

Winning combination: Hard work and common sense

By BRIAN CHRISTESON

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Steve Davis exemplifies the efforts of Libertarian officeholders all across America—and has a longer track record than most. He has served 10 of the last 15 years as a selectman for the snug (pop. 680) town of Wentworth, NH, and is presently the chairman of the board.

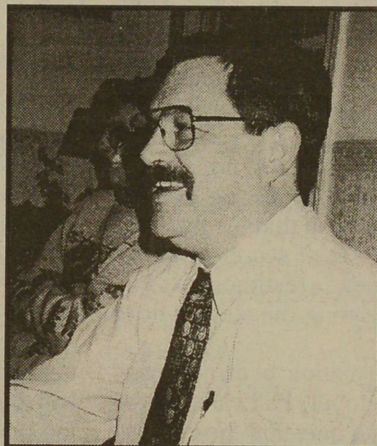
The easy part of his experience should encourage those teetering on the edge of diving into the sometimes murky pool of local politics, and the hard part can serve as an excellent guide to what they should do when they get into office.

Taking the plunge

Davis would probably blush at the comparison, but his first run at his present office back in 1981 resembled Clint Eastwood's decision to run for mayor of his hometown of Carmel, CA: Davis saw a few things that he thought needed doing and he had become increasingly dissatisfied with the direction of incumbent officials. Other townspeople who shared his views encouraged him to run.

That first election was a genuine squeaker: a two-vote margin after a recount. Re-election since has not been a problem. Politicians define 60 percent of the vote as a landslide. What do they call 80 percent? He was out of office from 1985 to 1990, but by choice. He resigned to take a break from town politics, but after some time off was persuaded to run again.

Will he try for another three years when his present term expires in 1998? "I'm still deciding. I believe in term limits, even if they have to be self-imposed. I think it's time see **Selectman** on page 8



Steve Davis

The many roads to freedom

By HARRY BROWNE

In the February issue of the **NEWS**, Jacob Hornberger writes that we must win freedom for the sake of freedom alone—that "what has motivated men and women throughout history to stand against their own government is the burning desire to be free." And he rejects the idea that a utilitarian approach (selling the benefits of freedom) will be successful because, quoting Richard Ebeling, "no one in history has ever gone to the barricades for the sake of a cost-benefit analysis."

Fortunately, we aren't asking people either to go to the barricades or to approve of cost-benefit analyses. We are asking them to make their own lives dramatically better by being free of the income tax, free of an unsound government retirement system, free of unsafe neighborhoods created by the insane War on Drugs, and free of government regulations that run up the price of everything they buy and that keep life-saving medicines off the market.

It is common for the cadre of a revolution to have

different goals from those who support it. And if we want many people to support what we're doing, like any good salesmen we must appeal to the values that motivate those people—the benefits that have meaning to them.

We aren't asking them to pledge their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor. We're asking them to vote to make the changes that will transform America into a land of greater freedom and prosperity. And if we focus on the things that have meaning to them, the sales job won't be as difficult as it would be trying to remake them into libertarian scholars in one giant step.

The many roads

However, Mr. Hornberger's article calls attention to an important point we should never forget: *freedom means different things to different people.*

In almost every case, each of us came to value freedom because of some specific act or policy of government that had touched one's personal life.

For a small businessman, it may have been officious government inspectors and piles of forms to be filled out. For an urban family it may have been government housing projects that ruined the neighborhood. Someone else may

see **The many roads** on page 9

Libertarian Party NEWS



March 1997

The Party of Principle

VOLUME 12 • NUMBER 3

Net project focuses on libertarianism

The libertarian influence in cyberspace has been touted for years—both by libertarians and non-libertarians—and now there is another example of just how important libertarianism is on-line.

Four leading World Wide Web sites recently joined forces to explore some of the major issues confronting the Web and its relationship to society, and the first issue chosen for this new experiment—libertarianism.

The Brainwave Project, the first such collaboration on the Web, brings together Electric Minds, Feed, Salon, and The Site. All four sites already host their own active discussion groups, but as part of the project, each site directs a visitor to the other three and all host comments about libertarianism.

Stephanie Simon, editor at Feed, said the project's first attempt went "incredibly well." While the formal discussion lasted only two weeks, comments about libertarianism continue in newsgroups.

"We had a very lively debate at Feed," Simon said, "and I think on the other sites as well."

see **Brainwave** on page 7

LP calls IRS 'wildly incompetent'

Recently the Internal Revenue Service admitted it spent 11 years and a whopping \$4 billion installing a new computer system that doesn't work.

So the much-feared federal agency will junk the entire multibillion-dollar system—even as its assistant commissioner humbly admitted to Congress that the IRS lacks the "intellectual capacity" to do the job correctly.

"This \$4 billion computer fiasco is just the latest in a long line of IRS blunders, mistakes, and embarrassments," noted Steve Dasbach, the national chair of the Libertarian Party.

"Whether it's incorrectly answering taxpayers' questions or sending out bizarrely faulty penalty notices, the IRS has proven itself to be the worst kind of bureaucracy—incredibly powerful but wildly incompetent," he said.

For example, Dasbach noted:

- Nearly half of the 30 million penalty notices the IRS mails out each year are erroneous, according to a study by Money magazine. In one case, because of a computer glitch, a barber in Santa Rosa, CA, was notified in 1993 that he owed the agency \$4 billion in back taxes—as were 3,000 other people nationwide.

- IRS employees who answer the agency's toll-free hotline dispense incorrect advice at least 30 percent of the time, according to an internal audit.

"Of course, taxpayers who innocently follow the erroneous advice given by bungling IRS experts could end up in jail—or, at the very least, getting one of those incorrect penalty notices," Dasbach said.

- According to the General Accounting Office, the IRS has no idea how it spent 64 percent of its budget in 1992 (\$4.3 billion)—and none of the agency's financial statements from 1992 to 1996 can be

verified by GAO auditors.

"An agency that requires American taxpayers to save every scrap of financial paper apparently has shadier accounting practices than the Mafia," Dasbach said.

- The IRS's managers pressure employees to seize taxpayers' property so they can win "merit pay" bonuses, according to testimony before the Senate Commerce Committee. Agents in a San Francisco IRS office even posted a notice on the bulletin board that said: "Seizure fever. Catch it."

"This parade of bureaucratic pratfalls and failures would be funny if it wasn't so serious," Dasbach said. "A minor mistake on the part of an incompetent IRS agent can mean years of legal trouble, seized property, thousands of dollars in court costs, psychological terror, and even jail time for innocent Americans."

see **Fiasco** on page 3

Sue 'em

NJ affiliate's activism leads to court and headlines

Activism by Libertarian Party affiliate organizations is not always related to elections and campaigns.

One prime example of how an affiliate party can effect change is the legal action of the Libertarian Party of Somerset and Middlesex Counties (LPSMC) in New Jersey in recent months.

The LPSMC has been grabbing headlines in the local newspapers and is gaining the reputation as a watchdog and defender of liberty.

It is almost impossible for the LP to be recognized as a party on the ballot in the state because of restrictive ballot access laws. Because of this, the LPSMC has taken a different line of action.

"I don't find the electoral strategy to be as fruitful" as pushing issues in the courts, said John Paff, vice chair of the local affiliate. "I like the public advocacy through lawsuits and all the Libertarian ideals of holding government accountable."

Paff said the local group gets a lot of publicity out of this tactic, "and we seem to be getting people to understand who we are. In my mind, this is a more effective way of getting attention through the press than through the elections. And when you start winning these things, and we have been winning, it is a little more fulfilling as far as the members go. I also think that in the future we will be more effective in running candidates because we will already have this name recognition."

Late last year the LPSMC became embroiled in a public confrontation with the Bound Brook town government, calling for

the immediate suspension of the municipal prosecutor. The circumstances of the affair dated back to 1991, when the prosecutor, who at the time was not the prosecutor, represented a witness in a drug kingpin case. It was later learned that the prosecutor had kept a plea deal secret from the court, and the witness's testimony was instrumental in convicting the alleged drug dealer.

When this information became public knowledge last October, Paff claimed the new facts called into question the honesty of the prosecutor.

Although the mayor came to the defense of the prosecutor, the prosecutor resigned just two weeks after the LPSMC call for his suspension was published. Score a victory for the LPSMC.

In early January, the LPSMC grabbed the headlines again. Affiliate Chair Diane Alder and the LPSMC sued the Franklin township police over the department's gun permit application procedure. The LPSMC is asking the court to decide if the procedure is legal.

The party claims that the township police chief regularly takes more than 30 days to issue or deny a firearm permit—a violation of a state law that requires a police chief to rule on the permit within 30 days of receipt of the application.

Alder was issued a permit last September, more than 50 days after she had filed her application. The police chief claimed fingerprint checks by the FBI delay the issuance of the permits.

The attorney for the police department claimed that the matter was moot because Alder was issued a gun permit. But the state superior court judge who heard the case said a court should decide if there is a legitimate reason for the delay.

"This is an issue that ultimately has to be resolved," Superior Court Judge Robert E. Guterl was quoted as saying. "There is a very real problem here that transcends this single applicant and this case."

The case has been transferred to Superior Court Judge Edward M. Coleman and should be heard by the end of this month.

"I'm ecstatic," Adler said. "They can't continue to do this. If the law says 30 days, it should be 30 days."

"Had I not filed the suit, how long would it have taken?" Alder asked.

The police attorney tried to argue that if permits are issued without the FBI checks, "the consequences could be disastrous to the public."

But Alder's attorney, Elizabeth Macron, said Alder had applied for the permit for protection in her home.

"Talk about the tragedy that can happen if a woman who wants to be armed isn't," Macron said.

While the LPSMC awaits a hearing in the gun permit case, some members are already on to the next matter.

