

LIBERTARIAN PARTY LP NEWS

The Party of Principle



February 1999

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NORML outreach in Washington, DC

■ LP Political Director Ron Crickenberger addresses the annual convention of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) in Washington, DC, on November 13. In his speech, Crickenberger told the audience: "If you are voting for Democrats and Republicans, you are voting for people who want to put you in jail." Afterwards, Crickenberger said, "I got more positive comments on this speech than on any I've ever given."

LP registration jumps 12.3%

Libertarian Party registration has increased by at least 12.3% over the past two years — a number that could grow significantly as more states report their post-election registration figures.

From 1996 to 1998, Libertarian registration jumped to 182,481 from 162,545, according to figures compiled by Richard Winger, publisher of *Ballot Access News* and one of the nation's leading experts on third parties.

Correct number

The correct number of registered Libertarians is actually larger, said Winger, since six states — Maryland, Maine, Kentucky, Rhode Island, Oklahoma, and the District of Columbia — have not released Libertarian registration numbers, and because Wyoming and New Mexico have released only partial figures.

Even more impressively, since 1994, Libertarian Party registration has grown by 67%, from 109,100.

"Libertarian Party registration continues on a solidly up-

ward track," said Steve Dasbach, the LP's national director. "This is good news, since it means more voters want to be identified as Libertarians."

See **REGISTRATION** Page 2

PERSONAL ESSAY

'My Exodus to Libertarianism'

One man's journey from the Christian Coalition to the Libertarian Party

By Greg Cunningham

Unlike the road to Damascus, my "conversion" to the Libertarian Party was not a sudden revelation but a continual process brought about by the failure of the Republican Party, Harry Browne's book, *Why Government Doesn't Work*, and continual study of the

Biblical role of the state.

My first recollections of politics were of watching President Carter on TV. Truth be told, I have more memories of



■ Cunningham: "Heart-first."

Dan Aykroyd impersonating Jimmy than I do of his actual presidency. Nonetheless, I recall the discussions on the "energy crisis" and the hostage situation.

I'm not sure how my parents voted, but I'm pretty sure it was for the peanut-lovin' man-o'-the-south. Being raised in the pro-union, pro-Democrat, Rust

See **CHRISTIAN COALITION** Page 12

LP works to stop bank spying law

March 8th is deadline to convince FDIC to halt its "Know Your Customer" law

The Libertarian Party has joined a nationwide effort to stop a new government regulation that will require banks to spy on their customers and report any "unusual activity" to federal law enforcement agencies.

Americans have until March 8 to comment on the so-called Know Your Customer rule, which is scheduled to go into effect on April 1, 2000. The regulation was proposed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), the federal agency that insures bank deposits.

Under the new proposal, banks and credit unions would be required to find out where their customers get their money, determine a customer's normal pattern of transactions, and report any "suspicious" transactions to the federal government.

Invasion of privacy

In response, the Libertarian Party said the regulation is "the ultimate invasion of Americans' financial privacy."

And Steve Dasbach, the party's national director, said Libertarians need to take a stand against such an unconstitutional, privacy-shredding law.

"We need to flood the FDIC with letters, faxes, and e-mails demanding an end to Big Brother Banking," he said.

Remind bureaucrats

"Americans need to launch a Know Your Constitution program — to remind these federal bureaucrats that they have no right violating our privacy and dignity this way," he said.

The Know Your Customer law is a perfect issue for Libertarians to get involved with, said Dasbach, because it's a clear "overstepping of authority by the federal government" — and an issue that will resonate with most Americans.

"Privacy will be one of the most important public policy issues of the new millennium," he said. "It's an issue that most Americans care about, no matter

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State Chair is sued by his own mayor

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LP sets media record: 127 million mentions

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LP code-cracking group cracks Top 10

NEWS BRIEFS

"Operation Persuasion" is a success

Operation Persuasion is a hit, says the Advocates for Self-Government.

Since October, when the Advocates started offering the three-tape set, "The Essence of Political Persuasion," for only \$5, more than 1,500 copies have been sold.

"We are really excited by this response," said Advocates President Sharon Harris. "I know from personal experience that these tapes can make *anyone* a more powerful and more effective communicator of the ideas of liberty. Getting this tape set into the hands of so many libertarians will make a significant difference in the progress of the libertarian movement."

The Essence of Political Persuasion tapes were created by communications expert Michael Cloud. They normally sell for \$27.50 (plus shipping and handling).

The tapes offer listeners dozens of easy and effective communication techniques, said Harris. They show how to avoid communication errors, and how to make libertarian ideas appeal to liberals, conservatives, and the "politically homeless."

For information about ordering, call: (800) 932-1776. Or e-mail: advocates@self-gov.org. Or visit the Advocates Web site at www.self-gov.org and click on "Operation Persuasion."

The Advocates, a Georgia-based non-partisan educational organization, is best known as the distributor of the "World's Smallest Political Quiz," which has sold 3.8 million copies.

News flash: Santa Claus is a Libertarian

To the list of well-known Libertarians, add one more famous name: **Santa Claus**. At least, that's the opinion of Bill McClellan, a columnist for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.

In a light-hearted column published on December 14, McClellan disputed a Fox News poll which said a majority of Americans thought Santa Claus was a Democrat, rather than a Republican.

In fact, the plump, jolly, gift-distributing, red-power-suit-wearing resident of the North Pole is not a member of *either* of the major parties, the columnist argued.

"Santa is far too judgmental to be a Democrat," McClellan wrote. "He pays close attention to who's been naughty and nice. Santa is big on personal responsibility. Absolutely not a Democrat. Common sense would tell you that he *used* to be an old-fashioned Republican . . . The rich kids always got more toys than the poor kids, but Santa wasn't mean about it. If you were nice, you got something. [But] then the party began to change. It got mean, Santa started feeling uncomfortable.

"There's no room in this party for jolly people," he said. "So where did that leave Saint Nick?"

"He gave the Libertarians a try," wrote McClellan. "They're not as mean as Republicans, and not as amoral as the Democrats. The party fit him like a red suit."

LP will be part of anti-Drug War study

The Libertarian Party will be part of a new study that examines the rise and growth of the drug policy reform movement in the United States.

Herbert H. Haines, a professor of Sociology at the State University of New York College at Cortland, has announced he is about to begin a research project focusing on organizations that oppose the government's War on Drugs.

"I hope to write the story of this movement's emergence, with emphasis on involving the broad range of people who are drawn to drug policy reform," he said.

He is including the LP, he said, because it is "such an important part" of the nationwide effort to change drug laws.

Previously, Haines has published studies about other "movements for social change," including the civil rights and anti-death penalty movements.



■ Santa Claus: One more "Libertarian."

LP fights bank spying law

Continued from Page 1

what their political beliefs. And it's a perfect issue to illustrate the fact that *only* Libertarians will defend your privacy against government intrusion on every issue, all the time."

The FDIC said the Know Your Customer regulation is designed to foil money-laundering techniques used by drug dealers and other criminals to hide their illegal profits.

But Dasbach said the new law treats *everyone* like a criminal suspect.

"This new regulation will turn your local bank into a branch of the federal government's surveillance apparatus. It will turn every bank teller into a government informer and everyone with a bank account into a criminal suspect," he said.

Sound suspicious

"Under this rule, bank tellers can quiz you about where you got your money and how you plan to spend it. And if your answers sound suspicious, they can report you to federal law enforcement agencies," he said.

Since "unusual activity" could include depositing a Christmas bonus or withdrawing money to buy a car, Americans could find themselves trying to prove to agents from the FBI, the IRS, or the Drug Enforcement Agency that they are not drug dealers, said Dasbach.

The Libertarian Party opposes the Know Your Customer regulation for numerous reasons,

STEVE DASBACH:

"This new law will turn every bank teller into a government informer."

he said, including . . .

■ Your banking habits are none of the government's business.

"In a free society, the government has no business even *asking* where innocent Americans get their money or how they spend it, much less coercing businesses into secretly monitoring your bank account," he said.

■ It's an illegal, warrantless

search that violates the Fourth Amendment.

"Monitoring every bank account for laundered money is no different than pulling over every driver just in case some are intoxicated, or searching every home to check for stolen goods," said Dasbach. "It is unconstitutional — plain and simple."

■ It could subject your money to asset forfeiture.

"If you can't immediately prove you're not a criminal, the government could seize your money under asset forfeiture laws," noted Dasbach. "Instead of being the safest place to store your money, banks could become the most dangerous place — since Uncle Sam's bank robbers can seize it at will."

The LP has joined other civil-liberty organizations and business groups like the ACLU, the California Bankers Association, the Christian Alert Network, and the Free Congress Foundation to prevent this law from taking effect, said Dasbach.

Deadline: March 8

The FDIC has set March 8 as the deadline for public comment about the proposed regulation — and Americans need to let the government know what they think about this "Prove-You're-Not-A-Criminal" law, he said.

"Contact the FDIC today," he urged. "If we act now, we may be able to put enough pressure on them to withdraw this frightening regulation. Help us win a victory for privacy."

How To Help

To comment on the "Know Your Customer" regulation, write to:

■ Robert E. Feldman, Executive Secretary, Attn: Comments/OES, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, 550 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20429.
■ Or fax: (202) 898-3838.
■ Or send e-mail to: comments@FDIC.gov.

Libertarian voter registration grows

Continued from Page 1

"Even more importantly, it means that there are more Libertarians we can now reach out to and ask to become contributing members of the party, candidates, and activists," he said.

The new numbers also show that the Libertarian Party is growing almost 10 times faster than the "major" parties: While the LP increased by 12.3%, the Republicans grew by only 1.4% and the Democrats' numbers increased by only 1.3%.

Strong signal

"It's hard to exaggerate the importance of this continuing growth in Libertarian voter registration," said Dasbach. "A vote is frequently here today and gone tomorrow — but registering with a political party sends a strong signal about where a voter's political loyalty will be for

some time to come.

"These numbers show that more and more voters are finding a comfortable political home in the Libertarian Party."

Currently, the Libertarian Party has the fifth-largest number of registered voters of nationally organized political parties, behind only the Democrats, Re-

publicans, U.S. Taxpayers Party (which has an inflated voter base because of its affiliation with the California-based American Independent Party, which contributed 92% of its registrants) and the Reform Party, which is still flush from Ross Perot's multi-million dollar registration drive leading up to the 1996 election.

LP NEWS

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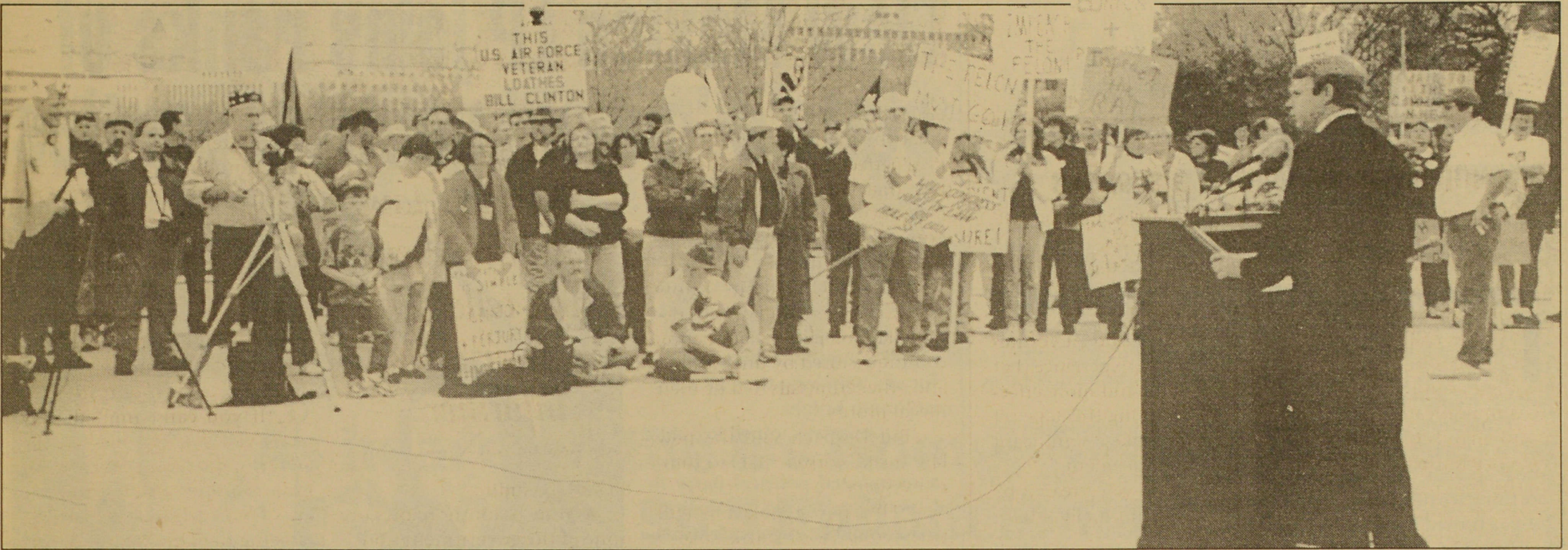


Photo by Carol Moore

■ LP Political Director Ron Crickenberger speaks to several hundred people at the FreeRepublic.com impeachment rally in Washington, DC, on December 5, stressing that the Libertarian Party supported impeachment because of

President Bill Clinton's "ongoing inappropriate relationship with the Constitution, and the fact that he routinely cheats on the Bill of Rights while trying to expand the political power of the federal government."

LP Political Director speaks at impeachment rally

Libertarian Party Political Director Ron Crickenberger spoke at a Clinton impeachment rally on December 5, telling the crowd that the LP "was the first political party to officially demand the impeachment of President Clinton" — but did so on Constitutional grounds only.

Crickenberger was one of about a dozen speakers at the so-called Judgment Day Rally on the west steps of the Capitol Building in Washington, DC. The event, sponsored by FreeRepublic.com, attracted several hundred people.

Unlike other speakers, Crick-

enberger did not focus on the Clinton/Lewinsky sex-and-lies scandal, but discussed instead the president's long history of violating the Constitution.

"At the national convention of the Libertarian Party on July 5, our delegates passed overwhelmingly by voice vote a resolution calling for Clinton and Gore to be removed from office for violation of their oath of office, specifically their failure to uphold and defend the United States Constitution," he said.

"On July 8th, the Libertarian Party sent letters to [then] House Speaker Newt Gingrich and Minority Leader Richard Gephardt.

CRICKENBERGER:
"Clinton treated the Constitution like some White House intern."

In that letter, we wrote, 'Given their scandalously bad record of protecting the basic civil and economic liberties of the American people, it is imperative that the United States House begin

Articles of Impeachment against President Clinton and Vice President Gore.' And we called for impeachment hearings to begin immediately."

Least harmful

Crickenberger stressed several times that the Libertarian Party's actions were not motivated by Clinton's affair with a White House intern, since "this is probably the least harmful thing he has done to us while in office."

Instead, he gave example after example of how Clinton had specifically violated the Constitution and Bill of Rights

— from the First Amendment all the way to the Tenth Amendment.

Deliberately echoing language from the debate over Clinton's recent behavior, Crickenberger told the crowd: "We've watched [Clinton's] ongoing inappropriate relationship with the Constitution, and the fact that he routinely cheats on the Bill of Rights while trying to expand the political power of the federal government.

"The American public is tired of watching a president — who put his hand on the Bible and swore to uphold the Consti-

See **IMPEACHMENT** Page 19

LNC meeting sets budget and goals for '99

LP will focus on membership growth, affiliate party support, and ballot access

The Libertarian National Committee held its first post-convention meeting in December, setting goals for the coming year and establishing a "solid foundation for future work together," said the party's national chairman, David Bergland.

At its quarterly meeting in Washington, DC, on December 12-13, 1998, the LNC unanimously approved a 1999 budget for the Libertarian Party of \$3.6 million — the largest in party history, and a 50% increase over the 1998 budget.

The record-setting budget reflects a Libertarian Party that has made historic strides in re-

cent years, said Bergland — and is now "purring steadily down the road toward a libertarian society. I want to go faster, but it feels good to be doing as well as we are."

Three areas

During the coming year, the Libertarian Party will focus on three major political areas, he said, all of which were given budgetary priority.

"In keeping with the party's purposes, our priorities are membership growth, ballot access, and projects to support affiliate parties," he said. "The budget adopted reflects these priorities."

During the coming year, the

LP will devote significant resources to:

■ **Project Archimedes**, the party's direct mail prospecting program. "This will continue to be the mainstay of our commitment to dramatic membership growth," he said. "In addition, we will be upgrading the party's website and marketing efforts on the Internet to promote party growth."

■ **Ballot access projects**. "We will work with the affiliate parties to ensure that our 2000 presidential ticket is on 50 state ballots; and that in as many states as possible, the affiliate party will have ballot status, so we can set new records for having Libertarian candidates on the ballot," said Bergland.

■ **Affiliate support**. "Our Success '99 programs will be pre-

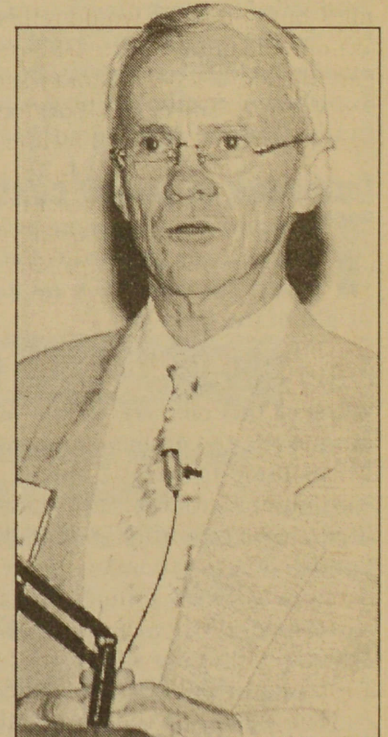
sented in 25 locations, and will train hundreds of affiliate party activists in local party organization, campaigning, communications, fundraising, and other elements of effective electoral politics," he said.

In specific budget decisions, the LNC allocated \$1.1 million for membership recruiting via Project Archimedes; \$550,000 for staff costs; \$414,000 for payments to state affiliates for the Unified Membership Program; and \$150,000 for ballot access.

The 1999 budget for ballot access, noted Bergland, is the largest in the current four-year electoral cycle, as the party gears up for the 2000 presidential election.

It is, however, smaller than it was during previous election

See **1999 GOALS** Page 21



■ **LP National Chairman David Bergland:** The Libertarian Party is "purring steadily down the road toward a libertarian society."

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.

Libertarians blast \$23 million "killer fungus"

The United States government is spending \$23 million to develop a killer fungus to wipe out marijuana plants — a dangerous plan that could cause an environmental catastrophe, warned the Libertarian Party.

