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24 Advocating 'good government' laws

Convention may be 'standing room only'

The Libertarian Party's upcoming national convention, scheduled for Memorial Day weekend in Atlanta, is shaping up to be an action-packed, standing-room-only event, full of exciting speakers and entertainers and featuring the most hotly contested presidential nomination fight in two decades.

With close to 500 delegates pre-registered as of April 14, the party is on pace to have more than 700 delegates attend the event, which will be held at the Marriott Marquis in downtown Atlanta. That would be a 10 percent increase over the 2002 convention held in Indianapolis, according to National Chair Geoffrey Neale.

"This is shaping up to be an extremely exciting time," LP Executive Director Joe Seehusen said of the convention, at which delegates will select the party's candidate for president.

Up to 40 percent of the delegates

to past conventions registered at the door rather than pre-registering — which makes it difficult to know how many to expect this year, Seehusen noted.

"We've still got well over a month left and more than 450 people have registered already," he said. "If the convention was held today and we had 35 or 40 percent register at the door, we'd have as many delegates as we did last year. And there's still plenty of time left before the convention. I really think we're going to pack the convention hall!"

A "very hotly contested race" for the Libertarian presidential nomination is fueling interest in the convention, Neale said.

There are seven candidates for the LP's nomination for president, and "there are some that have been campaigning hard for up to a year," he noted. "I'm going to be very surprised if it's won on the first ballot, and I can't remember the last time that happened."



■ Twenty students from American University's Washington Semester program visited LP national headquarters April 2, where National staff spoke to them on a variety of topics. Operations Manager Rod Severson, at right, described his experiences running for office as a Libertarian.

In coming weeks, the LP could see another rush of delegates signing up for the event, Neale added.

"In the past, our delegates often didn't sign up for the national convention until after their state conventions," he said. "This year, most of the state conventions are being held at about the same times they usually are, while the national

convention has been moved forward five weeks.

"We're still not sure how that's going to affect the convention, but I expect many people to sign up after their state conventions — and that will push our delegate numbers up even further."

Delegates to the event, which See **CONVENTION** Page 2

Quest for LP presidential nomination heats up

With the Libertarian Party's national convention only weeks away, the candidates for the LP nomination for president have been steadily campaigning — drumming up the support they'll need to get on ballots this November as the nationwide LP candidate.

Delegates to the convention in Atlanta, Ga., on May 27-31 will select the party's candidate for president.

"The quest for the Libertarian nomination is heating up and promises to be very hotly contested," said Libertarian Party Chair Geoffrey Neale.

"We've got some very serious candidates, some of whom have been working on their campaigns for a full year."

Following a debate between candidates Michael Badnarik, Gary Nolan and Aaron Russo in Chattanooga, Tenn., on March 1, Hamilton County LP chair Trevor Southerland noted that these three candidates agreed on most issues.

"Any one of these gentleman would do a grand job representing us, and Atlanta should be very interesting," he said.

See **CANDIDATES** Page 20

Mail campaign appeals to former LP members; 771 rejoin national party

A targeted direct-mail campaign by LP national headquarters has succeeded in bringing 771 lapsed members back into the party over the past year and caused overall membership numbers to rise for the first time in nine months.

From the end of February to the end of March, 2004, the number of LP members and subscribers rose from 20,647 to 20,967 — an increase of 320 people in a single month. That is the first increase in monthly membership since July 2003.

"It's nice to have a boost in membership as we head into the 2004 convention and campaign season," said LP Executive Director Joseph Seehusen. "Though the absolute numbers are relatively small, we're finally moving in a positive direction."

The March membership increase can be attributed to a recruitment letter mailed to 20,000 lapsed members in late February, he said.

"Without an active recruitment drive under way, we lose from 1 to 2 percent of our members each month due to natural attrition," he said. "That particular letter generated enough of a response to make up for members we lost and move us into positive territory."

“These people were just waiting to be asked to rejoin.”

The February appeal was the most recent in a series of mailings targeted to lapsed members.

"Our direct mail consultant, Daniel Lewis, pointed out that the most

cost-effective way for nonprofits to rebuild their membership base is to recruit lapsed members, who have the highest propensity to join," Seehusen said.

"The first appeal was mailed in July 2003, and did so well that we decided to embark on a sustained effort to bring as many lapsed members as possible back into the fold."

Specifically, the LP sent out five mailings to former members and contributors between July 2003 and February 2004. The result: a total of 771 individuals sent in checks to rejoin.

"The real significance is that our state and local affiliates now have 771 more potential candidates, activists and contributors than before," he said. "Now we have a bigger political army with which to make an impact in the upcoming election."

Lewis, whose Virginia-based firm ran two of the highest-grossing Senate fund-raising campaigns

in history, says, "The national LP has implemented one of the most successful programs to recapture lapsed members I've ever seen. Usually, when an organization mails to lapsed supporters, you expect only a response rate of 1 to 2 percent. The LP is getting double to triple that response — and sometimes more — which makes this a wildly successful campaign."

Lewis also noted that the average gift of \$56 is "exceptionally high by industry standards — indicating that these people were just waiting to be asked to re-join."

Seehusen expects to continue the outreach project.

"Rule number one in business is that if you're doing something that works, keep doing it. We're going to keep reaching out to our former members until we've contacted every single one who wants to come home. Then it's time to start an aggressive prospecting campaign outside the party as well."

NEWS BRIEFS

Southerland declares candidacy for LNC

Trevor Southerland, chair of the Hamilton County, Tenn., LP, has announced his candidacy for an at-large representative position on the LNC.

Southerland has been an active Libertarian for several years: He joined the LP at the age of 14. At 15, he was elected chair of a county affiliate in Georgia and the same year was elected to the Libertarian Party of Georgia's Executive Committee as the Affiliate Development Director. In 2002, he was a speaker at the LP Convention banquet in Indianapolis.

Since then Southerland has moved to Tennessee to attend college where he is currently serving as president of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga's Campus Libertarians. Southerland is also the editor for the Voice of Freedom, Tennessee's Libertarian newsletter, and is a member of the LP's 2004 Platform Committee.

"I'm running for the LNC because this is make-or-break time for the Libertarian Party," he said. "We have a golden opportunity. With the huge national debt, taxes continually rising and American soldiers being shot and killed every day ... this is the time for the Libertarian Party to shine. This is our chance. What are we going to choose to do?"

One motto Southerland uses is "Individualists unite!"

"I might disagree with another Libertarian, but I still agree with them more than with a Democrat or a Republican," he said. "It's time for this stupid and childish in-party fighting to end. We need to put all of this bickering behind us and move on. We need to be the political alternative for America and now is the time."

Southerland can be contacted at TrevSoutherland@aol.com; at 848 McCallie Ave. #4, Chattanooga, TN, 37403; or at www.trevorsoutherland.net.

Sullentrup running for LNC secretary

Missouri LP chair Bob Sullentrup has announced his candidacy for the position of secretary of the LNC, for which elections will be held at the LP's annual convention in Atlanta.

After six years in the position, current secretary Steve Givot is not running for re-election.

Sullentrup said he hopes to "lead by example and to honor my word. The most valuable practice for an activist is to keep his commitments."

Part of the job's requirement is to produce minutes of the LNC's quarterly meetings within a month after the meeting — a task Sullentrup said he is committed to having done within two weeks of each meeting.