Last March, the Board of Education of Hillsborough Township held a referendum seeking voter approval of a \$53.9 million bond to build a new high school. Prior to the referendum, the board printed and distributed a newsletter—at taxpayer expense—for the purpose, according to the board, of "informing and educating" the voting public on the bond proposal.

LP member Randy Enterline, an opponent of the building plan, filed a petition with the Commissioner of Education charging that the newsletter advocated the plan and "could be fairly characterized as a propaganda piece."

An administrative law judge and the Commissioner of Education both found in Enterline's favor and ruled that the newsletter was "very much an advocacy piece," that it "does not merely cross the line between education and advocacy, but actually distorts the facts," and that it "constitutes an impermissible use of public funds." (Incidentally, the bond referendum lost, and the newsletter in question was given an award for "excellence" by the New Jersey School Boards Association.)

On Oct. 7, 1996, 11 citizens of Hillsborough (Enterline is not involved) filed suit in Superior Court seeking damages against the individual board members who voted in favor of the newsletter expenditure.

In the suit, the citizens invoked a state statute that enables 10 or more taxpayers to sue "in the name of and for and on behalf of" the school district in order to recover public funds that were "paid, converted or disposed of . . . without right." The taxpayers' theory is that the expenditure for the newsletter was illegal so the public treasury is entitled to recover its drafting, printing, and distribution costs from the board members who authorized it. The amount in question is about \$15,000 to \$20,000.

The board member defendants have filed a motion to dismiss "for failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted" and a motion for \$3,594.50 in attorney fees under the frivolous claims statute. The taxpayers have filed an opposing brief. The matter was scheduled to be decided in late February.

Paff also is working with a group called Citizens for Justice in Somerset County, made up mostly of non-Libertarians. The organization "puts these lawyers—the municipal court judges and prosecutors—under a microscope," Paff said.

"We have quite a few things on the burner right now," Paff said. "I've got more issues right now than I can handle."

You can keep up with the activities of the LPSMC by checking out the New Jersey Libertarian Party webpage at <www.eclipse.net/~dimona>.

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"And every hour that Democrats and Republicans continue to debate the Balanced Budget Amendment, they are driving up the debt another \$16,552,511," said Steve Dasbach, national chairman of the Libertarian Party.

"So what are they waiting for? Passing this amendment would be the first, small step toward fiscal responsibility in Washington, DC."

Fresh debate over the Balanced Budget Amendment was triggered when President Clinton released his budget for fiscal 1998, which would increase the national debt by another \$145 billion—or \$4,598 per second.

During the past several decades, massive bipartisan deficits have propelled the national debt to a staggering \$5.3 trillion,

Dasbach said, dramatizing the need for a quick vote on the amendment.

"Republicans and Democrats should take a baby step toward fiscal adulthood and bring the measure to a quick vote," he said. "Libertarians have been pushing for a Balanced Budget Amendment for 25 years. If we controlled Congress we would approve this amendment in 30 seconds—then move on to real downsizing."

Democrats and Republicans, in contrast, are scrambling for ways to torpedo the modest measure, he said. They claim the law would:

- Hinder the government's ability to "regulate" the economy during recessions.

"If politicians had the wisdom to regulate the U.S. economy, they wouldn't have recklessly mired it in \$5.3 trillion of debt," Dasbach said. "The less control over the economy they have, the better off this nation will be."

- Prevent the United States from responding militarily to crises abroad.

"That's an argument *for* the Balanced Budget Amendment, not against it," Dasbach said. "Politicians have shown a disturbing eagerness to ship young Americans off to die in countries they've never heard of for reasons their leaders can't articulate."

- Be ineffective anyway, because politicians would merely circumvent the law with phony accounting.

"Of course they'll cheat," Dasbach said. "But if the Balanced Budget Amendment makes it slightly more difficult for them to spend this nation into bankruptcy, it's worth doing."

Libertarians who warn of the dangers of deficit spending have good company, Dasbach said, pointing out that Thomas Jefferson once said, "To preserve [our] independence, we must not let our rulers load us with perpetual debt."

"Our ruler, Bill Clinton, dropped quite a load on us: His budget weighed 10 pounds, 13 ounces and ran to 2,424 pages," Dasbach said. "One can only wonder whether Thomas Jefferson would be astounded more by the very concept of a \$5.3 trillion debt, or by his successors' unwillingness to take a

small, symbolic step to solve this problem by passing the Balanced Budget Amendment."

On the subject of government debt, the Libertarian Party platform states: "We support the drive for a constitutional amendment requiring the national government to balance its budget. To be effective, a balanced budget amendment should provide: a. that neither Congress nor the President be permitted to override this requirement; b. that all off-budget items are included in the budget; c. that the budget is balanced exclusively by cutting expenditures, and not by raising taxes; and d. that no exception be made for periods of national emergency."

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see page 15*

Fiasco

continued from page 1

"That's why, in an odd way, the news of this \$4 billion dead-on-arrival IRS computer system is good news—it means there's one less powerful, high-tech weapon for the IRS to use to spy on, monitor, and harass innocent Americans. It's almost worth \$4 billion to keep the IRS in the technological stone age, and keep them off the backs of taxpayers."

But what about the \$4 billion of taxpayers' money that the IRS wasted?

"Handle it like it would be handled in the private sector," Dasbach suggested. "Find out who was responsible for this fiasco, and take them to civil court to recover damages. Whether it was the IRS commissioner, IRS managers, or the members of Congress who oversaw this project, they should be forced to personally reimburse American taxpayers for the \$4 billion they've wasted. Maybe that would teach them a lesson."

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We have Israeli **Dr. Noah Nissani** with his libertarian plan to defuse the Arab-Jewish conflict. There's ISIL member **Jaroslav Romanchuk** who is drafting the platform for the United Democratic Party in Belarus. There are ISIL activists in Serbia, Russia, Mongolia, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, India, Pakistan – you

name a country and ISIL members are there, fighting for liberty.

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Nearly 4 million ISIL issue papers on these and other subjects have been distributed throughout the US by state and county LP organizations – even translated into other languages – in Poland, Brazil, Romania . . .

- ✓ **A new Bill of Rights for South Africa.** Last year ISIL board members **Leon Louw** and **Frances Kendall** helped draft a new Bill of Rights for South Africa's Constitution, now

signed into law. Both have been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. Louw's Law Review Project in past years was responsible for the dismantling of 200 of the hated apartheid laws.

- ✓ **Bringing the ideas of liberty to socialist nations.** ISIL has coordinated the translation and publication of the literature of liberty throughout the world: **Ayn Rand's** *The Fountainhead* and *We the Living* in Russia; ISIL Director **Dr. Mary Ruwart's** book *Healing Our World* in Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Russia & the same with ISIL Director **Ken Schoolland's** *The Adventures of Jonathan Gullible*.

- ✓ **15 world conferences.** These powerful conferences have brought together libertarians from all over the world. Attendees at our last conference in Canada included **John Perry Barlow**, co-founder of the Electronic Frontier Foundation, ISIL Rep Chief **Innocent Eleazu** of Nigeria, **Anatoly Levanchuk** of Russia (a participant in the 1991 Internet showdown with the KGB) and dozens more.

- ✓ The 1997 ISIL conference is to be held in Rome – Sept 29 to Oct 3. Don't miss this one!

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Affiliates

continued from page 4

Kansas

LP member **Christopher T. Allen** is running for an at-large seat on the Hutchinson City Council. Allen said he is running to educate local citizens about the Libertarian Party and "to show them hope."

Source: candidate

Massachusetts

The state party is well on its way to identifying 100 Libertarian candidates to run for office in 1998. The latest list of announced candidates includes: **Galit Dukach**, **Bill Hees**, **Carla Howell**, **Eli Israel**, **Irwin Jungreis**, **Chris O'Malley**, **George Phillies**, **Jim "Suldog" Sullivan**, and **Arthur Torrey**.

Source: affiliate news release

New Hampshire

The state party set a goal of recruiting 30 candidates to run serious campaigns at the municipal level this month. Although filing deadlines had not been reached in many districts at press time, those that had filed included: **John Bariarz**, **Cheryl Johnson**, **Roland Maheu**, **Greg Samuel**, **Mark Tuniewicz**, and **Howard Wilson**.

New Jersey

LP member **Dino D. Toro** received 40.7 percent of the votes in his race for a seat on the Commercial Township Committee. Toro got 458 votes in the two-way race.

Source: candidate

Ohio

The recently created Summit/Portage

Chapter of the state party elected the following affiliate officers: **Chet Sutherland**, Central Committee chairman; **Jim Babka Jr.**, Executive Committee chairman; **Dale Vernick**, Executive Committee secretary; **Mindy Terwilliger**, Executive Committee treasurer; **Bob Hart Jr.**, Summit County District 3 director; **Bob Neumann**, events director; and **Barry L. Ganoe**, publicity director.

"Our chapter has been steadily growing over the past few months and our goal is to become the largest and most active group

of Libertarians in the state of Ohio," Ganoe said. "We have plans to organize chapters of College Libertarians at The University of Akron and Kent State University here in Northeastern Ohio."

In February the chapter began hosting a debate supper club, organized by Events Director Neumann. The main objective of the supper club "is to invite non-Libertarians to witness and participate in an active debate environment to stimulate interest in the LP," Ganoe said.

Source: affiliate officer

Hamilton County Libertarians **Steve Schulte**, **Everett DeJager**, **Paul Naberhaus**, **Charlie Johnson**, and **Jim Berns** were instrumental in defeating the Republicans' attempt to raise the Hamilton County sales tax from 6 to 6.5 percent.

