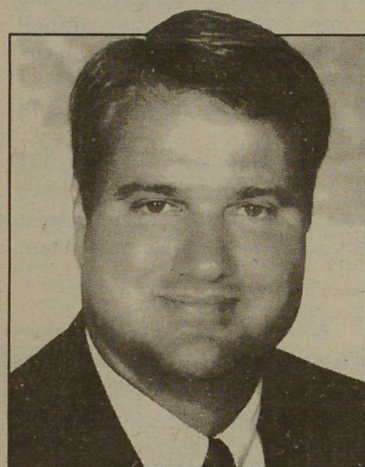


LIBERTARIAN PARTY NEWS

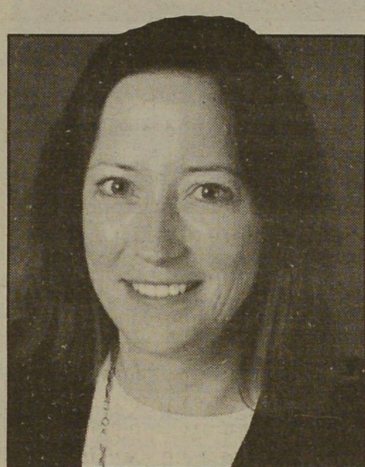
The Party of Principle

May 2001

The Official Monthly Newspaper of the Libertarian Party ★ Volume 16 / Issue 5



■ Scott Kohlhaas finished in fourth place in a five-way race for Dundee Township Library Board in Illinois.



■ Grabbing another spot on the Dundee (Illinois) Township Library Board, Julie Fox finished in first place.

Party wages cybercampaign against medical privacy rule

HHS rule would give your medical records to federal government

A Libertarian Party cybercampaign to defeat a privacy-busting federal regulation has suffered a setback — but party leaders say there's still a way to stop a proposed HHS regulation that would force you to "kiss your medical privacy goodbye."

The party has retooled its pro-privacy website, www.DefendYourPrivacy.com, to encourage Congress to pass a joint resolution that would block the regulation, said LP National Director Steve Dasbach, who is coordinating the campaign.

"We've lost Round One — but we can still win this important privacy battle," he said. "We just have to apply enough pressure so Congress will kill this terrible HHS regulation, even if George W. Bush refuses to do so."

On April 12, President Bush quietly ordered U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson to immediately implement the controversial rule, which would force doctors to turn their patients' confidential medical records over to the government.

JOIN THE CAMPAIGN!

For more information about the proposed HHS "medical privacy" regulation, and to sign the cyberpetition opposing it, visit:

www.DefendYourPrivacy.com

Bush's announcement came after the Libertarian Party had already generated more than 43,000 signatures on an electronic petition opposing the rule at www.DefendYourPrivacy.com, and bombarded Congress with tens of thousands of e-mails. At the same time, Americans flooded the HHS with 24,000 letters against the proposed HHS rule.

Delay regulation

HHS Secretary Thompson had been expected to delay the regulation because of the outpouring of protest, until Bush ordered it implemented. White House sources said Bush wanted to "show support" for privacy.

"More than 67,000 Americans spoke out against this regulation — but their opinions have been brushed aside by the Bush Administration," said Dasbach. "But we're not going to give up yet. We

can still make a legislative end-run around this regulation."

To accomplish that, the www.DefendYourPrivacy.com website is now set up to send e-mail to the U.S. House and Senate, urging Congresspeople to cosponsor and support House resolution HJR 38.

The resolution, sponsored by U.S. Rep. Ron Paul (R-TX), would declare that the rule "shall have no force or effect."

"Under federal law, this resolution would make the HHS regulation null and void — but only if it passes the House and Senate within 60 legislative days," said Dasbach. "In other words, if we can generate enough Congressional support for HJR 38 by about June 15, Bush's directive would become irrelevant."

The Libertarian Party opposes the HHS regulation — See **PRIVACY** Page 13

11 Libertarians win in Spring elections

By Jonathan Trager
LP NEWS STAFF WRITER

At least 11 LP candidates won office in local races during March and April elections — including a mayor and a city treasurer.

A total of six states saw Libertarians emerge victorious: Missouri, California, Oregon, Illinois, New Hampshire, and Wisconsin.

Of these states, the big winner was Illinois with five candidates elected. Oregon followed with two LP candidates claiming political seats.

Most candidates won positions on school or library boards,

but LP Political Director Ron Crickenberger said that "no job is too small" to advance liberty.

"In order to elect a lot of Libertarians, we have to elect a few first," he said. "We have to demonstrate that it can be done, and that our ideas will work once put into practice. These devoted Libertarians are helping us realize that goal."

High-profile

In one of the most high-profile races, Marian Smithson, an LP member, was re-elected as the City Treasurer of West Covina, California. Smithson garnered

See **11 WINS** Page 13

SPECIAL FEATURE

"Can we search your house?"

By Gary Thomas
LIBERTARIAN PARTY MEMBER

On November 7, 2000, I voted! My wife and I were at the poll when it opened and each of us voted for Harry Browne.

I'm 35 years old and I cast my first vote ever — for anything!

I've always intended to vote. In every election, I knew exactly

who I wanted to vote against. But I could never find anyone to vote for.

I tried to understand where the candidates stood on the issues, but their positions seemed to change every time a new opinion poll came out. I just couldn't keep up, so I didn't show up.



However, even if my voting record can never be complete, it can be perfect.

My path is a different one now — and I owe that to the Libertarian Party.

On the afternoon of June 30, 2000, I was participating in one of my favorite indoor

sports, channel-surfing. I paused on C-SPAN for a moment with the intention of receiving my daily dose of lies and hypocrisy, courtesy of the 106th U.S. Congress.

Little did I know that an hour later I would be crying my eyes out. But it was a good cry. I had finally found the LP. Ironically, this brilliant ray of enlightenment burst through the storm clouds of

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National Review: Republicans have a 'Libertarian problem'

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Steve Kubby fights against sentence imposed by judge

NewsBriefs

Paul bill would end tax withholding

Congressman Ron Paul (R-TX) has filed a bill to abolish income tax withholding.

The bill, the Cost of Government Awareness Act (HR 1364), frees "employers from the burden of acting as unpaid tax collectors for the IRS," said Paul. "[It] restores to all Americans the right to collect their entire paycheck, determine their own tax liability, and pay their tax bill directly to the IRS."

If HR 1364 passes, income tax payments would no longer be withheld by employers. Instead, individuals would have to make lump sum payments to the IRS.

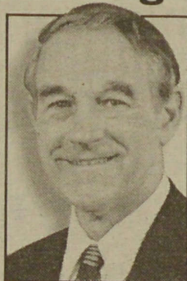
Such a system would make taxpayers aware of exactly how much money the government takes from them, said Paul.

"Withholding taxes are inherently deceptive," he said. "The government's premise is simple: The taxpayer won't miss the money he never gets. The goal of withholding is to make taxpayers less aware of how much they really pay each month to fund our massive federal government."

If Americans see how much they pay in taxes — when they are forced to write income tax checks for hundreds or thousands of dollars — "hopefully they will demand real spending and tax reform," he said.

The bill would also release businesses from the burden of acting as "unpaid IRS collection agents," said Paul. "No employer should be forced to determine, let alone collect, the federal tax liabilities of its individual employees."

Paul, who represents the 14th District in Texas, ran as the Libertarian Party's presidential candidate in 1988.



■ Ron Paul:
"Deceptive."

Michigan's Richard Whitelock dies

Former Michigan State Chair Richard (Dick) Whitelock has died of kidney and heart disease.

Whitelock passed away on March 26 at the Sperry Hospital in Lansing, said LP activist Virginia Cropsey.

"Dick was a hardworking, warm-hearted, honest, outreach-oriented freedom fighter," she said. "His pro-freedom activities assumed many forms in and out of the Libertarian Party."

During his more than two decades of Libertarian Party activism, Whitelock served two terms as the Michigan LP State Chair, hosted a radio program, ran for office several times, worked on initiative drives, testified before the state legislature, was an activist for the Ionia town LP, and pioneered the state LP's "Friend of Liberty" award.

During his tenure as State Chair, the Michigan LP retained ballot status for the first time in eight years and party membership more than tripled, said Cropsey.

"I always considered [him] one of the truly hardcore, creative freedom fighters," she said. "He will be missed."

Funeral services were held on March 30 in Ionia. Whitelock is survived by his wife Gloria, two sons, and grandchildren.

Larry Elder hosts TV's 'Moral Court'

The self-proclaimed "Sage from South Central" has brought his brand of Los Angeles libertarianism to television.

Popular radio talk show host Larry Elder has been serving as the host and star of the TV show *Moral Court* since October 2000. The program is nationally syndicated by the Warner Brothers Network.

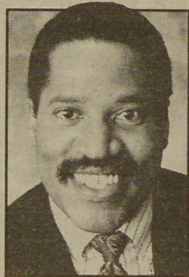
Elder, who has a law degree from the University of Michigan, judges disputes between parties who have ethical grievances against each other and awards cash prizes of up to \$2,000 to the winner.

The show, created by the same company that developed the *People's Court*, focuses on moral — rather than legal — solutions to disagreements, said Elder, and decisions are reached based on his libertarian principles.

"You start with the premise that everybody should be responsible for their own actions," he said. "Not blaming other people. Accepting the consequences of your actions."

Fans of Elder may have to find the show quickly, because it is competing against at least 10 similar "court" programs — including such syndicated powerhouses as *Judge Judy* — and has been languishing in the ratings.

Although not an official member of the LP, Elder has been called a "firebrand libertarian" by *Daily Variety* magazine. He has hosted a political talk show on KABC AM 790 since 1994.



■ Larry Elder:
Moral, not legal.

Oregon Co. Commissioner joins LP

Rob Johnstone was tired of political "backroom deal-making"

Another Republican politician has officially joined the Libertarian Party — marking the second time this year an Oregon office-holder has done so.

On March 8, Yamhill County Commissioner Rob Johnstone publicly announced that he was changing his party affiliation and joining the LP. According to Johnstone, the change was long overdue.

"I actually had been thinking about changing for a long time," he said. "The first libertarian book I ever read was Frederic Bastiat's *The Law*. Since then, I've always felt my thinking resonated well with the consistent libertarian message."

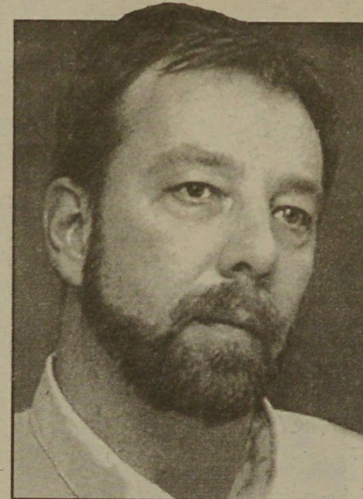
Just two months earlier, Oregon State Senator Gary George (R-District 2) had become a dues-paying member of the LP.

Unlike George, however, Johnstone has also switched his voter registration, making him the highest-ranking Libertarian officerholder in Oregon.

Good news

Oregon LP State Chair Adam Mayer said Johnstone's switch was good news for Libertarians.

"I'm very happy about Commissioner Johnstone's announcement," Mayer said. "[The state



■ Yamhill (Oregon) County Commissioner Rod Johnstone:
"I believe politics should begin with principles."

LP] has been very active at the grassroots level and these are the results. Politicians are realizing how positive and productive the party is."

Even before joining the LP, Johnstone said his voting history had earned him the reputation as something of a libertarian and as a staunch defender of private property rights.

For example, soon after his election to a McMinnville city council position in 1984,

Johnstone led the charge to kill a hotel/motel tax proposal. He was also successful in defeating a measure that authorized the city to use tax money to subsidize local businesses — although that victory was only temporary.

"After the measure was defeated, members of the local business association begged for the money and got another council member to change his vote on the issue," he said. "That's when I first saw someone bought and sold."

Johnstone left office in 1991 only to re-emerge three years later to challenge an incumbent Democratic county commissioner.

At odds

Although he won that election and the next with solid Republican backing, Johnstone said he has since found himself increasingly at odds politically with the local GOP establishment.

For example, he said his vocal opposition to the county DARE program — which he described as "a complete waste of money [that] just doesn't work" — has not endeared him to many of his colleagues.

In addition, Johnstone recently spoke in favor of a proposal

See **JOHNSTONE** Page 19

South Park co-creator is a Libertarian

Trey Parker, the co-creator of the politically incorrect and foul-mouthed TV cartoon *South Park*, has announced that he is a Libertarian.

Parker, 31, made the revelation in an April 4 *Los Angeles Times* article, where he described himself as a "registered Libertarian."

Parker and creative partner Matt Stone were interviewed by the newspaper about their new Comedy Central program, *That's My Bush!*, a send-up of the Bush presidency and TV sitcom clichés.

California Libertarian Party activist and longtime *South Park* fan Doug Scribner said he wasn't surprised by the announcement.

"I knew it!" he said. "You can tell by their often libertarian-leaning shows."

Although it was the first time Parker has publicly claimed a Libertarian affiliation, it's not the first time he's been tagged with that label: In November 2000, the *National Review* complimented

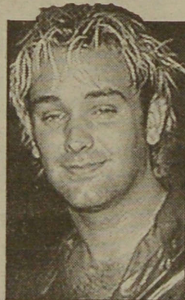
South Park for its "extremely amusing libertarian-minded political commentary."

Parker skyrocketed to fame — or notoriety — in 1997 when *South Park* debuted on the Comedy Central cable network.

The crudely drawn comedy show, starring characters Kenny, Cartman, Kyle, and Stan, features cartoon children using crude language and battling such menaces as a rampaging, Godzilla-size

Barbara Streisand and anal-probing aliens.

Parker and Stone later branched out into movies with *BASEketball* (1997), *Orgazmo* (1998), and *South Park: Bigger, Longer, and Uncut* (1999). The latter film, a cartoon/musical attack on censorship and jingoistic American military policy, was praised by the *Guardian* newspaper in London, England for its "libertarian message."



■ Trey Parker:
A Libertarian.



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Strategic Planning Team builds success timeline

Team's next job: To turn 700+ ideas into long-term strategy

The Libertarian Party's Strategic Planning Team is getting ready to create a timeline for success.

After two meetings — where team members came up with a list of more than 700 success-oriented ideas and organized them into general categories — the Strategic Planning Team (SPT) will meet in Washington, DC on April 22 to start developing a calendar of specific, achievable goals.

"Up to this point, we've been expanding our list of ideas," said Steve Givot, who is facilitating the SPT meetings.

"Now, at our next meeting, we'll start focusing on the ideas that appear to represent the best opportunities for the party to make significant strides, and try to figure out how long it will take to accomplish them."

The Strategic Planning Team — which has 20 members drawn from the Libertarian National Committee (LNC), elected Libertarians, and LP State Chairs — is working to create an "integrated strategic plan" to boost the success of the Libertarian Party.

Formed at the December 2000 LNC meeting, the SPT is working to formulate one-, two-, and three-year strategic action plans for the party. A final, com-



■ The LP's Strategic Planning Team — surrounded by more than three dozen State Chairs, and with facilitator Steve Givot in the center — conducts a brainstorming session at its first meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana. "Everything was on the table," said Givot.

prehensive plan will be presented to the LNC for approval in August 2001.

"The members are all doing a good job of putting together a successful plan for the party," said Givot. "We're getting a clearer focus as we go on."

Indianapolis

The strategic planning process began on February 10-11 with a meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana.

With the assistance of more than three dozen state party leaders who were attending a concurrent State Chair conference, the

SPT conducted a brainstorming session that generated 637 ideas intended to increase the LP's political success.

The expansive list of proposed ideas included reaching out to the Hispanic community; recruiting celebrities; targeting non-voters; building an LP campaign consultant team; emphasizing local races; eliminating the party's "purity police," and changing the LP's name to the Liberty Party.

Other ideas included adopting a "streamlined" platform; supporting term limits; ending the party's Unified Membership Program; solidifying the relationship

between the National LP and state affiliates; supporting LP county chairs; sponsoring a race car; and adopting a catchy theme song.

At its second meeting, March 10-11 in Chicago, Illinois, the SPT organized the 637 ideas — along with an additional 70+ ideas that had come up during discussions — into more than two dozen "functional categories" such as Outreach & Recruiting, Ballot Access, Governance & Bylaws, Operations, Media & Public Relations, and Electoral Politics.

Specific goals from the brainstorming session were linked to

each of the categories, said Givot, so SPT members can consider which strategies and tactics might work best to accomplish specific objectives.

For example, "emphasizing local races" could be part of the goal of electoral success, while "reaching out to the Hispanic community" could be one way to help accomplish the party-building goal, he said.

The team also took all the suggestions that included specific goals and sorted those goals into five general categories: 1) Electoral successes; 2) Party building; 3) Issue success; 4) External communications/Public relations; and 5) Parity with the Democrats and Republicans.

Develop timeline

At the April 22 Washington, DC meeting [held after *LP News* went to press], SPT members will start developing a time line to accomplish some of those goals, said Givot.

"The team will have to decide: Which of the goals can we expect to achieve measurable progress in, and how long will that take?" he said.

The SPT will also try to figure out what additional data it will need for future meetings, said Givot, and decide what to do about the ideas that don't fit into any of the current categories.

The SPT will hold at least three more meetings — and perhaps as many as five more — before

See **STRATEGIC** Page 17

The 'Real Kramer' runs for mayor of New York

Kenny Kramer, the man who inspired the Cosmo Kramer character on the hugely successful *Seinfeld* TV series, has announced that he is seeking the Libertarian Party's nomination to run for mayor of New York City.

"I'm in it to win," said Kramer. "With the success of Jesse Ventura becoming governor, why can't I become mayor?"

Kramer will seek the nomination at the state party's annual convention in Manhattan on April 28. There are no other announced candidates for the nomination, said New York LP State Chair Richard Cooper.

Despite the link to the zany Cosmo Kramer character, Cooper said the real Kramer would run a serious campaign for mayor — and focus on real Libertarian issues.

"Kenny realized we were the anti-political party for New Yorkers and joined us," he said. "Kenny Kramer is not a joke nor is his candidacy. [He is] serious

about the problems of New York City and its oppressive, overreaching government."

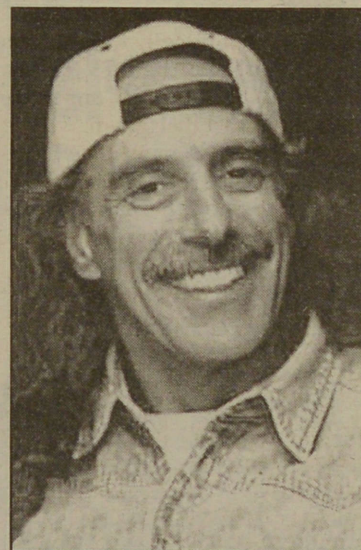
In his campaign, Kramer will point out that "the government in NYC needs to be much less oppressive and allow consenting adults the freedom to do whatever they like, as long as they don't hurt anyone," said Cooper.

Not kidding

In 1996, Kramer mounted an unsuccessful bid to win the Democratic nomination for mayor, which he acknowledged was a "kind of a publicity stunt." However, this time, said Kramer, "I'm not kidding."

Kramer, 57, has worked as a stand-up comedian, the manager of a British reggae band, and creator of disco jewelry. However, he became famous because he lived across the hall in a Manhattan apartment building from *Seinfeld* co-creator Larry David in the 1980s.

When David and Jerry



■ Kenny Kramer: "With the success of Jesse Ventura becoming governor, why can't I become mayor?"

Seinfeld launched the *Seinfeld* show — which would go on to become a ratings bonanza for NBC Television — Kramer served as inspiration for the "hipster doofus" character, Cosmo Kramer.

Played by actor Michael Richards, Cosmo Kramer was known for his hyperkinetic physical comedy, outrageous schemes, and loyalty to his neurotic, amoral sitcom friends — Jerry, George

See **KRAMER** Page 17

Do Republicans have a 'Libertarian problem'?

A major political magazine says that Libertarian Party candidates have cost Republicans control of the U.S. Senate — but LP leaders say that if Republicans kept their small-government promises, they would also keep their jobs.

On March 19, the *National Review Online* posted an article that claimed the "most under-reported political phenomenon of the last two election cycles [is that] Libertarian Party candidates are seriously hurting Republicans." A version of the article also appeared in the April 16 print edition of the magazine.

Cost seats

The article, written by political reporter John J. Miller and Senior Editor Ramesh Ponnuru, noted that LP candidate Jeff Jared may have cost Republican Slade Gorton his U.S. Senate seat in Washington state in 2000, while Michael Cloud may have knocked Republican John Ensign

MAGAZINE:

"Libertarian Party candidates are seriously hurting Republicans."

out of his U.S. Senate seat in Nevada in 1998.

