

Tax protest day

Libertarians find public supportive

Libertarian Party members across the country were out in force on April 15 to participate in tax protest day activities—and activists reported a warm welcome from the taxpaying public.

Most Libertarians handed out bogus million dollar bills that highlight excessive federal spending. The "bills" are available from the national Libertarian Party headquarters.

In Chester County, PA, Libertarians handed out the bills to deadline tax filers and asked, "Can you use a million bucks? That's how much your government spends every five seconds. The Libertarian Party thought you'd like to know." The LP activists also had voter registration forms on hand for those who expressed an interest.

"I don't know how many folks actually registered as a result," activist Dave Tartaglia said, "but I do know this—in the month following tax day, LP county registrations jumped by 120, the biggest monthly jump since our start in the county."

Members of the Libertarian Party of Broward County, FL, most wearing three-cornered hats or other colonial garb, staged their sixth annual tax day protest. A dozen party members stood in front of the main post office in Ft.

Lauderdale holding Libertarian Party signs that proclaimed, "Repeal the Income Tax," "Abolish the IRS," and "Less Government—No Income Tax." The protesters also carried American Revolutionary symbols such as 13-star American flags and a "Don't Tread on Me" flag.

About 500 of the Libertarian Party's million dollar bills, were given out to late filers who drove by the post office to get their tax returns postmarked by midnight.

The CBS affiliate from Miami showed excerpts of an interview with Libertarian Party members in colonial costume on both the 5 and 11 p.m. newscasts. The protest was also covered by the *Sun-Sentinel*, the major newspaper of the Ft. Lauderdale area.

As a prelude to the Tax Day protest, the Broward LP hosted a "Thomas Jefferson's Birthday Picnic" on April 13, Thomas Jefferson's 254th birthday. The Broward LP hopes to make this an annual event, according to state newsletter editor Tom Regnier.

In Michigan, Hillsdale College Libertarians (HCL) handed out the million dollar bills at the local post office and received a friendly reception from the tax filers.

"It was a great opportunity to show people just how much money our federal government spends," said HCL President Josh Mercer, "and those who file late are more likely to be sympathetic to drastic changes in the government's taxing policies."

In Ypsilanti, MI, Libertarian Party protesters were featured in a front-page photo in the local newspaper on the day following the protest.

Libertarians in Boston also received television coverage for their protest activities at the South Station post office. Jeff Chase and Jason Solinsky passed out million dollar bills.

In Ohio, Libertarian Party protests occurred in Cleveland, Toledo, and Dayton.

In Cleveland, eight LP activists handed out about 1,000 million dollar bills in about a three-hour time period. Activist Aaron O'Brien of the North Coast Libertarians was interviewed for local television.

In Toledo, 16 Libertarians protested at the main post office and were well received by the taxpayers. Activist Galen Fries was interviewed for five minutes on a local

see **Tax day** on page 8

Libertarian Party

NEWS



June 1997

The Party of Principle

VOLUME 12 • NUMBER 6

Chandler gets victory for LP

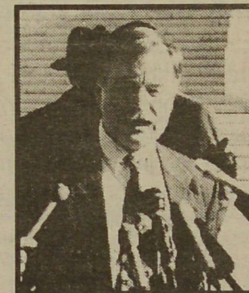
"A victory for the Bill of Rights and a defeat for the War on Drugs"—that's how the Libertarian Party characterized an 8-to-1 U.S. Supreme Court decision that declared unconstitutional a Georgia state law mandating drug tests for political candidates.

"This decision is a small step towards sanity in a nation that is rapidly being stripped of its basic civil liberties," said the party's National Director Perry Willis.

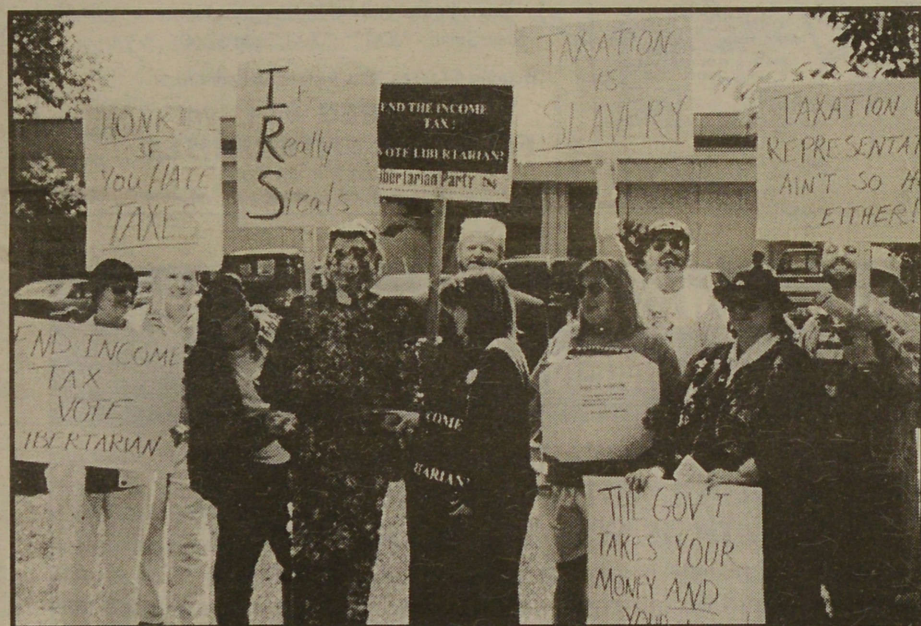
"The Supreme Court has finally put a limit on what the government can do in the name of winning the War on Drugs."

The case was especially important to Libertarians because the plaintiff, Walker Chandler, challenged the Georgia law after he ran for lieutenant governor as a Libertarian Party candidate in 1994—starting a three-year legal odyssey that led him all the way to the nation's highest court.

see **Supreme Court decision** on page 3



Walker Chandler



NEWS photo by Ron Crickenberger

TAR AND FEATHER - Libertarians in Georgia hosted the tarring and feathering of a tax collector at the tax day protest at the Decatur post office. Late-filing taxpayers were provided with tar and feathers to smear on the tax collector effigy—which looked surprisingly like our current president.

Volunteer summit was hypocrisy

The Presidents' Summit for America's Future was a made-for-TV study in hypocrisy. Politicians who spent their whole lives using the coercive power of government are now preaching to Americans about the virtues of voluntary cooperation, said the Libertarian Party.

"Bill Clinton and George Bush lecturing about the merits of volunteering is like Bonnie and Clyde lecturing about the merits of bank loans," said party Chair Steve Dasbach about the three-day summit in Philadelphia designed to get more Americans to volunteer.

Clinton and Bush were joined at the summit by former presidents Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford. But their presence merely turned the event into "an all-star infomercial about the failures of government," Dasbach said.

"Over the past 30 years, politicians like Clinton, Bush, Carter, and Ford have spent \$7 trillion on

government programs to eradicate social problems," he noted. "Now, they're forced to admit they did such a terrible job and wasted so much money that the only solutions left are non-governmental solutions."

To lead by televised example, Bill Clinton even grabbed a paintbrush to paint over graffiti in a poor, inner-city neighborhood.

"Clinton is no volunteer, but he plays one on television," Dasbach said wryly. "He spent one afternoon trying to salvage a neighborhood that his favorite government programs have devastated."

Devastated? That's right, Dasbach said: "In numerous inner-city neighborhoods, government welfare programs destroyed two-parent families, government regulations destroyed businesses, and government schools destroyed the educational system. It's going to take more than Bill Clinton with a paintbrush to cover up 30 years of government

failure."

But even while lecturing on the joys of volunteering, Clinton can't resist the urge to spend more government money, Dasbach noted.

Clinton announced that the departments of Defense and Transportation will mentor and tutor a million children, and he proposed spending \$2.5 billion to recruit a million volunteer reading tutors.

"The Department of Education spends \$23 billion each year on education—but is such a failure that the military will now teach our children," Dasbach said. "Federal, state, and local governments spend a total of \$250 billion on education—yet third-graders still can't read. After all these government failures, why does Clinton think new government programs will succeed?"

see **Volunteers** on page 7

U.S. Supreme Court rules against fusion

OK's discrimination against minor parties

On April 28, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 6-3 in *Timmons v. Twin Cities Area New Party* that the First Amendment does not require states to permit two parties to jointly nominate the same candidate.

The decision was written by Chief Justice William Rehnquist. The dissenters were justices John Paul Stevens, David Souter, and Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

The 8th Circuit Court had ruled in the Minnesota case that the First Amendment's freedom of association clause requires states to let two political parties jointly nominate a candidate if they wish to.

More significant than the court's specific holding was a wholly gratuitous paragraph, not needed for the decision, that stated: "States also have a strong interest in the stability of their political systems. This interest does not permit a state to completely insulate the two party system from minor parties' or independent candidates' competition and influence, nor is it a paternalistic license for states to protect political parties from the consequences of their own internal disagreements. That said, the states' interest permits them to enact reasonable election regulations that may, in practice, favor the traditional two party system, and that temper the destabilizing effects of party splintering excessive factionalism. The Constitution permits the Minnesota Legislature to decide that political stability is best served through a healthy two party system. And while an interest in securing the perceived benefits of a stable two party system will not justify unreason-

ably exclusionary restrictions, states need not remove all of the many hurdles third parties face in the American political arena today."

Never before had the Court used the term "two party system" to justify discrimination against minor parties.

Minnesota had not defended its law by discussing the "two party system." No evidence was presented to the lower court about the "two party system," and the U.S. District Court decision—which upheld the ban on fusion—did not mention the term.

No political scientist has ever testified in any ballot access lawsuit—or any lawsuit involving the rights of minor political parties—that the health of the two party system is enhanced by laws that discriminate against minor parties, their candidates, or their members. . .

U.S. history shows that minor parties help keep the two party system healthy. The Republican Party seemed to have a

"lock" on the presidency after the Civil War. . . It was precisely the "factionalism" of 1912 (ex-Republican Theodore Roosevelt bolting that party and forming the Progressive Party) that gave the Democrats a chance to win the White House. . .

Why did the Court choose this case, at this time, to say for the first time ever that the "two party system" must be "protected" against minor and new parties?