Even though their organization, Citizens For Responsible Government, was outspent by more than 100 to one, the tax increase was solidly defeated by a two-to-one margin. The group was able to successfully convince voters that they are taxed enough

see **Affiliates** on page 6

Many libertarians advocate restoration of some sort of gold standard. They rightly believe that the power to create legal tender from debt excessively empowers the State at the expense of justice and individual liberty. They believe that the logic of sound money is self-evident to people of good will, that articulate exegesis combined with practical political effort may result in election of politicians with a mandate to enact righteous monetary reforms.

We at G&SR think that is a vain hope. The world's banking/monetary system is gold-less precisely because of political meddling. Politicians rendered a cynical miscarriage of jurisprudence at the very dawn of the modern banking era: a systematic flaw which made progressive monetary debasement a foregone certainty. This thesis is explored at <http://www.e-gold.com/glossary.htm#objections>.

Money is a market phenomenon. A payments system should facilitate economic activity, not deficit spending. Pricing, indirect exchange, unambiguous accounting, property rights - all are essential elements of non-coercive social cooperation; productive human action to sustain and enrich our lives.

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Affiliates

continued from page 5

already and that government has more than enough money to do the things it should do.

Source: affiliate newsletter

Rhode Island

In early February, two new state party officers were elected—longtime member **Paul Crawford**, secretary; and **Scott Shore**, treasurer. Shore, a financial consultant with Merrill Lynch, directed the Overseas Private Investment Corporation from 1991 to 1993 as a White House appointee. In 1990 he ran a close congressional race in Florida, as a Republican, and previously served as political leadership director for the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

Source: affiliate officer

The state party is working with other state groups on issues of mutual agreement. Three of the groups and the issues are: Access/RI, on open government and freedom of information; Common Cause/RI, on government reform; and the Voter Initiative Alliance, on public referenda.

Source: affiliate officer

South Carolina

Two South Carolina Libertarian Party members will be on the ballot in two special county council elections on April 22.

State Chairman **Rodney Travis** has filed for the Charleston County Council North Area seat election to fill the seat of a de-

ceased councilman. Travis will face a Republican and a Democrat in the countywide race.

"This high-profile election will spotlight the Libertarian Party and will motivate the disenchanted voters of Charleston to support my candidacy," Travis said.

State party member **Chuck Williams** has filed for the Beaufort County Council District 2 seat. Williams will face the Republican incumbent.

"By shaking a few hands, I think I have a good chance of winning this race," Williams said.

Source: affiliate officer

Wisconsin

Three members of the Dane County LP have announced their candidacies for spring elections. Tony Tardola and Jeff Mackesey are seeking seats on the Madison City Council, and Julie Ender is running for a position on the Town of Pleasant Springs Board of Supervisors.

Source: affiliate newsletter

Libertarian Party member **Bob Schramm**, a Gulf War veteran, recently formed the Midwest Gulf War Veterans Association, an advocacy and education organization for Gulf War veterans affected by Gulf War illnesses. The organization is demanding an accountability as it relates to the Pentagon, the Department of Defense, and the Veterans Administration. For more information, call 414-695-8694.

Source: affiliate member



Wyoming

At the February meeting of the Wyoming LP, **Rod Heil** of Laramie, **Steve Richardson** of Casper, and **Lon Schlittenhart** of Laramie were nominated for state chair. The party will elect the chair this month in Casper, with the runner-up becoming vice chair. Veteran party members remarked that they could not recall a contested chair race and that it spoke to the vitality of the party.

Rhonda McCune and **Kevin Burt**, both of Cheyenne, were elected treasurer and secretary respectively.

Cheyenne's CBS affiliate covered the meeting.

Cheyenne author and Wyoming LP

member **Claire Wolfe** autographed copies of her book "101 Things to do 'til the Revolution" (Loompanics, 1996) and donated a copy to a fund-raising raffle.

Outgoing state party chair **Dennis Brossman** presented the affiliate's Lexington Award to **Dave Dawson** of Casper, the LP's U.S. House candidate who is being investigated by the IRS.

Following the meeting, the group attended the Cheyenne premier of **Clint Eastwood's** new movie, "Absolute Power."

Source: affiliate officer

If you have items for the Affiliates section, please send them to NEWS, P.O. Box 3391, Gainesville, GA 30503.

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— Vince Miller, President, ISIL —

This year's ISIL conference, being centrally located in one of Europe's great cities, will be drawing a fascinating collection of libertarians and free thinkers from all over Europe, the former East Bloc, Russia, Africa, and parts of Asia. Those who were lucky enough to attend our world con-

ference in Whistler, British Columbia last year will remember how exciting an experience it was to socialize and exchange experiences and tactics with free thinkers from 30 different countries.

And what a magnificent, romantic setting for the 1997 conference: Rome.

Many Added Attractions

Included in the ISIL Rome Conference package are sightseeing tours to allow you to visit the Coliseum, Forum Romanum, the Spanish Steps, Via Veneto, Trevi Fountain, St. Peters and Vatican museums.

Speaker Lineup

There will be speakers from all over the world but for starters we have confirmed:

Antonio Martino — former Minister of Foreign Affairs for Italy.

Angelo Petroni — Professor in Turin and President of the libertarian-leaning Einaudi Foundation.

MP Giulio Savelli, A Deputy elected to the Forza Italia party. Mr. Savelli first worked for the Lega Nord, the secessionist party in northern Italy.

REGISTRATION FORM

☐ YES, I would like to register for the 1997 ISIL world conference in Rome.

I understand the registration fee of \$785 USD includes full participation in the conference, a guided tour of Rome, hotel accommodations (double occupancy for five nights) at the Hotel Assunzione in city center, a welcoming party, and a Gala Closing Banquet.

☐ I would like to pay my registration in 7 monthly installments of \$100 each with one final payment of \$85.00

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Please charge my ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard # _____ Exp _____

Signature _____

Brainwave

continued from page 1

"Since there is a strong strain of libertarianism running through the tech community, we thought it would be a good topic to address," Simon said. She also noted that the release of Charles Murray's book, "What It Means to be a Libertarian," was a contributing factor to selecting libertarianism as the first topic.

At Salon, a daily Web magazine of books, arts, and ideas that was recently selected by Time magazine as the Web site of the year, Gary Kamiya, a critic of libertarianism, started the discussion by stating, "If there is a default ideology in cyberspace, it is libertarianism. Click on just about any on-line discussion and sooner or later you run up against a libertarian buzzsaw—hosts of unseen true believers, all of them seemingly armed with an inexhaustible supply of statistics and arguments, posting away with an intellectual rigor that is alternately awe-inspiring and a little scary."

Kamiya's critical essay led to many threads of discussion on various aspects of libertarianism.

At The Site, Suzanne Stefanac kicked off the discussion by stating, "Although Libertarians claim to be America's third most influential political party, they remain largely unknown to the public at large. Unless, of course, you are among the digi-

tal elite. Over the past several years, a burgeoning number of individuals who live and work within the computer realm have begun to claim the label as their own. Not surprisingly, a goodly number of Web sites, both pro and con, dot the Internet landscape."

Although many of the commentators were critical of libertarianism, the influence of the libertarian philosophy on the Web could not be denied, and many visitors to the site came to the defense of libertarianism.

At Feed, a panel consisting of such people as *The Wall Street Journal's* John Fund and MSNBC's Omar Wasow discussed excerpts from Murray's book and their views of libertarianism.

The Brainwave Project will continue with an as yet undesignated new topic. But this first attempt at "helping to build a larger community of critical minds in the new medium" clearly demonstrated that, as the Feed site stated, "For better or worse, Libertarianism is the closest thing on the Web to a home-grown political movement."

Web sites

The Brainwave Project:

www.salonmagazine.com/brainwave/common970120.html

Electric Minds:

www.minds.com

Feed:

www.feedmag.com

Salon:

www.salonmagazine.com

The Site:

www.thesite.com

Freedom Law School (F.L.S.)

was founded to assist those freedom loving and self-responsible people who are **committed** to living their lives free of oppressive control and taxation by governments and their agents and live free, in pursuit of happiness.

By learning about your rights, and the proper procedures that you need to utilize in asserting them, you can live your life in freedom.

This knowledge will empower you to keep the meddlesome government agents out of your life, and if the pesky government agents insist on harassing you, you will know the proper way to respond and get the leeches off your back.

Once you become knowledgeable about the law, along with the other knowledgeable freedom lovers in your community, you can make the government agents go after the real criminals and leave law abiding people like yourself alone in peace.

You don't need to have any kind of previous knowledge or experience in the field of law to succeed in these classes and live free.

Freedom Law School stands 100% behind its work and wants you to get the kind of empowering information you are looking for.

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net.g@ins

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

- > <http://www.lp.org/lp/ca/lpc.html>
The Libertarian Party of California.
- > <http://scs.student.virginia.edu/~liberty/>
The Liberty Coalition at the University of Virginia.
- > <http://cech.cesnet.cz/IQ/IQ-test-e.html>
European IQ test.
- > <http://www.people.memphis.edu/~urmshaw/>
The University of Memphis (TN) College Libertarians.
- > <http://www.isil.org>
The International Society for Individual Liberty.

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Selectman

continued from page 1

others take on a bit more responsibility." At this point he's disinclined to run for state-wide office because "in many ways local government is the most important," but he's not ruling out a future run for higher office.

What's the secret?

How has a Libertarian kept winning elections? Partly by being a Libertarian, and partly by being a successful officeholder.

"There have been some tough campaigns against me. They had an uphill battle, though, in the face of tax rates that had gone down while infrastructure was improving," Davis said.

One of his first targets was road maintenance, a big item in every New Hampshire town's budget.

"We were repairing roads four times, and I asked why don't we do it once and do it right?" he said.

At his prodding, the selectmen formed an advisory group of people in town who knew how roads are built and maintained, then organized volunteer groups to do the engineering. The town then dug out collapsed culverts, graded, repaved, "and set up a long-term maintenance plan. What we used to spend to patch, we now spend to rebuild," Davis explained.