In both cases, the Libertarian candidate won more votes than the losing Republican's margin of difference. If not for those two defeats, Republicans would have a 52-48 majority in the U.S. Senate, instead of the current 50-50 split with Democrats.

"Libertarians have put Republicans on the brink of losing the Senate," wrote Miller and Ponnuru.

See **PROBLEM** Page 18

NewsBriefs

Death-threat caller will stand trial

A man who made more than a dozen death-threat phone calls to the Washington state Libertarian Party has been found competent to stand trial.

Richard Mote, 43, was declared competent on April 6, after undergoing a two-week mental health evaluation. He now faces an arraignment and pre-trial hearing, and could be charged with three counts of felony harassment and two counts of gross misdemeanor harassment.

Washington LP Executive Director Jacqueline Passey Bartels said she was shocked that Mote had been found competent to stand trial. "I was surprised," she said. "Given the way he rambled and what we were told about him, he sounded like he had some mental problems."

If Mote does stand trial on criminal charges, Bartels said she hopes he gets some psychiatric treatment.

"I was hoping he would get some help," she said. "I don't know if he would get that in prison."

Mote, who was living in a homeless shelter in Olympia, had been arrested on February 22 after he had repeatedly called the Washington LP's toll-free number and said, "I want some of you people dead." His obscenity-laced threats also included hints that he might send letter bombs to LP members or plant car bombs.

Mote is currently in jail on \$20,000 bail, and was ordered to have no further contact with Libertarian Party members.

New Browne website now online

Former Libertarian presidential candidate Harry Browne's new foundation website is officially up and running.

The American Liberty Foundation's (ALF) site — www.americanlibertyfoundation.org — provides information about the educational organization created by Browne and former campaign manager Perry Willis shortly after the 2000 election.

According to the site, the foundation will work to educate the public about libertarian policy proposals via advertising. Specifically, the ALF will produce and air libertarian television ads after raising money to fund the purchase of airtime.

For a contribution of at least \$100, individuals can have their names placed on the permanent founder's list, which appears on the website. Contributors will also receive a videotape of the three ads the foundation has already produced.

According to the website, more than 60% of funds will go to the advertising campaign, with the remaining money covering administration costs and fundraising projects. In addition, the foundation plans to gain free publicity by producing op-ed pieces and booking spokespeople on talk shows.

Subscribers to LibertyWire — Browne's free email newsletter — will automatically receive periodic updates about the foundation's activities. For more information, or to make a contribution, call: (202) 521-1200. Or fax: (703) 717-046. Or email: info@americanlibertyfoundation.org.

Website: Barrage the IRS with mail

A Libertarian Party member has launched a civil disobedience campaign to "peacefully and legally force" the Internal Revenue Service out of business — by flooding the tax-collecting agency with mail.

At his website, www.endtheIRS.com, Donald E. Iiams, Jr. said he is encouraging Americans to mail a protest letter — written and signed by him — to IRS branch offices. If enough people do it, he said, the IRS will be flooded by mail and unable to function.

"This is the only way to peacefully and legally force the IRS out of business," said Iiams.

If Americans send the IRS one protest letter each month, it will increase the IRS staff's workload by 1,200%, while one letter each week would increase the workload by 5,200%, he said.

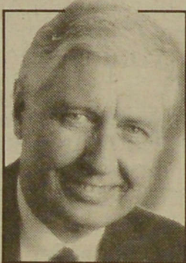
"No business on earth, let alone any government agency, can handle this kind of workload," he said. "The IRS will not be able to process anything but protest letters."

Since starting End The IRS in September 2000, Iiams said he has appeared on 77 radio interviews, and has generated more than 8,500 hits to the website.

He started the protest, said Iiams, after a 15-year legal battle with the IRS bankrupted him. Iiams was eventually found not guilty of any violations, and won a \$20,000 award from the IRS.

"Instead of trying to sue [the IRS] for the rest of my life, I decided to take my fight to the American people," he said.

For more information, visit the website or call: (888) 903-2239.



■ **Harry Browne:** New website.

Two 'Libertarian' legislators file ballot access, election reform bills

New Hampshire and Oregon bills would reduce ballot barriers

America's two "Libertarian" state legislators have filed several libertarian-flavored bills, including three to lower ballot obstacles for third parties.

These bills — introduced by Oregon State Senator Gary George and New Hampshire State Representative Steve Vaillancourt — would eliminate straight-ticket voting, reduce ballot access requirements, and make it easier for the LP to qualify for "major" party status.

Bills filed by George in Oregon include:

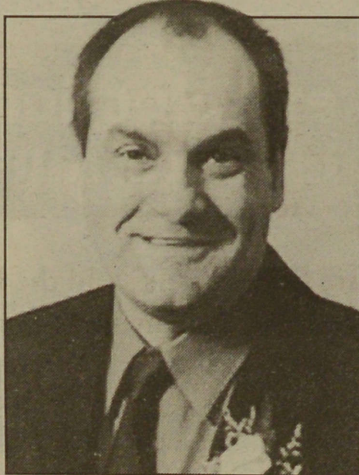
■ **SB 777**, which would make it easier for Libertarians to maintain statewide ballot status.

Currently, parties in Oregon must win at least 1% in a statewide race in every general election to retain ballot access. Under George's proposal, ballot status would be guaranteed to any party with a registered base of .5% of the registered electorate.

Legislative Assistant Richard Burke, a former LP State Chair, said the bill passed out of the Senate in late March, and went to the House Rules Committee in April.

"I'm really optimistic about this bill," he said. "It has broad bi-partisan support and I expect it will pass the House [by the second week of May]."

■ **SB 747**, which would re-



■ **"Libertarian" State Rep. Steve Vaillancourt:** "Republicans benefit from straight-ticket voting, so they always vote against eliminating it."

duce the requirements for a "minor" party to become recognized as a "major" party in the state.

At present, a minor party must win 15% of the vote in a statewide election to initially obtain major party status — and must then register 3% of the electorate within 48 months to retain that status. Under SB 747, a minor party could become a major party in any district when it has registered 3% of the voters.

Burke said he's advertising SB 747 as an "anti-spoiler" bill to

legislators, since the bill would remove one incentive for third-party candidates to run — and possibly take votes away from major party candidates.

Of the seven members of the Senate Rules and Redistricting Committee, Burke said three Republicans have pledged to support this bill. Because four votes are needed to pass the bill out of committee, he is searching for Democratic support as well.

"One legislator has said he will vote 'yes' on the bill, but we have to raise the minimum to 5%," he said. "But if I can get a Democrat onboard, I think this will get passed out of committee and passed on the floor."

■ **SB 555**, which would expand a tax credit for people who purchase long-term health care. This bill has the support of many elderly groups, said Burke, but will probably be put off until May for budgeting purposes.

■ **SB 909**, which would partially privatize the state liquor business. The bill would allow retailers to purchase from private distributors instead of from state-run liquor wholesalers. The bill is unlikely to pass, acknowledged Burke, but may end up on the ballot as an initiative in the fall.

Senator George joined the
See **ELECTION BILLS** Page 12

Libertarian campaign helps derail 'sneaky' Congressional pay raise

The Libertarian Party has apparently been successful in a campaign to stop the "sneakiest Congressional pay raise in history."

On March 23, a staffer for the Committee on House Administration said that a proposed per-diem payment to U.S. House members — which could have amounted to a \$25,000 tax-free pay hike for every Congressperson — was a "dead issue."

The announcement came just one day after the Libertarian Party issued an Action Item to its 30,000-person e-mail list, encouraging recipients to voice their opposition to the proposal.

In addition, the Libertarian Party issued a press release about the pay hike, which generated a half-dozen media calls and additional publicity for the issue.

Others, including ConservativeHQ.com and talk radio host Geoff Metcalf, also lobbied against the per-diem plan.

"We weren't the only group

GEORGE GETZ:
The LP helped kill a sneaky proposal that would have cost \$11 million

that spoke out against this pseudo-pay raise, but we probably spoke the loudest," said LP Press secretary George Getz, who spearheaded the LP's campaign. "Libertarian Party members can take pride in the fact that they helped kill a sneaky proposal that would have enriched undeserving Congresspeople — while costing taxpayers \$11 million a year."

The per-diem idea started circulating in Congress just two months after salaries for members of the U.S. House and Sen-

ate had been raised to \$145,100 a year.

The proposal was apparently seen by U.S. House members as a way to avoid the negative publicity sparked by Congressional pay-raise votes, said Getz, since it could have been passed by a simple vote of the Committee on House Administration.

Delegated power

"Instead of putting the matter to a direct vote, or even hiding it inside a mammoth appropriations bill as they usually do, Congressional leaders delegated the power to approve the raise to an obscure panel," he noted. "Had it passed, it would have been the sneakiest Congressional pay raise in history."

Under the proposal, every U.S. House member could request a \$165 per-diem tax-free "expense allowance." Since Congress is typically in session for about 150 days a year, that would have been

See **PAY RAISE** Page 11

How to Make Liberty Happen Now

For the Next Elections: Instant Libertarians

"16% of Americans are libertarians" said the Rasmussen Survey. (*LP News*, October 2000) So why is Washington D.C. growing faster than ever?

Buried in the article is the key: most of those 16% don't know they're libertarian! Even though they have somehow withstood the calls to dependency upon the megastate, they look upon proponents of political and economic freedom with ignorance, suspicion and fear.

It's obvious, if we're going to make liberty happen, we're going to have to look to the free market for a solution.

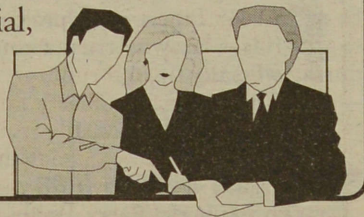
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16%
RASMUSSEN SURVEY

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TalkingPoints

A Congressional cocaine caucus, and the dangers of cheerleading

■ Bad foreign idea I

Thailand now requires TV stations to remove all scenes depicting smoking from programs and movies. The government admits this violates freedom of expression, but argues it will reduce smoking among young people.

— REASON, May 2001

■ Bad foreign idea II

Workers of the world unite. You have nothing to lose but your love handles! Norway's leading socialist unveiled his latest cause in the unending struggle for equality and justice: A law should be passed allowing workers to go to the gym whenever they want during working hours.

— CEI UPDATE, January/February 2001

■ Bad New Jersey idea

Mayor Jim McGreevey introduced a resolution in Woodbridge [New Jersey] mandating that all new businesses in the township fly the American flag. No flag, no business — no questions.

"It sends a message to our community and our neighborhoods that we're part of a great nation," McGreevey explained.

— REASON, April 2001

■ Killer hoses

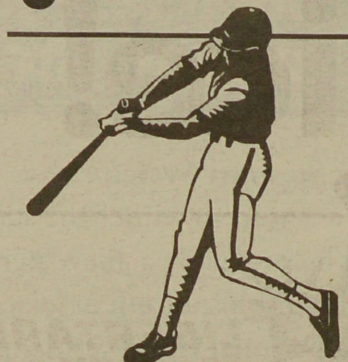
What book best captures the spirit of our fearful times? My vote goes to a volume I found a few months ago in an offbeat bookstore in Philadelphia: *I'm Afraid, You're Afraid: 448 Things to Fear and Why*.

This handy volume, authored by Melinda Muse, is an A-to-Z compendium of everything that can go bump in the night or day. The book is must reading for anyone who hasn't yet found enough to fear.

Have a banister at home? The Consumer Product Safety Commission reports over 34,000 hand-rail injuries each year. Daughter trying out for cheerleading? Not so fast; the National Cheerleaders Association reported more than 6,000 pep-related injuries in one year. Lawn overgrown? Don't even think about mowing it, not with up to 400,000 mower mishaps annually. Watering the lawn is far safer, with only 12,000 hose-related accidents each year.

Strangely, one class of dangers actually has been understated by the media: those actually caused or exacerbated by government action.

In a recent *Wall Street Journal* op-ed, for instance, Sam Kazman of the Competitive En-



U.S. TAXPAYERS
have paid \$9.3 billion to build new major league baseball parks.

terprise Institute pointed out that because of fuel economy standards and other regulations, the federal government may have endangered far more Americans than Firestone tires ever have. Similarly, [the Competitive Enterprise Institute's] Greg Conko has pointed out how government restrictions on biotechnology could foil our best chance for reducing hunger. Meanwhile, a new CEI study by Roger Bate documents how a proposed worldwide ban on DDT could perversely lead to hundreds of thousands of malaria deaths in Africa.

Perhaps the next edition of *I'm Afraid, You're Afraid* should include a 449th thing to fear: government regulation. Now that's something that should keep you up at night.

— JAMES L. GATTUSO

Environment & Climate News, April 2001

■ Bad Tax News I

In 1999, individuals and businesses spent over 4.3 billion hours complying with the federal income tax, with an estimated cost of compliance of over \$125 billion. This amounts to imposing a 12¢ administrative burden for every dollar the income tax system collects.

— INTELLECTUAL AMMUNITION, January/February 2001

■ Bad Tax News II

Internal Revenue Service workers gave incorrect information almost half the time to Treasury Department investigators posing as taxpayers, the department's inspector general for tax administration told a congressional subcommittee.

In addition, more than one in three telephone calls to the agency's help line did not get through, the investigators found.

"Over a four-day period this filing season, our auditors made 368 random test calls to the IRS's toll-free number and were unable to gain access 37% of the time," [Inspector General David C. Williams] said.

And when the callers did get through, "the IRS incorrectly responded to 47% of the questions," Williams said, adding that "the topics of the test calls were obtained from the IRS's list of frequently asked questions."

— THE WASHINGTON POST, April 4, 2001

■ Time for a crackdown!

Federal employees, including members of Congress and their staffs, owe more than \$2.5 billion in taxes, the Internal Revenue Service reported.

— USA TODAY, March 9, 2001

■ Commies against guns

And now — as they used to say on the old *Monty Python* TV show — something completely different. The Information Office of Communist China's State Council has issued a report — U.S. Human Rights Record 2000 — criticizing human rights in America.

And — surprise! — one of the things the Red Chinese don't like about our country is that many of our citizens keep and bear arms.

In a section about the ways in which our freedoms are supposedly in jeopardy, it is said: "The

United States, the only country where carrying a private weapon is a constitutional right, is a society ridden with violence . . . The excessive number of privately owned guns has resulted in countless gun-related assaults, resulting in tragedy for many innocent people."

That's right. The country where Communism has killed an estimated 100 million people, the country whose leader Mao Tse-tung was once listed in the Guinness Book Of Records as history's greatest mass murderer, is complaining about human rights in our country.

— LARRY PRATT

Gun Owners of America
April 9, 2001

■ How small is it?

Just how big is President Bush's proposed tax cut? He wants to cut taxes by \$1.6 trillion over 10 years, keeping a promise he made in his 2000 campaign. It sounds like a lot — \$1.6 trillion — and that's how journalists have treated it. So, is that a big cut or a small one?

First, it's a total over 10 years. On average, it's a tax reduction of \$160 billion a year. Big, but not in the trillions. If you use enough years, any number — tax cuts, tax hikes, spending on bananas — would seem immense.

Another way to look at it is to say: Compared to what? From where will the \$1.6 trillion be cut? According to revised numbers from the Congressional Budget Office, the 10-year total revenue figure (including payroll taxes) for the federal government will equal \$28.6 trillion. That is the largest amount of money collected by any government in history. The tax cut is about 5.6% of the government's projected revenue. That's hardly huge. "Modest," "small," or even "tiny" would be the reaction of most taxpayers.

Indeed, the National Taxpayers Union points out that the proposed Bush tax cut is smaller than either President Kennedy's 1963 tax cut proposal or President Reagan's 1981 tax cut. Kennedy proposed a cut that amounted to

12.6% of projected federal revenues, while Reagan cut 18.7% of projected revenues. Facing a gusher of tax revenue, Bush proposes a smaller cut.

Over the next 10 years, the CBO projects that the federal government will amass a budget surplus of \$5.6 trillion. The government will take in \$5.6 trillion more than it plans to spend. In other words, Bush's tax cut will equal only 29% of what taxpayers are overpaying — \$1.6 trillion of \$5.6 trillion.

— DAVID BOAZ

The Cato Institute
April 3, 2001

■ Cracking jokes

Rep. Patrick Kennedy (D-RI) was a big hit at a press dinner at which he joked about the fact that he and Sen. Lincoln Chafee (R-RI) had both acknowledged past cocaine use.

Kennedy (son of Sen. Ted Kennedy) said the pressure on him has been lifted since Chafee's election to the Senate.

"Now when I hear someone talking about a Rhode Island politician whose father was a Senator and who got to Washington based on his family name, used cocaine and wasn't very smart, I know there is only a 50-50 chance it's me," Kennedy cracked.

— ROLL CALL, March 2, 2001

■ Baseball pork

There's nothing romantic about raiding the public purse, which is what modern baseball increasingly is all about.

Take Miller Park, the \$400 million stadium in Milwaukee where Mr. Bush joined baseball commissioner Bud Selig. The Brewers paid for less than one-fourth of the cost of stadium construction, and much of that came from subsidized government loans.

Taxpayers voted overwhelmingly against public funding for the Brewers' new home. But they were forced to pick up the rest of the tab through a sales-tax increase, totaling \$300 million, which was imposed upon them in 1995 by the state legislature.

Who championed that tax increase? Former Wisconsin Gov. Tommy Thompson, the Republican welfare reformer who now heads Mr. Bush's Department of Health and Human Services.

Prominent Republican officials from New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani to Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum to Massachusetts Gov. Paul Celluci to Florida Gov. Jeb Bush have joined tax-happy Democrats in drumming up public money to pay for new sports stadiums at nosebleed prices.

Economist Raymond J. Keating of the D.C.-based Small Business Survival Committee estimates the total costs of building big league ballparks at \$11.5 billion, with taxpayers picking up about 81% of the tab, or \$9.3 billion.

— MICHELLE MALKIN

The Washington Times
April 7, 2001

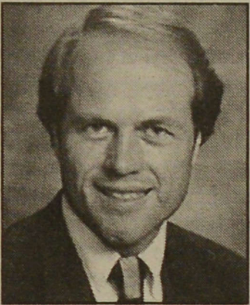
"Politics is too serious a matter to be left to the politicians."

— CHARLES DE GAULLE

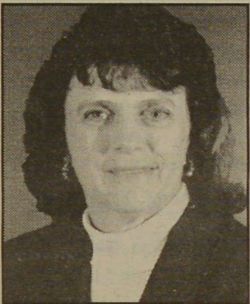


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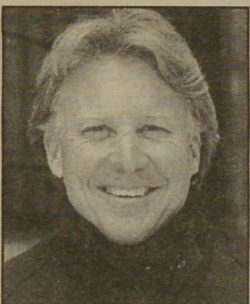
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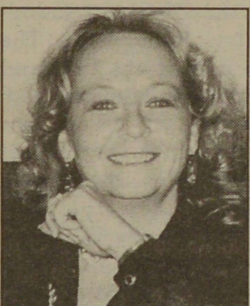
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Former Mayor, Bellflower, CA



Bonnie Flickinger
Mayor, Moreno Valley, CA



Bill Masters
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Barbara Goushaw
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Manager



Trudy Austin
County Commissioner,
Morgan County, TN

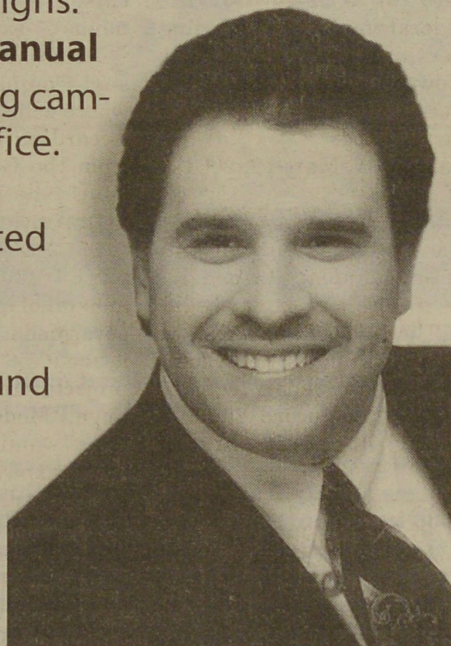
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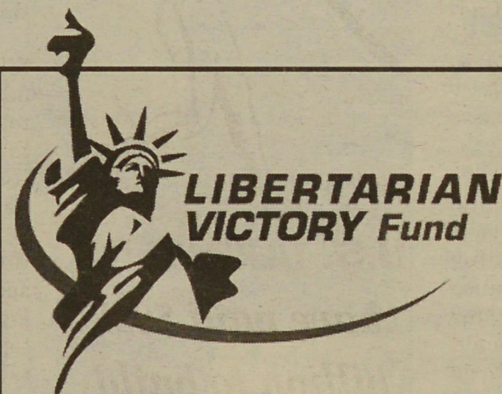
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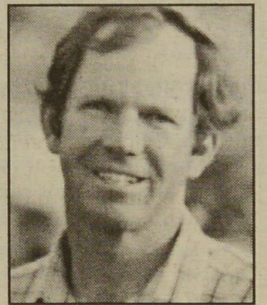
— **MICHAEL CLOUD, Libertarian**
persuasion expert

"The Libertarian Victory Fund is exactly what the LP needs.