This is a period in which the voters are more interested in supporting alternative parties and candidates than they have been in some time. The "other" vote for president in both 1992 and 1996 exceeded 10 percent. Not since the Civil War has the "other" vote for president exceeded 10 percent two elections in a row. Minor party or independent candidates have been elected to partisan federal, state, or local office during the 1990s [in 18 states and DC].

It seems that the more the voters wish to vote for non-major party candidates, the

more the Supreme Court wants to prevent such behavior. . .

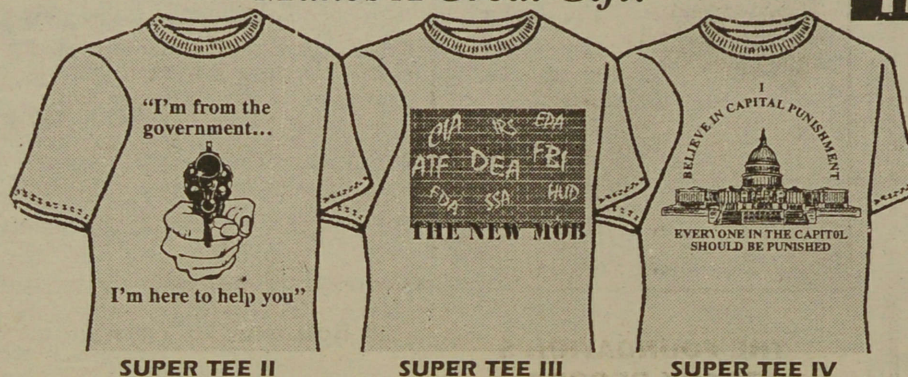
Justice Stevens wrote a dissent, arguing that fusion does not harm the two party system. Justice Ginsburg co-signed it.

Justice Souter wrote his own dissent, saying that he doesn't know whether fusion hurts the two party system or not, but that the Court has no business even talking about the two party system since Minnesota's attorney general didn't defend the state's ban on fusion on the grounds that it protects the two party system.

Souter mentioned previous U.S. Supreme Court precedents that say that courts are supposed to let the state that is defending one of its laws say for itself what the state interests are. The courts aren't supposed to think up their own ideas on what the state interest in the law is.

These excerpts come from the May 5, 1997, Ballot Access News, Box 470296, San Francisco, CA 94147.

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Supreme Court decision

continued from page 1

A jubilant Chandler said, "It's a wonderful day when the Supreme Court puts limitations on the excesses of government."

Speaking on behalf of the Libertarian Party, Willis agreed.

"It's a great day for Libertarians—and a great day for any American who cherishes civil liberties," he said.

"Politicians love to use the War on Drugs as an excuse to repeal civil liberties. But today, the court ruled that there are limits to how blatantly politicians can violate the Fourth Amendment. That's why this decision is a victory for the Bill of Rights and a defeat for the War on Drugs," he said.

The case of *Chandler v. Miller* has its origins in 1990, when Georgia passed a one-of-a-kind law requiring all candidates for state office—governor, attorney general, state representatives, and so on—to submit a urine sample that tested negative for drugs before being allowed on the ballot.

Under protest, Chandler took and passed the drug test, won more than 47,000 votes as the Libertarian candidate for lieutenant governor in the 1994 election, and filed a lawsuit questioning the constitutionality of the law. He started off with two defeats, losing in district court and in the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

But he didn't give up. After the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to hear his appeal, Chandler argued his own case before the high court on Jan. 14, 1997, basing his arguments on the Fourth Amendment's prohibition against "unreasonable" searches.

"Surely there are some limits to suspicionless drug testing," Chandler said. "This case may be an opportunity for the Court to delineate just what those limits might be."

It was. The court, in a lopsided 8-to-1 decision, ruled that the Georgia law was in violation of the Fourth Amendment because candidate drug testing "does not fit within the closely guarded category of constitutionally permissible suspicionless searches."

Specifically, the court ruled that Georgia failed to prove that there was any "special need" for drug testing that overrode an

individual's right to privacy, such as a demonstrated drug abuse problem among the state's elected officials; failed to prove that the drug tests were a "credible means to deter illicit drug users from seeking election to state office" and failed to show that state officials performed "high-risk, safety-sensitive tasks."

The court also rejected Georgia's claim that its drug-testing law served an important "symbolic" function by demonstrating its commitment to the struggle against drug abuse.

"However well-meant, the candidate

drug test Georgia has devised diminishes personal privacy for a symbol's sake. The Fourth Amendment shields society against that state action," wrote Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg in the majority decision, which was joined by seven other justices. Only Chief Justice William Rehnquist dissented.

But does this decision mean that voters have no way to stop drug addicts from running for public office?

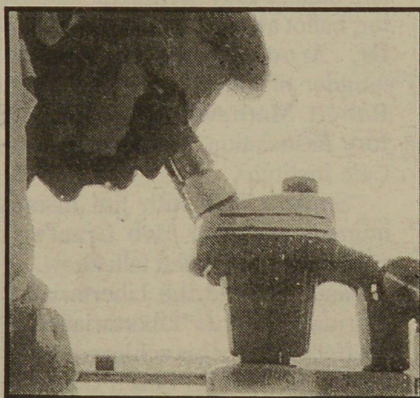
Of course not, said Willis. "All this decision does is return power to the voters. If voters are genuinely concerned about drug-impaired candidates, they can simply

threaten to withhold their votes from any candidate who doesn't pass a drug test. Voters have far more power than any state law—they have the power of the ballot box," he said.

Chandler v. Miller represented not only the Libertarian Party's first victory before the U.S. Supreme Court, but also the first time the nation's highest court had agreed to hear a case filed by the party.

From 1975 to 1996, the high court had rejected 15 appeals from the party, all relating to ballot access and election fairness laws.

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Affiliates

Four Libertarians elected to local office in NH

California

Libertarian **Steve Green**, known for his successful opposition to more than \$100 million in tax increases in San Diego's East County, is again campaigning against a special property tax levied to provide paramedic service in the area.

"What do the politicians spend our 'regular' tax dollars on?" Green asked. "Why does public safety require a 'special tax'?"

Green is challenging the politicians to spend general fund money on public safety rather than pet political projects.

Source: affiliate activist

Liberty Bell BBS, one of the oldest (10-plus years) and longest running Libertarian Bulletin Board systems, was recently shut down. "With almost everyone now connected to the Internet, the usage of the BBS dropped off in recent years," **Mark Hinkle**, state chair, said. The BBS was operated by the Santa Clara LP out of its San Jose office.

Source: affiliate officer

Colorado

Recently the state party passed a resolution calling for the "separation of sports and state."

"The First Amendment makes it crystal clear that government should not interfere in what people do at a house of worship on Sunday morning," state Chair **Sandra Johnson** said. "The founders of this country would be appalled at the arrogance of modern day politicians who think government should interfere in what people do at a different sort of house of worship on Sunday afternoon."

"The fact that Broncos owner Pat Bowlen is not expanding his personal wealth as fast as other NFL (National Football League) owners does not create an obligation upon



National pulse

News from the states

the taxpayers," Johnson continued.

"Let John Elway reinvest some of his auto dealership profits in the stadium. Take the Broncos public in a Wall Street stock offering. Charge \$8 for a hot dog and \$6 for a beer. These are but a few of the alternatives to forcing the taxpayers at large to subsidize Mr. Bowlen's progenerity."

Source: affiliate officer

Connecticut

A new state affiliate has been formed in Guilford, and the group already has received support in the local media. The local *Shore Line Times* newspaper wrote in an opinion column: "The Libertarians should be able to sit alongside the Democrats and Republicans, voicing their views, their plans."

Officers for the Guilford LP are: **Hugh Baird**, chair; **Frank Lowe**, secretary; and **F. William Quarrier**, treasurer.

Source: affiliate newsletter

Florida

The state party's executive committee has decided to take a case to the U.S. Supreme Court after the state Supreme Court refused to re-hear arguments on fee distribution.

Recently, the state court upheld a state law that rebates to major parties about one-half of the candidate's filing fee, while minor party candidates get no rebate at all. The court ruled that the state has a legitimate interest in protecting major parties.

Although there is only a slim chance that the U.S. Supreme Court will hear the case,

the state party decided that the Florida court's discriminatory decision could not be left unchallenged.

Source: affiliate newsletter

"Straight Talk with **Jim Alsis**" on radio station WPBR, 1340 AM, in Palm Beach County has been expanded from a once-a-week show to four programs a week. The program, hosted by Jim Alsis, chairman of the Libertarian Party of Palm Beach County, airs from 6 to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Alsis's guests have included **Dr. Walter Williams**; **Marshall Fritz**, the founder of the Alliance for the Separation of School and State; **Perry Willis**, LP national director; ballot access expert **Richard Winger**; **Dr. Arnold Trebach**, president and founder of The Drug Policy Foundation; **Robert Mathews** of the Fully Informed Jury Association; and **David Boaz** of the Cato Institute.

"Straight Talk with Jim Alsis" follows immediately after Bob Grant's popular, nationally syndicated talk show.

Alsis received the Libertarian Party of Florida's award as "Libertarian of the Year" for 1995-1996 for his achievements in building the LP of Palm Beach County.

Source: affiliate newsletter editor

The LP of Alachua County elected the following new officers recently: **David Owens**, chair; **Walter Schultze**, vice chair; **Cameron Michelis**, secretary; and **Marshall Sutherland** was re-elected to a third term as treasurer.

"I am excited about the future of LPAC," said Sutherland. "David's experience and organizational skills are going to turn North Central Florida into a hotbed of Libertarian activism. There are plenty of undiscovered Libertarians out there. I was one of them six years ago. In the next six months I

predict more local party growth than in the previous six years."

On partisan politics, Owens said, "Republicans tend to look for new classes of enemies. Democrats tend to look for new classes of victims. We Libertarians look for new friends."

Source: affiliate officer

Michigan

Brian Wisneski, one of the first elected Libertarians in Michigan, has restored an annual opportunity for his constituents to hold their elected township officials accountable. Wisneski, 37, was elected to a trustee seat in Clinton Township last November. At the March township meeting, Wisneski moved to reinstate the "Annual Meeting of Inhabitants," which allows residents a say on public spending and elected officials' compensation. The motion passed 3 to 2, and the meeting was scheduled.

Several years ago, Michigan allowed townships to abolish their "Annual Meeting of Inhabitants." The original intent of these meetings was to allow township residents a chance to express opinions about their township board's performance, review the next year's budget, and set the compensation of their elected officials. While the rules governing these meetings are still on the books, many township boards have opted out of them. This does not surprise Wisneski.