"This project is the political equivalent of athlete's foot fungus — it's nasty, it's dangerous, and it needs to be stopped before it spreads," said LP National Director Steve Dasbach. "The last thing we need is a government-funded, bio-engineered killer fungus turned loose on the world."

Late last year, Congress passed legislation that authorized \$23 million for research into soil-borne fungi called "mycoherbicides," which will attack and kill marijuana plants, poppy plants, and coca plants in South American countries.

But Libertarians say the tax-subsidized fungus is a "biohazard" that could have a disastrous impact on the ecosystems of the target nations — and, potentially, the whole world.

"In the government's irresponsible search for a quick-fix in the War on Drugs, politicians could cause terrifying long-term ecological problems," warned Dasbach. "This tax-funded fungus should be treated like any dangerous mold or mildew — exposed to sunlight and wiped clean."

Why no jail time for 49 air bag deaths?

After 49 children were killed by government-mandated air bags, is it fair to put a father in jail because his child was killed by an air bag that he forgot to disconnect?

That's the question Libertarians are pondering after a judge sentenced Dwight Childs to jail time in December because his son Jacob was killed by an air bag.

"Four years ago, you could go to jail for disconnecting an air bag. Now you can go to jail for not disconnecting an air bag," noted Dasbach. "Apparently, what was once forbidden by the government has now become mandatory."

Childs, an Ohio resident, was the first person punished for neglecting to switch off an air bag. His "crime" was ignoring warnings posted inside his Ford pickup telling the driver to switch off the air bag if a child was in a passenger-side seat — which is where his son was when his pickup crashed last May.

But the irony is that since 1990, more than 49 children have been killed by government-mandated air bags, said Dasbach.

"So the question is: If one man can go to jail for being personally negligent in the death of one child, what is a proper punishment for the politicians who were legislatively negligent in the deaths of 49 children?" asked Dasbach.

Outbreak of peace costs U.S. \$110 billion

The world is getting more peaceful, so President Clinton has announced a plan to deal with this outbreak of global harmony: The largest U.S. military spending increase since the height of the Cold War.

"The United States has discovered its ultimate enemy: Nobody," said Dasbach. "Nobody poses a realistic threat to the safety of this country, so the politicians are now demanding more money to protect us against . . . nobody."

In early January, Clinton asked Congress to boost the Pentagon's budget by \$110 billion over the next six years, even as two organizations that monitor international strife report the number of armed conflicts around the globe is dropping.

That same week, the National Defense Council Foundation reported that the number of conflicts around the world had fallen by 12% since last year — to 60 from 67.

Using stricter criteria, the Center for Defense Information said the number of "major" conflicts around the globe had fallen to the "low 20s," down from 26 last year.

"Why not use this trend towards global harmony to reduce U.S. military spending — not increase it?" asked Dasbach. "If Libertarians had their way, peace wouldn't be so expensive."

New Mexico LP joins ranks of state's 'major' political parties

The LP of New Mexico has vaulted into the ranks of "major" parties in the state — but now has to launch an ambitious voter registration drive to keep that status.

"We have our work cut out for us," said long-time LP activist Joseph Knight.

Libertarians joined Republicans, Democrats, and Greens as a recognized political party in November, thanks to Maurice MacDonald's campaign for Commissioner of Public Lands.

In an energetic campaign that included a tour of the state, outreach to the agricultural community, and a mass-mailing of a campaign brochure, MacDonald won 36,056 votes, or about 8% of the total vote — comfortably more than the 5% the state requires for major party status.

Increased respect

His accomplishment means that the LP can now get on the ballot with the same ease as the other parties, can participate in primaries — and, perhaps most importantly, will get increased respect from voters, said Knight, who served as the Chair of the MacDonald campaign.

However, the party's status comes with a catch: The LP must have one-third of one percent of registered voters in the state to keep major party status — or about two to three times the current 1,300 registered voters.

It's a tough requirement — but achievable, said Knight. "If we can't do that, we don't deserve to be a major party."



■ Maurice MacDonald, who won the New Mexico LP "major party" status with his campaign for Commissioner of Public Lands, shown with his wife Paula (left) and daughter Heather.

The party has until late 1999 to gain the additional registered voters, and Knight is pushing a multi-prong strategy that includes individual Libertarians registering new voters, an advertising campaign in smaller newspapers, and possibly hiring professionals to conduct a voter

registration drive.

"We know what we have to do, so let's take a deep breath and get started!" Knight told state Libertarians. "Help us exploit [this] opportunity to put the LP of New Mexico on the map so we can get on with the business of winning elections."

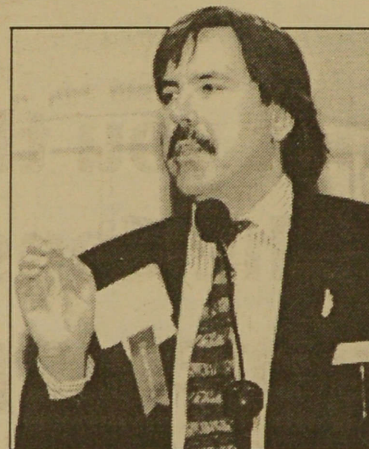
Michigan State Chair sued by mayor

The State Chair of the Libertarian Party of Michigan has been "SLAPPED" with a libel lawsuit by his mayor, who was outraged over his role in an attempted recall election.

Tim O'Brien's barbed response: The lawsuit simply proves that the mayor deserved to be recalled because he is "not exactly the sharpest tool in the shed."

O'Brien was one of four people named in a lawsuit filed in late 1998 by Ken Ford, the mayor of Allen Park. The mayor charged that an attempt to recall him from office in 1997 was libelous, and caused him "mental distress."

O'Brien, the State Chair of



■ Tim O'Brien: The mayor isn't "the sharpest tool in the shed."

the Michigan Libertarian Party since 1997, countered that the lawsuit is groundless, and is a prime example of what is known

in legal circles as a "SLAPP suit" — a Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation — which is designed to intimidate ordinary citizens who take on corrupt public officials.

Recall the mayor

The legal brawl started in 1997 when an Allen Park resident approached O'Brien, a long-time activist in community politics, about an effort to recall the mayor.

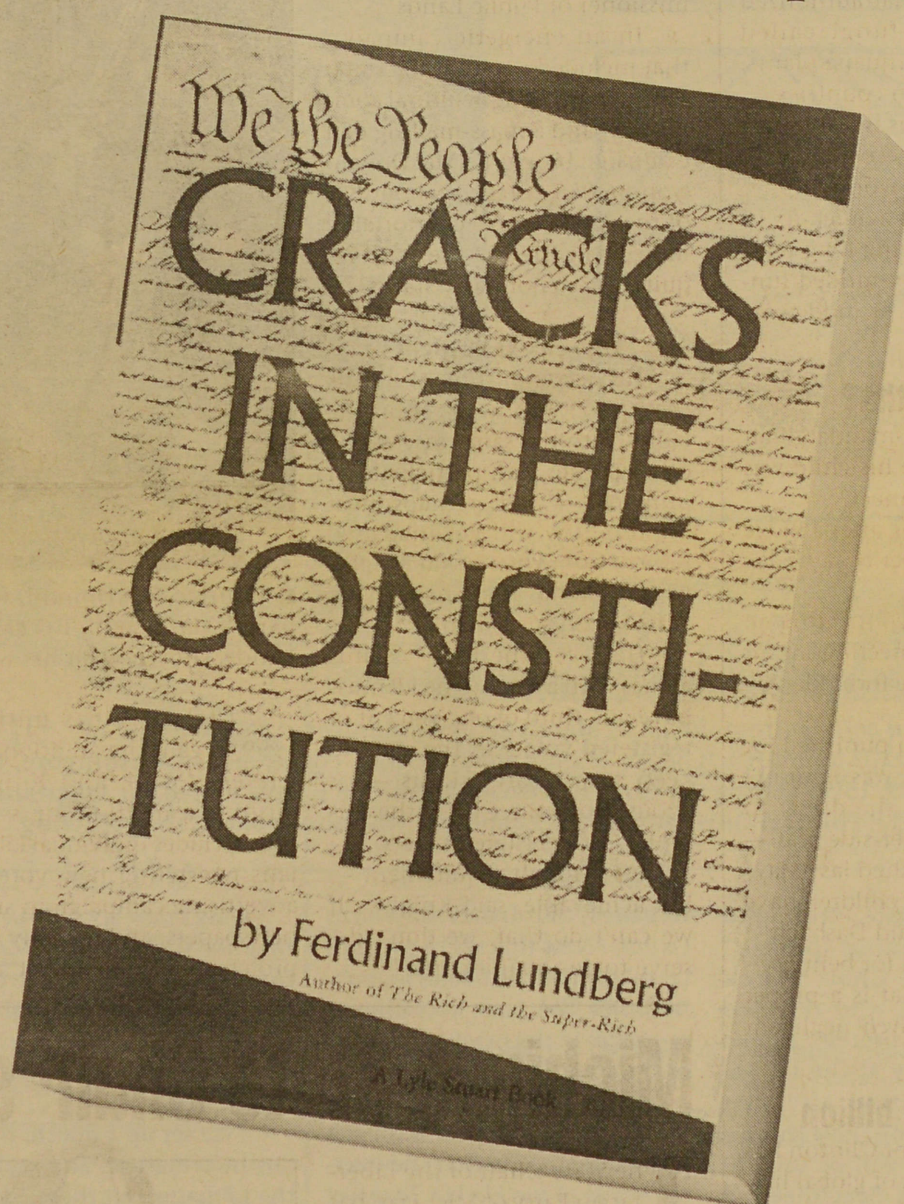
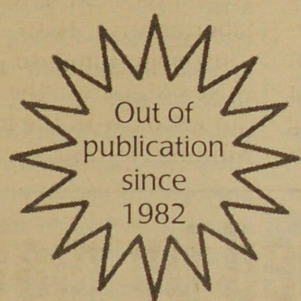
O'Brien said he offered his "humble advice and assistance," and eventually three possible grounds for recall were filed with the county clerk's office, in accordance with state law.

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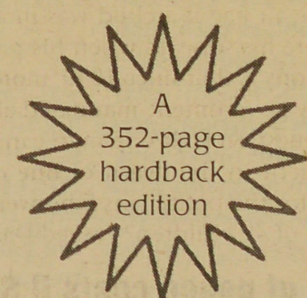
CRACKS IN THE CONSTITUTION

As heard on the Irv Homer Show on
WWDB 96.5 Philadelphia

The Constitution is
an unrestricted
instrument of
government that
carries within
it powers more
vast than its
citizens imagine,
and that
is **defective!**



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conveys unlimited
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AFFILIATE NEWS

Sex in the Bay State; on-fire outreach in Michigan; and a 'rapid response' in Texas

■ California

A new Libertarian officeholder has gotten into hot water with other city council members — who are angry at him for daring to discuss the details of legislation.

Libertarian **Robert Noble** attended his first Arcata City Council meeting on December 2 and "wasted no time delving into the meat and potatoes of council business [and] displaying an independent streak," according to the local newspaper, the Arcata Eye.

Noble got into trouble when he tried to discuss the particulars of a First Time Homebuyers program, which he opposed in a 4 to 1 vote.

Another council member interrupted him, saying, "Excuse me, Robert, is there a point to this? It's almost 11 o'clock." And another councilman said, "You have four years on the council, plenty of time to wax philosophical."

But Noble was "doing exactly what he was elected to do — serve the interests of the taxpayers of Arcata," said **Juan Ros**, executive director of the California LP. "If other council members have a problem with that, then the voters should consider electing more Libertarians! After all, it seems Libertarians are the only ones who want to examine new government programs with a fine-toothed comb — and discuss whether they even need to exist at all."

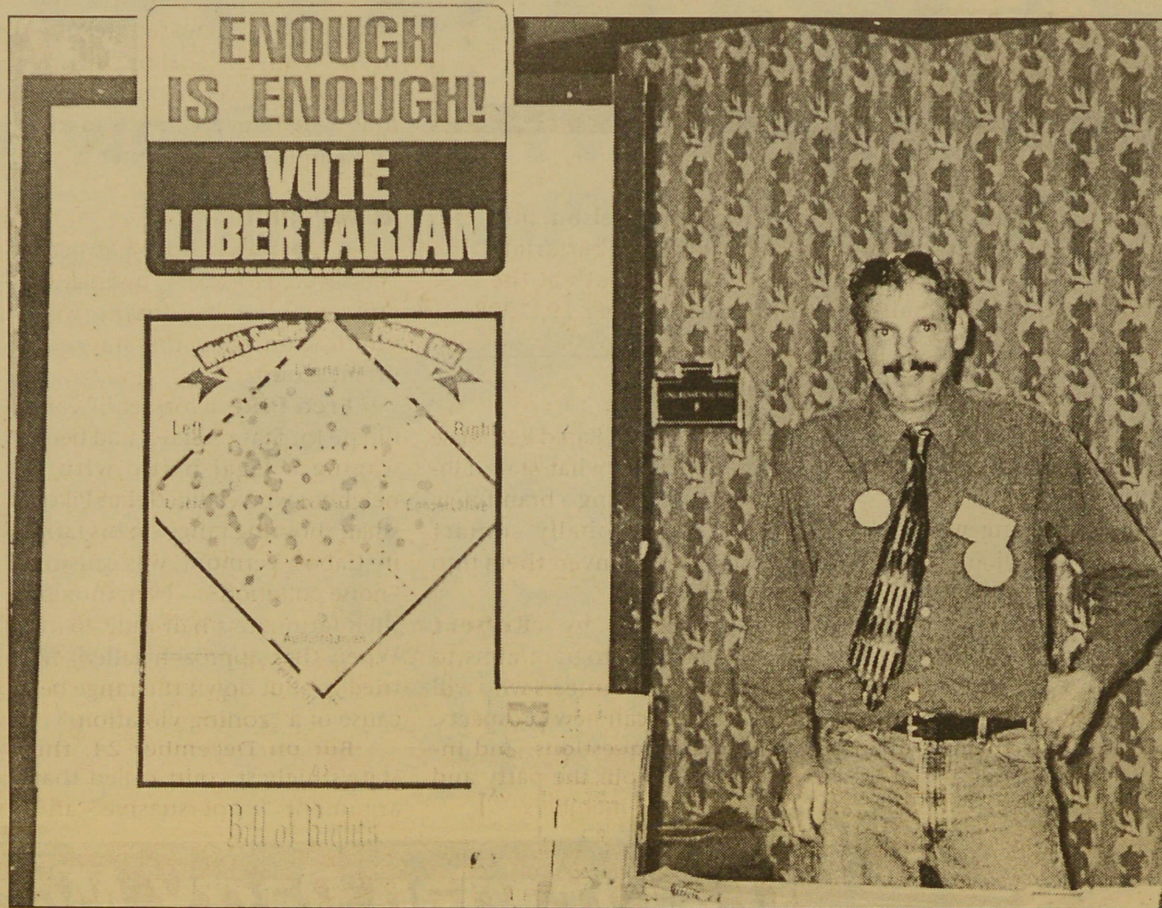
■ California

The Libertarian Party is \$18,000 richer today, thanks to . . . the Internal Revenue Service?

That's right: A series of fund-raising banquets featuring former IRS historian-turned-Libertarian **Shelley Davis** raised \$18,000 for the California LP in October.

"The generosity of California Libertarians continues to amaze me," said fund-raiser **Michael Cloud**. "They just keep giving and giving — what a wonderful and dedicated group this is."

Davis, author of *Unbridled Power: Inside the Secret Culture of the IRS*, spoke at three events on October 16-18, in La Jolla, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. She



An "abNORMLly" successful outreach

■ **Bill Galvin**, an activist from the LP of Maryland and volunteer at the National LP headquarters, staffs an outreach booth at the annual NORML conference in Washington, DC, on November 13, 1998. During the three-day event, at least 15 people joined the Libertarian Party, reported LP Political Director **Ron Crickenberger**, who also spoke at the gathering.

was "an articulate, droll, and highly entertaining speaker," said LP State Chair **Mark Hinkle**. Davis, who resigned from the IRS in protest, joined the party in July at the LP National Convention after her speech lambasting the agency.

The money will be used to fund Operation Beachhead, a plan to open a state party headquarters in Sacramento by 2000 to serve as "the launching pad for ultimately electing Libertarians to state government," Hinkle said.

■ Florida

A new on-line publication is offering tips to Libertarian candidates — and keeping an eye on the Republicans and Democrats in the state legislature.

"With the passage in November of Constitutional Revision 11 — which equalizes ballot access requirements for all parties — the Florida LP is entering a new era," said **Philip**

Blumel, publisher of *Voices Online*. "Now that we're going to be able to run candidates for public office, we have to immerse ourselves in the practical politics of the state."

Blumel is an LP member in West Palm Beach who has been publishing the quarterly newsletter *Voices of the Florida Taxpayer* for eight years.

Now, he's branched into the Internet, and describes *Voices Online* as "a weekly executive summary that will follow the major themes, issues, and personalities of the legislature, as well as explaining how the legislature works." Florida LP members can subscribe for free at: pblumel@ix.netcom.com

■ Hawaii

Mike Gray, author of *The China Syndrome*, discussed another dangerous syndrome — the drug war — at a Libertarian-sponsored event at the University of Hawaii on October 29.

Gray's new book, *Drug Crazy: How We Got Into This Mess and How We Can Get Out of It*, earned him an invitation to speak at the Liberty Lunch, a regular forum on drug policy and other libertarian ideas.

"We set up a booth, handed out information, and really got the LP name out there," said LP member **Cindy Powell**. "Gray said he was 90% libertarian and that he was happy to be there, generating publicity for the party."

Also attending the luncheon were LP Vice Chair **Tracy Ryan** and former State Chair **Ken Schoolland**, author of the internationally acclaimed book on free market ideas, *The Adventures of Jonathan Gullible*.

■ Massachusetts

Booting the government "out of our churches and out of our bedrooms" is the goal of two state Libertarians who have helped introduce bills to repeal

laws regulating marriage and consensual sex.

"It's shameful that in a state with such a distinguished history as the birthplace of freedom, we still have laws dictating how people must engage in their most private behavior," said **David Rostcheck**, a Boston-area Libertarian.

To address the problem, Rostcheck and **Jim Sullivan**, chair of the Libertarian State Committee, persuaded state legislators in December to file two pro-sexual freedom laws in the 2000 legislative session. The Freedom of Marriage Act would repeal restrictions on marriage and abolish the "crime" of adultery, and the Freedom of Bedroom Act would repeal laws against consensual sex in general.

"If separation of church and state is a reality, then what right does the state have to approve or disapprove of church functions such as marriage?" asked Sullivan.