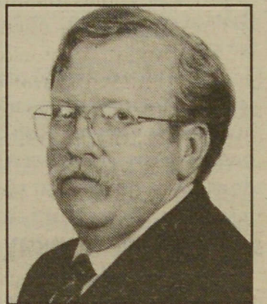
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State Legislator (1992-1996)

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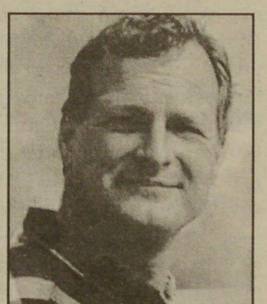
Phil Miller
City Councilman
Greenfield, IN



Sandi Webb
Former Councilwoman,
Simi Valley, CA



Fred Collins
City Councilman, Berkley, MI



Richard Linville
Prosecuting Attorney,
Gem County, ID

Affiliate News

Party activists work against smoking ban, term-limit repeal, and de-privatized trash

■ ALASKA

LP plans to get same-day voter initiative on ballot

State Libertarians have helped launch a new committee to try to put a same-day voter registration initiative on the ballot.

On April 9, LP State Chair **Len Karpinski** and state Membership Chair **Al Anders** officially notified the state's Division of Elections in Anchorage that the initiative committee has been formed.

If enough signatures are collected, the initiative could appear on the November 2001 ballot. If passed, it would allow Alaska residents to register and then vote on Election Day. Current law requires people to register 30 days before an election.

Same-day voter registration "will make it much easier for Alaska citizens to participate in the electoral process" by allowing voter registration drives until the last minute of a campaign, said Anders. "It gives citizens with busy lives and a large distrust of politicians more options."

Seven states — Idaho, Maine, Minnesota, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Wisconsin and Wyoming — currently offer same-day voter registration.

■ CALIFORNIA

State Libertarians attend Election Reform meeting

State and county LP leaders represented the Libertarian Party at a major conference that focused on ways to improve the election process.

The California Election Reform Conference, held at Stanford University on March 3, "brought together activists from across the political chart who are interested in changing the way elections are conducted," said LNC Region 2 Representative **Joe Dehn**.

Also attending were California LP Executive Director **Juan Ros**, Santa Clara County LP activists **Travis Jones** and **Norm Nelson**, and San Mateo LP activist **Linden Hsu**. Guest speakers included 1980 independent candidate **John Anderson**.

Highlighting the conference, said Dehn: Discussion of ways to implement Instant Runoff Voting (IRV), which was recently endorsed by the California LP. IRV allows voters to rank candidates by preference; if no candidate wins a majority of first-choice



Libertarians protest tax-funded "support" for the arts

■ **Indiana Libertarians** — including **Erin Hollinden**, vice president of the Indiana University Libertarians (center) — host a rally to protest a "State of the City" speech given by Bloomington Mayor **John Fernandez**.

The mayor gave the speech at a theater, said Hollinden, rented at taxpayer expense — rather than the traditional speech for free at City Hall — to show his "support" for the arts. The theater has already gotten \$100,000 in low-interest loans from the city government.

"Our hypocritical mayor supports this theater using money stolen from us — with no hope that the city budget will recoup it — to show how much he supports the arts in our community," she said. "We publicized the idea that he should have ponied up the money himself, if it was important to him, to show true leadership and encourage voluntary giving."

votes, the subsequent preferences are used to calculate a winner.

"While discussion covered a variety of voting methods, the focus was clearly on IRV," he said.

■ CALIFORNIA

Walnut Creek LP activists miss in anti-tax campaign

Libertarians in Walnut Creek came up just short in a bid to stop two tax increases, even though they were outspent by pro-tax opponents "a thousand to one."

On March 6, residents of Walnut Creek voted to approve two education-related parcel tax increase proposals, Measure B and Measure C — one by a paltry 50 votes, said local LP activist **Scott Wilson**.

Libertarians lobbied against the tax hike with a letters-to-the-editor campaign, several hun-

dreds of dollars worth of fliers, and "a few hand-painted signs, all stolen with in hours of posting!" he said.

Opposing the Libertarians: "Tax promoters [with a] \$200,000 [budget]; a professional, full-time campaign manager; a phone bank; endorsements of [the local newspaper] and almost every politician; and the very active support of the California Teachers Association and the PTA."

Despite the loss, "we are proud of what we did and what we learned," said Wilson. "Next time, we'll be better prepared."

■ COLORADO

Western Slope LP works to stop anti-smoking bill

The Western Slope Libertarian Party has formed a group to fight a proposed smoking ban in

the city of Montrose.

The Committee to Preserve Property Rights (CPPR) will lobby against a so-called "clean air" initiative on a mail-in ballot in April, which would ban smoking in stores and restaurants.

Montrose residents should reject the initiative, said Western Slope LP co-chairman **Tim Jacobs**, because it is a "threat to individual liberty. Our citizens need to speak up. The next time it will be your rights as a property owner on the line."

Instead of a new law, property owners should be able to set their own smoking policies, said Jacobs.

"The business owner has the right to cater to that portion of the market he finds most profitable for his particular enterprise," he said. "Some businesses cater to non-smokers, others cater to a larger segment of our population."

■ DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA State Chair opposes bid to overturn term limits

The City Council should not repeal a term limits law passed by the voters, State Chair **Carol Moore** told a subcommittee of the DC City Council.

On March 12, Moore testified against a proposal to reverse the city's term limit law, which will prohibit five of the current City Council members from running for re-election in 2002, and prohibit another seven from running again in 2006.

"Term limits are a legitimate control on politicians" and "make it easier for politicians to be honest," said Moore.

Although all 13 City Council members support overturning the term limits law — approved by voters by initiative in 1994 — 30 of the 33 speakers at the subcommittee hearing, most of them Democratic Party activists, opposed the repeal, said Moore.

"Considering the criticism of politicians I heard in this room today, I would have thought I was listening to a bunch of libertarians!" she said at the hearing.

■ KENTUCKY

State LP shows support for law to phase out VET

State Libertarians attended a state senate hearing to support a bill that would end the state's "intrusive" vehicle emissions testing (VET) program.

State Chair **Donna Mancini** and other Libertarians went to the committee hearing in Frankfort in early Spring to show support for SB 48, which would end the VET by 2003.

Also attending the hearing were members of the Stop the VET group, the Constitution Party, and Take Back Kentucky.

"The VET's defenders were outnumbered by the supporters of the legislation and were clearly on the defensive," said **George Baumler**, the District 2 Representative of the Kentucky LP. The committee passed the bill, and sent it on to the full Senate.

Afterwards, SB 48 sponsor State Senator **Dan Seum** thanked the Libertarians for attending.

"He assured [them] that their presence made the crucial difference in the committee's decision to pass the bill," said Baumler.

■ MICHIGAN

Tragic killing shows the danger of anti-gun laws

A tragic incident where an intruder killed a woman while she was desperately dialing 911 shows how gun control laws kill

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people, said the state LP.

"Begging a 911 operator to have the police hurry is hardly the best use of the few seconds you have when an armed and dangerous person is trying to break into your home," said LP State Chair **Stacy van Oast**.

On March 26, a former boyfriend killed Detroit resident Stephanie Rice and her brother. Rice was on the phone to police when she was killed.

"Instead of a weapon Ms. Rice used the gun-controller defense — call 911," said van Oast. "The simple fact is that the police just cannot be everywhere in order to effectively deal with a crime in progress. You need to be able to do that yourself."

And if politicians overturn a new "shall-issue" law, they "will be writing the epitaph for more folks [like Rice]," said van Oast.

■ MICHIGAN

Ottawa County LP helps defeat anti-privatization

Ottawa County Libertarians have helped defeat a proposal by the Hudsonville City Commission to "de-privatize" trash collection.

In March, several Libertarians testified before the City Commission against the proposal, which would replace the current free-market system with either a single-contract option or city-run waste-hauling system.

"The meeting was packed with angry residents and the phone calls to commission members had their heads spinning," said local activist **Jason Miller**. "The voice from the people was clear: Leave us alone."

After the meeting, Miller reported, the Hudsonville mayor said, "We were floating a trial balloon [but] it was shot down."

"Libertarians were proud to be a part of that firing squad," said Miller.

But the battle may not be over yet: The City Commission may consider a proposal to regulate and license waste haulers.

"[We] will continue to monitor the situation and stick up for the free market," said Miller.

■ MICHIGAN

State LP applauds ruling against local smoking ban

State Libertarians applauded a court ruling striking down a local smoking ban — but said the reason behind the decision was wrong.

"Those judges must have been smoking something to hold that the problem is that the wrong level of government was making the law," said LP Executive Director **Tim O'Brien**.

In early March, a court of appeals ruled that Marquette could not ban smoking in restaurants because such laws must be passed by the state legislature.

"It apparently never occurred to the [judges] that the question of whether there should be a ban on smoking in restaurants ought to be left to restaurant owners,"



Carla Howell shreds anti-gun law at State House committee hearing

■ **Carla Howell** (left), the Libertarian Party's 2000 U.S. Senate candidate in Massachusetts, woke up a sleepy State House hearing on April 2 when she shredded an anti-gun law.

Howell was at the State House's Gardner Auditorium to encourage repeal of Chapter 180 of the [Gun] Acts of 1998.

Before a crowd of more than 200 people, she said, "This is Anti-Gun Law Chapter 180. And here's where it belongs."

She inserted the bill into the portable shredder she had brought for the occasion.

"I propose we shred this anti-gun, anti-safety legislation," she said. "Shredding Chapter 180 is a bold first step toward greater public safety and responsible gun ownership."

"The crowd erupted into applause and cheers," said **Michael Cloud**, who had managed Howell's campaign.

said O'Brien. "Who is in a better position to determine what patrons actually want?"

"If the citizens of Marquette prefer nonsmoking restaurants, no local ordinance would be needed. The fact that a law must be passed to accomplish that goal is proof this does not represent the wishes of the people."

■ NEW HAMPSHIRE

State Libertarians urged to oppose gun-testing bill

State Libertarians are lobbying against a new bill that would impose "Massachusetts-like" regulations on gun manufacturers.

The "gun-grabbers are at it again," said LP State Chair **Danielle Donovan**.

The bill, HB 736-FN, would require gun manufacturers and dealers to perform "quality" tests on all firearms — such as testing the melting point of gun barrels.

Although masquerading as a public safety bill, the "real purpose behind the law's expensive testing requirements is to increase the costs to manufacturers and dealers," said Donovan. "This will virtually drive many out of business and drive them out of New Hampshire like the Massachusetts version did."

Libertarians testified against the bill at a Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee hearing on March 20, and mailed letters to legislators opposing the bill, said Donovan.

■ NEW JERSEY

Eminent domain: It's like something from the USSR

A Russian foreign exchange student, who is the founder of the Rutgers University Libertarian Club, has sparked a controversy by comparing eminent domain laws to Stalinist Russia.

In testimony before the

Piscataway Township Council on February 19, **Viktor Kaplan** said that an effort by the town government to seize the Cornell Dairy Farm is similar to what happened under communism.

"In the Soviet Union in the 1930s, the farmers were complaining as the government was taking away their farms," he said.

The comparison outraged one council member, who shouted, "To compare us to the Stalinist regime of your great, great grandfather is absolutely ludicrous! You should be embarrassed!"

But Kaplan stood his ground.

"For someone who comes from the former Soviet Union, the idea that the government can seize one's land with or without compensation does bring back Stalin's totalitarian measures in the U.S.S.R.," he said.

■ NEW YORK

Libertarians participate in NYC Smokers' March

Libertarians made "quite an impression on marchers and the media" at the 10,000 Smokers March, held in Manhattan on March 24.

"This was a great way for us to generate free publicity and make allies with people who have none. It was also a lot of fun," said **James Lesczynski**, LP candidate for Manhattan City Council (District 5).

The march, designed to draw attention to the issue of smokers' rights, was a chance for Libertarians to show support for beleaguered smokers, he said.

"Democrats and Republicans want to be our mommies and daddies," said Lesczynski. He promised that if elected, he would introduce a bill to repeal all anti-smoking legislation directed at privately owned property.

Other Libertarians attending the march included **Gary Snyder**

and **Travis Pahl**.

"[The march is] about having the freedom to do what you want on your property as long as you do so peacefully," said Snyder.

■ NEW YORK

New county LP leader shows 'future of politics'

Sara Gillis is not just the Chair of the Monroe County LP, she's also a college junior — which makes her the "future of American politics," according to state party leaders.

"Sara Gillis and other young people like her realize that our [Libertarian] alternative is their best hope for a bright future," said State Chair **Richard Cooper**.

Gillis, 21, was elected this Spring to the leadership role in the Monroe County LP, and said she will focus on recruiting more college students.

"Most students are imbued with the words of their statist professors [and] I think it is hard to crack that shell," she said. "But the ideals of independence do appeal to them."

An anthropology major at the University of Rochester, Gillis said she became an LP activist because "I believe the power of humans comes from inside them, and is not conferred by a group."

■ NORTH CAROLINA

State LP leaders attend third-party conference

Libertarian Party leaders participated in a third-party summit meeting to discuss ways to "overcome the ballot access hurdles that third parties face" in North Carolina.

The meeting, held in Asheville in early Spring, also included representatives of the Green and Natural Law parties, and "was seen as a success by all participants," said Buncombe

County LP Chair **Kevin Rollins**.

Attendees discussed how to publicize unfair ballot access laws, ways to simplify petition forms, and the possibility of nominating "fusion" candidates at a multi-party convention.

However, that last proposal drew a warning from Rollins, who noted that a fusion candidate — supported by three ideologically disparate parties — could "end up like the Reform Party, with different ideological factions pulling in opposite directions."

The meeting ended with agreement to work together on common goals, said Rollins: Ballot access efforts and lobbying to reduce the number of signatures required to get on the ballot.

■ VIRGINIA

State LP joins the ACLU to fight ballot labeling law

The state LP will be the plaintiff in a new lawsuit seeking to overturn a law that allows Republican and Democratic candidates to get a party label on the ballot — but not Libertarians.

In March, the state party announced that a lawsuit had been filed with the help of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). The lawsuit would strike down a law that requires all candidates other than Republicans and Democrats to be labeled "Independent" on the ballot.

The legal action came after the state legislature rejected HB 1690, which would have overturned the law — despite the testimony of National LP Chairman **James Lark**, then-LPVA Executive Director **Marc Montoni**, and LP member **Roy Scherer**.

Ironically, noted Montoni, the State Board of Elections had supported HB 1690 as an alternative to "the likely, and perhaps difficult to administer, judicial solution a lawsuit would produce."

The Review

Public schooling's sad history

■ *The Underground History of American Education: A Schoolteacher's Intimate Investigation into the Problem of Modern Schooling*, by John Taylor Gatto. Oxford Village Press. 412 pages.

Reviewed by Rachel Baxter
FREELANCE WRITER

After 30 years of teaching in public schools and being named New York State Teacher of the Year in 1991, John Gatto quit — not willing or able to tolerate the horrific effects forced government schooling had upon kids any longer. He has since dedicated his life to telling the world the truth about the appalling results of institutionalized schooling.

In his latest book, *The Underground History of American Education*, Gatto exposes the perverse and alarming notion that created and continues to define public schooling: That hordes of dim-witted kids are everywhere; therefore, millions of jobs are necessary in order to minister to them. "The mass dumbness which justifies official schooling first had to be dreamed of; it isn't real," says Gatto. But who wanted to create such a monster and why?

In *Underground History*, Gatto has answered this question. Through extensive historical research, he has isolated the responsible individuals and special interests, finding them within various disciplines, including psychology, politics, academics, big business, sociology, and many more.

Gatto explains the origins and subsequent colossal expansion of forced schooling. The ideas of Prussian philosopher Hegel (who believed that children were property of the state) and the militaristic Prussian model of forced schooling advocating obedience, national uniformity, and working for the state as "the greatest freedom of all," were adopted by several elite American government, academic and corporate figures in the early 1800's.

Mass schooling was instigated to alienate children from their parents and themselves, turning them into working robots, dependent upon superiors for the purpose of maintaining a centralized economy. Gatto quotes from *The Philosophy of Education*, by William Torrey Harris, U.S. Commissioner of Education from 1889 to 1906: "Ninety-nine [students] out of a hundred are automata, careful to walk in proscribed paths, careful to follow proscribed custom. This is not an accident but the result of substantial education, which, scientifically defined, is the subsumption of the individual."

In mid-nineteenth century America, the first government schools were implemented in Massachusetts. Parents, used to taking care of their families, resisted the enforced interference, sometimes violently. Compulsory schooling laws gradually became more intrusive, requiring kids to attend school for weeks, then months and finally years.

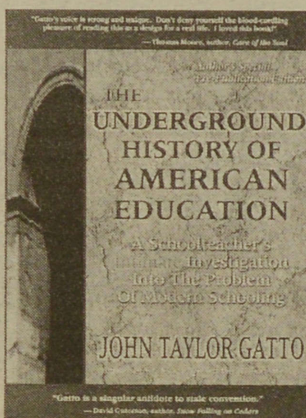
In 1917, Gatto explains, a group of people known as the Education Trust, representatives of Rockefeller, Carnegie, Harvard, Stanford, the University of Chicago, and the National Education Association, decided that mass production could not rely on individuals who were free thinkers. A system conditioning kids to be cogs in a wheel, mimicking monotonous, dreary, simple-minded work, must be maintained. These future workers must think of themselves as "employees competing for the favor of management." Forced schooling fit the bill perfectly.

Over the years, public schooling has become an expensive and political bureaucratic machine. The federal government has intruded upon the private life of every child and family.

"By the end of 1999," Gatto says, "75.5 million people out of a total population of 275 million were involved directly in providing and receiving what has come to be called education. In other words, the primary organizing discipline of about 29% of the entire U.S. population consists of obedience to the routines and requests of an abstract social machine called school."

Underground History took nine years to write and is a brilliant piece of work. I enjoyed it immensely. It's sad, funny, heroic and unavoidably painfully honest. Gatto is desperately serious about saving kids from the ugly mess of public schooling, and his book is a must for anyone who cares about children or education.

■ To order *An Underground History*, call toll-free (888) 211-7164. Or visit: www.johntaylorgatto.com.



Kubby rejects judge's sentence: 'Not one dollar, not one day in jail'

Medical marijuana patient makes a stand against "broken" justice system

A California judge has agreed to reconsider the sentence imposed on Steve Kubby for misdemeanor drug charges after the former LP gubernatorial candidate vowed to not "spend a day in jail or pay a dollar's fine."

At a hearing on April 10, Kubby told Placer County Judge John H. Cosgrove that he would not be subject to a three-year probation, serve a 120-day house arrest, wear an electronic monitoring bracelet, or pay a \$2,700 fine.

"[My wife] Michele and I both feel that the entire medical marijuana community has had enough, and we refuse to tolerate this lawlessness [and] broken criminal justice system any longer," said Kubby.

"The probation ordered for me, like so many other medical marijuana patients, just sets a trap for the future for police to arrest me, deny me my medicine, and force me to suffer in some obscure cell, without bail, as a probation violator."

April 27

Judge Cosgrove said he would reconsider Kubby's sentence, and give a decision on April 27 [after LP News went to press].

Kubby had been sentenced on March 2 for misdemeanor drug



■ **Steve Kubby:** "the medical marijuana community has had enough, and we refuse to tolerate this lawlessness."

charges for possession of "minute" quantities of psilocybin [mushroom] and mescaline [peyote].

The judge said he accepted Kubby's explanation that the psilocybin (a single mushroom stem) had been used for research for a book Kubby wrote about the religious use of psychedelic mushrooms, and that the peyote button had been left by a visitor. Kubby also had no previous criminal record, noted Cosgrove.

The sentencing came three months after a hung jury refused

to convict Kubby and his wife Michele on marijuana charges in a high-profile case that attracted national and international attention. The judge later dropped all the medical marijuana charges.

However, even though he had potentially faced up to four years in prison for the psilocybin and mescaline charges, Kubby said the judge's sentence was still too severe.

"I am unable to physically, financially, or morally complete electronic monitoring, probation, or payment of any fines assessed against me," he said.

Kubby said he rejected every aspect of his sentence:

■ **The fine:** "The police and prosecutors bankrupted my family by falsely arresting me for growing medical marijuana," he said. "Because I cannot grow marijuana, I am forced to spend thousands of dollars each month on the black market, just to stay alive." Kubby suffers from a rare form of adrenal cancer, and takes medical marijuana under doctor's orders.

■ **House arrest:** "I cannot find a house in which to serve my arrest," said Kubby. "My wife and I were forced into bankruptcy by this raid, after a lifetime of excel-

See KUBBY Page 11

Who says "ending the drug war" is a single issue campaign?