"When you consider that this is a time when elected officials have to answer directly for their actions and must allow the public to have their say on spending, it's no wonder they've avoided such meetings," Wisneski said.

Wisneski is one of three elected Libertarians serving in township office in Michi-

see **Affiliates** on page 5

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Affiliates

continued from page 4

gan.

"Those of us who are anxious to slash spending are also anxious to meet with our neighbors to get their input," he said. "Those who benefit from the status quo—particularly our two 'no' votes—are having a major 'Excedrin moment'."

Source: affiliate officer

A new affiliate was recently formed in Van Buren County. Officers for the new affiliate include: **Bill Bradley**, chair; **John Cohen**, vice chair; **Barbara Bradley**, secretary/treasurer; **Linda Cohen** and **Sheral Bradley**, committeemen.

The Van Buren LP is the 17th state party affiliate.

More than two dozen people attended the first regular meeting of the newly formed affiliate.

Source: affiliate news release

New Hampshire

In March and April, local elections were held in the state, and four of the record 16 Libertarian local candidates won office.

James Wallack was elected to a three-year term as a Londonderry Library Trustee. Wallack won 67 percent of the vote in a two-way race.

Rosalie Babiarz was elected as a write-in candidate for Grafton Town Auditor.

John Drabinowicz was re-elected to the Hudson Budget Committee for a second three-year term. Drabinowicz was the second-highest votegetter of six contenders for three seats, and the only incumbent returned to that office.

Russel Ober won a two-year term on the Hudson Ethics Board.

The only incumbent not returned to office was **Howard Wilson**, a six-year incumbent as Andover's selectman. He missed re-election by a painfully close 65 votes.

Source: affiliate officer

North Carolina

The state party executive committee appointed **Christopher S. Cole** of Charlotte chair of its new outreach committee to the gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgendered community. In 1996, Cole was an LP candidate for state house and was the first openly-gay candidate ever to run for state office.

"We're particularly proud of Chris Cole's '96 campaign," executive committee member **Sean Haugh** said. "Some basic truths need to be spoken, and Chris has the courage to speak them. The Libertarian Party is the only party that proposes to let people make their own personal lifestyle choices. It's insane to let the government tell you who you can love, or how you can love them. That's the message Chris Cole will

take to the voters."

To contact Cole, call 704-568-1652, or e-mail <chriscole@earthlink.net>.

Source: affiliate release

Ohio

The following were elected officers for the state party for 1997-1998: **Jack Matheney**, chair; **Bob DeBrosse**, vice chair; **Ann Leech**, treasurer; and **Donald Gallick**, secretary.

DeBrosse is currently running for re-election as city commissioner of Piqua.

Source: affiliate officer

Pennsylvania

Longtime Libertarian activist **Kenneth V. Krawchuk** is running in the primary for Abington Township commissioner as a write-in candidate, seeking both the Democratic and Republican nominations.

Running as a write-in candidate is the only way Krawchuk can enter the primary election. If his name appears on the primary ballot, he cannot run as a Libertarian in the fall, because of a local law.

Krawchuk does not feel that it will be difficult to win as a write-in candidate. "We

will make it easy for the voters," he said. "We'll be handing out simple instructions at every polling location."

Krawchuk has been active in local politics for some time. He was instrumental in getting a private grant to buy land for open space that the local commissioners had intended to buy with taxpayer monies.

And Krawchuk promises to save taxpayers even more money: "If elected, I will further save the taxpayers by refusing to take any salary. Public service should be an

see **Affiliates** on page 11

Let's Hate Somebody.

Let's Hurt Somebody.

Let's destroy the lives of our children by putting them in prison for experimenting with drugs.

Thousands of people who have done no wrong have had their lives destroyed by the laws making possession of drugs a crime. A free people have the right to engage in risky behavior with their own lives. Does a drug given a patient in a hospital by a doctor turn that person into a robber and murderer if taken one step outside the hospital? Drugs are not the problem. The problem is, "Why does one use a drug to excess?" Take away the drugs and the problem still remains.

The legislators, governors, judges, prosecutors, and police who have participated in this crime against those who have done no wrong should suffer the same destruction they have laid on their victims. Their assets should be seized and used to make restitution of the money and property the government has stolen. They should be held personally liable. We, as a society, should pardon and make restitution to the casualties of drug laws.

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PAID ADVERTISEMENT

How to: Get appointed to a local board/commission

By MARK TUNIEWICZ

As Libertarians, we all tend to have strongly held opinions. Here is one of mine: *Every Libertarian Party member should hold some public office, no matter how small.*

Why? As many of you know, our growing list of officeholders is one of the key reasons we are increasingly garnering more legitimacy and attention as a political party. If just 10 percent of our membership held office, we'd enjoy the substantial prestige associated with having 2,000-plus officeholders, compared to about 200 today. I share the growing belief that this is something we should accomplish quickly, through member appointments to local boards and commissions—the "farm team" for future elected campaigns.

Why serve on a local board? If you're like most of our members, you've never held any type of public office before. Getting appointed allows you to gain this valuable experience, without the expense, organizing activities, and time demands associated with running a full-blown campaign. These types of positions generally involve just a few hours per month of your time, and give you the opportunity to actually have an impact on the body on which you serve.

Determining what appointed offices are available in your town is simple! One quick phone call to your city clerk's office gets

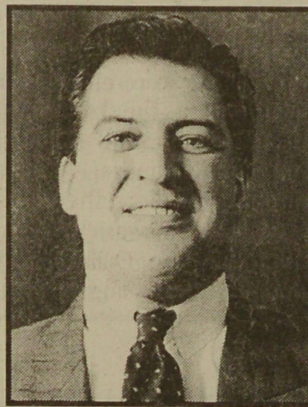
you specific information about which boards have vacancies, or when openings are scheduled to occur.

Be sure to ask how many members the board is allowed to have, since many commissions allow for an unlimited number of "alternate" members, who often become full members at the time of the next vacancy. Find out who makes the appointments (e.g. mayor, city council, board of selectmen), and when the board meets.

What type of board should you serve on? That depends on your own area of interest and expertise. Are you a local business owner? Try the economic development commission, or however they refer to a similar entity in your town. Enjoy the outdoors? Your conservation commission makes regular site visits to environmentally sensitive areas. Those with experience in real estate development often are appointed to local planning or zoning boards—though these tend to be the offices with the fewest vacancies.

Start by attending meetings of the board which interests you the most, and introduce yourself to its chair. Business attire and a friendly attitude are recommended.

Seeking out an appointment is a simple process. Write a brief letter to the appointing party expressing an interest in service. Mention several boards which currently have vacancies and ask to be appointed. Give some background as to your educa-



Mark Tuniewicz

tion, professional background, related experience, and any other information which reinforces your qualifications and interests. Your letter should be kept to one page. Often, the best time to write is right after local elections.

Wait about a month, and if you haven't heard anything contact the city clerk's office again, pleasantly following-up as to the status of your letter. Often, the appointing body will copy your letter to the chairs of the commissions you've mentioned in your letter. You can now follow-up with them directly, expressing your interest in a more personal way.

Generally, you'll be asked to attend a meeting and meet the other board members. In the case of my own appointed

office, they asked if I had any specific experience with conservation issues. Though I did not, I expressed a strong interest in learning more about what the commission did, and pointed to a recent event (the private purchase and protection of a large tract of old-growth forest) as something that had spurred my interest in serving on the commission.

Once you're appointed, remember—you're the new kid on the block. Spend most of your time learning about what the board does, become familiar with the corresponding local ordinances, and try to learn by listening and observing.

After a year of service, you'll be ready to try and move things in a more Libertarian direction.

Service on these panels is simple, gratifying, and the best way to begin building your political resume. I challenge my fellow Libertarians to take individual responsibility and get appointed locally—and do it now! If every party member tries this over the next few months, I guarantee we'll have more than 1,000 officeholders by the end of 1997.

Mark Tuniewicz is chair of the Libertarian Party of New Hampshire, and represents New York and the New England states on the Libertarian National Committee. He is serving an appointed three-year term on the Milford (NH) Conservation Commission.

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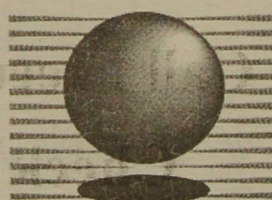
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LP member wins big settlement in FL suit

Libertarian Party member Hal Noyes of Orlando won a victory for the First Amendment right of free speech in early May by accepting a settlement of \$25,000 from the city of Orlando. The settlement represents the end of a lawsuit stemming from Noyes' arrest in 1995 for peaceably handing out leaflets in a public park.

"This settlement is one small triumph for the First Amendment," said Nick Dunbar, chair of the LP of Florida. "This should be a lesson to authorities who try to violate individuals' basic rights to disseminate their political views in a peaceful manner. We hope other municipalities will get the message."

Noyes, an Orlando computer programmer, was handing out leaflets in Orlando's Lake Eola Park in September 1995 when a police officer commanded him to stop. Noyes was standing off the sidewalk and politely offering his leaflets to passers-by. The policeman said that that part of the park was reserved for a march organized by Crimeline, an organization that offers rewards for tips that help solve crimes.

Noyes was not accused of disturbing the peace or harassing anyone in any way.

Noyes attempted to explain to the officer that his actions were protected by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. This simply confused the officer, who sought advice from a park ranger. The ranger appeared to be as much a stranger to the First Amendment as the policeman. When Noyes asked what authority prevented him from distributing fliers, the policeman told him that the park was "private property owned by the city of Orlando." Noyes was charged with trespassing, handcuffed, and

jailed for seven hours. It was his first arrest. The charge against him was dropped a month later.

"Ironically," Dunbar said, "the leaflets being handed out spelled out the Libertarian Party's position on crime—that it can be kept under control without violating the basic rights of the people as spelled out in the Bill of Rights."

Noyes later filed a lawsuit against the city of Orlando for violating his right of free speech. The city offered Noyes a \$25,000 settlement, which he accepted. "It's a closed case," said Steven G. Mason, one of Noyes'

attorneys. The policeman who made the arrest has been reprimanded.

"I only regret," Dunbar said, "that it is the taxpayers who will pay the \$25,000. I believe the arresting officers should be personally liable."

