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## Louisiana ballot access law eased

By J. Daniel Cloud  
LP NEWS EDITOR

**T**hanks to legislation approved in 2004 by the Louisiana legislature, the Louisiana Libertarian Party "is now fully qualified as a political party in the state," says Michael Wolf, secretary of the state party affiliate.

"Henceforth, any Libertarian candidates in the state will be able to have the word 'Libertarian' next to their names on the ballot."

Before the new legislation — which was penned by Libertarians — went into effect Jan. 1, Louisiana law already made it very easy for independents and other non-Democrat or Republican candidates to get on the ballot.

However, their party affiliation was not listed on the ballot, Wolf said.

Before the law was changed, the only ways a third-party candidate for office could get the party name listed on the ballot were to have 5 percent of the registered voters in the state be registered for that party; or to get 5 percent of the vote in the most recent presidential election.

The state has about 2.9 million voters, so the 5 percent requirement meant that a party needed approximately 145,000 registered voters in order to be considered a qualified political party — "and that's a huge number for a small party," Wolf noted.

Wolf, an attorney who occasionally does some work for the party in addition to his activism, co-wrote the bill with another activist, Peter Jacobs.

It received strong support in 2004 from both Republicans and Democrats, passing through the House 95-3 and the Senate on a vote of 36-1 before going on to be signed by Gov. Kathleen Blanco.

The bill was amended in the Senate, and any independent candidates will be identified as belonging to "no party" instead

See **LOUISIANA** Page 11

# It takes a Libertarian... To raise a new village



■ Hundreds of thousands of Sri Lankans were displaced by the Dec. 26, 2004 tsunami that devastated much of coastal Southeast Asia, when homes like those in the above photo (at left) were demolished. Las Vegas Libertarian Avan Perera, a native of Sri Lanka, was there when the tsunami hit. He spent the rest of his vacation in relief efforts and is now in charge of U.S. fundraising for a new village that is being built without government funding. The first of at least 50 houses are in construction. (Photos provided by the Building a Village project)

By J. Daniel Cloud  
LP NEWS EDITOR

**W**hen the tsunami disastrously struck Southeast Asia on Dec. 26, 2004, Las Vegas Libertarian Avan Perera happened to be in Sri Lanka — the land of his birth — visiting his parents. They recently retired back to Sri Lanka after living in the United States for 20 years.

His immediate family was spared from the widespread calamity, but many in his homeland were less fortunate.

Asian Development Bank president Haruhiko Kuroda estimated recently that some 100,000 homes were destroyed, and that 65 percent of the country's fishing fleet was damaged or lost.

Perera almost immediately began thinking of ways to help the people of Sri Lanka, the country from which he moved to the United States in 1982.

His first thought was to establish an orphanage for some 15 or 20 children, but he was frustrated by the red tape and time that would have been involved in that particular endeavor.

So rather than create an orphanage, Perera and his father, Nihal Perera, as well as some other family members and friends, decided instead to create a village of at least 50 homes, complete with community facilities, roads, electricity and wells. The 600-square-foot, two-bedroom houses won't be lavish, by any means. But they will be home to dozens of families displaced by the tsunami — people who otherwise

would be forced to continue living in makeshift shacks on the nearby beaches.

Avan Perera, who is in the real estate business in Las Vegas and has been a member of the Libertarian Party since 1996, estimates that the 50-home village will cost \$200,000. And he has enough land to build between 50 and 100 more homes, if enough money comes in to pay for them.

The land on which the homes will be developed was given to him in trust by the Sri Lankan government. The trust was set up under a pre-existing trust, the Biodiversity and Elephant Conservation Trust (BECT), which was established years ago by Jayantha Jayewardene.

"Of course, elephants have nothing to do with this new project," Perera said. "But rather than going through the red tape of creating a

brand new trust, we decided to establish a secondary trust through BECT."

So far, approximately \$68,000 of the project's needed funds have come in, including \$5,000 Perera and his family have promised to contribute, as well as approximately \$500 donated by Libertarians in Nevada.

"I'm really pleased with what See **LIBERTARIAN** Page 2

## \$349M bond defeated

**T**exas Libertarians in the Austin area have been instrumental in defeating a proposed \$349 million school bond issue, reports Steve Adams of the Travis County Libertarian Party.

However, it was the school district's misuse of funds from a recent bond issue worth \$199 million that probably did the most to defeat the new bond proposal, Adams said after voters in the Round Rock Independent School District (RRISD) denied the proposal. It failed with 62 percent opposing the measure in the March 5 referendum.

"Just a few years ago the same school district did a \$199 million bond issue, and then wasted \$27 million of it on a football stadium," he said. "I believe the fact that they spent \$27 million for a collegiate-style football stadium — while they said they were having trouble getting money for books and teachers — was one of the biggest factors in defeating this most recent bond issue."

The school district covers parts of both Travis County and Williamson County, and Libertarian Party members in both counties worked with many other concerned taxpayers and community members to defeat the \$349 million bond.

Supporters of the bond tried to sell it to voters as "for the children," but the Libertarians were able to illustrate the fact that the school district has historically been wasteful in its use of tax money.

In mid-February, John Watson of the Williamson County Libertarian Party spoke to the Anderson Mill Municipal Utility District Board, explaining why he and other Libertarians and low-tax advocates opposed the increase in bond debt.

"If passed, this will be the fourth RRISD School Bond in a decade," Watson said — pointing to \$106 million approved in 1994, \$99 million in 1997 and almost \$200 million approved in 2000.

One of the major projects promised if the bond issue was approved was a new high school building that would have cost \$100 million, or \$250 per square foot. That cost can be compared to a proposed new 41-story office tower in Austin, which is expected to cost \$140 million — \$200 per square foot, he noted.

Even another high school building recently constructed in the school district cost "only" about \$140 per square foot, further illustrating the extravagance of the proposed new school, Watson added.

See **TAX** Page 4



## NEWS BRIEFS

### LP sues to end campaign funding program

**J**im Lesczynski, chairman of the Manhattan LP, filed a lawsuit Feb. 28 in the New York County Supreme Court to overturn New York City's campaign finance matching funds program.

"We are putting ... the political welfare queens on notice that we are taking them off the dole," Lesczynski said. "The city's obscenely extravagant ... matching funds program is not only fiscally irresponsible, but it violates our Constitutional protections against compelled political speech."

At issue is the city's program through which candidates for office are given taxpayer funds.

The system "amounts to nothing more than a welfare program for politicians," noted Ryan Sager, a member of the *New York Post's* editorial board, in a March 8 editorial. "To look at it another way, it's really just a massive subsidy to the local Democratic Party."

In 2001, \$42 million of New York's taxpayer dollars went to these subsidies; about \$40 million of it went to Democrat candidates, and about \$2 million went to Republicans, Sager noted.

Lesczynski's suit asks for a permanent injunction blocking the city's Campaign Finance Program. Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, Campaign Finance Board Chairman Frederick A.O. Schwarz, Jr., the board, and the city of New York are named as defendants in the complaint.

### Montana LP opposes open container law

**M**ontana legislators are considering two bills that would ban drinking and driving in the state. It is already against the law to be drunk while driving, but it is currently legal to drink alcohol while driving — as long as the driver doesn't get legally intoxicated. The proposed laws would ban having an open container of alcohol in a moving vehicle.

Montana LP chairman Mike Fellows was one of several people who spoke out against the proposal at legislative hearings on the bills.

Fellows doesn't oppose the legislation because he thinks people should be allowed to drive while drunk, but because he doesn't think the new law is necessary, he told legislators.

It appears obvious that a major consideration behind the bills is a potential loss of federal funding, he noted.

According to federal law, all states must pass laws banning open containers of alcohol in cars or risk losing federal highway construction money. Montana could lose up to \$6 million in federal money if legislators don't approve such a bill.

Montana's passenger car fatalities have been trending downward in recent years, Fellows said — noting that this decrease is likely due to anti-drunk driving education programs.

"Alcohol can be a problem for many people, but we are going to change more habits by the education process than by the legislation process," he told the House committee.

One legislator, Rep. Rick Maejda, pointed out that many cities and counties in the state already have outlawed drinking and driving.

Rural Montana residents have a long tradition of drinking while driving responsibly, Maejda said, and shouldn't be held to the same restrictions that are necessary in more densely populated areas.

### Ohio LP focusing on eminent domain abuse

**O**hio LP Executive Director Robert Butler visited Ohio University in Athens Feb. 24, speaking to students about eminent domain abuse — which the party has been confronting recently in neighborhoods around the state.

While the government has some legitimate reasons to exercise its eminent domain powers, such as for the construction of highways or other infrastructure, recent application of that power has led to the condemnation of privately held land so that it can be given to private developers or corporations, Butler explained.

"Ohio is known for the worst eminent domain abuses in the country," he said. "Most people don't realize the government can take away their home until it's too late."

Butler said the students at Ohio University were receptive to his talk; he was joined by Dan Corbett, president of the campus Libertarian organization. Corbett noted that the fight against eminent domain abuse includes elements of class struggle — because it's poorer people who stand the most chance of losing their homes.

Eminent domain cases are one of the top issues Butler and other Ohio Libertarians have chosen to focus on as a way to reach people around the state. He said this visit to Ohio University generated interviews on television and radio — as well as yielding two newspaper interviews.

By drawing attention to lower taxes and to individual rights, the Ohio Libertarians hope to show voters who are frustrated with the Republicans and Democrats that the Libertarian Party is a viable option.

# Libertarian tsunami relief

*Continued from Page 1*

Avan is doing," said Joe Silvestri, vice chairman of the Nevada LP and chairman of the county LP. "As you know, he was in Sri Lanka visiting his family when the tsunami hit, and his vacation became a relief effort."

Silvestri pointed out that Perera was vice chairman of the county LP in 2003 and 2004.

"I'm really grateful for his service in that capacity," he said. "Of course, now he's involved in a different kind of service — and I believe it's a great effort on his part. We're very glad to have some connection to the work he's doing, and we're obviously very glad that he was not personally injured when the tsunami hit."

"It's particularly amazing to me that they are building an entire small village for \$200,000, which is about what one new home would cost here in the U.S."

Other than the land that was donated by the government, the entire project will be privately funded,

**WHEN NEWSPAPERS wrote about this project, they noted that the Libertarians are "practicing what they preach."**

making it particularly honorable by libertarian standards.

When Las Vegas newspapers wrote stories about Perera's efforts, they pointed out that he is an active Libertarian and noted that the city's Libertarians are putting their work and money where their mouths are.

"Libertarians advocate a much-smaller governmental role and believe that all foreign aid should be given through voluntary contributions," said a story in the *Las Vegas City Life* newspaper, adding that the Libertarians are "practicing what they preach" when it comes to tsunami relief efforts.

What about the use of previously government-held land for the project?

"I really wouldn't call that government assistance," Perera said. "That's public land, owned by the people; I don't consider that a big government handout."

Perera's project — called the BECT Building a Village project — is not the only one of its kind.

"Most other projects like this are going to cost about \$400,000 instead of \$200,000, and we got in on the ground level and started building before anybody else," Perera said. "Actually, the only mistake we made was focusing on getting the project started instead of concentrating on getting the money donated while people were still thinking about it. But we'll get the money. It's going to happen. This is going to work."

Each home will have enough land to grow a few fruit trees or other food crops, allowing each family to be more self-sufficient.

#### ■ Weighing needs

The selection of people to receive the homes is one of the more problematic issues involved in the village project, Perera acknowledged.

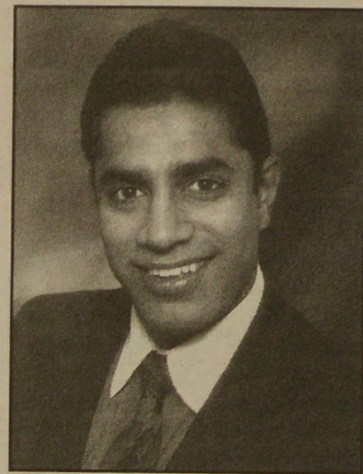
"That's one of the tough things we were dealing with," he said.

"We don't have the personnel or the time to listen to people's stories and judge whether they actually need the assistance. So what we did was establish a couple of major criteria, and now we're letting the public sector civil service people select them."

"That's not a thing we would like to do, but we have little choice. And, of course, we will do a final interview with those people who are selected, to make sure they match up with our criteria. I'm 90-95 percent sure that those selected will be people who actually need and deserve this kind of help."

The criteria established require that the people must have been directly affected in some way by the tsunami — either through loss of family members, catastrophic loss of property or by other personal injury — and they cannot own any other land or property elsewhere, Perera said.

"Most of those we help are going to be fishing-related folks," he said. "That's what most people in this



■ Avan Perera

area do and a great number of them lost their boats — which means they lost their livelihood."

The land and homes will be deeded to these people "under very strict conditions," Perera added.

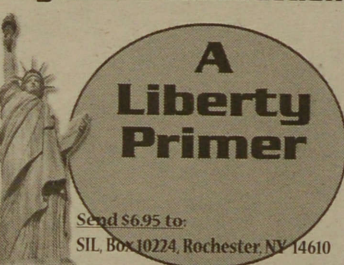
"They will be allowed to pass it down to their heirs during the first 10 years, but they will not be allowed to sell either the land or the houses. If any of them vacate their new houses for any reason in that 10 years, that house will be taken and given to another person who needs it."

This restriction was necessary, he said, because "the government has been building homes for these people and giving land to them, but people would move in and then move right back out and sell the house to somebody else."

Under BECT's Building a Village restrictions, after 10 years the residents will be given a clear title to their homes and will be allowed to do what they want with the property.

For more information or to donate, visit [www.bectbuildingavillage.org](http://www.bectbuildingavillage.org).

#### Beginner's Introduction



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# Supreme Court hears eminent domain case

## Court could alter definition of constitutional 'public use'

The U.S. Supreme Court has entered the battle over eminent domain, listening to arguments on Feb. 22 about whether a city government can force people to sell their homes, land and other properties to the government.

The property rights case — *Kelo v. New London* — features a group of homeowners in New London, Conn., who say the city is illegally trying to force them to sell their property to make way for a hotel, office building and other privately developed facilities.

When New London officials tried in 1998 to kick all residents off of the 90 acres they had their eyes on for redevelopment, 15 of the homeowners refused to leave. And they continue in their fight to keep their property even though the city

allowed the building project to go forward.

The property is now leased for \$1 per year to Pfizer Inc., which built a research center on the land. Next door to the Pfizer pharmaceutical facility are the 15 homes that New London officials still want vacated so that more buildings can be built there.

New London officials say they can appropriately use eminent domain to acquire the land from the homeowners because the development would create jobs and bring in additional tax revenue — providing the revitalization they think the city needs.

Libertarians in many parts of the country have been fighting eminent domain proceedings for years, arguing that it's immoral and illegal

to confiscate property owned by one party and give it to another private party.

A major question the Supreme Court is considering is whether the city of New London violated the "takings clause" of the Fifth Amendment, which states that "no person ... shall be deprived of life, liberty or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation."

The court is expected to rule on the case later this summer.