■ Massachusetts

Statewide LP candidates did more than gain "major party" status in the November elections — they also helped reduce state bureaucracy.

How? By submitting campaign spending limits of \$19.5 billion (the size of the bloated state budget) to protest the state's restrictive campaign finance laws. Their well-publicized ploy effectively abolished all spending limits for the campaign, since other candidates could then legally spend as much as the Libertarians' \$19.5 billion limit.

As a result, the state's Office of Campaign & Political Finance announced in December that most statewide candidates — Libertarian, Democratic, and Republican — did not have to file a post-election expenditure report since they would not "conceivably spend anywhere near the amount of [their] expenditure limit."

"This is a perfect example of the positive effects a Libertarian administration would have," said **Elias Israel**, LP candidate for Lt. Governor. "By effectively eliminating the [spending] limits, we have already reduced the size of the state government. Hopefully, the next state government will return the money not spent on extraneous forms to the taxpayers of the state."

■ Michigan

State Libertarians have discovered an effective outreach tool — so they want to strike again while the flame is hot.

The party has ordered another big batch of "the wildly successful" matchbooks which promote the Libertarian Party's "hands off" position on tobacco,

said **Stacy Van Oast**, who is coordinating the project.

Starting in October, the state LP distributed 50,000 eye-catching matchbooks printed with the message: "Smokers! Have you had enough of getting forced outside, being taxed, and paying over \$2 a pack for cigarettes? This time, vote Libertarian, and call 1-800-ELECT US."

"The project was a huge success," said Van Oast. "The affiliates and volunteers did a terrific job of distributing them and the store owners — and apparently their customers — loved them!"

So, the party is distributing the "Liberty Matches" again, placing them in smoke shops, bowling alleys, and bingo halls — and is hoping to "get the fed-up smokers voting and thinking Libertarian," said Van Oast.

■ Nevada

Computer pioneer and LP member **Dan Fylstra** continues to spread the message that cyber-executives should invest in a "political start-up" that's capable of challenging the status quo: The Libertarian Party.

His latest success: A pro-Libertarian column in the November 16 issue of *Computer Reseller News* (circulation: 116,000).

"Libertarians have the right ideas — about the wisdom of relying on the market, about the futility of central planning, about the practical importance of liberty for innovation and growth — that the old parties have largely forgotten," wrote Fylstra, who helped found *Byte Magazine* and currently serves as Treasurer of the Nevada LP.

He also warned his colleagues about government intervention in the computer market, such as the attack on Microsoft.

"The folks who hate Microsoft, the 800-pound gorilla in a relatively free market, should be worrying about the future Microsoft — the gorilla with so much political influence, so many Senators and Representatives in its pocket, that it's practically untouchable," he wrote.

■ Ohio

LP member **Jim Schrader** has discovered the perfect way to get more Libertarians into office: Marry them . . . and then convert them.

Schrader, who was the LP candidate for U.S. House in Ohio's 7th District last year, "may have lost his Congressional race, but he still managed to increase the number of elected Libertarians in public office," said **Dena Bruedigam**, his former campaign manager.

After the campaign, Schrader's wife, Kathy, who serves on the Fairbanks School Board in Union County, "signed



Street fair outreach effort

■ LP of Utah members (l-r) Brian Swin, Cabot Nelson, and Kitty Burton take a moment to relax under a "Libertarian Party" canopy at the party's annual outreach booth at the Avenues Street Fair in Salt Lake City on September 19, 1998.

on the dotted line" and joined the LP, reported Bruedigam.

What convinced Kathy to take the plunge?

"Kathy, along with Schrader's parents, Bill and Doris (already party members), worked on his campaign," said Bruedigam. "No doubt the positive experiences she had campaigning alongside other Libertarians prompted her to give up her philosophical libertarian status for full-fledged party membership."

■ Texas

The Texas LP Rapid Response Program: That's what state Libertarians are calling a brand-new project to personally contact prospects and convert them into party members.

Organized by **Robert Howard**, the program aims to recruit 50 LP volunteers who will immediately call new prospects, answer their questions, and invite them to join the party and become active members.

"This is the front line of the battle," said Howard. "These [prospects] are the people that are ready to hear more about the LP and learn what they can do to help us re-establish liberty. They are delighted to hear from Libertarians. Our experiments indicate that this is fun work."

New prospect names will be sent to a statewide network of volunteers via e-mail. As the project develops, volunteers will also be sent phone scripts and other tips to increase effectiveness — with the goal of creating a "process to allow rapid local follow-up of every new lead in a rapid and reliable manner."

■ Vermont

A Libertarian who has been "persecuted for years" by an anti-gun neighbor has finally won vindication from the state Supreme Court.

Fred Pike, a former LP candidate for State Senate, had been waging a legal battle with a neighbor who claimed that Pike's small shooting range on his farm in Cabot, Vermont, was causing "noise pollution" — even though their farms are a half-mile apart. When that approach failed, he tried to shut down the range because of a "zoning violation."

But on December 24, the state's highest court called that argument "unpersuasive" and

upheld Pike's position.

"For years Fred's neighbor has persecuted him with frivolous legal actions based on zoning technicalities," said **Chris Costanzo**, past State Chair of the Vermont LP. "But the Pike family bravely refused to fold — and Vermont Libertarians have won another legal battle."

■ Virginia

State Libertarians have scored a "major coup" with a bill that would make it significantly easier to get more LP candidates on the ballot.

House Bill 47 was reported out of the House Privileges & Elections Committee on November 9, thanks to the testimony of LP members **Greg Lloyd** and **John Cookson**, said state newsletter editor **Paul Gagnon**.

"This means that when the General Assembly reconvenes, the full House will be voting on this bill," he said.

H.B. 47 is important, said Gagnon, because it "would create a process for the first time in Virginia for a party to qualify all its candidates with one petition."

The state LP is now planning a lobbying effort for H.B. 47 that will include contacting state legislators, testifying before the General Assembly, and networking with civic groups that might support the bill.



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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POLITICAL NEWS

Rep. Ron Paul starts new lobbying group

Congressman Ron Paul (R-TX) has announced plans to create a new organization that will attempt to push Congress in a more liberty-oriented direction.

The Liberty Study Council (LSC) will be a "focused, battle-ready, strategically coordinated caucus that will open a new chapter in the battle for Liberty," said Paul, who was the Libertarian Party's presidential candidate in 1988 before returning to Congress as a Republican in 1996.

The LSC will have two major functions, said Paul.

First, it will build a "nationwide network of grassroots activists who will receive our information, and then write, fax, or phone their Representatives," he said. Lobbying efforts would expose bad bills, while "building support for the good ones that will roll back government."

Second, the LSC will conduct research and education, to help "sell our positions with the best, most compelling data available," he said.

For information about the Liberty Study Council, write: P.O. Box 1776, Lake Jackson, TX, 77566. Or call: (409) 265-3034.

Wisconsin governor's brother joins LP

The Libertarian Party hasn't recruited Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson — but it's captured the political allegiance of his brother.

Ed Thompson, the governor's younger brother, revealed in an article in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* that he has become an LP member after the state tried to prosecute him for having video poker games in his Tomah tavern.

The charges were later dropped, but the experience — and the "injustice of state gambling laws" — convinced him to join the Libertarian Party.

"I can have no pride in being a Republican; I can have no pride in being a Democrat," he said.

Thompson said he was willing to go to trial over the charges, for which he faced a six-year sentence, to point out the injustice of state law which allows slot machines and blackjack gambling at Indian casinos while state tavern and restaurant owners are "starving to death" and unable to compete.

Dave Hollist announces presidential bid

Dave Hollist, a past Libertarian candidate for U.S. House, has announced that he is seeking the Libertarian Party's 2000 presidential nomination — and said anyone who invests in his campaign will get double their money back if he gets elected.

Hollist, who is the Database Manager for the LP of San Bernardino County, won 1.7% of the vote in his race for U.S. House in California's 42nd District in 1998.

His campaign for president will be based, he said, on the issue of "contract insurance," which he would use to replace all federal taxation.

"If you vote for me to become the President, I will introduce contract insurance, which is a way that we can operate our government without taxation," he said.

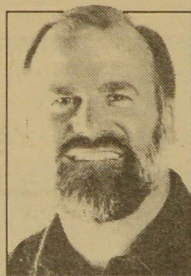
Contract insurance, he said, would be a small fee that people pay to the government every time they make a contract.

"With all the contracts that are signed, our government could earn the money to maintain the best military, police, court, and prison system in the world," said Hollist. "This would protect all the people — without robbing us to do it."

Anyone who contributes to his campaign will get twice their investment back when he gets elected, he promised.

"Each \$100 investment in my campaign pays \$200 when I win," he said. "The first investor will be paid first, second second, etc., with up to all the available \$1,000,000 of my salary being paid out during my term in office."

Contact Hollist at (909) 980-4198. E-mail: constitution@compuserve.com. Write: P.O. Box 1414, Alta Loma, CA 91701.



Dave Hollist: "Replace taxes."

CAMPAIGN '99 PROFILE

Roger Fritz's City Council strategy: Small issues, humor, and hard work

By Ron Crickenberger
LP Political Director

Being a Libertarian is not always defeating \$65 million stadiums, or fighting the war on drugs," said Roger Fritz, Libertarian candidate for Roland (Iowa) City Council.

"In a small town, it is helping to raise \$6,000 for park equipment so that it doesn't have to come from tax dollars. It is voting against increasing required lot widths from 80 to 90 feet. It is fighting against a \$2,200 [government] contribution to a private social services agency."

Fritz is making his second run for the council seat, after losing his first effort by only 20 votes in 1997.

"I'll stick to the small issues appropriate for a small town of only 1,100 residents," said Fritz. "I plan to campaign on fiscal responsibility, retention of new home tax abatements, and private support of community upgrades."

Fritz moved to Roland in June 1997. Despite being a newcomer to the town, he tried for a city council seat in the November elections.

"Having lived in town only a couple of months, I knew being negative and complaining about how the town was run would get me nowhere," said Fritz. "So I stressed that I wouldn't allow the bureaucratic creep of agencies that are taking over larger towns, and that as a newcomer, I didn't have any preconceived notions about the town and could be an impartial council member. I also promised to work for retaining a new home tax abatement."

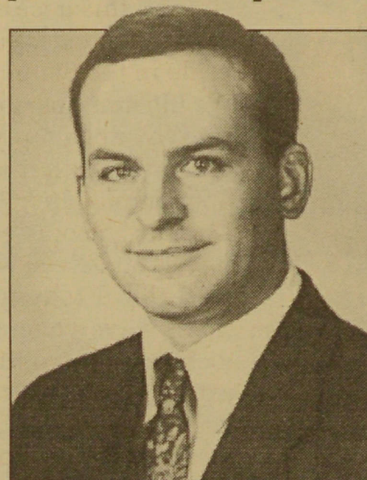
Snowstorm

Fritz went door to door in 1997, covering about 90% of the town. "If a snowstorm right before Election Day hadn't thwarted my plan to get the whole town covered, I might have won the first time," he said.

The race had four people with the top two winning. Running against two incumbents and a 30-year resident, Fritz came in third.

"I was very pleased with my showing, considering my competition," he said.

The two incumbents that



■ Roger Fritz: "Merely complaining about things will turn people off in the long run."

defeated Roger later nominated him for an opening on the Planning and Zoning Commission. Later his wife Vicki (also a Libertarian) was nominated to the town library board.

"I think they saw during the election that I was not proposing anything outlandish and that I had a reasoned approach to handling the town's business," he said.

Fritz attributed his near success to his door-to-door work, and to staying positive.

■ Do you want to see your campaign in *LP News*? If so, contact LP Political Director Ron Crickenberger at: 2600 Virginia Avenue, NW, Suite 100, Washington DC 20037. E-mail: RonCrickenberger@compuserve.com.

"Merely complaining about things will turn people off in the long run," he said. "I also used humor to make my points on some issues, and to warm people up to me. Being dour and throwing Ayn Rand books at people does not get you anywhere. You need to be active in the community, and show some humor and the ability to laugh at yourself."

The November 1999 race will have three open seats, and Roger's goal is to come in at least second, he said.

Experience

"I ran against the two strongest incumbents last time, and came close to winning," he said. "This time I'll be up against less active community members, and I've got my experience on the zoning board to point to. I've also made a point to be at every community event possible — especially if I can help out with a fundraiser that substitutes for the use of tax dollars."

"I think people who live in small towns want the snow plowed and good water coming out of their faucets. It's not on the magnitude of abolishing the IRS or ending the war on drugs, but Libertarian principles can be applied even in these relatively small situations," he said.

■ Donations to the campaign may be sent to: Fritz for Council, 309 South Logan Street, Roland IA 50236. E-mail him at: RogerFritz@aol.com

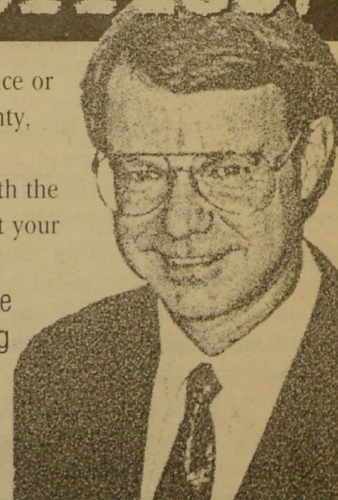
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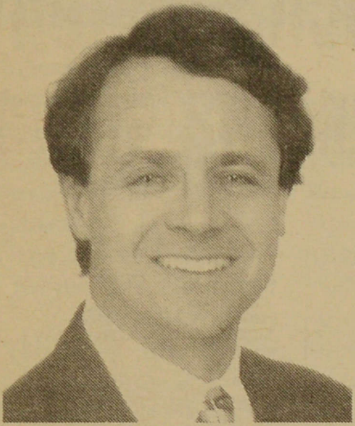
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Why Not Open Borders?

by Jacob G. Hornberger

Thirty years ago, Democrats and Republicans sent 60,000 men from my generation to their deaths in an undeclared war in Southeast Asia. The rationale? To save people from the horrors of communism.

Apparently communism is not so horrible anymore. Today, if Cuban citizens flee communist tyranny, the biggest danger they face is the United States government's forcible repatriation of Cuban refugees into communist tyranny.

Of course, this is only one of the many ways that Democrats and Republicans abuse and mistreat Hispanics. For decades, they have jailed illegal immigrants for committing the heinous crime of crossing the border in search of work. They also arrest and prosecute American citizens for giving work to illegal immigrants. INS deportation raids on both homes and businesses leave nothing but

tears and anguish in their wake.

Is all this necessary for a nation that takes such great pride in the Statue of Liberty? We Libertarians don't believe so. Why not simply open the borders to both free trade and open immigration? Why shouldn't people be free to travel, trade, visit, and engage in peaceful activity?

"But everyone would come to America." Not likely. It is extremely difficult – financially, emotionally, and culturally – to pull up roots, leave family and friends, and move to a foreign country, especially one in which people speak a different language. That's why many immigrants soon return to their homelands. Those who come and stay are usually the risk-takers – those who are willing to give up security for the chance of improving their lot in life. They should be cherished, not punished, for they bring a vitality that energizes a society. Moreover, the removal of American trade restrictions against other countries – like the embargo against the Cuban people – would increase economic prosperity in those countries, diminishing the economic incentive for people in those countries to migrate.

"They'll take jobs from Americans." On the contrary – immigrants create jobs for Americans! While often displacing Americans in lower-echelon jobs, their consumption of food, housing, cars, electronics, and other goods and services develops higher-echelon jobs for Americans in those sectors.

"They'll go on welfare." Then Congress should prohibit them from doing so and punish any bureaucrat convicted of distributing illegal welfare. There is no constitutional requirement that foreign citizens be entitled to use government to plunder the wealth of American citizens. Anyway, as many Americans have discovered, government welfare is a political drug that destroys the human spirit. Immigrants, like Americans, are better off without it.

"They'll burden government services." Then privatize them. Notice that it's always the public sector – public schools, public hospitals, public roads – that complains about too many customers. When was the last time you heard Microsoft, Sears, Disney, or McDonalds complaining about too many customers?

"They'll pollute our cul-

ture." American culture should be one of freedom – one in which everyone is free to pursue any cultural interest he wishes. After all, it was America's culture of freedom that motivated the French to give us the Statue of Liberty.

Open borders would not only raise the standard of living of both foreigners and Americans, it would also help to restore a sense of morality and civility to American society. How can it be considered moral and civil to forcibly repatriate people into communist tyranny? To incarcerate people for wanting to work? To punish employers for hiring them? How can any of this be reconciled with loving thy neighbor as thyself?

A decade ago, one of the ugliest walls in history was torn down. It is time to tear ours down as well. We don't need governmental barriers that separate families, friends, and businesses. We need *abrazos* and handshakes that bring people together.

Mr. Hornberger is president of The Future of Freedom Foundation in Fairfax, Va., and is the co-editor of The Foundation's book, *The Case for Free Trade and Open Immigration*.

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TALKINGPOINTS

Viagra's real benefit, scalping art, and how to best exploit a tragedy

■ Disabling Jobs

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was supposed to mean more disabled Americans could enter the workforce. Yet this year, only 29% of disabled people are employed full or part time, according to survey results reported in the *Washington Post* (7/23/98). This figure is lower than before the law was enacted. In 1986, 33% of disabled Americans were employed.

— **COMPETITIVE ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE UPDATE,**
December 1998

■ Anti-antitrust

Even businesses that want to comply with the [federal anti-trust] law often have no idea what is acceptable. Companies are sometimes accused of charging "too much" for their products, since this is assumed to be evidence of monopoly power. Yet companies that charge the same as their competitors are assumed to be price-fixing. Charging "too little" is also a no-no, however, since this behavior can be construed as predatory pricing. Needless to say, this does not leave a company many options.

As Microsoft discovered, giving products away at no charge is somehow bad for consumers as well. These vague laws create needless uncertainty, and many observers believe politicians like it that way since companies often believe generous contributions are one way of avoiding arbitrary enforcement.

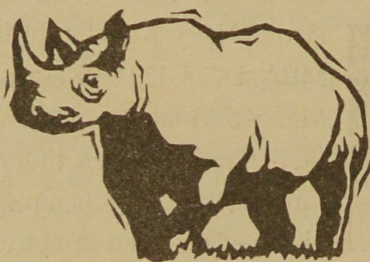
— **DANIEL J. MITCHELL**
The Washington Times
December 16, 1998

■ Viagra to the rescue

The rise in the use of Viagra — the Pfizer drug that can correct impotence in men — may relieve pressure on endangered species that have been the source of folk remedies for sexual enhancement. Columbia University scientist Fran von Hippel, writing in the journal *Science*, says Asian consumers may find the cost of Viagra "trivial compared to that of rhino horn or bear gall bladder, tiger penises, and other organs traditionally used by Asian men."