In a March 22, 1997, editorial on the case, the *Orlando Sentinel* had stated that Noyes' lawsuit was intended to send a clear message to the city. Said the *Sentinel*: "The message should be this: Read the U.S. Constitution."

"To that," Dunbar said, "we should add: 'And follow it.'"

Volunteers

continued from page 1

Clinton also wants to "hire" more volunteers; he proposed that the federal government pay part of the cost of student loans for college students who perform community service. Price tag: \$7 million over five years for 12,000 students.

"Yet, 2.9 million young people already volunteer each year—without the incentive of a government pay-off," Dasbach said. "And twice as many high-schoolers do volunteer work as did 20 years ago. Why spend another \$7 million?"

Does all this criticism of the Presidents' Summit for America's Future mean that Libertarians are opposed to volunteering?

"Libertarians, and Americans in general, are 100 percent in favor of volunteering," Dasbach said. "That's why 93 million Americans volunteered 15 billion hours of time in 1995, and contributed more than \$116 billion to charity."

"What we're opposed to are politicians who spend 364 days a year in Washington, DC, raising taxes and proposing new regulations—and one day lecturing us about the merits of volunteering," he said.

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The following Web sites are some LP members' favorites you might want to check out. If you would like to offer your favorite Web pages—they don't have to be political—send them to: net.g@ins, c/o NEWS, P.O. Box 3391, Gainesville, GA 30503, or e-mail your list to <lpnews@mindspring.com>.

- > <http://www.mmsweb.com/eykiw>
Everything You Know Is Wrong
- questions conventional wisdom.
- > <http://www.tx.lp.org/>
The Libertarian Party of Texas.
- > <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/constitution>
Contract insurance: government without taxation.

Tax day protests

continued from page 1

radio station, and Fries and Jim Boehm were featured in a photograph in the *Toledo Blade*.

"I credit our success to LP of Ohio media director Jules Maul's press releases," Fries said.

In Dayton, Miami Valley LP member Joe Hermosillo provided colorful posters for the demonstration where LP members passed out million dollar bills. Protesters reported receiving smiles and thumbs-up from passing motorists.

In Delaware, Libertarians passed out million dollar bills in downtown Wilmington. In addition, the LP activists set up an information booth at the location.

"I highly recommend information booths on tax day," activist Mike Smith said. "The bills are fine, but it's even better when people come up to *you*, not the other way around. We received about a dozen inquiries.

"The most glorifying moment was when a 12-year-old came by and said, 'I'm a Libertarian.' He was not joking at all. He got a stack of million dollar bills and brought a tear to my eye," Smith said.

"The best thing this year was that we had our convention on April 13," Smith said, "and with tax day April 15, we were all over the radio dial on April 14. Rich Schwartzmen, John Reda, and I were on the two new stations here every half hour during morning and evening drive time. It was a beautiful thing.

"It got me to thinking that if every state made sure the local media knew what they were doing on tax day, and then had their conventions the Sunday night before and did the convention wrap up press release Monday night, there is a very good chance the radio airwaves would be saturated with us the following Tuesday," Smith said.

In Georgetown, DE, Jack Dalton and Victor Letonoff spent three hours passing out million dollar bills.

"There is definitely a change in the air, and it's not just spring," Dalton reported. "More people knew who we were. Two people commented on being surprised to find Libertarians in Sussex County. More people said they voted Libertarian. Each year we are better received by late filers."

In South Carolina, state party members Mary Anderson, Julian Griffith, Mark Johnson, and Timothy Moultrie passed out million dollar bills in Columbia. The activists held up a huge banner stating "21 days till tax freedom day" and the LP name and logo on it. The protest received coverage

on the local television station.

The protesters passed out about 400 copies of the million dollar bills.

"We weren't very aggressive with the handouts, but we probably had a 60 percent acceptance rate, mostly cheerful and amused by the money-style face," reported Griffith, state party membership chair. "One Asian lady asked in broken English, 'Please, sir, may we have another one of the 'big money' for my other child.' We had fun exploiting the 'big money' description as we continued passing them out."

In California, members of the LP of San Fernando Valley held their annual tax protest at the Van Nuys post office.

About a dozen members including Chair Kit Maira and Vice Chair Juan Ros were on hand, holding signs and handing out million dollar bills to last-minute tax filers.

"The response was overwhelmingly positive," Ros reported, "as evidenced by the loud and continuous honking of car horns in response to the 'Honk If You Hate Taxes!' sign.

"People are fed up with taxes and they're finally starting to realize that the Republicrats aren't going to do what the people really want—and that's abolish the income tax and replace it with nothing," Ros said.

"April 15th is a day of dread for all Americans, and we're here to ease that dread," he said. "We're telling folks that if the LP had its way, April 15th would come and go just like any other day—except that people would have a lot more money to spend because they wouldn't be paying taxes!

"We'll be back next year," Ros said. "As long as U.S. citizens are paying income tax, we'll be here to let them know that there is an alternative—the Libertarian Party."

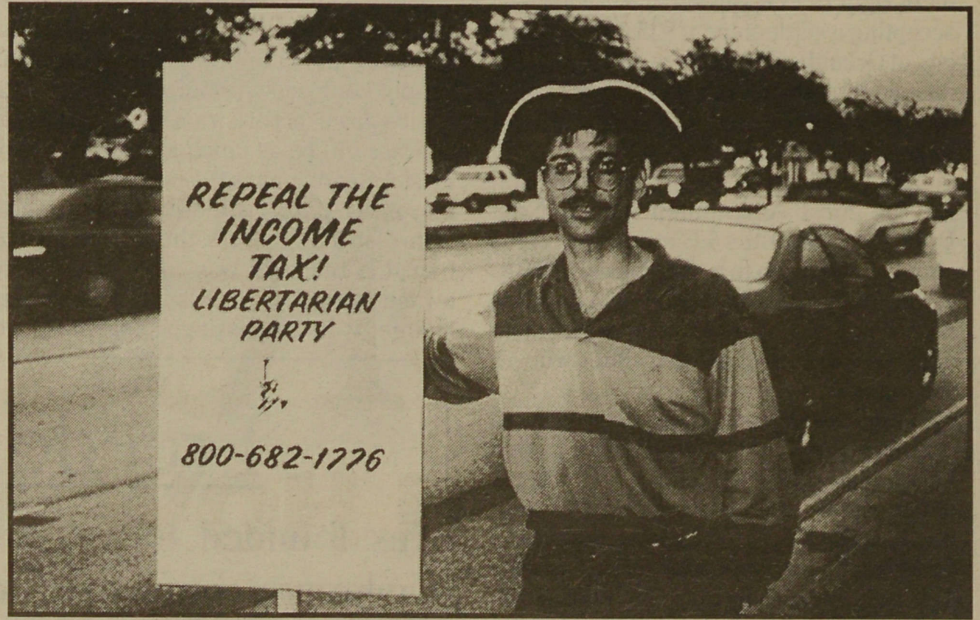
The Van Nuys rally resulted in a favorable piece on the Libertarian Party published in the *Los Angeles Times Valley Edition* on April 17.

In Maine, Ron Clement and Mark Cenci stood outside the Portland post office for almost five hours handing out million dollar bills. Most people appreciated Cenci's greeting, "Only \$1 trillion to go! You can have a million if you like."

Clement got a few smiles with, "We're printing them and giving them away as fast as we can, just like the government!"

Though they handed out nearly \$500 million worth of the bills, some people declined the fake cash explaining, "I'll just have to give it to the IRS!"

The following day, Clement was the fea-



NEWS photo by Tom Regnier

REVOLUTIONARY PROTEST - Libertarian Party member Bill Petro wore a tri-cornered hat for the LP tax day protest in Broward County, FL.

tured guest on a local radio station's morning show. He spoke about the previous day's activities, and the radio show hosts took the "world's smallest political quiz" on the air.

In Georgia in a re-enactment of an American tradition, the Libertarian Party of DeKalb County hosted the tarring and feathering of a tax collector at the protest at the Decatur post office.

Late-filing taxpayers were provided with tar and feathers to smear on the tax collector effigy—which looked surprisingly like Bill Clinton.

"Our founding fathers used tarring and feathering against enforcement agents of the Stamp Act, and the tax rates then were under 2 percent," Charles Curtis-Quick, an organizer of the demonstration, said. "Now government takes half of the average taxpayer's income."

DeKalb Libertarians also handed out million dollar bills to taxpayers. The mock money pointed out that every five seconds that the federal bureaucracy is open, the government spends \$1 million; \$12 million every minute; and more than \$1.6 trillion every year.

"In the time it takes us to hand this fake money to a taxpayer, the federal government will spend \$1 million in real money," said Curtis-Quick. "We think these \$1 million bills are a graphic way to show taxpayers how much of their money is being wasted by government."

The national Libertarian Party released a statement on April 15 that suggested that while politicians claim they hate the Internal Revenue Service, the public shouldn't be fooled.

"Republicans and Democrats have a love-hate relationship with the IRS: Every time April 15th rolls around, they love to tell us how much they hate it," said Steve Dasbach, Libertarian Party chairman. "But their actions prove that they love it far more than they hate it—that's why the \$7 billion agency has grown to become the government's second-largest.

"Here's why the IRS will never be abolished—as long as Democrats and Republicans wield power," Dasbach said:

- It fuels the expansion of government.

"Thanks to the Republican-controlled Congress, this year's budget is the largest ever: \$1.7 trillion," Dasbach noted. "Eliminating the IRS would mean pulling the plug on programs that politicians say they want to end, but really don't, such as corporate welfare, foreign aid, and the National Endowment for the Arts."

• It can be used to bludgeon political opponents. "The Joint Committee on Taxation is probing charges that President Clinton deployed IRS auditors against dozens of conservative groups such as the Heritage Foundation and the NRA," Dasbach pointed out.

"Richard Nixon and Bill Clinton both compiled enemies lists and dispatched IRS henchmen to harass them," Dasbach said. "Using the tax agency as a blunt political instrument is a bi-partisan tradition that both parties will fight to protect."

Noting that the IRS employs 106,000 people—five times more than the FBI—Dasbach said, "That means there are five times more people performing political dirty tricks and harassing taxpayers than there are tracking down murderers and terrorists."

• It is being used to circumvent the Constitution and expand politicians' control over our personal lives.