Lower courts, including the Connecticut Supreme Court, have ruled that the courts shouldn't interfere with the city's plans to exercise eminent domain.

The Institute for Justice is one of many groups that are speaking up

on behalf of the property owners, arguing that the city's hoped-for job growth and increased tax revenue are not suitable reasons for confiscating private property.

But if the Supreme Court justices aren't willing to rule that economic development projects are never an acceptable excuse for initiating eminent domain proceedings, Institute for Justice attorney Scott Bullock said, the government should at least be instructed to provide some proof that the projects will succeed before condemning private property.

Many of the justices' questions centered around the "just compensation" issue, which lead plaintiff Susette Kelo said is not the primary issue: It's not that they don't want to sell their property for

what they were offered, but that they don't want to sell their homes at all.

Groups that have written arguments on behalf of Kelo and the other homeowners include the Cato Institute, representatives of the Libertarian Party, and the NAACP — which noted that condemnation disproportionately affects poor people, specifically poor minorities.

Depending on how strongly the justices word their decision, this case could drastically change the way eminent domain is exercised, either by freeing up local governments to continue seizing private property for the benefit of industry or by giving individual property owners some assurance that their land is indeed still protected from unconstitutional confiscation.

# Libertarian Party membership dues set to increase in 2006

Members of the Libertarian National Committee voted at their late-February meeting in Portland, Ore., to raise membership renewals from \$25 per year to \$50 per year. Under the plan, which is scheduled to take effect in January 2006, new members would still be able to join for \$25.

This increase in dues will be the party's first such hike in 15 years.

The move was proposed by Aaron Starr, a regional representative from California — and chairman of the California LP — who said he has broached the idea of a dues increase at each of the three LNC meetings since he was elected at the 2004 national LP convention.

His proposal failed at the November 2004 meeting on an 8-8 vote. This time, the motion was approved 11-6 on a ballot vote.

The increased revenue will better enable both the national and state LPs to more effectively affect politics, Starr said, "rather than continuing to struggle along forever on very little money. When you have very little money, it's difficult to make any political progress."

"Today, the national party tries to run its operations on \$7 per

member per year," he explained. "Of the \$25 dues that each member pays, \$18 goes to the state parties. The dues were set at \$25 in 1990 or '91. When you take the \$18 out of it, you're down to \$7. And when you compare that to 1991 dollars, you're looking at less than \$5 per year."

"We're undercharging for membership, and in effect we divert money that is contributed for specific projects to cover the basic costs of running the party. My sense is that people who donate money above the membership cost expect progress for their money. They don't want to see it used to underwrite the costs of operations."

The rationale for setting the cost of renewal higher than the first-year membership is simple, Starr said.

"People don't know the party when they first join, but they're willing to take a chance on \$25," he explained. "Then, if we show them that we're doing something of value, they'll be willing to renew for \$50 per year."

"Do people believe that the Libertarian Party offers value? It's very difficult for the national party to offer value on \$7 per year. I think the national party will be much better able to provide value on \$20 rather than \$7."

The \$20 figure comes into play because there was also a proposal to increase the amount paid to the states who participate in the Unified Membership Plan — through which anyone who joins the national LP is automatically made a member of the party in their state, or vice versa.

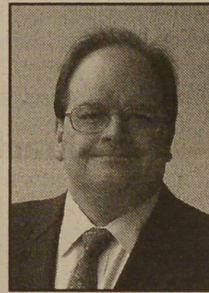
"We didn't have enough time to properly discuss the proposed increase in the UMP payments, so that wasn't approved," Starr noted. "But the proposal I made was that \$13 of the increase would go to national, and \$12 would go to the states. That would give the national office \$20 of each renewal membership, and \$30

would go to the state. I believe we will discuss that option more fully at our next meeting."

One vocal opponent of the dues increase — and the UMP increase — was national LP Treasurer Mark Nelson, who explained in a subsequent message to the state LP chairs that he believes "increasing dues is a fiscally irresponsible decision."

Rather than making a decision immediately, Nelson said, it would have made more sense to wait until national headquarters staff could examine the impact the dues increase would have on the number of members and on revenue.

Now that the decision has been made, he will have this information prepared to be presented at the LNC



■ Mark Nelson



■ Aaron Starr

## CORRECTIONS

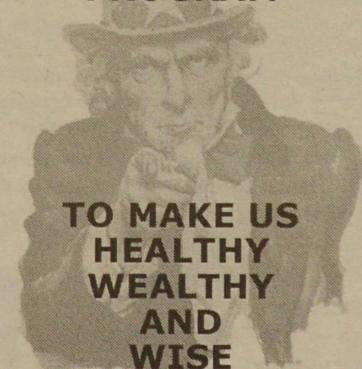
■ In the March 2005 edition of LP News, a Forum opinion piece entitled "Is it always honorable to die in service of your country?" was mistakenly attributed to Jeffrey A. Robertson. That column was actually authored by Jim Babka, president of the Downsize DC Foundation — a group that calls for lower taxes, less government intrusion in Americans' lives, and smaller government in general. To learn more about the foundation, visit them on the Web at [www.DownsizeDC.org](http://www.DownsizeDC.org).

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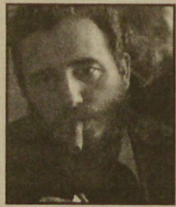
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## POLITICS 2005

### Smoking, governors and H.S. Thompson

■ In February, Cuban officials announced that smoking has been banned in most buildings open to the public. It will still be permitted in restaurants, but only in designated areas. The law also bans cigarette vending machines and the sale of cigarettes within 100 meters of schools. In cracking down on smoking, the island nation — famous for its cigars — follows the lead of many American states whose politicians evidently can teach Fidel Castro a thing or two about inventing new and oppressive laws.



■ A self-described libertarian has been named as William Safire's successor on the *New York Times*' op-ed page. In earlier articles and columns, John Tierney has talked about privatizing Central Park and has called for an end to tax money going to prop up Amtrak. He is an advocate of school voucher programs and according to *American Prospect*, he routinely sides with the free market.

■ The March 2005 *LP News* Politics 2005 column (which was mislabeled Politics 2004) included a note about a German woman who had her unemployment benefits terminated because she turned down work in the sex industry. That story was fictitious. After a number of newspapers — both in America and overseas — reported the story, the Urban Legends Reference Pages at [www.snopes.com](http://www.snopes.com) debunked the rumor. The Web site reported that the story originated when a German newspaper brought up a hypothetical situation that was later repeated by other papers (including this one, unfortunately) as fact.

■ The good doctor of journalism himself, Hunter S. Thompson, died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound on Feb. 20. Often viewed as a libertarian because of his rancor toward all dishonest, deceitful or otherwise contemptible politicians, regardless of their party affiliation, Thompson was a lifelong advocate of gun rights and drug legalization. And when he ran for office in Colorado in the 1970s, he ran on a libertarian — though not Libertarian — platform.

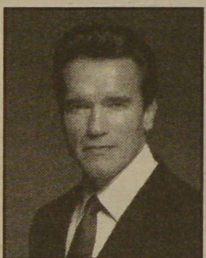


■ Punk band Anti-Flag joined forces with Congressman Jim McDermott on March 17 in a Washington, D.C., press conference to oppose a provision of Bush's No Child Left Behind Act, which allows military recruiters to obtain private student information. "How can anyone wonder why young people mistrust so many adults when a law gets passed that invades young people's privacy without even their knowledge or consent?" asked Justin Sane, lead singer of the band.

■ According to the March 15 edition of *The Washington Post*, Mexico City Mayor Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador "is the early favorite in next year's presidential election." Obrador's anti-Washington, anti-Bush views would put him at least apparently in league with the presidents of several other Latin American nations who are growing more strongly anti-American. Could this signal the end of Bush's famous proclamation that Mexico is one of the United States' greatest friends?

■ Stephen Johnson, a scientist who has been with the Environmental Protection Agency for 24 years, has been nominated by President Bush to be the next administrator of the EPA. The Competitive Enterprise Institute said the move could be a positive one, if Johnson's "background as a scientist [can] orient the agency towards unbiased science and a sensible approach to environmental protection."

■ The Cato Institute has released its biennial ranking of the nation's 50 governors, based on fiscal performance — with California's Governor, Arnold Schwarzenegger, coming out in first place. The top five were all Republicans, but with Schwarzenegger and Colorado's Bill Owens receiving "A" grades. Only two F's were given out, as well: to Democrat Ed Rendell of Pennsylvania and to Republican Bob Taft of Ohio. In an interesting "by the way," Cato researchers Stephen Moore and Stephen Slivinski noted that the longer Republican governors are in office, the more they slip into a tax-and-spend mentality, causing them to decline in the rankings. Yet another argument for term limits.



## GUEST COMMENTARY

# Complying with BCRA and FEC regulations on federal fundraising

You've probably heard that the so-called Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act, or "BCRA" (pronounced bick' ruh) profoundly changed how the national political parties operate. You might not know that this act and the earlier Federal Election Campaign Act, or "FECA" both govern many activities by your state or local political party.

Even if your state or local political party has not met the thresholds for contributions and expenditures that would require it to file as a federal political committee with the Federal Election Commission (the "FEC"), certain of your activities are deemed "federal" in nature, and your party committee is supposed to use funds raised in accordance with BCRA and the FECA in order to fund those activities.

These "federal funds" are funds that comply with the rules laid down in BCRA and the FECA.

For example, corporations, labor unions or foreign nationals may not contribute to federal funds. Contributions of federal funds may not exceed \$2,100 per individual per calendar year.

When you solicit federal funds you must advise contributors that their contributions may be used to influence federal elections, and you must include disclaimers required by law.

Ideally, you should collect these funds in a separate bank account, which would allow you (if necessary) to demonstrate that you used only federal funds for your activities related to federal elections.

What activities must be paid for entirely with federal funds? In many cases, activities you might expect, because they are directly related to federal elections, such as the following:

By Bill Hall

■ Activities like political advertising that refers only to federal candidates.

■ Certain public communications that promote, support, attack or oppose a federal candidate.

■ Costs of raising federal funds; making contributions to, coordinating expenditures with or making independent expenditures supporting a federal candidate — such as our presidential candidate.

■ Providing the services of a party employee who spends more than 25 percent of his/her time in connection with a federal election (as in overseeing petitioning for ballot access for a federal election).

■ Purchasing campaign materials (even if they don't expressly promote a federal candidate) from the Libertarian National Committee or a presidential campaign committee.

However, the FEC deems many other activities to be at least partially federal in nature, even though you might not think of them as such, and the FEC requires that you allocate these costs on a fixed percentage method that varies depending on how many federal candidates will be on the ballot in your state in the current election cycle.

For example, if you have both a Senate candidate and House candidates up for election in your state in 2006, then at least 21 percent of these costs should be paid from federal funds in 2005 and 2006.

These costs include the administrative costs of running your party, such as the cost of rent, utilities, office supplies, Web-hosting costs and telephone bills. In addition, these costs include the cost of generic voter drives and campaign activities promoting the Libertarian Party as a whole and not individual candidates, even if they occur in a non-federal election year. In addition, the FEC requires that certain other costs be allocated differently.

For example, the FEC would look

to the proportion of a brochure or newsletter that you devote to discussing or promoting federal candidates, versus state and local candidates and other activities.

If your newsletter or brochure devotes two pages to federal candidates and eight pages to other candidates and activities, then 20 percent of the cost of creating and distributing it should be paid from federal funds.

If you have a convention fundraiser where you raise funds for both the Libertarian Party presidential candidate and a state candidate, you count the funds received by each, and allocate the costs of the fundraiser between the candidates in proportion to the funds each received.

BCRA and the FECA are incredibly complex. They do affect your activities as state and local political parties. You should be considering those effects in your activities.

One good source of further information on this subject is the FEC's *Campaign Guide for Political Party Committees*. You can order a free copy by calling the FEC at (800) 424-9530, or view it online at [www.fec.gov](http://www.fec.gov).

■ **About the author:** Bill Hall has served as general counsel to the Libertarian National Committee, Inc., for more than 15 years. He is a partner in the law firm of Warner Norcross & Judd LLP, and can be reached at [whall@wnj.com](mailto:whall@wnj.com). Bill has written this article to alert readers of *LP News* to important legal issues they should consider in their political activities. However, this article is not intended as legal advice on any particular matter. You should not act or refrain from acting because of information based on this article without first seeking appropriate legal or other professional advice from someone who is familiar with your particular circumstances.

# Tax opposed by 62 percent

Continued from Page 1

And if nothing else, the \$349 million proposal was "being pushed through at an inappropriate time," he said. "By May, the state legislature will have reviewed and possibly changed school finance regulations. It would be prudent to wait for the result of the legislature's decision before biting off such a huge debt."

The school district spends only about 45 percent of its operational funds on teaching, ranking 883rd out of 1,031 school districts in Texas, Adams said. Meanwhile, only 15 school districts in the state have

a higher property tax rate, while 85 percent of Texas school districts have a better student-teacher ratio.

"And the district is only accredited 'acceptable,'" he noted. "Is it any wonder RRISD tax payers have become hostile?"

Adding to the controversy over the bond issue was a videotape produced by the school district — at an estimated cost of \$20,000, Adams said — and shown to students during school in hopes that they would influence their parents to support the bond issue.

Far from being a neutral "civics

lesson" on the importance of school improvements and on how bond issues function, the video neglected to tell both sides of the issue, parents complained after hearing that the propagandistic tape was shown during class time.

LP volunteers in Austin and Williamson counties spent about \$3,000 of their own money fighting the hotly contested bond, including setting up a phone bank through which about a dozen activists contacted nearly a thousand voters, compared to tens of thousands spent promoting the issue.

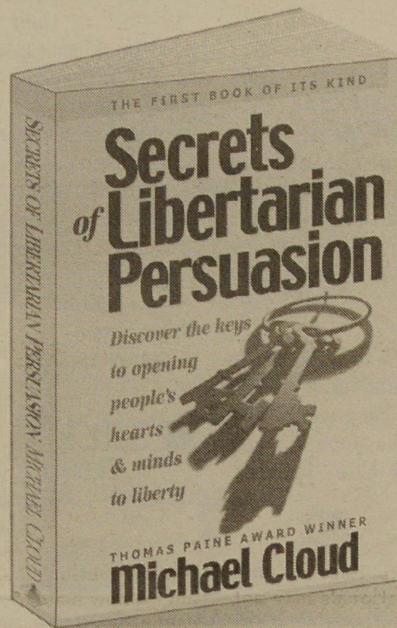


**THE PROBLEM:** You're not as successful as you'd like to be at convincing family and friends to embrace libertarianism.

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No, *Secrets of Libertarian Persuasion* won't turn everyone you meet into instant libertarians. No book can promise that. But this book will make you *more* successful, *more* often, with *more* people. If that's your goal, then order a copy of *Secrets of Libertarian Persuasion* today. Why be a less effective communicator than you could be? The power to improve is right here — in *Secrets of Libertarian Persuasion*.