Davis often has promoted plans to "run the town more like a business." At his urging, Wentworth hired a professional administrator part time to manage town funds in a way that increased earnings and reduced borrowing costs. The administra-

tor saved the town more than \$40,000 a year, almost triple what he was paid. Davis also managed to get department heads to accept a budget cut of 10 percent across the board.

More savings

Long before last year's federal welfare reform bill was passed, Wentworth had moved to a "workfare" approach. Families in need receive town assistance for only a short time and are expected to do community service in exchange.

"A local affiliation of business people helps them find permanent employment," Davis said. "We save another 30 to 40 thousand there."

Further savings—and a heightened sense of community—come from consistent encouragement of volunteer efforts.

"Townpeople work in the library, the school, the fire department, the county seniors' program," he explained. A Volunteer of the Year award provides an incentive, even for town officials and state representatives, who serve virtually unpaid and are thus eligible.

"One big way to reduce the cost of government is to get people to volunteer to do the things that need to be done," he said. "Government should do only what can't be done any other way."

Other battles

Davis has battled government's tendency to intrude as well as its urge to tax and

"Don't expect results in the first year or two. Making any progress takes time because you first need to gain others' respect."

spend.

"As selectman, I was able to overturn some planning board amendments that were really zoning amendments. They wanted to tell owners what they could and couldn't do with their property," Davis said. He defended a long Wentworth tradition that the planning board only *advise* owners that, for example, a particular way of subdividing a lot could make proper access or sewerage impossible. "We give them useful information; if they want to do something dumb with their property, that's their business," he said.

Wentworth may be good evidence of a point Libertarians have long contended, that putting freedom first leads to domestic tranquility.

"The various boards get along great—no fights—because no one has special privileges, and we don't try to redistribute wealth," he said. "Our idea of 'progressive taxation' is simple: richer people live in nicer homes, so they pay higher taxes. That's progressive, isn't it?"

It hasn't always been smooth sailing. Even in a classic central New Hampshire town naturally inclined to minimal government and now long accustomed to laissez-faire leadership, the urge for more government continues to rear its head. For example, Davis said, "Often we've had to resist pressure for a full-time police force."

What's next?

Davis is not one to rest on his laurels. "Moving on to the next project is what I like to do," he said. He sees much yet to be done, including improving the town's relationship with the school board. He said he believes the town can get the board to control costs more carefully "if the principal, teachers, and school boards see the advantages of a school that's run more economically."

He plans to appeal to their self interest in a way that seems characteristic of him: "If you can cut costs on materials you don't actually use anyway, we may be able to finance that addition you want. If you'll accept an increase of the pupil-teacher ratio from 10:1 to 15:1, we can afford to raise salaries," he said.

Perhaps he is being optimistic, but already he has seen "a shift in the wind." In a public meeting a year ago, he "complimented" school board members on their amazing ability to budget so precisely that they always spent exactly what they budget—to the penny.

This year the board returned \$20,000 it didn't spend.

"The state association of school boards was apoplectic," Davis said with a wry smile. "Returning money to the taxpayers? Unheard of!"

How does he do it?

A politician need not hide a libertarian bent, nor Libertarian Party affiliation, to be successful—at least not in a small, devoutly Yankee town. Davis attributes his success in part to the resonance of his ideas with traditional New Hampshire attitudes of self reliance and mistrust of government.

When asked what is the hard part of being a Libertarian in public office, he said, "There isn't one. It's easy."

He sees himself as giving people what they'd *like* to expect from politicians. "Folks believe Democrats will rob the store and that Republicans will ram their religious ideas down their throats," he said.

He doesn't so much argue for libertarian ideas as show how they reflect the townspeople's own values—and simple common sense.

"Pocketbook issues always work," Davis said.

Asking the right question

Whether it is a natural inclination or a hard-won lesson, one inescapable impression is that Davis is more apt to pose a simple, issue-defining question than to give a long speech. For example, "Why do you want to control someone else's land? How would you like it if he wanted to control yours?" Or, "You had a 13 percent increase last year, and now you want 20. Why? What are we going to get for that extra money?"

It's clear, then, that townsfolk know "where he's coming from." At one meeting Davis was berated with the accusation that "the only reason you're against this is your stupid libertarian principles!" Davis' reply: "Yeah . . . what's your point?"

He chuckled in recalling, "the guy was genuinely *shocked* that I apply political principles to politics!"

A word to the wise

His advice for Libertarians newly elected to office is typically pragmatic: "Don't expect results in the first year or two. Making any progress takes time because you first need to gain others' respect." He does not devalue ideology, but he emphasizes "being responsible, hard-working, friendly, and cooperative."

Davis's approach is perhaps best summed up by an anecdote: A man considering buying a lot available in Wentworth came to the town office to ask about getting a building permit. Davis told him Wentworth didn't give permits—and didn't require them.

"You have plans, don't you?" Davis asked.

"Yeah," said the visitor.

"Good plans?" Davis asked.

"I think so."

"If your house falls down, who has a problem, you or us?" Davis continued.

"I do."

"Then why would you need permission from us?"

The out-of-towner smiled and said, "I think I'll buy that property."

"Why?" Davis questioned.

"Because you guys won't push me around."

This article appeared in the January issue of Libertarian Lines, the state newsletter of the Libertarian Party of New Hampshire.

Liberty Council



1997 IS A BIG YEAR FOR GRASSROOTS CAMPAIGNS

From Washington state to New Hampshire, local offices are up for election this year. These are the most winnable elections available to Libertarian Party candidates. In most cases, they are the most affordable races for Libertarians to mount successful campaigns.

By campaigning for city council, election judgeships, selectmen, and school boards, local Libertarians do the hard work of building our party from the ground up. They need your help this year. Through the Liberty Council, you can help today!

Being a volunteer-driven organization, nobody draws a salary at the Liberty Council. There are no fancy offices and overhead costs stay at a minimum. That means that a bigger share of your contribution goes directly to the front lines in our struggle for liberty in America.

Our goals are simple: retain our incumbents, elect more local Libertarians, and train local activists in effective organization. That will build the party infrastructure we have to have to succeed and give our candidates credibility to go on to win higher office. Send your check today.

Liberty Council Political Action Committee

P.O. Box 12075 • Washington, DC 20005 • LibertyDC@AOL.COM

The many roads to freedom

continued from page 1

have seen his civil liberties trampled on by the insane War on Drugs. And many, many people became motivated when they saw that high taxes were making their economic lives unbearable.

Once motivated, an individual probably will begin paying attention to other areas of public policy—finding many significant differences between liberty and government, and beginning to develop a coherent philosophy that substitutes a generalized love of liberty for his initial gripe.

There are those who discuss freedom only in terms of natural rights and one's birthright. But even these people probably started along the path to this understanding because of specific incidents that touched them personally.

As you assert your rights today, remember that there was a time in your life when such statements probably would have fallen on your deaf ears. Only when you were ready to hear them—because of events that opened your eyes and your mind—did they begin to make sense to you.

Once the mind is open . . .

There are many paths to the freedom philosophy. Different people will respond to different door-openers, different sales approaches, and different ways to close the sale. It's important to speak in terms that have meaning to the prospect, because *he* is the person making the decision.

Once he opens the door to libertarianism, he probably will expand his education on his own—discovering for himself more and more benefits of freedom, becoming opposed to government programs he once thought necessary or even beneficial.

Thus we shouldn't disparage any approach that opens someone's mind—even if it opens it just a crack at the outset.

Charles Murray

For example, Charles Murray's new book "What It Means to be a Libertarian" may be rejected by some libertarians because it is too tolerant toward such things as government schools and roads. But in spite of

Commentary

“ There are many paths to the freedom philosophy. Different people will respond to different door-openers, different sales approaches, and different ways to close the sale. ”

these concessions, the book makes an eloquent case for liberty.

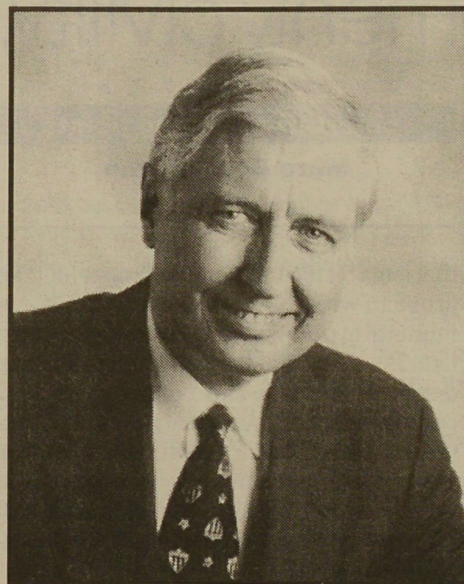
And in areas where even some libertarians fear to tread—medical regulation, the Drug War, prostitution, and other sensitive subjects—Murray makes strong, uncompromising arguments for keeping government completely out.

In the process, he also shatters illusions about the New Deal, the Great Society, and federal civil rights legislation—pointing out that whatever good seems to have come from any of these endeavors was already under way before the government stepped in. As he surveys today's federal government, he finds very little that would remain in a libertarian administration.

I believe this book will open the minds of a lot of people. And once their minds are open, they may wonder on their own why government should attempt to provide education—when so much of what Murray says elsewhere in the book lays the groundwork for an indictment of government schooling. (Incidentally, he points out that many, if not most, libertarians disagree with him in areas like education.)

This short book will be attractive to many people, libertarians and non-libertarians, because of its new insights. One that will attract a good deal of attention is his proposal to allow any company to exempt itself from government regulation by posting an “unregulated” label on its product. He goes on to point out persuasively why such a system would lead eventually to people shunning regulated merchandise.