"Congress has given the IRS incredible powers—including the ability to tap into private bank accounts and seize property without a warrant—which clearly violate the Fourth Amendment," Dasbach said.

In fact, politicians have even given IRS bureaucrats a financial incentive to deprive Americans of their property. "The Senate Finance Committee has acknowledged that IRS managers reward employees who seize taxpayers' property by giving them merit pay bonuses," Dasbach said.

"So next time you hear a Democrat or Republican claim they hate the IRS, don't believe them. They love using the agency to fund their pet programs, they love wielding it as a weapon against their political enemies, and they love the power it gives them over Americans' private lives.

"The best way to show you hate the IRS is to vote against the politicians who love the IRS: Democrats and Republicans."

"The best way to show you hate the IRS is to vote against the politicians who love the IRS: Democrats and Republicans."

"It was one of the most informative, fun meetings I've ever attended. I have brought back all sorts of ideas for my state organization to do."

— EMILY SALVETTE
STATE CHAIR, LP OF MICHIGAN

"Iowa's representative to the Leadership Conference has expressed nothing but praise for the conference."

— DICK KRUSE
STATE CHAIR, LP OF IOWA

"I'm very impressed by how well organized and professional it was. The information you've given me will be invaluable in my state."

— LON SCHLITTENHART
LP OF WYOMING

"I was very impressed with the level of expertise [of] all of the speakers. In fact, I have not stopped talking about it at party functions all around town."

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Success '97 was "field-tested" in Washington, DC in March, with more than 70 LP State Chairs, National Committee members, and state party activists participating in the prototype conference.

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■ **Fundraising:** How to raise \$100 per member per year. Topics: Developing revenue and expense budgets; monthly pledge programs; direct mail; event fundraising; personal solicitation; telephone fundraising.

■ **Making It Happen:** Ideas are great, but success takes *action*. This session covers the essentials of project planning and management — setting goals; developing timelines; preparing budgets; finding *effective* volunteers.

Success '97 Speakers

■ **Steve Dasbach:** National LP Chairman; former Indiana LP State Chair.

■ **Perry Willis:** LP National Director; former San Diego LP Executive Director.

■ **Bill Winter:** National LP Communications Director; former N.H. LP State Chair.

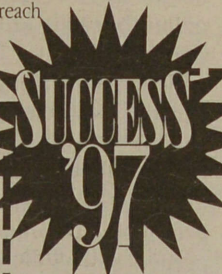
■ **Ron Crickenberger:** National LP Political Director.

■ **Barbara Goushaw:** Jon Coon's campaign manager.

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(NOTE: The speaker line-up at Success '97 events may vary.)



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Indianapolis, IN

MID-AMERICA
September 6 & 7, 1997
Kansas City, MO

SOUTHWEST
September 27 & 28, 1997
Austin, Texas

WEST COAST
October 18 & 19, 1997
Northern Los Angeles

ROCKY MNTS
November 8 & 9, 1997
Denver, Colorado

THE SOUTH
January 10 & 11, 1998
Atlanta, Georgia

Talking points

A look at volunteering, EPA, and environment

"Volunteers" of America

The president's summit promoted the idea of paid and forced "volunteering," praising companies like Timberland and state governments like California's for their commitments to pay employees for performing community service.

Summit publicists even called on unions to negotiate pay for their members' volunteering, and public schools to withhold diplomas unless students anted up the hours. Such activities merely pass on the mentality of the professional social worker, for whom helping is just a job.

The summit's message to the poor (as in cleaning a graffiti-caked wall) seemed to be the same one the welfare state has been sending for years, with disastrous results: "You mess it up; we'll clean it up."

Today liberalism is desperately trying to preserve its entitlement mentality in the face of popular opposition. Since liberalism doesn't have enough political support to raise taxes openly, the subtle strategy is backdoor taxation: Keep liberal entitlement approaches alive by forced recruitment of time from employees, union members and students.

Marvin Olasky in The Wall Street Journal, April 30, 1997.

A principled volunteer

In 1991, the Bethlehem (PA) High School school board began requiring students to perform community service or other volunteer work—or they would not receive their high school diploma.

That forced me to make a decision. Would I submit to the program even though I thought it was involuntary servitude, or would I stand against it on principle. I chose principle, and was denied a diploma. I eventually obtain(ed) a graduate equivalency degree instead.

Gen. Colin Powell is calling for more people to volunteer. That is a noble thought. But what President Clinton has in mind goes far beyond volunteering. He has called for high schools across the country to make community service mandatory for graduation.

That will destroy, not elevate, the American spirit of volunteerism. I saw firsthand how many of my classmates treated their required service as a joke, claiming credit for work they didn't do or exaggerating the time it actually took.

Volunteering is important. But in a country that values its liberty, we should make sure that student "service" is truly voluntary.

Lynn Steirer in The New York Times, April 22, 1997.

Clinton's "volunteers"

President Clinton's showcase program for promoting youth volunteerism, AmeriCorps, is the largest extension of the federal government in recent years—and the biggest federally funded program to "promote volunteerism" since the days of the New Deal.

The program has become a case study as to why government should stay out of the voluntary sector.

Libertarian talking points

Marc Beauchamp

Editor

A July 1995 GAO audit showed that the average cost per AmeriCorps member ran from \$26,000 to \$32,000—nearly double the expected cost. A second GAO audit, completed in February 1997, found: Nearly 40 percent of AmeriCorps' paid volunteers dropped out of the program. AmeriCorps has failed to generate significant private sector support. Instead, 83 percent of funding came directly from the taxpayers.

It's time to end this expensive boondoggle. If the president's summit truly wants to promote volunteerism in America, it should work to end AmeriCorps.

Kenneth R. Weinstein and August Stofferahn in the Washington Times, April 25, 1997.

Burning books works

Chances are excellent that not one person in a thousand could identify the second-most quoted writer in English, after Shakespeare. He is William Tyndale (1494-1536), and there is a good reason for his obscurity. Not only were the books he published burned, but so was Tyndale, for the offense of rendering the Bible into English from its original Greek and Hebrew.

The clerical authorities in England were outraged when he published the first English translation of the New Testament in 1526, thus giving the laity direct access to the Gospels without the mediation of the clergy.

Tyndale was hunted down, tried as a heretic, strangled and then burned at the stake.

It was Tyndale who coined such indispensable words as "scapegoat" and who rendered these winged phrases: "And the truth shall make you free," "Am I my brothers keeper?", "Love thy neighbor as thyself," and "Let my people go."

We like to think that book-burning is futile and that the banned authors have the last word. Not always; sometimes darkness wins out.

Editorial, The New York Times, April 24, 1997.

Rent control RIP

On [April 29, 1997] Gov. George Pataki acknowledged that New York City's system of rent regulation—a relic of World War II that has already outlasted the division of Germany—is approaching an end.

Doesn't rent regulation at least provide tenants of limited income assurance of a decent apartment with a stable future? Far from it. One dramatic consequence of New York's rent regulations has been the abandonment of occupied buildings that landlords can't afford to maintain, causing poor tenants to accept grossly illegal conditions for forcing them to flee.

Meanwhile, the biggest beneficiaries of rent regulation are tenants living in higher-income neighborhoods, especially in Manhattan. How do well-off tenants paying below-market rates justify their good fortune?



Some lament that, were it not for rent regulation, their children would have to attend public school.

Roger Starr of the Manhattan Institute in The Wall Street Journal, May 1, 1997.

Happy Earth Day

In celebration of the 27th annual earth day, we paid a visit to the Earth Day Information Center. Here's what we learned.

First, the temperature of the planet is not rising. The government's own measurements, as cited by the national Center for Public Policy Research, show the planet has actually cooled slightly—by .037 degrees Celsius over the past 18 years.

Second, the loss of the Earth's protective ozone layer will not result in an increase in cancer deaths. Malignant melanoma, a deadly form of cancer, is linked to UV-A radiation, which is not blocked by the ozone layer. UV-B rays are blocked by ozone, but have no impact on the incidence of melanoma.

Third, new forest growth each year exceeds harvest by close to 40 percent.

Fourth, sulfur dioxide levels have decreased by half since 1975; nitrogen dioxide dropped 32 percent in the same period; ground-level ozone has declined some 20 percent since 1979; particulate matter (soot) levels are down by 24 percent since 1975; and lead levels have decreased by more than 97 percent since 1975.

Fifth, the sky is not falling.
John McCaslin, the Washington Times, April 22, 1997.

Tell it to the EPA

The Clean Air Act of 1970 has substantially reduced "particulate" and ozone pollution levels. The EPA's own data say so. Will making the air standards even more stringent lead to improved public health?

The EPA justifies its proposal to tighten clean-air standards by arguing that the new regulations would provide "additional protection for children and asthmatics."

But the costs of the draconian proposal are quite clear. EPA estimates, for example, range between \$6.5 billion and \$8.5 billion

each year. Others place the figure much higher.

These extraordinary costs would be absorbed initially by business and industry—but like all regulatory costs would eventually be passed along to consumers in higher prices for cars, gasoline, electricity and most other consumer products.

The new standards will cost so much they could actually worsen public health by lowering living standards and reducing access to health care. Among the known risk factors for asthma are several factors associated with poverty: exposure to cockroaches and other indoor allergens, limited access to health care, and prematurity.

Has the EPA, while touting the purely speculative benefits of tighter air standards, considered the downside risk?

Dr. Elizabeth Whelan, American Council on Science and Health, Washington Times, April 22, 1997.

The best of times

With serious alternatives exhausted, what we are left with is a collection of anti-capitalist impulses and attitudes, which mix and match old complaints from the left and the right. They take the form of worrying about the tackiness of capitalism, its erosion of community life, its soul-deadening materialism, its leveling of high culture and so on.

Some of these concerns are legitimate—we are certainly not living at a cultural or esthetic high point—but beneath them lurks a familiar romanticizing for the world as it is imagined to have existed before rapacious capitalism and its ideological handmaiden, individuals, got to it.

We forget how squalid was the life of rural peasants, who around the world still jump at the chance to escape their coherent, organic lives; how stifling those warm, fuzzy communities of yore really were; how limited was that world of high culture and patrician society (a nice life if you could get it!).

Above all, we forget how the rise of capitalism and Enlightenment liberalism

see **Talking points** on page 11

Talking points

continued from page 10

freed up the life of the ordinary human being.