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➤ "*Secrets of Libertarian Persuasion* will change the way you talk about politics. You'll start seeing results almost immediately." — **Sharon Harris**, President, Advocates for Self-Government

➤ "A book by the master of libertarian persuasion. This is modeled after the dozens of seminars and personal training sessions he's conducted — all leading to rave reviews from people who have used his techniques with great success." — **Harry Browne**, two-time Libertarian Party presidential candidate

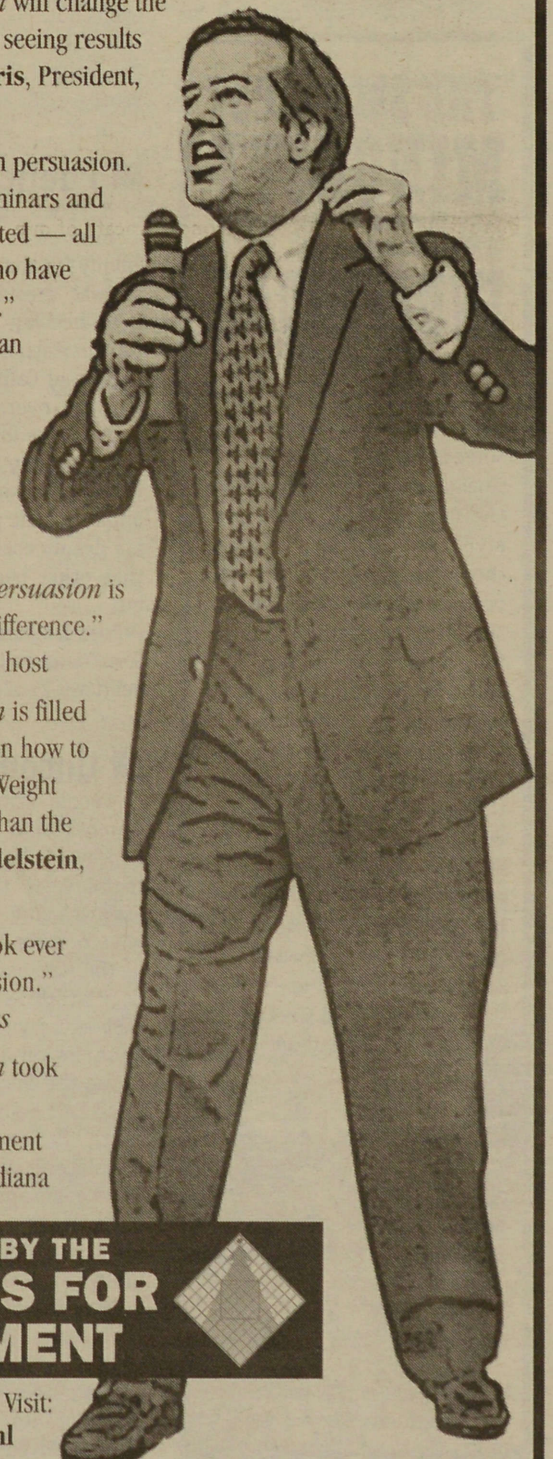
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## TALKING POINTS

# Global warming, Iraqi WMD's, salt and other dreaded evils

### ■ Currency crisis

Chances of a U.S. "currency crisis" within five years, according to former Federal Reserve chief Paul Volcker: 3 in 4.

—HARPER'S INDEX  
Harper's Magazine  
February 2005

left-wing because I think everyone deserves a fair shake. Call me whatever you like. I don't know if it matters anymore. All I want is what the Revolutionary leaders wanted — to get our freedoms back.

—JAMES LEROY WILSON  
LewRockwell.com  
February 22, 2005

is another strange fact: The administration responsible for the law is beloved by conservatives. They've found that they don't mind the federal government running things, as long as they're running the federal government.

—STEVE CHAPMAN  
Chicago Tribune  
February 27, 2005

### ■ Just call me

Call me Federalist or Anti-federalist. Patriot or Rebel. Progressive or Populist. Liberal or Conservative. Libertarian. Call me American for supporting Jeffersonian principles. Or call me anti-American when Jeffersonian principles conflict with the policies of our Glorious Leader, President Bush. Call me right-wing because I want taxes cut. Call me

### ■ The bright side

The Bush administration is trying to look on the bright side of the rising fuel costs. I like President Bush, [but] I'm not sure he understands these complex issues. Like today he said "Sure, it's now costing us more than \$51 for a barrel of oil, but thanks to our poor trade policy the dollar is worth way less. So it evens out."

—JAY LENO  
The Tonight Show  
February 28, 2005

### ■ Public transit

In 2001, then-Gov. Gray Davis announced at a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Foothill Freeway that he was presiding over California's last freeway ribbon-cutting. His transportation adviser boasted that the era of California highway building was over. One little problem: Californians forgot to stop driving.

I can only figure that Bay Area voters have supported spending on public transit projects because they are deeply committed to the notion that other people should take the bus ...

—DEBRA J. SAUNDERS  
San Francisco Chronicle  
February 27, 2005

### ■ Unconstitutional?

People who cheered the expansion of federal power under Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal have suddenly rediscovered that the Constitution assigns many prerogatives to state governments. Last week, a task force of the National Conference of State Legislatures, a bipartisan group long seen as unsympathetic to conservatives, issued a report roundly criticizing the Bush administration's No Child Left Behind Act.

The National Conference of State Legislatures upholds a position that, a few years ago, would have had liberals hooting with laughter: "The Task Force does not believe that No Child Left Behind is constitutional under the 10th Amendment, because there is no reference to public education in the U.S. Constitution." Liberals are not jeering now, but applauding.

If that weren't odd enough, there

### ■ Climatology

Scientists, or people claiming the mantle of science, advance terribly flawed claims that the sky is falling; climate scientists who understand that this is false say next to nothing.

Why?  
Climatology used to be very uncool, and largely unfunded. It was an impoverished backwater until global warming came along. Now it's a tremendous sink hole for tax dollars.

The next federal budget is likely to propose around \$4 billion for research on climate change. That money will only be allocated if global warming is presented as a severe threat to our health and well-being on the level of AIDS or cancer.

—PATRICK J. MICHAELS  
American Spectator  
January 21, 2005

### ■ School choice

Utah missed an opportunity last week to show the rest of the nation the personal and financial benefits of school choice by voting down a bill that would have allowed parents to choose their children's schools, public or private. Last-minute efforts by the state teachers' union and public-school officials who opposed the bill overcame strong legislative and grassroots support for the measure, resulting in Friday's 40-34 defeat in the Utah House.

The Tuition Tax Credit bill would have allowed parents to enroll their children in private schools and then deduct some of the tuition costs from their state income-tax bill. Defeat of the bill means that parents will continue to be backseat drivers when it comes to educating their children. In any state where people pride themselves on strong families

and self-reliance, preventing parents from making important decisions about their children's education seems wrong.

The tuition tax credit would have saved the state money because the proposed tax credit was about half of what the state currently pays to educate a child in the public schools. The rest of the money would have been left in the public system, further easing the funding challenges on public schools.

—DAVID SALISBURY  
National Review Online  
March 2, 2005

### ■ Self defense denied

Sean Roisten and his family were at home when someone knocked at the door of their apartment. Two men in ski masks allegedly pushed their way into the Brighton, Mass., home. Roisten got his own gun and shot one of the men, who was holding Roisten's wife at gunpoint. Police, of course, arrested Roisten for assault and battery with a deadly weapon and unlawful possession of a firearm.

—CHARLES OLIVER  
Reason.com  
February 18, 2005

### ■ Salt kills

"A consumer group sued the federal government Thursday, saying that salt is killing tens of thousands of Americans and that regulators have done too little to control salt in food," Reuters reports.

"Despite advisories to take it easy on sodium, Americans are now

consuming about 4,000 milligrams a day — nearly double the recommended limit to keep blood pressure under control," the Center for Science in the Public Interest said.

In *What You Eat Is Your Business*, Radley Balko, a policy analyst at the Cato Institute, writes: "We're becoming less responsible for our own health, and more responsible for everyone else's."

"This collective ownership of private health then paves the way for even more federal restrictions on consumer choice and civil liberties. A society where everyone is responsible for everyone else's well-being is a society more apt to accept government restrictions..."

—KRISTEN KESTNER, EDITOR  
Cato Daily Dispatch  
February 25, 2005

### ■ UN ambassador

President Bush yesterday nominated John R. Bolton, the tough-talking undersecretary of state who often has ignited controversy in his dealings with foreign countries, to

be the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

The nomination of an official widely known for his harsh criticism of the world organization shocked some diplomats in New York and left them wondering what message Mr. Bush intended to send the body — one of support or opposition.

The position requires Senate confirmation.

During his four years as undersecretary of state for arms control and international security, Mr. Bolton sparred frequently with Secretary of State Colin L. Powell, who reluctantly had accepted the hawkish Mr. Bolton as part of his team.

He has made known his distaste for a number of international treaties and protracted negotiations.

—NICHOLAS KRALEV  
The Washington Times  
March 8, 2005

### ■ Hunt over

The hunt for ... weapons in Iraq has come to an end nearly two years after President Bush ordered U.S. troops to disarm Saddam Hussein.

Four months after Charles A. Duelfer, who led the weapons hunt in 2004, submitted an interim report to Congress that contradicted nearly every prewar assertion about Iraq made by top Bush administration officials, a senior intelligence official said the findings will stand as the ISG's final conclusions and will be published this spring.

Bush has expressed disappointment that no weapons or weapons programs were found...

Congress allotted hundreds of millions of dollars for the weapons hunt, and there has been no public accounting of the money. A spokesman for the Pentagon's Defense Intelligence Agency said the entire budget and the expenditures would remain classified.

—DAFNA LINZER  
Washington Post  
January 12, 2005

### ■ Needless warnings

A flushable toilet brush that warns users, "Do not use for personal hygiene" has been identified as the nation's wackiest warning label in an annual contest sponsored by a consumer watchdog group.

The Wacky Warning Label Contest, now in its eighth year, is conducted by Michigan Lawsuit Abuse Watch [M-LAW] to reveal how lawsuits, and concern about lawsuits, have created a need for common sense warnings on products.

The second place award went to Matt Johnson of Naperville, Ill., for a label on a popular scooter for children that warns, "This product moves when used."

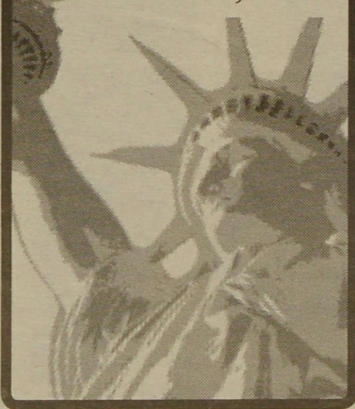
Third place went to Ann Marie Taylor of Camden, S.C., who found the following warning on a digital thermometer that can be used to take a person's temperature several different ways: "Once used rectally, the thermometer should not be used orally."

—www.MLaw.org  
January 13, 2005

**"THE SMALLEST  
MINORITY  
ON EARTH IS THE  
INDIVIDUAL."**

— AYN RAND —

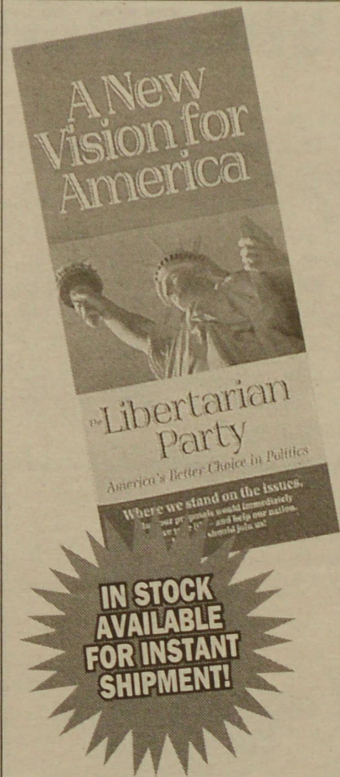
Not to argue with Ayn Rand (who would dare to?), but sometimes it seems that the smallest minority on Earth are the Libertarians. There just aren't as many of us as there should be. That's why the support of each individual Libertarian Party member is so crucial for our party to succeed. And Job One (for all of us) is to figure out ways to get more Libertarians. Here's one way you can do your part to help the party grow: Name the party in your will or insurance policy. For a confidential discussion of this option, call National LP Treasurer Mark Nelson at (563) 340-6151. Or e-mail him at: treasurer@lp.org, and include "Planned Giving" in the subject line.











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This pocket-sized (8.5" by 4") booklet fits easily in a pocket or purse, and is perfect for handing out at state fairs, politically homeless booths and other outreach events. Order your "New Vision for America" brochures today! Smaller orders are priced at **\$25 per 100**. (LP pays shipping.)

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■ **Libertarianism In One Lesson** by David Bergland. Expanded 8th 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.

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■ **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

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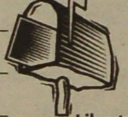
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## THE FORUM

# Examining the Social Security crisis

There is no better example of opportunity arising from crisis, at least from the Libertarian perspective, than the coming collapse of the Social Security system. But this opportunity is of little value if we are not pre-positioned to take advantage of it.

Our opportunity arises from the failure of the major parties to deal honestly with the voters and realistically with the program itself. The U.S. government has two distinct income streams and two (less distinct) spending obligations.

In theory, Social Security and Medicare are supported by FICA payroll taxes, while general fund spending by the federal government is supposed to be supported primarily by the personal and corporate income taxes, plus other lesser taxes.

In reality, throughout their history, the FICA payroll taxes have yielded more than was required by the Social Security payouts, and the excess has been "borrowed" by the Congress for excess general fund spending. The Social Security Trust Fund consists entirely of those IOU's from the Congress, to be paid back from the general fund.

As the Baby Boomers reach retirement age, that scam must come to an end. The excess funds from the FICA income stream are drying up and will be gone by 2018. After that, those IOU's will start to become due from the general fund — requiring the federal government to either borrow heavily or run a surplus in the general fund — to pay back those IOU's.

So Congress has built for itself an

inescapable trap. Inevitably, Social Security obligations are going to squeeze out a great deal of general fund spending and the size of government will be reduced whether Congress wants to do so or not.

The people are going to have to become accustomed to fewer goods from the federal government and will have to do more for themselves. Good. And the sooner, the better.

What can we as Libertarians do to turn this change to our advantage? We have always been the party of self-reliance and small government, so we will be vindicated and strengthened by this crisis whether we act or not. However, there are actions we can take to help the crisis along.

Oddly enough, one thing we can do is being brought to us on a silver platter by President Bush. His plan for Social Security reform is to gradually phase out Social Security with compulsory personal investment for retirement.

Of course, compulsory anything is anti-libertarian, but it still serves our purposes. The diversion of FICA funds into these personal accounts for young people takes money out of the Social Security system and will bring the day of reckoning much closer than 2018. It will also deepen the need for the general fund to repay

its obligations to retirees still in the Social Security system.

The borrowing necessary for the transition will use up all of the federal government's ability to borrow. Congress will be forced to live within its means. Government is going to get a lot smaller. We should hold our noses and support Bush's Social Security plan as a step in the right direction.

