100% Pro-Gun Rights?** Full-page flyer. 2-color (red & blue). Hard-hitting defense of the Second Amendment, designed especially for the gun community. Explains why the LP will never betray gun owners. **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ or \$7 for 100

■ **America's Libertarian Heritage** by David Bergland. 16-page booklet. Concise overview of Libertarian philosophy and solutions in an easy-to-read question-and-answer format. **Cost:** \$1 each

■ **Million Dollar Bills:** Green Ink. A faux \$1,000,000 bill that highlights excessive federal spending. Perfect for Tax Day, taxpayer groups, and almost any other outreach project! **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ or \$5 for 100

■ **LP "Fact Sheets":** Updated for 1998: 2-page LP history (with political highlights, accomplishments, and victories from 1971-1997) and comprehensive two-page bibliography (more than 150 books about liberty!). Sold as a set. **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ or \$10 for 100

■ **LP Program.** 4 pages, blue ink. LP positions on education, jobs, political corruption, health care, and crime — plus solutions. **Cost:** Sample: \$1.00 or \$10 for 100

■ **World's Smallest Political Quiz cards.** Perfect for "politically homeless" booths. **Cost:** \$1 for 100

Bumperstickers

Cost: \$1 each; \$7.50 for 10; \$50 for 100. Size: 11" x 3"

■ **ENOUGH IS ENOUGH/VOTE LIBERTARIAN** (Red, white, & blue).

■ **Don't Blame Me... I Voted Libertarian** (Blue & white; LP address and phone # below.)

■ **Vote Libertarian/800-ELECT-US** (Blue & white.)

■ **I'm Pro-Choice on Everything!** (Red, white, & blue.)

■ **Buttons** (**Cost:** \$1 each or 75¢ each for 5 or more)

■ **Don't Blame Me, I Voted Libertarian** 1-800-682-1776

■ **Vote Libertarian** 1-800-682-1776

■ **Libertarian Party: Pro-Choice on Everything** 1-800-682-1776

Miscellaneous Items

■ **Libertarian Party stickers.** Size: 5/8" x 2-1/8". (Red and blue.) Text: "Tired of big government & high taxes? Call the Libertarian Party." Includes LP 800#. **Cost:** Four sheets (96 stickers) for \$1. Or 25 sheets (600): \$5

■ **Windbreaker.** Blue, with LP logo & party name. Available in M, L, XL. (Please specify.) **Cost:** \$25 each

Tools for Campaigning

■ **Libertarian TV Ads:** A videotape of TV ads by LP candidates — from State Representative to president. (For informational use only; not broadcast quality.) **Cost:** \$20.00 each

■ **LP Statue of Liberty Logo master.** Camera-ready sheet, ready for scanning. **Cost:** \$1 each

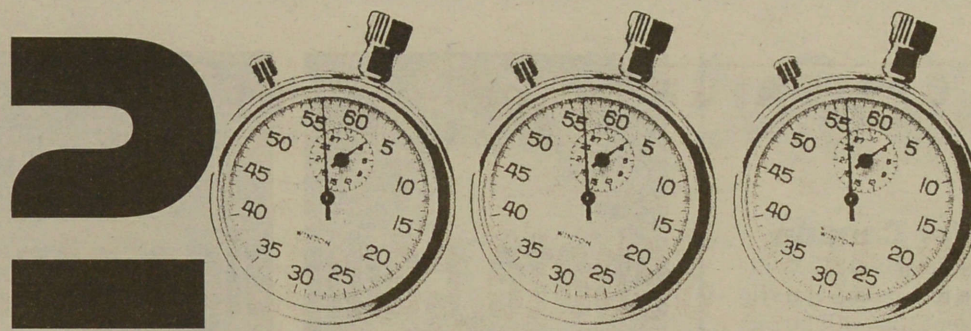
■ **LP Statue of Liberty Logo on PC Disk:** 3-1/2 inch DOS-compatible computer disk. **Cost:** \$3 each

■ **Newsprint Ads:** "Libertarian Party — Defenders of Liberty." Camera-ready print ads. One each of six different ads: General, lifestyle, drugs, guns, draft, and taxes. Plus additional multi-sized "Lower Taxes/More Freedom" LP advertisements. **Cost:** \$3 for set

Large & Small Banners

■ **Small Banner.** (12" x 5'). White on blue. One line: "Libertarian Party." **Cost:** \$25 each

■ **Large Banner.** (18" x 5'). White on blue. First line "Libertarian Party." You can pick the second line from these two choices: "800-ELECT-US" or "Defenders of Liberty." (Specify which on order form.) **Cost:** \$40 each



Reasons to Order LP Outreach Literature

It's the start of a brand new year — and what better way to celebrate than by spreading the word about liberty?

Remember, this isn't just any new year: It's the start of a new century (by the calendar, at least), and the birth of a new millennium. If you do your part — and help the Libertarian Party become the dominant political party of the land — this could also be the birth of a new millennium of liberty.

2000 is also an election year —

so there will be 2,000 LP candidates counting on you to help them win the votes of your family, friends and neighbors. You can lay the groundwork for more successful campaigns by increasing the LP's visibility NOW with bumperstickers, brochures, signs, and books. They are for sale today, at reasonable prices.

Will you help? Yes, as we greet the new year, there are 2000 reasons why you should do your part. But here's the best one: The liberty you help save . . . might be your own.

LIBERTARIAN PARTY BROCHURES



■ **Is This the New Political Party You've Been Looking For?** Brochure, 2-color (violet & black). Introductory brochure; gives a general, friendly overview of Libertarian Party beliefs.

★ **Cost:** Sample: 50¢
Or \$7 for 100

Yard Sign

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH / VOTE LIBERTARIAN. Red, white, and blue ink on sturdy foamboard. Measures a big 24" x 18". Perfect for LP campaigns or rallies.

Cost: \$8.00 each.

■ **Towards A More Sensible Drug Policy.** Brochure, 2-color (blue & black). Argues that drug legalization is a sensible and workable alternative to the government's dangerous "War on Drugs."

★ **Cost:** Sample: 50¢
Or \$7 for 100

■ **What Happened To Your Family Budget?** Brochure, 2-color (blue & black). Looks at how the government impoverishes Americans by taking more in taxes than most families spend on food, clothing, and shelter (combined)

★ **Cost:** Sample: 50¢
Or \$7 for 100

■ **Ending the Welfare State.** Brochure, 2-color (green & black). The LP's welfare reform plan, promoting opportunity, work, and personal responsibility — instead of failed government programs.

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■ **Making Your Neighborhood Safe Again.** Brochure, 2-color (red & black). Explains the LP's five-point crime-control program that protects civil liberties — while providing more resources to fight real criminals.

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■ **Working to Cut Your Taxes.** Brochure, 2-color (green & black). How the LP would drastically reduce the size and cost of government by privatizing government services, abolishing corporate welfare, and ending income taxes.

★ **Cost:** Sample: 50¢
Or \$7 for 100

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There is no charge for standard shipping. Allow up to 3-4 weeks for delivery. Or: Add \$5 for same-day shipping. Call (202) 333-0008 Ext. 221 for instructions on rush deliveries. Minimum order: \$5.00. Orders shipped via UPS; please add \$5 for Post Office box deliveries. Make checks payable to: Libertarian Party. **Federal law** requires political committees to report the name, mailing address, occupation, and name of employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year.

Books for Sale

_____ *Ain't Nobody's Business* • McWilliams
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_____ "Million Dollar Bill" Literature
_____ Brochure: "Is This the New Political Party...?"
_____ Brochure: "Towards More Sensible Drug Policy"
_____ Brochure: "What Happened/Your Family Budget?"
_____ Brochure: "Ending the Welfare State"
_____ Brochure: "Making Neighborhood Safe Again"
_____ Brochure: "Equal Rights/America's Gun Owners"
_____ Brochure: "Working to Cut Your Taxes!"
_____ Flyer: "Political Party/100% Pro-Gun Rights?"
_____ *America's Libertarian Heritage* booklet
_____ Fact Sheets: LP history/bibliography (package)
_____ 1995 LP Program
_____ World's Smallest Political Quiz

Yard Signs

_____ ENOUGH IS ENOUGH/Vote Libertarian

Bumper Stickers

_____ Don't Blame Me...I Voted Libertarian
_____ I'm Pro-Choice on Everything!
_____ ENOUGH IS ENOUGH/VOTE LIBERTARIAN
_____ Vote Libertarian/1-800-682-1776

Buttons

_____ Don't Blame Me, I Voted Libertarian
_____ VOTE LIBERTARIAN/800-682-1776
_____ Libertarian Party: Pro-Choice on Everything

Miscellaneous Items

_____ Sheets of LP stickers (24 per sheet)
_____ Lined windbreaker. Circle one: M L XL

Tools for Campaigning

_____ Libertarian TV Ads Video
_____ Statue of Liberty logo master
_____ LP Statue of Liberty logo on 3-1/2" PC disk
_____ Newsprint ads: "Libertarian Party — Defenders of Liberty" set of seven.

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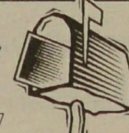
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NewsBriefs

ISIL World Conference set for Canada

The International Society for Individual Liberty (ISIL) will hold its 19th Annual World Conference in London, Ontario, Canada from July 23-28, 2000 — an event that will attract libertarian activists and luminaries from around the globe.

Attendees will “meet with trend-setting individuals from the far corners of the world — philosophers, economists, constitutional scholars, successful business men and women — as well as political activists from the former communist bloc,” said ISIL president Vince Miller.

The conference will also celebrate positive libertarian developments around the world, he said, such as “faltering bureaucracies, bankrupt treasuries, burgeoning independence movements, and rebellion against taxes” — all of which “signal that it is time for a new paradigm.”

Scheduled speakers include Barbara Branden (author of *The Passion of Ayn Rand*); libertarian columnists George Jonas and Karen Selick; Johannesburg (South Africa) City Council member Frances Kendall; John Hospers (1972 LP presidential candidate); and South African activist and Nobel Peace Prize-nominee Leon Louw.

The conference will be held at the University of Western Ontario. Package prices start \$579.

ISIL is the international arm of the libertarian movement, with members in more than 80 nations. Headquartered in Benicia, California, it promotes “free markets, personal liberty, and limited government,” with a goal of building “a free, peaceful, and prosperous world.”

For information about the conference, call: (800) 226-2405. E-mail: info@libertyconferences.com. Or visit: www.libertyconferences.com.

Scholarships offered for CA Convention

In an effort to boost the attendance of young Libertarians, the LP of California will award scholarships to three students to attend the party’s “Lighting the Torch 2000” Convention.

“Reaching out to youth is one of the most important things Libertarians can do today to pave the way for our success tomorrow,” said California LP executive director Juan Ros.

“I wish I had attended a Libertarian convention when I was in college, so I am thrilled to be giving three students the opportunity to attend a Libertarian convention, meet fellow Libertarians, and expand their political knowledge by listening to lectures from top-notch Libertarian speakers. We hope that this is the start of a tradition we can continue for many years!”

To apply for a scholarship, California high school or college students must submit an essay of 200 words or less answering the question: “Why do you want to attend the LP of California’s 2000 Convention?”

Scholarships will be awarded based on the quality of the essay as voted by a panel of judges, said Ros.

The three winners will receive a free pass for all business sessions, speaking programs, and meal events at the convention, which will be held in San Diego, February 18-21, 2000.

Applications will be accepted until January 20, 2000. For complete rules, contact Juan Ros at (818) 506-0200. Or e-mail: director@ca.lp.org.

Group formed for gay Libertarians

A new organization has been launched for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered (GLBT) Libertarians, with a goal of “representing the Libertarian perspective and promoting the Libertarian Party in the gay community.”

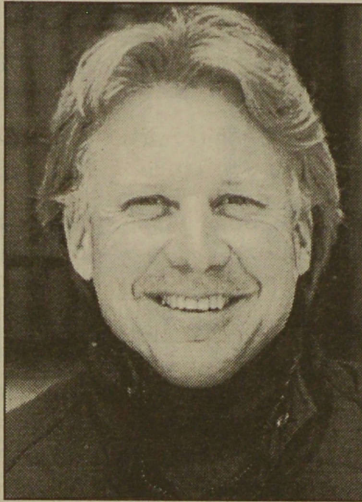
Called Outright Libertarians, the group was formed because gay people are becoming more involved in the national political debate, “but that debate had no organized libertarian voice,” said Allan Wallace, the group’s chair.

“As LP outreach efforts succeeded in bringing GLBT individuals into the party, these new members became more uncomfortable with the fact that the Libertarian point of view isn’t heard in their community,” he said. “This was the primary motive for a group of eight Libertarians in Atlanta, Georgia to form [this] new Libertarian organization.”

Outright Libertarians is now working to start chapters in cities around the USA, said Wallace.