Fareed Zakaria, managing editor of Foreign Affairs, in The New York Times Book Review, March 30, 1997.

Arrogance of power

If the Tennessee Valley Authority, the huge, federally owned, unregulated utility serving the power needs of seven states, has its way, what I'm about to tell you could send me to prison.

The TVA has requested a Justice Department investigation of private utilities who have been pushing for TVA reform, and recommended fines and jail time as

punishment for their sins.

In an April 16 letter to the Justice Department, TVA accuses American Electric Power, Carolina Power, Duke Power, Southern Company and Entergy of violating Section 21 of the Tennessee Valley Authority Act of 1933 that states "any person who... shall enter into any conspiracy, collusion, or agreement, express or implied, with intent... wrongly or unlawfully to defeat (TVA's) purposes," can be fined up to \$5,000 and sent to jail for five years.

Makes one wonder just what sort of sinister plans are being formulated. Are these (private utilities) plotting to sabotage TVA facilities?

Nope. The only thing they are debating right now is how best to ensure that TVA

does not destroy the private electricity market. TVA is trying to use its subsidized government monopoly status to grab for itself huge chunks of the private electricity market.

Currently, TVA is allowed to sell power to a handful of utilities surrounding its territory; it is illegal for TVA to sell power through these companies to other customers. Yet, that's exactly what the private utilities say TVA is doing.

Ironically, in public discussions of the issue, rarely has complete privatization of TVA been brought up as a solution. Despite receiving roughly \$1.2 billion annually in hidden government subsidies (mostly tax breaks) TVA's debt now stands at almost \$27 billion. The organization has been

plagued by chronic mismanagement and cost overruns.

TVA is 64 years old this year. If policymakers want to make sure that America's electricity market becomes truly competitive, Congress will send TVA into mandatory retirement when it turns 65 next year.

Adam D. Thierer of the Heritage Foundation in the Washington Times, May 3, 1997.

Thanks to Scott Shreckhise of Roanoke, VA, for submitting material for this column.

Send comments and articles to: Marc Beauchamp, 2231 Kings Garden Way, Falls Church, VA 22043. Or e-mail them to <mbeaucha@ix.netcom.com>.

Affiliates

continued from page 5

honor, not a burden on Abington citizens."

Source: candidate

Much of the state party convention was taped and broadcast in prime time to about one million homes in the state by the Pennsylvania Cable Network. This was the first time the state party convention had received such television coverage.

Source: affiliate officer

Vermont

Chris Costanzo, state party chair, recently testified before the State Senate Government Operations Committee for a third time against proposed legislation for campaign finance reform.

In his testimony, Costanzo said, "It is just plain wrong that any citizen's taxes might go to candidates whom he or she does not support, as would certainly happen given the new taxes that this legislation would impose to pay for public funding. It is fundamental that Vermonters be permitted to support the candidates of their choice openly and directly in a manner worthy of a free people."

When the bill came out of the committee, modifications had been made that would allow Vermonters to decide on their income tax forms whether they wish to contribute to the campaign fund. The bill continues to other committees for consideration.

Source: affiliate newsletter

Virginia

The following 1997 candidates are either state party members or are endorsed by their campaign district's local Libertarian Party affiliate: Steven Kirkpatrick, Lunenburg County Board of Supervisors; Shelby McCurnin, State House of Delegates, District 72; and Reed Halsted, State House of Delegates, District 73.

Source: affiliate officer

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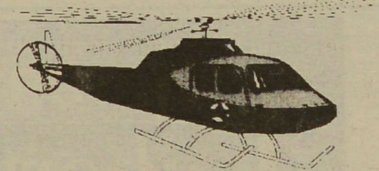
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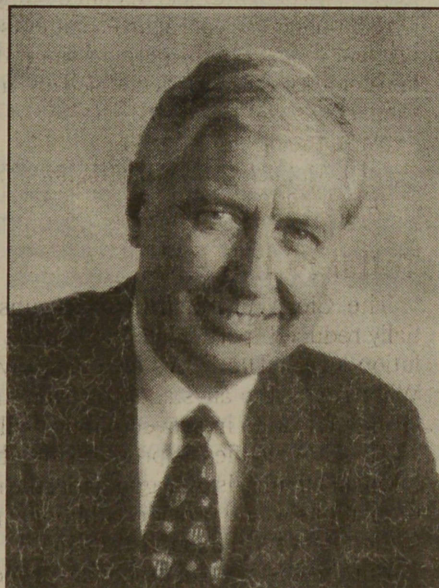


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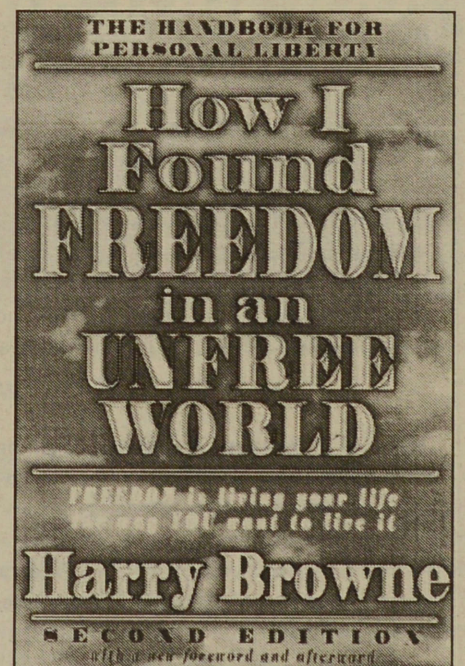
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Letters

Readers on Social Security, membership, and more

Pragmatic

I read with great interest Jacob Hornberger's recent NEWS column on Social Security. Although I agree that the Libertarian goal is to abolish Social Security, not reform it, one cannot avoid the difficult question of how we get from here to there. Let's take the logic to its extreme: Social Security is immoral; when should we end this immorality? The obvious answer is *now*! (This appears to be what Hornberger is proposing.)

Let us contemplate the fallout of such an action at two levels, the political and pragmatic. Proposing an immediate abolition of Social Security would make Libertarians look like "extremist lunatics." We would be the party that wanted to "throw Grandma out of the nursing home out into the streets." Such a proposal has



Staying in touch

Letters to the editor

absolutely zero chance of ever being adopted or seriously considered. Making such a proposal does little to establish the credibility of the party. At a pragmatic level it is true that if adopted such a proposal would raise wages of workers by 8-15 percent almost immediately. But what would happen to the 60 percent or so of retirees who currently rely exclusively on Social Security for income?

Hypothetically, one could argue that the young earners who received this wage increase would instantly and seamlessly care for their elders. At a practical level

most doubt this will occur. Does anyone really think a population conditioned to the dulling impact of the welfare state can instantly change their behavior? Habits of personal thrift and altruism necessary to replace Social Security will not be established by an immediate ending of Social Security. Such a proposal would appear to be crazy, because it is crazy!

Of course there is something absolutely delicious and self-satisfying about 1) making all political discussion purely "moral," and 2) as a matter of morality proposing policies that have absolutely no chance of ever getting adopted. This approach to politics, common to Libertarians and Marxists, grants a kind of instant piety that appeals to some. For me, however, and I hope most of the rest of the party, clearheaded realistic proposals are far superior to moralistic musings!

Cecil E. Bohanon
Muncie, IN

Unify

By definition, a libertarian is someone that defies authority. If Libertarians ever achieve their political goals, it will be because of that. It will also just as likely be the ruination of the LP. What we are seeing in the NEWS over the last few months is a shame. Two of the greatest Libertarians of this decade are taking potshots at each other over what outsiders and potential new members consider minor points.

Yes, we all want to do away with big government, so wouldn't it behoove Mr. Browne and Mr. Hornberger to lock themselves in a room for a day, work out these differences, and then come out with a united plan? Work on a unified party instead of finding ways to divide it.

Phil Miller
Greenfield, IN

Phased out

Mr. Hornberger's comments regarding Harry Browne's solution to the Social Security issue are well taken. We Libertarians must take care not to compromise our principles for our "favorite government programs."

However, we must remember that we live within a humongous, complex economy, which has been thoroughly distorted over the last 100 years by socialist programs and irresponsible fiscal policy. As a result, a responsible shift to Libertarian economics should not be attempted overnight!

I think this is what Browne recognized in his compromise on the Social Security issue. We cannot just "end" all government programs overnight. Some will have to be phased out, and yes, we taxpayers will have to carry the burden for some years.

But as Browne also said, "Utopia is not an option." In many respects, the shift to Libertarian government will be painful, as our economy experiences "fall-out" from the horrible government programs with which we currently live. We must plan to convert to full Libertarianism with a blueprint for action consisting of specific time frames, while keeping our vision of principle.

Lois Kaneshiki
Ocean Township, NJ

Sign 'em up

Marc Beauchamp wonders (May 1997 NEWS) how we can increase our membership significantly by finding "natural" libertarians to join the LP.

Harry Browne gave the answer in a recent talk: "We could double our membership this year if every Libertarian recruited just one new member in the next 12 months. Is that so difficult? Look at the dozens of people you've been informally working on for years. Now is the time to hone in on them and say: 'Why don't you join the Libertarian Party?' If they hesitate, offer to pay their dues the first year if they'll consider paying them after that . . . And each year our task will be easier because our growth will be a magnet drawing others on board."

This sounds like a superb idea, and it has worked for me! I asked two libertarian-oriented friends if they would consider joining the LP for only \$25. They agreed, so I gave each a photocopy of the NEWS membership application, along with an envelope which I had stamped and addressed to the LP. A few weeks later I asked each one if they had joined. Neither had, but promised that they would. The next time I spoke with the first he had joined, while it took two further reminders for the other to become an LP member. Not bad, for a few minutes' work!

Let's ask our fellow Libertarians to attempt this approach. This could be the "cost-effective strategy" which Marc requests that we "put our collective heads together to find."

Michael R. Edelstein
DrEdelstein@ThreeMinuteTherapy.com

Recruiting

Most subscribers to the NEWS know by now that the party is about to launch a massive membership recruitment project, with about a half a million dollars behind it—much more money than we've ever been able to devote to such an effort. This project has engendered quite a bit of excitement and hope, and I, like many others, am eagerly awaiting the results. But the other day, I suddenly thought: "What if . . . ?"