And the book will be attractive because



Harry Browne

of its beautiful language. Here's an example, in an optimistic section arguing that the American people are coming to realize that government isn't the answer:

“In one part of our lives—the part run by private enterprises—we have become accustomed to a level of responsiveness and service that is often astonishing. We can order just about any product from our home, expect it to show up on our doorstep the next day, and take it for granted that if we don't like it we can return it, no questions asked. . . .

“In another part of our lives, the part run by government, we have to fill out our tax returns, renew our driver's license, try to get a pothole fixed, try to correct an overcharge in the water bill, try to get an answer to a question about the zoning laws, or apply for a permit. Something that in the private sector can be done in minutes over the phone, 24 hours a day, can be done by the government only from ten until three, Mondays through Fridays, in person, and it takes three visits to get it right. . . .

“The reality of daily life is that, by and large, the things the government does tend to be ugly, rude, slovenly—and not to work. Things that private organizations do tend to be attractive, courteous, tidy—and to work. That is the way America really is.” [Page 146]

Charles Murray's book is a welcome addition to the libertarian literature—one that most likely will have an impact on political thought. He is a respected social scientist, and his publisher (Broadway Books) is promoting the book heavily. Any bookstore should have it, and may even display it prominently.

Obviously, “What It Means to be a Libertarian” won't convert everyone. But it should achieve what an effective presentation is meant to do, move everyone another step in our direction—creating doubts in the minds of opponents, making those in the middle more sympathetic to our position and even interested in investigating it further, and transforming into activist liber-

tarians those who are already sympathetic.

We have to increase the membership of the Libertarian Party many times over during the next few years, and this book should be an effective recruiting tool. Even if you disagree with parts of the book, you should enjoy reading it and passing it on to those you want to persuade.

Yes, there are many paths to freedom. And it is more important to discover which path suits each person you're trying to convert than to dwell on which path suits you. And you and I should welcome every new approach to the freedom philosophy, because each is potentially the path your next convert has been looking for.

Harry Browne was the 1996 Libertarian Party presidential candidate.

Each person. . .

Each person has his own reasons to work to make this a free society.

Many people begin their trek down the path because of one painful experience with government – an IRS audit, asset forfeiture, having their health food store raided by the FDA, or simply standing in line way too long at the Post Office.

Others may choose the freedom trail because of a single, touchstone issue: free speech on the Internet, the right to keep and bear arms, or a burning desire that their children be educated – not indoctrinated – by government-run public schools.

But there are countless paths to freedom. A utilitarian, wanting the greatest good for the greatest number, would choose freedom. A pragmatist, wanting a society that works, would choose freedom. An ethical egoist, wanting a society where he can pursue his interests, would choose freedom. An altruist, wanting a world that benefits others, would choose freedom.

Some may choose the freedom path because they have logically derived it from the non-aggression axiom.

Each of us has his own reasons for choosing freedom. But in every case it is because freedom is a means to an end.

— Michael Cloud

Hold these dates. . .

**July 2 - July 5, 1998
for the 1998 Libertarian Party
National Convention in Washington, DC**

Plans are under way for the best convention we've ever had. You can be a part of making it better right now by doing all you can to boost national party membership.

Those affiliate parties showing the greatest national membership growth during 1997 will be given preferential seating at the convention. Every new national member from your state helps earn you a front-and-center seat to the best national convention yet.

More news about the convention will appear in future issues of the NEWS.

LP on-line guide

• **Libertarian Party**

<http://www.lp.org/>

• **Libertarian Party NEWS**

<http://www.lp.org/lpn/>

• **Libertarian Party Affiliates**

<http://www.lp.org/lp-aff.html>

• **Libertarian Party Platform**

<http://www.lp.org/platform/>

Talking points

'New' government, civility, balanced budget, more

Beware "new" government

"We need a new government for a new century," proclaimed President Clinton, just minutes after taking (the oath of office). Every time someone says 'government,' we think 'size.' But the word 'new' has nothing whatever to do with size. It has everything to do with replacement of the established, the existing.

In his speech, Mr. Clinton calls for a government that will 'give us the tools to solve our problems,' to 'give all Americans an opportunity,' to 'give Americans the power to make a real difference in their everyday lives.'

Our current form of government is embodied in the Constitution. Unlike Mr. Clinton's 'new government,' it was not designed to give anything to the people. Nature and Nature's Creator give us the tools to solve our problems. No provision in the Constitution calls upon government to dispense opportunity, for opportunity derives from a concept called the Rule of Law.

Above all, we should free ourselves of the debate about the size of government, and focus on the appropriate functions of government. Such an approach will yield the appropriate size and will persuade most people of common sense that the last thing this country needs is a new government."

Balint Vazsonyi in The Washington Times, Feb. 4, 1997.

Down with bipartisanship

"Christopher Buckley on President Clinton's call for bipartisanship: 'Making nice is not what politics is all about,' Mr. Buckley, editor of Forbes FYI magazine, said in *The New York Times*.

'Trying to make politics into sweetness and light is like fitting wings on a pig. You and the pig look ridiculous and the pig still isn't going to fly.

'The notion that squabbling is deplorable or somehow un-American is the latest form of literal political correctness. It certainly bears all the telltale signs of P.C.: earnestness, blandness, piety, disapproval, humorlessness and—worst of all—joylessness. Politics is bad enough without being dull."

The Washington Times, Feb. 5, 1997.

If not us, who?

"The conservative revolution supposedly arrived 16 years ago, with the inauguration of Ronald Reagan, but government today is far more expensive and expansive. The arrival of the GOP Congress two years ago sparked renewed talk of a revolution—killing departments, ending programs, cutting regulations and reforming entitlements. Nothing happened, however.

Bill Clinton's re-election was the final straw for some limited government activists. The GOP congressional leadership now talks about cooperation and bipartisanship. Think tanks that once promoted dramatic rollbacks are now pushing for tiny snips.

Those who believe in a free society have no choice but to soldier on, even at the risk of defeat.

The problem with the welfare state is not

Libertarian talking points

Marc Beauchamp

Editor

that it is a bit too ungainly and wasteful. The problem with the welfare state is that it is immoral in principle and disastrous in practice. It sets citizen against citizen, and undermines families and communities, discourages self-responsibility and civic action, slows economic growth and locks the most vulnerable into poverty. Thus the welfare state must remain the target of anyone who believes in limited government.

It's no surprise that many believers in liberty are discouraged. But they can't give up the fight. After all, if not us, who? And if not now, when?"

Doug Bandow of the Cato Institute in The Washington Times, Jan. 31, 1997.

Stop the war

Financier George Soros on drug prohibition: "I became involved in the drug issue because of my commitment to the concept of open society. I have no use for drugs. I tried marijuana and enjoyed it but it did not become a habit and I have not tasted it in many years. My sole concern is that the war on drugs is doing untold damage to the fabric of our society.

I believe a drug-free America is a utopian dream. Some form of drug addiction or substance abuse is endemic in most societies. Insisting on total eradication of drug use can only lead to failure and disappointment. The war on drugs cannot be won; but, like the Vietnam War, it has polarized our society.

And its adverse effects over time may be even more devastating. Our drug policies are especially harsh on African American men. The war on drugs has contributed strongly to a rate of incarceration so high that it disrupts family structures in our cities and increases the number of single-parent families.

Focusing resources on interdiction ignores basic economic principles. As long as demand and profits are high, there is no way to cut off supply.

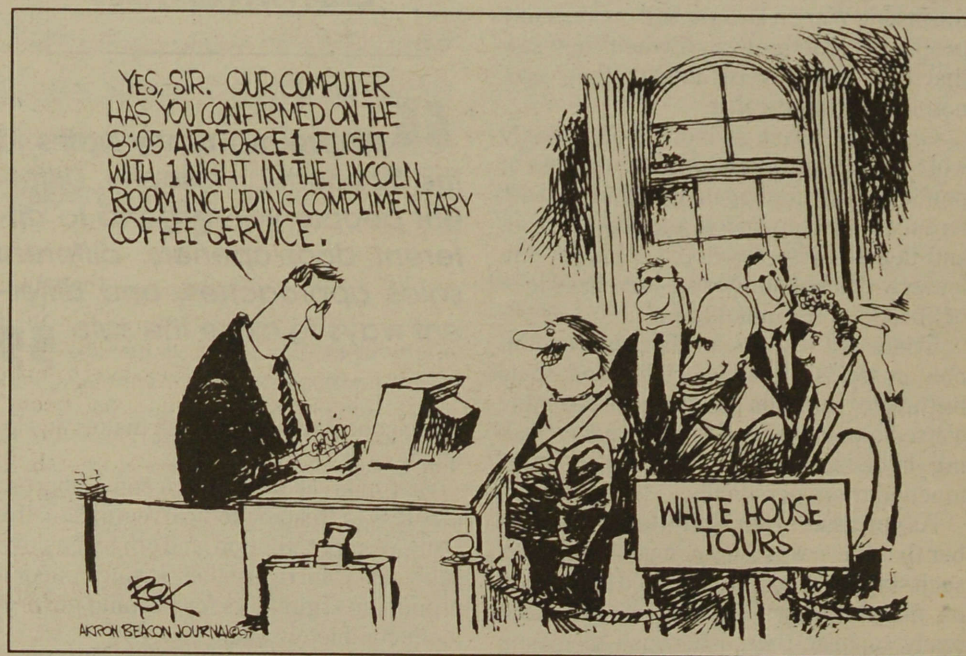
If the Swiss and the Dutch and the British and increasingly other countries as well can experiment with new approaches, so can the United States."

The Washington Post, Feb. 2, 1997.

Bah, Humbug!