“One of the reasons Outright exists is to make it easy for GLBT Libertarians in other cities to start a chapter and join with us in presenting a common name and voice in our community, and to give each other support and advice,” he said.

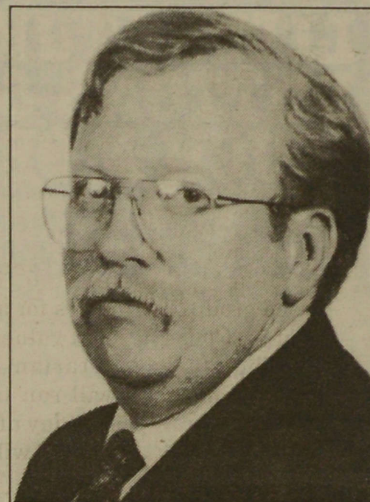
For more information on Outright Libertarians or to start a chapter, visit: www.mindspring.com/~outright. Or via e-mail: outright@mindspring.com.



■ Bill Masters, who was re-elected as sheriff in San Miguel County, Colorado in 1998 — despite his strong anti-Drug Prohibition position.



■ Bonnie Flickinger, a member of the Moreno Valley (CA) city council, saved taxpayers \$7.5 million by protecting their right to approve tax hikes.



■ Phil Miller was elected to a seat on the Greenfield, Indiana, City Council — beating the chair of the county Republican Party in 1999.

Three elected Libertarians slated to speak at National Convention

Their topic: How to get elected (and then govern) as a Libertarian

Three of the Libertarian Party’s top elected officials have been scheduled to speak at the 2000 National Convention — and will share “war stories” about what it is like to get elected and govern as a Libertarian.

City Council member Bonnie Flickinger (Moreno Valley, California), sheriff Bill Masters (San Miguel County, Colorado), and city council member Phil Miller (Greenfield, Indiana) are all confirmed as speakers for the convention, which will be held in Anaheim, California from June 30-July 3, said LP National Director Steve Dasbach.

“As a political party, we exist to get Libertarians elected to public office so they can pass good pro-freedom legislation, and stop anti-freedom legislation proposed by Republicans and Democrats,” he said. “These three speakers have all accomplished that goal — and will share their secrets and successes with other Libertarians.”

A “perfect fit”

The speakers are also a “perfect fit” for the convention’s theme, said Dasbach: “America’s Future: Liberty, Responsibility, & Community.”

“Bonnie, Bill, and Phil will give us a preview of our nation’s future, when we have principled Libertarians in every level of government — from the presidency down to town offices — working to defend those American principles of liberty, personal responsibility, and community,” he said.

The speakers each have a different story to tell, said Dasbach:

■ **Bill Masters:** He has been in law enforcement for more than two decades — but that didn’t stop him from speaking out against the War on Drugs when he ran for re-election as San Miguel County

(Colorado) Sheriff in 1998.

“I’m charged with upholding the laws of Colorado, but that does not stop me from speaking out on what needs to be changed,” he said at the time.

Masters’ controversial position — and fact that he keeps Libertarian Party literature in his

council in 1992.

One of her biggest victories: Defying other city council members in 1996 to make sure that citizens were allowed to vote to repeal business and utility taxes.

“Moreno Valley is perhaps the only American city where the taxpayers had the opportunity to repeal their own taxes, thanks to the Libertarian they elected,” she noted.

■ **Phil Miller:** He’s a newcomer to elected office — but managed to do something that few Libertarians ever have: Beat an incumbent in a partisan race.

In 1998, Miller was elected to the Greenfield (Indiana) city council, winning 52% of the vote to knock off the Republican incumbent, who also happened to be the GOP county chairman. His secret? “I worked hard,” he said.

Also confirmed as a speaker:

■ **Gary Nolan,** a radio talk show host who is syndicated on the Radio America Network, and heard in 45 markets around the country. His topic: “Why I Left the GOP.”

Nolan, who joined the Libertarian Party in 1999, said he quit the Republican Party because

DASBACH:
Speakers will “share their secrets and successes with Libertarians.”

office at the county jail — didn’t stop voters from supporting him: He won re-election with 80% of the vote.

■ **Bonnie Flickinger:** She’s a rare three-term Libertarian incumbent who has saved local taxpayers millions of dollars since she was first elected to the Moreno Valley (California) city

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Elected Libertarians scheduled for Convention

they "seem as anxious to spend my money as the Democrats."

In addition to his radio show, Nolan is also the president of Americans for Freedom & Independence, a Washington, DC-based group that lobbies for a return to "Constitutional values."

The 2000 Libertarian National Convention will run from Friday morning to Monday afternoon (June 30-July 3), and will be held at the Marriott Hotel in Anaheim, California.

At the convention, LP delegates select the party's 2000 presidential and vice-presidential candidates, vote on platform changes, and select party leadership for the following two years.

Delegate packages include:

■ **Gold Package:** Includes Gala Banquet, opening night reception, two luncheons with guest speakers, a special to-be-announced entertainment event, all workshops and panels, and Floor Pass for Main Hall speakers.

(\$339 before April 15, 2000 / \$369 after.)

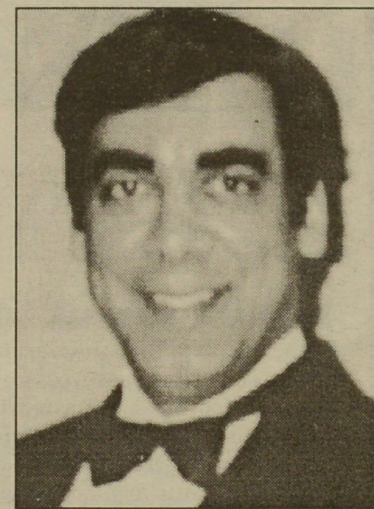
■ **Silver Package:** Includes Gala Banquet, opening night reception, special entertainment event, all workshops and panels, and Floor Pass for Main Hall speakers. (\$249 / \$279.)

■ **Bronze Package:** Includes opening night reception, special entertainment event, all workshops and panels, and Floor Pass for Main Hall speakers. (\$129 / \$159.)

■ **Delegate Package:** Includes Floor Pass for Main Hall speakers. (\$59.)

To register, see the full-page ad on page 9 of this issue of *LP News*. Or call the Balcom Group at (800) 272-1776. Or e-mail: LPCONV@aol.com.

■ **Gary Nolan, a nationally syndicated Libertarian radio talk show host on the Radio America Network, will explain: "Why I left the GOP."**



Vermont LP urges: Stop stalling about Bill of Rights Day

The Vermont LP has blasted the state legislature for refusing to pass Bill of Rights Day legislation introduced by the state's sole Libertarian state representative.

"The legislature has stalled a simple resolution offered by Libertarian Representative Neil Randall that would require that the Bill of Rights be read to the legislature at the opening of each session," charged LP State Chair Scott Berkey on December 14.

The bill, JRH-15, has lagged in committee since January 1999. Not a single member of the legislature joined Randall in sponsoring the measure.

The legislature's failure to approve the bill is a symbol of Republicans' and Democrats' "contempt for the moral underpinnings of our system that underscores a damaging arrogance and cynicism," said Berkey.

A reminder

"Vermont Libertarians hope that, as the new millennium begins, the legislature will approve Randall's resolution as a reminder of the dignity that is inherent in the rights of all people," he said.

Libertarians across the nation celebrated the 208th anniversary of the Bill of Rights on December 15 — but, said Berkey, it's a shame that elected officials are turning a deaf ear in the state where Ethan Allen's Green Mountain Boys courageously fought for liberty.

"The United States was the first nation in history to recognize that rights belong inherently to the people," he said. "Libertarians perceive that most of our nation's problems stem from government's tendency to weaken — and even ignore — the Bill of Rights."



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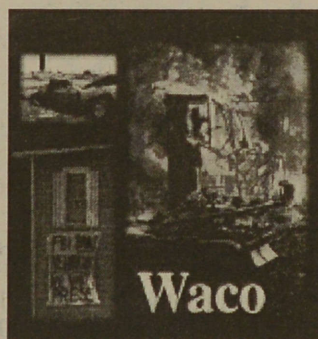
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Tim Slagle The Libertarian Lenny Bruce

Tim Slagle has established himself as the premiere libertarian comic in the US. Smart, funny, and politically incorrect, Slagle's rapier wit and slashing satire cut to the bone. A long time performer at national and local Libertarian events, Slagle's live and uncut performances are now available on video tape. Many use these tapes to introduce their friends to libertarian thinking. Nothing reveals the truth like comedy.

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TS 201 Nation of Criminals (Color 70 min.)	\$24.95

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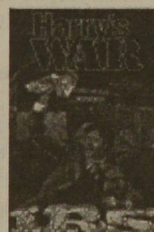


WACO: A New Revelation \$24.95

Powerful documentary, narrated by ex-FBI agent, Dr. Fred Whitehurst, picks up where "Waco: The Rules of Engagement" left off. New and updated information about the slaughter and coverups surrounding the investigation.

WACO: The Rules of Engagement Color 136 min. \$29.95

Fast becoming a collector's item, this 1998 Academy Award Nominated documentary started it all. The infrared footage of the tank assault is positively damning, and helps make this outstanding documentary one of the best ever made about governmental abuse of power. Winner of the Emmy Award for best Investigative journalism television Program of 1999.



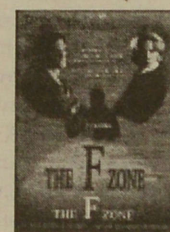
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The Issues

EDITOR'S NOTE: Each month, "The Issues" will highlight several Libertarian Party press releases. To get the complete text of all press releases issued by the LP, send a message to "announce-request@lp.org" with the word "subscribe" in the subject line.

The FDA versus "dried plums"

You know the government has gotten too big when people worry about being sued by the FDA for calling a prune a "dried plum," say Libertarians. But that's what happened after California growers requested permission from the FDA to market their prunes as "dried plums."

"A rose by any other name would still smell as sweet — but a prune by another name could get you in trouble with the Food & Drug Administration," noted Steve Dasbach, LP national director. "Libertarians have to ask: Should it really be against the law in America to call something exactly what it is?"

The problem started when the prune industry, concerned that young people associate prunes with laxatives for old people, asked the FDA's Office of Food Labeling for permission to rename the product "dried plums."

It took the FDA six months to respond, and the early word was that bureaucrats would reject the proposal as "false and misleading."

This has Libertarians "raisin" heck — but don't call it a dried grape.

"This is a classic example of how powerful and arrogant our government has become," charged Dasbach. "Americans shouldn't have to beg permission from a federal agency to give a product a clear, accurate, and easily understandable name."

Government is worst polluter

Who's the worst polluter in the U.S.? The federal government, a new report charges: It leaks radioactive waste into water, dumps sewage into national parks, and pours PCBs into rivers.

"There is no doubt: The federal government is the greatest environmental villain in the nation — and an environmentalist's worst nightmare," said Dasbach.

According to an investigative report in the *Boston Globe*, the federal government is "the worst polluter in the land" — and the estimated cost of cleaning up its damage could pass \$300 billion. That's five times the cost of environmental harm done by all private businesses combined. For example:

■ The Environmental Protection Agency's laboratories in Lexington, Massachusetts were discovered leaking mercury into ground water.

■ In Yellowstone National Park, "tens of thousands of gallons of raw sewage" have been dumped into pristine lakes and streams by the Park Service.

■ The cost to taxpayers to clean up the government's 61,155 toxic sites is estimated at \$300 billion — compared to only \$57 billion to clean up all the pollution caused by chemical and oil companies.

"The federal government — which people naively expect to protect us from environmental hazards — is putting Americans at risk," noted Dasbach.

Are you ready to pay a "fat tax"?

Those scrumptious meals you had for Thanksgiving and Christmas may get hit with a "fat tax" if public health fanatics get their way, the Libertarian Party warned.

"Hide the ham, guard the gravy, and hold on to your hamburger: The calorie cops are coming after us — and want to do to fatty foods what they've done to cigarettes," said Dasbach.

In recent months, the "fat tax" — a new tax on high-calorie and high-fat foods — has been endorsed by several organizations as a solution to a national "obesity epidemic." For example:

■ The president of the American Obesity Association demanded "fat taxes" to fund anti-obesity educational programs.

■ Kelly Brownell of Yale University said obesity is being encouraged by a "toxic food environment" — such as restaurants that offer "high-calorie foods, heavily promoted and good tasting," and endorsed a "Twinkie tax" on high-calorie food.

■ The Center for Science in the Public Interest said a "fat tax" is not enough, and called for a ban on "junk food" ads.

But such suggestions ignore the right of Americans to choose what they want to eat, said Dasbach.

"What you eat is a matter of personal preference and personal responsibility," he said. "Bureaucrats shouldn't be allowed to micromanage our menus or tax our Twinkies in the name of so-called public health."