Reams Referendum

Virginia's vote to end pot prohibition

- ★ **Property Rights** — end forfeiture without due process and criminal charges
- ★ **Privacy Rights** — stop monitoring bank accounts and intrusive searches
- ★ **Racism** — end profiling and targeting African-Americans
- ★ **Patient Rights** — stop arresting sick people for using medical marijuana
- ★ **Human Rights** — every person deserves control over what they put in their body
- ★ **Crime** — prohibition promotes and rewards violent criminal behavior
- ★ **Gun Rights** — drug related gun violence is fueling gun control efforts
- ★ **Corruption** — law enforcement and justice systems have been compromised
- ★ **Right to Work** — end denial of licenses to users and stop mandatory urine testing
- ★ **Justice** — end mandatory minimums and sentencing "guidelines"
- ★ **Economy** — stop prohibition of industrial hemp farming and manufacturing
- ★ **Foreign Policy** — end intrusion into affairs of countries under guise of drug war

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Steve Kubby protests sentence

Continued from Page 10

lent credit. Now, nobody wants to rent to us since we have bad credit." Because of this, Michele and their two children were forced to move to British Columbia, Canada, he said.

■ **Electronic monitoring:** "I would only be allowed two hours a week to go out and shop," he said. "Without a caregiver and car, I can't do that."

■ **Probation:** "I refuse to serve three years of formal probation, because it would only be a matter of time before a medical pot patient like me would be visited by police [for] a warrantless probation search," he said.

Kubby said he was willing to spend time in jail, if necessary, to protest his sentence.

"This movement already has too many martyrs and I sure don't want to join them," he said. "But my family and I have been pushed against the wall. Despite proving myself innocent of all marijuana charges, I believe that my wife and I have never received justice."

His protest, he said, will force

the judge "to look at how the criminal justice system abuses medical marijuana patients and punishes those who attempt to assert their rights."

Kubby was the LP's gubernatorial candidate in California in 1998, and sought the party's vice presidential nomination in 2000. He also played a key role in Proposition 215, which was passed by voters in 1996.

His high-profile role in the

STEVE KUBBY:

"This movement has too many martyrs. I don't want to join them."

medical marijuana movement may be the reason, supporters speculate, why the Kubbys were arrested in January 1999 after a raid on their Olympic Valley home, and charged with violating 19 drug laws.

Both pleaded not guilty, arguing that they had used marijuana in accordance with the law.

Deadlocked

After a four-month trial, a "hopelessly deadlocked" jury said it could not reach a verdict on the most significant charges against the Kubbys and voted 11-1 in favor of acquittal.

Despite the uncertainty about what the judge will rule on April 17, Kubby said he is still optimistic about his future.

"I intend to run for governor again in 2002," he said. "All the media attention I've got has made this a very high-profile case. If I can poll just 15%, that will be enough to get me into the televised debates. I am going to tear [current Democratic Governor] Gray Davis and his Republican challenger apart."

"We've beaten the drug warriors every step of the way. And I'm confident we will continue to do so."

LP helps defeat House pay hike

Continued from Page 4

the equivalent of a \$25,000 pay hike — or equal to a \$44,000 increase before taxes.

Libertarians opposed the plan not only because of the subterfuge involved, said Getz, but also because members of Congress are already overpaid.

"U.S. House politicians make more than four times as much as the average American," he said. "By seeking to enhance an already excessive salary, they're displaying pure, unmitigated greed. If [politicians] truly feel underpaid, they can simply quit their job and get a better one, as ordinary Americans do."

Upon getting a barrage of complaints about the planned per diem payments, Committee on House Administration spokesman Jim Forbes quickly backpedaled.

The proposal had been informally discussed by a bipartisan group of U.S. House members, he told WorldNetDaily.com, but "nothing formal" was ever introduced to the committee.

"[The proposal] is not a good thing because people don't understand it," he said. "I can pretty much assure you that it's a dead issue."

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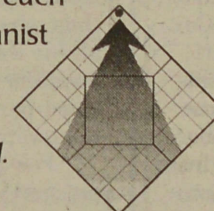


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The Issues

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

McCain-Feingold: Incumbent protection

Anyone who believes the Senate passed the McCain-Feingold bill as a way to crack down on the "obscene" amount of soft money in politics should consider this fact, Libertarians say: Americans spend 10 times as much money on potato chips as they do on political "soft money" donations.

"Politicians have created a false issue — the influence of soft money — to divert attention from the real purpose of McCain-Feingold," said LP National Director Steve Dasbach. "This legislation has only one goal: Protecting the jobs of Capitol Hill incumbents."

The Senate passed the McCain-Feingold bill in early April by a vote of 59-41 amid promises to "rid the nation's campaign finance system of the corrupting influence of soft money" — the contributions corporations, labor unions, and individuals make for party-building activities such as voter registration drives.

Yet the total amount of soft money collected by political parties over the past two-year election cycle is just \$410 million, according to a new study by the Cato Institute. By comparison, Americans spend an average of \$4.8 billion a year on potato chips — more than ten times as much.

In reality, McCain-Feingold should be called the Incumbent Protection Act of 2001, said Dasbach, since it shuts off funding for challengers.

"Even though soft money is relatively insignificant, much of it enables parties to support challengers — which explains why incumbents wanted to ban it," Dasbach said. "But most contributions from political action committees, however, go to incumbents, which is why Senators left PAC money untouched."

Just say 'No' to microchipping Fido

A California bill that would require all cats and dogs to have a microchip implanted in them should prompt American pet owners to shout: "Keep your microchips out of Fido!"

That's the blunt suggestion from the Libertarian Party, as the California State Senate considers SB 236, which would require all cats and dogs to be microchipped, would mandate a government permit number for all pets, and would create a statewide or national registry of cats and dogs.

"Up to 50% of all homes in California have a cat or dog — but 100% of Americans should oppose this technological assault on the loving relationship between people and their pets," said Steve Dasbach.

SB 236 was filed by Democratic State Senator Jack O'Donnell (Santa Barbara). The bill would require all cats and dogs to have a microchip — the size of a grain of rice — implanted in them. The microchip would contain the owner's identification and some kind of unique pet identifier number.

SB 236 would also require people to obtain a permit before selling any cat or dog, pay a fee before transferring such pets, and report the sale of cats and dogs to a national registry.

Supporters say the bill would make it easier to identify lost pets and would reduce the pet population at animal shelters.

"But the bill is really a disturbing expansion of government power into a special relationship — the love shared by humans and their pets," said Dasbach. "And SB 236 should be stopped before similar bills are filed in other states."

Strike a blow for medical marijuana

The Supreme Court should strike a blow for patients' rights by allowing the use of medical marijuana, the Libertarian Party said after oral arguments in a California case.

"California voters have decided that doctors should be able to prescribe medical marijuana, and the federal government has no business interfering," said Steve Dasbach. "It's time for the Supreme Court to realize that politics and medicine don't mix."

The Supreme Court heard arguments on March 28 on whether to carve out a "medical necessity" exception to federal drug laws in order to respect the will of the voters in states that have legalized medical marijuana.

The case, U.S. vs. Oakland Cannabis Buyers' Cooperative, arose from efforts by federal drug agents to shut down the Oakland club and others in California that provide medical marijuana legally under Proposition 215, a referendum that authorized medical marijuana in 1996. A ruling is expected in June.

"The Constitution gives the federal government no authority to wage a war on drugs, much less a war on life-saving drugs like medical marijuana," said Dasbach. "California voters have decided — and the federal government should butt out."

Jason Miller, 18, runs for spot on Hudsonville, Michigan school board

By Jonathan Trager
LP NEWS STAFF WRITER

Jason Miller isn't old enough to buy beer, but that isn't stopping him from trying to help some Hudsonville, Michigan parents buy a better education for their children.

The 18-year-old Libertarian activist is running for a seat on the local school board. And while some people might view his youth as an election obstacle, Miller believes his recent experience as a high school student might actually work to his advantage.

"I have seen the system from the inside so I know what it's like," he said. "Other board members don't. They are insulated by a group of administrators with an institutional bias who just don't get the real world."

Miller also has something few other 18-year-olds can claim: Real political experience. He co-founded and currently chairs the Ottawa County Libertarian Party, and was appointed to the Hudsonville Parks & Grounds Advisory Board in high school by the county commissioner.

Student Rep.

In addition, he served as a student representative to the Hudsonville school board, prior to graduating six months early in January.

"Attending meetings and working with the school board has taught me about the issues and encouraged me to get more involved," he said.

Miller said he decided to run for office because the Hudsonville public school system has been plagued with fiscal problems — and because no child should suffer because his or her parents



■ **School board candidate**
Jason Miller: "I have seen the system from the inside, so I know what it's like."

can't afford a private school education.

"Although Hudsonville is a pretty conservative district, the schools are constantly running spending deficits," he said. "Half of parents with children in the district teach their kids at home or send them to private school."

"The Hudsonville Board of Ed needs a voice for lower spending instead of deficit spending, for school choice instead of paranoia, and for common sense instead of institutionalized bias."

As a school board member, Miller said he would have a higher profile with which he could lobby the state legislature for school choice. Specifically, he would work to expand charter school opportunities and lobby for education tax credits.

"Whenever the state considers anything that allows more school choice, there is a constant parade of teachers, union leaders, and school board members talking about how we have to 'save

public education.' They say choice will hurt our public schools," he said. "We need somebody to explain how competition will benefit students, as opposed to the public school establishment."

Michigan LP State Chair Stacy Van Oast said she was excited about Miller's candidacy.

"Jason is definitely one of the party's rising stars," she said. "If anyone can handle a position at 18, it's him. He's helped organize and solicit funding for other campaigns, so he has a lot of experience even though he's young."

Optimistic

Miller, who is a freshman at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, said he is optimistic about his chances in the race. Because only a fraction of Hudsonville citizens vote in school board elections, Miller said he has a wide pool of potential voters from which to garner support.

His strategy will be to target registered voters who didn't vote in the last local election and give them a reason to show up and vote for him, Miller said.

To achieve that, he said, he will go door-to-door, use direct mail, and post signs at popular locations to promote his candidacy — and to remind people that their vote can make the difference.

"I think this is one of the most winnable races this year," he said. "I believe that I will be the youngest Libertarian elected to public office in the country."

The Hudsonville election will take place on June 11.

■ For information, or to make a contribution, write: Miller for School Board, 6450 28th Avenue, Hudsonville MI 49426. Or-mail: jcmiller@egl.net.

Election bills filed by 'Libertarian' legislators

Continued from Page 4

Libertarian Party in January 2001, while keeping his Republican Party registration and affiliation in the state senate.

On the other side of the country, New Hampshire State Rep. Steve Vaillancourt has recently introduced two Libertarian-friendly bills, including:

■ **HB 364**, which would eliminate "straight-ticket" voting.

Currently, New Hampshire voters can check a single party label at the top of the ballot, and thus select one party's candidates all the way down the ticket. Such a system makes it less likely that third-party candidates will receive votes, say political experts.

For that reason, said Vaillancourt, HB 364 is unlikely to be successful.

VAILLANCOURT:
HB 364 may not succeed, since the GOP likes straight-ticket voting.

"Republicans benefit from straight-ticket voting, so they always vote against eliminating it," he said. "The leadership forces them to oppose it like lemmings."

■ **HB 724FN**, which would legalize the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes. Unfortunately, said Vaillancourt, this bill

was killed in March.

Vaillancourt, a lifelong Democrat, was elected to the N.H. House in November 2000 on the Libertarian ticket, after losing in the Democratic primary for State Senate. Prohibited by the state's "sore-loser" laws from running for the House again as a Democrat, he ran as a Libertarian with the state LP's permission, even though he is not a party member.

Relationship

Despite his unorthodox political pedigree, New Hampshire LP Chair Danielle Donovan said that Vaillancourt and the state LP have a good working relationship.

"He took on a couple of bills that we felt we could find common ground on," she said. "It's turning out better than I expected."

11 wins for Libertarians

Continued from Page 1

48% of the vote in a three-way election.

"I'm an incumbent and I'm good at what I do," Smithson said. "That's a difficult combination to beat."

Other LP winners included:

■ **Chuck Sila** of Illinois, who was re-elected to the Normal Public Library Board.

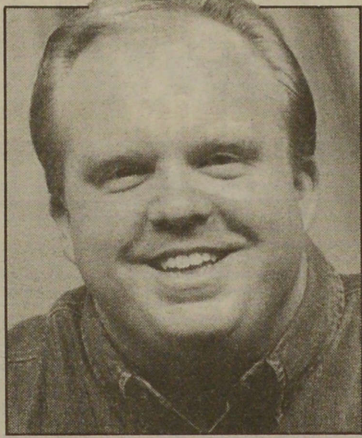
■ **Julie Fox** and **Scott Kohlhaas** of Illinois, who were both elected to the Dundee Township Library Board. They came in first and fourth, respectively, in a five-way race for four seats — and may not be the last Libertarians to serve on the board.

"There is a third position that no one ran for that is currently vacant," Kohlhaas said. "Julie and I are trying to appoint Bill Stevens, another Libertarian, to that seat. If so, we'll have three positions on a seven member board occupied by Libertarians."

■ **Austin Hough** of Illinois, who was elected to the Fountaindale Public Library Board of Bolingbrook/Romeoville. Hough ran unopposed.

■ **Doug Kelley** of Illinois, who was elected to the Rock Valley College Board in Rockford. He came in second in a seven-way race.

■ **Randolph Miller** of Oregon, who was elected to the Westview



■ **Austin Hough** was elected to the Fountaindale Public Library Board of Bolingbrook/Romeoville (Illinois).

High School Local School Committee. Miller got 21.8% of the total vote in a four-way race.

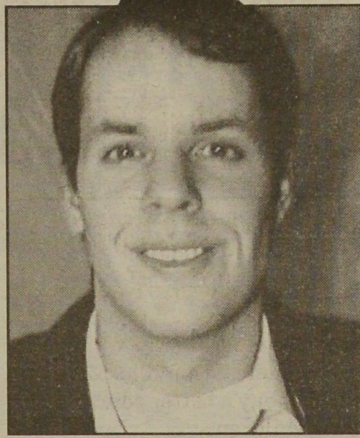
■ **Mark Vetanen** of Oregon, who was elected to the Meadow Park School Local School Committee. Vetanen ran unopposed.

■ **William R. Discipio Sr.** of New Hampshire, who was elected to the Sandown Budget Committee.

■ **Kevin Scheunemann** of Wisconsin, who was elected to the Kewaskum Town Board. In that race, five candidates competed for four seats.

■ **Jeff Foli**, who claimed the highest office with his re-election as the mayor of Chillicothe, Missouri.

Elected to the position as a Republican in 1999, Foli decided to run as a Libertarian this year after learning that he would be



■ **Randolph Miller** won a spot on the Westview High School Local School Committee in Oregon with 21.8% of the vote.

challenged in the Republican primary. Although he won the office on the Libertarian ticket, he has not joined the party.

The 11 victories may be the first Libertarian wins of the year, but they won't be the last, Crickenberger promised.

Hundreds

"We'll be running hundreds of candidates across the country this fall, to give voters every opportunity possible to cast a vote for individual liberty and personal responsibility," he said. "I urge every party member to seek political office as a Libertarian."

For more information about running for office as a Libertarian, contact Crickenberger for a free campaign package. E-mail: RonCrickenberger@hq.lp.org. Or call (202) 333-0008 Ext. 227.

Libertarian Party wages medical privacy campaign

Continued from Page 1

which was originally drafted by the Clinton administration — because it would "kiss your medical privacy goodbye," said Dasbach.

"This regulation would give millions of government bureaucrats, clerks in insurance companies, and drug marketing companies access to your confidential medical records without your permission," he said.

Although touted by the government as a "medical privacy" regulation, the rule would:

■ **Mandate** that every doctor turn patient records over to the HHS and other federal agencies for "safekeeping."

■ **Allow** the release of medical records to other government agencies, without patient consent, for unspecified "public health" surveillance activities.

■ **Permit** police agencies to access medical records without a search warrant.

■ **Allow** foreign government officials to see Americans' health

records, as long as the U.S. government claims it is doing it for a "national health purpose."

"In a free society, the government has no reason to have copies of your private medical records, and politicians have no right to release your medical records to others without your consent," said Dasbach. "But that's exactly what's going to happen, unless we can generate enough opposition to persuade Congress to stop this regulation from going into effect."

The party started a campaign in late March, using its www.DefendYourPrivacy.com website.

Most successful

By April 18 [when *LP News* went to press] more than 54,130 people had signed the petition against the HHS regulations — the party's most successful e-mail lobbying campaign since 1999's anti-Know Your Customer effort, said Dasbach.

To sign the petition and send an e-mail to your U.S. House representative and U.S. Senator urging them to support HJR 38, visit: www.DefendYourPrivacy.com.

"If this proposal isn't stopped, your medical privacy will be in critical condition," said Dasbach. "And time is running out."

Correction

■ The un-bylined "Forum" essay, "The secrets to winning every argument," in the April 2001 *LP News* was actually written by Dave Barry.

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Or you can visit www.libertario.org and contribute through our website!

CAN-DO: Elected ONE of the country's 57 legislators in our first electoral run in 1998, attorney Otto Guevara, a Harvard graduate. Also gained permanent nationwide ballot access. In the U.S. and elsewhere the road to liberty is long and difficult. But through

your financial contributions you can join the world-wide team that is making it happen in Costa Rica.

CAN-DO: For the third consecutive year Otto has been chosen best Congressman by 80% of news media people. And we average 3.9 newspaper citations daily. The libertarian position is now part of *every* political debate in Costa Rica.

CAN-DO: Otto was named best Congressman in all six nationwide polls since 1998. A projection of the latest one shows that libertarians have a good chance of electing 6-8 out of 57 Congressmen.

CAN-DO: in that poll, even before declaring his imminent candidacy or doing any publicity, Otto got 7.5% of the presidential preference. The top-rated candidate only got 22.5% after 3 years of a costly publicity campaign.



All this indicates great potential for the February 2002 elections. But our openly libertarian educational and electoral campaign must be media-intensive, which is costly everywhere, and as

libertarians we don't accept government funds. With a strong campaign we have an outside chance of winning the Presidency in 2002. But we certainly will by 2006 if we can elect many Congressmen next year.

At long last, let all the world's libertarians join hands to achieve the libertarian dream in one country, so it can spread everywhere!

Costa Rican law allows contributions from foreign individuals and entities in any amount (see our website).

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"Can we search your house?"

Continued from Page 1

hopelessness that had formed inside me on the darkest day of my life, only 25 days earlier.

I'm a stay-at-home dad. We have two young children whom I care for full-time while my wife works outside the home to provide for us.

The morning of June 5th was bright and sunny and the oppressive heat and humidity of summer had not yet replaced the glorious Carolina springtime.

School was out so my 10-year-old son was outside playing. My little girl was in her highchair in the living room enjoying her favorite cereal and watching cartoons. I was in my bedroom sitting at my desk, taking advantage of a peaceful moment to do a little reading.

A male voice

The solitude was shattered suddenly by the sound of an adult male voice calling out from the kitchen. I scrambled out of my chair. On the way to the kitchen my brain filled up with every parent's worst fear. Something had happened to my little boy!

This fear was heightened when I entered my kitchen and saw a Horry County police officer. He was standing in the doorway leading out to the carport. The storm door had been opened. His left foot was on the first step leading down to the carport. His right was planted on the stoop leading into the kitchen.

I approached him and before I could inquire about my son, he spoke. "Is there anyone else in the house?" In lieu of "Good morning," these were the first words out of his mouth.

When he started speaking, I stopped in my tracks. I saw a second officer on my carport and, with great relief, my son standing a few feet away in the yard.

With my mind temporarily put at ease, I began to concentrate on his question. I hesitated, somewhat puzzled by what I considered to be an odd way to start a conversation. My hesitation irritated him and before I could speak he repeated his question, this time more loudly and in a much more gruff tone.

This action immediately put me on the defensive. I hesitated in answering originally because my little girl was sitting quietly a few feet away, and he was not yet aware that she was there. What I perceived to be a lack of professionalism on his part contributed to my apprehension.

I finally got out a "No," and then quickly amended my answer

by saying, "Well, my little girl is sitting right here." I made a gesture with my right hand.

He was not satisfied with my response. He said, "There's wet footprints leading into your house."

By this time, fear had begun creeping in and I had become so confused at his line of questioning that I began to doubt that he was who he said he was.

My 10-year-old boy is an outside kid and one might find wet footprints leading into my house just anytime, especially early in the morning after a heavy dew.

So I replied, "Oh, my son tracks into the house sometimes."

He responded, "No, these tracks are much bigger than that." Then there was silence.

I certainly didn't have anything else to say so I just stood there hoping that he was going to say, "Okay then, thanks for your time." But this didn't happen.