— **ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS**
November 1998

EDITED BY
Marc Beauchamp



VIAGRA MAY

"relieve pressure on endangered species that have been the source of folk remedies."

■ Uncle Sam, shareholder

Allowing the government to control Social Security investment could result in "a government bureaucrat sitting on every corporate board." It is obvious that allowing the federal government to purchase stocks would give it the ability to obtain a significant, if not a controlling, share of virtually every major company in America.

Experience has shown that even a 2% or 3% block of shares can give an activist shareholder substantial influence over the policies of companies. A nearly infinite list of current political controversies would be ripe for restrictions if the federal government began investing Social Se-

curity funds. Both liberals and conservatives would have their own investment agendas.

Should Social Security funds be invested in tobacco companies? Companies that pay high executive salaries or do not offer health benefits? Companies that extend benefits to the partners of gay employees?

— **CATO INSTITUTE**
PRESS RELEASE
December 1, 1998

■ Polling tragedy

[A new edition of *Behind the Oval Office* by Dick Morris] reveals how Clinton's advisors weighed the political implications of even the most tragic events...

On April 27, 1995 — eight days after the Oklahoma City bombing — Morris directed a discussion on how to reap political advantage from the aftermath, according to the agenda for the date. As the consultant saw it, Clinton's handling of the tragedy would lead to "temporary gain: boost in rating," and [discussed] how he could create a "permanent possible gain: sets up Extremist Issue vs. Republicans."

On August 1, 1996, among topics at the weekly meeting was how well Clinton had responded to the mid-air explosion of TWA Flight 800. Polling data showed that 84% of Americans had heard about Clinton's meeting with families of the victims. Fifty percent said the emotional meeting made them more likely to vote for Clinton over Robert Dole.

— **THE WASHINGTON POST**
December 22, 1998

■ Scalping van Gogh

Advance tickets for the National Gallery of Arts exhibit of

more than 70 paintings by Vincent van Gogh were snapped up at once. The National Gallery, however, gives away about 2,000 tickets each day, good for that day only. Naturally, people line up early. Scalpers are arriving early too, and selling their tickets on the street.

The fallacy underlying the prejudice against scalpers and their customers is the belief that the tickets are free. Of course they are not. They cost hours waiting in line. By giving the tickets away, the National Gallery favors people with lots of time to wait against those with little spare time. In the spirit of free enterprise, scalpers give the second group a shot at otherwise unobtainable tickets.

When government thwarts scalpers it capriciously favors one group of peaceful citizens over another. People who pay for tickets in cash should not be treated as second-class citizens.

— **SHELDON RICHMAN**
The Washington Post
November 15, 1998

■ 1998 Nanny Awards

■ "Nanny of the Year" Award: **Kelly Brownell**. By calling for a "Twinkie Tax" on high-calorie food, Yale University professor Brownell simultaneously created a buzz for a new tax and reunited the Nanny nation, which was divided over what product they were going to attack after tobacco.

■ "Public Disservice" Award, honorable mention: **The South Dakota House Health & Human Services Committee**. For considering a bill which would have made it *felony* child abuse for a pregnant woman to order a glass of wine in a restaurant without a doctor's prescription.

■ "The (Abuse of) Power of the Press" Award, honorable mention: **The Nation Magazine**. For their expose on "soda barons" trying to hook young kids on the "new drug of choice" — caffeine. "Executives at Coke and Pepsi are pushing a drug on pre-adults, one that may have serious health consequences for a whole generation."

— **THE GUEST CHOICE NETWORK**
December 1998

■ Kill, but don't insult

The Pentagon condemned Monday a sarcastic message about Ramadan, the Islamic month of fasting, scrawled by a U.S. sailor on a 2,000-pound laser-guided bomb before it was fired at Iraq...

Defense department spokesman Kenneth Bacon said officials were "distressed to learn of thoughtless graffiti mentioning the holy month of Ramadan on a piece of U.S. ordnance during Operation Desert Fox," a four day attack that ended [on December 19, 1998].

On the final day of the bombing raids, an Associated Press photographer aboard the U.S.S. Enterprise aircraft carrier in the Gulf took a picture of a graffiti-covered bomb that included the words, "Here's a Ramadan present."

The Pentagon said the message in no way reflected U.S. views.

"The incident is a rare exception that does not reflect American policy or views," [Bacon] said.

— **REUTERS NEWS SERVICE**
December 22, 1998

■ Health care "crisis"

Since virtually everything is called a "crisis" these days, perhaps we should not be surprised to hear about a health care "crisis." Those of us old-fashioned enough to believe words should have some meaning may wonder just what this crisis consists of.

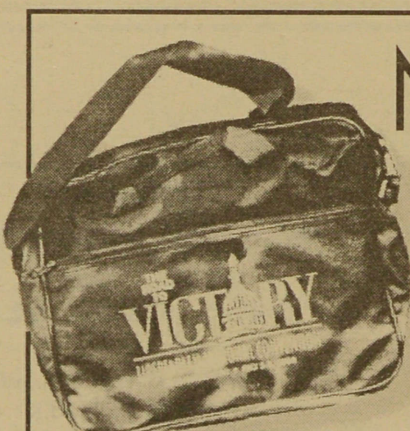
Are we getting worse health care than in the past? Worse than the rest of the world? Worse than we would like? Virtually every aspect of the so-called health care crisis boils down to the fact that everybody wants somebody else to pay for health care.

How did we ever get into the present mess in the first place? There was a time when a patient simply went to a doctor and paid for treatment. The costs and the tradeoffs these would entail were very plain to everyone. If it was worth it to get a broken arm fixed, but not worth it to go in every time you had the sniffles, then you made such choices accordingly.

Employer-paid "fringe benefits" began during World War II, as a way to get around government-imposed wage and price controls. Politicians found it expedient to exempt these benefits from the heavy taxes they put on money income.

From this has followed the grand illusion of something for nothing, which has created needless problems in health care, as it has in so many other aspects of life.

— **THOMAS SOWELL**
The Washington Times
December 6, 1998



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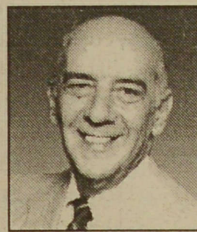
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From the Christian Coalition to the Libertarian Party 'faithful'

Continued from Page 1

Belt (Cleveland) it's what ya did.

So, I was an unenthusiastic Democrat. I remained as such throughout the '80s mostly because I had one view of politics and politicians: "The government is corrupt. The President is the government. (I had not yet discovered the gems of Congress and the judiciary). Therefore, I'll vote against whomever is President."

As soon as I turned 18, I registered to vote. My first vote was cast in a Democratic primary for . . . are you ready? *Jesse Jackson!* Yes, the Good Reverend himself. I heard him speak at a school field trip. He said: "Anyone who wants to go to college should be able to go for free!"

I should have known then

My Road to Libertarianism A Personal Essay

that my Democratic days were numbered when I thought to myself, "Who's gonna pay for this 'free' tuition?"

Voted for Tankboy

After deciding Vice President George Bush was just the hand-picked hack of the current Problem-In-Office, I voted for Tankboy, Governor Michael Dukakis.

After giving President Bush the benefit of the doubt — and being part of the "good will toward the new President crowd"

— three major incidents occurred in my life.

First, I started my own business. Though my business was small, I had the opportunity to work with many professionals who were owners of large businesses. I began to see the impact that government was having on people's lives. Not just their businesses, but on their families and their freedoms.

I also got to see firsthand who the "rich" really were. These were not the mean, intolerant, selfish individuals that I was hearing them described as by friends, family, and the media culture.

Their stories were amazing. Most of them didn't inherit their wealth. Many started with next to nothing, and even "restarted" several times after former attempts at success had denied them. These people were generous, optimistic, and very family-oriented. They weren't perfect. They were just, in a word, determined. I admired that, and I began to loathe the obstacle that seemed to constantly get in their way — government.

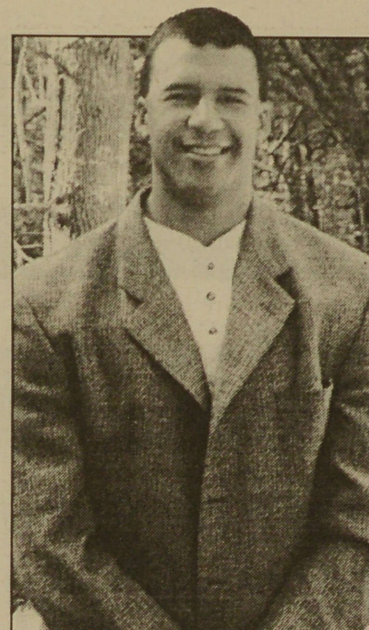
The second major impact on my political outlook was finding the Rush Limbaugh Show. I heard about Rush while my girlfriend — now wife — and I were at a tax protest outside of the Cleveland Federal Building. (And we had just picked out her engagement ring — ahh, what a romantic!)

Sacred cows

I found it refreshing to find someone who would take on the sacred cows of modern liberalism. I was hooked. I delved into politics heart-first. (The headfirst is when I became a Libertarian).

I got involved with the Republican Party and got to know many of the party leaders. When I first started meeting elected officials I thought I would be impressed. Boy, was I surprised. I started wondering how these people ever got elected. After a while, I began to wonder how some of these people even got dressed in the morning. I thought to myself, "I wouldn't even trust some of these people with the contents of my wallet — let alone trust them to run my city, state, or country."

The third, and most profound, thing that impacted my life was becoming a Christian. Sure, I had gone to church with my family every Sunday, but it wasn't the same. This was a



■ Greg Cunningham: "I couldn't agree with Libertarians on two areas: Abortion and drug decriminalization."

much deeper commitment on every level. I was no longer satisfied with just showing up. I began to study scripture, and became quite interested in all of the references to the government and its function.

I came to discover that many of the things that I deplored about many government policies were not only unwise and impractical — but, indeed, immoral.

CUNNINGHAM:
"I hope to assist the LP to become the party the Republican Party never could, and never will."

Eventually, I was asked to head a new chapter of an organization that had just started to get national attention — the Christian Coalition. I accepted.

At first I was delighted to be working with an organization that wanted to fight for the same things that I did. A group that wanted the same government infringements stopped, and the same rights protected.

However, as time went on, I began to see the same disturbing things that I had seen in work-

ing with the Republican Party. The Christian Coalition was trying to rein in a top-down bureaucracy (the government) with another top-down bureaucracy (the Christian Coalition).

Futile attempt

I began a futile attempt to try to persuade the leadership of their shortsightedness — and the need to reject such farcical policies as "slowing the rate of growth of government" and "protecting and preserving our public schools." This was nonsense. I knew darn well that when it comes to education, the only way we could revitalize it was to get the "camel's nose (of government) out of the tent" altogether. Heck, I wanted to shoot the camel and sew up the tent!

As time went by, the Coalition caved more and more. Lip service was paid to the grassroots while the leadership sang the praises of Bob Dole and Newt Gingrich — and eventually the likes of Christie Todd Whitman, George Pataki, and Colin Powell. I felt ill.

After about a year with the Coalition, I was convinced — and it didn't take that much persuading — to run for office. I ran for a city council seat.

While getting signatures to get on the ballot, I discovered that there had been a concerted effort to keep me off the ballot by my own party — the Republican Party. Seems the mayor, whom I openly called corrupt (mainly because he was), wasn't fond of me or my religious convictions.

Upon discovering this, I decided that I could not, in good conscience, run as a Republican. I ran as an Independent. As many who have taken the same principled stand can surmise, I didn't exactly do well in the election. However, my message about privatization, elimination of several taxes, and public accountability of elected officials who break the law, was well received.

Couldn't agree

During this same time, I started receiving literature from the Ohio LP. I thoroughly enjoyed every newsletter, but I couldn't agree with Libertarians on two areas: Abortion and drug decriminalization.

A few years later, my wife and I moved to Virginia. I was anxious to get involved in the local political scene, and ended up with a group working to start a chapter of the Christian Coalition. I decided to help them get things going. Initially, I lobbied to not affiliate with the Coalition, but many were excited about the Coalition — so I went

See **CHRISTIAN LIBERTARIAN** Page 13

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Christian Libertarian

Continued from Page 12

along, being a newcomer. Not surprisingly, the same compromising ethics soon reared its ugly head again.

Then came the turning point. Pat Buchanan decided to run again for president.

I didn't agree with Pat on many economic issues, but I thought him to be an honorable man. I still do. But when I saw what the Republican Party did to him and his campaign there was no doubt that the Republican Party was not for me. If Pat Buchanan was too "extreme" for the party, then what would they think of me?

It was at this time I heard that a local chapter of the LP — now known as the Jefferson Area Libertarians — was forming. I attended the first meeting and told them that I had some disagreements, but that I wanted to help them get off the ground. They were more than gracious and welcomed my help.

Jo Jorgensen

Shortly thereafter, I went to hear Jo Jorgensen speak at the University of Virginia and was impressed. I picked up a copy of Harry Browne's book.

Also, during that same period, I ran across an article on the Drug War where the author explained that the Bible gave no sanction to the state to regulate what chemicals a person used. It's true that abusing any substance is a sin, but what was the government's role?

After scouring scripture on this subject I concluded that the Libertarian position was in fact, the moral one. After finishing Harry's book I went to the next Jefferson Area Libertarians meeting, threw out my Republican Party card, and joined the Libertarian Party.

My goal now is simple: I hope to assist the LP to become the party the Republican Party never could, and never will.

I also have a message for Conservative Christians: It's time

for you to realize that there is a party that will operate on principle. The Libertarian Party will fight to assure your freedom to exercise your convictions both economically and socially.

Let me ask a blunt question: How long will you allow the Republican Party to lie to you? You have to realize that Republicans do not view the current size of government as either unconstitutional or immoral.

Ever hear the phrase, "Ye shall know them by their fruits?" Well, the fruit of the Republican Party is so rotten that the worm inside is looking for a new home.

Soul searching

May I suggest you do likewise? I urge any Conservative Republican to examine the platform of the Libertarian Party and do a little soul searching.

Do you agree with Libertarians but think they can't win? Well, what have the Republicans done to restore a Constitutional republic? With the Republicans,

you can't win either.

In this era of political expediency, isn't it about time you acted on principle? As Libertarians have said, "If you always do what you've always done, then you'll always get what you've always gotten."

Are you happy with what you're getting? Enough is enough. *Vote Libertarian!*

■ Greg Cunningham is President of The Dominion Foundation, a Christian-Libertarian public policy foundation. Reach him at its website: www.dominionfoundation.com.

Corrections

■ LP Congressional candidates did better than reported in the December 1998 issue of *LP News*. In his "From the Director" column, National Director Steve Dasbach reported that LP candidates for U.S. House had won a "record off-year vote." In fact, LP candidates for U.S. House won a total of 906,808 votes, which was the best cumulative vote total in party history — ever.

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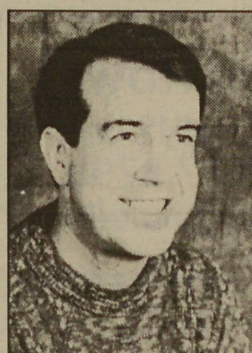
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ATTENTION PETITIONERS!

ATTENTION PETITIONERS!

The Libertarian Party of New Mexico recently won major-party status but we need a few thousand additional registered Libertarians to maintain it. We are contemplating a voter registration drive this summer and will probably need professional help. Send proposals and inquiries to Project Coordinator:

■ **Joseph Knight**
Box 698
Flora Vista, NM 87415

Success '99 LP Leadership Seminars head for Washington state, Maryland, and North Carolina

Success '99 will travel to Washington state, Maryland, and North Carolina in February, the Libertarian Party has announced.

"As part of our commitment to bring the Success '99 leadership training seminars to within driving distance of 75% of LP members, we're going to pick up the pace in February — and conduct these informative, two-day party-building seminars in three more states," said LP National Director Steve Dasbach.

Fundamentals

The Success '99 seminars, which are designed to teach the fundamentals of building successful local LP organizations and running successful campaigns, will be held at the Holiday Inn Express Seatac in Seattle, Washington state (February 6-7); at the Holiday Inn Select Baltimore North, Maryland (February

February Events

FEBRUARY 6-7
Seattle, Washington

FEBRUARY 20-21
Baltimore, Maryland

FEBRUARY 27-28
Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina

20-21); and in Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina (February 27-28).

The seminars will be hosted by a rotating list of some of the party's most experienced activists, including Dasbach, Jim Lark (college organizing expert), Michael Cloud (Libertarian communications guru), Bill Winter (LP Communications Director), Barbara Goushaw (head of the

Libertarian Campaign Managers Association of Michigan), and David Bergland (author of *Libertarianism In One Lesson*).

One of the major goals of Success '99 is to answer common questions that LP activists — both old and new — have about political success, said Dasbach.

Nuts-and-bolts

"If you have a 'nuts-and-bolts' question about politics or campaigning, Success '99 is the place to get it answered," he said.

"Do you need to know how to write a better press release? How to raise more money? How to recruit volunteers? How to set achievable goals? How to find a winnable race? How to recruit more members? Those are the kinds of issues we will discuss at Success '99."

In March, Success '99 events will be held in Dallas, Texas (March 13-14) and Columbia,

South Carolina (March 20-21).

In all, 25 Success '99 events — which consist of about 12 hours of workshops and seminars conducted all-day Saturday and on Sunday morning — will be held around the USA in 1999.

The registration fee for the

two-day seminar will be \$79, which includes a buffet lunch on Saturday.

For a list of upcoming Success '99 events — or to request information or to register — see the full-page advertisement on page 15 of this issue of *LP News*.

RESULTS '98

Here are the remaining Election '98 results for Libertarian Party candidates. Vote totals for most LP candidates for governor, U.S. House, and U.S. Senate appeared in the December 1998 issue of *LP News*; results for most other state/local candidates appeared in the January 1999 issue. Each listing below contains the candidate's name; office; district/town; total votes won; and percentage won. Missing information means that results are not available.