We can support real tax reform by replacing the largely invisible income and payroll taxes with the much more visible National Retail Sales Tax ([www.FairTax.org](http://www.FairTax.org)), in order to make American taxpayers more resistant to any attempt to put off the collapse of Social Security with higher taxation.

The only reason people currently tolerate a combined federal, state and local tax bite of 48 percent of the GDP is that the magnitude of their taxes is largely hidden from them, buried in the price of goods and services.

This opportunity will not make us a Libertarian nation overnight. Nothing could do that.

But if we take this opportunity to transform the country's retirement system from a tax-supported entitlement to private investment, and to bring clarity to our system of taxation, our children and grandchildren can emerge on the other side into a world of Libertarian opportunity.

**About the author:** Wm. Donald Tabor, Jr., is a dentist in Norfolk, Va., and an activist with the Tidewater LP.

By Wm. Donald Tabor, Jr.

## THE PROFILE

# Drew Carey

By Bill Winter

THE ADVOCATES FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT

Here's what TV sitcom star Drew Carey doesn't like: censorship, anti-smoking laws, drug laws, "stupid big government in general" — and award shows. (They're "publicity stunts" for needy actors, he explains.)

Here's what Drew Carey does like: freedom, competition, free minds, free markets and — he won't deny — beer and dirty jokes.

Those likes and dislikes tell you pretty much everything you need to know about Carey. He's not afraid to speak his mind. He's proud of his blue-collar sensibilities. And he's a libertarian.

Carey left no doubts about his political philosophy in a November 1997 interview with *Reason* magazine. He had a quick answer when asked, "What's your basic attitude toward government?"

Carey said, "The less the better. As far as your personal goals are and what you actually want to do with your life, it should never have to do with the government. You should never depend on the government for your retirement, your financial security, for anything. If you do, you're screwed."

Carey's libertarian perspective extended to a wide range of issues. Some examples from the *Reason* interview:

■ On censorship: "What right does [a politician] have to tell me what I can and cannot watch? Change the channel if you don't like what's on TV!"

■ On drug laws: "Liquor prohibition led to the rise of organized crime in America, and drug prohibition has led to the rise of the gang problems we have now."

■ On government power: "P.J. O'Rourke once said the government has passed enough laws — it should just stop. It oversteps its bounds so often. Giving it a little bit of power is like getting a little bit pregnant."

■ On freedom versus security: "I think a lot of people are afraid of freedom. They want their lives to be controlled, to be put into a box. ... People like that cradle-to-grave concept because it says you don't have to think too much. ... But that also means you can't do as much as you want. Why should someone else put a limit on how much fun I can have; how much I can accomplish?"

Carey's career is a tribute to exactly how much — in the *Washington Post's* classic description — "a tubby dork in a crew cut and thick-rimmed glasses" can accomplish.

After a stint in the U.S. Marine Reserves, the Cleveland native spent several years doing stand-up comedy. He was catapulted to household-name status in 1995, thanks to his top-rated ABC sitcom, "The Drew Carey Show."

The program, which ran for nine years, starred Carey as a put-upon office worker in Cleveland, and combined standard blue-collar sitcom gags with innovative song-and-dance sequences. (And an occasional libertarian plug: On a January 15, 1997, show, Carey's character wore a *Reason* T-shirt.) "The Drew Carey Show" won the comedian two People's Choice Awards.

Carey also hosted the comedy improvisational shows "Whose Line is it Anyway?" (ABC, 1998-2004) and "Drew Carey's Green Screen Show" (which debuted on The WB network in 2004). In 1997, he published the best-selling book, *Dirty Jokes and Beer: Stories of the Unrefined*, which combined autobiography, short stories, bawdy jokes and an inside look at his TV show.

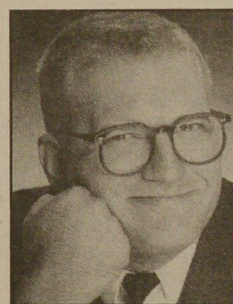
With all the success, Carey's libertarian views haven't changed. In 1998, he engaged in an act of civil disobedience by lighting a cigarette in a California bar to protest the state's new anti-smoking law.

"I don't think there should be a total ban," he told CNN. "It should be up to each bar owner and patron to decide if they want to smoke or not."

And in 2004, Carey penned an introduction to a *Reason* retrospective book, *Choice: The Best of Reason*.

"We need a magazine like yours to help fight the stupid drug laws, the stupid immigration laws, and stupid big government in general," he wrote. "Free Minds and Free Markets! Right on, my man. Freedom!"

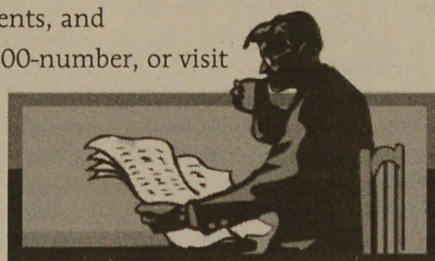
■ Each month, LP News features a column about celebrities who call themselves libertarian. This article reprinted with permission from the *Advocates for Self-Government*. To read profiles of dozens of libertarian celebrities, visit: [www.TheAdvocates.org/celebrities.html](http://www.TheAdvocates.org/celebrities.html).



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## AFFILIATE NEWS

# Tax defeat, medical marijuana and ballot access reformers

### ■ ALABAMA

## Marijuana advocates push legalization

Alabama LP leaders are among those pushing the state legislature to decriminalize marijuana for medical use in the state.

State LP Vice Chair Stephen Gordon and executive committee member Dick Clark are among the Libertarians who founded an organization called AlaCare, which is advocating the passage of legislation that would decriminalize medical marijuana in the state.

"The bill is along the same general lines as what has been successfully passed in other states," Gordon noted. "However, we have to sell the political message differently in Alabama than in a state like California."

"We hold that state government is more responsive than the federal government in meeting the health-care needs of its citizens — and that patient care is best served by more of a local approach."

Currently ten states plus D.C. have legalized marijuana for medicinal purposes, with Montana most recently joining the list, Gordon said — adding that Alabama would be the first of the "conservative Christian" southern states where a major effort to legalize marijuana has been made.

"Passage of this bill in Alabama after enactment in Montana should tear down the proverbial wall and allow for such legislation in all fifty states," he said. "This could even steamroll into national legislation."

For more information, go to [www.AlaCare.org](http://www.AlaCare.org).

### ■ INDIANA

## Libertarians to host youth speech contest

The Wayne County LP is hosting its first speech contest for all Wayne County high school students. Participants will speak for up to five minutes on the topic, "What does the First Amendment mean to you?"

All high school students, whether home-schooled or from public or private schools, have been invited to enter the contest, said Susan Bell, one of the event's coordinators. Bell was elected in 2003 to the position of judge in Hagerstown Town Court.

The contest will be held April 5 at a community center in Cambridge City. Cash prizes of \$150, \$100 and \$75 will be awarded to the first, second and third-place winners.

"I was asked to judge a similar kind of thing over in Henry County, sponsored by the Republican Party,

and I thought it was a unique opportunity for our youth here in Wayne County," Bell said.

As of mid-March, only a few students had signed up for the contest, but through newspaper advertising and announcing the contest at all local schools, Bell said she expected more participants to step forward before the event.

### ■ OHIO

## Butler calls for ballot access reform

Robert Butler, executive director of the Ohio LP, testified before the Ohio House Election and Ethics Committee on March 2 regarding the state's ballot access laws.

"We are only asking that Ohio modernize its laws, just as all of our neighboring states have recently done," Butler explained.

"Our state's current ballot access laws were created during the Red Scare of the 20th century," said Ohio LP Chair Jason Hallmark, "They do not reflect the ideals of open democracy, the foundation of our great country."

The LP is asking for five specific changes to Ohio's election laws: To allow independents to work in Ohio's polling places; to reduce and standardize the number of petition signatures; to extend the period of recognition for minor parties from two to four years; to require that a party receive only 2 percent of the vote in any statewide race to get ballot access, rather than the current requirement of receiving 5 percent in the presidential and gubernatorial races; and to allow minor parties to nominate candidates by convention.

These proposed changes are taken from similar laws in Indiana, Michigan, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia, Butler noted.

"We estimate that Ohio's current laws would require us to spend approximately \$1 million every four years just to get our name on the ballots," he added. "We know we can achieve a greater sense of democracy in Ohio. Once the voters understand the unfairness of the legal obstacles, they will demand change. That's why we will be touring the state and campaigning for ballot access."

In his testimony before the Elections and Ethics Committee, Butler also expressed support for a proposed bill that would require candidates for office to pay the complete cost of any unsuccessful recount attempt.

He said the Ohio LP agrees with the bill, which would "prevent the frivolous use of Ohio's recount pro-

cess and avoid burdening the taxpayers with added election costs."

### ■ OKLAHOMA

## Ballot access bill stalled in committee

Libertarians and representatives of other small political parties in Oklahoma are decrying the lack of openness and accountability in the Oklahoma legislature, after being told that proposed ballot access reform legislation would not be heard in committee during the current legislative session.

Members of the group Oklahomans for Ballot Access Reform (OBAR) — which includes representatives of the Libertarian, Green and Constitution parties — have been pushing for House Bill 1429, which would lower the number of signatures required to get smaller parties included on the ballot.

In February the bill was assigned to the House's Rules Committee, and its supporters were later informed by its author, Rep. Marian Cooksey, that it would not be heard by that committee in this session.

Rep. Sue Tibbs, chair of the Rules Committee, confirmed the information, but no explanation was given. Several members of the committee had already indicated that they would support the bill, leading OBAR representatives to wonder why the bill wouldn't even be heard in committee — which must occur before the measure can proceed to the House floor.

The fact that the Rules Committee refused to hear the bill means that "it cannot pass this year, although it is technically still alive and could theoretically pass next year," said Richard Winger of *Ballot Access News*, which tracks third-party ballot access efforts.

"It is also possible that the contents of the bill could be amended into another election law bill," Winger added.

"We've had considerable media coverage [of the proposed bill], far more than we've had on ballot access reform issues in the past," said Chris Powell of the Oklahoma LP. "The chairman of the Rules Committee herself presented this same bill two years ago, so presumably she still supports it. We don't know what's holding it up."

Oklahoma requires thousands of signatures on petitions for an independent or third-party candidate to qualify for placement on the ballot. For example, to participate in the 2006 elections, an unrecognized party — which means all parties besides the Republican and Democratic — would need to gather more than

73,000 signatures.

The proposed bill would change that to 5,000 signatures, the amount required in Oklahoma until 1974.

Because of the ballot access restrictions, Oklahoma was the only state in the nation limited to just two candidates for president in 2004, and it was one of only two states where the Libertarian Party's presidential candidate was not on the ballot.

The issue may be taken out of the legislature's hands.

A ballot access lawsuit — *Libertarian Political Organization v. Clingman* — brought by the Oklahoma LP is on appeal to the Oklahoma Supreme Court.

The Libertarians agreed to a stay in the case to give the legislature the opportunity to act, but the suit will now continue. It will likely go to trial later this year.

### ■ OREGON

## LP HQ involved in traffic accident

Early in the morning on Feb. 27, while members of the Libertarian National Committee were in Portland for their quarterly meeting, a car drove through the front door of LP Oregon headquarters in Beaverton — a suburb of Portland.

"Somebody was so excited to register Libertarian that they just couldn't wait and drove right through," joked Adam Mayer, chairman of the Oregon LP.

Actually, there was a car accident early that morning, with the car skidding out of control and through the front window and door.

"The landlord said it's happened here a couple of times before," Mayer said. "There is a great deal of traffic here, so accidents are bound to happen. High traffic is part of the reason we chose this location."

"Thankfully, it was in the middle of the night when nobody was here, so nobody was hurt," he added.

### ■ TEXAS

## Libertarians author bill to ease ballot access

Texas is the only state that prohibits voters who participate in a political party's primary election or a local party convention from signing ballot access petitions for political parties or independent candidates for office. Since 1972, the six other states that had a similar provision have dropped it.

Now, the Texas LP is working with state legislators to get a bill passed to eliminate this facet of election law, which is called "primary screenout."

On Feb. 28, State Representative Todd Baxter, a Republican, filed the bill (HB 1721) for consideration by the state House's Elections Committee, after Libertarians crafted the original language and lobbied for its support.

"It has been great working with Rep. Baxter and other legislators to craft this bill and help restore some trust in the electoral process," said Patrick Dixon, LP state chairman.

"He has been very helpful and cooperative in this effort."

Since being filed, the bill has received several co-author signatures from other state representatives, including Democrat Mark Strama and Republicans Terry Keel and Suzanna Gratia Hupp.

"It is time Texas respected the rights of voters," Dixon added.

In 2004, Libertarians in Texas collected more than 82,000 petition signatures in order to qualify the party for the general election ballot in November.

Texas Libertarians Quanah Parker and Tom Oxford, two 2004 candidates for Criminal Court of Appeals, each earned well over the 5 percent minimum needed under Texas law to trigger automatic ballot access for the Libertarian Party in the 2006 election, meaning the state party won't have to petition for ballot access that year.

### ■ VIRGINIA

## Libertarians lead anti-tax coalition

On March 8, voters in Henrico County on turned down a new meals tax, agreeing with the county LP that no new taxes are needed. The LP was the only political party to campaign against the county officials' proposed tax.

County officials spent more than \$25,000 to mail a pro-tax brochure to about 160,900 households, hoping to scare the county's voters into casting their ballots in favor of the new tax by threatening them with a property tax increase.

Only 14 percent of the county's 171,000 registered voters cast ballots in the election, compared to 76 percent who voted in the November general election. The tax referendum was defeated by 151 votes — with 11,783 in favor and 11,934 against the proposal.

The 4 percent tax would have been collected on all prepared meals purchased in the county; officials estimated that the tax would generate up to \$20 million per year.

County officials are now threatening to increase property taxes by up to 8.5 percent — just weeks after many county residents were mailed property assessments saying that their property had increased in value by up to 30 percent.

Rather than looking for new and creative ways to milk more money out of taxpayers, the county's elected officials should simply stop wasting money, Libertarians said.

"Citizens have sent the Henrico Board of Supervisors back to work to propose more responsible ways to manage the county," said George Marchenko, chairman of the Henrico County LP, noting that the county's "coffers are overflowing with revenue that's spent on wasteful, illegitimate functions of government."

While voters turned down the meals tax, they overwhelmingly supported issuing almost \$350 million in bonds to build new schools, parks, libraries and other facilities — apparently indicating that they want tax-funded goodies but don't want to pay for them.



# Take tourism off the dole, say VA Libertarians

The Libertarian Party of Virginia is calling for an end to taxpayer-funded tourism, pointing specifically to millions of tax dollars that have been dedicated to the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation — which LPVA chairman Steve Damerell said is a “perfect example of waste in Virginia’s budget.”

Jamestown was settled almost 400 years ago — the quadricenten-

nial celebration is set to begin two years from now — and the Virginia General Assembly is currently sending the foundation \$7.6 million per year to help with preparations for the celebration.

The state has also approved \$38 million to help pay for capital projects at the historic site, according to a recent press release from the Virginia LP.