For the third time he repeated his original question: "IS THERE ANYONE ELSE IN THE HOUSE?"

I immediately answered "No" and held out my hands palms up, pleading with him as if he had just accused me of conspiring to kill Kennedy.

I thought that the conviction with which I answered would surely satisfy him, but I couldn't have been more wrong. And so his next question altered the course my life was taking, and will serve as the linchpin upon which the rest of my life will revolve.

"CAN WE SEARCH YOUR HOUSE?" he asked.

I couldn't believe my ears! I had been truthful with him and now he was accusing me of being a liar. I hesitated once again because at this point I was sure that he was not a policeman, because surely a professional law enforcement officer would not act this way.

My mind began racing and I was thinking, "Oh my God! This man and his partner are about to rob me or beat me." Why else would he continue to ask if anyone else was in the house? I was frantic.

Piece of advice

At that moment, I recalled a piece of advice once offered on an educational show. If ever someone you don't know requests admittance to your house, *always* ask to see identification — whether they appear to be a police officer or a guy saying he's been sent to fix your leaky faucet. The program warned that uniforms are easily accessible, but a photo identification is much more difficult to obtain. Besides, most criminals would not have thought of it.



■ Gary Thomas: "I love America. [But] after The Search, I had never been more afraid. I can't imagine being more scared if I lived in Havana or Beijing or Baghdad. There is one difference now though — the Libertarian Party."

So, armed with my invaluable piece of knowledge, I asked, "Can I see some identification, please?"

The moment the last word escaped from my lips I knew I had really messed up. His face became bright red.

"Look buddy," he said, "There's four or five police officers and cars right out there," as he pointed down my driveway and out towards the street.

He then asked the final time, "Can we search the house?"

I had run out of options and at that point decided to answer the question in the only way possible. "Yes," I said softly, "Go ahead."

He immediately made a hand gesture to his partner and his left foot joined the right inside my house.

He drew his gun from its holster and started across my kitchen. He drew his gun in *my* house. He drew his gun in *my wife's* house. He drew his gun in *my kid's* house.

His partner entered seconds after he did. The lead officer proceeded down the hallway and into our lives forever. He opened my kid's closets. He went into our bedroom. He picked up the pile of blankets left on my son's bed, and deposited them onto the floor.

He continued to poke and prod into all the places in which we used to feel comfortable. I estimate that the officers stole 45 to 60 seconds of my right to pri-

vacy that day, but I shall spend the next 45 to 60 years talking and writing about it.

I followed them back outside, saying nothing. My heart was pounding and I was just thinking over and over, "What is this about? What is this about? What is this about?"

I am unsure whether this thought ever became audible. I didn't hear myself, but I guess I could have.

Either the lead officer heard me or read my mind because after he crossed my carport and started into the yard, he suddenly wheeled around and said, "We're lookin' for somebody and you ain't him."

He turned back around and proceeded on.

I called after him, "Do you have a description?"

He turned around. "He's wearing blue jeans and a T-shirt." And then they were gone.

No footprints

After they left, I searched for footprints, on the carport, on the steps. There were no wet ones or even traces of a dried one. There were no footprints. Zero.

The only footprints made that day were the ones left on my mind by the Horry County law enforcement officer who trampled all over my Fourth Amendment rights guaranteed to me by the Constitution of the United States.

I love America. I believe in the

principles upon which this nation was founded. But that day I was not proud of what America has become.

I confiscated one piece of black construction paper from my little girl's book and cut out three rectangles to tape over the windows in our front door. I just didn't want anyone to come to my front porch and be able to peer into our lives.

What must my little boy have thought about that? When he asked I told him that in the summertime light comes through and shines on the TV. What should I have told him? The black squares stayed up for four months. I finally took them down last week.

Why did the police officer have to pull that gun out in my house? Was I intimidating him? I go about 5'9" and 165 pounds. He was easily around six feet and a few burgers over 200 pounds, but it's possible someone looks bigger when they're holding a gun in a threatening manner.

All morning and into the afternoon, I kept playing it over and over in my mind trying to figure out what had happened. The experience seemed so surreal that I might have had trouble believing it actually happened, except that my son was there.

Explain to him

While I was conducting my footprint investigation he came over. He asked me why the cops went in our house. I had remained calm throughout and I knew it was important for me to take the same approach when trying to explain it to him.

But how do you explain something to your kid that you don't understand yourself? I told him matter-of-factly that someone must have done something really bad and the policemen needed to look through every building in case the person was hiding somewhere.

I thought this would satisfy him but he is a very curious child. He then asked, "Why did he take his gun out?"

This just about floored me. I didn't think he had been able to see this happen. This was the moment when the state of shock was broken and the anger exploded inside me. But fortunately, it remained inside me, and again I explained matter-of-factly that he did it because that's the way policemen were trained to act. Am I right?

He seemed satisfied with my explanation. I immediately came into the house and began furiously writing down the details. I probably wrote for 30 or 40 minutes and tried to allow the rage to pour out onto the paper. I felt like this would be therapeutic, and as soon as my hand was throbbing I stopped and tried to convince myself that I could get over it.

Why did the police officer have to search my house?

Later that day, I received a phone call from my wife. I had

See **SEARCH** Page 15

My Journey
TO THE
Libertarian Party Personal Stories

"Can we search your house?"

Continued from Page 14

always been a well-informed person, but the last couple of years I found myself avoiding the news more and more. She knew this, and especially of my apathy towards local events. So she called me to see if I had heard about what happened.

I hadn't. So she told me that a Horry County police officer had been shot to death earlier that morning. She told me there was one suspect they were hunting, and suggested that maybe I would want to keep the kids inside for a while.

I didn't tell my wife about the morning excitement. I wasn't able to tell her about what happened until a month later.

During our phone conversation, she told me approximately where the shooting had occurred. I was shocked. The crime scene is 11 miles from our house.

The crime had been committed at about 5:15 a.m. The officers were in my house at 9:50 a.m. So in six and a half hours, the police had been able to knock on every door between my house and the crime scene? The entire city lies between these two points. There would have been thousands of residences and other buildings to check out before reaching mine.

The next day the suspect was found hiding in a backyard shed in a subdivision 12.2 miles from my house. In approximately 30 hours, the suspect had made his way a little over a mile from the crime scene to the east.

To get to our house from the crime scene one must travel west and north 11 miles. So, if the search for the suspect had spread outwards from the crime scene in every direction, how could they have missed him so easily — so close to the scene — and made it all the way out to our place? Amazing police work, don't you think?

I'm a nobody

Politically speaking I'm a nobody. I'm not a card-carrying member of the NRA. I don't have a moral agenda I expect the nation to follow. I don't own a small business or run a large one. I'm not even close to retirement age (if I had a job). And I don't need any prescriptions I think the government should pay for.

I despise politicians but I love politics. I've always sought out leaders and found none. I kept waiting for someone to emerge who knew exactly where he stood on every issue BEFORE the polls came out.

Each election came and went and every time I was well-informed and disillusioned and stayed home. That is until this time.

Discovering the Libertarian Party has changed my outlook; my heart and mind once forged by anger and fear have become tem-

pered with hope and anticipation. I believe in what the party is attempting, and promote and defend every plank in the platform.

I find it amusing reading some of the quotes from the expert political analysts who describe Libertarian philosophy as being "revolutionary" and "new." Maybe it's new in their lifetimes — and the ideas were revolutionary 225 years ago! What's new about the First Amendment or the

Fourth Amendment or any other amendment included in the Bill of Rights?

I strongly support a noninterventionist policy.

I want to stop feeling like the government is over us, and more like it is us.

I want politicians to stop coming up with more handout programs that ensure that the poorest will stay the poorest.

I want the government to stay

out of my day-to-day life.

After The Search, I had never been more afraid. I can't imagine being more scared if I lived in Havana or Beijing or Baghdad.

There is one difference now though — the Libertarian Party. Not long ago, I was afraid to do anything — and now all I fear is the result of doing nothing.

In early August, on my 35th birthday, I became emotional about The Search all over again.

I guess it was the onset of middle age or maybe just freedom pangs, but I took the notes out and began this composition. I wrote most of it that day and well into the night. I was going to finish it.

But alas, I chickened out. I left it incomplete and tried once again to just get over it. I was raised to turn the other cheek, so why any different this time?

The Libertarian Party is why.

I finished this essay on Election Day — my first Election Day.

■ **About the author:** *Libertarian Party member Gary Thomas lives in South Carolina.*

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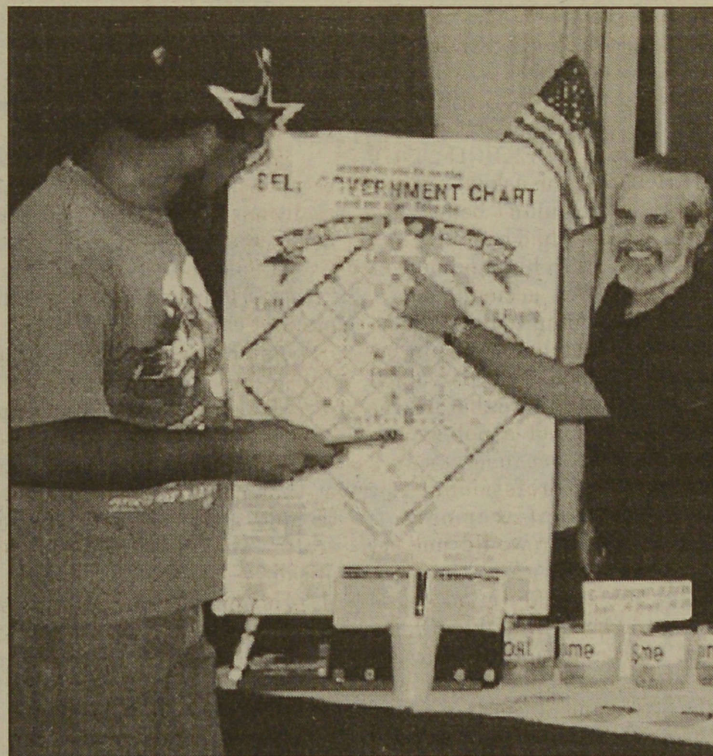
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| _____ | Libertarianism In One Lesson • Bergland |

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| _____ | Brochure: "Is This the New Political Party...?" |
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| _____ | Brochure: "What Happened/Your Family Budget?" |
| _____ | Brochure: "Ending the Welfare State" |
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| _____ | Brochure: "Equal Rights/America's Gun Owners" |
| _____ | Brochure: "Working to Cut Your Taxes!" |
| _____ | Flyer: "Political Party/100% Pro-Gun Rights?" |
| _____ | America's Libertarian Heritage booklet |
| _____ | Fact Sheets: LP history/bibliography (package) |
| _____ | World's Smallest Political Quiz |
| _____ | "Million Dollar Bill" Literature |

Yard Signs

| | |
|-------|-----------------------------------|
| _____ | ENOUGH IS ENOUGH/Vote Libertarian |
|-------|-----------------------------------|

Bumper Stickers

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

Buttons

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

Miscellaneous Items

| | |
|-------|---------------------------------------|
| _____ | Lined windbreaker. Circle one: M L XL |
|-------|---------------------------------------|

Tools for Campaigning

| | |
|-------|---|
| _____ | Libertarian Political Action Booklet |
| _____ | Statue of Liberty logo master |
| _____ | LP Statue of Liberty logo on 3-1/2" PC disk |
| _____ | Newsprint ads: "Libertarian Party — Defenders of Liberty" set of seven. |

Large & Small Banners

| | |
|-------|---|
| _____ | Large: "LIBERTARIAN PARTY" (18" x 5") |
| _____ | Please check preferred second line: |
| _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Defenders of Liberty <input type="checkbox"/> 1-800-ELECT-US |
| _____ | Small: "LIBERTARIAN PARTY" (12" x 5"). |

Total Due

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| _____ | Merchandise Total |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> | Cash, check, or money order enclosed (No corporate checks!) |
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Summer Outreach?

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Will you do your part this summer to spread the word about the Libertarian Party? If every LP member distributed just 15 pieces of literature this summer, then more than a half-million Americans would be exposed to our message.

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With your help, we can make the next five months the sizzling summer of Libertarian growth!

LIBERTARIAN PARTY BROCHURES



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

★ Cost: Sample: 50¢
Or \$7 for 100

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

★ Cost: Sample: 50¢
Or \$7 for 100

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

★ Cost: Sample: 50¢
Or \$7 for 100

■ **Equal Rights for America's Gun Owners.** Brochure, 2-color (orange & black). Explains and defends the Libertarian Party's strong pro-Second Amendment position for a general audience.

★ Cost: Sample: 50¢
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Yard Sign

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

Cost: \$8.00 each.

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

★ Cost: Sample: 50¢
Or \$7 for 100

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

★ Cost: Sample: 50¢
Or \$7 for 100

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

★ Cost: Sample: 50¢
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LP Literature & Books

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

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

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

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

■ **Million Dollar Bills:** Green Ink. A faux \$1,000,000 bill that highlights excessive federal spending — and points out that the federal government spends more than \$1 million every five seconds. Perfect for Tax Day, taxpayer groups, and almost any other outreach project! Cost: Sample: 50¢ or \$5 for 100

■ **LP "Fact Sheets":** Updated for 2000: 2-page LP history (with political highlights, accomplishments, and victories from 1971-1999) and comprehensive two-page bibliography (more than 150 books about liberty!). Sold as a set. Cost: Sample: 50¢ or \$10 for 100

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

Bumperstickers

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

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

■ **Don't Blame Me ... I Voted Libertarian** (Blue & white; 800-ELECT-US phone number below.)

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

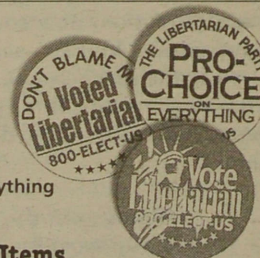
■ **I'm Pro-Choice on Everything!** (Red, white, & blue.)

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

■ **Don't Blame Me, I Voted Libertarian** 1-800-ELECT-US

■ **Vote Libertarian** 1-800-ELECT-US

■ **Libertarian Party: Pro-Choice on Everything** 1-800-ELECT-US



Miscellaneous Items

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

Tools for Campaigning

■ **Libertarian Political Action: Techniques for Effective Campaigning:** 32 pages. Comprehensive explanation of winning campaign techniques for Libertarian candidates. A must read! Cost: \$3.00 each

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

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

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

Large & Small Banners

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

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

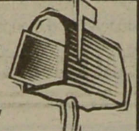
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Strategic Planning Team: Brainstorming for success

Continued from Page 3

fore the August LNC meeting where a finalized plan is scheduled to be delivered.

"I have no doubt we will have an integrated plan at the August meeting," said Givot. "Our biggest challenge will be for members of the team to reach a consensus on the best package. If we can do that, anything is possible."

However, as SPT members work to reach that consensus, several admit they have sharply different visions of what the party should do to succeed.

Grassroots

For example, LNC At-Large Representative Lorenzo Gatzanaga from Maryland said he thinks "grassroots" effort is the correct course of action.

"I am convinced that the only way we are going to grow is by zeroing in on our local elections," he said. "When the Socialist Party started winning elections and

forced the Democrats to pay attention to them, they won mayoral races and local positions. I hope to send a message to the rank-and-file to look to themselves for candidates."

On the other hand, LNC At-Large member Elias Israel of Massachusetts said statewide and federal races can also be an effective avenue to political success.

"We certainly need grassroots campaigns," he said. "But all of

GAZTANAGA:

"The only way we are going to grow is by zeroing in on local elections."

our resources must be spread to higher levels as well, thus creating synergy. And an example of that is the success of Carla Howell's campaign for Senate last year. One of the results of that campaign is that we now have 18 people who plan to run for state legislature in the upcoming cycle."

Despite the differences, Givot said he is confident that consensus can be reached.

"I have complete faith that

this group will reach consensus on a strategic plan which will move the party forward in a very positive way," he said.

The next Strategic Planning Team meeting will be held May 5-6 in Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina.

A complete list of Libertarian National Committee members (plus contact information) is available at the party's website: www.LP.org.

Real Kramer for mayor?

Continued from Page 3

Costanza, and Elaine Benes — on the "show about nothing."

Capitalizing on the Cosmo Kramer fame, in 1996 the real Kramer created the "Kramer Reality Tour," where he ferried tourists around to New York City landmarks where the *Seinfeld* show was taped.

He parlayed the tour and his *Seinfeld* connection into appearances on *Access Hollywood*, the *Oprah Winfrey Show*, the *Today Show*, *Dateline NBC*, and others.

"Kenny Kramer is a New York icon," said Cooper. "Politics and government seem funny to many people, but politics and humor will merge" now that Kramer is "seeking the Libertarian nomination for NYC mayor."

The election will be held in November 2001.

Competition?

Although Kramer has no announced competition, there is speculation that one-time LP member Roy Innis might also seek the LP nomination for mayor, said Cooper. Innis, the president of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) had joined the party in 1998, but allowed his membership to lapse a year later.

"Roy Innis is rumored to be interested [but] hasn't decided whether to seek [our nomination or] the Republican or Democratic nomination for mayor," said Cooper.

No Libertarian has run for mayor of New York City since 1993, according to ballot access expert Richard Winger.

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- Overview: The Politics of 2001
- What Voters Will Want in 2001 and 2002: A Look at Public Opinion Trends with Top Pollsters
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Saturday, June 2, 2001

- General Session — The Elements of a Winning Campaign Strategy
- Track A: Developing the Campaign Message Step-by-Step
- Track B: Effective Political TV Spots: A Look at the the Pollie Winners for 2000
- Track C: How to get Press Coverage in Local, State and District Campaigns: Preparing Press Releases, Staging Press Events
- Track D: The Fundraising Plan: Step by Step
- Track A: Recruiting Volunteers: Successful Techniques and Tips
- Track B: Managing Voter Files: New Techniques & Technologies
- Track C: Producing Television Spots: Creative Ideas, Technical Tips
- Track D: Effective Spin: Damage Control, Crisis Management and Press Relations

- Track A: Building Your Organization and Developing Coalitions: Turning Community Leaders Into Campaign Leaders
- Track B: Using Telephones for Voter ID, Persuasion, Recruitment, GOTV
- Track C: Opposition Research: Where to Find it, How to Use it
- Track D: Creative Web Site Design
- Track E: Special Session: Political Campaigning in Latin America (2 hours)
- Track A: Direct Mail Fundraising — Do's & Don'ts
- Track B: Ballot Issue Campaigns — Winning Strategies & Tactics

- Track C: Winning Against the Odds: How to Win Underdog Local & District Campaigns
- Track D: Candidate Appearance and Image Development: How to Look and Act Your Best on the Campaign Trail
- Track A: Preparing and Delivering Effective Speeches by John Davies
- Track B: Targeting Minority and Ethnic Voting Constituencies: Persuasion, Mobilization and Election Day Turnout
- Track C: Winning Nonpartisan Local, State & Judicial Elections
- Track D: Saving Money on Your Direct Mail: From Design to Printing to Postage

Sunday June 3, 2001

- Track A: Budgeting Advertising Dollars in Small and Large Campaigns
- Track B: Running — and Winning — as a Third Party or Independent Candidate
- Track C: Fundraising on the Internet: Appeals, E-mails, Credit Cards and Follow-Ups
- Track D: Focus Groups & Tracking Polls — How to Use Them to Communicate Your Message
- Track A: Developing Earned Media Strategy in the Campaign: Dealing with the Press
- Track B: Using Polls for Message Development & Effective Voter Targeting
- Track C: Candidate Scheduling: Maximize the Candidate's Time
- Track A: Persuasion Direct Mail — Creative Workshop
- Track B: First 25 Things Every Smart Campaign Should Do by Ron Faucheux
- Track C: Getting your Ballot Initiative Off the Ground: Signature Gathering & Qualification; Ballot Language Strategy; Timing & Organizational Tactics
- Track D: Getting Out the Vote: Election Day Turnout Strategies and Techniques
- Track A: Media Buying — Planning, Pricing, Targeting, FCC Regulations, & Disclaimers
- Track B: Asking for Money: One-on-One
- Track C: Hiring Consultants & Staff in Campaigns Large & Small—Costs, Contracts, Relationships
- Track D: Producing Direct Mail and Print Materials in Small Local and District Campaigns
- Track A: Handling Debates and Multi-Candidate Forums by Ron Faucheux
- Track B: Grassroots Organizing and Field Operations
- Track C: Producing & Buying Effective Radio Ads
- Track D: Appearing on Talk Radio & TV Shows: How to Get On, How to Look and Sound your Best
- General Session: New Campaign Products and Software — Exploring the New Tools of the Trade

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Politics 2001

Campaign, party, and online news

■ In New York, **Vincent O'Neill** has kicked off his campaign for Nassau County Executive. In Arizona, **Jonathan Hoffman** said he will run for City Council (Ward 3) in Tucson. In California, Santa Barbara Chair **Colin Hayward** sent a letter to libertarian radio talk show host **Larry Elder**, encouraging him to run for office on the Libertarian Party ticket. In New Jersey, **Jennifer Carter** and **Richard "Jay" Edgar** have announced they will run for Cream Ridge Freeholder, while **Jay Boucher** will run for Lincroft Sheriff.