"My work products will be professional, timely, and complete," he said. "In so doing, the serious and substantial undertaking to which the LNC addresses itself, that of restoring Liberty to America, will have the professional services from that office that it deserves."

Sullentrup has distinguished himself as the author of a set of comprehensive reports from the annual LP state chairs' conferences from 2001 to 2004.

The reports demonstrate his abilities, which were noted by his fellow state chairs. As a result, several of the other state chairs urged Sullentrup to seek the secretary's office.

LNC member Mark Cenci of Maine noted that Sullentrup "takes initiative and in his quiet way gets things accomplished. We need that."

Since Sullentrup joined the LP in 1993, he has been involved in OPH outreach booths, tax day protests, county and state organizational meetings, newsletter production and many other aspects of activism. In addition, he organized the last five Missouri LP conventions and recently produced one-third of an 80-page manual documenting the state LP's operations.

In 1999, Sullentrup was elected vice chair of the Missouri LP, then succeeded Jim Givens as chair in March, 2001. In 2002 he became District 8 LNC alternate representative.

In 2000 the Missouri LP recognized Sullentrup's volunteer service, bestowing him with its "Champion of Freedom" award.

The state chairs' conferences have spawned the Libertarian State Leadership Alliance (LSLA) as state organizations assume more responsibility. In addition to having been the group's amanuensis (secretarial slave, a term called to his attention by former LNC Chair Jim Lark), Sullentrup is a Steering Committee member and will have a significant part in organizing the next conference slated for St. Louis in January 2005.

His list of endorsements for the LNC secretary position includes 20 state chairs.

Sullentrup is a graduate of the University of Chicago with a BA in mathematics and an MBA.

Convention may be a full house

Continued from Page 1

will run from May 27-31, will also choose the party's vice presidential nominee, elect a new national chair and national committee, and vote on changes to the party's Platform.

Because each of the four national officers — Chairman Neale, Vice Chair Ken Bisson, Secretary Steve Givot and Treasurer Bill Redpath — have announced they are not seeking re-election, the field is wide open for those positions, further heightening delegates' interest.

The extensive and sometimes controversial list of speakers includes Carl Pope, executive director of the Sierra Club, which many Libertarians have criticized as a "leftist" organization; and nationally syndicated radio talkmeister Neil Boortz, whose pro-Iraq war views have angered many in the party.

Other speakers include author James Bovard; California Superior Court Judge James Gray, a high-profile critic of the War on Drugs; and former sheriff Richard Mack, who

line a "Red, Rock and Blues" concert on Friday, May 28.

"We've never had an entertainment event with a big name like Jimmie Vaughan before, and I think that's going to bring a lot of people who otherwise might not have come," Neale said.

Candidates for the presidential nomination, which will be determined by delegates on May 30, include Hollywood producer Aaron Russo; former syndicated radio talk host Gary Nolan; constitutional law teacher Michael Badnarik of Austin, Texas; Louisiana LP activist Jeffrey Diket; former California congressional candidate Dave Hollist; Nevada Libertarian Jim Burns; and Ruben Perez, of San Antonio, Texas.

"Honestly, I think this is going to be one of the most exciting events we've ever had. I can't wait."

**I REALLY THINK
we're going to
pack the
convention hall!**

—JOE SEEHUSEN

rocketed to national fame by challenging the Brady Bill in the U.S. Supreme Court.

Grammy Award-winning blues guitarist Jimmie Vaughan will head-

Cox running against tax-hiking Republican for Oregon state house seat

Oregon Libertarian Tom Cox is following up on his promise: He said last year — when he was chairman of the state Libertarian Party — that Republican legislators in his state who voted to approve a tax hike would be opposed when they came up for re-election. He is now running against one of those Republicans.

And his move has been noted — and applauded — by local media and lawmakers alike.

The *Salem Statesman Journal*, in the capital city, pointed out that both Libertarians and some Republicans said they would do their utmost to kick those lawmakers out of office, but that Republicans had not stepped up to the plate to challenge GOP incumbents.

Only Libertarians are fielding opposition to the 10 tax-increasing Republicans, and Cox stands a good chance of winning his campaign against incumbent Rep. Mary Gallegos for the state House District 29 seat, the *Statesman Journal* reported.



■ Tom Cox: Kick out tax-hikers

Cox ran a high-profile gubernatorial race in 2002, then was a spokesman on three state-wide ballot initiatives — including Measure 30, which would have raised taxes by \$1.2 billion over three years — so he enjoys strong name recognition in the state.

The facts that Measure 30 was defeated in February by 59 percent of the state's voters and that the Libertarians were given much media attention in the tax hike's defeat shed an even more positive light on

Cox's race, since he was a primary opponent of the measure.

Cox also has the public support of at least three incumbent legislators: "He's had several Republicans coming to him, saying 'I think you have a real good shot at this,'" said Elizabeth "Pith" Lourdes, one of Cox's campaign workers.

"We have an extremely good chance against Gallegos," Lourdes said. "She is not doing an entirely bad job, but she voted to raise taxes a couple of times."

And those tax-raising votes are enough reason to want any incumbent out of office, she said.

"Gallegos is a very nice lady, but nice doesn't get the job done," she added. "She was under pressure, and she took the easy way out."

Two Democrats — Chuck Riley and Elena Uhing — have also filed in the District 29 primary. Riley was the party's nominee in 2002, when Gallegos won her first term.

Cox doesn't have to run in the primary, making for a three-way race in November.

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The Mission Statement of the Libertarian Party: "To move public policy in a libertarian direction by building a political party that elects Libertarians to public office."

LP PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

Michael Badnarik for president

EDITOR'S NOTE: Each of the seven announced candidates for the LP presidential nomination was invited to submit a column of up to 750 words to tell *LP News* readers who they are and why they should be nominated for that position. Commentary from six of the seven appear in this edition of *LP News*.

The Declaration of Independence states, "Governments long established should not be changed for light or transient causes."

I agree that we should not make dramatic changes to our government simply because we get an occasional parking ticket.

However, the Declaration continues, "But, when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and provide new guards for their future security."

Not only do Americans have the right to modify an oppressive government, just as we did when we published the Declaration of Independence, we also have a moral ob-

ligation to do so! The United States government has perpetrated "a long train of abuses and usurpations" including: the unconstitutional Federal Reserve System; the abusive Internal Revenue Service; undeclared wars in Korea, Vietnam, and several other countries; Ruby Ridge, Idaho; Waco, Texas; 20,000 unconstitutional gun control laws; and the egregious Patriot Act.

Given this long history of violating the rights of American citizens, I am compelled to do everything I can to change the system while it is still possible to do so.

During my 2002 campaign for state representative in Texas, I was invited to be a speaker during a pro-gun rally in front of the capitol building in Austin. In my speech I announced that I would never relinquish my guns to any state or federal agency — period.

My mother was horrified when I shared my comments with her over the phone.

"You didn't say that out loud, did you?" she worried. When I confirmed that I had, she said, "Oh, Michael! The government is going to pick you up!" I asked her if she was

worried about my safety because she thought the government was benevolent — or because she knew that our government is dangerous and out of control.

After pointing out that our government isn't likely to correct itself, I asked her (rhetorically), "When I was growing up, who taught me that I should always do the right thing — no matter how difficult that may appear to be at the time?"

The answer, of course, is that my mother drilled that ethic into my brothers and me when we were young. I am compelled to run for president because that is the best way I can think of to help restore the Constitutional protection of our individual rights.