Virginia's organizing technique: The 'Congressional District Tour'

How the Virginia LP kickstarted several dormant regions

Do you want more local LP affiliate organizations in your state — especially in out-of-the-way areas? If so, Libertarian Jim Lark says he's developed a sure-fire method to accomplish that: The "Congressional District Tour."

"I organized a tour of this type in the Ninth Congressional District of Virginia in January, 1999 [and] so far, the results have been very encouraging," said Lark, the secretary of the Virginia LP and at-large member of the Libertarian National Committee.

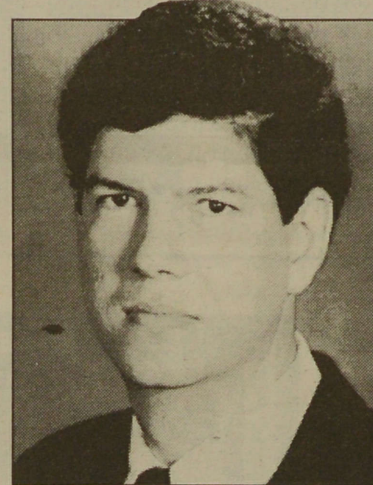
Thanks to Lark's first Congressional District Tour, at least three new local affiliates were formed in Virginia, and are now holding regular meetings, he said.

Other benefits

And there were other, less tangible benefits from the tour: Local activists were more enthusiastic about the state party, and many "noted that the tour was a good sign that the Virginia LP is a well-run organization that is laying the foundation to become a major political party," said Lark.

But what must Libertarians do to organize this kind of successful Congressional District Tour?

Lark started planning his



■ **Jim Lark:** The results in Virginia's 9th District "have been very encouraging."

tour of Virginia's Ninth Congressional District — "a large, relatively scarcely populated area known for the scenic beauty" where "prior to 1999, there was very little organized LP activity" — in November 1998.

His first step: Putting together the touring team, which consisted of State Chair Gary Reams and Affiliate Parties chair Dana Johansen. His second step: Contacting Libertarians in the Ninth Congressional District to schedule dates and locations for

organizing meetings. His third step: Running an announcement to the planned January tour in the state party newsletter, Virginia Liberty.

After his conversation with Libertarians in the district, Lark selected two "anchor" dates and locations: An evening meeting in the Blacksburg-Christiansburg area (Friday, January 22), and a mid-afternoon meeting in the Pounding Mill area of Tazewell County (Saturday, January 23.)

Lark picked those locations for different reasons, he said.

Rapidly growing

"Blacksburg/Christiansburg was chosen because I already had contacts there, it is a rapidly growing area (including two major universities), and it is a convenient place to hold a Friday night event," he said. "Pounding Mill was chosen because a member had asked me to include the town on our itinerary."

Lark also tentatively scheduled stops in Giles County and Bristol/Abingdon, either because he had personal contact with LP members in the area, or because of the relatively large numbers of party members.

See **ORGANIZING** Page 18

THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY IS LOOKING FOR:

Political Staff for the 2000 Campaign Year

The Libertarian Party's national headquarters expects to expand its staff during the 2000 election year. We anticipate openings in some or all of the following areas:

■ **Customer Service:** We need someone with good general communications skills; solid grounding in LP issues and activism; moderate data entry skills; organizational ability; and ability to work in a team environment. Sales experience helpful. Specific tasks include answering phones, responding to mail and e-mail, helping to develop prospects into members and encouraging members to renew, assembling and processing small mailings, and other miscellaneous office tasks.

■ **Political Staff:** We need someone with good general communications skills; solid grounding in LP issues and activism; moderate computer skills; organizational ability; project management skills; and ability to work in a team environment. Active campaign experience preferred; project management experience helpful. Specific tasks would include candidate recruitment, candidate tracking, contacting State Chairs and candidates, managing ongoing petition drives, recruiting petitioners, copying, assembling and processing small mailings, and other tasks as assigned by the LP's Political Director. Some travel may be required.

■ **Executive Assistant:** We need someone with good general communications skills; good computer skills; organizational ability; project management skills; attention to detail; and ability to work in a team environment. Experience as an executive assistant, project manager, or similar position is preferred. This person will provide direct support for the National Director, enabling him to focus more of his time on fundraising and membership growth. Specific tasks would include scheduling, making appointments, responding to mail & email, and managing details on projects such as the 2000 convention, mailings, meetings, workshops, and advertising.



Please send resume and work history to: Libertarian National Committee, Inc. Attn: Nick Dunbar, 2600 Virginia Ave., NW, Suite 100, Washington, DC 20037. E-mail: DNickDunbar@compuserve.com.

McWilliams faces prison for medical marijuana

Continued from Page 3
government's "most dangerous" category, and campaigning to end the War on Drugs.

"If Libertarians live in one of the states that has passed a medical marijuana initiative, they can become active locally to ensure that the law is enforced and implemented. Libertarians in other states can work to qualify and pass medical marijuana initiatives," he said.

Legal status

"Libertarians can also lobby their elected Congressperson to change marijuana's legal status at the federal level. Currently a Schedule I drug, marijuana should be rescheduled to Schedule II or lower, and doing so would

alleviate many of the problems facing states that have passed medical marijuana initiatives."

One thing that Libertarians should not do, said Ros, is to feel sorry for McWilliams.

"I spoke to Peter shortly after the judge's decision to disallow the medical marijuana defense, and he told me he didn't want people's sympathy," said

JUAN ROS:

McWilliams said he "didn't want sympathy."

Ros. "He knew what he was doing and he was aware of the risks, but his goal was to increase public awareness for the plight of medical marijuana patients. I admire and respect Peter tremendously. He's making the ultimate sacrifice: Risking his life for what he believes. Peter is a hero not only for Libertarians — but for all freedom-loving Americans."

McWilliams — who joined the Libertarian Party live on the air during a C-SPAN broadcast from the party's 1998 National Convention — is a multi-million-copy-selling author of *How to Survive the Loss of a Love*; *The Personal Computer Book*; and *DO IT! Let's Get Off Our Buts* (with co-author John-Roger), a #1 *New York Times* bestseller.

He also wrote what is widely considered to be the definitive book against "consensual" crimes, *Ain't Nobody's Business If You Do*.

Bob DeBrosse: Roll back laws

Continued from Page 4
has been following the Libertarian City Commissioner's political career. DeBrosse has also been able to:

- Remove "government stumbling blocks to the creation of a daycare center in a largely industrial neighborhood," she said.

- Campaign against a tax to finance new city buildings.

- Make sure "there have been no tax increases since [he] first took his seat in 1993," said Pullman.

- Spearhead the Citizens for Property Rights Initiative in 1995, which made it legal for people to do electrical work on their own property, albeit with proper government permits and inspections.

- Successfully amend a "design guideline" ordinance to limit it only to people who accept federal grants to rehabilitate buildings in a four-block downtown area. Previously the ordinance had been so sweeping that a businesswoman was prosecuted for installing a new awning on her antique shop.

After five and a half years on the job, DeBrosse said he has learned that politics "ain't pretty" — but has also realized that one Libertarian can have a positive impact in Piqua.

"It is said that politics is the art of compromise," he said. "Compromise isn't always a dirty word if you're able to move society incrementally in a more libertarian direction."

Ed Kahn

Libertarian Lawyer

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get three or more letters published in newspapers or magazines that use the words "libertarian" or "libertarianism" in a positive light.

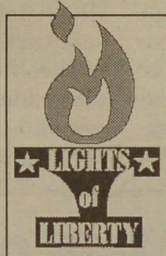
2 Public Speaking:

deliver three or more prepared speeches to a predominantly non-libertarian audience, using the words "libertarian" or "libertarianism" in a positive light.

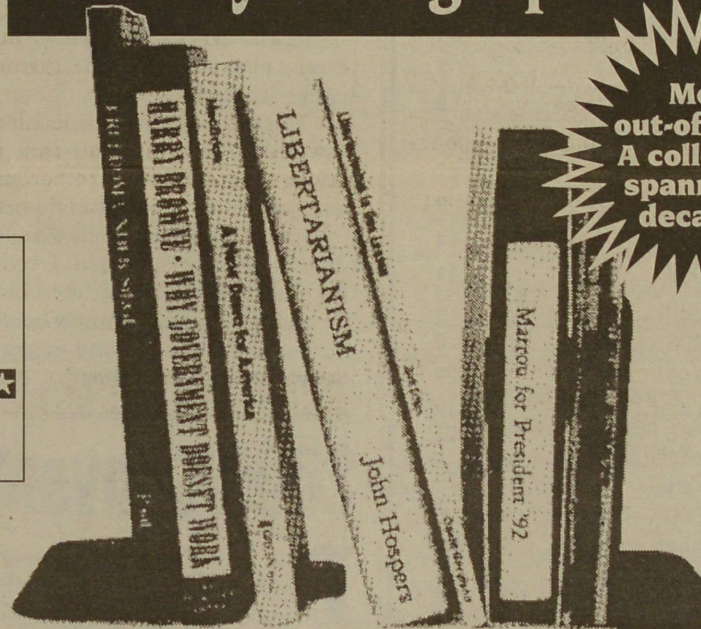
3 Operation Politically Homeless (OPH) Booth Outreach:

Participate in three or more OPH booths (or one booth for three shifts of two hours or more, on separate days).

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- **A New Beginning** by Ed Clark, 1980 Libertarian Presidential Candidate. Autographed.

- **Libertarianism In One Lesson** by David Bergland, 1984 Libertarian Party Presidential Candidate. Autographed.

- **Liberty Reclaimed: A New Look At American Politics** by Jim Lewis, 1984 Libertarian Vice Presidential Candidate (with Jim Peron). Autographed by Jim Lewis.

- **Freedom Under Siege: The U.S. Constitution After 200 Years** by Ron Paul, 1988 Libertarian Presidential Candidate. Autographed.

- **Marrou in '92 Campaign Videotape** by Andre Marrou, 1992 Libertarian Presidential Candidate.

- **Why Government Doesn't Work** by Harry Browne, 1996 Libertarian Party Presidential Candidate. Autographed.

CONTEST RULES & DEADLINE

- **Deadline:** Any activities completed between **January 1, 1999 and December 31, 1999** qualify—so there's still plenty of time!

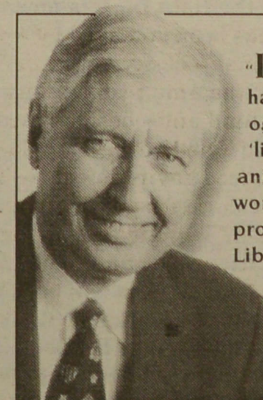
- **Increase your chances of winning:** every time you complete one of these three activities, your name will be added to the drawing. The more activism, the better your chances of winning!

- **Everyone who qualifies will receive prizes** and recognition, including a handsome certificate of achievement suitable for framing; discount coupons for Advocates products; public recognition; a year's subscription to *The Liberator*; and more! Plus, your name will be entered in drawings for other prizes as well.

- **Do you know someone who's already qualified?** Help us acknowledge the good work they've done. Contact us!

- **Help us publicize these awards** to encourage activism & reward local and state grassroots volunteers.

- **Enter today!** For more information on the "Lights of Liberty" Awards, contact the Advocates for Self-Government: 1202 North Tennessee St., Suite 202, Cartersville, GA 30120. **1-800-932-1776**. Email: advocates@self-gov.org. Web: www.self-gov.org



"I feel strongly that we have to build name recognition for the words 'libertarian' and 'libertarianism'—by attaching the words publicly to specific proposals. 'Lights of Liberty' is an excellent way to further that goal."
— **Harry Browne**, 1996 Libertarian Party presidential candidate

Con2000

Convention delegate allocation

Here is the all-but-official allocation of state party delegates for the 2000 Libertarian National Convention, which will be held June 30-July 3, 2000 in Anaheim California. (Barring any last-minute errors, this list is final.)

The total number of delegates for the National Convention is capped at approximately 1,450. Delegates are allocated among the affiliate state parties on a proportionate basis, determined by the number of National LP members in each state as of November 30, 1999, and the popular vote in each state for the Libertarian Party's last presidential candidate.