What if we do more than just wait? We current members, if we choose to do so, could help get this effort off to an incredible start. Every single Libertarian reading this letter, after all, knows at least one closet Libertarian. Maybe it's someone to whom you loaned Harry's book last fall, or someone you finally convinced to vote Libertarian. They agree with the ideas, (or some of them, anyway—maybe they're "small 'l' libertarians"), but haven't yet been moved to actually join as a dues-paying member. Maybe you've already tried to talk them into it, but so far they've just been too lazy. What if . . . ?

I thought: Why not sign one up myself—as a \$25 birthday present? Then I thought: or I could do it on my birthday, as a present to myself, a present of the satisfaction I would derive from helping the cause. And then I'd suggest that every single one of us do the same. The problem is that good intentions can lose steam, and birthdays are so staggered that there wouldn't be the momentum you'd have if a whole

see **Letters** on page 14

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Hon. John O'Donnell-Rosales, newly elected Constable in Alabama, John will lead discussions on putting a human face on LP candidates to win votes.

Hon. Brian Higgins, a radio talk show host just elected Town Meeting Member in Holbrook, Massachusetts, John will talk about being an effective media activist.

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Gene A. Cisewski, President of The Monticello Group and Chair of the Liberty Council, who has won election to public office.

Richard B. Boddie, a business consultant with a law degree and years of Libertarian activism, including his current service as Chair of the Orange County LP, will discuss putting the right volunteers into the right jobs to be more effective.

Complete details will appear in the next issue of *Libertarian Party News* and will be mailed to those of you on the Liberty Council mailing list. Not on the list? Get in touch with us below and we'll send you all the details about this fantastic event!

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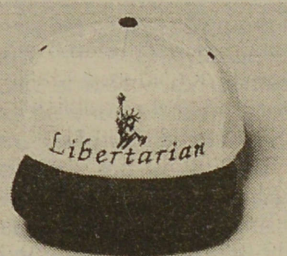
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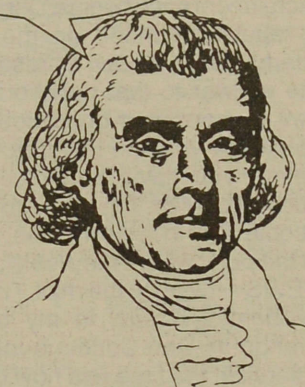
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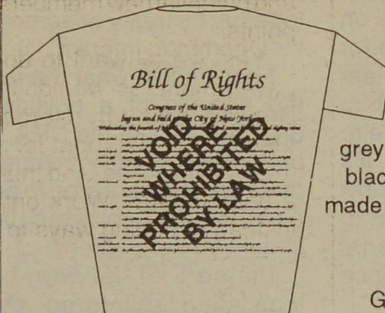
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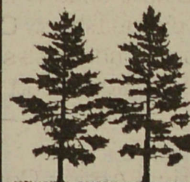
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Letters

continued from page 12

bunch signed up at once. And then it hit me: What if every current dues-paying member signed up a friend as a birthday present—to the nation? We now have about 22,000 members. What if every one of us actually resolved to do this by the 4th of July? What's stopping us? We could actually have 40,000 members before the recruitment even begins. Doesn't America, a republic founded on the principle of liberty, deserve such a present? How can the answer to that question possibly be no? Get out your checkbook right now; you know you like the idea, so just do it before you have a chance to second-guess yourself. I'm going to sign up two people. And in three months, when they're at the point where they look forward to the NEWS arriving in the mail, I'm going to go to them and say, in my best Marlon-Brando-as-Don-Corleone voice, "I did you a service; the time has now come for you to do a service in return," and suggest that they sign up a friend. Hmm, what if . . .

Brian Mulholland
San Diego, CA

Congrats

I recently found out from CNN viewer source that our 1992 vice presidential candidate Nancy Lord has been a guest on CNN 28 times over the past four years. It's clear CNN recognizes her ability as an attorney, M.D., and political thinker.

I would also like to give praise to the Libertarian National Committee for its continuous work, doing so much with so little.

Earl Maiden
Rogersville, TN

Paying dues

Today I paid my dues for being an American. I don't mean my taxes. They are payment for services rendered. I mean I contributed to the political party of my choice. I gave \$25 to the Republicans and \$75 to the Libertarians. I wouldn't give the Democrats a dead rat. The rest are inconsequential.

I've become a little shaky about giving to the Republicans. The Grand Old Party is still old, but too much of its grandeur is

concentrated in Washington, DC. I will not support the Democrats. They are a party whose basic premise is that I am not competent to handle my own affairs, and/or a vicious beast bent on destruction. That leaves the Libertarians. They're the only political party which treats me as a responsible adult, and limits their desire to pick my pocket.

In 1994 the people of this country elected a Congress that promised to limit the size and power of the federal government. It is 1997 and that promise has not borne fruit.

In 1996 the people were so unwise as to return to the presidency a man of known low character. That does not excuse Congress for failing America. It is now obvious that our only hope for survival as a people is to remove both Democrats and Republicans from office and substitute someone who has no vested interest in the Washington power structure. If we wish to remain Americans, that power structure must be dismantled.

Harry L. Friend
Wofford Heights, CA

Home-schooling

Being one of just a handful of libertarians in my rural county in Illinois, I know how hard it is to "get out the message." If we are to approach our goal of 200,000 members by the year 2000, I have a brilliant idea that should help us enormously.

There is a vast untapped resource of freedom loving people in our country today. They are part of a flourishing movement called home-schooling. As a father of four children (all of which we home-school), let me just say that home-schoolers are on the front lines, fighting a fierce battle for liberty at all levels of government. I am watching a new frontier of "freedom fighters" right before my eyes, and we're doubling in number every 2-3 years. It's estimated that 1.5 million children are now home-schooled, which calculates out to *hundreds of thousands of parents nationwide*. What if we could convince just a fraction of them to join with us?

My experience shows that most home-schoolers tend to be "Christian Coalition"

type Republicans, and many educate their own children for religious, not political, reasons. I find them to be zealots (which is good), but ignorant when it comes to logical discussions of liberty. But I see this beginning to change—and it's exciting. . .

The steamrolling home education movement continues to include a more diverse group of religious and non-religious people all the time—many who are "closet libertarians" and just don't know it yet. We have much in common with these people—love of liberty and courage to go against the flow. We should share our ideas with them. Many will turn back when they realize we are against initiating force, even when it has "good reasons." Some will collide with controversial issues and not be able to approach them with consistency and civility. But many will be curious, challenged, and even changed by the realization that they too are libertarian.

John Helwig
Nauvoo, IL

Alliances

I am proud to be a member of our fine party—we Libertarians are the best political party since the revolution. We are the most tolerant party in the nation.

This is a powerful advantage over our rivals. I think we should use this to our advantage. There are several political organizations in our country who share some common interest with us like the NRA, Gun Owners of America, Citizens United To Cut Inheritance Tax, etc. We should create political alliances with them to promote our common interests, similar to NATO, where individual entities join together by treaty or agreement to protect their common interest.

I don't know what the law is regarding the alliance of a political party to an organization like the NRA, but as long as both remain legally independent of each other and simply agree to publicly support each others' common interest, there should be no problem.

Instead of having opposition to legislation splintered among several groups, we could have a strong alliance of groups united to defeat bad legislation.

If confederation or alliance is a bad idea, then we should at least open the way for high-level talks with others to let them know they are not alone. The free exchange of ideas may generate some things we all will benefit from.

Daniel Marks
Belle Chasse, LA

Drug war victim

I wanted to tell you about the man who introduced me to libertarianism—and the LP—in 1985. His name is Michael Suvall. When I met him he was an outstanding high school speech and English teacher. He made his community a better place to live by his classroom work, as well as by the hundreds of hours he volunteered for school and community activities.

Now, Mike is a victim of the drug war. He's about a year into a four-and-one-half year sentence for a non-violent, non-coercive drug trafficking charge.

Since his incarceration, I've attempted to keep him up-to-date on the world outside prison by regularly passing publications I regularly read—including the NEWS.

Now the mail officer at the prison has decided that Mike can no longer receive publications unless they come directly from the publisher.

I know Mike would welcome mail from other freedom-loving individuals.

You can write to: Michael Suvall, #46938, Box 822, Los Lunas Correctional Center, 3201 Highway 85 SW, Los Lunas, NM 87031-1328.

Vic Doucette
Detroit, MI

Sham

On April 15, the Republican-controlled House voted 233-190 to kill an amendment to the Constitution that would have required a two-thirds majority to increase taxes. The super-majority would have made it more difficult for the U.S. Congress to raise taxes.

Once again the Republicans throw away an opportunity to protect America's economic freedom. The Republican revolution is a sham. They talk the talk, but don't walk the walk.

John DeMeo
Cumberland, RI

I've got to get this off my chest before I explode! "The Strangest Nutritional Secret"

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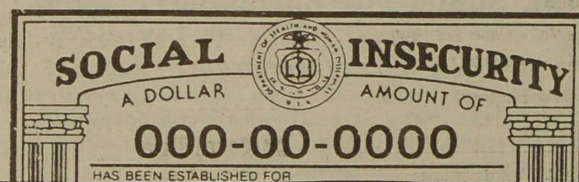


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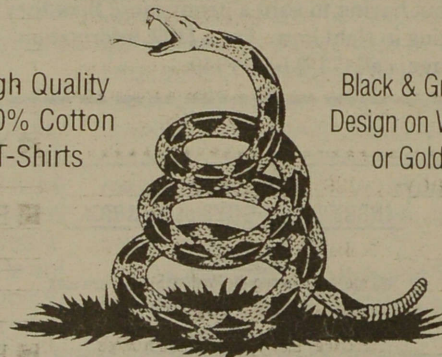
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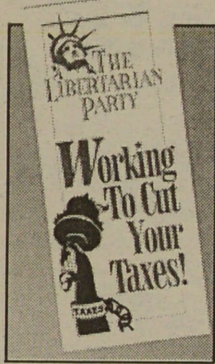
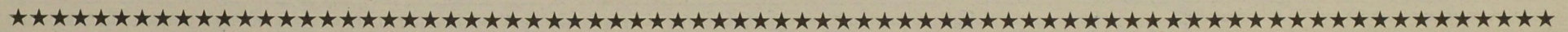
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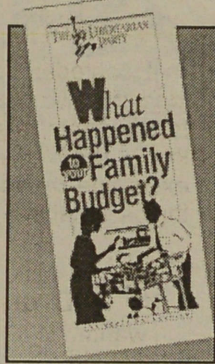
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■ **The Libertarian Party: Working to Cut Your Taxes.** Brochure, 2-color (green & black). Outlines how Libertarians would drastically reduce taxes and government spending.