I think I am supremely qualified to run for this office because I have studied the Constitution and Bill of Rights for 20 years. For over three years I have been teaching an eight-hour class on the Constitution that is developing a widespread reputation for being informative and exciting. I even "wrote the book" (or at least "a" book) on the Constitution that recently received a very favorable review from Congressman Ron Paul.

I have a "seventh degree black belt" in political debate, and I never lose an argument on the Constitution.

The Libertarian Party has excellent presidential candidates working hard

for the 2004 nomination. I strongly urge every Libertarian to attend the national convention in Atlanta as a delegate from your state so you can help select the best person to represent our party in the next election.

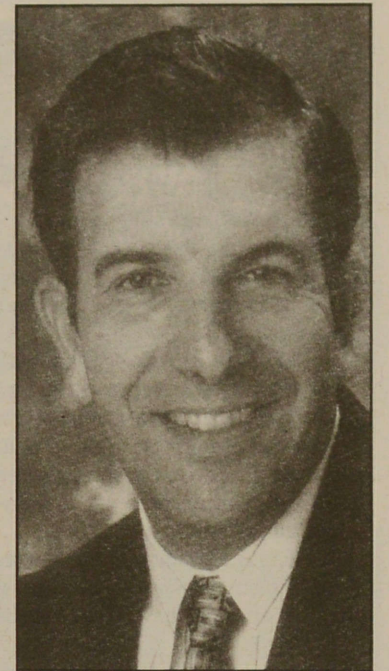
Biography

Michael was born in 1954 in Hammond, Indiana to John and Elaine Badnarik. He has two younger brothers, Chuck and Steve. Michael joined the Cub Scouts, eventually achieved the rank of Life Scout, and served as Scoutmaster for a total of 10 years.

He enrolled at Indiana University, majoring in chemistry. He became an Advanced First Aid instructor, CPR instructor, and Water Safety Instructor Trainer for the Red Cross.

A computer programmer, he worked four years at a nuclear power plant, and four years on a \$6 million nuclear control room simulator. In 1985 he relocated to California, earned a secret security clearance, and worked on the Stealth Bomber project. He was then hired by the Diablo Canyon nuclear plant where he spent ten years as a programmer and trainer. In 1997 he moved to Austin, Texas, becoming the senior trainer for Evolutionary Technologies International, with assignments in London, Australia, and Canada.

Michael enjoys camping, sailing, mountain climbing, skydiving, hang gliding, shooting (pistols, rifles, bow



and arrow), and philosophical debate. With charm, talent, and dedication, he is determined to return this country to its original greatness. His life is now dedicated to fighting for liberty via the Libertarian Party.

New caucus for radical libertarians

A caucus named for Murray Rothbard — the radical libertarian author and professor who helped lay the foundations of the Libertarian Party — has been formed by long-time LP member Scott Olmsted.

The first effort of the caucus is to get Libertarian candidates to commit never to advocate more government action as part of their campaigns.

Olmsted recently republished a Rothbard article on strategy, after discovering "many Libertarians who do not know who Rothbard was and how important his ideas were in shaping the party," he said.

"Rothbard emphasized some basic ideas that the party must not lose sight of: taking radical positions on important issues of the day, recognizing that the State is the enemy and its foreign policy that of an empire, and basing libertarian arguments on a passion for justice, not just efficiency.

"The Rothbard Caucus will promote these within the party."

The formation of a pro-War on Terror caucus — Fight for Liberty, which objects to the LP's non-interventionist foreign policy — further prodded Olmsted's caucus.

"These are dangerous times for the LP," he said. "With membership down, and some members mesmerized by the War on Terror, it is not hard to imagine a further swing in that direction, especially were there to be another terrorist attack on U.S. soil."

The Rothbard Caucus can be found at LPRC.org.

LP PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

Aaron Russo for president

EDITOR'S NOTE: Each of the seven announced candidates for the LP presidential nomination was invited to submit a column of up to 750 words to tell *LP News* readers who they are and why they should be nominated for that position. Commentary from six of the seven appear in this edition of *LP News*.

Politicians, and political candidates usually have stock answers to questions like "why are you running?" In the case of Libertarian presidential candidates, those stock answers tend to run to the likes of "I'm running to educate the public about Libertarian ideas" or "I'm running to build the Party." Occasionally, a candidate will dip his or her toe into the water of political reality and go so far as to say "I'm running to offer the voters an alternative."

These stock answers reveal a culture that has taken hold of the LP over the course of three decades of failure at the presidential level: A culture that looks longingly for silver linings in the clouds of political defeat, and which then focuses relentlessly on those silver linings while the clouds grow ever darker overhead.

The time for stock answers — the time for ignoring the clouds — is over. A storm is breaking over America, and there are no silver linings left to grasp at.

I'm running for president because the Libertarian Party and the nation are at a crossroads.

I'm running for president because unless the Libertarian Party becomes effective — now, this year, not at some point in the distant future — we may well have missed our chance.

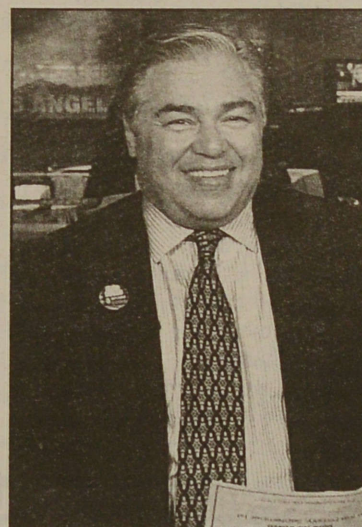
I'm running for president because, if we do miss that chance, America is doomed to continue its ever more rapid descent into the nightmare of totalitarianism.

Ultimately, I am running for president because, among those willing to assume the burden of the LP's presidential nomination, I'm best qualified to make us an effective force in American presidential politics.

I've made my career as a promoter and producer. The key element in that career, as it differs from the typical Libertarian political approach, is that I've had to learn how to popularize an idea — to get people to pay attention to it, pull out their wallets and shell out money to participate in it and, most of all, invest themselves in it, rather than simply represent it to those who already share it. By the standards of the industries in which I have worked, I've been very successful in doing that with singers, with bands and with stage and film productions.

Yes, politics is different. But in key respects, it's also the same.

Libertarians like to tell ourselves



that there's a Libertarian inside everyone, trying to get out. And we may be right. But being right isn't enough. We have to get that Libertarian out, at least long enough for that Libertarian to get to a voting booth and pull the lever for our candidates.

It's not enough for me to be right. It's not enough for me to have my fellow Libertarians tell me that I'm right. My goal is to convince millions of Americans that I'm right, and that we are right, and to act upon that decision.

I believe that I bring to my candidacy the necessary knowledge, skill and passion to achieve that result. I believe that my record, in the entertainment industry and in politics, substantiates that claim. If I didn't, I wouldn't waste my time or yours.

I'm running for president because it is time, and past time, for the LP to get serious.

I'm running for president because this year, above all years, performance matters.

I'm running for president because we are out of excuses, out of options and out of time.

I'm running for president because, working together, we can — and we must — rally our fellow citizen to the defense of liberty and change the face of American politics.

Biography

Born in Brooklyn to hard-working middle class parents, Aaron Russo learned the value of hard work, an entrepreneurial spirit, and social responsibility. These principles have guided his accomplishments as an award-winning producer, a fiscally responsible businessman, and a champion of liberty.