Eight years after the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation’s 1996 inception, approximately 48 percent of the foundation’s funding comes from donations, gift shop sales and admissions revenue.

“It took eight years for the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation to become only halfway self-sufficient,” Damerell said. “If this had been a fully private endeavor, the

foundation would be self-sufficient and making a profit by now.”

Those who doubt that a historical site like Jamestown could be adequately funded by donations and other private revenue need only look across the state for a stellar example of how the free-market system can succeed: Thomas Jefferson’s home, Monticello.

Monticello is visited every year by more than half a million people. The facility is owned and operated by the Thomas Jefferson Foundation, whose \$14 million annual budget is entirely sustained by admission fees, museum shop sales and private gifts. And no regular federal or state support goes to the foundation.

Privatization would also work in Jamestown-Yorktown, and it would likely work out better than the current system is, Damerell noted — pointing out that more than a thousand people have volunteered their time to work for the foundation.

“How many more would volun-

teer their time if they did not have to work so much to pay for last year’s tax hike?” he asked. “Privatization is the only way to make sure the foundation does not continue to be a burden on the taxpayers.”

“Increasing taxes — especially the sales tax — will not encourage people to visit the state and will lead to fewer jobs in the tourism industry.”

There is enough money in the tourism industry, especially in history-rich Virginia, that “there is no reason the state has to provide corporate welfare for those involved in that industry,” Damerell continued.

In fact, allowing the state’s bureaucracy to oversee part of the tourism industry will only make the industry more inefficient, he said.

“Higher state taxes will be needed to pay for the bureaucracy and will make Virginia a less attractive place to visit. The bloated bureaucracy will end up killing off the industry, so it is time to get the government out of tourism.”



■ Monticello, Thomas Jefferson’s home in central Virginia, can serve as a model of privately funded tourism. The house and a nearby museum are owned and operated by a private nonprofit organization — the Thomas Jefferson Foundation — whose annual budget is entirely funded by private and corporate donations, admission fees and museum shop sales. Virginia Libertarians are calling for a similar funding program for the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation. (Photo by LP News Editor J. Daniel Cloud)

## Louisiana ballot access eased

Continued from Page 1

of as “independent,” Wolf said, noting that “many of the Democrats and Republicans in the legislature objected to the word “independent” because they consider themselves independent even though they

belong to a political party.

Under the system as it has existed since the 1970s, voters often didn’t know about the range of party choices that were available, Louisiana Libertarian Party Chair Vinson Mouser said after the bill was approved.

Because the candidates from smaller parties couldn’t be identified by party affiliation, people who went to the polls weren’t able to vote for the Libertarians unless they knew them by name, Mouser added.

The new law stipulates that any party that has 1,000 registered voters in the state and has paid a one-time fee of \$1,000 will be represented on the ballot, as will any party that has had a candidate receive at least 5 percent of the vote in any statewide election.

“There was a natural concern in the legislature about having ‘frivolous parties’ forming, so they did want to set a threshold,” Wolf said.

“We were able to show that no frivolous party had ever been formed that had 1,000 registered voters, so they approved that figure.”

The Libertarian Party currently has about 1,400 registered voters in the state and recently paid the fee to officially qualify as a political

party.

No other parties have stepped forward to take advantage of the new law.

The Green Party has approximately 700 registered voters, Wolf noted, “so with a little more work and \$1,000, they could be a qualified party, too.”

With this one change in law, Louisiana has gone from being one of the most difficult states in the country for a party to get its name on the ballot to being one of the easiest states for third parties to get ballot access, he added.

It also means that the Libertarian Party will be able to get its presidential candidate on the ballot in Louisiana without having to pay a fee for the privilege, says Richard Winger, editor of *Ballot Access News*, which tracks third-party politics.

As long as the party remains qualified, the name of the party will appear on the ballot next to every candidate it runs, Wolf said.

However, the Libertarian Party — and any other qualified parties — will lose the right to that status if they drop below the 1,000-registered-voter threshold at any time, or if they don’t run a candidate in any statewide election in a given year.

### Online Resources for LP Members

■ Find contact info for your state Libertarian Party or your State Chair

Visit: [www.LP.org](http://www.LP.org)

Click on: Organization

Click on: State Parties

Click on: [Your state]

■ Find contact info for the National Committee

Visit: [www.LP.org](http://www.LP.org)

Click on: Organization

Click on: National Committee

Click on: LNC Directory

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Visit: [www.LP.org](http://www.LP.org)

See: Special Features (left side)

Click on: Renew

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Michael Scheuer

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Edward Stringham

Vin Suprynovicz



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# LIBERTARIAN PARTY 2004 ANNUAL REPORT

*A report on the party's goals, accomplishments, shortcomings, and finances in 2004*

## ★ FROM THE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

### A year of progress

Having already used up my New Year's reflections column, I am now called upon to speak to you regarding the year in review. Seems a little similar, but since I was more lofty and conceptual the last time, I will try to address some on-the-ground observations.

#### ■ Budget and membership

As the material provided here, and in the mailing to each of your homes outlines, we had some very significant — though not enormous — wins in the last year.

Membership gains over the year turned a tide. The source of this increase — aggressive outreach to our old friends (lapsed members and associated organizations) — establishes a process which should be repeatable into the future. Our plan for 2005 calls for more of this type of outreach, while finding other ways to continue core membership growth.

These new (or regained) members were greeted by our telephone calling staff (more about them later) with "welcome" phone calls. Though most of these probably do reach voicemail of one form or another, as in all relationships it is the thought that counts. In fact, on a recent visit with local activists in Kansas City, I met a young lady who had recently joined the party online. She was truly impressed, even shocked, that our organization cared enough about its members to make a personal call of welcome.

Our budget remains strong, but controlled. We have continued our emphasis of restricting funds to their purpose. That means that membership dollars are spent only on membership services. Project dol-

lars are restricted to the projects for which they are given. Of course this is a good news/bad news story, because many projects are struggling to find their donor base.

If there is something that you think the national LP should be doing more of, the quickest way to make that happen is to designate your contributions. This can be done in our mail forms, or by speaking with our development staff.

#### ■ Office and staff

For many years there have been battles waged within our party regarding the size and professionalism of our national office and our staff. The year of 2004 saw our staff change dramatically. We experienced significant turn over, from a long term, senior staff, made up predominantly of members. These individuals held a wealth of real experience dealing with our party and our processes, and they commanded our respect and our friendship.

Due to our financial difficulties over the past two years we were forced to rethink what our staff should look like. In the end we were forced to make hard decisions and rebuild our staff.

We chose to look outside our membership and use real world job experience as our guide. J. Daniel Cloud, the editor of this publication since early 2004, has been the editor of a weekly newspaper and a reporter for daily newspapers; Jessica Neno Wilson, our development professional, previously managed development operations for other nonprofits; and Samuel New, our state affiliate services person, has actually worked on Capitol Hill on the constituent service staff of a

congressman. In addition we chose to rethink our staffing to make much greater use of contractors, interns and college students (part-time).

The transition has not been without glitches. There has been institutional memory lost in the process.

But our new staff has risen to the challenge and has brought forth and built some very exciting new programs. Some of their new ideas have been real winners, and others have not exactly taken off.

In an organization seeking growth, adherence to the old way of doing things is not a top priority. We will continue to seek out professional staff who are interested in joining a cause as big as ours.

#### ■ A big thing

Those of you who have watched my contributions to *LP News* carefully may have noticed that I sometimes stray outside of the expected. To that end, this month I would like to share a thought that has been at the top of our minds at the Dixon house this year.

Mom. Each of us has fond memories of our mother, but many of us have gotten busy with our work, our lives and our volunteerism. When was the last time any one of us took the time to sit and talk, or better yet to listen, to our mother?

In the midst of our efforts in this party, we should all take a moment to remember our mom and the rest of our family.

But while we are at it, we should also take the time to consider the families of our fellow Libertarians. Make sure that some of our events are family-oriented or at least family-friendly. Host parents of awardees at dinners, or make an effort to include children when recognizing candidates and activists.

And consider what your mom would say about your e-mails and other communications with other members of the party and with people outside the party.

Keep it civil.



## LP State-by-State Membership Numbers

Libertarian Party membership as of Dec. 31, 2004. This chart includes both card-carrying members and "subscribers" — those who contribute to the party but who have not become full members by signing the pledge.

Alabama	265	Montana	83
Alaska	114	Nebraska	97
Arizona	427	Nevada	286
Arkansas	119	New Hampshire	235
California	3,575	New Jersey	503
Colorado	618	New Mexico	223
Connecticut	278	New York	814
Delaware	73	North Carolina	520
D.C.	65	North Dakota	32
Florida	1,239	Ohio	830
Georgia	998	Oklahoma	157
Hawaii	93	Oregon	425
Idaho	96	Pennsylvania	861
Illinois	820	Rhode Island	61
Indiana	609	South Carolina	237
Iowa	198	South Dakota	41
Kansas	226	Tennessee	360
Kentucky	160	Texas	1,259
Louisiana	161	Utah	178
Maine	118	Vermont	85
Maryland	439	Virginia	775
Massachusetts	509	Washington	703
Michigan	902	West Virginia	84
Minnesota	328	Wisconsin	331
Mississippi	76	Wyoming	59
Missouri	361	States + D.C. Total:	22,106

Other U.S. areas (9) / APO-FPO (45) / Non-US (17): 71  
**Total Libertarian Party Membership/Subscribers: 22,177**

## ★ FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### Political success

In 2004, we ran a surprisingly successful presidential campaign, broke records in local races, saved taxpayers billions of dollars around the nation and made it clear why we're America's real third party.

The number of dues-paying LP members and subscribers has been declining since 2000. In 2004, we were able to increase membership in 2004 — the first overall membership increase in four years.

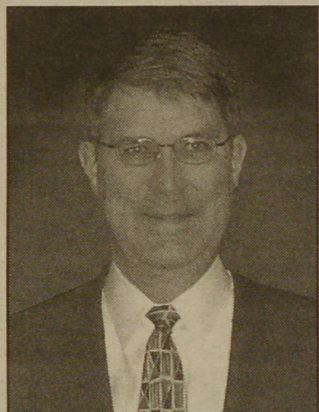
As 2004 drew to a close, we had 20,293 card-carrying members, which is an increase of 4.5 percent over 2003. We also have 1,907 "sub-

scribers" who pay dues but have not signed the pledge. While 4.5 percent is not a huge increase, it's a big step in the right direction. And it means we're doing something right.

I believe that 2004 could be called a success even if expanding membership was the only positive thing that happened all year. But it wasn't.

Our national convention in Atlanta featured a standing-room-only crowd of 800 delegates, glowing media coverage, and an exciting presidential candidates' debate followed by a breathtakingly close election.

See **SUCCESSES** Page 14



■ **MICHAEL DIXON**  
LP CHAIR



## LIBERTARIAN PARTY 2004 ANNUAL REPORT

## ★ LP TREASURER'S REPORT

# 2004: Stabilizing core LP operations

In 2004, the Libertarian National Committee, Inc. (LNC) continued its progress in reducing expenses and stabilizing core operations. Joe Seehusen, our executive director, continued his successful efforts at reducing costs. Notable were significant reductions in fund raising expenses, and continued reductions in the production and mailing expenses for *LP News*. Seehusen was also able to manage salary costs well below the 2000-2002 levels.

Despite competition from other areas, Seehusen stabilized the core fund raising, with a strong emphasis on sending out regular direct-response mailings and stopping the five-year slide in pledge income. As a result, the 2004 revenue (\$2,127,781) was the highest since the 2000 presidential election year.

However, project-based fundraising, primarily for ballot access and the presidential campaign, seriously eroded core fundraising. The LNC needs to evaluate



■ MARK NELSON  
LP TREASURER

its commitment to 50-state ballot access and to future presidential campaigns, relative to the limited benefits they provide the LP.

Additionally, Seehusen jump-started prospecting. His outreach program to bring back lapsed members broke even, while increasing LP membership for the first time in several years. Although the increase was modest, the turnaround from a steady decline beginning in 2000 is a significant event.

Geoff and Nancy Neal produced a frugal convention that paid for itself. This was the first time in several convention cycles that the LNC has not subsidized the biannual convention. And Bill Redpath, the ballot access chairman, produced 48-state presidential ballot access for roughly half the expense reported for 50 states in 2000.

The notable expense in 2004 was for Raiser's Edge, the membership software. The total expenditures for this software, including installation and consultation, were \$113,705. The installation of Raiser's Edge has resulted in improved service, and increased efficiency in the national office operations.

Affiliate support, primarily through the Unified Membership Program (UMP) continued to be the second-largest expense for the LNC. Roughly \$300,000 of nationally raised funds was sent to the participating states through this program.

This is the first year we separately reported professional services, removing it from the governance line. This allows the LNC to better evaluate the tradeoffs between staff costs and "outsourcing" and allows the membership to see the costs of LNC meetings.

The modest deficit (\$92,823) noted in 2004 operations is entirely due to accounting for depreciation. However, the LNC's inability to sustain a reasonable reserve leaves us susceptible to unexpected downturns, such as the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Several accounting changes were made in 2004 that resulted in negative changes to our balance sheet. Based on the advice of our 2003 auditor, deferred revenue for membership was added as a liability. This was a controversial decision, and is not consistent with the internal accounting practices used by other political parties. Additionally, the LNC is no longer capitalizing any purchases. With these accounting changes, the substantial change in the net worth does not reflect the LNC's actual experience.

I am pleased, as I believe the membership should be, with our Executive Director's success in reducing expenses without significant damage to core operations. I believe this will ensure the short term viability of the Libertarian Party, and will serve to position us for growth.

The LNC needs to increase our core cash flow.

It is my opinion that this is best done through stabilizing and building the pledge program. I encourage every member to consider a monthly pledge to the LP.

Additionally, the LNC needs to create cash reserves.

I encourage the membership to join me in asking the LNC to continue being frugal and to discipline itself to set aside a prudent cash reserve.