"Those libertarian grumps at the Cato Institute even use Santa to pursue their ideological Causes, uh, causes. To their holiday cards—which feature the requisite red sleigh and a bag full of toys—the Cato crusaders have added the caption: 'Santa will be a little late this year.' Attached to the sleigh are five notices left by nasty government regulators: OSHA violations—safety hazards at the North Pole; INS—illegal elves; FAA—small craft grounded. You get the picture. The greeting inside the card: 'Peace and Free Enterprise.'"

The National Journal, Dec. 21, 1996.



Saving ourselves

"Privatization of Social Security is now a topic of intense discussion in Washington. By allowing individuals to invest their Social Security taxes (along with the employer's share) in stock and bond mutual funds, will create real savings, and rates of return for future retirees will be 3 to 6 times what Social Security now promises but probably won't be able to pay.

(Federal Reserve Chairman) Alan Greenspan is curiously ambivalent about, if not hostile to, privatization of Social Security. Privatization was not even considered as one of the options back in 1983 when he headed the National Commission on Social Security Reform. His advice was, essentially, raise taxes and cut benefits. Doing so, he told Congress, would secure the system for at least the next 75 years absent 'a very adverse economic scenario.'

Ultimately, the real issue here is individual liberty. Why should all Americans be forced into a single pay-as-you go system with very low benefits? The higher rate of return from a privatized Social Security system is simply a happy consequence of allowing people choice and the dignity of providing for their own retirement."

Cato Institute President Edward H. Crane in The Washington Times, Jan. 28, 1997.

What a surprise!

"A new poll suggests many Americans have little faith in the federal government. The Gallup survey conducted last year found just 32 percent expressed significant confidence in their government.

More than three out of four respondents also expressed concern about the priorities of the nation's leaders. The poll found that most believe leaders are more concerned with managing their images than solving the nation's problems. One researcher says disaffection and pessimism are strongest among the middle class."

The Associated Press, Jan. 25, 1997.

Jefferson and debt

"Ought not then the right of each successive generation to be guaranteed against the dissipations and corruptions of those

preceding, by a fundamental provision in our Constitution?

There [is a measure] which if not taken we are undone. . . [It is] to cease borrowing money and to pay off the national debt. If this cannot be done without dismissing the army and putting the ships out of commission, haul them up high and dry and reduce the army to the lowest point at which it was ever established. There does not exist an engine so corruptive of the government and so demoralizing of the nation as a public debt. It will bring on us more ruin at home than all the enemies from abroad against whom this army and navy are to protect us."

Thomas Jefferson.

Sweet deals

"On Jan. 28, Sen. John McCain, Arizona Republican, and a bipartisan group of senators and outside interest groups announced their support for legislation to curb business subsidies, often referred to as 'corporate welfare.'

A good example is the Jones Act, which restricts shipping between U.S. ports to U.S.-flag vessels—(meaning) a ship's crew must be comprised of at least 75 percent American citizens. A 1991 study by the U.S. International Trade Commission estimated that the Jones Act raised profits for shipowners by \$636 million per year and cost U.S. consumers between \$4.2 billion and \$10.4 billion annually.

A similar subsidy program exists for the sugar industry. Quotas restrict imports of foreign sugar, thereby raising the price that U.S. consumers pay for sugar. A 1993 General Accounting Office study put the subsidy value at \$1.4 billion per year."

Bruce Bartlett, National Center for Political Analysis, in The Washington Times, Feb. 6, 1997.

Contributions of ideas and articles are welcome.

Send them to Marc Beauchamp, 2231 Kings Garden Way, Falls Church, VA 22043.

E-mail: <mbeauch@ix.netcom.com>.

Guilty decision in CO jury rights case

In a case that threatensthe trial by jury system, a Gilpin County, CO, juror was found guilty of contempt of court for deliberating "improperly" in a jury room. This case was the first of its kind in more than 300 years.

Laura Kriho, the juror, was the lone holdout for acquittal on the jury in a drug possession case on May 13, 1996.

The defendant was a 19-year-old female charged with felony possession of methamphetamine. Kriho and the other jurors listened to two days of testimony.

Before deliberations began, presiding Judge Kenneth Barnhill gave the jury some instructions on how to reach a verdict. He said the jury was to determine if the prosecution had proved, beyond a reasonable doubt, that the defendant had knowingly possessed methamphetamine. He also instructed the jury to use their prior knowledge and experiences, but not to consider possible sentences the defendant would face. These instructions were given in the spirit of guidelines and were not identified as court orders.

Most jurors wanted to convict on the possession charge, but Kriho argued that the prosecution had not proved that the defendant knew she possessed the methamphetamine. Kriho had reasonable doubts.

In the heat of the deliberations, Kriho blurted out that the defendant could receive several years in jail if the jury convicted her. Kriho also made remarks about jury nullification and the historic right of jurors to vote according to their conscience.

These statements, and Kriho's refusal to

change her vote, angered another juror so much that, without the knowledge of other jurors, he sent a note to Judge Barnhill. The note asked if a juror could be disqualified for discussing the sentence the defendant would face. Based on this anonymous note, and with no other investigation, Judge Barnhill declared a mistrial.

Prosecutor James Stanley was so enraged at losing an easy conviction that his investigator inquired of other jurors, off the record, who the holdout juror was. He found out Kriho's name and investigated her background. He discovered that Kriho had received a deferred sentence on the charge of possession of LSD in 1984. After Kriho completed two years of probation, the charge was supposed to be wiped from her record. Kriho believed that it had been.

Stanley also discovered that Kriho was an organizer for the Colorado Hemp Initiative Project, a group trying to reform cannabis and hemp laws in Colorado.

Based on this information and interviews with other jurors, Kriho was charged with contempt of court on Aug. 16, 1996.

Kriho was pronounced guilty of contempt of court in mid-February. Kriho faces up to six months in jail and fines. A date was not set for her sentencing.

The nine-page ruling was issued by First Judicial District Chief Judge Henry Nieto who presided over Kriho's trial. The ruling states that Kriho "deliberately and willfully withheld and concealed information which was relevant and important to selecting a fair and impartial jury, and that Ms. Kriho did so with the intent of serving on the jury for the purpose of obstructing justice."

Judge Nieto ruled that Kriho, during jury selection, deliberately withheld her attitude about certain drug laws, her involvement in hemp legalization activities, and her knowledge of a juror's power to determine questions of law as well as fact.

By failing to volunteer this information,

Kriho "obstructed the process of selecting a fair and impartial jury."

Kriho was never asked questions concerning any of these factors during jury selection.

"What it comes down to is that the courts can now use police power to eliminate anyone from a jury who has qualms about the law, and therefore stack the jury with 'yes' men and women. It means that trial by jury is a meaningless ritual which masks what's really going on, which is trial by government," said longtime LP member and activist Larry Dodge, co-founder of FIJA, the Fully Informed Jury Association.

For more information, contact the Jury Rights Project at <jrights@welcomehome.org>, or the Laura Kriho Legal Defense Fund, c/o Paul Grant (defense attorney), P.O. Box 1272, Parker, CO 80134, or call 303-841-9649, or e-mail <pkgrant@ix.netcom.com>.

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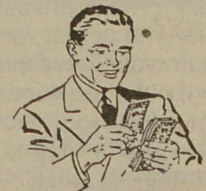
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Letters

Readers on Christianity, selling freedom, and more

Cost per vote?

Am I the only one who noticed the great big hole in your front page story about the 1996 year-end report? It lists a cost of \$7.57/vote (for Harry Browne), which one gets by dividing the \$3 million listed under fund raising by the vote total. Then it goes on to brag about getting "more than \$5 million in 'free' media" (all those talk radio appearances, etc.).

So we really "raised" more than \$8 million, giving a cost of over \$16/vote, or all that "free" media exposure we worked so hard for brought us not one single vote. I don't like either conclusion, but I see no other. Either way, we've got a big problem.

And I especially don't like being told one thing and then figuring out that the story doesn't fit the facts that are right there on the same page. I think those who are telling us that everything is fine, we did everything right, now we just need to try harder, owe us all an explanation. After all, if we can't even tell ourselves the truth when it hurts, how can we expect the voters to trust us when we tell them their leaders are lying?

Dick Crawford
RCrawf4000@aol.com

Christians

We cannot see air, but we can prove it exists. We cannot smell radiation, but we can prove that it exists. We cannot taste gravity, but we can prove that it exists. The same thing cannot be said for "god". Eric Frizzell's (Feb. 1997 NEWS) letter is a good example of why we need to maintain this important distinction between faith and reality.

Without belaboring the point excessively, the U.S. was founded as a secular nation. Yes, the right of the individual to choose his or her own religion was guaranteed by the First Amendment, but in no place in the founding documents of this nation is an official religion named, nor is there any proclamation that America is a Christian nation. Some of the founders were Christians, some were deists, some were Jewish, some were freethinkers. The whole concept of a free nation of individuals was based upon the premise that no religion had the right to oppress others. Hence, libertarians who are not prepared to give their souls and brains to Jesus are not left-wingers as Mr. Frizzell proclaims, but rather individuals who do not wish to see one form of autocratic government (i.e. the one we have now) replaced with another one (i.e. the Christian theocracy in which "god" reigns supreme and the Bible is the foundation of all societal organization that Mr. Frizzell advocates).

There is a reason, Mr. Frizzell, why many libertarians "wince in repulsion" when someone like yourself advocates a return to Christian morals. First of all, if one considers the historical track record of Christianity, one is not encouraged that liberty would be the result of such a return. Secondly, if we remain objective, there is no empirical evidence that your "god" even exists, any more than there is empirical evidence that anyone else's "god" exists. Faith may be something that adds richness to your life, but it is a dangerous and volatile element to mix with government. No libertarian would deny you the right to



Staying in touch

Letters to the editor

practice your faith, as you see fit, in your family and community—so long as the rights of others are not infringed upon. Can your religion make the same guarantee? What I have observed in my lifetime as well as from the study of history is that religion is a great enemy of freedom, precisely because of its autocratic nature and fervent conviction that it possesses the sole truth of the universe.