Russo has enjoyed considerable success in the entertainment industry, including promoting bands like Led Zeppelin and the Grateful Dead, managing Bette Midler, and producing movie hits like "Trading Places."

His achievements include an Emmy, a Tony, Golden Globe nominations, six Academy Award nominations for his films, and many gold and platinum records.

Stemming from his conviction that the two major political parties disregard the Constitution and Bill of Rights, Russo founded the Constitution Party in 1994.

In his 1998 run for governor of Nevada, Russo built a massive grassroots effort, winning 26% of the vote in a four-way primary race. Additionally, Russo successfully fought for medical marijuana legislation in Nevada.

POLITICAL NEWS

Tamara Millay elected city marshal in MO

Following a two-day blitz write-in campaign, Libertarian Tamara Millay was elected April 6 as city marshal in Greendale, Mo. — a position city officials were hoping to convert from an elected office to an appointed one.

"The board of alderpersons had placed an issue on the ballot to eliminate the position of city marshal and replace it with an appointed compliance officer," Millay said, explaining that she feels an elected official is more accountable to voters than an appointed one would be.

Millay is a candidate for the Libertarian Party nomination for U.S. vice president. She is currently chair of the St. Louis County LP.

At the same time voters were asked to eliminate the office, they were also supposed to vote for a new marshal — but no candidates had filed for the position. Pro-Millay fliers were put on every door in Greendale on Monday, April 5, and several volunteers worked the polls on election day, said Thomas Knapp, Millay's partner and VP campaign manager.

The fliers asked voters to defeat the proposition to eliminate the position of marshal, and to write in Millay for the job. As the only declared candidate, she was a shoo-in for election — as long as the measure to eliminate the post was voted down.

And the voters came through, with unofficial results from the county board of election reporting that the proposition went down by a vote of 93 to 54.

"Now, she just has to do the job," Knapp said.

"An appointed compliance officer would, by the nature of the job, be accountable to the council instead of the voters, and would justify the position by bringing in revenue," Millay said.

"I regard my job as being to work with the citizens of Greendale to resolve ordinance issues, rather than to write tickets and collect fines. The city code is draconian in certain respects. I can't change that, but I can try to minimize its negative impact and serve my fellow citizens."

Other candidates for the LP's vice presidential nomination include Richard Campagna and Charles Jay.



■ Tamara Millay

Nolan sweeps Libertarian primaries

Results from the Massachusetts LP presidential primary of March 2 were finally released March 16, with Gary Nolan having won 24.8 percent of the vote.

With that win, Nolan completed a clean sweep of Libertarian primaries — although he was soundly beaten by Aaron Russo in a straw poll held during the California LP's annual state convention in March.

Several other candidates for the LP presidential nomination were also on the Massachusetts ballot: Aaron Russo took 9 percent; Michael Badnarik, 7 percent; Jeffrey Diket, 5.8 percent; and Dave Hollist, 4.4 percent.

Confusing the issue were the 13.3 percent of the ballots with miscellaneous write-ins, 11.2 percent that were blank, and 4.9 percent with Democrat presidential candidate John Kerry as a write-in.

"Now we need to finish the job and make sure Gary wins the nomination at the [LP] National Convention in Atlanta on May 27-31," said Steve Dasbach, Nolan's campaign manager.

Nolan won 58.8 percent in California's LP primary, also on March 2, with Russo coming in second with 24.7 percent and Badnarik taking 16.5 percent.

Then, in an abrupt turnaround, California Libertarians gave Russo 51 percent of their votes in the straw poll at their convention — with Nolan taking 42 percent and Badnarik trailing with 7 percent.

Primaries and polls are nonbinding in the campaign for the Libertarian nomination for president. Delegates to the Libertarian National Convention in Atlanta, Ga., on May 27-31 will select the party's candidate for president.

In other primary election news:

Early after the Wisconsin primary on Feb. 17 it appeared that Badnarik had taken nine votes more than Nolan. The Wisconsin Elections Board certified the results on March 5, reporting that Nolan won by 76 votes, with 1,490 to Badnarik's 1,414.

In the early February Missouri primary, Nolan took 874 votes (45.2 percent), beating Ruben Perez (8.5 percent) and Jeffrey Diket (7.9 percent). A hefty percentage (38.5 percent) of Libertarian voters said they were uncommitted at that time.

LP PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

Gary Nolan for president

EDITOR'S NOTE: Each of the seven announced candidates for the LP presidential nomination was invited to submit a column of up to 750 words to tell *LP News* readers who they are and why they should be nominated for that position. Commentary from six of the seven appear in this edition of *LP News*.

I want to see the Libertarian Party grow and succeed. I want to see libertarian ideas debated and adopted by our fellow citizens. That's why I'm running for president.

Our message must be one of optimism and hope for the future. We must do more than complain about the failed policies of Democrats and Republicans — we must present positive, libertarian solutions to the problems that concern average Americans.

We have the best political ideas — real solutions for the problems faced by ordinary Americans. As our candidate for president, I will present a positive Libertarian vision of a freer, safer, more prosperous America, including plans to:

■ Achieve sustainable growth in jobs and the economy by ending the income tax, balancing the budget, and cutting government spending;

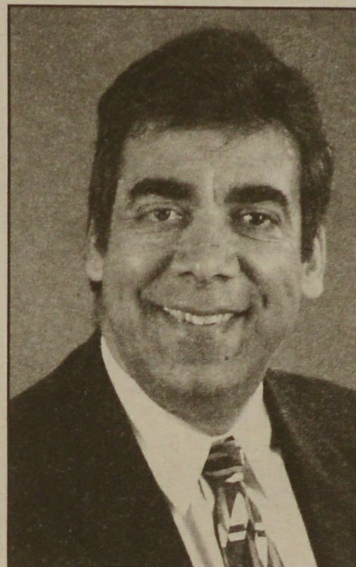
■ Restore our full civil liberties as guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution;

■ Reduce the exploding cost of medical care by getting the government out of it;

■ Enhance our national security by ending interference in the affairs of other nations and by bringing our troops home; and

■ Protect retirement income from greedy politicians by letting Americans opt out of the bankrupt Social Security system.

I believe that the massive increases in federal spending under a



Republican administration and Congress, coupled with unprecedented losses of civil liberties virtually unopposed by Democrats, have created an ideal political environment for the LP, and for a presidential campaign built around restoring small, constitutionally-limited government across the board.

I believe I am the candidate who can best take advantage of this incredible opportunity. I've built a successful career as a nationally-syndicated talk-radio host on my communication skills — my ability to relate to listeners and present libertarian ideas in ways that are interesting and entertaining. I believe I can reach even more people as the Libertarian nominee for President.

As a small businessman in Cleveland, Ohio, I was initially attracted to the Republican Party. However, over time, I became increasingly frustrated with their bloated budgets and continuing failure to cut spending, finally resigning in 1999 to join the LP.

There are millions of small government conservatives and libertarians who voted for President Bush but have become as frustrated with the Republicans as I was five years ago. I know how to reach them and bring them into the LP.

There are millions of liberals and moderates who are as concerned about the USA Patriot Act and war in Iraq as we are. My decade of communication experience is enabling me to reach them as well.

My positive approach to the issues has paid off with convincing victories in four Libertarian primaries, and resulted in more national TV interviews, more radio appearances, more outreach events, more college campus visits, and more local LP events than all of my opponents combined.