Affiliate	Paid Members	Delegate Alloc. By Mem.	1996 Pres. Vote	Delegate Alloc. By Vote	Total Delegate Allocation
Alabama	352	11	5,290	5	16
Alaska	139	5	2,276	2	7
Arizona	780	24	14,358	12	36
Arkansas	185	6	3,076	3	9
California	6,499	195	73,600	61	256
Colorado	841	26	12,392	11	37
Connecticut	391	12	5,788	5	17
Delaware	97	3	2,052	2	5
DC	91	3	588	1	4
Florida	1,692	51	23,965	20	71
Georgia	1,538	46	17,870	15	61
Hawaii	131	4	2,493	3	7
Idaho	149	5	3,325	3	8
Illinois	1,128	34	22,548	19	53
Indiana	627	19	15,632	13	32
Iowa	206	7	2,315	2	9
Kansas	303	10	4,557	4	14
Kentucky	219	7	4,009	4	11
Louisiana	211	7	7,499	7	14
Maine	189	6	2,996	3	9
Maryland	639	20	8,765	8	28
Massachusetts	858	26	20,426	17	43
Michigan	1,612	49	27,670	23	72
Minnesota	455	14	8,271	7	21
Mississippi	138	5	2,809	3	8
Missouri	542	17	10,522	9	26
Montana	123	4	2,526	3	7
Nebraska	130	4	2,792	3	7
Nevada	479	15	4,460	4	19
New Hampshire	363	11	4,237	4	15
New Jersey	845	26	14,763	13	39
New Mexico	288	9	2,996	3	12
New York	1,109	34	12,220	11	45
North Carolina	643	20	8,740	8	28
North Dakota	41	2	847	1	3
Ohio	1,136	34	12,851	11	45
Oklahoma	202	7	5,505	5	12
Oregon	592	18	8,903	8	26
Pennsylvania	1,673	50	28,000	24	74
Rhode Island	63	2	1,109	1	3
South Carolina	331	10	4,271	4	14
South Dakota	52	2	1,472	2	4
Tennessee	491	15	5,020	5	20
Texas	1,644	50	20,256	17	67
Utah	256	8	4,129	4	12
Vermont	137	5	1,183	1	6
Virginia	998	30	9,174	8	38
Washington	1,225	37	12,522	11	48
West Virginia	129	4	3,062	3	7
Wisconsin	454	14	7,929	7	21
Wyoming	79	3	1,739	2	5
Total:	33,495	1,026	485,798	425	1,451

A Congressional District Tour

Continued from Page 16

A few days before the tour, Lark personally contacted local Libertarians to confirm times and dates, to discuss contingency plans in case of bad weather, and to make sure local activists knew how to contact tour members. He also sent out an e-mail to other LP members in the district.

Then the tour got underway, with a series of "extremely favorable" meetings with local activists.

At the meetings, Lark said his primary goal was "to get to know the members of the district. We outlined the resources available from the Libertarian Party, we mentioned the Virginia LP's e-mail network, and provided various materials to help in building local organizations."

Favorable

The response, said Lark, "was extremely favorable. All attendees seemed pleased with the meetings. Several noted that the tour allowed them to meet other Virginia LP members for the first time."

In the weeks following the tour, several local affiliates sprang up, he said.

"Local groups in Blacksburg (the New River Libertarians), Tazewell County (the Libertarian Party of Southwest Virginia), and Abingdon (the Virginia Highlands Libertarian Party) began activities almost immediately," he said. "These groups are currently holding regular meetings and engaging in outreach activities."

JIM LARK:

*Be ready to provide
"a reasonable
amount of help
if it is requested."*

For Libertarians considering a similar organizing tour, Lark suggested a few tips.

■ When scheduling a tour, try to establish at least one "anchor" event for each day of the tour, he said. "If possible, hold the meetings in a private room of an easily located public place [such as a] restaurant, library, etc. Many people are reluctant to attend events in the homes of people they do not know. Also, easily accessible public places may be easier for the touring team to find."

■ In most cases, a three-person traveling team will be more than enough. "Indeed, a one-person or two-person team will usually be sufficient," he said.

■ Don't cram too many meetings into a tour. "It may be better to schedule several tours, each of which has a few really productive meetings, rather than one tour which has many brief meetings," said Lark. "I included slack [time] in the January tour schedule, to allow for travel difficulties and provide the opportunity for extending meeting times where appropriate."

appropriate."

■ Be willing to meet with anyone — even a solo activist. "For example, if there is an isolated activist who wants to meet with you, indicate that you are willing to do so, even if it is just for a chat at a roadside cafe," he said.

■ Don't overemphasize the formation of local affiliate parties. "While we want [new] affiliate parties, we wish to encourage action by groups regardless of size," said Lark. "Indeed, stress that even if an activist can only serve as a contact name for a given area, that activist is performing a valuable service."

Media opportunity

■ Don't pass up any media opportunity. "Prior to the tour, investigate opportunities to arrange interviews for team members and local members with local media," said Lark. "This may be particularly appropriate when an officer of your state party is on tour in a less populous part of the state."

■ And finally, be ready to provide encouragement and assistance following the tour. "It is easy to visit once with a group of local Libertarians— and then leave them to their own devices," he said. "However, subsequent to your visit, you should provide a reasonable amount of help if it is requested."

To contact Jim Lark about organizing a Congressional District Tour, call: (804) 982-5016. E-mail: liberty@virginia.edu.

2000 Convention committees appointed

The Libertarian National Committee has appointed members to two influential committees for the 2000 National Convention: The Platform Committee and the Bylaws & Rules Committee.

At its meeting on December 12, 1999, the LNC filled 10 slots on the Platform Committee: John Buttrick (Interim Chair), John Brown, Mike Dixon, Donald Gallick, Erin Hollinden, Bob Hunt,

Dan Karlan, Eve Maler, Tim O'Brien, and Ellissa Tiller. Four alternates were also appointed: Starchild, Keith Edwards, Bill Hajdu, and Bruce Baechler.

This committee will propose changes, deletions, and additions to the LP Platform. Ten additional members will be selected by the 10 largest state affiliates. To contact Interim Chair John Buttrick, call: (602) 257-8961. E-mail: buttrick@brownbain.com.

The LNC also filled eight of the 10 positions on the Bylaws & Rules Committee: Ken Bisson (Interim Chair), Karen Allard, Bruce Baechler, Jim Dexter, Greg Dirasian, Dan Fylstra, Jim Lark, and Mark Tuniewicz.

This committee will propose changes to the LP bylaws and Convention rules.

To contact Interim Chair Ken Bisson, call: (219) 833-6700. E-mail: kbisson@usa.net.

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LP lauded in new book on cyberpolitics

The Libertarian Party is cited in a new book as an example of how organizations can effectively use the Internet and World Wide Web to accomplish political goals.

The book, *The Net Effect: How Cyberadvocacy is Changing the Political Landscape*, examined the LP's successful 1999 campaign against the FDIC's Know Your Customer rule proposal — and described it as the first real proof that the Internet "was an effective tool" for political lobbying.

"In three short weeks the Libertarian Party had created the largest cybercampaign ever against a federal regulation," wrote authors Daniel Bennett and Pam Fielding.

"Only the Internet allows for

low cost, nearly instant messaging. And the Libertarian Party proved that it was an effective tool."

The authors spent several pages discussing the history of the proposal and the LP's early role in alerting party members and cyberactivists to the threat posed by the "bank-spying" regulation.

They also noted that "over two-thirds of messages" opposing Know Your Customer "came di-

rectly through the Libertarian Party's [DefendYourPrivacy.com] Web site."

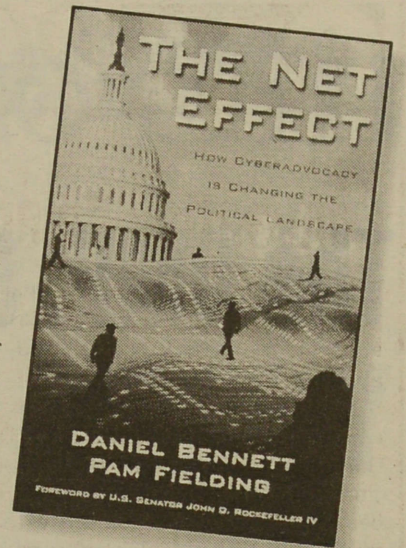
In a letter to LP National Director Steve Dasbach, the authors wrote: "Your work is going to be emulated by many, but [we] doubt many will be as successful."

Dasbach said it was "gratifying" for the party to be publicly recognized as a pioneer in Internet advocacy.

"The publicity our Know Your

Customer campaign has received is encouraging to all Libertarians who are fighting for liberty," he said. "The fact that it was a big victory makes it all the more sweet."

In addition to case studies of effective cyberpolitics, *The Net Effect* includes instructions for building online campaigns and lobbying efforts. It was published in September 1999 by e-advocates Press of Merrifield, Virginia.



Talk radio & Libertarians

Continued from Page 3

radio experts have noticed before. In a separate article, *Talkers* also wrote: "Libertarians . . . have a track record of being talk radio friendly, something that has significantly contributed to their candidates having a high favorability rating among the medium's core listeners."

And four of the nation's 15 most popular talk show hosts are either LP members or have described themselves on the air as "libertarian" — Howard Stern (who has 9.25 million weekly listeners), Art Bell (5.5 million), Dr. Dean Edell (2.25 million), and Neal Boortz (1.75 million).

Gratifying

"These results are gratifying," said LP press secretary George Getz. "They suggest that our strategy of targeting talk radio is a good one, and that our constant exposure on radio may be helping to shift public opinion even further in our direction."

"No wonder talk radio has been described as the 'secret weapon' for Libertarians!"

The study, which was based on interviews with listeners and talk radio professionals, Arbitron ratings, and academic studies, was published in the October issue of *Talkers* magazine, the leading trade publication of the talk radio industry.

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July 23-28, 2000

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So now we invite you to join with an amazing assembly of powerful international libertarian figures in helping us blow out the candles on our cake — and map the path to liberty in the new millennium.

Joining us as speakers are such luminaries as **Barbara Branden** (USA) - former Ayn Rand associate; **Leon Louw** (South Africa) - Nobel Peace Prize nominee; **George H. Smith** (USA) - historian, author, philosopher; **Dr. John Hospers** (USA) - philosopher & 1st presidential candidate for the USLP; **Jacques de Guenin** (France) president of the Cercle de Bastiat; **Rigoberto Stewart** (Costa Rica) president of the Institute for Liberty and Public Policy Analysis and author of the REAL Limón autonomy project; **George Jonas** (Canada) award-winning writer and syndicated columnist; **Jan Narveson** (Canada) - Professor of Philosophy at the University of Waterloo; **Karen Selick** (Canada) lawyer, widely published libertarian columnist; **Tibor Machan** (USA) - professor, author, philosopher; **Cristian Comanescu** (Romania) political scientist, economist; **Terence Corcoran** (Canada) editor of the Financial Post, **Mary Ruwart** (USA) ISIL director and author of *Healing Our World* — plus a special guest appearance by adventurer/businessman **Jeff MacInnis**, the first person to successfully sail the North West Passage — and many many others to be announced.

Included among the topics of debate are:

Exposing the Fraud of Socialized Medicine in Canada

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The Forum

The DMV: Government at its most awful

You hear it all the time. People everywhere, in every state, complain about their state's motor vehicle agency. In Virginia, the culprit goes by the name Division of Motor Vehicles, or "DMV."

You swear every time you walk out of the DMV that you're going to call your state legislators and yell at them about the slow service, the bureaucrat behind the counter that treated you like a number, and other grievances. But you never actually do, because you know the odds are stacked in favor of the DMV.

Cash Cows

Legislators like motor vehicle departments because they are cash cows. Why? Because they can charge you whatever they like in exchange for allowing you to drive. If you can't drive, you can't participate in this economy.

Indeed, even if you do find a way to participate in the economy without driving, you still have to go to the DMV and allow them to photograph, catalog, number, and profile you so you can get an ID card so you can go in to work.

By definition, this is an extortion racket.

A recent trip I made to a brand-new DMV branch office in my hometown of Richmond was a typical experience. The reception wasn't very different from previous trips to the rented office in a shopping center.

Walking inside this new palatial branch office, the motorist is first herded to an information desk where clerks first give you the right forms to do what you need to do. Then they give you a number, and you go sit down. And wait. And wait.

I wasn't there during a rush, either. Lunchtime is their rush, when people who are out doing productive work in the private sector have to skip lunch to pay their dues to the cash cow. I have never seen a DMV plan for a lunch rush, though — in fact, it sure seems to me that, similar to the Post Office, during the lunch rush is exactly when they send their own employees to . . . well, lunch. Not

even a second thought to staggering their work hours.

After pondering this for a while, I was called by the computer and went to the window. I was there to trade in the plates on my older car for the new orange "antique" plates I'd heard about. I didn't know it at the time, but the plates weren't due out until July 1, and I was five days early.

New plates

So I asked the clerk for the new orange antique plates. I didn't quite expect the completely surly response I got. The clerk in-

the window, I was made to feel small and ignorant. After my meek insistence that the new plates were indeed being offered, the clerk checked with someone else in the office. Thankfully, that other employee was better-informed and confirmed the new plates were coming but I was a few days early.

With no apology, my tormentor repeated the fact that they weren't available yet, in a defiant, victorious tone. Deciding to wait a few days for the orange plates, I told her to cancel any transactions she had started and I'd come back after July 1.