"But millions of people believe in 'god'" I hear you say. So what? Millions of children believe in Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny. Millions of people voted for Bill Clinton and Bob Dole. Millions of people smoke although they know it's unhealthy for them. To be blunt: truth is not determined through a popularity contest. While I would eternally defend your right to believe as you will, I would also eternally oppose your attempt to make your religion the foundation of law in this nation. That is why the LP is the party of principle, because we attempt to apply the same standards to every issue. Hence, if we oppose the oppression of taxation or censorship, we must also logically oppose the oppression of forcing an entire nation to live according to the moral tenets of a single religion.

Perhaps the best summation of why religion must always remain a strictly personal matter (rather than the basis of governmental authority) was given by one of our founders, James Madison, who noted that: "During almost fifteen centuries has the legal establishment of Christianity been on trial. What has been its fruits? More or less, in all places, pride and indolence in the clergy; ignorance and servility in the laity; in both, superstition, bigotry and persecution."

Jules D. Gliesche
Stoughton, WI

Constitutional debate

In the grip of the new philosophy of the modern era, C. S. Lewis said that what we need most is an intimate knowledge of the past. The LP needs to bring back a debate on the Constitution. How much the government and the courts have trashed it. The Anti-Federalist warned us about a powerful central government. We need to speak of a Patrick Henry or a George Mason.

Christianity is the most important thing in my life. I get upset with the trashing of the Constitution by the ACLU, the Christian Right, or my own ignorance. We have much to learn about what is true Christianity. How many Christians have heard of or even read writings by Richard Sibbes or a John Owen. These guys have made a difference in my life. James Madison was influenced by a few men of faith, like William Perkins, a Puritan. Perkins' masterpiece on 'Liberty of Conscience' had major effect on England and America.

The LP needs to have a good debate on its message. Include us common people.

James Hook
Winter Haven, FL

Persuasion doesn't work

When Libertarian candidates fare poorly in elections, blame is often assigned to lack of money, a candidate who could not articulate a clear message, media bias, or inattention, etc. However, none of these factors can explain away Jon Coon's dismal showing in his state representative race. In fact, as stated in the article "Anatomy of a Campaign" (Feb. 1997 NEWS), this campaign had "everything a Libertarian campaign could want."

So why did Coon receive only about 16 percent of the vote? Jon Coon's campaign manager, Barbara Goushaw, basically blames the "uninformed and apathetic" electorate. However, the "uninformed" argument is not consistent with her claim that Coon had a 95 percent name recognition, higher than the incumbent. Goushaw infers that the voters were apathetic because most of them did not view the Coon campaign video placed at their doors on the last weekend before the election. But most of the voters had probably made up their minds at that point, and considered it a waste of time to watch a video about a candidate whom they already knew enough about and had no intention of voting for. If the Clinton campaign had left a video on my doorstep a few days before the election, I would have tossed it in the trash, and I don't consider myself to be either uninformed or apathetic.

I believe that we libertarians must face the fact that most people, even when they fully comprehend our philosophy and values, simply don't agree with us. They are genuinely happier living in a system where government imposes restrictions on their freedom that libertarians consider to be basic violations of individual rights.

Just as they cannot persuade us that giving up more freedom would make us happier, we cannot persuade them that increasing their freedom would make their lives better because more freedom is not what they want. It is a mistake to assume that libertarians are "right" and that most people will eventually realize this if given the opportunity.

I think the best hope for libertarians is to relocate to a common geographic area where they will have enough of a voice to turn libertarian ideas into reality. This is an approach that has been used successfully by many groups. The question is, are there enough willing libertarians who can agree on how, where, and when?

Sal Giglia
Norwood, MA

Christianity

I didn't catch Harry Browne's statements on Christianity in the Jan. 1997 NEWS. I did, however, read Lenny Maughan's response to them among your February letters, and can only second his motion. For me the subject is never far from thought, if only because the so-called Christian Right is always and odiously active in my community.

The sophistry that moral sense is founded on religion—or more exactly, on whatever religion the sophist is pushing—has been around for a long time. The likes of Pat Buchanan have played on fear to give it a recent face-lift, but the premise is

and always has been flawed. In fact, morality is only codified and not created by religious tradition; to say otherwise is to say that pagan, pre-literate societies (or what's left of them, thanks to our missionaries) can be little more than anarchic. In fact, such societies share common taboos on things like theft, rape, murder and incest, though they've obviously never heard of our Ten Commandments. Such taboos do no more or less than set lines that the cooperative many will not allow the sociopathic few to cross. And, as Mr. Maughan aptly implies, the fact that they've persisted through three-and-a-half million years of human evolution only attests to the fact that without them, man could never have become enough of a social animal to, say, invent Libertarianism.

Eric Olds
Prescott, Arizona

Selling freedom

Libertarianism has two camps, the intellectuals and the emotionals. The Yongs and the Yins. The suits and the tie-dies. Both are right. We desperately need both. Browne's emphasis was on the intellectual and the practical. Hornberger emphasizes the morality and the emotional side of our movement. Like the left and the right feet, we must learn to walk together and buttress each other as we march relentlessly towards a Libertarian world in our lifetime.

Dr. Ken Larsen
Salt Lake City, Utah

◆ ◆ + ◆ ◆

I don't understand Jacob Hornberger's opposition to Harry Browne. What's wrong with selling freedom on its practical merits? Why must we sell it only as an abstract concept? Even the most ardent lovers of liberty, such as Ludwig von Mises, stressed the political importance of practicalities.

"Notwithstanding all declarations to the contrary," von Mises wrote, "the immense majority of men aim first of all at an improvement of the material conditions of well-being." Of course they do. All you have to do to verify it is look around you at the way people behave.

How would Mr. Hornberger sell Social Security reform to retired people without showing them a practical way to preserve the benefits that so many of them depend on for their very survival? How would he convince government workers to give up their jobs without showing them all the practical ways their lives would be improved as a result? The answer is, he can't—and neither can anyone else. We'll either sell freedom on its practicalities or we'll never sell it at all.

Fortunately, Harry Browne laid the foundation for such a practical approach in his book "Why Government Doesn't Work."

Even with this excellent guidebook, freedom will not be an easy sell in a nation where so many people habitually rely on government to satisfy every need. Let's don't make our job harder than it is already by trying to sell freedom as an abstract concept divorced from practical reality.

Joe Williams
Villa Rica, GA

see **Letters** on page 14

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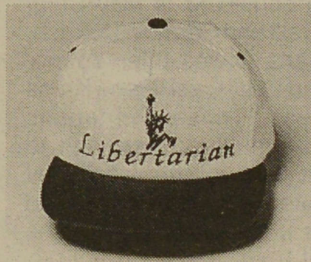
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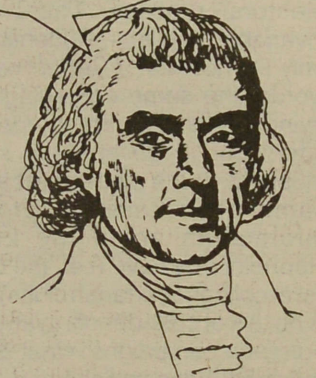
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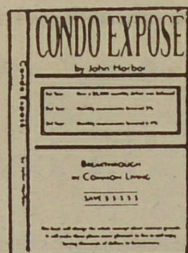
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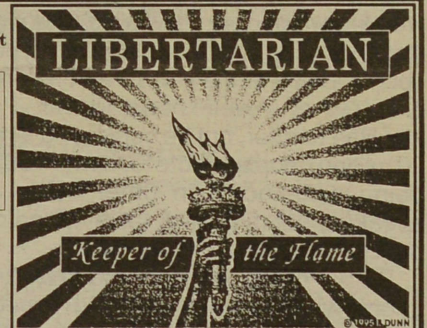
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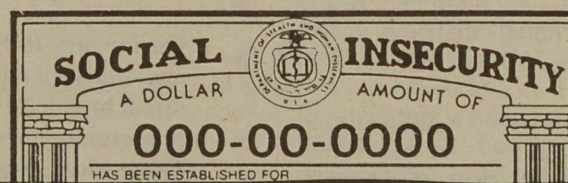
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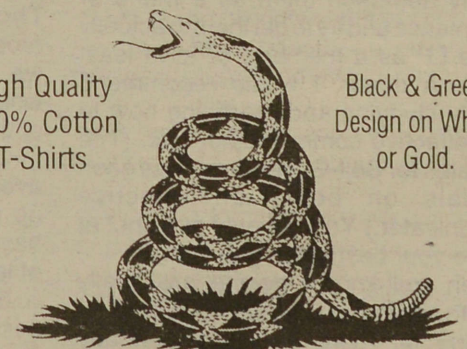
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Letters

continued from page 12

High school

I'd rather not see my LP donations spent on pretentious demographic databases to find the "natural libertarian" profile. Each year millions of kids participate in mock elections sponsored by private book publishers, class ring marketers, etc. They provide a wonderful service of teaching our youth about the electoral process. There is but one invariable problem—students may choose only Democrats or Republicans. In other words, the same damaging lies we are trying to counter are perpetuated year after year in government schools. We must get on the mock ballot and have the same opportunity to provide more information about the LP that the Republocrats have (i.e., the 800 number, list of college libertarian clubs). While there is no talk of cost-benefit in any of our other outreach campaigns, what is the cost of reaching these millions of will-be voters? A one-time negotiation. If the question is how will we build our membership base, the answer is high school students.