But this is just the beginning. I'm committed to doing more direct voter outreach than any recent LP presidential campaign. We've already raised more money than all the other campaigns combined, and the majority of the post-nomination funds we raise will be used to directly communicate with voters using all forms of media. We're working with experienced campaign professionals to ensure that we get the most outreach bang out of every dollar we raise.

For too long, we've limited ourselves to talking about the features of liberty, the countless activities of government we oppose. It's time we focus on the benefits of liberty, and present a positive vision of how life would be better with our policies in place.

If that's the kind of positive campaign you want to see, a Libertarian campaign that won't be ignored, then join with me and help me make it happen. Support Gary Nolan for president.

Biography

Gary Nolan has been "America's Voice of Liberty" for more than a decade, reaching millions with his message. See **NOLAN** Page 18

LP PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

Dave Hollist for president

EDITOR'S NOTE: Each of the seven announced candidates for the LP presidential nomination was invited to submit a column of up to 750 words to tell *LP News* readers who they are and why they should be nominated for that position. Commentary from six of the seven appear in this edition of *LP News*.

Thanks for listening to me. I'll try not to waste your time.

Instead of being a candidate, I'd prefer to vote for someone. In fact, my wife and I have an eleven-year-old who likes to play baseball and I much prefer running around with them than running for office. But unfortunately, I disagree with those on the ballot.

I think it is wrong to take money from people.

Although I'd like to talk with you

about contract insurance, which is a way to operate government without taxation, we have an emergency:

Donald May...

We have people dying.

Jamaal Addison...

We have Americans dying.

Gregory Stone...

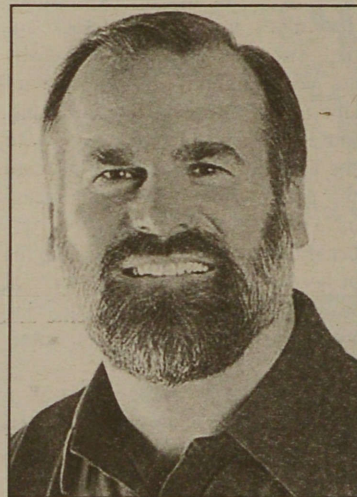
We have American soldiers dying.

Bradley Korthaus...

Operation Iraqi Freedom was created by our president and voted for by most of our congress to protect us from the political party in Iraq. Our military has done a brilliant job in finding its leader hiding in a hole in the ground — obviously no threat to us now.

Bring our troops home to parades and a hearty "Thank you." Our military is to protect our freedom — not anyone else's.

Gregory Sanders...



Americans have worked hard to create the most powerful defense department that has ever existed. For us to remain safe while our defenders are being ambushed outside our country is very wrong.

I hope all Libertarian federal candidates will make this the focus of their campaigns:

Vote Libertarian. Bring our troops home. See **HOLLIST** Page 30

TV program celebrates 300th show

With the television news media leaning heavily to either pro-Democrat or pro-Bush positions, a third point of view is needed, Libertarians say.

And in New Jersey, cable television viewers have exactly that: "Third Point of View" is the name of a public access cable show dedicated to presenting libertarian principles.

The crew recently taped their 300th show to be broadcast on Cablevision of Monmouth, and "we're trying to let people know that this is something they can do in their own areas," said director Ray Babecki.

Third Point of View was started in 1992 as a New Jersey LP-sanctioned outreach, when Shad Woolley and Richard "Reach" Helmka decided that the LP wasn't "getting their message out well," Babecki said.

"Shad and Reach founded TPOV because they felt that typical Libertarian outreach events — like Operation Politically Homeless (OPH) booths — were not connecting with a majority of citizens. They were searching for a more effective way of contacting people who get a majority of their news, entertainment and opinions from television."

At OPH booths set up at conventions, trade shows or other public events, Libertarians share the LP's message with those who have realized that they don't fit either the Republican or Democrat party — that neither of the predominant parties is addressing the issues that matter to Americans.

"OPH booths are great, but people these days get most of their information from television. We do this to get the libertarian message out there where the most people will see it," Babecki said.

And it's working, he said, noting that even some New Jersey government officials have reported watching the show.

Shows have included interviews with New Jersey Libertarian Party members, self-published authors, conspiracy theorists, practitioners of non-traditional medicine, leaders of pro-freedom and religious groups, and representatives from both predominant and alternative political parties.

"Recently, the show has featured a panel of eloquent Libertarians discussing current news events and problems, with the aim of providing solutions to them from a libertarian perspective," Babecki noted.

"We provide a forum for alternative opinions on social, political, and cultural issues," he said, quoting the show's mission statement.

Putting the show together is entirely a volunteer operation, with LP members Tom Palven, Lou Stefanelli, Ginny Flynn, Len Flynn, Ed Place, Emerson Ellett, Liz Macron, Keith Quarles, Bob Hull, Michelle Swanson, Al and Helen Medwin, and Bob Hull regularly either sitting in on one of the panel discussions or running the cameras and other

equipment.

Helmka, the show's original director, still provides technical and professional advice and assistance, although Babecki succeeded him as director in 1996.

Using equipment donated by the cable company, the crew and panel typically tape three shows a month between September and May, going on hiatus from June to August.

Selected episodes of the show are available at www.njlp.org/multimedia, and tapes of the show are loaned to other New Jersey Libertarians to run on their own local public-access cable channels, Babecki said.

For more information, go to the Web site; e-mail Mr.Science@erols.com; or phone (732) 738-9148 from 6-9 p.m.



■ Celebrating 300 shows are (l to r, back) Tom Palven, Lou Stefanelli, Virginia and Leonard Flynn. (l to r, front) Richard Helmka, Shad Woolley and Ray Babecki.



What are ~~2,679~~ ^{3,614} people every day trying to tell you and me about our movement for liberty?

Every day, over 3,600 people take our world-famous **World's Smallest Political Quiz** online.

In fact, on average, 3,614 people. *Every day.*

Why? Many are intensely interested in political ideas and in the ideas of liberty. They're worried about rising threats to freedom. They want to better understand libertarianism. They want to know more about politics.

Over 33% of them score Libertarian on our Quiz — **that's over 1,200 per day.**

And they are excited!

- ★ Excited to learn about a vibrant, thriving movement for liberty.
- ★ Excited to learn that they're not alone.
- ★ Excited to learn that, as so many say, "...there's a name for what I've always believed!"
- ★ Excited because, at last, they have found a political home — libertarianism — and they've found hope that the glorious vision of liberty-for-all at the heart of the American dream can indeed be fulfilled.

In all, over 2.4 million people have now taken the Word's Smallest Political Quiz online! Over two million people exposed to libertarian ideas in a positive, eye-opening way. Over two million people exposed to a new political map that includes libertarians.

Many of the thousands who visit our site every week are excited to discover a cause they can believe in — and dedicate their lives to.

And they are eager to tell their friends, their neighbors, the whole world about it!



The good news doesn't stop there.

These 33%-plus who score Libertarian, along with others who express an interest in learning more about liberty, have just taken a first step in a carefully-developed Advocates three-step program to build a mass movement of persuasive, knowledgeable libertarian activists. Here it is in a nutshell:

We (1) discover new libertarians and libertarian-leaning folks, online and off, in many different ways; (2) give them the information they need to fully understand and embrace the ideas of liberty; and (3) give these new libertarians (and veteran libertarians, too) the training, tools, information and encouragement they need to become powerful and effective advocates of the ideas of liberty — so they can become active in the libertarian movement and, in turn, find new libertarian-leaning folks to bring to Step 1... thus keeping the process going, with ever-larger numbers.