Dolts

I also suggested that maybe she treat customers a bit less like dolts. I thought that might be the end of an unpleasant experience, but it wasn't.

I began walking towards the door, and as I did, I heard loud laughter from her direction. I turned to look, and she and her two clerk neighbors were looking at me while she laughed.

Yes, I know. The joke's on the

taxpayer.

This incident made me think of what might be done to make the DMV more friendly. And I realized it won't ever change. As long as the "customer" is little more than a captive — in attendance for no other reason than if he did not run through the state's bureaucratic hoops, the state would see to it that he'd go to jail — there is no way to change the culture.

Private sector

The Libertarian idea that government services should be replaced by private sector alternatives is long overdue a good look. There is no reason why your bank and insurance company can't take care of your car registration requirements, and even your driver's license needs (if you can't come up with insurance, they won't give you the driver's test, etc.).

The access to records needed by the police for legitimate accident investigation would still exist — the data just wouldn't be collected by one archaic and unresponsive state agency.

When an experiment proves something to be inefficient and obstructive, it's time to end the experiment.

Abolishing the DMV is an idea whose time has come; its decades-long existence has proven it can't be reformed. It's time to replace it with a friendlier, private-sector alternative.

■ **About the author:** Marc Montoni manages the daily operations of the Libertarian Party of Virginia.

Dealing With Government

interrupted me before I even had a chance to finish my request, and loudly stated that there was no such thing as an orange antique plate; they had the familiar black and white plates and that's what she was going to give me.

Within seconds of arriving at

A Libertarian's love/hate view of police turns to . . . respect

Yes, police enforce many unlibertarian laws. But when there's an attempted break-in . . .

As do most Libertarians, I have a love/hate relationship with the police.

I've heard enough horror stories that I'm scared of them. And a talk with Steve Kubby — arrested on medical marijuana charges — or a cyber-visit to WorldNetDaily is enough to fuel my worst paranoid nightmares.

But somehow, I've managed to maintain my faith in the system, as imperfect as it is. After all, the average cop is not Janet Reno.

Recently, while feasting at a fellow Libertarian's home, the discussion turned to the local Police Department's "self-acquittal" in a highly publicized shooting of a black female. After critiquing the system and trying to offer positive suggestions, I opined that despite their flaws, I would rather live in a world with police than one without them.

Less than an hour ago, my faith was confirmed.

I was awakened from a sound slumber by the sound of rapping on a door. Through the murky

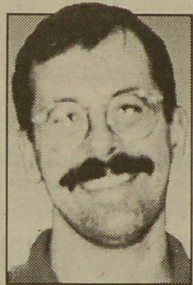
haze of interrupted REM, my wife whispered, "Geoff, there's someone knocking on the front door!"

Grabbing my shorts and my glasses, I tip-toed down the hall to see a stranger outside my lace-curtained, windowed front door. He was incessantly and alternately knocking and trying to get in the front door.

I approached slowly, semi-confident that whoever was outside couldn't see in because of the bright porch light outside and the darkness within.

My fears were realized: It was a stranger.

He turned to walk away, so I approached the door. Then he walked back and tried the door again. I shrank back in dread.



By Geoff Braun

My wife whispered, "Call 911."

So I picked up the phone in our home office and dialed 911. This was a new thing for me — I'm from the tail end of the hippie era when the other side sported bumper stickers that said something like, "If you don't like cops, when you need help, call a hippie."

My call was quickly answered by a young woman who said, "911," to which I hoarsely whispered, "There's a stranger trying to get into my home!"

Paranoid best

Her questions concerned his appearance and the expected confirmation of my address and phone number, which were followed by some unexpected questions about whether or not I had a firearm.

At my paranoid best I offered vague answers to the questions, "What kind of firearm is it?" (It's a gun!) and "Where is it?" (In my bedroom!) as I slowly grasped that, while I didn't want to answer these questions, the police needed to know whether or not they were entering a situation where they might meet an armed homeowner.

As I pieced this together, I assured the 911 voice that I was not picking up the gun, nor did I have any intention of picking it up — as long as the police were on the way.

About 60 seconds into the call I saw a flash of light outside. I asked the young lady if it was the police, and she said, "Yes." She then asked if I had any animals outside because the police were going into my back yard. (I'm sure I gasped when I heard that!)

Less than two minutes after pressing 911, I was told that I should go to my back door and meet the police officer that was standing there.

Exercising an unusual amount of common sense, I turned on the kitchen light and raised my hands as I approached my windowed kitchen door. There was a paunchy middle-aged cop who told me that, "Everything turned out exactly the way it should" — the suspect was found in my back yard, and since he was just a very, very lost drunk, they were taking him home. So I thanked the officer and came back inside where my wife was trying to corral our cats.

So now I'm trying to burn off

excess adrenalin and go back to sleep. But I'm a more optimistic man than I was one and a half hours ago. I'm grateful that I live in a land where there's a 911 system.

In parenting, the experts say that one should never call one's child "lazy," but instead suggest that one should say things like "you're acting lazy." The idea is to separate the child's identity from his behavior.

Not bad people

In my opinion, if Libertarians want to sound like sane individuals who sincerely desire to reduce the insanity in our society, we must apply the same principle to our verbiage regarding the police. They're not bad people — they're made out of the same stuff we are. And, unfortunately, some of them occasionally do very, very bad things.

But most of them do helpful, good things on a routine basis. If you don't believe me, the next time you need help, call a hippie.

■ **About the author:** Geoff Braun is a longtime Libertarian Party activist in California.

Dealing with the campaign finance law bureaucracy

How Arizona's new campaign finance laws have been used to suppress political dissent

The whole supposed point of enacting campaign finance laws was to prevent well-heeled interests from covertly spending large sums of money in order to buy influence from political office holders. Unfortunately, these laws have been twisted into tools for intimidating opponents of government and corporate schemes.

Consider the case of a recent stadium/convention center tax proposition in Arizona. Well-financed business interests spent nearly \$1 million in an effort to induce voters to approve a tax increase.

Investigation

Subsequent to the election (in which the proposed tax hike was defeated) the County Attorney's Office launched an investigation — not of this million-dollar campaign to try to get voters to divert tax dollars to the benefit of local business interests — but of a handful of local citizens who spent a few thousand dollars opposing this raid on the taxpayer.

It seems that these citizens may not have met all the paper-

work requirements demanded by the campaign finance law.

The investigation was pure abuse of the advertised intent of the campaign finance law. And it helps to demonstrate why government cannot be trusted with the authority granted under the campaign finance law. Let's consider the merits — or rather lack of merits — in the charges against these citizens.

First, the amounts that these citizens spent on their campaign against the tax increase were pitifully small in

sufficient to "buy" the election.

Second, there was no concealment of the spending. All the required information was provided. In one case, the charge is that the paperwork was late. In another case, the charge is that a *duplicate* set was not filed with the county government.

Having recently wrestled with campaign finance requirements in a campaign against a



By John Semmens

transit tax increase, I can attest to the complexity of such laws.

The campaign finance documents resemble those required by the Internal

Revenue Service. There are multiple "schedules" and little guidance on how to fill them out. Even the professionally assisted campaign in favor of the transit tax increase made errors in the docu-

ments they filed. Threatening citizens for imperfect compliance with these complicated paperwork rules can only be construed as political intimidation.

Finally, there is no way the opponents of the tax increase could hope to purchase "influence" with government officials by their actions. On the contrary, they had every reason to expect to be abused by government officials.

It is clear that none of the dreaded evils which the campaign finance law was ostensibly enacted to combat were committed by the citizens who opposed the stadium tax increase. That the campaign finance law could be misused in this fashion by government officials is evidence that this is a bad law.

As little as \$25

According to the campaign finance law, anyone who contributes as little as \$25 to a political campaign must have his name, address, and the name of his employer given to the government. A law which gives the government the power to demand this kind of information — from those who might oppose its programs or its officeholders — is a serious threat to freedom of speech.

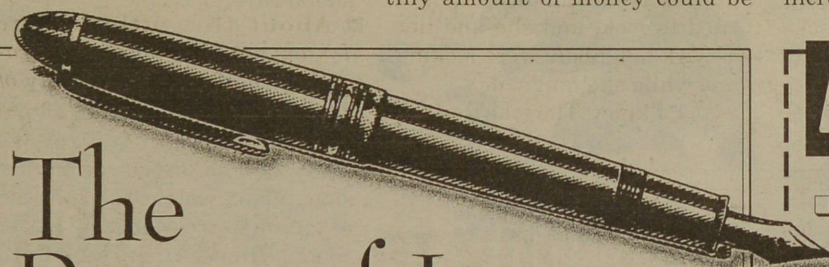
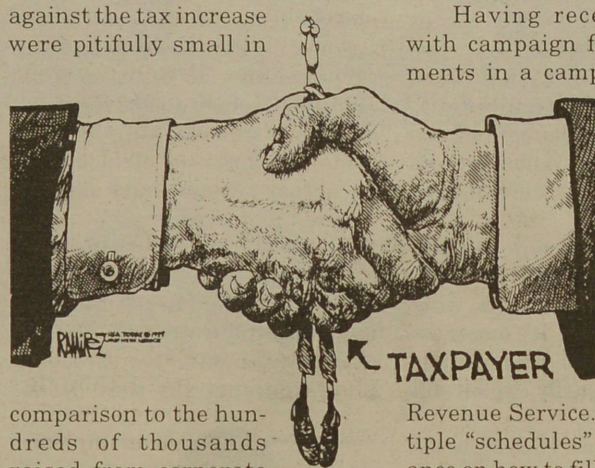
In the recent transit tax campaign, numerous people declined

to assist us for fear of retaliation from their employers. I am sorry to say that this was not an unwarranted fear. Pro-transit tax workers vilified me on their website and attempted to pressure me through my employer. Fortunately, this attempted pressure did not work. Others might not be so lucky.

Citizens initiating their own campaigns is what got America started. In stirring up revolution in America's Colonial days, individuals and citizens' committees printed and distributed pamphlets and newspapers critical of the British government. In recognition of this history, the U.S. Supreme Court has held (in the *McIntyre vs. Ohio Elections Commission* case, 1995) that freedom of speech and the press takes precedence over state laws that would require the disclosure of the names of citizens who are conducting these campaigns.

So, it seems likely that many campaign finance laws, as currently written, are unconstitutional. These laws should be repealed before zealous government prosecutors further abuse them to stifle dissent.

■ **About the author:** John Semmens is a Libertarian Party activist in Chandler, Arizona.



The Power of Just One Signature

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FROM The Editor

Good news: 'Experts' predict we can't win!

We got a letter a short while ago from an LP member who had decided not to renew his membership. He had come to the conclusion, he wrote, that the Libertarian Party "can't win" — so he was going to support the Reform Party, which could.

We don't get a lot of letters like that. Why? Because there aren't many Libertarians who think that Reform Party candidates, if elected, would be a "win" for liberty.

After all, it's not easy to convince yourself that Pat Buchanan (who never met an immigrant or an import he didn't want to imprison or tax) supports liberty. Or that Donald Trump (who advocates a \$5.7 trillion "rich people's" tax and socialized medicine that would make "Ted Kennedy blush") is anything but a statist in capitalist's clothing.

But forget about the Reform Party for a second: It was the "can't win" part of the letter that amused me the most. And it reminded me of a list I had seen recently (in *American Outlook* magazine, Spring 1999).

The list was simple: Predictions from famous people that had turned out wrong. *Profoundly* wrong. Laugh-out-loud wrong. You may enjoy the list, too:

■ In 1927, silent film producer Harry Warner said, "Who the hell wants to hear actors talk?"

■ In 1905, President Grover Cleveland said, "Sensible and responsible women do not want to vote."

■ Before World War II, Admiral Clark Woodward said, "As far as sinking a ship with a bomb is concerned, it can never be done."

■ Thomas Edison said, "The phonograph has no commercial value at all."

■ In 1921, radio pioneer David Sarnoff said, "The wireless music box has no imaginable commercial value. Who would pay for a message sent to nobody in particular?"

■ The president of Michigan Savings Banks advised Henry Ford's lawyer not to invest in the Ford Motor Company because, he said, "The horse is here to stay, the automobile is a novelty."

■ "Heavier-than-air flying machines are impossible," said Lord Kelvin, president of the British Royal Society and one of the nineteenth century's greatest experts on thermodynamics.

■ "A rocket will never be able to leave the earth's atmosphere," declared the *New York Times* in 1936.

■ "There is no likelihood man can ever tap the power of the atom," said Nobel Prize-winning physicist Robert Milliken in 1923.

■ In 1929, Yale economist Irving Fisher said, "Stock prices have reached what looks like a permanently high plateau." Two weeks later, the stock market crashed.