Arkansas

Rodney Wimberly • City Council • El Dorado • 30%

Connecticut

Robert Loomis • Lt. Governor • 5,287 • 1%

Iowa

Dale Roewe • Township Trustee • Swan Lake • 100%

Indiana

Arlen A. Ambler • Township Assessor • Elkhart • 568 • 10.4%

Michigan

Elizabeth Kessler • Mayor • Ann Arbor • 679 • 1.9%
Kurt Verhoff • City Council • Ann Arbor • Ward 2 • 825 • 17.7%
J.P. Denoyer • City Council • Ann Arbor • Ward 3 • 592 • 10.4%
Christine James • Iron County Commissioner • 260 • 31.7%
Mike Johnson Jr. • Wayne County Commissioner • 839 • 2.5%
James Hudler • Washtenaw County Commissioner • 238 • 2.7%
Thomas A. Casey • Wayne County Commissioner • District 1 • 720 • 2.7%
Jeff Hampton • County Commissioner • District 22 • 540 • 3.6%

Missouri

Lee Martin • Circuit Clerk • Howell County • 796 • 10%
Becky Darr • County Clerk • Dekalb County • 570 • 19.4%
Karen Charleville • County Commissioner • Jefferson County • 2,385 • 5.1%
Mike McDonald • County Commissioner • Howell, Northern • District 180 • 5.3%
Jim Higgins • County Executive • Saint Louis County • 7,080 • 2.1%

Montana

Don Huizenga • State Representative • District 44 • 77 • 2.9%

New Hampshire

Brad Dorsey • State Representative • District 6 • 993
Leonard Epstein • State Representative • District 13 • 776
William DiScipio • State Representative • District 15 • 372 • 13%

New Jersey

Lyla Lett • Freeholder • Morris County • 2,769
Martin Domacasse • Freeholder • Warren County • 1,006 • 4.4%
Tom Abrams • Township Committee • Princeton • 4%

Nevada

Ray Perez • Justice of the Peace • Washoe Department 2 • 955 • 6.94%
Greg Gillette • Churchill Mosquito Abatement District • 1,156 • 25%

New York

Bill McMillen • U.S. Senator • 8,679
Chris Garvey • Governor • 6,706
Don Silberger • Lt. Governor • 6,706
Daniel Conti Jr. • Attorney General • 19,908
Robert Goodman • Comptroller • 12,050
Adelle Bolger • County Clerk • Suffolk County • .9%
Bruce Martin • State Assembly • District 3 • 221 • .8%
Bibi Soleil • State Assembly • District 50 • 463 • 3.8%
Andre Soleil • State Senator • District 18 • 3,087 • 6.1%
John Bloom • Town Council • Brookhaven • 666 • .8%

Oregon

Jack Alan Brown, Jr. • State Representative • District 49 • 882 • 4%

South Dakota

Jim Christen • Lt. Governor • 4,386 • 2%

Texas

David Constant • City Council • 35%
Gary Johnson • Justice of the Peace • 2,090 • 15.2%

Wisconsin

Ron Emery • Attorney General • 17,285 • 1%
Pete Steinberg • District Attorney • Dane County • 12,838 • 8%
James Dean • Lt. Governor • 11,010 • .6%
Don Carlson • Secretary of State • 17,916 • 1.1%
John Washburn • State Assembly • District 13 • 230 • 5.3%
Bob Pritzel • State Assembly • District 15 • 1,540 • 12.3%
Darren Powers • State Assembly • District 77 • 2,220 • 11%
Dave Howard • State Senator • District 5 • 785 • 1.5%
Tim Peterson • State Treasurer • 28,434 • 1.7%

Wyoming

Mark Spungin • Mayor • Guernsey • 79 • 21.8%

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RALEIGH-DURHAM,
NORTH CAROLINA**

**MARCH 13-14
DALLAS,
TEXAS**

**MARCH 20-21
COLUMBIA,
SOUTH CAROLINA**

**APRIL 17-18
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**MAY 1-2
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**MAY 15-16
SAN JOSE,
CALIFORNIA**

**MAY 22-23
ANAHEIM,
CALIFORNIA**

**JUNE 5-6
NEW YORK CITY,
NEW YORK**

**JUNE 12-13
SAN ANTONIO,
TEXAS**

**JUNE 26-27
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■ What is the secret to
successful media interviews?

■ Why do people donate
money to campaigns — and
how do I get my share?

■ What do all successful
affiliate parties have in common?

■ How can I recruit more
volunteers (who actually work)?

■ What is the cure for
Libertarian "burn-out"?

■ What is the "Rule of Three"
for campaign issues?

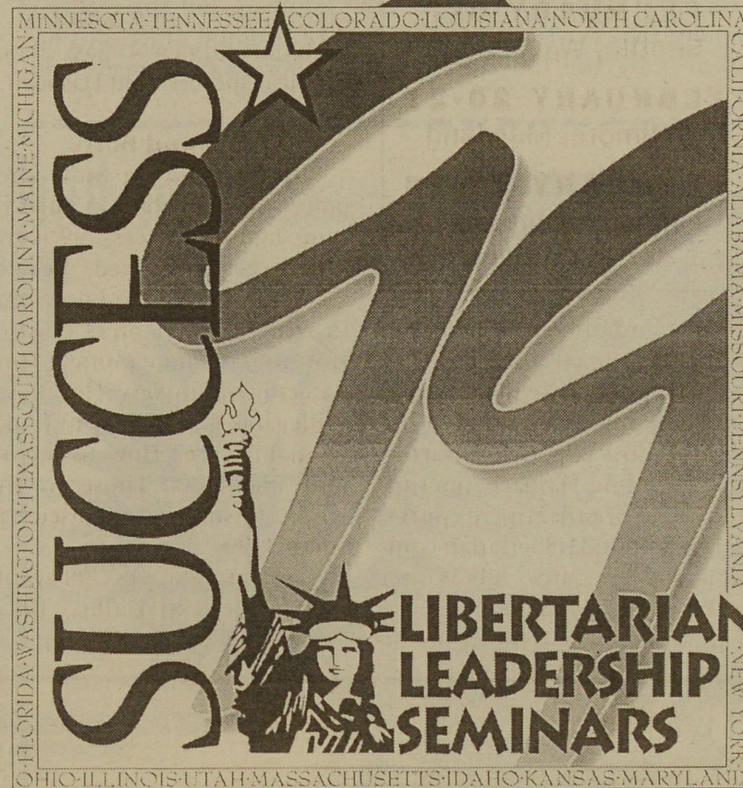
■ How can even a *losing*
campaign help the party?

■ How do I write a "killer"
press release that generates
media coverage?

■ What does it take to win a
contested, partisan election?

■ Why is temperament type
the key to appealing to people
who are different from me?

■ How can I answer tough
questions about Libertarianism



... in just 30 seconds?

■ How do I get more people
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SALT LAKE CITY,
UTAH**

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MASSACHUSETTS**

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**OCTOBER 23-24
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☐ **COLUMBIA, SC / March 20-21**

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LP generates 127.7 million media mentions in November

It took 836 candidates, the activities of 50 state parties, and national television ads, but in November 1998 the Libertarian Party passed 100 million.

To be precise: 127,774,246. That's the combined circulation of all the newspapers and magazines that featured stories

about the Libertarian Party — or mentioned the word "libertarian" — in November, said LP Director of Communications Bill Winter.

The numbers were provided by Bacon's Clipping Service, a company that tracks print appearances by the Libertarian

Party, and generates a monthly summary.

"These are probably the best print media numbers in LP history," said Winter. "It's easy to get lost in the abstract nature of the numbers, but the reality is that 127 million Americans had the opportunity to read about

the Libertarian Party, thanks to all these news stories about us."

The large quantity of press mentions was fueled by hundreds of news stories about LP candidates immediately before and after the election, Winter said, as well as by state and local party activities, and press releases from the National LP.

Playboy, Roll Call

During November, stories about the LP and libertarianism appeared in such magazines as *Playboy*, *BusinessWeek*, *Atlanta Magazine*, and *Roll Call*.

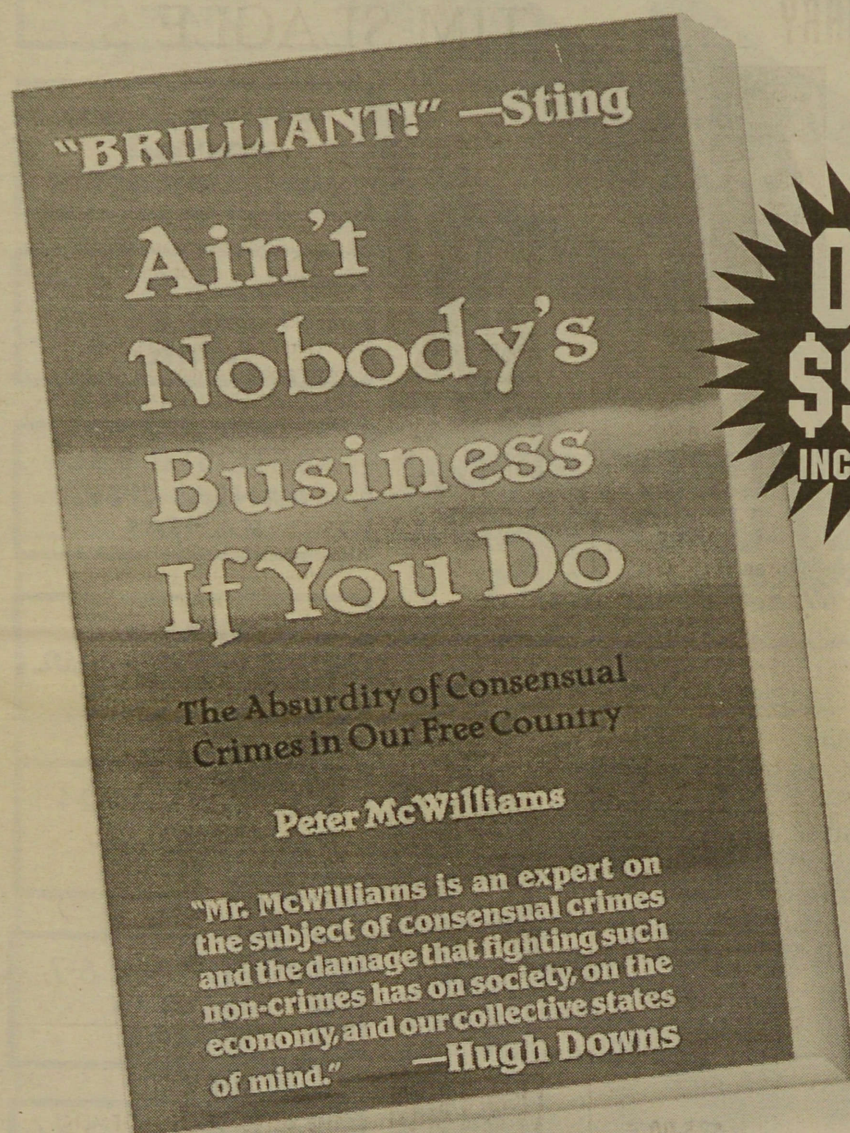
Stories also appeared in such major newspapers as the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Denver Post*, the *Washington Times*, the *Miami Herald*, the *Atlanta Constitution*, the *Chicago Sun-Times*, the *Indianapolis Star*, the *Boston Globe*, the *Detroit News*, the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, the *Dallas Morning News*, and *USA Today*.

The 127 million press mentions is a dramatic jump from "typical" months, said Winter. For example, the party was only mentioned in publications with circulations of 22 million in August, 30 million in September, and 53 million in October.

"Looking at that surge in November, we see once again that campaigns are the best and easiest way to generate press coverage for the party, and to get our message to the American public," he said.

The real numbers for November — and the other months as well — are probably higher because Bacon's Clipping Service sometimes misses stories that the party sees from other sources, said Winter.

"The real number is probably tens of millions higher, meaning that far more than 127 million people had the opportunity to read the good news about the Libertarian Party," he said.



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O'Brien named in lawsuit

Continued from Page 4

"In compliance with legal requirements that grounds for a recall election be stated clearly and unambiguously on petitions, allegations of three instances of the mayor violating [city or state law] were submitted [to be reviewed for] for clarity," said O'Brien.

In the original petition, the mayor was charged with using tax money to lobby for a tax increase, for voting to raise his own pay by 85%, and for attempting to "exert political control" over the police and fire departments.

Only one of the three reasons was approved — and eventually the recall effort fizzled when it fell short of the 25% of registered voter's signatures needed to schedule an election.

Struck back

That's when the mayor struck back at his political opponents, charging that the recall petition was libelous, and that filing it with the county clerk's office constituted "publishing" under tort law.

In response, O'Brien noted that calling a recall election is a right guaranteed under Article II, Section 8, of the state constitution — and that it is "patently absurd to suggest that following the procedures prescribed by law for certifying a recall petition can in and of itself constitute publishing under the law of libel."

The real purpose of the lawsuit, O'Brien speculated, was to "intimidate" the mayor's political enemies.

But, "having been politically active my entire life, the mayor

TIM O'BRIEN:
"There was little chance that I could be bullied."

should have realized that there was little chance I could be bullied in this way," he said. "I have every confidence I will prevail in court and win a motion for summary disposition."

In fact, it is important to fight back against this kind of action, said O'Brien, because "it would be quite intolerable that citizens' involvement in the democratic process should expose them to civil litigation by aggrieved public officials."

While waiting for the case to come to court, O'Brien said that the situation has convinced him that the state may need a new law — one that prohibits "frivolous, vexatious" lawsuits by elected officeholders.

Noting that California already bans SLAPP lawsuits, "it's time Michigan also moved to prohibit public officials [from] using civil litigation in an attempt to harass and silence citizens," he said.

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Code-busting Libertarian team cracks Top Ten

LP team works to expand encryption rights

The Libertarians for Privacy code-busting team has jumped into the Top Ten in a nationwide contest to crack an "uncrackable" code.

On December 28, 1998, the Libertarian team — which is contributing spare computer cycles to decode a 64-bit encrypted message in an effort to point out the foolishness of federal anti-encryption laws — moved up to 9th place overall in the nationwide RC5-64 Challenge, said Vermont Libertarian Hardy Macia, who organized the team.

That represents a dramatic leap from the 742nd place the team occupied as recently as February 1998. The Libertarians for Privacy team has also become the #1 team in the political category.

More than 640 Libertarians with "thousands of computers" have joined the team, which is attempting to crack a 64-bit encrypted message as part of a nationwide, all-volunteer effort, said Macia.

And if more Libertarians joined the team — and contributed more spare computer processing power as a way of putting their "Libertarian ideals into action" — the team could move to the top spot, he said.

2,000 members

"To become the #1 team in the daily rankings, we will need about 2,000 new members," said Macia. "To accomplish this, we need every Libertarian with a computer that can connect to the Internet through AOL or an ISP [Internet service provider] to download the software and run it on their computer."

The Libertarians for Privacy team is part of a nationwide effort to prove that government laws which restrict encryption programs to only 64 bits are a danger to Internet privacy and a violation of free speech.

The team is competing to be the first to crack the code and win a \$1,000 prize — an accomplishment that would make the Libertarian Party a "status symbol" in the anti-encryption effort, said Macia.

The RC5-64 Challenge — which has been called "the largest mass computing effort on the planet" — is a voluntary effort of about 30,000 individuals and

groups, using computers linked by the Internet.

"The spare cycles of thousands of computers are being used to crack the [coded] message to show that the government must allow stronger encryption technology — or else our data is at risk," said Macia.

The 64-bit encryption code has billions of possible math-



ematical combinations, only one of which is the proper key to unlock the code.

Even 64-bit encryption can be cracked, but it requires com-

puters to crunch through those billions of possible "keys." The RC5 Challenge will prove that thousands of networked computers can crack that code in eight years or less — compared to the one million years it might take one computer working alone.

Macia said he formed the team because "it dawned on me that the RC5 effort would be an excellent forum for Libertarian outreach."

Mark Swearingen, a team-member from Scotts Valley, California, agreed. By joining the Libertarians for Privacy team, party members "can garner publicity for the Libertarian Party and highlight its platform position against all government regulation of encryption," he said.

■ To join the Libertarians for Privacy team:

Contact Macia via e-mail at: vtlpRC5@catamount.com.

Or visit the L4P Website at: <http://www.catamount.com/rc5/rc5-join.html>.

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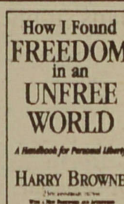
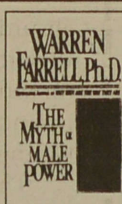
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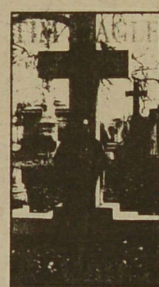
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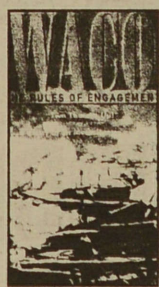
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Wisconsin HQ

LP speaks out on impeachment

Continued from Page 3

tution — spend his entire term of office ignoring, abusing, and violating the guiding document of this nation. He has treated the Constitution as if it were some White House intern with whom he could have his will."

Crickenberger also provided a Libertarian solution: "The only way to stop abuse of power by politicians is to limit that political power to the tiniest amount of government we can possibly have and still have a free and safe nation," he said. "Only by severely limiting government's ability to tax, spend, and regulate will we stop the schemes of people such as Bill Clinton."

Crickenberger said he received a surprisingly positive reaction from the crowd, despite making many Libertarian comments that a more conservative group might not have been expected to agree with.

"There was cheering and interruptions for applause" throughout the speech, he said. "There seemed to be a high propensity of libertarian-influenced folks in the crowd."

Other speakers at the Judgment Day rally included Congressman Bob Barr (R-GA), former FBI agent and author Gary Aldrich, and chairman of the Conservative Caucus Howard Phillips.

The purpose of the rally, according to organizers, was to "encourage Henry Hyde's House Judiciary Committee to do their Constitutional duty and vote for a bill of impeachment."

The rally's sponsor, Free-Republic.com, is an anti-Clinton website that focuses on the president's moral failings and legal violations.

Clinton impeached

Fourteen days after Crickenberger's speech — and 167 days after delegates at the Libertarian National Convention voted to demand the president's impeachment for his "failure to uphold and defend the United States Constitution" — President Clinton was impeached by the U.S. House.

The Libertarian Party reacted to the impeachment vote by saying it was the right decision, but for the *wrong* reasons.

"Bill Clinton deserved to be impeached, but Libertarians would prefer to see him removed from office for his crimes against the Constitution, not for his sordid sex-and-lies scandal," said Steve Dasbach, the party's national director, in a statement released to the press.

"If you look at Clinton's record in office, you'll see that his real crimes are not the ones he tried to cover up, or lied about

to grand juries — his real crimes are the ones he boasted about in press conferences and in State of the Union speeches."

Clinton's crimes against the Constitution are the *real* criminal legacy of the president, said Dasbach — not the charges of perjury and obstruction of justice related to the sex scandal.

"Bill Clinton committed perjury when he put his hand on a Bible and swore to uphold and

defend the Constitution," said Dasbach. "Instead of keeping his word, Clinton routinely violated the First, Second, Fourth, Fifth, Ninth, and Tenth amendments to the Constitution."