And every time the cycle turns, the numbers increase. We are discovering new libertarians — and creating the activists of today and tomorrow — every day.

Does this sound exciting? Become a part of it!

Visit our Web site to learn more. Discover the tested and proven Advocates tools, training, and information that can help you become a highly effective libertarian activist.

See our strategy for libertarian victory in action! Subscribe to our free email newsletter, *The Liberator Online*, the largest-circulation libertarian publication in the world, with over 60,000 subscribers in over 100 countries.

We're devoted to making libertarian outreach and education effective, successful, and fun! *Join us!*



Advocates for Self-Government
Serving the libertarian movement for over 18 years!
www.TheAdvocates.org

TALKING POINTS

Political speech flubs, Spanish socialism and bad loans

Fighting terror

A driver in the southern French city of Montpellier who tried to run down a pedestrian he believed was Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden on Tuesday was given a three-month suspended sentence.

On Monday, the driver, a 35-year-old craftsman, chased the would-be bin Laden through the streets of Montpellier, running a red light and driving through a pedestrian zone.

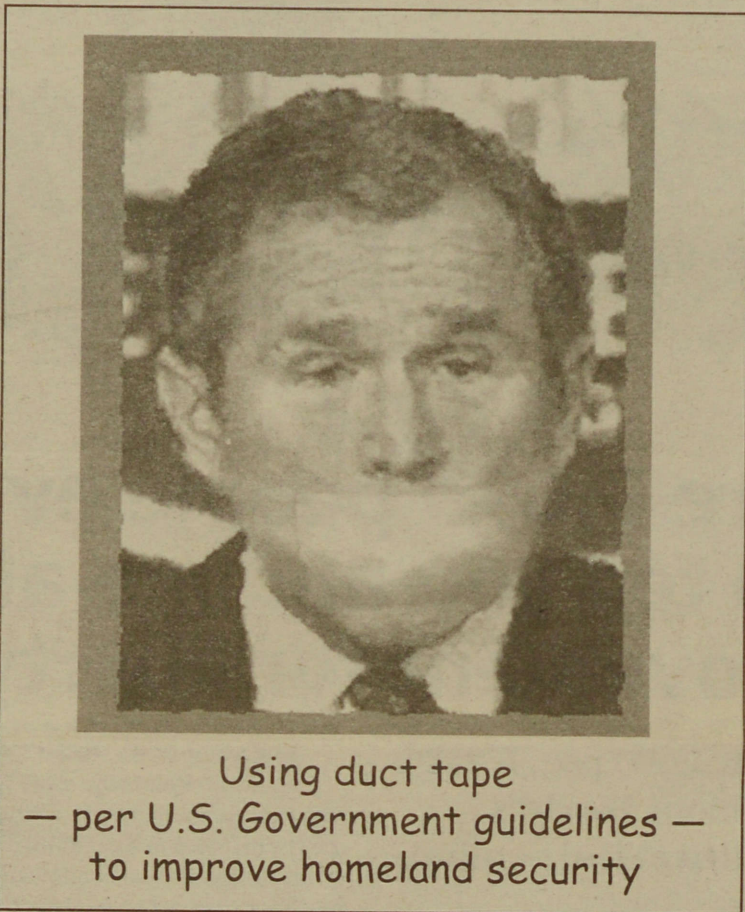
He only failed to hit the pedestrian when he wrecked his car.

The driver, who was not identified, said he had experienced a delirious episode, attributing his folly to current fears over the global terrorist threat.

The court in Montpellier also ordered the driver to seek counseling and pay 500 euros — approximately \$615 — in damages to the victim.

—MATT DRUDGE

The Drudge Report
March 17, 2004



Using duct tape
— per U.S. Government guidelines —
to improve homeland security

Spanish socialism I

If you're keeping score at home, so far our war in Iraq has created a police state in that country and socialism in Spain. So, no democracies yet, but we're really getting close.

—JON STEWART

The Daily Show
March 16, 2004

GOP spin zone

[In a] briefing recently distributed by the National Republican Congressional Committee's Communications Division, the GOP leadership advises members on how to handle questions concerning health care in general, and the new prescription drug entitlement in particular.

If a constituent pops up, say at a town hall meeting, and asks, "Why can drug companies spend so much on advertising?" the NRCC is telling its members to answer thusly: "Like you, I believe that drug companies spend too much on advertising ... and agree that this is something we need to look into."

What? When did it become the official Republican position that the government should regulate the amount businesses can, or even should, spend on advertising?

And would someone please help Sen. Goldwater stop turning over in his grave. ...

But just to show I'm not completely unreasonable on this subject, there is one advertising ban I could support: on the government monopoly known as the Post Office. Since no private business is allowed

to compete with USPS for the delivery of mail, why do they need to spend millions of dollars on Lance Armstrong's bike team?

—CHUCK MUTH

OpinionEditorials.com
March 23, 2004

More money, please

Last August, Meyer Packaging received \$6 million in federal loan guarantees, and just last week, the Palmyra [Penn.] company announced it was closing its doors and leaving more than 70 people unemployed.

That money was supposed to help prevent this company from closing.

Meyer Packaging received about \$4.5 million from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, another \$1.5 million from the Small Business Administration.

These were loan guarantees, which means if Meyer defaults on the loans, taxpayers will have to foot the bill.

The company has made only about seven months of payments on the 15-year loans.

Rep. Tim Holden presented the checks last August. He defended the program.

"The mission that USDA has in rural development is not only on job creation, but job maintenance.

"And that was the whole purpose

behind the loan at Meyer Packaging — to try and preserve the 72 plus jobs that were there," Holden said.

"This is a good program. This is an unfortunate situation."

—THEWGALCHANNEL.COM

February 24, 2004

Bush-whacked

Days after Paul O'Neill criticized the President on TV in January that the former treasury secretary came under investigation: 1.

Fine paid by two of John Ashcroft's PACs for breaking campaign-finance laws during the 2000 election cycle: \$37,000.

Days after George W. Bush announced plans for a Moon base that the Hubble telescope's maintenance was discontinued: 2.

—HARPER'S INDEX

Harper's Magazine
March 2004

Dangerous cops

Two men searching in a friend's car for change to pay their bar tab were surprised by an off-duty Cuyahoga County sheriff's deputy who thought they were stealing from the car and stuck a loaded gun in their faces, police said.

The deputy also put his gun to the head of the car owner and aimed the weapon at a man talking

on a cell phone nearby, apparently for staring, police said.

Lakewood police arrested the deputy, Jamie Bonnette, 29, who was charged with public intoxication, aggravated menacing and using a weapon while intoxicated, all misdemeanors.

Police did not test his blood alcohol level because he was not driving.

Police said Bonnette smelled of alcohol, swayed back and forth and slurred his words.

When asked by police whether he felt he was in any condition to intervene in a crime, he replied, "probably not," but that he believed it was necessary to "take action," according to police.

Bonnette has not been suspended but faces discipline, and possibly firing, said sheriff's inspector Douglas Burkhart.

Bonnette's problems began about 11:15 p.m. Thursday, when he spotted David B. Taha, 22, and Jonathan S. Zingale, 23, in a car parked near Winchester Bar at Madison and Winchester avenues.