■ MGM executive Irving Thalberg had this for Louis B. Mayer regarding *Gone With the Wind*: "Forget it, Louie, no Civil War picture ever made a nickel."

■ "You ain't going nowhere, son. You ought to go back to driving a truck," said Jim Denny, manager of the Grand Ole Opry, in firing Elvis Presley after a performance in 1954.

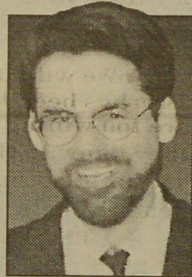
■ "We don't like their sound, and guitar music is on the way out anyway," said the president of Decca Records, rejecting the Beatles in 1962.

■ "There is no reason for any individual to have a computer in his home," said the president of Digital Electronic Corporation in 1977.

As you mull over this list, keep in mind: These weren't "ordinary Joes" making these predictions. They were *experts* — Nobel Prize winners. Great inventors. Successful corporations. They were the greatest minds of past generations — *dead wrong*.

And as I rode to work today on my horse (because the car was just a novelty, you know), and wrote this column with a quill pen (because individuals will *never* need computers), and whistled to myself (because the radio has no commercial value), I thought about the prediction from our Libertarian-turned-Reform Party friend, that the Libertarian Party "can't win."

And I look forward to the day we can add his prediction to the list you just read. Because I think that's where history will judge that it belongs.



By Bill Winter, Editor

Costly daycare and TV violence: How can we protect our kids?

EDITOR'S NOTE: How can Libertarianism solve America's problems? Each issue, *LP News* will showcase how "Libertarian Solutions" — or interim steps in a libertarian direction — can help improve our nation.

By Peter Orveti
LP NEWS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Without government involvement, how can we be sure that quality daycare will be available for our children? And if we scrap the Federal Communications Commission, can we be sure there will be quality programming for them to watch? When parents aren't around, who's watching the kids?

In other words, how can Libertarians answer those who ask, "If not for the government, what about our children?" It's one of the toughest questions we face, and one of the most easily exploitable by our opponents.

The good news is, despite the popular belief to the contrary, America's families are not wanting for quality child care today. There simply is no crisis in daycare.

Professional daycare facilities are not crowded and unable to accept more children. In fact, in 1990, approximately one out of eight available slots for children in professional care facilities were unfilled. This vacancy rate was not an urban or rural anomaly; it remained remarkably consistent across the United States, according to Darcy Olsen of the Cato Institute.

This 12% vacancy estimate does not even include the nearly 1.1 million nonregulated family daycare providers, who typically report greater vacancy rates. So there are plenty of slots to go around.

Can't afford it?

But are these vacancies due to the fact that families can't afford them? Again, no: In 1990, half of all families reported having some employer benefit or policy that helps them afford child care responsibilities. In 1993, fully half of all arrangements used for preschoolers with working mothers did not require a cash payment, according to Olsen.

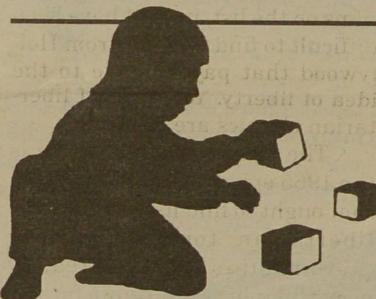
The average weekly expenditure for daycare for preschoolers is just \$50 for families in legal poverty, and just \$76 for families above the poverty line. Child care costs are so low that in one poll, 92% of all parents say they would be willing to pay more for their current child care arrangements.

So if slots are empty and child care is affordable, why doesn't every child have a place in a pro-



fessional daycare center? If there is a child care crisis, it is that parents are forced to turn to professional daycare, not that they can't afford it. When Wirthlin Worldwide pollsters asked parents to choose between nine different types of daycare options, sending their children to a professional facility finished dead last. Government subsidies for professional daycare provide money for an option parents have already rejected in droves.

Indeed, the whole concept of daycare is viewed with little enthusiasm by parents. A Families and Work Institute study showed that more than two of three employed parents say they do not



QUESTION:
Who will "take care of the kids" with no help from the government?

have enough time with their children. Fewer than 15% of parents want to work full-time when they have young children, and in one poll, 88% of mothers agreed with the statement, "If I could afford it, I would rather be at home with my children."

How can we solve that "time crunch" problem? Parents need to be given back economic freedom so they can afford that time. Fifty years ago, the federal income tax

amounted to 2% of the typical family budget. Today it's 25% of the income of a family of four. Add in all taxes — local, state, federal, and hidden — and the average family expends 50% of its budget on taxes alone. A typical working mother brings in 32% of a family's income. So massive tax cuts would allow one parent to stay home, and the family would still have more disposable income than it does now.

Poorer families that do not pay income taxes would benefit as well, and some unemployed people may even find a new enterprise. The overregulation of daycare facilities has put a burden on would-be caregivers who are smothered in paperwork and rules. These requirements are worse than confusing — they're expensive.

Slicing through the red tape that surrounds daycare would let more caregivers go into business. With local and neighborhood care centers sprouting up, it's likely that many parents would have the option of hiring someone they know, eliminating many of the fears parents have about professional care.

Greater control

Freeing parents to be with their children would also let parents have greater control over what their children see on television. Media violence and the lack of "quality" programming has become a front-burner issue in the wake of recent school violence, and many have suggested that government censorship is the answer. In May, President Clinton even went so far as to say, "We must do more to help parents fulfill their responsibilities."

In fact, the FCC itself has shown that the free market has done an extraordinary job of offering a wide variety of family-friendly programming.

In FCC surveys of 48 randomly selected television stations in 1992 and 1994, commercial stations reported airing on average 3.4 hours per week of regularly scheduled, standard-length educational programming. A survey by the National Association of Broadcasters of 559 stations in 1994 found that the average station aired almost 4.33 hours per week of educational and informational programming.

At the same time, the explosion of cable television offerings has made the situation even better. Networks like Nickelodeon and Odyssey offer quality children's programming all day, while new educational options are available through the History Channel, Discovery Channel, and Learning Channel.

See **HELPING KIDS** Page 26

Libertarian Online Guide

Libertarian Party:
<http://www.LP.org/>
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The Mail Box

■ We The Living?

I enjoyed the story about "The 20 best libertarian movies of all time," [LP News, November 1999] and agreed with many of the choices.

But I was disappointed by a stunning omission: *We The Living*. This remarkable adaptation of Ayn Rand's first novel, filmed in Italy as *Noi Vivi* in 1942, is faithful to Rand, and has great performances, direction and cinematography. It was included in the book *Great Italian Films* (Citadel, 1994).

Almost every viewer agrees that *We The Living* is far superior to the film version of *The Fountainhead*, which is #5 on the list. It has an explicit anti-totalitarian theme, which should qualify it as even more libertarian.

The two-tape video, with English subtitles, is available from Laissez Faire Books, Second Renaissance, Movies Unlimited, or directly from Duncan Scott Productions, 1100 Madison Ave., New York NY 10028 (\$69.99, plus tax for orders in N.Y.).

— DON HAUPTMAN
New York, New York

■ Top 20 Movies

As a life-long libertarian and one who teaches a college course on politics and film, I read the LP News article outlining the top 20 all-time libertarian films with great anticipation.

Many films on the *Orange County Register* (OCR) list are indisputable champions of libertarian ideas. However, to partially paraphrase Gene Kelly in his exceptional role in the classic *Inherit the Wind*, we seem to be raising a strange breed of libertarians these days! Given some of the

films on the list, it must have been difficult to find 20 films from Hollywood that pay homage to the idea of liberty. Yet, several libertarian classics are missing.

The most glaring omission is the 1965 epic *Shenandoah*, a film that ought to find its way into any libertarian top five. James Stewart stars in an incredibly powerful role as a Virginia farmer and father in the 1860s opposed

Also absent are other more left-libertarian films [such as] Stanley Kubrick's black comedy *Dr. Strangelove* (1963), perhaps the greatest film ever made regarding the absurdity of the Cold War, foreign policy, and the authoritarian, military mindset.

— DR. LARRY M. HALL
Nashville, Tennessee

■ Ghostbusters

Being something of a movie buff myself, I really enjoyed the piece on "Freedom's Flicks."

I found some of the choices to be a bit of a stretch, and couldn't help but notice that one which would certainly make my list was conspicuous by its absence: *Ghostbusters* (1984) by Ivan Reitman, starring Bill Murray, Dan Akroyd and Harold Ramis.

For any who might have missed it, this comedy details the exploits of three university "paranormal researchers" whose grant and department are eliminated in a budget cut. They are forced to become self-supporting by offering their services busting ghosts commercially.

Things actually go along well until they are forced to square off against a snoopy government bureaucrat, one Walter Peck of the EPA. I can't imagine how this film could have been passed over in favor of such questionable entries as *What About Bob* (ironically, a far less clearly libertarian film also starring Bill Murray).

— TIM O'BRIEN
Dearborn, Michigan

■ Real winners

I was happy to see the LP News publish such an interesting piece as the best Libertarian films
See THE MAILBOX Page 24

TOP 20 FILMS:

Where was . . .

We the Living?

Dr. Strangelove?

Ghostbusters?

to both the slavery of the South and the invasion and aggression of the North.

Conspicuously absent are films based on George Orwell's haunting novels. While the animated *Animal Farm* (1954) and the two versions of *1984* (1955 and 1984) are not film classics, libertarians must appreciate the frightening imagery of totalitarianism each movie portrays.

— THE
**Concise Guide
to Economics**

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ThePulse

Libertarians' future tense

For LP News readers, the glass is "half empty" when it comes to predicting the future — and a slim majority expect to see less liberty in the next century.

However, that view is by no means unanimous: A sizable percentage predicted that the dawn of a new century will bring a renewed dawn of liberty (either immediately or in the long run), or think that what Libertarians do today will determine what happens tomorrow.

In response to this month's unscientific Pulse question — do you expect that the next century will bring more or less liberty (economic and personal) for Americans? — 53.3% predicted less liberty, citing the bigger-government trends of the last century.

However, 20% predicted more freedom, thanks primarily to changes in technology that will empower individuals. Another 13.3% argued that liberty will continue to decline in the short term, before heading back in a positive direction. And 13.3% said the future remains to be written, and will depend entirely on how hard Libertarians work today to defend and expand liberty.

One interesting technological divide emerged from the responses: Of those readers who responded by "old-fashioned" mail, a full 62.5% predicted less liberty for the next century. But of those who responded by e-mail, only 42.8% took the pessimistic view — suggesting that the more technologically savvy you are, the more optimistic is your view of the future.

Here is a representative sample of the responses:

■ We will have less liberty in the next century. Why? This has been the trend for the last 100+ years. People are too willing to give up the rights of others, and before they know it, they have given up all their rights too. I see nothing that will change this (although I hope I am dead wrong!).

— GREG RENNIER, Columbia, Missouri

■ Whether we have more or less liberty depends on what we do now. There are trends operating in both directions at the same time.

— ALAN RICHTER, Spokane, Washington

■ Within 10 years we will be living in the most free society ever known to mankind as government swiftly becomes totally irrelevant.

— AUGUST SALEMI, Atascadero, California

■ I'm inclined to believe that we will continue on our present course of less and less freedom until Americans revolt, either with guns or technology. At that point, the pendulum should swing back towards freedom on the order of the conditions that existed after the first American revolution. I believe that a lust for freedom is indelibly written on the collective consciousness of Americans.

— NOELLE STETTNER, Falls Church, Virginia

■ Americans should enjoy more personal and economic liberty in the 21st century than they did in the 20th. We see already the beginnings of an unstoppable force, enabled by the truly free speech environment of the Internet — a force that permits at last the open exchange of ideas in which everyone can participate at the same level. Gradually, this will marginalize the relevance of moneyed politics in Washington as citizens bypass traditional political structures in favor of direct interaction with their government and more local control.

— CHARLES STUPPY, Albuquerque, New Mexico

■ We had better get to work getting more of us elected, because as long as people like Al Gore, [U.S. Sen.] Pete Domenici, and [U.S. Rep.] Charles Schumer remain in office, we all know the answer to this, don't we?

— JEFFREY KRADIN, Delray Beach, Florida

■ Unfortunately, Americans will have less liberty in the 21st century. As the population ages more and more people will continue to exchange their own (and their

See THE PULSE Page 24

ThePulse

Continued from Page 23

posterity's) personal and economic liberty for the illusion of government-provided security achieved by high taxes on the productive. Liberty often means less to the infirm.

— PETER CLAYMORE, Fairfax, Virginia

■ I believe that if the World Wide Web continues to grow without interference from political control, increased personal and economic freedom will result. This will happen worldwide. Economic freedom is already making great progress through e-commerce and online investing, and personal freedom is being enhanced by the free exchange of ideas. I don't believe that coercive governments will ultimately survive a free exchange of ideas amongst their citizens.