■ **Web news:** A website has been set up to "collect articles written by libertarians all over the world." The new site — www.libertypapers.com — has been created by **Walt Thiessen**, and will feature letters to the editor, op-eds, essays, and so on. "I want to turn this into a formidable datasource for libertarian thought, for the benefit of the entire movement," he said. E-mail to: walter@libertypapers.com. Hosting a state convention? A website, www.libertyforall.net, is offering to list upcoming LP state conventions in its "Resources" section. Send information to **R. Lee Wrights** at LFAeditor@aol.com. Looking for a liberty quote? The website www.ronholland.com/quotes/intro.htm features over 1,000 quotations about "freedom, free markets, and the defense of liberty," said creator **Ron Holland**.

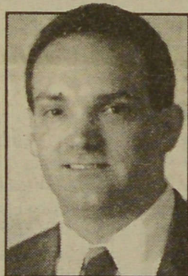
■ In Virginia, **Marc Montoni** has been elected new State Chair at the annual convention in Richmond. In California, **Ray Strong** was elected chair of the Santa Clara LP. In New York, **Jak Karako** has been chosen as first Chair of the Manhattan LP. In Michigan, **James Parker** has been elected Chair of the Branch-Hillsdale LP, **Todd Combs** has been selected as Chair of the South Central LP, and **Chris Pellerito** is the new Chair of the Oakland LP. In Missouri, **Bob Sullentrip** was elected new State Chair on March 17.

■ **Media news:** LP Press Secretary **George Getz** appeared on the *O'Reilly Factor* on the Fox News Channel on March 15 to debate hate crime laws. "Bill O'Reilly is a handful — a real combative host," said Getz. In Utah, the state's Shooting Sports Council distributed to its members the LP's March 8 press release about the media's anti-gun bias. The most interesting media calls of the month at the national headquarters: One from *Marie Claire* magazine in London, England asking about a 1999 LP press release on an anti-vibrator law in Alabama (for an article on odd sex laws). And one from a rabbi in Maine who publishes a newsletter called *AhMEE* (Hebrew for "My People"). He likes the LP so much he wants to publish the party's platform — in its entirety.

■ In Indiana, **Jeremy Dixon** has been elected as the Chair of the fledgling Clark County LP, while **Aaron Spurling** is the Chair of the brand-new Floyd County affiliate. In Florida, **John Wayne Smith** announced in early April that there are now registered Libertarians in all 67 counties in the state. In Michigan, **Diane Barnes** has been elected Chair of the Libertarians of Macomb County. In Virginia, **Gary Westmoreland** was re-elected as Chair of the Jefferson Area Libertarians. In California, the LP has become the fourth largest party in Fullerton, passing the Reform Party in registered voters, reported **Ralph G. Baker, Jr.** Also in California, **Jack Hickey** has been re-elected as Chair of the San Mateo County LP.

■ In Ohio, the Franklin County LP hosted a Patrick Henry Celebration on March 23 to commemorate the famous "Give Me Liberty Or Give Me Death" speech, originally delivered exactly 226 years earlier. In Michigan, Libertarians in Ottawa and Allegan counties have created the District 2 Libertarian Fund to support local candidates in 2002. In Massachusetts, past U.S. Senate candidate **Carla Howell** has branched into music: She's issued a song, "How Could I Live Without Filing Taxes?", which is available on her website: www.carlahowell.org.

■ President George W. Bush has nominated Reason Foundation President and CEO **Lynn Scarlett** as Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management, and Budget of the United States Department of the Interior. If approved, she will join former LP member **Gale Norton**. In Indiana, past LP gubernatorial candidate **Andy Horning** has started writing a regular weekly column for the *Indianapolis Star*.



■ **George Getz:** *O'Reilly Factor*.

National Review: Republicans have real 'problem' with LP candidates

Continued from Page 3

In addition, two Republican U.S. House candidates lost close races in 2000 by less than the number of votes won by LP candidates, which winnowed the Republican majority in that house of Congress.

In an era of near-parity with the Democrats, the Republican Party leadership needs to start paying more attention to its "Libertarian problem," the article concluded. In fact, *National Review* reported that Republicans were meeting to decide what to do about the Libertarian threat.

"In this age of Senate power sharing and a razor-thin GOP House majority, Republicans can't ignore the Libertarians," wrote Miller and Ponnuru. "If they do, it may cost them dearly."

A danger

LP National Chair **Jim Lark** agreed. "We have clearly hurt the GOP in some important races and are regarded as a danger," he said.

But instead of worrying about Libertarians, Republicans should start worrying about their voting records, said LP National Director **Steve Dasbach**.

"It's good to see that some Republicans are recognizing that their failure to 'walk their talk' about reducing government could be causing them to lose elections," he said. "I hope we're drawing votes away from any politician, of any party, who isn't working to

JIM LARK:
*Libertarians have
"clearly hurt the
GOP in some
important races."*

reduce the size, power, expense, and intrusiveness of government."

The GOP's real problem, said Dasbach, is that there are few Republicans who support a smaller-government agenda.

"I wouldn't need a calculator to count the number of 'good' Republican office-holders — that is, those that are actually trying to shrink government," he said.

Lark agreed that if Republicans had consistently voted for a pro-liberty agenda, voters would not have deserted them.

"[The article] revealed what I suspect many important Republican strategists have feared: Some voters who have strongly supported the Republicans have finally had enough of the 'promises, promises' from Republicans and are willing to vote for (or join) the Libertarian Party," he said.

"Since some elections are decided by very narrow margins, the loss of a relatively small group of dedicated activists and voters can

mean key GOP losses."

However, said Lark, "If a Republican is truly 'good' (in Libertarian terms), it is likely that the LP candidate will be able to pull only a small number of votes. What is more likely is that we may cause a Republican who may be good on two or three issues, but is generally mediocre to horrible on other issues, to lose to a Democrat who may or may not be worse than the Republican."

Simplistic

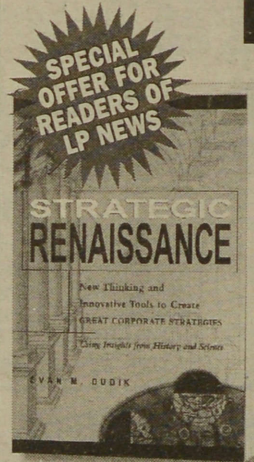
Despite the premise of the *National Review* article, it may be somewhat simplistic to believe that Libertarian candidates only take away votes from Republicans, said Dasbach — since research has shown that, in different races, LP candidates can draw from Republicans, Democrats, independents, or formerly unenrolled voters.

"I hope we can attract voters who already recognize that both the Republicans and the Democrats are selling out freedom, and who had given up hope," he said. "But however we attract votes, we should continue to field as many candidates as possible, in races at all levels, and encourage them to run active campaigns that promote liberty."

The *National Review* is widely considered one of the most influential conservative magazines in the nation. It has a circulation of more than 150,000.

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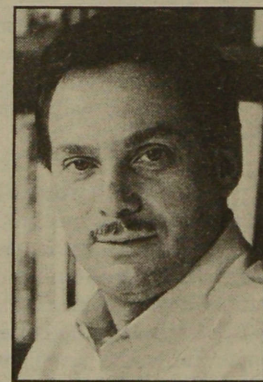
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Oregon Co. Commissioner joins LP

Continued from Page 2

to change the office of county commissioner to a nonpartisan position — which is opposed by the local GOP leadership, he said, because they believe such partisan races solidify their power in a predominantly Republican county.

After almost two decades of political involvement, the willingness of many Democrats and Republicans to exchange their professed values for power has become increasingly disturbing,

Johnstone said.

"All the power-brokering and backroom deal-making turns my stomach," he said. "I believe politics should begin with principles. You shouldn't use legislation as a bargaining chip to advance your own personal interests."

Board of directors

A graduate of Oregon State University and the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, Johnstone also serves on the board of directors for the

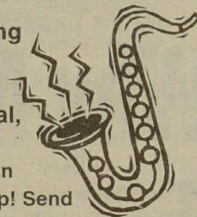
Community Action Agency of Yamhill County, the Yamhill County Mediators, and the Governor's Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention.

But Johnstone said that after he serves out the remaining two years of his term as county commissioner, he will take a reprieve from political life.

"I want to spend more time raising my five children," he said. "Maybe after they're grown I'll run for public office again — this time as a Libertarian."

Best Libertarian Song?

Calling all music fans: What modern song (1950-2001) best exemplifies the spirit of liberty? Or expresses a strong Libertarian sentiment — about freedom in general, or about a specific libertarian issue?



For a future issue of *LP News*, we're planning an article on "Liberty's Best Songs." We need your help! Send us information about your favorite Libertarian song: Song title, performer, and the name of the album where it can be found. Plus, tell us in about 100 words what makes it one of "Liberty's Best Songs."

■ E-mail to: Bill.Winter@hq.LP.org. Or mail: LP News, 2600 Virginia Avenue, NW, Suite 100, Washington DC 20037. Fax: (202) 333-0072.

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The Forum

Why Napster is nothing more than theft

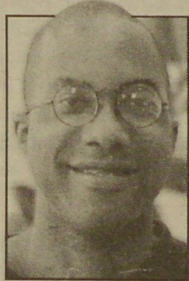
The Napster controversy certainly gives rapper Dr. Dre something to write an angry rap song about.

Dr. Dre, Sheryl Crow, and Metallica — not to mention many other successful recording artists — are quite unhappy about Napster's music trafficking practices, as well as the current state of copyright law in this country.

Napster is an Internet music exchange center where people can request to download music — for free. Napster doesn't technically sell the music requested. It merely serves as a kind of music library that enables people to "check out" tunes.

The problem is that people abuse the sound library, burning and reproducing CDs, and then selling them for their own profit. The political issue is whether Napster's practices actually violate intellectual property rights and copyright laws.

The sentiments surrounding the Napster controversy result, to some degree, from intellectual property cases initiated last year. For example, last November Congress passed a law placing recorded music under the category of "made-for-hire." Under certain



By Eric Bryant

conditions, this designation "gives" recording companies the "right" to be legal "authors" of the work of artists made to turn a profit.

"The artists were right to be irate," said Marci Hamilton, professor of law, New York University. "This legislation violates the Constitution, and is bad policy to boot."

Racketeering

Thankfully, the courts did do something to push back the hands of tyranny in the Napster case. California's 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals recently ruled, in effect, that Napster's trading practices constitute an infringement of copyright protections. It also charged them with racketeering.

Many Americans, however, disagree with the ruling. Jeff Fain, a student at The University of Texas at Austin, said he's disappointed that he will have to pay



Illustration by Delon Sosa

for music he used to get for free.

"But I understand the artists' point of view. They have to eat — this is their trade," he later said.

Surprised that someone would hold such conflicting views in the same breath? Don't be. The

courts did the same thing.

In early February the courts ruled that Napster did not violate copyright laws because the company itself did not actually reproduce any music for their own profit. Therefore, the artists'

rights were not violated.

This obvious confusion about the nature of copyright law and individual rights, quite frankly, misses the point.

The purpose of copyright law is clear: to prevent an individual or group from profiting or otherwise benefiting from the intellectual or material products of another individual — without that individual's legal consent.

Means of survival

The rationality behind the law is also clear: If other entities are allowed to confiscate and use the products of my productive effort for their own advantage — without my consent — then I can be cut off from the fruits of my achievements, and, ultimately, my basic means of survival. This is the main reason we have property rights in the first place. Fain illustrates this point when he said that artists "have to eat."

Of course, if Fain really believed that, or understood the full implication of his statement, he could not simultaneously be disappointed by having to pay for their music.

Thus, the moral crime of Napster underlies its political crime. Its moral crime is a deliberate reliance upon the achievements of others to make its own profit. In other words, if there were no Sheryl Crows, Dr. Dres, or Metallicas, there could be no Napsters to get rich off them.

This means Napster is no different from a common thief. It is a parasite that feeds off the blood and sweat of others.

The (im)moral code implicit in Napster's practices — and in the current state of copyright law in this nation — is that the individual — the artist — should sacrifice himself and the products of his labor to the collective, i.e., the Napster Corporation, the State, or people like Fain who demand something for nothing.

Napster knew that it didn't receive permission to use or traffic in the property of these artists. But its defense was that the company itself was not to blame because it did not do any reproducing of music.

No excuse

Even so, it still used the property of others for its own ends, without contractual consent. Napster has no excuse.

Copyright protection is a basic extension of the rights to life and property. Companies like Napster clearly operate in violation of these rights and should be held accountable. If we allow one group to exploit the property of another individual or group, then we eventually allow one individual's life to be sacrificed for the benefit of another.

No act could be more immoral.

The harsh lesson of federal tobacco subsidies

Tobacco farmers made a deal with the devil when they accepted federal "help" in the 1930s

The federal government's campaign to outlaw tobacco in the United States should teach growers one important lesson: No good deed goes unpunished.

Most Americans are not familiar with the array of government protections that control how tobacco is grown in this country. It all goes back to Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal, when the nation was trying to crawl out of the Great Depression.

The collapse of the nation's economy led to a plunge in tobacco prices across the country. Tobacco farmers were reported in newspapers at that time as weeping at the price their leaf brought in Southern warehouses.

A part of the solution advanced by the federal government, and agreed to by growers and the tobacco industry, was to limit the amount of tobacco that could be produced and the number of people who can grow it.

That's right. We can't simply run out and buy some tobacco plants, put them in a freshly-tilled

field during the spring, and harvest the leaf in the summer.

Growers must have what's called an allotment given to them by the federal government, which says how many acres of tobacco they can grow each year. Larger, wealthier tobacco farmers can lease an allotment to someone who wants to try his or her luck in the backbreaking process of harvesting leaf.

Trickles down

The federal government also determines how much tobacco is needed each year. This amount, commonly called a quota, trickles down to each farmer with an allotment which says how much leaf can be grown.

The process has generally provided many growers with a comfortable income — even in bad years brought on by drought and other factors. In years where the leaf did not bring the price a

By Bernard Baker

farmer wanted, there was another cushion that came to his aid. Farmers could "loan" their tobacco to the government until they got the price they found acceptable.

Farmers have faced a real hit in their pocketbooks as the quota has been cut by almost 50% in the past three years by the federal government.

The quota is defended by most growers as a birthright.

A recent conversation with a Danville, Virginia grower explains the mentality. When asked why not simply abandon the quota system and let free trade rule, this very decent man told me it wouldn't work.

"You'd make a million dollars, take your money and go home," he said.

That's an interesting response, and part of it may be true.

If I made a million dollars in one year growing tobacco, why would I not come back for a second year to possibly make more — even though growing tobacco redefines a labor-intensive crop? The same goes for other folks who would like to give farming a try.

And what if I took the money

and ran? Who knows, someone might come in to replace my loss if they are willing to take a gamble?

Besides the campaign to stamp out smoking by federal planning, tobacco growers faced another crunch they didn't count on — free trade.

Importing tobacco

Most American tobacco companies are importing more tobacco from South America and Asia. Opening new markets had the effect of cutting the amount of tobacco that is needed to make cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco and other products.

Libertarians feel tobacco farmers' pain. Tobacco has been made Public Enemy No. 1, but farmers need to realize that the decision made by their fathers and grandfathers to accept the federal handout came at a high price — higher than what their leaf would bring at the market.

Libertarians know that the same government that can offer you a safety net can also cut the rope that holds it up. We would urge that tobacco farmers give up

See **TOBACCO** Page 21

■ **About the author:** Eric Bryant is a member of the campus Libertarian organization at the University of Texas, Austin, and a writer for the Austin Review.

George W. justifies a vote for Libertarians

After less than 100 days, new president gives Libertarian voters a reason to hold heads high

In less than 100 days since his inauguration, President Bush has managed to justify the Libertarian platform. And Republicans have slid further into the cesspool of compromise in the early sessions of the new Congress. The president demolished the Republicans' claim that they are the party of smaller government when he sent a Republican Congress a budget that increased spending by 4%. He tried to soften the blow by including a \$1.6 trillion dollar tax cut over the next 10 years.

What did the Republican Congress do? Exactly what the Libertarians predicted they would. They further compromised their stated party principles by reducing the president's tax cut by \$400 dollars, and growing the government by another 3% — to bring the total growth to 7% in increased government spending.

And they have the nerve to even call themselves the Party of "Limited" Government?! (Limited to what?) They have jumped from the Ship of Compromise into the Sea of Socialism.

Overtures

For years Libertarians have resisted overtures from the Republicans for a number of reasons. But, the one reason why most Libertarians are hesitant about supporting Republicans is that you cannot believe what they say. It's really that simple.

Their stated principles may appeal to most Libertarians, but they have come up short in the area of put-your-money-where-your-mouth-is.

The Republican Party, and in particular the current administration, have proven once again that they have no intention of reducing government and removing the chains of federal bureaucracy. In less than 100 days, they ruined the best opportunity they have had in decades.

Amazing how quickly the mighty can fall.

Even the principled faction of the Republican Party is so small that it is unable to do little more than scream in protest and blame Libertarians for "stealing their votes." Funny how Republicans blame Harry Browne for stealing

votes from George W. — just like the Democrats blame Ralph Nader for stealing Al Gore's votes. Both parties apparently view the U.S. government as their own personal property. The only "theft" that has occurred is how the two-party system robs the citizens of their freedom.

If you say you will do one thing — and then do the opposite after you gain support — you have committed a fraud. You no longer deserve the confidence of the people.

Done nothing

This is the point where the Republican Party stands today. They cannot be trusted — and have done nothing to deserve the support of Libertarian votes.

For Libertarians who voted for Harry Browne, hold your heads high and walk proudly.

For Libertarians who voted for George W. just to defeat the dreaded Al Gore, I hope you

By R. Lee Wrights

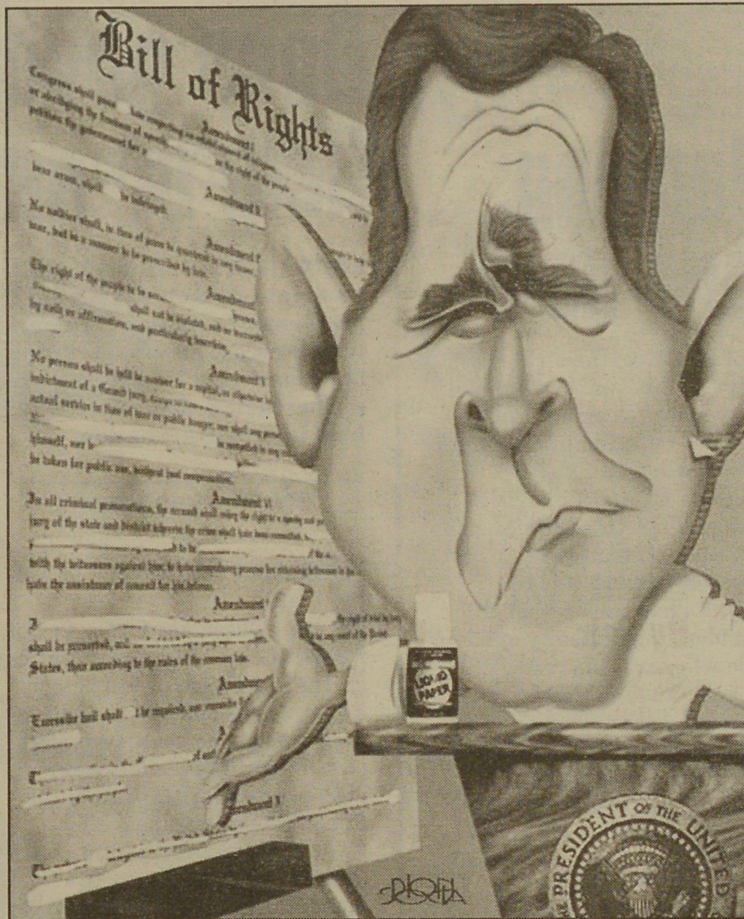


Illustration by Deion Socia

Tobacco subsidies

Continued from Page 20

federal assistance — period. Yes, that means there could be fewer growers in the United States because the support system would vanish.

Some farmers will not make it without these supports, but the door would be wide open to let others in who want to try — and who have been prevented in the past.

Opportunities

There are other opportunities for farmers to grow tobacco other than for smoking purposes. Research is underway that uses tobacco for possible medications and protein sources. Farmers can contract with these firms to provide tobacco for research for an agreed on price.

Libertarians would tell tobacco growers we can't guarantee them an end result. Farmers know there are good years and bad years based on weather and economic forces. All Libertarians can promise them is the chance to create their own opportunities and to shape their own destinies.

■ About the author: R. Lee Wrights is a Libertarian Party member in Winston-Salem, NC.