"He confronted them, and they gave him the story that it was a friend's car who was in the bar, and that they ran out of money and needed some change," said Police Chief Tim Malley.

Bonnette had not been drinking in that bar.

—JESSE TINSLEY

[Cleveland, Ohio] Plain Dealer Reporter
February 21, 2004

Gender confusion

U.S. President George W. Bush has marked International Women's Week by paying tribute to women reformers — but one of those he cited is really a man.

"Earlier today, the Libyan government released Fathi Jahmi. She's a local government official who was imprisoned in 2002 for advocating free speech and democracy," the

president said in a speech at the White House.

The only problem was that, by all other accounts, "she" is in fact "he".

"Definitely male," said Alistair Hodgett, spokesman for the human rights advocacy group Amnesty International, whose representatives tried to see Jahmi in prison during a recent visit to Libya.

—REUTERS

March 12, 2004

GEORGE W. BUSH

marked this year's

International

Women's Week by

paying tribute to

... a man.

—REUTERS

Bush = Kerry

Bush likes tiny tax cuts, which make the police state cost more in the future. Kerry opposes the cuts, and wants us to pay for the police state now. They might also have slightly different policies on the environment, as well. But they both favor a foreign policy liable to get us into nuclear war, which is bad for the environment, last time I checked.

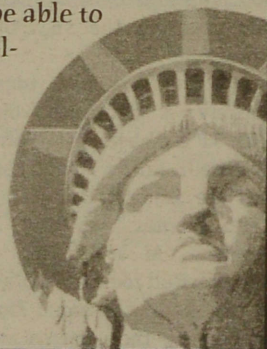
On every real issue — from the Patriot Act to the War on Terrorism to government healthcare — the two candidates either agree completely or attempt to out-do each other in their calls for more, more, more.

Some have said that Kerry will at least create "grid-lock," and that a split government, with a Republican Congress and Democratic President, won't be able to expand the state as quickly. This might be true for some domestic social spending, which

"Tyranny is always better organized than freedom."

—CHARLES PEGUY, FRENCH PHILOSOPHER (1873-1914)

That's not all: It's got more people working for it, too. And it's better funded. That's where you come in. If you want America to someday live up to its noble libertarian ideals, the Libertarian Party needs to be able to mount an effective challenge to the political parties that are more interested in pushing us towards tyranny than towards liberty. How can you help? By naming the LP in your will or insurance policy. For a private discussion of this option, call National LP Treasurer Bill Redpath at (703) 802-2978. Or e-mail him at: wredpath@his.com.



Republicans tend to oppose more adamantly when Democrats get the credit. But I generally expect there to be bipartisan cooperation in turning America into an Empire abroad and a concentration camp at home.

If, on the other hand, Kerry wins and the Democrats take over Congress, we might have a new FDR situation to deal with.

If Bush wins, he'll take the second term mandate seriously, and probably invade a couple more countries and eviscerate a couple more amendments in the Bill of Rights.

Either way, America is going downhill. Just as many conservatives and libertarians supported Bush out of fear of Gore's socialism, no doubt many leftists and libertarians will vote for Kerry out of fear of Bush's warmongering. A few libertarians, aware of how terrible Kerry is, but for some reason not convinced of Bush's statism, might give their electoral approval to Bush and hope the country survives the next four years.

It's impossible to know which of the two major candidates will bring about the lesser police state.

To retain your dignity, the least you can do in November is refuse to give either of these control freaks your express permission to rule you, your country, and the rest of the world.

—ANTHONY GREGORY
LewRockwell.com
March 25, 2004

Spanish socialism II

"The voters in Spain there have elected a socialist government. The new prime minister, Jose Zapatero immediately lashed out at President Bush, calling the war in Iraq a disaster, calling for all Spanish troops to come home from Iraq immediately. This obviously upset President Bush. Today, he took decisive action. He said, 'From now on, in the United States, Spanish rice will now be known as Freedom rice.'"

—JAY LENO
The Tonight Show
March 18, 2004

Blame 3rd parties

Some Democrats would like to blame Nader for that close election in 2000. They blame him for Al Gore's close loss and point to the more than 97,000 votes he scored in Florida, a state Bush won by 537 votes officially, almost 2,000 in other counts. In Oregon, Gore won by a slim 6,765 votes in 2000, while Nader received 77,357 votes. Who knows, they say, what would have happened if Nader had nabbed 84,000 votes?

First off, it's a myth that only Democrats vote for Ralph Nader. Maybe Nader only stole votes from Libertarian candidate Harry Browne in 2000. The common wisdom is that Nader stole Democrats, but that can't be proved.

Second, welcome to a democracy. The only way to support our government is to give our voters as many choices as possible. The more choices the better. And this doesn't

even include write-in votes. Why aren't people criticizing Cathy Gordon Brown, the Tennessee native who somehow pulled in 1,606 votes in 2000?

—EDITORIAL BOARD
Oregon Daily Emerald
April 06, 2004

Democrat flubs

The Democratic presidential hopefuls have been taking flak for committing various verbal blunders on the campaign trail. The primal scream Howard Dean emitted in Iowa, of course, remains in a class

by itself, but here's a brief sampling of other embarrassments:

■ Wesley Clark twice told reporters in Texas he did not believe al Qaeda was involved in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, and then had to rush back to the podium to correct himself by saying it was Saddam Hussein who was not connected.

■ While speaking at a house party in New Hampshire, John Kerry, in an apparent attempt to conjure poet Robert Frost, offered this bewildering sound bite: "The road traveled is the prologue to the road to be traveled."

■ During an appearance on "Hard-

ball," Dean repeatedly said that Iran's nuclear ambitions were being supported by the Soviet Union, a country that ceased to exist a dozen years ago.

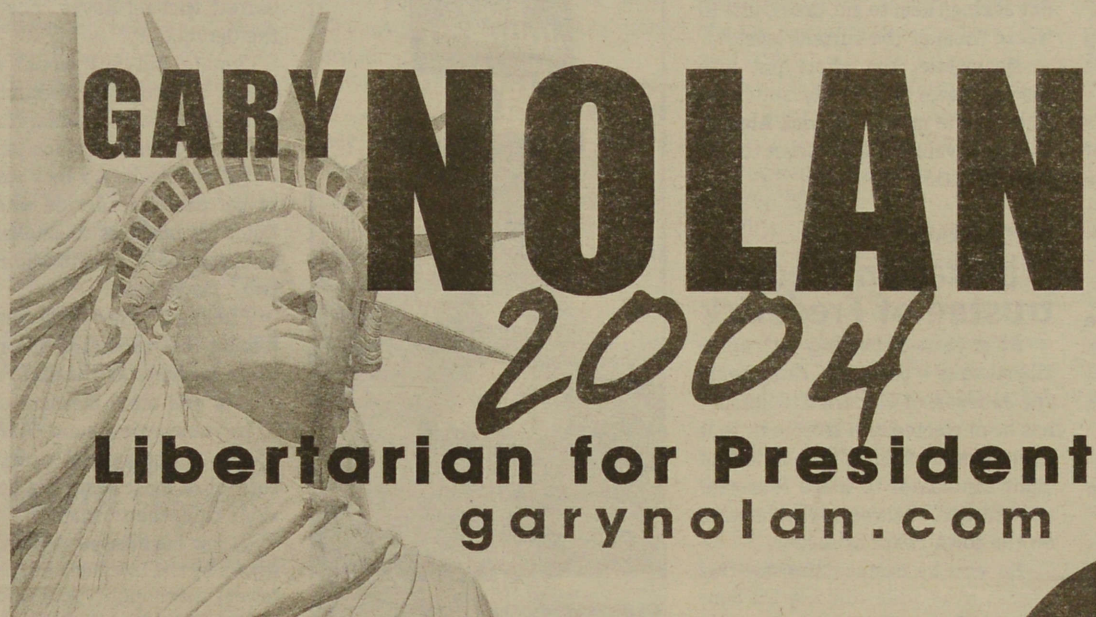
■ During a debate that aired only on National Public Radio, Dennis Kucinich held up a pie chart to illustrate a point.