Cost: Sample: 50¢ or \$5 for 100



■ **What Happened To Your Family Budget?** Brochure, 2-color (blue & black). Hard-hitting look at how government impoverishes the "typical" family through taxes and inflation.

Cost: Sample: 50¢ or \$5 for 100



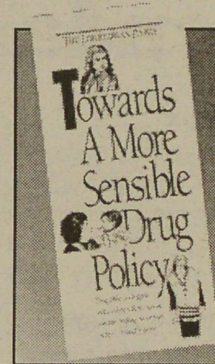
■ **Making Your Neighborhood Safe Again.** Brochure, 2-color (red & black). Explains the LP's innovative five-point Operation Safe Streets "crime-control" program.

Cost: Sample: 50¢ or \$5 for 100



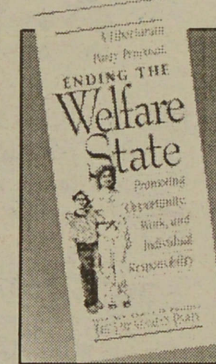
■ **Is This the New Political Party You've Been Looking For?** Brochure, 2-color (violet & black). New introductory brochure; gives general overview of Libertarian Party beliefs.

Cost: Sample: 50¢ or \$5 for 100



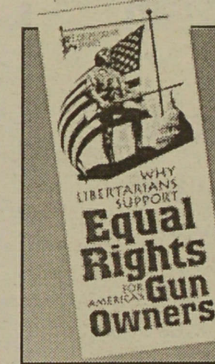
■ **Towards A More Sensible Drug Policy.** Brochure, 2-color (blue & black). Argues that drug legalization is a sensible, workable, and beneficial alternative to the failed "War on Drugs."

Cost: Sample: 50¢ or \$5 for 100



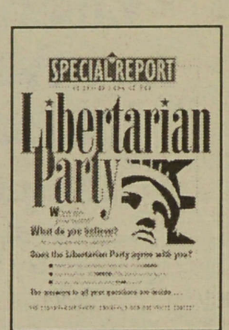
■ **Ending the Welfare State.** Brochure, 2-color (green & black). The LP's welfare reform plan, promoting opportunity, work, and personal responsibility.

Cost: Sample: 50¢ or \$5 for 100



■ **Equal Rights for America's Gun Owners.** Brochure, 2-color (orange & black). Explains the LP's pro-2nd Amendment position for a general audience.

Cost: Sample: 50¢ or \$5 for 100



■ **Special Report.** 20 pages, blue & black ink. Comprehensive introduction to the LP, explaining how a Libertarian society would benefit the reader. With convenient one-piece, attached response form/envelope.

Cost: Sample: \$1.00 or \$50 for 100

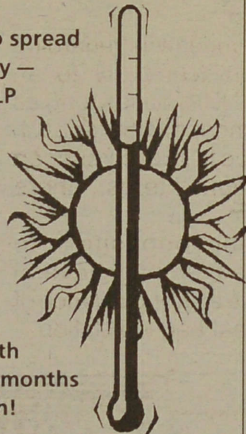
WHAT DO YOU HAVE PLANNED FOR...

Summer Outreach?

Summer is here, and a young Libertarian's heart turns to thoughts of . . . outreach? That's right: Flea markets, county fairs, concerts, and other outdoor events are kicking into high gear all across America — and wherever a large number of people gather, that's an opportunity for Libertarian outreach.

Will you do your part this summer to spread the good word about the Libertarian Party — and help recruit new members? If every LP member distributed just 10 pieces of outreach literature this summer, that would mean that 225,000 Americans would be exposed to our message.

Will you do your part? We have a wide variety of compelling, attractive outreach literature for sale. Find the particular political issue you want to promote, and place your order today. With your help, we can make the next several months the sizzling summer of Libertarian growth!



OTHER ITEMS FOR SALE

Literature

■ **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

■ **"Million Dollar Bill."** Green ink. A faux \$1,000,000 bill that highlights excessive Federal spending. Cost: Sample: 50¢ or \$5 for 100

■ **Which Political Party is 100% Pro-Gun Rights?** Flyer. 2-color (blue & red). Hard-hitting outreach to gun owners. Cost: Sample: 50¢ or \$5 for 100

■ **Why Government Doesn't Work** by Harry Browne. Hardbound, 245 pages. Explains why government doesn't work — and will never work as well as voluntary solutions. Cost: \$11.95 (includes special \$2/s/h charge)

■ **Enough Is Enough/Vote Libertarian Yard Sign.** 2-color (red & blue) 24" x 18," printed on sturdy foamboard. Cost: \$8.00 each

■ **Libertarianism in One Lesson** by David Bergland. 126 pages, 6th edition. Classic introductory work. Contrasts how liberals, conservatives, and Libertarians view issues. Cost: \$8 each or 5 for \$25

■ **LP Fact Sheets:** 2-page LP history (political highlights '71-'96) and 2-page bibliography (150 books about liberty). Sold as a set. Cost: Sample: 50¢ or \$10 for 100

■ **America's Libertarian Heritage** by David Bergland. 16-page booklet. Concise overview of Libertarian philosophy. Cost: \$1 each

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

Miscellaneous Items

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

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

Bumperstickers

Cost: \$1 each; \$7.50 for 10; \$50 for 100

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

■ **Vote Libertarian/800-682-1776** (Blue & white.)

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

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 choose second line: ★ "800-682-1776" ★ "Defenders of Liberty." Cost: \$40 each

Tools for Campaigning

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

■ **Newsprint Ads:** "Libertarian Party—Defenders of Liberty." Camera-ready print ads. One each: General, lifestyle, drugs, guns, draft, taxes. Cost: \$3 for set

■ **Libertarian TV Ads:** A videotape of TV ads by LP candidates. (Not broadcast quality.) Cost: \$20.00 each

Buttons

Cost: All buttons are \$1 each or 75¢ 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



NOW IN STOCK: The 1996 Libertarian Party Platform!

■ **1996 Libertarian Party Platform.** 24 pages; 2-color (red & black). Contains "official" party positions — as updated by LP delegates at the 1996 National Convention — on individual rights, the economy, taxation, energy, agriculture, poverty, domestic concerns, censorship, foreign policy — and every other imaginable political issue. Cost: Sample: \$1.00. \$50 per 100.

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_____	Brochure: "What Happened/Your Family Budget?"
_____	Flyer: "Political Party / 100% Pro-Gun Rights?"
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_____	America's Libertarian Heritage booklet
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_____ Libertarian Party: Pro-Choice on Everything

Miscellaneous Items

_____ Lined windbreaker. Circle one: M L XL

_____ LP Statue of Liberty logo on 3-1/2" PC disk

_____ Liberty Teddy Bear

Tools for Campaigning

_____ LP Statue of Liberty logo master

_____ Newsprint ads: "Libertarian Party — Defenders of Liberty" set of seven.

_____ Libertarian TV Ads

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Randy Langhenry, editor

Calendar of Upcoming Events

May 31-June 1, 1997:

New York LP Convention,
Stadler Hotel, Ithaca; for
information call 607-687-7597.

June 1-2, 1997:

Fiber Futures '97 Conference,
DoubleTree Hotel, Monterey, CA;
for information call 770-823-2800,
ext. *46. Conference sponsored
by the California Resource
Recovery Association, North
American Industrial Hemp
Council, and others.

June 7-8, 1997:

Success '97, Boston; for
information call 202-333-0008.

June 7, 1997:

Kentucky LP Convention,
Louisville; for information call
502-635-6326. Speakers include
Ken Bisson, attorney Don
Heavrin, and Mary Ruwart.

June 14, 1997:

Louisiana LP Convention,
Monteleone Hotel, New Orleans;
for information call 318-448-4772.
Speakers include Jacob
Hornberger.

June 28-29, 1997:

Success '97, Northern Virginia;
for information call 202-333-0008.

July 4-6, 1997:

Texas LP Convention, Radisson
Hotel Central, 6060 North Central
Expressway, Dallas; for information
call 800-422-1776. Speakers
include Gene Cisewski, author Dick
Reavis, Carrie Sperling of the
ACLU, and Rick Halperin of
Amensty International.

July 10, 1997:

The Discussion Club, St. Louis,
MO; for information call 314-621-
2033. Guest speaker will be Jacob
Hornberger of the Future of
Freedom Foundation.

July 19-20, 1997:

Success '97, Indianapolis, IN; for
information call 202-333-0008.

Aug. 9, 1997:

LP of Los Angeles County (CA)
hosts "An Evening of Liberty," fund-
raising dinner featuring Charles
Murray speaking and signing new
book "What It Means To Be a
Libertarian"; for information call
818-980-1233.

Sept. 6-7, 1997:

Success '97, Kansas City,
MO; for information call 202-333-
0008.

Sept. 27-28, 1997:

Success '97, Austin, TX; for
information call 202-333-0008.

Oct. 18, 1997:

New Hampshire LP
Convention, Holiday Inn,
Nashua; for information call 603-
627-3666. Speakers include
Nadine Strossen, Jacob
Hornberger, and Barbara
Goushaw.

Oct. 18-19, 1997:

Success '97, Los Angeles; for
information call 202-333-0008.

Nov. 8-9, 1997:

Success '97, Denver; for
information call 202-333-0008.

Jan. 10-11, 1998:

Success '97, Atlanta; for
information call 202-333-0008.

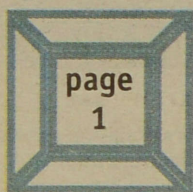
July 2-5, 1998:

Libertarian Party National
Convention, Washington, DC; for
information call 202-333-0008.

Libertarian National Committee, Inc.

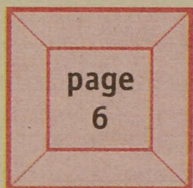
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DAVID DUCHOVNY — star of the popular television
series "The X-Files," in a interview in USA Weekend
magazine, April 18-20, 1997:

**“ Our country was founded on a
distrust of government. Our
Founding Fathers gave power to
the people to keep an eye on the
government. So when politicians
say, ‘Trust me,’ they’re actually
being very un-American. ”**