Aaron J. O'Brien

aobrien1@omega.csuohio.edu

Coming out of the closet

Americans have become a nation of followers looking for someone to lead them to whatever that someone can convince them they want to be led to. They listen to outspoken articulation by well-known people. Howard Jarvis was a good example of the outspoken type of such a leader while Ross Perot is a good example of a well-known leader. Perot has little to offer, but he convinced almost 20 million people to vote for him in 1992 by being well-known in other fields and speaking out in politics (plus spending a bunch of bucks).

Some of us must personally know people who are well-known and respected in some specific field and have strong libertarian leanings—people like T.J. Rogers, for example. Mr. Rogers is well aware of libertarianism but has not yet chosen to become one of us. Perhaps he has not been asked or was not yet ready when he was asked. Or perhaps the asker bumbled the job. And, let's face it, he may fear loss of respectability if he would espouse libertarianism under that label. Many other reasons are possible too.

All of us who know people of some influence in their field, whether nationally or just in their local community, should carefully approach them as a friend or acquaintance and try to get them to actually join the LP as a member, or to at least become a donor. I would recommend carefully studying and practicing how to be an effective communicator first. (The Advocates for Self-Government has good materials on being an effective communicator.) You get only one shot at it, so be your best when you take it.

When well-known people are finally willing to speak out as (L)ibertarians, they will carry far more influence than any number of unknowns like most of us are. Just one or two prominent national figures becoming Libertarians would do far more for our cause overnight than we have done in 25 years.

Who do you know?

Doug Hoiles
Acampo, CA

Banner brigade

Thank you for printing a photograph (Jan. 1997 NEWS) of the Harry Browne banner hanging over one of our Baystate highways. Due to space limitations, it seems that the Browne Banner Brigade activists who earned our admiration were not individually recognized for their efforts.

Your readers should know that Mass Overpass Gang consisted of May Chin, Irwin Jungreis, Galit and Semyon Dukach, Peter Everett, Carla Howell, Ellen Young, Bill Heese, Eli and Eve Israel, Gene Krass and Muni Savyon. These libertarians volunteered many of their mornings to make sure that tens of thousands of morning commuters would be reminded of Harry Browne. Hats off to the Browne Banner Brigade!

Jeff Chase
Cambridge, MA

The party without principle?

Should the Libertarian Party be called "The Party Without Principle?" The nickname of the party has long been "The Party of Principle;" but, ironically, the party really doesn't seem to rest on any kind of clear principle at all.

The entire economic platform of the Libertarian Party requires that people have the right to own "justly acquired property." But, amazingly, the party has never specified any principle for determining what is meant by "justly acquired property." As a result, it really appears to be the Party Without Principle, so far.

In fact, the only clear principle of justly acquired property that has ever been presented is that of John Locke. But the party has never taken a stand for or against Locke's principle of property rights, and has never offered an alternative principle.

Locke's principle of property rights is that justly acquired property is created when a person mixes one's labor with land and natural resources, to produce property. For example, if a farmer mixes labor with the soil to produce corn, the corn is the farmer's justly acquired property. After that, the farmer would have the right to keep the corn, or to sell or give it to anyone the farmer chooses.

Locke added that, since land (meaning a volume of space, and the natural resources in it) was not produced by any person, each individual must have a right to equal access to land and natural resources.

How then can Locke's principle of property rights be applied? It would be too difficult to divide the land periodically, because of the buildings on the land. Thomas Paine and Henry George proposed that instead of dividing the land, we divide the rent from land. The rent would be based on the market rental value of the location of land (not the buildings).

Only those who own land of more than average market rental value would wind up paying any net rent—to those they have displaced from using an equal share of land.

Government would not play any role in this. It would not receive any of the land rent, or even distribute it, and it would not assess the land rent. The land rental value would be assessed by the market, through a system of competing land assessors.

Those who disagree with Locke's principle of justly acquired property (and Paine and George's application of it) are obligated to present a consistent alternative principle. So far, no one ever

has. If the LP really wants to be The Party of Principle, it needs to either adopt Locke's principle of property rights, or offer a consistent alternative principle.

M. R. O'Mara
Baltimore, MD

Control

"Employees should be paid the fair market value of their labor. . .," wrote Anita C. Farley (Feb. 1997 NEWS). How is market value determined if not by negotiation? By magic?

This argument over "collectivism" is more about semantics than ideology. As Ms. Farley uses the Webster's definition, it sticks equally well to stockholders as to wage earners. And, as a practical matter, neither of these groups has much "control."

Dave Hennig
Micanopy, FL

Clark campaign

Ed Clark and his 30-second campaign message, at the 6:30 p.m. news hour, enticed me into the Libertarian Party. If there had been no Ed Clark commercials, I am sure I would not be a Libertarian now, as I have seen and heard little concerning the party that would have aroused my interest.

I suggest that the LP should go back to a copy of the Clark campaign. . . keep the issues and explanations simple, highly reasonable, and few in number. The contrast with the ugly campaigns of the other parties may be a votegetter on its on.

Charles J. Cook
Pennsburg, PA

Enclave

As a student of Objectivism for almost 30 years and a supporter of the LP, I was touched by the plea from Richard V. Vajs (Jan. 1997 NEWS) to form a "John Galt" libertarian enclave by moving to one area, buying land, and through control of local government, start to live freer. He suggested Texas.

I live in a small town in Nevada where a beautiful 380-acre piece of land sits waiting for an offer of \$350,000 cash. I thought wistfully of such a place being inhabited by Libertarians living in harmony in this out-of-the-way place. A place where the local town population of only 1,200 placed 200 votes for the LP, probably due to much of my husband's word-of-mouth influence.

Of course jobs are a problem, unless you can work on the Internet or for the local mines or casinos. But imagine the reality of an experiment that proved the value of a free society. What a great dream.

On the other hand, the federal government owns more than 80 percent of Nevada, and if such a threat as this existed, they would probably claim it as a wetland since it has a natural source of water, or take it for the protection of the "endangered Amargosa toad." Oh well. . .

Susan Best
Beatty, NV

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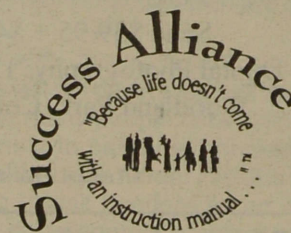
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Randy Langhenry, editor

Calendar of Upcoming Events

March 8, 1997:

Third Annual Sam Adams Dinner, The Heidelberg, Ann Arbor, MI; for information call 313-944-8101.

Sponsored by the LP of Washtenaw County. Jacob Hornberger will be the guest speaker.

March 13-16, 1997:

International Congress on Prostitution, Airtel Plaza Hotel, Van Nuys, CA; for information call 818-892-2029. Speakers include Norma Jean Almodovar, Wendy McElroy, Dr. Joycelyn Elders, and Sydney Biddle Barrows.

March 22, 1997:

New Jersey LP Convention, Landmark Inn, Woodbridge; for information call 201-656-1776.

Speakers include NJ State Sen. John P. Scott.

March 29, 1997:

Bikers' Rights Action Group's 4th Annual April Fools Run/Party, Barnswallow Lounge, Bancroft, MI. For information call 517-288-5616.

April 4-6, 1997:

Pennsylvania LP Convention, Hilton Hotel, Allentown; for

information call 610-264-3692.

Speakers include Jacob Hornberger and Doug Bandow.

April 15, 1997:

Tax Protest Day!

Get your outreach supplies from the national HQ now!

April 18-20, 1997:

Illinois LP Convention, Ramada Woodfield Hotel, Palatine. Speakers include Harry Browne, Bonnie Flickinger, Jim Collier, and Yuri Maltsev.

May 2-4, 1997:

Ohio LP Convention, "Nuts and Bolts of Political Campaigns," Holiday Inn, Springfield; for information call Tom Brown at 937-296-0543.

May 2-4, 1997:

Michigan LP Convention, "Libertarianism in the 21st Century," Holiday Inn, Traverse City; for information call 616-941-1306. Special events include Casino Night and workshop on "Why and How to Build Affiliates."

May 4, 1997:

Rhode Island LP Convention,

Bickford's Restaurant, Warwick; for information call 401-848-9733.

May 24-25, 1997:

Florida LP Convention, Sheraton Hotel, Maitland; for information call 407-578-3797.

May 31, 1997:

Fairfax (VA) County LP sponsors a day-long event featuring author Charles Murray, who will be speaking and signing his new book. A workshop will be held on getting Libertarians elected. More details to follow. For information call 703-329-6857.

May 31-June 1, 1997:

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

Oct. 18, 1997:

New Hampshire LP Convention, Holiday Inn, Nashua; for information call 603-559-LPNH. Speakers include Nadine Strossen, Jacob Hornberger, and Barbara Goushaw.

July 2-5, 1998:

Libertarian Party National Convention, Washington, DC.

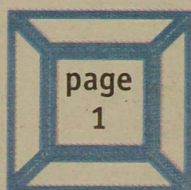
Send upcoming event notices **early** to:

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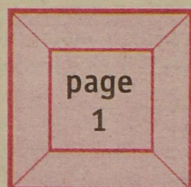
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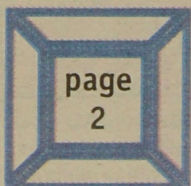
Hard work

A look at a New Hampshire Libertarian in office




Many roads

Harry Browne on strategies to achieve freedom



Full-court press

New Jersey affiliate demands government accountability



Enlightened

JIM McGRATH — from the *Brooklyn (NY) Graphic*,
Aug. 19, 1996:

“*[The Libertarian Party] is not a political party funded by special-interest groups making huge campaign contributions, or built on the ego of an individual billionaire. This is literally a political joining together of individuals, from every corner of the United States, to fight the American government, its bureaucracy, and its increasing hold on the dollars earned by hard-working Americans.* **”**