## 2000-2004 LNC Balance Sheet Summary

DATE	12/31/00	12/31/01	12/31/02	12/31/03	12/31/04
Assets	\$723,523	\$679,165	\$502,611	\$358,841	\$81,992
Liabilities	\$473,345	\$496,133	\$616,186	\$299,702	\$504,607
Net Worth	\$250,178	\$183,032	(\$113,574)	\$59,139	(\$422,685)
Gain (Loss)	\$93,511	(67,146)	(\$296,606)	\$172,713	(\$481,824)



## LNC Revenue & Expense Summary 2000-2004

LNC Revenue	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
<b>Revenue: HQ Fundraising</b>					
Direct Mail - House List	\$1,051,591	\$498,331	\$359,607	\$335,847	\$480,760
Pledge Program	\$502,661	\$479,545	\$435,217	\$419,748	\$351,889
Membership	\$528,106	\$484,985	\$384,990	\$550,471	\$473,444
Major Donors	\$292,003	\$74,665	\$141,900	\$195,954	\$2,570
Telephone Fundraising	\$135,793	\$83,347	\$49,912	\$—	\$—
Email/Web Fundraising	\$110,080	\$139,207	\$169,098	\$—	\$—
Other	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$128,318	\$—
<b>Subtotal HQ Fundraising Revenue</b>	<b>\$2,620,234</b>	<b>\$1,760,080</b>	<b>\$1,540,724</b>	<b>\$1,630,338</b>	<b>\$1,308,662</b>
<b>Other Revenue</b>					
Convention Registration Fees	\$242,145	\$—	\$145,387	\$897	\$178,017
Convention Fundraising	\$130,034	\$—	\$28,930	\$—	\$35,992
Prospecting/Inquiry Response	\$229,285	\$116,664	\$41,255	\$—	\$80,638
Website	\$109,880	\$82,125	\$—	\$—	\$—
List Rental	\$87,562	\$39,559	\$36,583	\$12,075	\$16,099
LP News	\$80,985	\$65,415	\$65,003	\$29,865	\$43,578
Material Sales	\$76,502	\$44,953	\$58,435	\$41,402	\$44,105
Drug War Focus Strategy	\$—	\$—	\$126,974	\$—	\$—
Ballot Access	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$228,291
Projects	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$192,230
Other	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$9	\$169
<b>Subtotal Other Revenue</b>	<b>\$956,394</b>	<b>\$348,716</b>	<b>\$502,567</b>	<b>\$84,248</b>	<b>\$819,118</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$3,576,627</b>	<b>\$2,108,796</b>	<b>\$2,043,291</b>	<b>\$1,714,586</b>	<b>\$2,127,781</b>
<b>LNC Expenses</b>					
Paid Staff	\$574,507	\$577,805	\$564,514	\$474,246	\$506,407
Affiliate Support	\$525,377	\$487,149	\$384,911	\$305,174	\$298,518
Ballot Access (LP & Candidates)	\$507,105	\$100,101	\$134,367	\$8,084	\$270,398
HQ Fundraising Expenses	\$356,602	\$240,991	\$310,532	\$286,302	\$195,639
Convention Organizing	\$314,698	\$10,562	\$310,532	\$—	\$193,578
Prospecting/Inquiry Response	\$335,660	\$177,325	\$16,095	\$—	\$80,470
Advertising (Candidates & LP)	\$262,273	\$27,113	\$—	\$—	\$64,162
LP News	\$135,253	\$135,491	\$108,177	\$—	\$54,948
General Office	\$110,099	\$122,498	\$176,090	\$58,712	\$78,352
Professional Services	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$36,753
Software & Equipment	\$90,001	\$33,360	\$26,084	\$34,575	\$128,566
Rent & Utilities	\$88,699	\$92,197	\$97,242	\$118,320	\$116,460
Other Campaign Support	\$55,549	\$4,864	\$—	\$1,500	\$17,112
Material Sales	\$45,952	\$29,708	\$50,758	\$14,733	\$30,217
Website/Internet	\$33,136	\$16,514	\$14,730	\$11,762	\$38,663
Governance (LNC)	\$31,401	\$123,520	\$59,001	\$69,905	\$17,022
Drug War Focus Strategy	\$—	\$—	\$130,720	\$—	\$—
Branding & Marketing	\$—	\$—	\$44,509	\$—	\$—
Depreciation	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$43,200	\$93,340
Interest Expense	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$605	\$
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$3,466,310</b>	<b>\$2,179,198</b>	<b>\$2,428,262</b>	<b>\$1,427,118</b>	<b>\$2,220,604</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$110,317</b>	<b>(\$70,402)</b>	<b>(\$384,971)</b>	<b>\$287,468</b>	<b>(\$92,823)</b>



# LIBERTARIAN PARTY 2004 ANNUAL REPORT

## ★ FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# Successes and strengths: LP growth in 2004

Continued from Page 12

The party united around our candidate, Michael Badnarik.

And while Badnarik didn't ultimately tip the balance on Election Day, the campaign did yield important long-term benefits for our party: Badnarik TV ads increased overall name recognition of the LP from less than 50 percent to over 76 percent.

The campaign also increased awareness of the LP by spending \$335,000 on radio and TV ads, distributing 15,000 lawn signs, 40,000 bumper stickers and 20,000 pieces of LP literature. And it generated more than 16,000 inquiry names that we hope to convert into new members.

### ■ Ballot access

We were all disappointed that we narrowly missed ballot status in New Hampshire

and couldn't quite crack Oklahoma. But by getting on 48 ballots (plus DC), we triumphed over all our competitors: Ralph Nader got on only 39 ballots, the Constitution Party got on 35 and the Greens, just 27.

I say we should hold our heads high. And I'm not alone.

As third-party guru Richard Winger said, "In a year with tough sledding for all non-major party presidential candidates, the Libertarian Party can pat itself on the back. We still left other third-party competitors eating our ballot access dust, and most important, 98.5 percent of all Americans got to see a Libertarian on their ballot!"

### ■ Getting elected

More good news: LP candidates for the U.S. House earned over 1 million votes for the third time in a row. No other third party has ever done it twice.

On the local level, we had another record-breaking year as more Libertarians were elected — 38 — than in any previous presidential election year.

How about a round of applause for those 38 Libertarians? Because, for the first time in our history, we now have more than 600 Libertarians in office nationwide!

That's right: We now have 605 individuals serving in public office, which is far more than all other

third parties combined.

But it's not just the quantity, but the quality, that counts: 12 of 2004's victories came in races such as city and county council.

How about our new Libertarian mayor, Bob DeBrosse, who was appointed to the top job in Piqua, Ohio, by his fellow city commissioners?

And Libertarian judge John Buttrick, who won re-election to Arizona Superior Court with an astounding 74 percent of the vote?

And Libertarian county executive Ben Brandon, who walloped his Republican opponent by a 2-to-1 margin in a partisan election?

And one of my favorites, though it wasn't a victory: In the May 4 race for mayor of Virginia Beach — Virginia's largest city, with a population of

436,000 — Libertarian Robert Dean earned an astonishing 43 percent of the vote, nearly toppling the 27-year Democratic incumbent. The only thing standing in the way of a first-place victory for Dean was the Republican candidate, who got a measly 6 percent of the vote — and was accused of "spoiling" the election for Dean!

### ■ Fighting taxes

Libertarians in California, Idaho, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, Oklahoma and Oregon helped to eliminate or beat back at least \$2.2 billion in tax hikes and existing taxes. That's \$2.2 billion that Americans get to keep rather than having their governments take it from them. That's \$2.2 billion that politicians won't be able to spend in 2005 and subsequent years, thanks to LP activism.

### ■ Affecting elections

Libertarians also had a major impact in close elections in 2004. Two examples:

In Oregon, an aggressive campaign by LP statehouse candidate Tom Cox knocked a taxaholic Republican right out of office. Cox had campaigned hard against incumbent Mary Gallegos, who had won election in 2002 by promising not to raise taxes — then reneged. Gallegos lost by 6 percentage points, while Cox garnered 9.5 percent and

was credited with being the margin of difference.

In Washington state, Libertarian candidate for governor Ruth Bennett made a huge impact by targeting the Democrat for defeat and getting over 63,000 votes in the process.

The Democrat squeezed by with a 129-vote win in the still-contested race, Bennett made her point. "Libertarians will have better negotiating power, because the two parties should see that we have the ability to hurt either of them in the next election."

These elections were in keeping with the theme that catapulted the LP into the major-media limelight in 2004: "Libertarians can affect the outcome."

It all started with an April 20 commentary in the *Christian Science Monitor* by political science profes-

or Lawrence R. Jacobs.

The article, titled "Third-party threat: It's not just Nader," argued:

"While Nader hurts the presumed Democratic nominee John Kerry, voters open to conservative third-party candidates who promote small government and criticize ballooning government budget deficits pose a significant threat to President Bush's re-election effort."

A third party candidate running as a Libertarian, Jacobs continued, "could sway the electorate enough to change history" if he or she received the kind of press attention that Ralph Nader attracted.

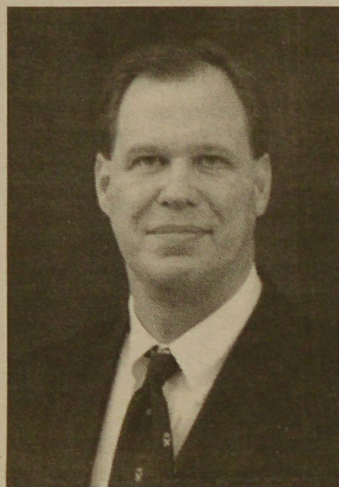
The article cited example after example of swing states in which voters who want smaller government turned to Libertarian candidates rather than Republicans, costing the GOP seats in each case.

The LP's national office immediately produced a press release about the article and blast-faxed it to hundreds of news outlets around the nation.

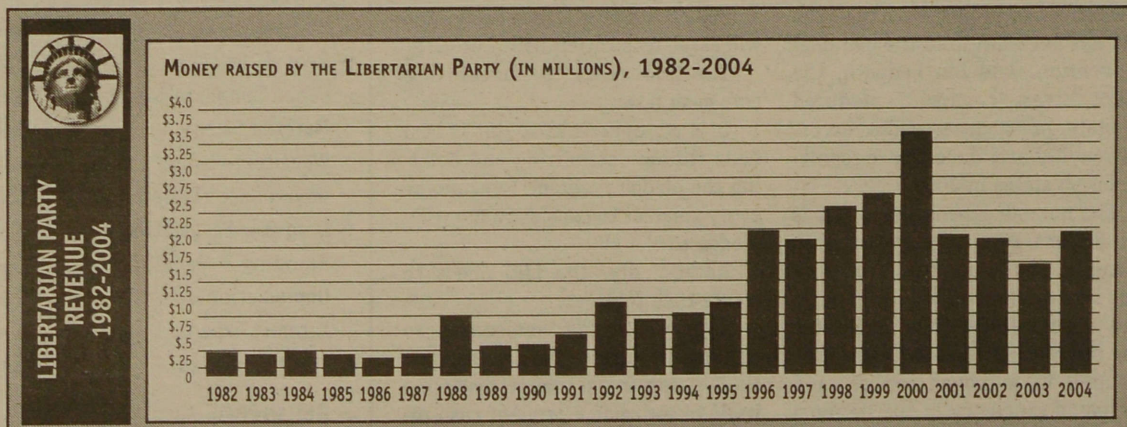
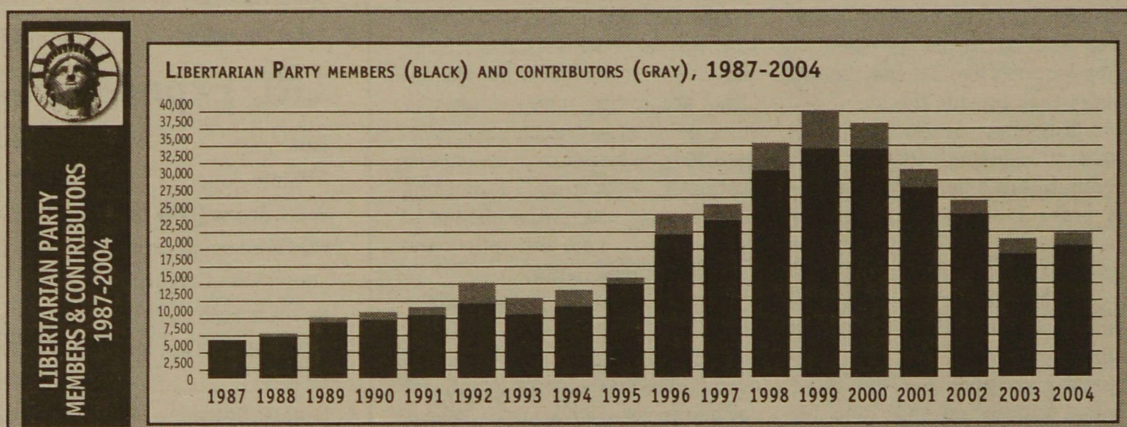
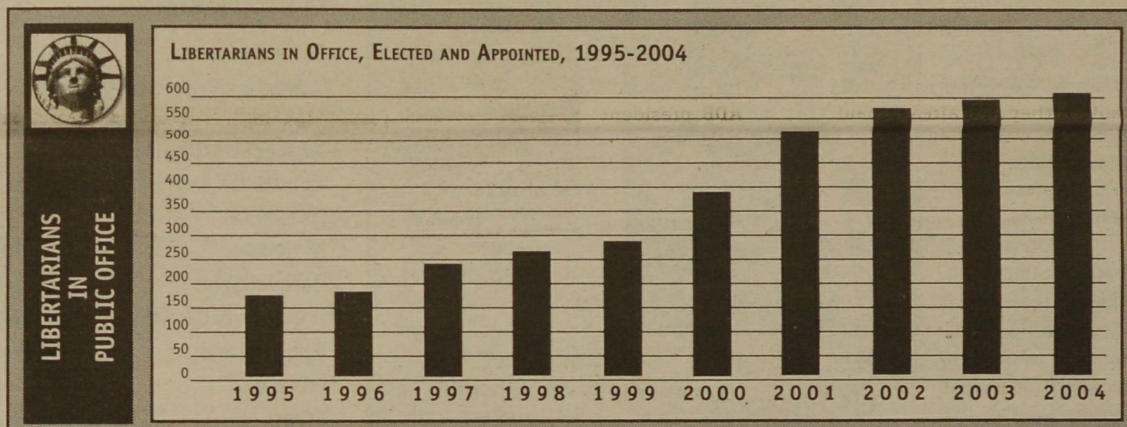
That triggered a similar article by CBSNews.com's chief political analyst, which led to a story in the *Los Angeles Times*, which prompted a piece in the *Boston Globe*, which sparked an article in the *New York Sun*, the *New York Times*, and on and on.

Yes, 2004 was a great year for the LP in many ways, and now we're laying the groundwork for an equally successful 2005.

But we can't achieve any of our goals without your support. Thank you for everything you do for liberty, and for the Libertarian Party. Now let's keep the momentum going!



■ JOE SEEHUSEN  
LP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR





# Providing relief for Southeast Asia tsunami victims

By J. Daniel Cloud  
LP NEWS EDITOR

In the weeks after a tsunami wreaked havoc along the Indian Ocean's coast on Dec. 26, 2004, President George W. Bush reportedly donated \$16,000 from his personal bank account to relief efforts.

Bush can be lauded for this move. Whether his donation was politically motivated or from a deeply held desire to assist the needy is beside the point. He gave his own money to a cause and should be applauded.

In donating his own money, Bush partly fulfilled a wish expressed by former Libertarian presidential candidate Harry Browne, who wrote in his online journal on Jan. 11 that what Bush should have told the American people is this: "I hope Americans will be generous in this time of need. I want to do my part, so I've written a check for \$10,000 as my contribution to the relief effort. I urge others to do whatever they can to help."

Unfortunately, while contributing his own funds, Bush also decided to steal hundreds of millions of U.S. taxpayer dollars to send to the relief effort, thereby forcing Americans both to fund the tsunami relief effort and — in the long run — to pay more taxes to fill the hole left when he co-opted more than \$350 million they had already paid.