■ About the author: Bernard Baker is an LP member and a journalist in Virginia.



Do you think that our government has gotten too big and too powerful? Do you think a maze of bureaucrats and politicians are chipping away at the freedoms Americans used to take for granted? Do you think the Bill of Rights is being silently repealed — one precious freedom at a time?

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FROM the Chair

Strategic planning: Where we are now

As mentioned in this issue of *LP News*, the strategic planning effort undertaken by the Libertarian National Committee has been underway since December, 2000. Perhaps as you read this, the Strategic Planning Team is holding its May meeting in Durham, North Carolina.

The SPT is charged with providing a strategic plan to be considered by the LNC during its August meeting. All decisions concerning approval and implementation of strategic plans are made by the LNC; the SPT has no power to enact a plan.

From my perspective, the process has gone reasonably well so far, especially when one considers the difficulty of doing first-rate strategic planning. (People who excel in strategic planning are worth their weight in gold, and top-flight professional strategic planners are compensated accordingly.)

Since some of the members of the SPT do not have substantial experience with formal strategic planning processes, there has been a learning curve. Moreover, the process we are using involves an interesting blend of bottom up and top down approaches that differs somewhat from the planning process with which I have previously worked.

The process has already generated some useful byproducts, such as a substantial idea list developed jointly by the SPT and attendees at the meeting of state chairs in Indianapolis in February. This list is available to all Libertarians at www.dehnbase.org/lpus/library/spt/ideas.cgi. (Kudos to Joe Dehn for his work to make the list available.)

Also, several state parties are establishing strategic plans and strategic planning processes; in some cases, those processes are based upon (or influenced by) the SPT.

Some state chairs and state executive directors have indicated that they have been very pleased by the information they gained by observing the operation of the SPT in Indianapolis.

In order to prepare a strategic plan, the SPT must deal with several difficult issues (so-called "third rail" issues), which we anticipate will involve extremely contentious choices about which Libertarians will be sharply divided. A couple of these issues are:

■ **As we welcome new members** into the Libertarian Party, many of these new members may hold a few ideas with which many current LP members will take issue. How do we bring such new people into the LP without sacrificing devotion to Libertarian principles?

■ **In some cases**, by running a Libertarian candidate we may end up causing the defeat of a candidate who is not horrible by a candidate who is horrible (where "horrible" is measured by Libertarian standards). How do we deal with such situations?

Please join me in thanking my Strategic Planning Team colleagues for their work on the team. They are (in alphabetical order) Ron Crickenberger, Steve Dasbach, Joe Dehn, Mike Dixon, Dan Fylstra, Lorenzo Gaztanaga, Michael Gilson De Lemos, Don Gorman, Ed Hoch, Eli Israel, Lois Kaneshiki, Dan Karlan, Deryl Martin, Phil Miller, Carl Milsted, Mark Nelson, Mary Ruwart, Ben Scherrey, Jim Turney, and Dan Wisnosky, with Steve Givot serving as facilitator.

They are investing a great deal of time and effort to build both a strategic plan and a planning process that we hope will be of great benefit to the LP and its affiliate parties. Also, LP staff members Marc Brandl and Dianne Pilcher deserve our thanks for their assistance to the SPT.

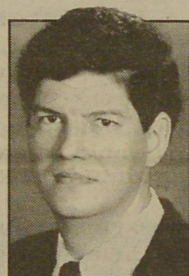
* * *

During the past month, I have received the sad news that the Libertarian Party has lost two champions of liberty.

The first, Dick Whitelock, had been a stalwart of the Libertarian Party of Michigan for many years. His distinguished service included terms as the chairman of the Michigan party and several campaigns for office.

The second, Jason Willency, was a relative newcomer to the Libertarian Party of Virginia. However, in his brief time with the Virginia LP, he made many friends by virtue of his hard work and good nature.

Both of the gentlemen will be sorely missed.



**By Jim Lark,
National Chair**

Does government 'management' help or hurt the U.S. economy?

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

By Jonathan Trager
LP NEWS STAFF WRITER

Chaotic. Unpredictable. Volatile.

These are just a few of the adjectives that skeptics of free enterprise use to describe a "pure" free-market economy — even though no such system exists. Despite the overwhelming evidence demonstrating that the free market is the most effective vehicle for economic growth, critics claim that massive economic fluctuations would destabilize society without the benevolent guidance of government.

Is that true?

Not quite. Classical economic theory actually demonstrates that government is the destabilizing factor in society — not the free market. Economic growth, which refers to the rate of increase in the total value of goods and services in a given period of time, is the key factor predicting the mean living standard of a population. The higher the average rate of growth, the healthier and wealthier the average citizen in a population tends to be.

When one considers the two key enemies of economic growth — inflation and taxation — it becomes obvious that government meddling in the economy has done more to hinder growth than promote it.

More stable

Consider first how inflation has fared under the Federal Reserve Board. Created by Congress in 1913 to stabilize prices, the Fed has actually presided over inflation in 66 of the past 80 years. In contrast, the 80 years preceding the Fed's inception saw periods of both inflation and deflation that largely offset each other. In other words, prices were *more* stable before the Fed came along.

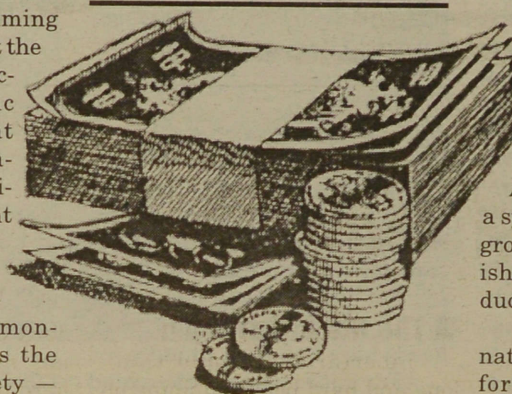
The Fed creates inflation by printing money to compensate for Congressional deficit spending. This action leads to a greater supply of money in circulation without a corresponding change in the amount of goods and services, which drives up the overall price level.

And, by the way, don't buy the myth — propagated by some politicians — that economic growth itself causes inflation.

In fact, with a constant money supply and exchange rate,

Libertarian Solutions

growth actually causes prices to decline, as the same amount of money would chase more goods and services than previously existed. Although the deflation that results from an artificially constricted money supply is a negative occurrence, the deflation that naturally results from a greater



QUESTION:

Do we need the federal government to "regulate" the nation's economy?

supply of goods and services is economically healthy.

While the Fed deals with monetary policy (the amount of money in supply), it is Congress that deals with fiscal policy (how the supply will be spent).

Congressional spending necessarily reduces the amount of money in the private sector available for savings and investment. Since new investment is the engine of economic growth, higher tax rates have a stagnating effect on the economy.

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In 1913, when the income tax was imposed, Congressional spending accounted for less than 2% of the nation's total output. Today it accounts for almost 20% (and state and local spending account for up to 20% more). This is largely why America's rate of economic growth remains one-half of what it was 30 years ago.

Here are several practical policies that could be implemented immediately to combat the "twin terrors" of inflation and taxation — and move America toward realizing its real economic potential:

■ Change the tax code.

No, Libertarians don't much like taxes of any kind. But while we're stuck with federal taxes, there are ways to make them less damaging.

A first step would be to create a system that promotes economic growth, instead of one that punishes individuals for being productive or thrifty.

Some economists say a low national sales tax (with rebates for individuals below poverty level) would be an excellent move in this direction, while others say a low flat tax would be more growth-friendly than the current complex code. Libertarians might support either suggestion, as long as the overall tax burden was reduced.

In any case, there is one tax that should be abolished immediately: The capital gains tax. A study by DRI/McGraw Hill estimated that about 25% of stock market growth between 1997 and 1999 was the direct result of lowering the capital gains tax in 1997. With the stock market currently in the doldrums, the elimination of the capital gains tax would provide a healthy stimulus.

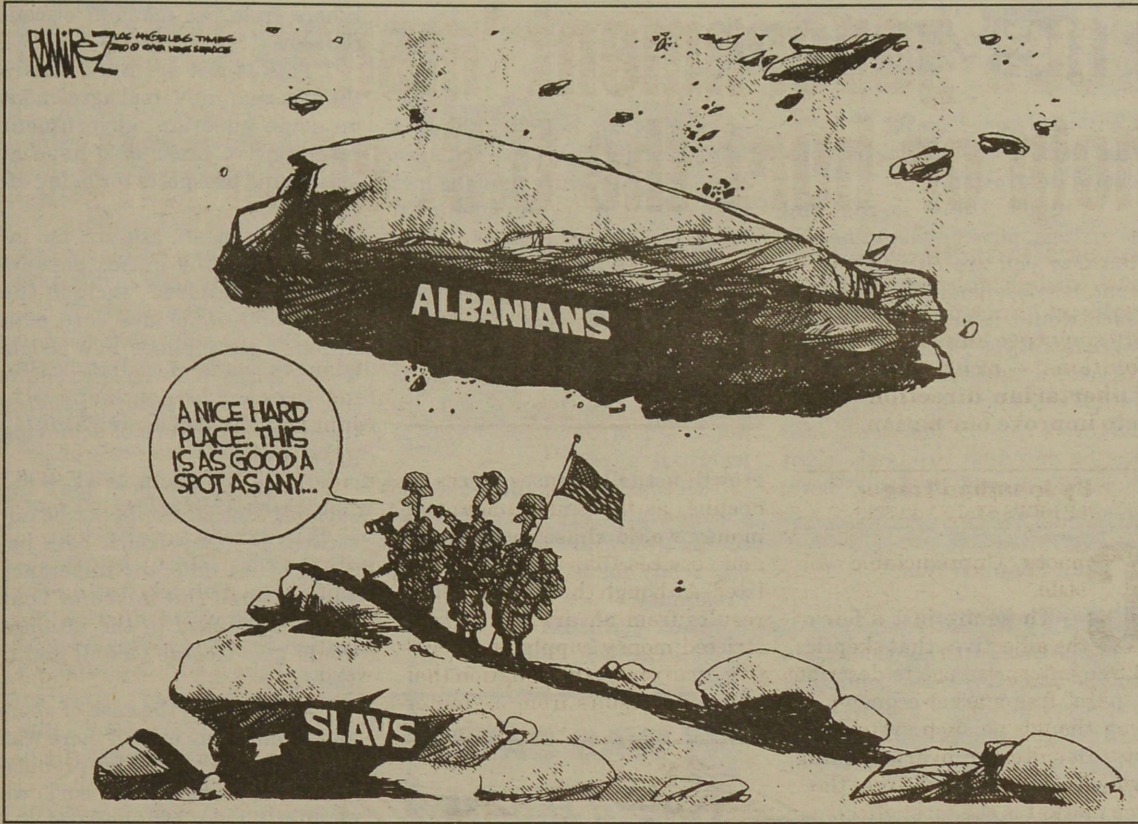
■ Pass a balanced budget amendment.

As Harry Browne, investment author and former Libertarian candidate for president points out, the last balanced budget Congress actually passed was in 1969. The budget "surpluses" of recent years exist only by counting excess Social Security receipts as part of general revenue — which they are not — and consequently slating them for expenditure.

Spending-cap measures passed by Congress are generally fraught with loopholes or flat-out ignored. For example, with the 2001 federal budget, Congress will probably bust the 1997 Balanced Budget Act's spending caps by a whopping \$100 billion.

But while Congress members refuse to adhere to their own budget limitations, members would be hard-pressed to ignore a Con-

See **ECONOMY** Page 26



The MailBox

■ Immigration

I thought the article "The little Browne booklet" [April 2001] was very interesting, and useful for communicating libertarian ideas.

However, I could have done without the quote about immigration. If that is Mr. Browne's view of "open immigration" (and I don't think it is) then we need to remove the Statue of Liberty ("Give me your tired, your poor . . .") from the LP logo.

— BRIAN IRVING
Fayetteville, North Carolina

■ **Editor's note:** Mr. Browne's comment was a critique of government welfare programs, not of immigrants.

■ Choir preaching?

The "The Little Browne Booklet" article exemplifies what I believe is a major reason for the Libertarian Party's lack of success in most elections.

There is nothing wrong with the content of the article. To the contrary, I believe it is a beautiful item. The problem is that we are preaching to the choir with this and so many other items in Libertarian publications.

I really believe that if the majority of Americans really understood Libertarianism, Harry Browne would be president and Congress would be controlled by Libertarians. The road to success is via education of the masses.

So, I believe I have defined the problem. Unfortunately, I don't know how to cure the problem. If I am correct in my opinion, perhaps some who agree will work toward a cure.

— MARTIN JONES
Mulberry, Florida

■ The IRV Bandwagon

Libertarians should think long and hard before jumping on the Instant Runoff Voting bandwagon [The MailBox, April 2001].

Depending on how the laws are written, they can help or hurt "third" parties. Most IRV proposals ultimately require 51%, whereas it's now possible for a Libertarian in a three-way race to win with 34%.

— JOSEPH KNIGHT
Flora Vista, New Mexico

CAN WE PLEASE put an end to this name change nonsense once and for all?

■ Internet taxation

Does the Libertarian Party have any special project to defeat Internet taxation and mobilize a massive lobbying campaign against such taxation?

Blocking Internet taxes could force government agencies to cut sales taxes, and thus force governments to cut wasteful spending.

— GARY WOODBURN,
Parkersburg, West Virginia

■ The Arnold Party?

Can we please put an end to this name change nonsense once and for all? [The MailBox, April 2001]. Readers keep wanting the Libertarian Party to change its name on the premise that people

don't understand what "libertarian" means and that it's just too hard to explain.

Should we call ourselves the Liberty Party? All Americans say they believe in liberty, from the authoritarian religious fundamentalists to the left wing entitlement pushers. How does calling ourselves the Liberty Party differentiate us from them? We still have to explain libertarianism.

Freedom Party? Same problem, all Americans say they believe in freedom. We still have to explain libertarianism.

One reader suggested Liberal Party, in its original classical liberal sense. But then we have to explain that difference.

When open socialism failed to catch on in this country, American socialists adopted the name Progressive and used it to smuggle in the socialist agenda. It's still being smuggled by parties that call themselves Republican and Democrat. Is that what you want us to do? Smuggle libertarianism by disguising ourselves?

Changing our names from Joe Blow to Arnold Schwarzenegger will not magically transform us all into Terminators. We are who we are. We're libertarians. Let's keep right on calling ourselves libertarians and be proud of it. If that requires explaining, explain it proudly.

I'm proud to be a libertarian. Don't try to change who I am.
— GARRY L. REED
Fort Worth, Texas

■ Right to life

I found the three articles in the March LP News [The Forum] on abortion silly. I cannot believe
See **THE MAILBOX** Page 24

ThePulse

Libertarians' best promise

Republican and Democratic politicians used to promise a "chicken in every pot." More recently, they've started promising free prescription drugs and more federal spending on education.

But Libertarian candidates are different. They should simply promise more *freedom*.

At least, that's the most popular suggestion from LP News readers in response to this month's unscientific Pulse question: "What is the single best, immediate, believable benefit that state or national Libertarian candidates could promise voters, if elected?"

Libertarians should stick to what they're best known for, and should merely vow to deliver less government intrusion/more individual liberty for voters, said 16.7% of the respondents.

Tied for second place — with 11% of the vote — was a pledge to abolish asset forfeiture laws, and the promise that a vote for Libertarian candidates was simply the "right thing to do."

Here is a representative sample of the responses:

■ The single best, immediate, believable benefit Libertarian candidates could promise voters is *freedom*. Nothing more, nothing less. Hey, that is better and more believable than any of the things Democrats or Republicans have ever offered — which are *broken* promises.
— TROY DOUGLAS, Grand Blanc, Michigan

■ Freeze the level of government spending. Demonstrate a difference from the Democrats and Republicans by not increasing spending. This would affect every voter. And this would give voters a real choice at the next election.
— MICHAEL LINDER, Edgewood, Maryland

■ The elimination of asset forfeiture. It is perhaps the most heinous recent intrusion of government into the very foundation of our nation. I cannot see how any rational person (even an extreme socialist or conservative) could possibly object to its immediate and complete removal.
— JOHN MARTIN, Wetumpka, Alabama

■ Return our military home from foreign lands where they die for reasons we don't know and ideals we don't believe in. Bring our sons and brothers home.
— MARK CLARK, Las Vegas, Nevada

■ Let us hear all LP candidates promise to throw out all "victimless crimes" laws from the books. I believe we could win over many voters with emphasis on the appeal of individualism.
— BARRY ROWE, Melbourne, Florida

■ Unfortunately, this will not find a resonance in the hearts of my fellow citizens, but the single immediate benefit I obtain by voting for Libertarian candidates is that I am protecting and promoting my *own* freedom.
— SORRELLS DEWOODY, Independence, Kansas

■ Medical marijuana. If a Libertarian included this as one of their three main platform issues, it could bring enough attention forth to perhaps get a statewide voting referendum available in states which offer it.
— AARON BITERMAN, Brookfield, Wisconsin

■ Offer the voters Liberation in the form of a guaranteed six-week paid vacation, similar to the situation in France, Germany, etc. The American workaholics need to be emancipated from their slave-like work schedules and the resultant sleep deprivation. This is fair to all employers because they are treated equally. Family values are promoted. Who could be against this clear "win-win" proposal? Why haven't the Democrats proposed this? Are they against helping the ordinary worker?
— RICHARD NEWHOUSE, Garden Grove, California

■ The greatest benefit of voting Libertarian is knowing that you did the right thing.
— PAUL L. STUDIER, Lake Forest, California

See **THE PULSE** Page 24

ThePulse

Continued from Page 23

■ A Libertarian candidate could promise voters that he would vote against any laws that unnecessarily intrude into the private lives of citizens. We must downplay any perceived defect of dismantling existing government giveaway programs, and play up the benefits of getting government out of the businesses it was not intended to be in.

— WALT NICHOLS, Orem, Utah

■ LP candidates should promise to follow the constitution, federal, or state, as the office dictates, bringing the benefit of lawful government. This promise has the advantage that it is an unassailable position; offers a great opportunity to educate voters; applies to all offices and positions; has been abandoned by the Rs and Ds; and is one of the few things almost all LP members agree on.

— DON WACKER, Issaquah, Washington

■ Don't promise any "benefits" — just honest and minimal government so that you may more easily benefit yourself!

— H.R. BOWLES, JR., Huntington Beach, California

■ Vote Libertarian because you won't regret it the next morning. After two GOP presidential votes, I wished I'd voted Libertarian; after three of my four Libertarian votes, I was happy with my vote.

— ANDREW LOHR, Chattanooga, Tennessee

■ The best benefit Americans can offer voters is a track record of bringing them Liberty. We need to organize at the grassroots level. We need to take on winnable local campaigns and issues. Then when we tell voters we'll give them back their money, they'll know we can deliver.

— JASON MILLER, Hudsonville, Michigan

July Question: Spy plane crisis?

For 11 days, the United States and China stood eyeball to eyeball. The cause of the international dispute: An American "spy plane," monitoring communist China from international airspace, had collided with a Chinese jet, and was forced to make an emergency landing. The Chinese government held the crew for 11 days, demanding a formal apology from the Bush Administration. Libertarians had different reactions to the crisis. Some said the U.S. was at fault, and the spy plane mission was just another example of our interventionist foreign policy. Others said the U.S. had legitimate reasons to monitor a potential military threat (as long as we didn't actually violate another country's territory or airspace.) What do you think?

■ Question: What was the proper Libertarian response to the China spy plane crisis? Why? And should the U.S. government fly such surveillance missions, as long as we don't violate other nations' airspace? Why or why not? (Please keep answer to 100 words or less.)

■ DEADLINE: June 8, 2001

June Question: Disliked politician?

You can't pick up the newspaper or turn on the television without hearing President George W. Bush talking about "changing the tone of Washington" by ending partisan bickering and encouraging civility. Well, Libertarians don't think there is enough *real* partisan bickering in Washington, and while we're all in favor of civility, we don't necessarily extend it to the politicians who are trying to run our lives. So, in an effort to throw a little cold water on Dubya's lovefest, we'll ask you to share with us the name of one politician who, in your opinion, is the biggest liar, or blowhard, or anti-freedom zealot, or big spender, or shameless panderer, or double-talker. You get the idea: The politician who you like the *least*.

■ Question: What *one* politician — local, state, or national — do you most dislike, disdain, or scorn? And why? (Please keep answer to 100 words or less.)

■ DEADLINE: May 8, 2001

ENTRY GUIDELINES: Include name and city/state; anonymous answers won't be tallied. Enter just once per month.

■ E-mail: Bill.Winter@hq.LP.org. ("Pulse" in subject line.)

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TheMailBox

Continued from Page 23

that there is such a thing as a pro-choice libertarian.