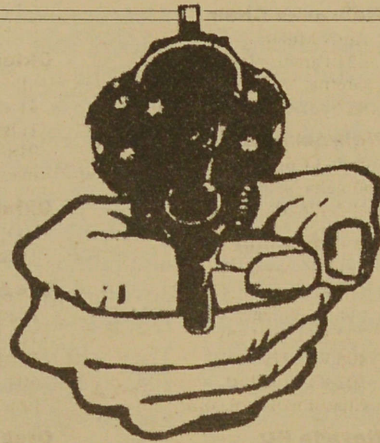
Obstructed justice

"And Bill Clinton obstructed justice when he signed so-called anti-terrorism legislation that sharply curtailed the right of habeas corpus; authorized the massacre at Waco, Texas; and expanded the power of the federal government to seize private property under asset forfeiture

laws — to name just a few examples," he said.

"There are no greater crimes that a president can commit — other than perhaps treason — that are as serious and damaging to the nation as Bill Clinton's abuse of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights," said Dasbach.

"And there is no more fitting punishment for those crimes than for the U.S. House of Representatives to impeach him, for the U.S. Senate to convict him, for freedom-loving citizens to scorn him, and for history to despise him."



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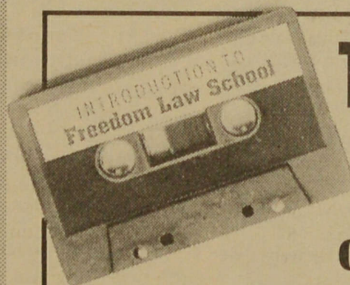
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THE FORUM

New law would destroy financial privacy

"Know Your Customer" regulation is government's new way to snoop on us

Okay, this is going too far. According to the Federal Register of December 7, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) wants a new way to snoop on us. It proposes a mandatory program for insured nonmember banks called "Know Your Customer."

This is not some friendly way for banks to serve us better. It's right out of Orwell's 1984. Here's what Big Brother would require the banks to do in the name of getting to know us:

- Set up procedures to identify its customers;
- Establish their customers' sources of money;
- Establish their customers' "normal and expected transactions";
- Watch for "transactions that are inconsistent with those normal and expected transactions";
- "Report any transactions ... that are determined to be suspicious, in accordance with the FDIC's existing suspicious activity reporting regulation."

Why does FDIC want to keep such close watch over us? Ac-

cording to the Federal Register, the new regulation will "reduce the likelihood that insured nonmember banks will become unwitting participants in illicit activities conducted or attempted by their customers."

Very nice. We're all guilty until proven innocent. Thus crumbles one of the most important pillars of Western jurisprudence, the principle that citizens are to be free from general suspicion of wrongdoing by government. If this rule is adopted, America will have crossed the Rubicon into authoritarianism for sure.

Another angle

There's another angle to this regulation as well.

Some banks already have such procedures, and the FDIC and those banks wish to "level the playing field." I take this to mean that customers don't like the snooping and will favor banks that don't do it. The regulation will see to it that we can no longer find such banks.

Excuse me, is this still the

United States of America? Or did I forget that I got on a plane and landed in Albania or North Korea or Cuba?

The program is being sold as necessary to protect the reputation of banks. "When transactions at financial institutions involving illicit funds are revealed," states the item in the Federal Register, "these transactions invariably damage the reputation of the financial institutions involved and, potentially, the entire financial sector."

Somehow, I think banks can protect their reputations without the heavy hand of government mandating that they snoop on their customers. Besides, citizens

trusted with the vote are likely to understand that banks are not responsible for how their depositors obtain money. Heck, my 11-year-old son knows that! The FDIC asks us not to worry about a loss of privacy. It expresses confidence that banks will acquire only the information necessary to the task and will not misuse that information.

Balderdash!

Banks will be concerned that gathering too little information and failing to turn it over to the government will get them into trouble with the authorities. They will be likely to err on the side of kowtowing to the state. Kiss the last bits of your finan-

cial privacy goodbye.

The government's rationalization for this systematic snooping relates to the need to ferret out illegal activity. When you realize that such activity is an invariable adjunct to victimless crimes, the whole blasted idea is exposed for the naked power grab it is.

From the beginning, libertarian opponents of the war on drug users warned that outlawing consensual activity (no one is forced to buy or sell drugs) will lead to wholesale violation of our civil liberties. Under the guise of ending drug use, the government is able to do things that would have appalled the American people a few generations ago. This is just the latest thrust of the jackboot onto the throat of Lady Liberty.

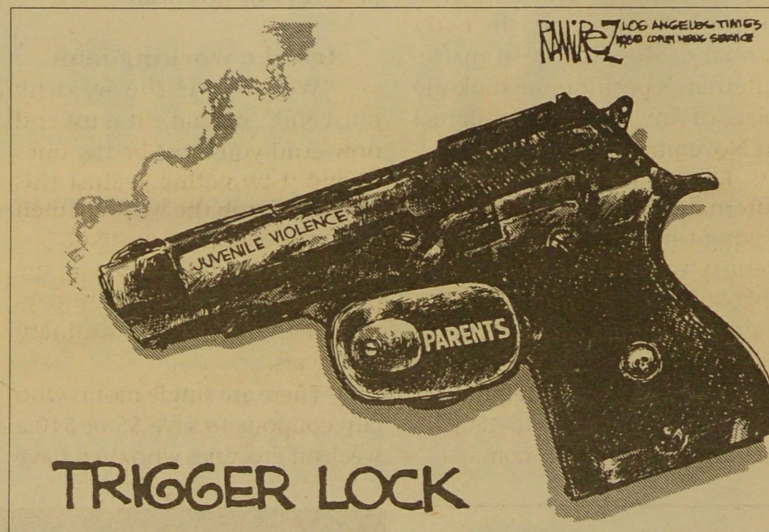
Opposition

Fortunately, there is opposition. The California Bankers Association opposes the plan as "intrusive and cumbersome." The Christian Alert Network is organizing a campaign against the rule as well. Other opposition can be expected.

Citizens can voice their dissent by March 8, 1999. Write to Robert E. Feldman, Executive Secretary, Attention: Comments/OES, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, 550 17th Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20429. Comments may also be sent by fax to (202) 898-3838, or by e-mail to comments@FDIC.gov.

Don't wait. This is serious!

■ **Sheldon Richman** is a senior fellow at The Future of Freedom Foundation in Fairfax, VA, and editor of The Freeman magazine.



Some 1999 New Year's resolutions for Libertarians

1 I resolve to *sell* liberty by appealing to the personal interest of each prospect, rather than *preaching* to people and expecting them to suddenly adopt my ideas of right and wrong.

2. I resolve to keep from being drawn into arguments or debates. My purpose is to inspire people to want liberty — not to prove that they're wrong.

3. I resolve to *listen* when people tell me of their wants and needs, so I can help them see how a free society will satisfy those needs.

4. I resolve to identify myself, when appropriate, with the social goals someone seeks — a cleaner environment, more help for the poor, a less divisive society — and try to show him that those goals can never be achieved by government, but will be well

I RESOLVE...

"To focus on the ways America could be better with a very small government."

served in a free society.

5. I resolve to be compassionate and respectful of the beliefs and needs that lead people to seek government help.

I don't have to approve of their subsidies or policies — but if I don't acknowledge their needs, I have no hope of helping them find a better way to

solve their problems.

6. No matter what the issue, I resolve to keep returning to the central point: How much better off the individual will be in a free society.

7. I resolve to acknowledge my good fortune in having been born an American. Any plan for improvement must begin with a recognition of the good things we have. To speak only of America's defects will make me a tiresome crank.

8. I resolve to focus on the ways America could be so much better with a very small government — not to dwell on all the wrongs that exist today.

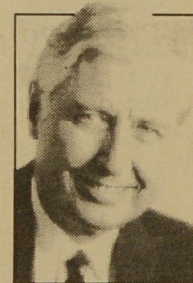
9. I resolve to cleanse myself of hate, resentment, and bitterness. Such things steal time and attention from the work that must be done.

10. I resolve to speak, dress,

and act in a respectable manner. I may be the first Libertarian someone has encountered, and it's important that he get a good first impression. No one will hear the message if the messenger is unattractive.

11. I resolve to remind myself that someone's "stupid" opinion may be an opinion I once held. If I can grow, why can't I help others grow?

12. I resolve not to raise my voice in any discussion. In a shouting match, no one wins, no one changes his mind, and no one will be inspired to join our



By Harry Browne

quest for a free society.

13. I resolve not to adopt the tactics of Republicans and Democrats. They use character assassination, evasions, and intimidation because they have no real benefits to offer Americans.

We, on the other hand, are offering to set people free — and so we can win simply by focusing on the better life our proposals will bring.

14. I resolve to be civil to my opponents and treat them with respect. However anyone chooses to treat me, it's important that I be a better person than my opponents.

■ **Harry Browne** was the 1996 presidential candidate for the Libertarian Party. He currently hosts a weekly radio show, syndicated on approximately 60 stations on the Talk America Radio Network.

LNC sets 1999 goals

Continued from Page 3

cycles, thanks to the party's gains in automatic ballot status in many states, and success in improving election laws, he said.

In other specific budget line items, the LNC allocated \$135,000 for *LP News*; \$174,000 for physical plant and office expenses; \$130,000 for fundraising costs; \$50,000 for advertising; \$72,000 for inquiry response; \$50,000 to upgrade the party's website, and \$65,000 for campaign support.

The other important accomplishment of the December LNC meeting, said Bergland, was to "determine how [LNC members] were going to work together to carry out the purposes of the party. We addressed that broad subject somewhat informally, but, I believe, quite effectively."

Workshops

Over the course of the three-day weekend, LNC members participated in workshops, held a potluck supper, and gathered at LP headquarters to meet the staff, learn about operations, and discuss the annual budget process.

The end result: "I believe all of this was instrumental in establishing a solid foundation for future work together," he said.

Over all, the weekend reminded him how much the party has grown and changed

since his previous terms as LP National Chairman in 1977-1981, when the party was struggling financially, said Bergland.

The change is "somewhat like going from a Model A Ford to a chauffeur-driven Lincoln Town Car," he said. "The party in those early years was very small, underpowered, and needed a lot of maintenance and design work. Today, we have a much better designed and smoother operating machine."

The next LNC meeting was scheduled for April 10-11, 1999, also in Washington, DC.

Sets budgets and goals

The LNC, which is elected by delegates at the party's every-other-year national convention, consists of four officers, five At-Large Representatives, and nine Regional Representatives. It operates as the "board of directors" of the Libertarian Party, hiring staff, setting budgets, and deciding on broad policy goals.

In other LNC news, Jim Turney was "promoted" to Region 5 Representative by that region's State Chairs in early January. Moving up from the Alternate's position, he took the place of Amy Rule, who resigned in November.

Elected as the new Region 5 Alternate was Richard Schwarz, a long-time party activist from Pennsylvania who has served as that state's ballot access coordinator and newsletter editor.

Schwarz can be contacted at: P.O. Box 42554, Philadelphia, PA 19101. Phone: (215) 546-4509. E-mail: hogweed@erols.com.

Michigan Libertarian stops county anti-smoking law

Speech he didn't deliver kills regulation

A Libertarian in Wayne County, Michigan, managed to torpedo an attempt to ban smoking in all "public places" by pointing out that such a bill would help kill "the very soul of our freedoms."

Surprisingly, LP member Larry Parsons, a resident of Redford, Michigan, won this lobbying victory with a written copy of a speech that he was unable to deliver in person.

In mid-December, Parsons said he heard about a plan by the Wayne County Commission to make it illegal to smoke in all businesses locations.

"I was offended, to say the least," he said. "How dare they attack property rights in such a vile un-American and unconstitutional manner?"

Parsons wrote a speech opposing the bill, planning to deliver it to the Commission.

In the speech, he pointed out that "this anti-smoking legislation is a vicious attack against property owners."

Unfortunately, a scheduling conflict prevented him from attending the meeting, so he passed on a copy of his talk to his local Commission representative, and asked her to read it.

The next day, he said, he got a phone call. She said the speech "had changed her mind, as well as the minds of other committee members and swayed enough votes to kill the bill forever!"

His unexpected victory taught him a lesson, said Parsons: "In this case one man can — and *did* — make a difference."

Connecticut LP activist falls short with impassioned anti-stadium effort

James Madison argues against plan to "steal from the poor"

A Libertarian activist in Connecticut made an impassioned effort to stop a new tax-funded sports stadium — including a speech that had people cheering — but fell short in his efforts to stop the \$490 million project.

LP member James Madison attended a public hearing in Hartford, Connecticut, to testify against a proposal to build a sports stadium to lure the New England Patriots professional football team to the state.

In his speech on December 9, Madison told the crowd and listening state legislators that "stealing is wrong, but stealing from the poor to give to the rich is theft in its most sinister form, and that is exactly what is happening with this deal."

Rob the working man

"Welfare for the wealthy must end," he said. "It must end now. And you must be the ones to end it by voting against this attempt to rob the working men and women of Connecticut."

Madison also focused on the people who would end up paying for the stadium — ordinary taxpayers.

"There are single moms who clip coupons to save \$5 or \$10 a week on groceries who then have

to spend hundreds of dollars a year on the gas tax," he said. "They're the ones who need the tax break."

"There are elderly residents who must sell the homes where they raised

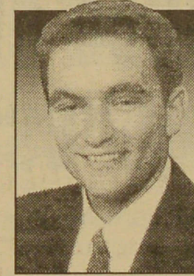
their families because they can't afford to pay the property tax. They're the ones who need the tax break."

"There are small business owners who would like to hire another employee or two to help their business grow, but can't because of all the business taxes. They're the ones who need the tax break."

"Therefore, the Libertarian Party of Connecticut is opposed to giving hundreds of millions of dollars in tax breaks to an out-of-state millionaire instead of the working men and women of Connecticut."

The crowd reacted euphorically to his speech, he said — cheering the "loudest they cheered" all night.

"At the end of the speech I



■ LP member James Madison: "Welfare for the wealthy must end."

was so pumped up by the applause and cheers from the crowd that I stood up, turned around, put my right arm high in the air with my index finger pointed to the sky, and amid the excitement yelled at the top of my lungs, 'Vote Libertarian!' " he said.

"I have never been so pumped. Libertarianism is an amazingly powerful thing if we stop preaching about invisible hands and abstract principles, and start showing the effects of government control on the daily lives of people," said Madison. "Human, human, human — politics is all about people."

Interviews

Madison followed up his speech with interviews with the local Channel 3 television station, the *Hartford Courant*, the *New Britain Herald*, and two radio stations.

Despite his efforts, on December 15 the state legislature approved \$375 million in tax money to build a 68,000-seat stadium and another \$115 million for maintenance over the next 30 years.

Taxpayers will also be liable for as much as \$1 billion in additional costs over three decades if the games don't sell out.

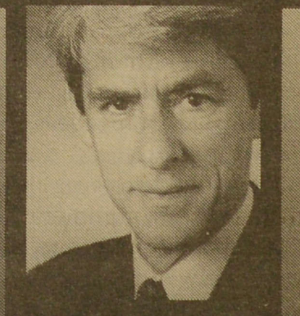
"A brilliant mix of theory and practice, this is a book you will share with your friends."

—Randy E. Barnett, Boston University School of Law

The welfare state rests on the assumption that people have the right to food, shelter, health care, retirement income, and other goods provided by the government. David Kelley examines the historical origins of that assumption, which, he shows, is deeply flawed. Welfare "rights," he argues, are incompatible with freedom, justice, and true benevolence, and they have damaged the genuine welfare of those who can least afford to become dependent on the government.

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From THE CHAIR

The importance of a good first impression

The future of Western Civilization may depend on what you do next!

Now, I don't want to put you under any undue pressure, but that statement could literally be true. Assume you're at a Libertarian Party meeting and you meet someone attending his/her first meeting. That person is potentially the first Libertarian elected President of the United States. What you say and how you conduct yourself could well be the deciding factor in whether he or she has a positive first impression of the party, joins, and becomes active — beginning a long and interesting path to the White House.

Can you imagine yourself at the first Libertarian Inauguration, being introduced as the person who welcomed the first Libertarian President into the party?

Or, the first impression could be *negative*. The person could feel unwelcome, feel that he or she doesn't fit in, or feel stupid. So the potential new member doesn't join.

We can never know what any newcomer may become in our party. Every new member could be a great candidate, a campaign manager, a productive petition circulator, a generous financial contributor, a newsletter editor, or something else valuable to the party. Every one of those roles must be filled by one who discovered the party, had a positive first impression, and joined with a motivation to become active and make a libertarian difference.

So, what can we do to ensure that newcomers feel welcome? Most often, the critical experience is when a person attends a meeting of a local LP group. Here are some "do and don't" suggestions.

Learn from successful groups like Toastmasters and service organizations. For instance, at each Toastmasters meeting, one member is the designated Greeter. The Greeter spots every new person as they arrive and introduces him or her to all the members. Members wear name tags, with any offices held. The new person is also given a name tag. Nothing sounds better than one's own name. Make it easier for current members to address the newcomer by name, and vice versa.

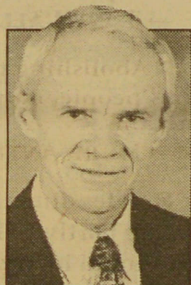
You are the messenger for the libertarian message. People respond to how you look and present yourself before they get to the content of the message. If they don't feel comfortable with you as a person, they won't be open to what you have to say. Dress, groom yourself, and converse in a way that communicates respect for other people. In other words, look professional and be professional.

Initiate contact. It is an interesting fact that a high proportion of Libertarians prefer to wait and respond, rather than take the initiative in personal interactions. A lot of us are introverts, including me. Resist your natural tendency to wait for others to come to you. Introduce yourself to newcomers and introduce them to other members.

Listen. Most people's favorite subject is themselves. Ask open-ended questions: What do you find appealing about the Libertarian Party? How did you come to your interest in Libertarian politics? What party activities might interest you? Listen to the responses, learn their interests — and encourage them to interact with other Libertarians of like mind.

Keep the membership growth objective in mind. Your primary objective should be to help the party grow. Make every newcomer welcome and that will happen.

Commit yourself to it and you might even increase your own circle of valuable Libertarian friends.



By David Bergland, LP National Chair

A real solution to homelessness: Private charity and responsibility

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 Gerald Wisz

Broadway Presbyterian Church, located in uptown New York City near Columbia University, has always had a place in its heart for the poor people in its community. That's why the church started a soup kitchen in 1980. The indigent, many of whom were drug-addicted and incapable of holding down a job, would come to the church to eat.

As time passed, other organizations — including student groups at Columbia and nearby Union Theological Seminary — also volunteered at the soup kitchen. Before long up to 250 people were eating lunch in the church's basement every day. It had become a sprawling volunteer enterprise. But even its most ardent supporters began to realize something was missing.