— PHIL UNDERWOOD, Jersey Shore, Pennsylvania

■ I think we will have less personal and economic liberty in the next century, because of the vast interest and fixation on sports — which is all many people are interested in. [People] know sports figures' names by the hundred, but not one of their Congressmen.

— COLIN F. SEWARDS, Mansfield, Texas

■ Americans will have the opportunity in the last year of the 20th century (2000) to enhance their liberty in the first year of the 21st century (2001) by casting their ballots for Libertarian candidates in November. We members of the LP need to use 2000 to commit ourselves to the struggle for freedom. Do something. Stuff envelopes. Write letters. Talk to your friends. *It is up to us.*

— EDWIN J. POLE II, Hillsboro, Oregon

March Question: Matching Funds?

For some Libertarians, it's like taking a handout from the devil. For others, it's a way to take back something the government took from you. It's matching funds—and, as the 2000 presidential campaign heats up, it's sure to become a point of contention again in the party.

In 1996, the party's candidate qualified for about \$500,000 in matching funds, but declined it. In 2000, given the growth of the LP, it could amount to millions.

Some Libertarians argue that taking the money is immoral, because government should not fund campaigns. Plus, it's hypocritical, since we want to abolish the program. Other Libertarians argue that taking the money is a way to "recover" some of the tax dollars the government has taken from individuals — and not taking the money handicaps LP candidates who are fighting statist politicians.

■ QUESTION: Should the LP's 2000 presidential candidate accept federal campaign matching funds? Why or why not? (Limit answers to 100 words.)

■ DEADLINE: February 5, 2000

Feb. Question: Term Limits?

Reasons to be cheerful in 2000: Bill Clinton can't run for president again. Thanks to the 22nd Amendment, Slick Willy is "term limited" out of office.

However, the Constitution doesn't address term limits for any other political offices, and neither does the LP Platform. Should it? Some Libertarians say "yes," arguing that term limits would reduce the power of long-time, incumbent politicians by booting them out. Other Libertarians say "no," suggesting that term limits would just cycle more bad Republicans and Democrats in and out of office faster. Besides, they say, voters already have the power to expel politicians: It's called an election.

■ QUESTION: Should the Libertarian Party endorse term limits? Why or why not? (100 word answers, please.)

■ DEADLINE: January 5, 2000

ENTRY GUIDELINES: Include name and city/state; anonymous answers won't be tallied. Enter just once per month. ■ E-mail: 73163.3063@compuserve.com. (Please include "Pulse" in subject line.)

■ Fax: (202) 333-0072 (Attn: The Pulse).

■ Mail: Libertarian Party, Attn: LP News/The Pulse, 2600 Virginia Avenue, NW, Suite 100, Washington DC 20037

TheMailBox

Continued from Page 23

of all time, but I think you are missing a couple of real winners.

Legends of the Fall: The 1994 Academy Award winner for Best Cinematography stars Brad Pitt, Anthony Hopkins, and Aidan Quinn as a hard-working independent farming family who, throughout the film: 1) Lose a family member in a foreign war; 2) Treat the Native Americans on their ranch with great respect; 3) Homeschool the Native American daughter who isn't accepted at school; and 4) Face the evils of prohibition and government corruption.

Kurt Vonnegut's *Harrison Bergeron* stars Sean Astin as a youth in dystopia, rebelling against a society that tries to make people equal by making them all the same.

Demolition Man is a fine answer to the question, "Why not be a Liberal?" (Answer: Denis Leary's "I want to..." speech) and *The Handmaid's Tale* is a fine answer to "Why not be a conservative?"

— CHRIS WISWELL

Seattle, Washington

■ Libertarian classic

I was disappointed by a glaring omission on your list of the 20 best libertarian movies of all time. How could you have missed *Whose Life Is It, Anyway?*, circa 1980, starring Richard Dreyfuss and John Cassavettes?

For those who've never seen it, it's the story of a sculptor involved in a car accident which leaves him totally paralyzed from the neck down. Rather than living a vegetative life supported by machines, he decides he wants to be released from the hospital — not commit suicide, but simply remove himself from treatment so that nature will take its course, which means death.

Cassavettes plays the doctor who opposes his right to choose, and one of the things that makes the film so powerful is that, even though he is the antagonist in the movie, he plays his character as a man of deep conviction, good intentions, and — given his premises — formidable integrity.

The entire movie reflects the basic conflict between the rights of the powerless individual versus the benevolent — but definitive — authority of those with power. And the very title of the movie makes it an all-time libertarian classic.

— BRIAN MULHOLLAND

El Cajon, California

■ Viva Zapata

"Freedom's Flicks" movie picks were okay as far as including films about individualism. But, overall, they were not selections that included understanding of libertarian ideas for the most part. And where were films related more to non-foreign inter-

vention, and property rights? Here are a few of my top choices:

Viva Zapata. This 1952 film based on John Steinbeck's novel about Mexican Revolutionary hero, Emiliano Zapata, is the most libertarian film Hollywood ever made (from start to finish)!

It shows how governments (conservative or contemporary liberal) are dictatorial, and unworthy of support. It makes clear that each of us must take responsibility for our own lives. There is even a lesson in favor of citizen gun ownership (try finding that in other films).

VIVA ZAPATA:

*It's "the most
Libertarian film
Hollywood has
ever made."*

Judgment At Nuremberg. Yes, *Schindler's List* showed how vile Nazis were (so what's new?), but gave little insight into how the Holocaust came about, and what we must be aware of to prevent future government programs of genocide. In contrast, the 1961 *Judgment* film explains how a Holocaust comes about from the first minor corruption in court cases to the slippery slope leading to the Nazis' "final solution" for Jews.

— GERALD SCHNEIDER

Kensington, Maryland

■ Anti-community

Usually when I contact the national LP, it is to praise them for a job well done. Now I find myself in the unpleasant position of being in profound disagreement with the choice of the word "community" in the theme chosen for our National Convention in 2000 [*LP News*, December 1999].

The word "community" does not mean simply the place where one lives. The etymology of the word "community" from its first usage, implies communal ownership and the hierarchy of the group over the individual. Obviously this is the opposite of the libertarian philosophy.

There is no such entity as "community." There are only individuals who may or may not want to interact. They may desire

to engage in cooperative efforts and voluntary exchange, or they may wish to live alone in the wilderness. There can be no "community" duty or required responsibility except one — take care of yourself and do no harm to others.

Throughout history, in the name of such slogans as community spirit, community values, social good, betterment of mankind, common good, fatherland, five year plan, new deal, fair deal, great society, those who wish to control others appeal, not to the individual, but to the collective. The controllers never hesitate to use guilt, trickery, lies, soothing words or, if necessary, brute force, to exert control.

In the year 2000, only the Libertarians can offer a truly consistent political philosophy. Instead of "community," we must champion individual rights, self-rule and responsibility. This is difficult, yes, but essential to the survival of a Libertarian Party.

— LYNN ATHERTON-BLOXHAM
Tulsa, Oklahoma

■ Proper thanks

Thank you very much for the wonderful article in the December *LP News* featuring Michigan's www.speakoutmichigan.com online petitioning effort. There was only one problem with the article — it failed to give any credit to the genius behind our internet-based lobbying system, creator Greg Dirasian.

Thanks to Greg Dirasian, the Libertarian Party of Michigan is on the cutting edge of technology — and in today's techno-times, that means we are on the leading edge of the frontier for freedom as well. The LPM plans on utilizing this high-tech tool for many lobbying efforts yet to come.

Dedicated volunteers like Greg are hard to come by; I'm sure you recognize the importance of rewarding and recognizing them in as many little ways as possible.

— STACY VAN OAST

State Chair, LP of Michigan
Richmond, Michigan

■ Glaring typo

Thank you for printing my letter in The Mailbox in the November issue of the *LP News*.

However, there was one glaring typo that would surely confuse the readers. In the third paragraph of my letter, I said, "Not being an adoptive gay parent, but having friends who are..." However, you printed, "Not being an adoptive gay parent, but having children who are..." Obviously that makes no sense.

Could you correct it? I wouldn't want your readership to think that I wrote something so inane.

— VINCENT GRUBBS

San Francisco

■ Stern rebuke

I was disappointed that the significance of the Howard Stern LP campaign in New York was misrepresented in the article about the LP in the '90s [*LP News*, December 1999].

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TheMailBox

[LP News Editor Bill] Winter slights it as a "publicity stunt." I much prefer a publicity stunt that generated a few laughs (and, as the phrase would imply, actual honest-to-God publicity) to the somber anonymity stunts LP candidates usually stage.

And to focus occasional bad press Howard generated for the LP while ignoring the unprecedented, and to this day still nowhere close to being matched, major media attention (like the quite respectful front page piece in the *New York Times*) is especially myopic. I would have thought that the Jesse Ventura example would have shown even the most willfully blind among us that Howard's campaign was an opportunity missed.

The American public is much more hospitable to a sense of humor and a touch of the absurd in its candidates than most political experts (including those in the LP) had ever predicted.

We had the chance to beat the Reform Party to the punch line with Howard's left-afire run but many among us were too timid and unimaginative to realize it. Some still are.

— **TOM BRENNAN**
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

■ No single view

I was disappointed to see letters from Patrick Groff (October), Dan Koehler (November), and Vincent Grubbs (November) arguing about how the government should handle the adoption of children.

Regardless of our personal views of homosexuality, marriage, and adoption, I would hope that all Libertarians would understand that government is not properly involved in any of those matters, or any other matter of conscience. The alternative is for the government to force a single view on at least one (if not all) of these three writers.

I recommend that the decision be left up to those surrendering children for adoption, those private charities involved, and those individuals who are adopting. Then each individual can freely work with others who are compatible with their personal convictions.

— **JOHN R. PACK**
Sandy, Utah

■ Whose values?

Bravo to Shelly Marshall Bowman [The Forum, *LP News*, December 1999] for addressing an

urgent issue too long neglected — "Making the LP more appealing to women."

In Bowman's assessment, however, the problem lies not with presentation or emphasis, but with libertarianism per se. Libertarianism entails a "level playing field" in terms of basic political rights for everybody. Thus the rights to vote, to own property, to choose your place of residence, to

marry, and to adopt do not depend on demographic characteristics like gender, age, race, or sexual orientation. Yet Bowman appears to want in some instances to deny us equality in this sense.

Libertarianism is the best framework for allowing people to achieve their own values. It feels a little bit as though Bowman is looking to it as a way of insuring that people achieve her values. If that is what women — or anyone else — really are looking for, there may be better places to find it. Rather than turn them away, however, I would hope to coax them out of a bit of their arro-

gance, and toward an appreciation of the greater respect and compassion embodied in libertarianism.

— **MICHAEL ACREE**
San Francisco, California

■ Fragrant potpourri

I enjoyed the great articles by Bea Jones and Tonie Nathan in the December 1999 *LP News*. However, Shelley Marshall Bowman's commentary deserves critique.

■ Bowman wants us to compromise our principles for the sake of becoming "a viable party." This strategy would make us no

better than the Demoblicans we condemn.

■ She calls on us to revise the platform so that it does not "espouse extraordinarily rigid standards where only the strong win, there are zero safety nets, and the playing field is inherently stacked against a class of people." These are the same arguments socialists use to attack capitalism.

■ She wants us to enforce minimal government standards for education. She believes government should protect animals from "abuse." Where does she propose to stop with this statist in-

See **THE MAILBOX** Page 26

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Sat. Jan 22 Las Vegas
Union Plaza Hotel
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Sun. Jan 23 Phoenix
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near Indian School St.

Sat. Jan 29 Tampa
Holiday Inn Crown Plaza Hotel
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700 Westshore Blvd., Tampa, FL

Sun. Jan 30 Dallas
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8440 Freepoint Parkway, Irving,
TX off 114 Fwy.

Sat. Feb 5 Salt Lake City
Best Western Plaza Hotel
(801) 521-0130
122 South West Temple, UT
at South Temple

Sun. Feb 6 San Diego
Best Western, 85 (760) 942-7455
85 Encinitas Blvd., Encinitas, CA
Off 5 Fwy.

Sat. Feb 12 Orange County
Embassy Suites Hotel
(949) 553-8332
2120 Main St., Irvine, CA
405 Fwy. @ MacArthur

Sun. Feb 13 San Jose
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2585 Seaboard Ave, San Jose, CA
101 Fwy. @ Trimble

Sat. Feb 19 Sacramento, CA
Preparedness Expo.
(916) 263-3218
CAState Fair Grounds
1600 Exposition Blvd.

Sun. Feb 20 Sacramento, CA
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California State Fair Grounds 1600
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Sat. Feb 26 Atlanta
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The MailBox

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terference? She names no bounds.