As Browne noted, Bush "had no authority to commit even \$1 of federal money to anything that hadn't been approved by Congress — which in turn had no constitutional authority to commit even \$1 of federal money to any charity."

But the president and Congress are all too often unconcerned with what they're allowed by the Constitution to do.

Immediately after the tsunami hit, Bush pledged \$15 million in U.S. taxpayer money to the effort. Two days later he added another \$20 million. And a few days later, on Dec. 31, he succumbed to international pressure and multiplied the pledge by a factor of 10 — promising to take \$350 million from American taxpayers for tsunami relief.

"Surely relief efforts such as this are a proper function of government, and we owe it as humans to help our fellow man in this way," was the sentiment expressed by most journalists, commentators and others who covered the story.

Not so. The federal government has no right to give taxpayer money to any charitable effort, as Browne noted.

And pressure from the UN and other nations is beside the point: Let them complain that one of the world's richest countries hasn't contributed enough. Their complaints don't give our government the right to use our money in this fashion.

## Funds needed

The tsunami, resulting from an earthquake under the Indian Ocean, destroyed much of the coastline of

the ocean, striking particularly hard in India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand. More than 280,000 people were reported dead, many thousands more were injured or reported missing, and more than a million lost their homes.

Immediate needs included burial of the dead, prevention of communicable disease and provision of clean water, as much of the usual water supply was contaminated by sea water, by dead bodies and by human bodily waste in the absence of sanitary facilities.

Less immediate needs include the rebuilding of homes; the restoration of livelihoods for those who lost their fishing boats or other means of income; and the rebuilding of infrastructure including roads and utility services.

The Manila-based Asian Development Bank (ADB) estimated that \$7.8 billion would be necessary.

As of mid-March, approximately \$3.5 billion had been pledged to the relief effort, leading ADB president Haruhiko Kuroda to note that there was a funding gap of more than \$4 billion, Reuters reported on March 18.

## U.S. response

According to a tabulation by the BBC, approximately \$950 million has been promised by federal, state and local governments in the United States.

While government organizations around the country were choosing to use taxpayers' money improperly in this way, Bush also called for individuals and corporations to give what they could to the relief effort.

"The greatest source of America's generosity is not our government, [but] the good heart of the American people," he said in a Jan. 3 press conference. "In the week since the tsunami struck, private citizens have contributed millions of dollars for disaster relief."

Bush called for more private donations, tapping his father — former president George Bush — and former president Bill Clinton to head a national fundraising effort.

By Jan. 10, U.S.-based non-governmental aid groups had already raised more than \$515 million.

That number is now very out of date, of course. But it's hard to keep tabs on a total for the simple reason that the money keeps rolling in.

Major corporations are joining the effort, as well.

Notable donations came from the Coca-Cola Company (\$10 million),

## Libertarian SOLUTIONS

Dow Chemical (\$5 million), Microsoft (\$3 million), and Dell — which pledged \$3 million, while another \$2 million was expected to come in from employee fundraising. Lions Clubs International pledged \$10 million toward relief efforts, and Save the Children USA reported on Jan. 6 that nearly \$25 million had already been raised by their efforts.

Pfizer donated \$10 million in cash and \$25 million worth of medicines.

And throngs of individuals contributed from their own pockets, including a reported \$1.5 million from Steven Spielberg and \$1 mil-



lion from actress Sandra Bullock.

Such donations — along with the thousands of dollars in small change collected at schools around the nation, and the millions given to the Red Cross and other organizations — are laudable and show the generosity to which Bush referred in his Jan. 3 speech.

## Foreign aid failure

Despite the monumental contributions by the private sector, many are still calling for increased U.S. government aid. Even some who generally would oppose foreign aid by the U.S. government have said that in the circumstances of this natural disaster, governmental action is appropriate.

But it's impossible to separate the current tsunami aid from the billions of dollars — approximately \$2.4 billion in 2004 — of taxpayer money that is used in foreign aid. Foreign aid programs have frequently proven to be ineffective, wasteful, even harmful.

This is just one more project in a long string of foreign aid efforts. How can Americans be expected to believe that the tax money sent to Southeast Asia will be used for the purposes it is intended?

If they give the money voluntarily to a charitable organization, they have opportunity to examine the history of that organization and decide for themselves whether the

group typically does what it's expected to do with donations.

As with any free-market decision, people who donate their own money are able to support the groups that they deem most worthwhile.

Given that understanding, how many thinking people would choose government groups as a solution to the problem?

Not many, if they looked into the history of U.S. foreign aid.

Speaking to the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on International Relations in March of 1997, Doug Bandow and Ted Galen Carpenter of the Cato Institute noted "there is mounting evidence that aid programs have been counterproductive, producing disappointing and sometimes disastrous results."

In light of this miserable track record, they said, Congress needs

to recognize that "the understandable desire to do something about" poverty, famine and violence "should not become an excuse to maintain the failed policies of the past."

Since World War II the United States has spent nearly \$1 trillion (in 1997 dollars) on bilateral and multilateral foreign aid" and the result has been "debt, dependency and poverty throughout much of the Third World."

Even earlier, in 1986, author James Bovard had noted that "for 40 years, U.S. foreign aid has been judged by its intentions, not its results. Foreign aid programs have been perpetuated and expanded not because they succeeded, but because giving foreign aid still seems like a good idea."

Specifically, Bovard said, aid hurts the nations to which it is given because it teaches those governments "to rely on handouts instead of on themselves for development. No matter how irresponsible, corrupt or oppressive a Third World government may be, there is always some Western government ... anxious to supply it with a few more million dollars. By subsidizing political irresponsibility and pernicious policies, foreign aid ill serves the world's poor."

## The solution

Rather than sending as foreign aid the money that has been taken from the American people in taxes, politicians should simply encourage those who can to give to non-governmental aid organizations. And then stand back and let each donor select those groups that have a history of providing aid to the people

in a disaster-stricken area, rather than giving money to governments that may or may not pass the funds along to people who need it.

As Bush noted, the American people are generous, and people in other nations around the world are in similar fashion giving generously to those hit by this recent disaster.

How much more generous do you think individuals and corporations would be if they didn't think the government was taking care of the situation for them?

If Americans knew that more money was needed and that politicians wasn't going to overstep their bounds by providing it out of taxpayer funds, they would give more money themselves.

Some charitable organizations actually stopped collecting money even though more people wanted to give — saying they had enough to deal with the existing needs.

The American Red Cross alone brought in \$423.2 million in donations and pledges for the relief effort, while the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies reported having brought in \$1.2 billion worldwide.

And both the American Red Cross and the international umbrella group stopped soliciting donations for tsunami relief on Jan. 26, with a spokesperson explaining that the American Red Cross had collected enough to carry out both its immediate and its longer-term plans in Southeast Asian relief.

The issue was not that people weren't giving — but that people were giving more than the organization could effectively use.

Would the Red Cross have stopped soliciting private donations for the tsunami relief operation if it was known that it and other private organizations were the sole means of relief for the disaster victims?

Don't bet on it.

And would more people have given to tsunami relief — or to other relief efforts — if they didn't feel that the government was taking care of the issue?

Absolutely.

Actually, I'll back that up with a personal promise: When our government stops stealing my money through taxes, claiming it's for valid and necessary U.S. government use and then spending it on unconstitutional relief efforts, I'll contribute far more than they currently take from me. And I'll do it voluntarily.

When the U.S. government ceases its current practice of taking my money and redistributing it as politicians see fit, I'll make up for it by personally donating at least \$1,000 per year to respectable organizations that I believe will use it responsibly.

I resent that Bush sent \$6 or so of my money to Southeast Asia without constitutional authority — but I'd gladly contribute a grand a year or so to a group I can believe in.

And I know I wouldn't be the only one.



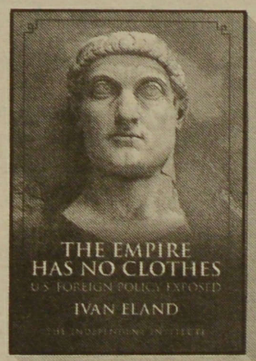
## THE REVIEW

# The empire strikes out

■ *The Empire Has No Clothes: U.S. Foreign Policy Exposed*, by Ivan Eland. 294 pages. Published 2004 by The Independent Institute. Hardcover, \$24.95. Available at [www.independent.org](http://www.independent.org).

Reviewed by Samuel P. New  
LP AFFILIATE SERVICES COORDINATOR

In the post-Cold War era of American foreign policy, the United States has emerged as the world's only superpower, presenting a unique opportunity for American politicians to define the rules in the international system. Unfortunately, policymakers have made poor choices by getting far too heavily involved in other nations' affairs, says foreign policy and defense expert Ivan Eland in his most recent work, *The Empire Has No Clothes*.



Many Americans — including most politicians — believe that U.S. foreign policy should be focused externally, with an emphasis on “democratizing” the world. They argue that the spread of democracy will help establish a “democratic peace,” based on the notion that democracies do not go to war with one another.

Contrarily, others — including most Libertarians — call for a foreign policy based on non-intervention, arguing that hornoring in on the affairs of foreign states will irritate the already hostile dynamic in international relations, thereby increasing the potential for armed conflict.

In *The Empire Has No Clothes*, Eland takes a hard look at U.S. interventionism, beginning with the Spanish-American War and chronologically narrating the history of the American proactive approach to shaping international politics.

As Eland unfurls his argument, he asserts that the imperialistic nature of interventionist foreign policy stands in stark opposition to the vision that the Founding Fathers established for the nation.

In support of his claim that empire-building represents a treacherous approach to foreign policy, Eland reflects on the modern international system — suggesting that in the current era, building a cohesive multi-state empire is impossible based on high levels of nationalism and localized allegiances.

“Some would argue that the two U.S. wars with Iraq were motivated, at least in part, by the desire to ensure the supply of resources (oil) for the American empire,” he says. “The United States, although a loose, informal empire, occasionally has to be reminded about the forces of nationalism that can face an occupying presence — for example, in Vietnam and occupied Iraq. Such experiences of resistance to American force ... should demonstrate to the great powers that formal empires in the modern world are probably nonviable.”

Eland continues with the assertion that empire building is a costly and unprofitable endeavor, often resulting in the creation of a competitive advantage for rival economies.

He asks, “So if the United States is constrained from invading, annexing, plundering, and enslaving foreign peoples and demanding preferential trade with them, what does it gain by providing — at great expense — security for the entire globe? The answer is, very little... More important, the United States is spending billions of dollars to defend rich allies that could defend themselves. Those allies instead have the opportunity to use those saved resources to better compete with the United States economically.”

*The Empire Has No Clothes* is a must-read for every Libertarian — nay, for every American, regardless of political creed — who has an interest in foreign policy. In this provocative work, Eland effectively argues that the objective of foreign policy should be shifted away from imperialism, nation-building, and curing failed states.

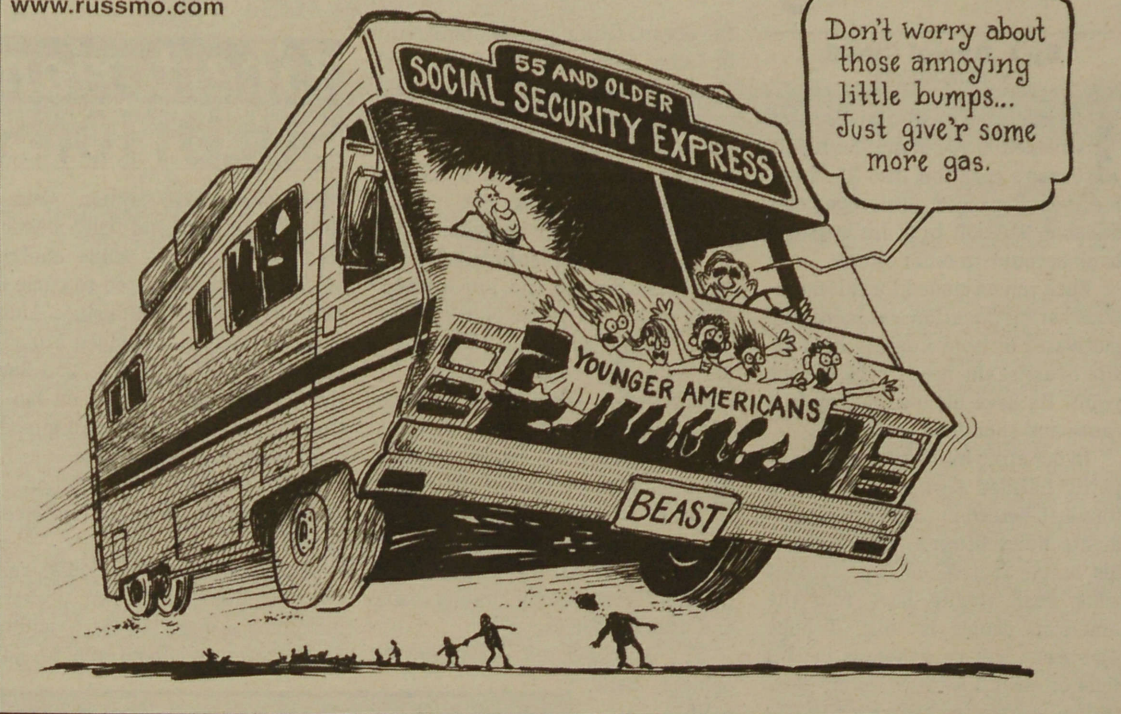
Eland also argues against “humanitarian” military intervention, suggesting that in many cases, such actions are entirely counter-productive. This work takes a hard look at the goals of U.S. foreign policy in the 21st Century, and shows the perils of the off-course direction that foreign policy has taken. He advocates a return to the principle of international military restraint, citing the erosion of domestic civil liberties that can result from international entanglements.

“All Americans should be against a U.S. empire, because it destroys the republic,” he says. “This is probably the most important argument against empire. ... In the United States, an imperial foreign policy has led to an imperial presidency that is much more powerful than the founders intended.”

In short, Eland contends that the best way America can make the world into a safer, more peaceful and increasingly prosperous place would be to adopt a non-interventionist, unobtrusive foreign policy.

No argument here.

Russmo 2/05  
[www.russmo.com](http://www.russmo.com)



## THE MAILBOX

### ■ What about the left?

Kudos to the LP for reaching out to fiscal libertarians at the Conservative Political Action Conference. That's the kind of low-cost outreach that the party should be doing between election cycles.

My only concern is that the LP not be seen as “right wing.” That misconception may prevent many social libertarians from ever considering us.

I'm not aware of a liberal counterpart to CPAC, but I hope that the LP appears at a left-leaning function sometime soon. With the ongoing occupation of Iraq, the gutting of the Bill of Rights and rising FCC censorship, we have much to offer them, too.

—JONATHAN TRAGER  
Washington, D.C.

### ■ As if it was your own

As a homeschooling mom, I am learning to trust life to provide the most useful lessons for my children.

When my son was turning 13, I asked him what he wanted for his birthday. He responded with, “a new deck of Magic cards.”

Being on a tight budget, I was unable to bring myself to spend \$60 on such an item.