Chris Fay, a sexton at the church, and Bill Stewart, one of its members, were among the people at Broadway who felt frustrated with the soup kitchen concept. As the program ballooned, they noticed how the people who frequented the church's facility came only to continue in their self-destructive habits. Lunchers made no visible attempt of using the meals to sustain them until they could afford to feed themselves.

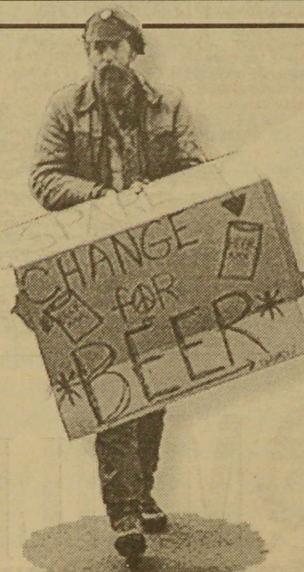
For them, the soup kitchen had become yet another entitlement; if anything it helped subsidize their dependency.

Miserly Welfare

In 1990, Stewart came across "The Miserly Welfare State," an article by Marvin Olasky in *Policy Review*. Olasky showed how the problem with the welfare state is not that it spends too much on the homeless, but that ultimately it does not — and cannot — spend enough. Minimal stipends and perfunctory bureaucratic counseling are about all the welfare state can provide a growing dependent population. These, Olasky wrote, are poor replacements for personal acts of charity that encourage self-reliance.

Charity, as earlier philanthropic organizations understood but contemporary ones have largely forgotten, empha-

LIBERTARIAN Solutions



QUESTION:

What can be done to break the cycle of homelessness?

sizes practical measures that help people help themselves.

Impressed with the article, Stewart made copies to circulate among the church's board of elders. "The article put into words what many of us were feeling for a long time but couldn't quite articulate or conceive of doing ourselves," said Stewart, who is a partner of a shipping-insurance business in midtown. "The responsibility model, instead of the welfare model, is where we knew we had to migrate."

Migrating wasn't easy. The church was divided over the issue, and compromises were made, but in the end most agreed

a different approach was needed. The soup kitchen was kept, but with the understanding that it would serve as a gateway to a responsibility-based program for those wanting to change.

Opposition came early from the Presbyterian denomination of which Broadway was a part. The regional and national officers of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) have drifted into a preoccupation with political correctness. Part of Broadway's new plan was Street Smart, a program wherein men visiting the church for food agree to sweep the sidewalks along storefronts on upper Broadway for minimum wage. If they show up for work on time, stay off substances, and cooperate with the program director, they get raises in 25-cent increments. There's also an opportunity for promotion to supervisor. Visiting presbyters from the denomination condemned the program as "racist" since participants are black.

Defend himself

Summoned before the presbytery, program organizer Chris Fay didn't even have to defend himself. John Sligh, one of the Street Smart sweepers, stood before the assembled clergy and elders — many of whom were also black — and told them how the program had taught him the importance of self-sufficiency, which gave him back his self-respect.

"He told them we, through the program, probably saved his life," Fay reported. "They didn't have a lot to say after that."

Today the New York metropolitan presbytery is among Street Smart's largest financial supporters. In operation for two-and-a-half years, Broadway's program has received only a few thousand dollars of public funds for an art therapy project. The rest is financed by private giving from within and outside the church.

Fewer people fed

The soup kitchen changed. Now fewer people are fed each day, and the church actively encourages visitors to volunteer in preparing, serving, and cleaning up after meals.

If they do so, they get food to take home. If their help continues with some consistency, they get a stipend.

Like Street Smart, the kitchen volunteer program also

See **HOMELESSNESS** Page 26

Libertarian Online 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>



THE MAILBOX

Free Market Amendment

The lawsuit to overturn Section 4507 of the Balanced Budget Act [*LP News*, December 1998] is precisely the sort of activity in which the Libertarian Party should participate. What struck me is District Judge Thomas F. Hogan's ruling that the U.S. Constitution does not confer "a fundamental right of individuals to privately contract with their physicians."

He's right. So I say it's time something was done about that. A Free Market Amendment is well past due. Let it be worded approximately like this: "Congress shall pass no law, nor the President issue any order, nor the Supreme Court render any judgment, violating the basic premise of a free market, which is the right of any natural or corporate citizen to sell or not sell, or purchase or not purchase, any product, service, or property, unhindered by federal or state interference."

The time has come for the free market to be explicitly protected by the Constitution. Then and only then will abominations like Section 4507 be prevented from passing into law.

— **RONALD PETROCCO**
Long Branch, New Jersey

Flags and contracts

I would like to offer comments about two letters in the December 1998 *LP News*.

John White wants flag desecration to be illegal because it is behavior, not free speech, and because it is similar to cross burn-

**"THE TIME HAS
come for the free
market to be
protected by the
Constitution."**

ing. However, a Libertarian code of law would punish only people who were guilty of coercion, threat of coercion, or fraud. In our culture, burning a cross or a Star of David is considered an act of intimidation — a threat of force — against a specific group of people in your town. Desecrating your own flag on your front lawn is obnoxious, but I don't see enough of a threat to pass a law.

Sherry Beltram moved into a planned urban development that has a hellish homeowners association. She says, "Since when is a petty little dictatorship a Libertarian solution to big government?" Libertarian law would guarantee Ms. Beltram and a property owner the freedom to make an honest contract; it

couldn't abolish stringent rules in a private village. Buyers of homes (or their agents) should be responsible for gathering questions, and sellers would then have to answer truthfully. Ms. Beltram didn't have time to gather questions, so she bought a pig in a poke.

— **GEORGE N. SMITH**
New Hartford, Connecticut

Read before you sign

In answer to Sherry Beltram's letter [*LP News*, December 1998], she, like many others, probably did not read the prospectus and rules and regulations she received before she bought into the homeowners' association.

No one forced her to buy there. She incarcerated herself voluntarily. Next time, read before you sign.

— **MENDEL BERNSTEIN**
Deerfield Beach, Florida

Can't simply repeal

With all due respect to Jacob Hornberger [*LP News*, December 1998], I don't think we can "simply repeal Social Security" as he seems to suggest. The country has at least a moral obligation, if not a written contract, to those whose earnings have been expropriated under the guise of a federal retirement fund.

At minimum, we should be morally obligated to refund every cent withheld from every individual's paycheck since 1935, plus the employer's contribution, plus interest, less whatever part of the sum may have

See MAILBOX Page 24

Abortion and Rights: Applying Libertarian Principles Correctly

Send \$3.00 to **Libertarians for Life**
13424 Hathaway Drive, #18
Wheaton MD 20906 • (301) 460-4141
libertarian@erols.com
<http://www.L4L.org>

THE PULSE

Triggering the "shut up" reflex

In a classic Monty Python skit, John Cleese politely asks an irritatingly talkative man to be quiet — but to no avail. Finally, in frustration, Cleese bellows, "SHUT UP!"

That's how some *LP News* readers feel when they hear other Libertarians talking about drug legalization.

In this month's unscientific Pulse survey, drug legalization emerged as the run-away plurality winner (with 19.4% of the vote) to the question: "Which one Libertarian position do you wish other Libertarians would just stop talking about?"

In a five-way tie for second place (with 5.5%) was abortion; abolishing the IRS/ taxes; flag burning; selling federal lands/national parks; and religion/morality issues.

Wait a second: *Are Libertarians selling out?* Not necessarily, since readers could wish for a "zone of silence" for many reasons—for example, because an issue is politically unpopular, or because Libertarians mangle the sales job.

Here is a representative sample of the things *LP News* readers say trigger their "shut up, already" reflex:

■ **The Drug War:** I wish we would stop talking about it so forcefully. It turns others off to the party because it takes a long time to really convince people of the moral and economic superiority of abandoning the drug war. It makes it less likely that we will be heard on our other sensible positions.

— **TONY VALLE**, Oviedo, Florida

■ **Abolishing the IRS:** It is so far beyond envisioning it scares people. I always talk about eliminating specific functions.

— **MARK ANTIEAU**, Alpharetta, Georgia

■ **Defending the Constitution.** Flaws in the Constitution are partly to blame for our lack of freedom. Libertarians should be trying to *change* the Constitution.

— **KENNETH M. HOWLETT**, Bridport, Vermont

■ **Flag-burning:** The flag is the rallying symbol for patriots across the land. Is it our intention to separate ourselves from this proud group? I say no.

— **RONALD PETROCCO**, Long Branch, New Jersey

■ **Any absolutist position on high-profile issues.** Politics is the art of compromise, and we will never be given an opportunity to practice it if voters see us as uncompromising extremists.

— **RON PETRIE**, Lakewood, Ohio

■ **Militant negativity.** Nobody cares what we condemn, denounce, or reject. They want to know what we can do to make things *better* and not what we intend to tear down.

— **JOHN STANTON**, Houston, Texas

■ **Drug legalization:** Freedom means the right to make choices, good and bad. I just think that more time should be spent advocating the "good" choices, or at least not advocating the "bad" choices people make.

— **CHRIS HOUMAN**, Lawrenceville, Georgia

■ **Abortion:** To me, and millions of other Americans, taking the life of a defenseless baby, either after it is born or before, is murder. That's the one thing that keeps thousands (maybe millions) from joining the Libertarian Party.

— **JOHN. E. MCCLESKEY**, Seminole, Texas

■ **Smoking.** Smoking is optional; breathing is not. Support for the tobacco industry is self-destructive. The LP's support for tobacco isn't principled. It's stupid.

— **DON H. WACKER**, Issaquah, Washington

■ **"Single-issue Libertarians."** The defense of individual freedom is a broad issue and the battle cannot be won by focusing narrowly on personal pet peeves.

— **RON PARIS**, Santa Rosa, California

THE MAILBOX

Continued from Page 23

already been paid to the retired worker.

Does Mr. Hornberger's proposal suggest we simply jerk the rug and see where everyone falls, or does it just sound that way?

— GRANT W. KUHN
Carlsbad, California

Devastated

"Why-not Simply Repeal Social Security?" asks Jacob G. Hornberger in the December LP News.

Mr. Hornberger is not old enough to have had a considerable amount of his potential savings taken by government law in support of this Ponzi Scheme to be concerned about having enough assets on hand to handle

his retirement — if he saves and invests his money wisely.

Certainly there are many 60 and over who, because of economic factors beyond their control, cannot overcome the gap in savings caused by the government action before retirement. Many others over 50 will not be able to amass sufficient assets to enjoy a lengthy retirement. The funds for savings simply will not be there.

Therefore, the discontinuance of Social Security must be accompanied by a program which will provide for them at least comparable income to what they would have under the current system.

[Social Security] is a socialistic program. That does not mean that those who had to contrib-

ute to it — even as Mr. Hornberger does today — should be devastated when it is repealed.

— ROBERT G. FLETCHER
Edina, Minnesota

■ **Editor's note:** Mr. Hornberger's essay was a paid advertisement from the Future of Freedom Foundation.

Quoting Scripture

I read with great interest "Even a Libertarian can quote Scripture" which appeared in Political News in the December 1998 issue of LP News. I mean no disrespect when I ask: "Is it important that Libertarians quote Scripture accurately?"

My point in writing is not to nit-pick, but to assist Libertarians in not being perceived as people using Scripture to suit our own purposes.

Mr. Cloud refers to what is called the Temptation of Jesus Christ. This is recorded in the three synoptic Gospels: Matthew 4:1-11, Mark 1:13, and Luke 4:1-13.

None of these texts say Satan showed Christ "seven kingdoms of the world" as Cloud states. The text literally says: "All the kingdoms of the inhabited earth."

In addition, Cloud misquotes Christ as responding: "My kingdom is not of this world." Christ informs Satan that He cannot worship Him because: "You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only."

Despite these misquotations, is Mr. Cloud correct in concluding that "Jesus turned down political power"?

In a sense yes, but we have to be careful here. One rule of thumb in Christian didactics is to never draw authoritative conclusions on anything the Devil says. Satan was making a mere offer of "swamp land" to Christ. In short, Christ as the Creator of the universe already owns everything (John 1:1-3). That's why Christ ignores Satan's offer and focuses on the greater issue, namely, who is to be worshipped.

It is important that Libertarians understand these things and accurately quote Scripture if we are to be understood and appreciated by Christian people.

I am open to assisting Libertarians in reaching out to Christians and invite them to consider

See MAILBOX Page 26

Teachers!

Looking for a great pro-libertarian novel to use in class? Order MINUTEMEN NEWS (a satire on TV news) by Joseph Berry. Send \$21.95 to Legend Books P.O. Box 1216, Auburn, NY 13021 <http://www.amazon.com>

More UPCOMING EVENTS

March 13-14, 1999

1999 Freedom Rally, Sheraton Hotel, Newport Beach, California. Sponsored by the Freedom Law School and the LP of Orange County. Speakers include Shelley Davis (author of *Unbridled Power*), former Congressman George Hansen, and Bill Conklin (tax expert). For information, call (714) 838-2896.

March 13-14, 1999

Success '99 Seminar, Dallas, Texas. For information or to register, call the Balcom Group at (202) 234-3880.

March 19-21, 1999

Pennsylvania LP Convention, Pittsburgh Holiday Inn Airport, Pittsburgh. Speakers include Dimitri Vassilaros (radio talk show host), Julian Heiklen (campus marijuana "smoke outs"), Felix Livingston, Ph.D (Foundation for Economic Education), and Sharon Harris (Advocates for Self-Government). For information, call: (724) 935-4937. E-mail: ckg@usaor.net.

March 20-21, 1999

Success '99 Seminar, Columbia, South Carolina. For information/registration, call the Balcom Group at (202) 234-3880.

March 27, 1999

New Jersey LP Convention, National Conference Center at the Ramada Inn, East Windsor. Speakers include Jacob Hornberger (Future of Freedom Foundation), Tanya Kangas (NORML), Elizabeth Macron (Libertarian attorney), and Michael Buoncristiano ("Marketing Liberty"). For information: chair@njlp.org. Website: www.lp.njlp.org.

April 10-11, 1999

Minnesota LP Convention, Mystic Lake Casino Hotel, Prior Lake. Speakers include Jacob Hornberger (Future of Freedom Foundation), Tom Palmer (Cato Institute), and Gene Cisewski (Liberty Council). For information, call (800) 788-2660. E-mail: Southpaw2@aol.com.

April 10-11, 1999

Alabama LP Convention, Ramada Inn East, Montgomery. Speakers TBA. For information, call Charles Russell at (334) 279-6750 or (888) 838-1775. E-mail: libertyckr@earthlink.net.

April 17, 1999

Massachusetts LP Convention, Renaissance Bedford Hotel, Bedford. Speakers include Gene Burns (radio talk show host), Harry Browne (1996 LP presidential candidate), Jacob Hornberger (Future of Freedom Foundation), Michael Cloud (Libertarian communications guru), and Shelley Davis (author of the IRS expose, *Unbridled Power*). For information, call Elaine Berchin at (508) 634-9684. E-mail: eberchin@la-ma.org.

April 17-18, 1999

Success '99 Seminar, New Orleans, Louisiana. For information or to register, call the Balcom Group at (202) 234-3880.

April 23-25, 1999

North Carolina LP Convention, Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort, Asheville. Speakers include Mark Tuniewicz (Libertarian National Committee Treasurer). For information, call Candi Copas at (919) 644-1594. E-mail: ccopas@lpnc.org. Website: <http://www.lpnc.org>.

April 23-25, 1999

Colorado LP Convention, Sheraton Denver West Hotel, Denver. Speakers include Nathaniel Branden (author of *Judgment Day: My Years with Ayn Rand*), Dr. Mary Ruwart (author of *Healing Our World*), and Barbara Goushaw. For information, call: (303) 639-5530. E-mail: BetteRose@aol.com.

April 24-25, 1999

Arizona LP Convention, Sheraton Tucson Hotel, Tucson. Speakers include Jacob Hornberger (Future of Freedom Foundation) and Vin Suprynowicz (syndicated columnist). For information, call: (602) 248-8583. E-mail: kvc@compuserve.com.

THE PULSE

April Question: The Death Penalty?

From A to Z — agriculture to zoning — the Libertarian Party platform tackles every imaginable political topic. *Almost*. Conspicuous by its absence is one major "hot button" issue — the death penalty, on which the LP takes no official position. Why? Because it's one of those rare issues where there is no obvious Libertarian position. Some Libertarians favor the death penalty, arguing that it is the only fitting punishment for some crimes, such as murder. Other Libertarians oppose it, arguing that it puts too much power — the power of life and death — in the hands of the government.

■ **QUESTION:** Should the LP take a position on the death penalty? If so, should we be for it, against it, or something else? (Please limit answers to 100 words.)

■ **DEADLINE:** March 5, 1999

March Question: Libertarian Hero?

Maybe it's the author of an influential book that opened your eyes politically. Maybe it's a Libertarian Party candidate who got you excited about liberty. Maybe it's one of our nation's Founding Fathers. Maybe it's a spokesperson for a libertarian think tank. Maybe it's a relative who exposed you to the freedom philosophy at an early age. Maybe it's a free-market economist. In other words, it's your Libertarian "hero" — a person you respect for their work for liberty ... and for the influence they've had on your life.

■ **QUESTION:** Who is your "libertarian hero" — the person in the freedom movement (living or dead) that you most admire? And why? (Limit answers to 100 words.)

■ **DEADLINE:** February 5, 1999

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

■ E-mail: 73163.3063@compuserve.com. (Please include "Pulse" in subject line.)

■ Fax: (202) 333-0072 (Attn: The Pulse).

■ Mail: Libertarian Party, Attn: LP News/The Pulse, 2600 Virginia Avenue, NW, Suite 100, Washington DC 20037

LITERATURE BUTTONS & MUCH MORE!

Libertarian Party Literature

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bumperstickers

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

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

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

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

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

Buttons

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

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

■ **Vote Libertarian** 1-800-682-1776

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

Miscellaneous Items

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

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

■ **Liberty Teddy Bear:** 12" high. Brown bear, blue shirt. "Liberty Bear" on front. **Cost:** \$20.