If Bowman wants to advocate mixed premises, she should consider switching to the Reform Party. There, she can enjoy a fragrant potpourri of contradictory assumptions.

— LUTHER SETZER
Cocoa, Florida

■ Death penalty: Yes

The LP platform should not include "the absolute condemnation of the death penalty," as Michael Rahaim suggests [The Pulse, *LP News*, December 1999]. When convicted murderers are allowed to live and return to society to murder again, how does that promote liberty? What is Mr. Rahaim suggesting? Murderers have the right to murder?

Our taxes have paid for too many prisons where people like Charles Manson can laugh at us on television because he knows that our justice system cares more about his rights than any of his victim's rights.

We cannot condemn the death penalty because, like it or not, it is an essential part of being a free nation. Anything less is saying we have the right to commit murder. And to head Mr. Rahaim off at the pass, it is not murder when a convicted murderer is sentenced to death by an impartial jury.

— ROBERT HOWARD
Houston, Texas

■ ACLU virtues

In the August 1999 Mailbox, Bob Multer suggests dropping out of the ACLU because it does nothing

to defend Second Amendment rights. In the December Mailbox, Bob Dostal noticed the same. However, at free-market.net, I recently read a news article where the ACLU defended the rights of teenagers to carry guns in their cars in one community.

I agree that one's primary focus of contribution should be for the LP. However, I would still contribute to the ACLU to retain the right to vote in ACLU elections. The ACLU is the best defender of individuals when majority rule oversteps the bounds of the Bill of Rights. It is important for Libertarians to keep the ACLU focused on this vital mission and away from their more questionable legislative efforts.

Libertarians need to praise the ACLU for such efforts to defend the Bill of Rights but should criticize when their lobbying calls for a limitation of rights.

— KEITH GARDNER
Decatur, Georgia

■ Hostile to guns

A December letter advised LP members to transfer any future dues from the anti-gun national ACLU to the Libertarian Party, to which I add the suggestion that you tell them why the ACLU has lost your support.

He also suggested that you continue supporting your state ACLU affiliate. But if you question them first, I believe you'll learn (as I did) that state affiliates all follow the national anti-gun agenda, and refuse to support any form of gun rights that Libertarians believe are guaranteed by the Second Amendment.

So far as I could tell, this policy isn't based on any scholarly study, but just an anti-gun bias — they seem to believe that private gun ownership is hostile to liberty despite the opposite language of state and U.S. Constitutions.

— BOB MULTER
Rindge, New Hampshire

■ Required belief?

The November 1999 *LP News* had a letter questioning Jesse Ventura's qualifications to become a Libertarian presidential candidate (assuming for the moment that he has any interest) because he is an atheist.

There might be plenty of reasons to question Ventura — such as greatly increased state spending during his administration — but atheism isn't one of them.

It's fine with me if a Libertarian is an atheist or a believer, and if the Libertarian Party requires belief or disbelief in a god, please let me know so that I can resign.

— FREDERICK L. MILLER
New York, New York

■ No religious test

I am appalled that Bernard Stoltie seems to think that the Libertarian Party has a religious test for membership. He faults Governor Jesse Ventura for not believing in God, and would not want him as a candidate of our party.

I am the Chairman of the small, newly formed Libertarian affiliate of Broomfield, Colorado. Neither the local Broomfield affiliate, nor the state Libertarian Party of Colorado, nor the national Libertarian Party requires a religious test for membership.

The primary reason for which I left the Republican Party after nearly 60 years of affiliation was its apparent capture by the Religious Right. I believe strongly in

the separation of Church and State. The Libertarian Party allows me to belong to a party which is purely political in purpose and fixes its mission on reducing governmental bureaucracy.

— WRIGHT MORGAN
Broomfield, Colorado

■ Doggone taxes

Here's a little story about a recent experience of mine with government intrusion.

I got a threatening telephone call from the local Animal Control Officer. He wanted money. He had perused my veterinarian's records to find out that my dog was not licensed. He wanted me to pay the license fee, or else I'd be in big trouble.

Can you believe this? Government employees snoop through my dog's medical records to wring a few extra dollars out of me! It's both chilling and laughable.

I'm a responsible pet owner. My dog has all of the sensible vaccinations, including rabies, but I chose not to license the dog. A dog license is just another govern-

ment "revenue source." I figure that I already work more than four months a year to pay taxes. Isn't that enough?

I gave him the lousy eight bucks he wanted. I guess it's the price I have to pay to make him go away and leave us alone.

— JOHN DEMEO
Cumberland, Rhode Island

■ Abolish it

We should eliminate the national platform and retain our Statement of Principles. Our platform is too large, and attempts to provide a Libertarian position on too many issues.

I recently spent days responding to people on a gun-rights e-mail discussion list who were twisting many of the planks in order to convince Republican readers not to change parties.

Our Statement of Principles is sufficient, and does not provide such expansive and issue-specific ammunition to be used against our party and our candidates.

— EVAN HIGHS
Barre, Vermont

MORE UpComing

■ April 8, 2000

Maine LP Convention, Embassy Suites Hotel, Portland. Speakers include Harry Browne (potential 2000 LP presidential candidate). For information, contact Mark Cenci at (207) 772-8702. E-mail: markc@omnisystem.com.

■ April 14-16, 2000

Colorado LP Convention, Best Western Executive Hotel, Denver. Includes campaign workshop, "The Price of Free Speech?," Victimless Crimes, and Alternative Education. Speakers TBA. For information, call Michele Bethke at (303) 690-2907.

■ April 29, 2000

New York LP Convention, Holiday Inn, Yonkers. Speakers TBA. For information, call (516) 746-5769. Or visit: www.ny.lp.org. Or write: LP of New York, P.O. Box 728, Bellport, NY 11713.

■ April 29-30, 2000

Washington LP Convention, Doubletree Inn, Bellevue. Speakers include Richard Sanders (Washington State Supreme Court Justice), Peter Weissbach (radio talk show host), Declan McCullough (Wired.com), Larry Dodge (FIJA), David Friedman (author/economist), and Mike Siegel (radio talk show host). For more information, contact Carol Miller: director@LPWS.org. Or call: (206) 329-5669.

■ May 19-21, 2000

Michigan LP Convention, Clarion Hotel, Ann Arbor. Speakers include Harry Browne (potential 2000 LP presidential candidate), Prof. Richard Ebeling (Hillsdale College), Michael Cloud (creator of *The Art of Political Persuasion*), and Jon Coon (1994 U.S. Senate candidate). For information, call Emily Salvette at (734) 668-2608. Or e-mail: salvette@aol.com.

■ June 17, 2000

Idaho LP Convention, Holiday Inn Boise Airport, Boise. Candidate nominating convention. Speakers TBA. For information, call Chris Struble: (208) 362-6873. E-mail: clstruble@earthlink.net.

■ June 30-July 3, 2000

Libertarian Party Presidential Nominating Convention, Anaheim, California. Speakers include Mark Skousen (investment advisor and author), David Thibodeau (author of *A Place Called Waco: A Survivor's Story*), Barbara Goushaw (LP campaign manager), Bonnie Flickinger (City Council, Moreno Valley, CA), Phil Miller (City Council, Greenfield, IN), Gary Nolan (syndicated radio talk show host), and Bill Masters (Libertarian sheriff, San Miguel County, CO). For information, call (800) 272-1776. E-mail: LPCONV@aol.com.

Libertarian solutions: Helping kids

Continued from Page 22

The market has changed network programming as well: The new PAX Network provides a safe family option, while some manufacturers of family-oriented goods have gone so far as to develop new shows — so they can buy ads during them!

Far from being helpful, government-mandated TV ratings and FCC rules demanding arbitrary hours of "quality" are futile attempts to legislate what is decent and what is indecent.

Cato's *Handbook for Congress* notes, "The news can be violent, as can reality-based shows like *Rescue 911*, slapstick humor like *I Love Lucy* and *The Three Stooges*, cartoons, [and] social commentary like *Schindler's List* . . . Even if violence could be meaningfully classified, there is simply too much television programming to rate carefully."

Yes, there is plenty of violent, profane, and sexually explicit pro-

PARENTS MUST

"decide what's appropriate for their own children and families."

gramming on the airwaves. But there's a lot of quality programming, too, and the amount of it has been increasing not because of the government but because parents have demanded it and advertisers are responding.

Diverse country

After all, it's up to parents to decide what's appropriate for their own children and their individual families — decisions that will differ markedly in an ethni-

cally, culturally, and religiously diverse country.

Parents don't need the government to monitor broadcast television for "dirty words" or "inappropriate content." And they don't need the government to require amounts of "family" programming on the airwaves. Parents can much more effectively guide their children's values education with the "off" button.

The job of child care is best left to mom and dad, not Big Brother. Parents need to be free to have time with their children — and that means less government and less taxes, not more.



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UpComing

January 16-23, 2000

Third Annual Libertarian Cruise, on Holland America's MS Veendam, sailing from Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Seven-day cruise visits Mexico, the Grand Cayman Islands, Jamaica, and the Bahamas. Cost: From \$1,074 per person. For information, call Ken Bisson: (219) 833-6700. E-mail: kbisson@usa.net.

January 30, 2000

Health Freedom Seminar, Holiday Inn South, Louisville, Kentucky. "Separation of Health Care and Government" seminar sponsored by the LP of Kentucky. Speakers TBA. For information, call Sherry Clark: (502) 635-1153. E-mail: jewel@win.net.

February 3-5, 2000

NORML 2000 Conference, Washington Plaza Hotel, Washington, DC. Annual conference of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws. Speakers include David Boaz (Cato Institute), Lester Grinspoon, MD (Harvard Medical School), and Barbara Ehrenreich (author and historian). For information, call (202) 483-5500.

February 18-21, 2000

California LP Convention, Doubletree Hotel San Diego-Mission Valley, San Diego. Speakers include James Bovard (author, *Freedom In Chains*), Joseph Farah (editor, WorldNetDaily.com), Nathaniel Branden (author, *My Life with Ayn Rand*), Robert Best (President, Pacific Legal Foundation), Alan Bock (*Orange County Register*), Steve Dasbach (LP National Director), Geoff Metcalf (Talk Show Host, KSFO Radio), Jacob Sullum (*Reason* magazine), Declan McCulloch (Wired News), and Michael Cloud (Libertarian communications guru). For information, call the Balcom Group: (202) 234-3880. E-mail: convention@ca.lp.org. Online registration available at: www.ca.lp.org.

February 20, 2000

Oklahoma LP Convention, Tulsa. Exact location and speakers TBA. On the agenda: Ballot access and candidate nominations. For more information, contact Lyn Atherton at (918) 447-1776.

February 26, 2000

Iowa LP Convention, Meskwaki Casino & Hotel, Tama. Speakers TBA. For information, contact Roger Fritz: (515) 388-4179. E-mail: LPIowa@aol.com.

March 4, 2000

Delaware LP Convention, Wyndham Garden Hotel, Wilmington. Speakers include Harry Browne (1996 LP presidential candidate), Ron Crickenberger (LP Political Director), and Jim Lark (Advisor, student Liberty Coalition). For information, call Jay Lawrence at (302) 678-3883. E-mail: grinn01@hotmail.com.

March 25, 2000

New Jersey LP Convention, National Conference Center at the Ramada Inn, East Windsor. Speakers TBA. For more information, call Tom Wright at: (201) 651-0436. E-mail: atlarge1@njlp.org.

March 26, 2000

Oregon LP Convention, Eugene. Exact location TBA. On the agenda: Candidate nominations. For more information, contact Jerome Cole at (503) 317-0636.

March 31-April 2, 2000

Pennsylvania LP Convention, King of Prussia Holiday Inn, King of Prussia. Speakers TBA. For information, contact Tim Moir at: TJMoir@aol.com. Or call: (215) 546-4509.

For more Upcoming Events, see page 26.

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InSide

■ **PAGE 1** LP launches drive against "Regulation B"

■ **PAGE 3** Peter McWilliams takes plea bargain in CA medical marijuana case

■ **PAGE 3** "I'm a Libertarian," says folk/pop star Melanie



FirstWord

"[Sen. Tim Hutchinson (R-AR)] said the Libertarian Party has a better long-term chance than the Reform Party of succeeding as an effective third political party because the Libertarian Party has a 'clear political philosophy that binds them together.'"

— *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* (Little Rock), November 17, 1999

"As a party, [Libertarians] have a reputation for speaking out forcefully and often on the issues, generally favoring less government and more personal freedom." — *The Star Press* (Muncie, Indiana), July 1, 1999

"When most politicians speak, you hear a lot of generalities but little discussion of the issues. When Libertarians speak, all you hear about is the issues."

— Jim Atkins, *Lake Worth Herald* (Florida), September 30, 1999

"The Libertarians have considerable philosophical appeal for many Americans." — *St. Petersburg Times* (Florida), October 10, 1999