I presented him with the \$60 and told him that he could buy the deck himself if that is what he really wanted.

His response? “No way am I spending my own money on that!”

I couldn't have created a more powerful example of how easy it is to spend someone else's money, as opposed to the care with which one spends one's own. With this one simple, real-life experience my 13-year-old now understands this bet-

ter than most bureaucrats do at any point in their careers of dishing out taxpayers' hard-earned money with wild abandon.

I think he's ready to run for office.

—RETTA FONTANA  
Rochester, Michigan

**WHAT IS**  
.....  
**my wisdom, if even**  
.....  
**fools can dictate**  
.....  
**to me? What is my**  
.....  
**freedom, if all are**  
.....  
**my masters?**  
.....

—AYN RAND

### ■ Runoff voting

**The Forum** in the January 2005 *LP News* examines the pros and cons of instant runoff voting.

The extreme form of runoff was proportional representation voting, which was used to elect Cincinnati City Council members from 1925 to 1957.

The ballot often contained lots of names — up to 25 if I remember right. The voter was instructed to place the number one in his first choice, then name his second and third choice, and as far as he chose.

The counting process took days. A quota number was chosen, so that the number of valid votes would elect nine, but not ten.

First choice votes were counted and placed in a pile.

Of course, one pile was biggest and that candidate was elected. He had more than the quota. So the

surplus votes out of his pile were carefully pulled, to get random votes out of the stack. The second choice on these votes went into the appropriate piles.

Then the last place votes, the loser's votes, were placed on the piles of their second choice.

And so it would go, until all 9 were elected.

The interesting fact of this was that the choices of the voters actually counted. We had Republicans, Democrats and independents. Every vote counted for someone.

Often the result created a 4-4-1 council, where the one independent really had the deciding vote.

Republicans hated it. Previously they had about 55 percent of the votes and controlled 90 percent of the council. Under proportional representation, they elected only four or five of the nine council members.

Eventually the Republicans won the publicity campaign against proportional representation. But by that time their influence had faded, and reasonably good councils were elected.

—EVERETT DEJAGER  
Cincinnati, Ohio

### ■ John Stossel

Keep up the great work you're doing! I especially appreciate the *Libertarian Party News*. What a fantastic publication!

An observation that perhaps you would like to comment on: It seems to me that John Stossel would make a fantastic Libertarian candidate for national office. Has any effort been made to contact him about running for office when he decides to retire from television?

—DARRYL SCHMITZ  
St. Johns, Michigan



## THE MAILBOX

### ■ Rand on plunder

[RE: Social Security] Ayn Rand makes the essential argument on collectively subsidized retirement and health care crystal clear: "I owe nothing to my brothers, nor do I gather debts from them. I ask none to live for me, nor do I live for any others. [I am not] the means to any end others may wish to accomplish. I am not a tool for their use. I am not a sacrifice on their altars."

She continues, "What is my wisdom, if even fools can dictate to me? What is my freedom if all ... are my masters? What is my life, if I am to bow, to agree and to obey? I am done with the monster of WE, the word of serfdom, the plunder of misery, falsehood and shame."

For any who are appalled by the cold, hard logic in these sentences, I would recommend Rand's earliest book, *We the Living*, which is a romanticized autobiography of the author's early life under a pure form of socialism during Lenin's rule. It's a good read and in some ways is better than her more well-known books, *The Fountainhead* and *Atlas Shrugged*.

—ALLEN TABER HYDE

Newland, North Carolina

### ■ Party dictatorship

What type of government do we have? Many people say a democracy, other say a republic. My description of the government is that we have a "Party Dictatorship."

As long as there are only two major parties, and one of these parties controls the presidency, the House and the Senate, we have a Party Dictatorship. The party controlling the three houses of government can do just about as they please.

The minority party can make all kinds of noise and wave its arms all it can, but the majority party controls. The majority party can pass legislation that will benefit its friends and supporters and throw the minority party a bone now and then.

The only ways that we can obtain a democratic government is to have three or more major political parties, or insure that the House and Senate are controlled by different parties, and it would help if the President were from a third party. It is my belief that the best solution is to have a strong third party, and maybe a fourth.

With three or more parties sharing the responsibilities of the government, there would be a better chance for the country to survive and grow. Any laws enacted would have to benefit the majority without giving in to special interest groups.

As if the present time my objective would be to enlarge the Libertarian Party — which appears to favor no particular industry, class of citizen or special interest — to a point that they would represent at least 30 percent of the population.

—DAVID R. KIETZKE

Seattle, Washington

### ■ Pat Buchanan

Although I disagree with Pat Buchanan on many issues, it was captivating watching his debate with top Israeli official Natan Sharansky on CBS's "Meet the Press."

Discussing the root cause of international terrorism, Buchanan accurately noted that interventionism and occupation are the cause of terror, not the cure for it.

"When Britain got out of Palestine, the terror stopped," he said.

"When France left Algiers, terror stopped. When Russia withdrew troops from Afghanistan, terror stopped."

I initially supported the preemptive war in Iraq, but have become increasingly skeptical of the rationale and legitimacy of our action.

—BARRY ROWE

Melbourne, Florida

### ■ Insurance

Jerry L. Dixon's letter ("Insurance," March 2005 *LP News*) struck a chord with me, because like him

I am also self-employed and dealing with health insurance issues. He wants to know what the Libertarian solution to the problem of separate standards (regarding insurance for groups and insurance for individuals) might be.

The answer to this question is deceptively simple because on the surface it doesn't seem a likely option.

We must eliminate the law you referred to that says that insurance companies must write group insurance without underwriting.

In fact, we must eliminate all

insurance and medical regulations and replace them with legislation that protects individual rights in every instance.

This second part is the key that makes the first part work.

The main reason insurance companies will currently try to wiggle out of underwriting customers with pre-existing conditions is that medical costs have been driven through the roof by over-regulation of the insurance and medical industries.

Remove that regulation so that medical costs can be slashed and insurance companies will be much

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— Charles A. Stuppy

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more willing and able to insure the "uninsurable."  
—WALT THIESSEN  
Seattle, Washington

## Stem cell research

Taboo is the cloning of human embryos for stem cell harvests. Perhaps a practical alternative would be to cull the cells from fetuses freshly killed in America's wars and battles.  
—DAVID MELVIN THORNBURGH  
Miami Beach, Florida

## Instant runoff voting

As a long time supporter and advocate for instant runoff voting (IRV) I was surprised and amused at J. Mills' letter in the February 2005 LP News wherein he claims that "IRV eliminates any possibility that emerging parties can ever hold a balance of power." In fact, the contrary is true. All evidence indicates that IRV would greatly enhance Libertarian vote totals. First, some background is in order. Under IRV, voters are allowed to select not one, but several candidates ranked in order of preference. Then, when the votes are counted, if no candidate secures a majority of first choice votes, the candidate with the least number of votes is eliminated and

that candidate's ballots reallocated to the second choice indicated on those ballots. Under IRV, no candidate wins unless he or she has a majority. Therefore, under IRV, those second and third choice votes would be critical to determining the outcome in any close race with three or more contenders. Mills says that the redistribution of a third party candidate's votes to the remaining two major party candidates would make that third party irrelevant. A little common sense directs one to make the exact opposite conclusion. For example, in the same February edition of LP News, it was reported that in the race for none other than the governorship of the entire state of Washington was determined by the Democratic candidate securing just 261 more votes than her Republican opponent, even though the LP candidate garnered over 63,000 votes! Under the present system of plurality voting those 63,000 Libertarian votes were irrelevant and instead the determination was based upon just those 261 democratic votes counted. Clearly, under IRV, those ballots, or rather the second choice on those ballots would have been the deciding factor. That is the exact opposite of Mills' contention.

Mills also contends, again unsupported by any facts, that building a third party cannot be accomplished just by "tweaking how we count votes." On the contrary, IRV will dramatically increase Libertarian vote totals because it eliminates the fear, held by many would-be LP voters, of throwing one's vote away. It is well established that the toughest opponent facing our Liber-

reason to regret voting LP, they're not going to do it again. Hence, Mr. Mills' premise is wrong because it is under the present system of plurality voting that citizens are often discouraged from voting for a third party. Under IRV, on the other hand, every vote is counted. Since under IRV the ballot is redistributed to the second choice on that ballot if the first choice is eliminated there is no longer the fear that voting Libertarian would "waste" that ballot.  
—EDWARD M. TEYSSEIER  
San Diego, California  
Chair, San Diego LP

Libertarian readers to send this list to newspapers and other forms of the media. What does the Constitution say that the federal government may do?

1. Borrow money.
2. Regulate commerce among states.
3. Regulate naturalization.
4. Regulate bankruptcies.
5. Coin money.
6. Fix weights and standards.
7. Punish counterfeiters.
8. Establish post offices.
9. Establish post roads.
10. Record patents.
11. Protect copyrights.
12. Create federal courts.
13. Punish pirates.
14. Declare war.
15. Raise an army.
16. Provide a navy.
17. Call up the militia.
18. Organize the militia.
19. Make laws for Washington, D.C.
20. Make rules for the Army and the Navy.

According to the 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment, all else is controlled by the states or the people. Remember that every elected official and government worker who swears to uphold the Constitution and then ignores the limits of Article One Section Eight lies under oath. And lying while under oath is perjury.  
—MICHAEL K. MITCHELL  
Anchorage, Alaska

**MOST [PEOPLE]**  
*have not read any  
of the Constitution  
since high school,  
and then they were  
poorly taught  
by ignorant teachers.*  
—MICHAEL K. MITCHELL

## Article 1, Section 8

Too often we speak of the constitutional limitations of the federal government as though citizens know what Congress may do as listed in Article One, Section Eight of the Constitution. Few people with whom I am acquainted know what is listed. Most have not read any of the Constitution since high school and then they were poorly taught by ignorant teachers. Below are listed the things that the federal government may do. These are abbreviated for clarity, however, the meaning has not been changed. May I suggest that the LP News print this abbreviated list in every issue. Also please encourage

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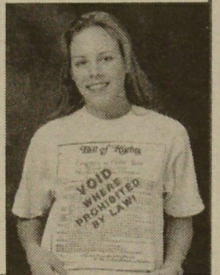
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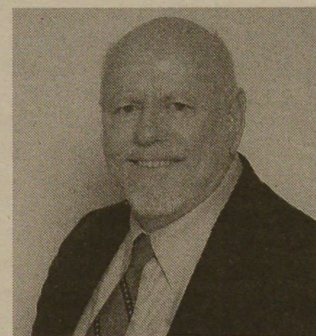
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## UPCOMING

### ■ April 2, 2005

**Iowa LP Convention**, at the Cedar Rapids Marriott. Speakers to include the 2006 Republican and Democratic candidates for governor, as well as Michael Whalen, policy chair of the National Center for Policy Analysis. Also, joint strategy session with representatives of the Green Party, regarding ballot access strategy. For more details, see [www.lpia.org](http://www.lpia.org); call (563) 340-2597; or e-mail [lpiachair@mchsi.com](mailto:lpiachair@mchsi.com).

### ■ April 2, 2005

**Nevada LP Convention**, at the Silver Club Hotel/Casino in Sparks, Nev. Business session from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m. For information, contact Emily Rahn at (775) 747-4073, [erah8@yahoo.com](mailto:erah8@yahoo.com), or P.O. Box 13644, Reno, NV 89507.

### ■ April 8-10, 2005

**Tennessee LP Convention**, at the Doubletree Hotel in Murfreesboro. Speakers to include LNC members Jim Lark and R. Lee Wrights. For more information, e-mail [chair@lptn.org](mailto:chair@lptn.org) or [treasurer@lptn.org](mailto:treasurer@lptn.org).

### ■ April 9, 2005

**Minnesota LP Convention**, in downtown St. Paul, Minn. Featured speakers to include keynote speaker Michael Badnarik, 2004 LP presidential candidate; author James Bovard; Mark Selzer, host of the "Libertarian Alternative" TV show; Michael Wilson, director of the film "Michael Moore Hates America." Badnarik will also host his class on the Constitution on April 10. For more information, visit [www.lpmn.org](http://www.lpmn.org) or e-mail [convention@lpmn.org](mailto:convention@lpmn.org).



■ James Bovard

### ■ April 16, 2005

**Massachusetts LP Convention**, at the Natick Hampton Inn, with a focus on opportunities for local activism in Massachusetts. Convention to run from 9:30-4:30, with registration from 8:30-9:30. For more information visit [www.lpma.org](http://www.lpma.org), or call Rich Aucoin at (781) 899-1418.

### ■ April 23, 2005

**New York LP Convention**, at the Holiday Inn at Carrier Circle, in Syracuse. John Taylor Gatto speaking. For more information, go to [www.ny.lp.org/official/convention](http://www.ny.lp.org/official/convention).

### ■ April 23-24, 2005

**Michigan LP Convention**, in Mt. Pleasant, Mich. Speakers to include Joseph Bast, president of the Heartland Institute. Executive Director Robert Butler of the Ohio LP will hold a campaign training seminar. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit [www.LPMich.org](http://www.LPMich.org).

### ■ April 29-May 1, 2005

**Pennsylvania LP Convention**, at the Harrisburg Hilton Hotel. Speakers to include LNC representative Jim Lark, Matthew Brouillette of the Commonwealth Foundation, and 2004 LP presidential candidate Michael Badnarik. For more information, contact Ron Goodman at [cumberland@lppa.org](mailto:cumberland@lppa.org).

### ■ April 29-May 1, 2005

**Indiana LP Convention**, at the Holiday Inn Lakeview in Clarksville, Ind. Speakers to include syndicated columnist Vin Suprynowicz; Willie Star Marshall, mayor of Big Water, Utah; Abdul Hakim-Shabazz, Indianapolis radio show host; and Jason Shelley of the National Federation of Independent Business. For more information, visit [www.lpin.org](http://www.lpin.org), e-mail [lpinhq@lpin.org](mailto:lpinhq@lpin.org), or call (317) 487-8337.

### ■ April 29-May 1, 2005

**North Carolina LP Convention**, at the Park Inn Hotel, in Hickory. Banquet address by LNC Chair Michael Dixon. To register, or for more information, go to [www.lpnc.org/convention/](http://www.lpnc.org/convention/).

### ■ May 12-14, 2005

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## FIRST WORD

"Libertarianism is a political philosophy, not a complete system of ethics or metaphysics. Political philosophies address specifically the state and, more generally, justice in human society. The distinguishing characteristic of libertarianism is that it applies to the state the same ethical rules that apply to everyone else. Given that murder and theft are wrong — views not unique to libertarianism, of course — the libertarian contends that the state ... has no more right to seize the property of others, beat them, conscript them, or otherwise harm them than any other institution or individual has.



"Libertarianism ... responds to the reality of difference, including profound cultural and religious difference, much better than other political philosophies, which are left trying to smash square pegs into round holes. ... "A libertarian order is not coming any time soon, but it should be plain to anyone who undertakes the investigation that the solution to war, bureaucracy, taxation, personal irresponsibility, and the rot of culture is not more government, it's less."

— DANIEL MCCARTHY, *The American Conservative*, March 14, 2005