Tools for Campaigning

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

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

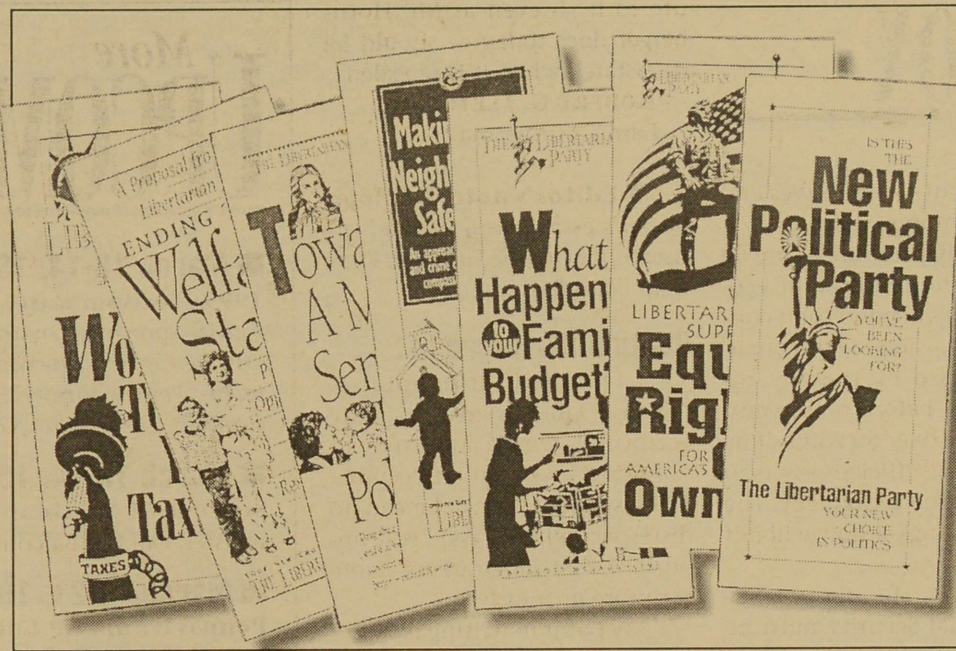
■ **LP Statue of Liberty Logo on PC Disk:** 3-1/2 inch DOS-compatible computer disk. **Cost:** \$3 each

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

Large & Small Banners

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

■ **Large Banner.** (18" x 5'). White on blue. First line "Libertarian Party." You choose second line: ★ "800-682-1776" ★ "Defenders of Liberty." **Cost:** \$40 each



Libertarian "Full House"

Next time you're doing outreach work for the Libertarian Party, don't gamble on success. Instead, put the odds in your favor with top-notch, effective literature.

That's exactly what we offer for sale: A "full house" of effective and colorful brochures that explain and "sell" Libertarian positions — and turn browsers into new Libertarian Party members, activists, and candidates.

Each brochure is written and designed by professionals, and printed in two colors on high-quality paper. They tackle the important issues that people care about: Taxes. Crime prevention. Drug Prohibition. The Second Amendment.

Best of all, they're inexpensive: For just 7¢ each (in quantities of 100 or more), you can deal a winning hand of literature at your next LP outreach booth or meeting.

In the high-stakes game of politics — where the jackpot is our freedom — you want the odds on your side... and you can't lose with the "lucky seven" brochures we offer for sale! Put them to work for liberty today!

COST:
\$7 per 100
Sample:
50¢ each

■ **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 general audience.

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

Yard Sign

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

Cost: \$8.00 each.

■ **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¢
Or \$7 for 100

Tired of big government & high taxes?
Call the Libertarian Party
Toll free (800) 682-1776

LP Stickers!

Promote the LP with these 5/8" x 2-1/8" stickers! (24 per sheet.) **Cost:** 4 sheets for \$1. Or 25 sheets for \$5

**HOW TO
PLACE
YOUR
ORDER**



By phone...

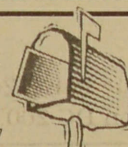
(202) 333-0008 Ext. 221

(202) 333-0072 by fax



By mail...

The Libertarian Party
2600 Virginia Avenue,
NW, Suite 100
Washington, DC 20037



ORDER FORM

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

Ready-to-use Literature

Quantity	Amount
_____	Ain't Nobody's Business If You Do book
_____	Brochure: "Is This the New Political Party...?"
_____	Brochure: "Towards More Sensible Drug Policy"
_____	Brochure: "What Happened/Your Family Budget?"
_____	Brochure: "Ending the Welfare State"
_____	Brochure: "Making Neighborhood Safe Again"
_____	Brochure: "Equal Rights/America's Gun Owners"
_____	Brochure: "Working to Cut Your Taxes!"
_____	Flyer: "Political Party/100% Pro-Gun Rights?"
_____	Why Government Doesn't Work book
_____	Libertarianism In One Lesson book
_____	<i>America's Libertarian Heritage</i> booklet
_____	Million Dollar Bill Literature
_____	Fact Sheets: LP history/bibliography (package)
_____	1995 LP Program
_____	World's Smallest Political Quiz

Yard Signs

_____ ENOUGH IS ENOUGH/Vote Libertarian

Bumper Stickers

_____ Don't Blame Me... I Voted Libertarian

_____ I'm Pro-Choice on Everything!

_____ ENOUGH IS ENOUGH/VOTE LIBERTARIAN

_____ Vote Libertarian/1-800-682-1776

Buttons

_____ Don't Blame Me, I Voted Libertarian

_____ VOTE LIBERTARIAN/800-682-1776

_____ Libertarian Party: Pro-Choice on Everything

Miscellaneous Items

_____ Sheets of LP stickers (24 per sheet)

_____ Lined windbreaker. Circle one: M L XL

_____ "Liberty" Teddy Bear

Tools for Campaigning

_____ Libertarian TV Ads Video

_____ Statue of Liberty logo master

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

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

Large & Small Banners

_____ Large: "LIBERTARIAN PARTY" (18" h x 5' w)
Please check preferred second line:
☐ Defenders of Liberty ☐ 1-800-682-1776

_____ Small: "LIBERTARIAN PARTY" (12" h x 5' w).

Total Due

_____	Merchandise Total
_____	RUSH handling: Add \$5 for same-day shipping
_____	RUSH shipping: Call office to arrange
_____	Send to a Post Office Box: \$5 extra
_____	TOTAL PAYMENT DUE

☐ Cash, check, or money order enclosed (No corporate checks!)

☐ Bill my Visa ☐ Bill my MasterCard

Acct. # _____

Expires _____ Signature _____

Name _____

Membership ID# (On label) _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Occupation _____

Employer _____

THE MAILBOX

Continued from Page 24

joining the Libertarian Party. One way to start learning how is to visit my web site: <http://members.aol.com/RevSteveS/WhyJoinLP.html>.

— **REV. STEVE SCHEIDERER**
Reno, Nevada

Christmas surprise

During Christmas, I was introduced to a distant relative of mine who is a State Department employee. She works in a country in Central America processing immigration requests.

I figured someone who spends her days keeping peaceful people from crossing borders freely would believe in government solutions to everything and that discussing political philosophy with such a person would be a great way to keep the evening interesting.

We began talking. After a few

minutes of friendly discussion, I decided to move the conversation more toward politics.

"What kinds of problems are they dealing with in that country?" I asked.

"Government corruption," she answered. I was quite surprised. As a Libertarian I know that government is #1 on the list of problems, but I certainly wasn't expecting a State Department employee to think that.

I nodded silently. She proceeded to explain how the politicians there manipulate the political process, restrict the freedoms of people, and stifle the economy.

It was obvious she realized that government does not work in that country, but I thought she might think the U.S. government is the magical exception, so I asked her about the effectiveness of U.S. policies abroad.

Her response was quick and critical. She said that most of the U.S. intervention she has seen goes to the group that is most able to manipulate the interventionist process rather than to those it was intended to help.

Finally I told her I was a Libertarian. She had no clue what that meant. I proceeded to explain that we believe that liberty works better than government — and to prove my point, I used the examples she had just given me about her own experiences around the world.

I then gave her The World's Smallest Political Quiz and she came out a Libertarian! I was very excited. If a State Department employee can think like a Libertarian, who's next?

Before you know it, tolerance will be the norm, the Constitution will be the law, and "Peace on Earth" will be more than just a holiday slogan.

— **JAMES MADISON**
Middletown, Connecticut

Don't need more laws

A response to John White's letter [LP News, December 1998].

If you are carrying a flag and someone takes it away from you, that person has violated your freedom to carry the flag. If you display the flag in your front yard and someone touches a match to your flag, you have a right to sue because someone has damaged your property. If he has taken your flag away from you, he has stolen your property.

We don't need any more laws. We sure don't need a constitutional amendment about

the flag. I personally would desecrate a flag in public if such a law or amendment was passed. You would create even more problems trying to enforce such a goofy amendment.

Yes I am a veteran, of the Korean War — you know, the police action that killed 57,000 kids. I ended up paralyzed from the neck down, so you tell me about making sacrifices for one's country. I was lucky I did recover from my injuries, however.

— **JOHN F. GREEN**
Napoleon, Ohio

"WE DON'T NEED a Constitutional amendment about the flag."

Y2K opportunity

Whatever the extent of Y2K related problems that actually develops, there is one thing for certain: The private sector will be up and running smoothly before much of the government sector. Y2K will be a fantastic opportunity to promote and achieve privatization. So let's start planning for taking advantage of that opportunity and stop arguing about how bad it will or will not be.

Somebody want to start the "Y2K Privatization Coalition"? Contact me at CarolMoore@kreative.net.

— **CAROL MOORE**
Washington, DC

Education challenge

The most daunting challenge to the forthcoming Libertarian "revolution" is the nation of obedient, loyal citizens our government-run schools have indoctrinated into a socialist mind-set and keep churning out to perpetuate our statist society.

Government-run schools embed in children's minds the notion that the individual's interests are inferior to the good of the group or nation, teach an anti-capitalist version of history, and further ingrain in young minds the politically correct ideology which makes libertarian philosophy appear backwards and radical.

Not surprisingly, it often is difficult to get citizens who are the product of government-run schools to open their minds to Libertarianism, let alone adopt it as their own way of thinking.

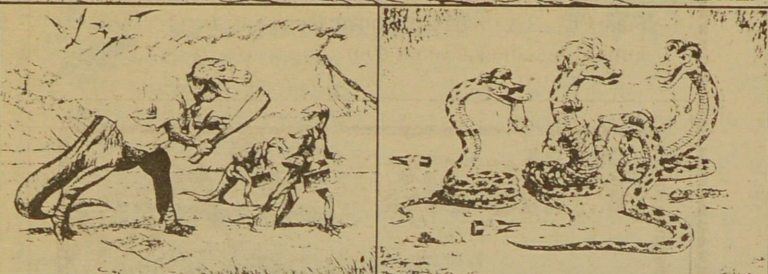
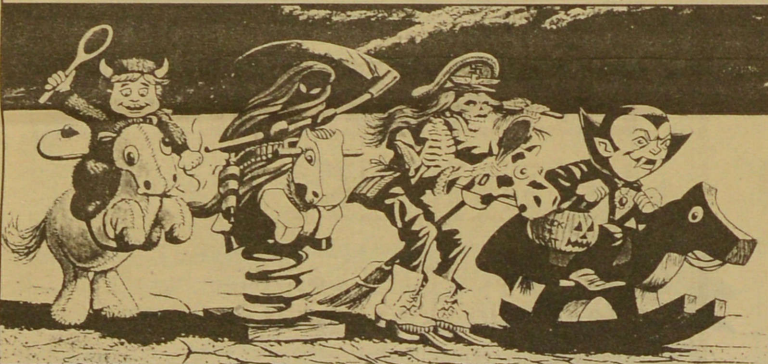
How can we overcome this? We must, through private funding, out-compete the government-run schools and put them out of business!

In L.E.A.R.N., Dr. Bob Sheckler puts forth a plan that can do just that.

I would like to encourage all my fellow Libertarians who are deeply devoted to the long-term success of our movement and the freedom of our grandchildren and successive generations of Americans to get a copy of Dr. Sheckler's L.E.A.R.N. book and consider joining the effort as a Chapter Chairperson in your area.

— **JON ENGSTROM**
Troy, Ohio

Jurassic Horde Whisperer of Madness County



This new novel by Titus Stauffer is a wacky tale of lawyersaurs, Quart Low Trackers, Ale Run Hubba-Bubba and His Church of Omnology, Panderwood, and officials at THEMNOTUS and NADGRAB run amuck. A tale so utterly bizarre as to defy all rationality. A tale beyond belief. But then we get to the annotated end portion of the book and we see that *Jurassic Horde Whisperer of Madness County* is based on FACTS - facts too irrational, crazy and destructive to be pure fiction. Church, State, Media, and Hollyweird have provided all the madness spoofed here. Fun, yes, but also a disturbing warning about how destructive irrationality runs rampant in our modern, supposedly enlightened scientific age.

Other works by Titus Stauffer: *Bats in the Belfry*, *By Design* is a near-future hard science fiction novel about a U.S. weapons designer who regrets helping a freedom fearing government. *Freedom From Freedom* is a sequel which continues to throw pointed barbs at many who fear real freedom.

Available through: **Barnes & Noble**, www.amazon.com, or order directly from: **FreeVoice Publishing**
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The only real homelessness solution

Continued from Page 22 provides avenues for raises and advancement.

There is a Bible study — distinct from Broadway Community, Inc., the nonprofit umbrella organization that runs the program — where participants receive spiritual nurture. The Bible study, like other aspects of Broadway's outreach, is purely voluntary. If there are serious problems like severe drug addiction, however, participants are referred to a city agency.

Broadway has worked with 15 people this year, and of these Moira Ojeda, the program director, said she thinks "seven are going to make it." Two already have jobs outside the church program. Last year, one received his commercial driver's license and is now driving a truck full time.

Participants in the program draw up a "covenant" with Ojeda. They list goals, what they plan to do to accomplish them,

"TEACHING responsibility step-by-step has worked."

and report to Ojeda periodically to review their progress. The covenants are signed, and are expected to be kept.

Achieving a goal

"Once progress is made in achieving a goal, and reported to me and the group at large, we move onto the next one, which is built on the previous one," Ojeda said. What state welfare office, even with all the "two-years-and-out" talk, does this?

Teaching responsibility step-by-step has worked. The numbers are small, but the change in

lives seems permanent. But Bill Stewart is not too concerned about the numbers right now.

"While we're sure we won't succeed with everyone, we're sure we'll succeed with many," he said of the two-and-half year-old program.

"We're not trying to solve society's problems, but we're trying to develop a model that succeeds with people willing to make a change in their lives — to lift themselves out of alcohol, drugs, degradation, and despair and come back into a community of family, friends, and the working world. If we can point to this and say that it works, we'll spread it as wide as we can."

■ **Gerald Wisz** is a journalist in New York City. Reprinted with permission from Private Means, Public Ends: Volunteerism vs. Coercion (1996), published by the Foundation for Economic Education, Irvington-on-Hudson.

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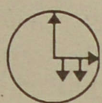
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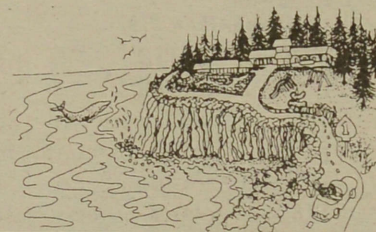
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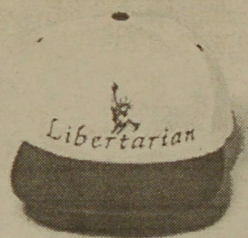
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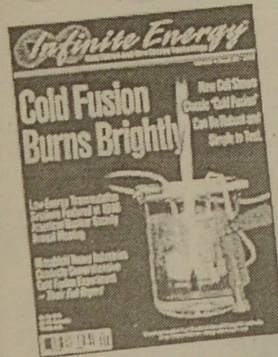
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UPCOMING EVENTS

January 30-31, 1999

"War and the Art of Politics" Seminar, Country Inn & Suites Hotel, Wyomissing, Pennsylvania. The event is "a strategic exercise combined with a real-time campaign simulation that will introduce you to high-pressure real-world politics," said organizer David Kamioner. Cost: \$75. For information or to register, call (610) 376-8615. E-mail: kamioner@hotmail.com. Write: Kamioner & Associates, 2201 Ridgewood Road, Suite 310, Wyomissing, PA, 19610.

February 6-7, 1999

Success '99 Libertarian Leadership Training Seminar, Holiday Inn Express Seatac, Seattle, Washington. Speakers include Steve Dasbach (LP National Director), Jim Lark (college organizing expert), and Michael Cloud (Libertarian communications guru). For information or to register, call the Balcom Group at (202) 234-3880.

February 12-15, 1999

California LP Convention, DoubleTree Hotel, San Jose. Speakers include Marshall Fritz (Separation of School and State Alliance), John R. Lott (author of *More Guns, Less Crime*), David Brin (award-winning science fiction author), Ron Unz (software entrepreneur), Dan Fylstra (President, Frontline Systems, Inc.), T.J. Rodgers (CEO of Cypress Semiconductor), David Friedman, and Richard Winger (publisher of *Ballot Access News*). For information, call (510) 352-9469. E-mail: convention@ca.lp.org. Or register online at <http://www.ca.lp.org>.

February 20-21, 1999

Success '99 Libertarian Leadership Training Seminar, Holiday Inn Select Baltimore North, Baltimore, Maryland. Speakers include Steve Dasbach (LP National Director), Bill Winter (LP Communications Director), and Barbara Goushaw (founder, Libertarian Campaign Managers Association of Michigan). For information or to register, call the Balcom Group at (202) 234-3880.

February 20-22, 1999

Mississippi LP Convention, Holiday Inn Coliseum, Biloxi. Speakers include Harry Browne (1996 LP presidential candidate), Jim Lark (campus organizing expert), Elliot Shaw, and Jacob Hornberger (Future of Freedom Foundation). For information, call convention coordinator Jim Smith at (228) 392-3204. Or write: 7122 Princeton Drive, Biloxi, MS 39532.

February 27-28, 1999

Success '99 Libertarian Leadership Training Seminar, Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina. Speakers include Steve Dasbach (LP National Director) and Jim Lark (college organizing expert). For information/registration, call the Balcom Group at (202) 234-3880.

March 6, 1999

Delaware LP Convention, The Wayside Inn, Smyrna. Speakers: TBA. For information, call Brad Thomas at (302) 834-3596. E-mail: bradct@delanet.com. Website: www.de.lp.org.

■ For additional Upcoming Events, see page 24.

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■ **PAGE 1** Libertarian voter registration jumps by 12.3%

■ **PAGE 4** The LP of New Mexico develops 'major' political goals



FIRST WORD

"The Democrats say the Republicans are corrupt. The Republicans say the Democrats are crooked. Funny, but they're both right. Happily, the cavalry is coming — in the form of the Libertarians. They could be a major party in 2000. They want to get government out of our lives. I believe that within a few years, the Libertarians will be one of the two major parties."

— GUY CURTIS, *The North Platte Telegraph* (Nebraska)
November 25, 1998

"The Libertarian Party, the third-largest political party, is capturing new converts every election."

— *North Hills News Record* (Pennsylvania), November 1, 1998