You sit there living and breathing, pursuing happiness in the way you are choosing to do that in this moment. What difference would it make if someone were to kill you right now, kill you 10 years ago, kill you 30 years ago, or kill you when you were in your mother's womb? You would still not be pursuing happiness right now. You would be dead, dead, dead, and dead.

— PAUL BOEHM

Oley, Pennsylvania

■ Sorry history

The three articles on abortion in the March Forum continued the sorry history of the *LP News* (and the national Libertarian Party) in addressing the abortion question.

Your first article, by James Edwards, who is convinced that abortion is murder, proposes idiotically that it can be virtually eliminated by allowing would-be adopters to pay would-not-be mothers enough to make them use up their bodies and minds in breeding-for-hire.

Your second Forum article, by John Geltemeyer, while accurately stating the prevailing party position, wishfully attempts to bridge the abortion impasse by supposing that advancing technology, lower taxes, and private charity will tend to eliminate the motivation for abortion. I question his implication that political polarization can be avoided by "just keeping the government out of it."

The third March Forum article, by Bradley Bobbs, epitomizes the deluded LP dreamers whose disappointment at not being able to enlist abortion prohibitionists in the cause of self-government drives them to pretend that there's no big difference between banning abortion and tolerating it.

The Libertarian Party must always defend the rights of women to make their own choices in such matters. No religious fancy, biological theory, or political vote can legitimately authorize the state to rob an individual of that essential autonomy. If we can't preserve this principle, we aren't worthy of our name.

— MICHAEL S. WOLF

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

■ A woman's viewpoint

I thought it was strange, and sadly typical, that the three viewpoints on abortion in your March issue were written by men. I was particularly appalled by James R. Edwards, who suggests that the infant be treated as a commodity.

While I can certainly not speak for all women, I will give you one libertarian woman's point of view. I can assure Mr. Edwards that "bonding" is not at issue in surrendering a child for adoption at birth. To escape a feeling of loss

or of having been robbed, a woman would have to be somehow completely unaware that she had been pregnant. It is an emotional issue, not a bonding issue.

As for abortion, I think it is best left legal. Is it murder? Yes. But we already have two other forms of legal murder: execution and war. And please don't try to suggest that innocent people are not killed in those two forms of legalized murder.

Of course, we could leave the decision up to the government, couldn't we? Sure we could. Anyone ready for a "Department of Pregnancy"?

— MARY PACINDA

New Carlisle, Ohio

IT WAS SADLY typical that the three viewpoints on abortion were written by men.

■ Biblical view

In reading the April issue, I saw that Bradley Bobbs has a misconception of what it means to be "Pro-Life" on the abortion issue. In reality the Libertarian Party has a platform that is "Pro-Life."

As a Christian, I have read the Bible and in the Book of Exodus (Exodus 21:22-25) it virtually defines life as not beginning until birth because the penalty for causing a miscarriage is merely a fine, but it specifies life-for-life for causing death.

Prohibition always has unintended consequences. The unintended consequence of prohibiting legal abortions is to actually increase numbers of abortions over time. This is because man's laws cannot overrule the natural law of supply and demand, and as long as there is a demand, somebody will provide a supply at an agreed upon price.

Unfortunately, if legal abortions are prohibited, many of those willing to supply them would have no more medical training than I do. And they need not worry about liability, because all would take place in the underground economy.

— DUANE GRINDSTAFF
Kent, Washington

■ A futile law

A few comments on your three-part Forum, "The Abortion Question."

Mr. James R. Edwards posits that the libertarian position against abortion prohibition would crumble if one accepts the premise that a fetus is a "human being in embryo" (i.e., that rights worthy of protection by the state

inhere from the moment of conception.)

This is not so. Even where there is near universal agreement on some question, government intervention must also have at least some prospects for being efficacious.

He, himself, asserts, for instance, that the duties parents owe their children "include the responsibilities of love, care, education and discipline." Few people would disagree. But a law requiring that every parent provide these has no chance of achieving its objective.

Noble as the goal may be, such legislation would not be advocated by libertarians both because of its inherent impotence and because the mischief that would be caused in the attempt would give George Orwell nightmares.

Likewise, in the case of abortion prohibition, even if there was wide agreement on the premise (which, of course, there isn't) we must still take into account the prospects for successfully interjecting state power between willing buyers and sellers, as well as the potential dangers.

When it comes to lawmaking, moral justification is necessary, but not sufficient. This ought to be self-evident to any libertarian, especially one who is a professional economist.

— TIM O'BRIEN

Allen Park, Michigan

■ The issue is rights

While I concur with Bradley Bobbs' argument that abortion vs murder is about time, I feel that as Libertarians the bigger issue is rights. During the first three to four months, the mother's rights are superior to that of the fetus. After this time, the baby's rights surpass that of the mother.

As a capitalist, I agree with James Edwards' "market solution." However, for a free enterprise system to work, there has to be a comparable supply of marketable goods. A healthy, white, career woman is more likely to take a weekend off to have an abortion than several months off to have a baby, thereby limiting supply.

There is, unfortunately, an oversupply of crack babies who have more value (welfare) to their mothers than putting them into the adoption market

— NICK LIPSCHULTZ
Boca Raton, Florida

■ Alliance with Jesse

Regarding changing the name of the Libertarian Party, the word Libertarian has five syllables.
See **THE MAILBOX** Page 25

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The MailBox

Continued from Page 24

lables, Republican has four syllables, Democrat has three syllables.

Liberty has three syllables and would be preferable to Liberal, which has bad connotations.

However, a two-syllable name has the capacity to beat the two major parties. Unfortunately, the two-syllable name Reform has already been taken. But the name Reform combined with the household name Jesse Ventura has the capacity to win the 2004 election.

Therefore, I propose that the Libertarian Party make a deal with Jesse Ventura, support for Ventura in exchange for four Cabinet positions in a Ventura administration. The tradition of minor parties participating in coalition governments is not unusual in other countries.

One of the advantages of my proposal is that, win or lose, the Libertarian Party will remain an independent permanent political party.

— ALAN RICHTER
Spokane, Washington

Education effort

I am a contributor, not a member. Like some others, I don't agree 100% with the Libertarian policies and I've read too many articles that suggest I'm not worthy.

However, after reading Harry Browne's *Why Government Doesn't Work* several years ago, I was convinced that the items I objected to might not be that big a problem. I never miss a chance to listen to him on TV.

If more people could be made aware of his works, it could make a big difference in the next election. Most people have never even heard of the Libertarian Party and those who have relate it to "liberal."

The party needs an all-out educational program. What about randomly sending out paperback editions of Mr. Browne's book to voters in every state or offering them on TV with a brief overview? Maybe a few issues of the LP News placed in libraries or in supermarkets would get people interested.

The public has to be convinced that there is a legitimate alternative to the major parties. That won't happen if you insist that everyone accept the few controversial principles without question.

— JAN STREILEIN
Aiken, South Carolina

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Shockingly obtuse

In two places in the March 2001 issue of *LP News*, the LP national director attempts to convince LP members that the election of George W. Bush poses as much of a hazard to attainment of LP goals as would have been the election of Al Gore.

It "doesn't look encouraging" that Bush is any less a threat to LP ideals than Gore would have been, the director avers.

Steve Dasbach's comments to

this effect do a great disservice to the efforts that we individual Libertarians make to convince people with whom we come into contact that we are able to exercise analytic, rational, and introspective ruminations about political issues.

Dasbach's remarks fortify the unfortunate stereotype held by much of the public that the LP is a shallow-minded and shortsighted congregation at the fringe of commonsensibility.

Surely Libertarians who cannot distinguish the several obviously different political and economic stances taken by Bush ver-

sus Gore deserve some of that disparagement. To discover that the national leader of our LP appears to be obtuse in that regard is shocking indeed.

— PATRICK GROFF
San Diego, California

Bill of attainder

Regarding your article on asset forfeiture in the March 2001 issue of *LP News*, most of the negative comments regarding asset forfeiture fail to focus on one very specific fact: Article 1, Section 9 of the Constitution specifically prohibits the federal government from passing bills of attain-

der or ex post facto laws. Article 1, Section 10 specifically prohibits the states from doing the same.

Historically, governments used bills of attainder to seize the property of any individuals regarded as inconvenient or too rich. The difference between a bill of attainder and an asset forfeiture law is one merely of name.

Therefore, any pending legislation "reforming" asset forfeiture serves merely to legitimize an unconstitutional practice.

I am not an attorney and I do not know why this issue is not argued in court. Perhaps it has

See **THE MAILBOX** Page 26

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The MailBox

Continued from Page 25

been and I am unaware of the citation.

If this is the case, then the Constitution is truly dead.

— BARBARA CUNNINGHAM
Caldwell, Texas

■ Deregulation regret

To James Newman [The MailBox, March 2001], who is concerned about his libertarianism, I say, "Don't sweat it — rely on your own gut feeling on issues."

A case in point is the recent electric fiasco here in California. As I remember, the Libertarian Party supported "deregulation" a few years ago when the issue was voted on here.

At that time I felt concern that the selling of electricity is not like that of selling groceries where a business can start small and grow. Some products (water, gas, electricity) require enormous amounts of capital and regulatory health to start.

Without some assurance of

adequate supply, demand will create more and more human greed resulting in a product that cheats people of their basic needs unless paid for through the nose.

Yet, I voted as the party suggested and now live to regret the decision. Hopefully, the rest of the nation will be a bit more cautious in their approach to free enterprise as we deregulate utilities.

— RICHARD ZACHER
Oceanside, California

■ Lap dance liberty

Among all the excellent items in Talking Points [February 2001] is one that totally baffles me. I didn't see the original item in *Reason*, but, as an advocate for the disabled and a Libertarian, I am offended by this piece.

The English government has trampled on the rights of the Pussycat Club to do business as they see fit. They have a license to allow lap dancing, but touching is forbidden by the law.

When a blind man wants to

"see" the woman on his lap with his hands, who has the right to interfere with this business transaction? The owner of the business has asked for an exception to the law. Presumably, the women are willing, since it is in their interest to serve their customers, and they have chosen this work.

This Sunday I will be in church, by invitation, explaining to them why 16% of Californians may stay home from church because there is no fragrance-free area for them. Churches are exempt from the Americans With Disabilities act, but I expect that they will lead the way, as they did with civil rights.

Who would mock those who said that blacks had the right to sit in the front of the bus? When the government forbids private actions, people will petition that same government for their rights. They may not always follow the libertarian principle.

We, however, should not mock their efforts, especially in this case, where we should be defending the principle of individual liberty, even for lap dancers.

— ANNE JACKSON
Los Angeles, California

■ **Editor's note:** *Libertarians do support the right of the owners and employees of the Pussycat Club to run the business as they see fit. We printed that item to point out the unexpected consequences of some laws. In this case, who could have predicted that lap dancers would use a disability law to allow patrons to touch them?*

■ Strong message

Last year, I finally smartened up and voted for the only party that has the vision and the guts to make some real and necessary changes in this country.

I will no longer listen to the two major parties telling us that voting third party is wasting our votes. I disagree. I think that casting our votes for what we believe in sends a strong message to the politicians.

I think this "wasted vote" theory is partly a way for the R's and D's to try to maintain control.

— DAWN BARRY
New Hartford, Connecticut

■ Dangerous law

Legislation introduced in Nevada forcing citizens accused of sexual offenses to undergo compulsory psychiatric evaluation in order to "certify" themselves not to be a "sex predator" is reminiscent of Nazi Germany.

In recent years, the rise in false sexual allegations around the country has been well documented. In the name of "public health and safety" Hitler also felt compelled to do away with long established legal safeguards such as the presumption of innocence.

How quickly we forget.

Forcing citizens merely accused, but not convicted of an offense, to undergo compulsory psychiatric testing is un-American.

— JAMES P. HILTON
Las Vegas, Nevada

Libertarian Solutions: Managing the economy

Continued from Page 22

stitutional amendment tying spending to revenue. As a result, the Fed might stop printing new money to cover those deficits, thereby keeping better control of inflation.

■ **Create Privatized Social Security Investment Accounts.** Such accounts would not only boost the economy, but they would give low-income workers the means to participate in the stock market.

The influx of new capital investment would create new jobs as well. According to Professor Martin Feldstein of Harvard University, transforming the current system into a private system would result in an influx of between \$10 trillion and \$20 trillion in capital markets.

Over the last 100 years, long-term market growth has been as reliable as the sun rising each morning. Therefore, increased market investment would be a boon to economic growth like no other.

■ **Set a Monetary Standard.** Economists such as Milton Friedman and Robert J. Barro have advocated such standards as a gold standard, a commodity-reserve standard, or a fiat standard with fixed rules for setting the quantity of money. A gold standard, in which a portion of gold would be held by the Fed to back each dollar in circulation, is the most popular suggestion.

In any case, having a monetary standard would give American currency intrinsic value. This

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starkly contrasts with our paper money, the value of which is completely dependent on current government policy — and thus may be inflated or deflated at will.

Limited role

The beauty of the free-market is that it is a fully contained and objective system for producing and distributing goods and services. Although most Libertarians grant that government has an important economic role to play as the enforcer of contracts and property rights, a wealth of evidence indicates that there would be a marked increase in production and a substantial decrease in currency devaluation if government was held only to that limited role.

In general, the more the government keeps from interfering with our economic activity, the better it is for economic growth — and thus better for society as a whole.

Remember: The government cannot create economic prosperity. It can only hinder it.

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Freedom Summit, Embassy Suites Hotel at the Biltmore, Phoenix, Arizona. An annual seminar "dedicated to promoting and advancing human freedom." Speakers include Jacob Hornberger (president, Future of Freedom Foundation), Vin Suprynowicz (syndicated columnist), Clint Bolick (vice president, Institute for Justice), Don Boudreaux (president, Foundation for Economic Education), and Aaron Zelman (executive director, Jews for the Preservation of Firearm Ownership). For information, visit: www.freedomsummit.com.

■ October 25-28, 2001

Cato University Summer Seminar, Hotel Omni Mont-Royal, Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Speakers TBA. For information, call: (202) 218-4633. Or visit: www.cato-university.org.

■ October, 27, 2001

New Hampshire LP Convention, Holiday Inn, Concord. Speakers include Libertarian State Representative Steve Vaillancourt (L-Manchester) and Richard Winger (publisher, *Ballot Access News*). For information, call Rosalie Babiarz at: (603) 523-8315. Or e-mail: rosalie@endor.com.

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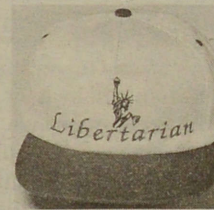


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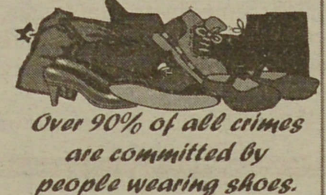
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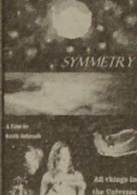
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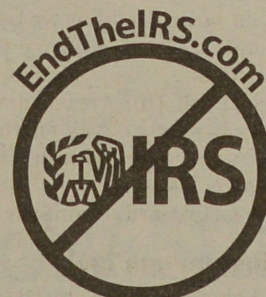
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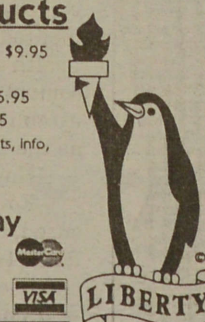
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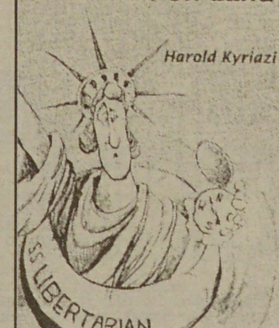
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■ May 4-6, 2001

North Carolina LP Convention, Civic Center Marriott Hotel, Durham. Speakers include Jerry Agar (radio talk show host), Cash Michaels (reporter, *The Carolinian*), Michael Gilson de Lemos (LNC member), Jim Lark (LP National Chair), and Steve Dasbach (LP National Director). For information, call Sean Haugh at: (919) 286-0152. Or e-mail: director@lpnc.org.

■ May 5-6, 2001

Strategic Planning Team Meeting, Civic Center Marriott Hotel, Durham, NC. For information, call: (202) 333-0008 Ext. 228.

■ May 12, 2001

Alaska LP Convention, Westcoast International Inn, Anchorage. Speakers TBA. For information, call Len Karpinski: (907) 566-1235. Or e-mail: warmgun@ak.net.

■ May 18-20, 2001

Colorado LP Convention, Best Western Executive Hotel, Denver. Speakers include Carla Howell (2000 Massachusetts U.S. Senate candidate), Reggie Rivers (columnist and former Denver Broncos player), and Russell Means (actor, author, and Indian rights activist). For information, contact Bette Rose Smith: (303) 639-5530. Or Michele Poague: (303) 690-2907.

■ May 19, 2001

Hawaii LP Convention and Business Meeting, 2500 Pali Highway, Honolulu. For information, call: (808) 487-9876. Or e-mail: Roger-Taylor@hawaii.rr.com

■ May 19-23, 2001

Fly-in for Freedom 2001, Holiday Inn Capitol Hill, Washington, DC. Conference for property rights activists, sponsored by the Alliance for America. For information, call: (518) 835-6702. Or visit: www.allianceforamerica.org.

■ May 25-27, 2001

Libertarian Futurist Society National Conference, Hyatt Regency Hotel & Columbus Convention Center, Columbus, Ohio. Speakers include F. Paul Wilson (author, *Healer*), Victor Koman (author, *Kings of the High Frontier*), L. Neil Smith (author, *The Probability Broach*), and Poul Anderson (author, *The Star Fox*). For information, visit: www.LFS.org.

■ May 26, 2001

Arkansas LP Convention, DoubleTree Hotel, Little Rock. Speakers TBA. For information, contact Gerhard Langguth: (501) 967-0873. Or e-mail: glanggut@cswnet.com.

■ June 8-10, 2001

New Mexico LP Convention, Courtyard-Marriot Hotel, Farmington. Speakers include Steve Dasbach (LP National Director). For information, call Joseph Knight: (505) 334-7713.

■ June 15-17, 2001

National Taxpayers Conference 2000, Radisson Hotel & Suites, St. Louis, Missouri. For information, visit www.NTU.org.

■ July 1-5, 2001

Libertarian World Conference, Caliceo Hotel, Dax, France. Sponsored by the International Society for Individual Liberty (ISIL) and Le Cercle Frederic Bastiat. Speakers include Henri Lepage (author, *Tomorrow Capitalism*). For information, visit: www.libertarian.to or www.bastiat.net.

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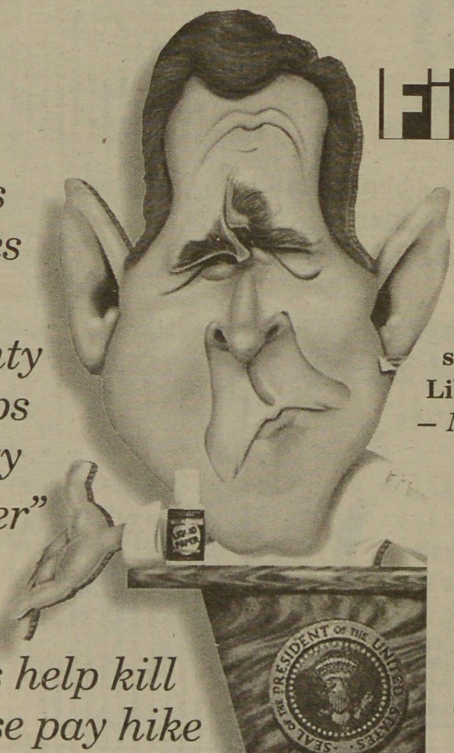
InSide

■ **PAGE 1** *Libertarians win 11 public offices in Spring elections*

■ **PAGE 2** *Oregon county commissioner jumps to Libertarian Party*

■ **PAGE 3** *"Real Kramer" announces bid for mayor of New York*

■ **PAGE 4** *Libertarians help kill "sneaky" U.S. House pay hike*



First Word

"The most underreported political phenomenon of the last two election cycles: Libertarian Party candidates are seriously hurting Republicans. While much has been said about Ralph Nader arguably keeping Al Gore out of the White House, hardly anybody has noticed how Libertarians have put Republicans on the brink of losing the Senate. In this age of Senate power sharing and a razor-thin GOP House majority, Republicans can't ignore the Libertarians. If they do, it may cost them dearly."
— National Review Online, March 19, 2001

"[In Massachusetts, Carla] Howell, the surprisingly strong Libertarian U.S. Senate nominee last year, is going for governor in 2002. It's Round Two in the Libertarian's drive — not as unlikely as it once seemed — to become the state's second leading party and kick the Republicans back to dinosaur status."
— WAYNE WOODLIEF, *The Boston Herald* (Massachusetts), March 11, 2001

"[Libertarians] are intelligent, dedicated, energetic, and disciplined. They should not be underestimated."
— PETER B. YOUNG, *Metrowest Daily News* (Framingham, MA), March 6, 2001