But whatever stumbles the Democratic candidates have made, nothing comes close to the gaffe standard set by candidate George W. Bush in 2000. That's when he assured the people of New Hampshire he knew how hard it was "to put food on your family," explained in a

debate that "we ought to make the pie higher," expressed confidence that "the human being and fish can co-exist peacefully," declared that "families is where our nation finds hope, where wings take dream," and famously stated, "They misunderestimated me."

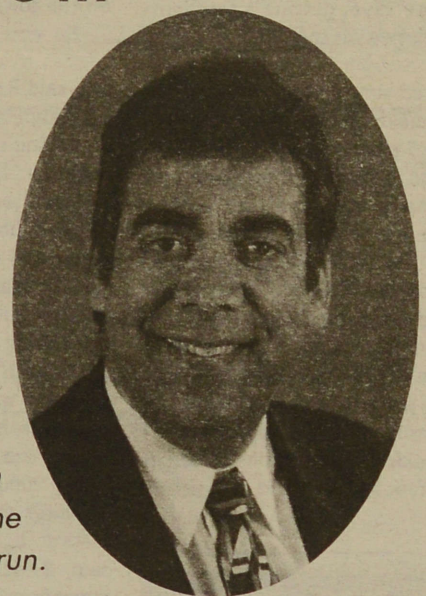
In the past month alone, he has dubbed astronauts "spatial entrepreneurs," announced that "the illiteracy level of our children are appalling," and referred to himself as "governor."

—DANIEL KURTZMAN
AlterNet.org
February 3, 2004



- 10 Years of Media Experience
- Positive Libertarian Platform
- Proven Relentless Campaigner

"Our message must be one of optimism and hope for the future. We must do more than complain about the failed policies of Democrats and Republicans. We must present positive, libertarian solutions to the problems that concern average Americans. That's the kind of campaign I want to see a Libertarian Presidential candidate run. That's the kind of positive campaign I am committed to running."



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Attend the national convention and help nominate Gary Nolan for President.

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AFFILIATE NEWS

'No' to coercion, smoking bans, and bad election laws

■ CALIFORNIA

Hoping to freeze taxes in Barstow

Patrick Aleman discovered the LP while looking for someone to help him fight rising taxes in Barstow, a city of 22,000.

Help came via the California LP's "California Tax Freeze" — a series of tax-reduction initiatives written by state chair Aaron Starr and an attorney with the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers' Association.

Aleman recently presented Barstow officials with an initiative based on one of the models. It would freeze all city taxes and fees, allowing increases only for population growth and inflation, Starr said.

Getting the initiative on the ballot this fall will require fewer than 200 petition signatures, Starr said.

Before 1996, getting a tax-limiting initiative on the ballot required signatures from 10-15 percent of all registered voters. Prop. 218 reduced the number of signatures required to only 5 percent of those who voted in the last election for governor.

Aleman's initiative in Barstow will require only 196 signatures to get on the ballot, but he said he plans to get 300-500 "just in case."

"And we've got six months to collect those signatures," Starr said.

Aleman is running for city council so he can personally enact the measure if voters approve it.

By asking that taxes be frozen at the current level instead of insisting

that taxes be cut, the LP hopes to forestall city officials' "claims that there will have to be cataclysmic cuts in services," Starr said. "We're not asking them to cut taxes, just to freeze them at the current level."

Meanwhile, the effort put into the initiatives has already convinced at least one man — Patrick Aleman — of the value of libertarian thinking and action.

■ COLORADO

Libertarian elected trustee of Frederick

After years of helping with other Libertarians' political campaigns, Joe Johnson of Frederick, Colorado, has been elected as a trustee in that town, coming in first from a field of eight candidates to win a four-year term in one of three available seats on the town board of seven.

He won by campaigning for this seat as if he were running for Senate, said Ralph Shnelvar, a Johnson campaign supporter.

During the six weeks he was running for the non-partisan board of trustees seat, Johnson campaigned "even in pouring rain," knocking on over 2,000 doors, Shnelvar said.

"The man is a dynamo. He worked unbelievably hard, and his message of freedom and property rights resonated with those who voted. This is a man to watch."

Johnson and his wife, Elizabeth, joined the party in 1999, and between 2000 and 2003 ran more than 50 voter registration and LP information booths at various events, said BetteRose Ryan, an at-large member of the LNC.

Johnson's efforts were rewarded: He got about 15 percent more votes than his nearest competitor.

■ GEORGIA

Legislative district maps redrawn again

Legislative district maps in Georgia are again being redrawn in a power play between Republicans and Democrats, and Libertarians there are fed up with the gerrymandering process.

The Democrat-controlled legislature redrew the districts in 2002, leading Republicans — who are now in power — to revise the district map again this year.

Driven by Republican complaints, a panel of federal judges in February declared the old map unconstitutional. The map the panel proposed would benefit the GOP instead.

"It's bad enough that they're



■ This novel rolling advertisement for Colorado's Joe Johnson drew much positive response from on-lookers. Johnson won election as a Frederick, CO, trustee.

wasting the taxpayers' time and money with these power plays, but they're also harming those people and candidates who represent third-parties," said Philip Bradley of the Georgia LP.

Georgia law forces Libertarians and other third-party candidates to collect signatures from 5 percent of the registered voters in the district.

Many LP legislative candidates had already started collecting signatures in their districts. Now that they're unsure what the district lines will be, their candidacies may be in jeopardy.

"In Clayton County alone, we had seven candidates lined up and ready to go for the biggest candidate drive in Georgia LP history," said Ken Parmalee, chair of the county LP.

Under the proposed district map,

LP candidates who were already campaigning for state House in three different districts would all be "dumped into one district together, which takes two of my candidates out of the running altogether this year," Parmalee said.

■ GEORGIA

LP opposes anti-smoking bill

Georgia legislators are considering a bill that would prohibit smoking in most businesses statewide — a move that would strike a serious blow to private property rights.

"Once again, politicians want to substitute the judgment of government for that of the citizens," said Garrett Michael Hayes, vice chair of the Georgia LP.

Senate Bill 507 would make it illegal to smoke in restaurants and other indoor work spaces. It refers to all such places as "public places."

"It should be up to a restaurant or bar owner to decide whether to tailor his business to smokers, non-smokers, or a combination of the two," Hayes said.

"Instead, the government is forcing the restaurant or bar owner to do business as the state sees fit. This is one more measure designed to increase government surveillance of private businesses and to take control of most basic business decisions from their owners."

A few businesses wouldn't be affected by the law, such as those with fewer than eight employees and bars that get less than 20 percent of their revenue from food sales.

"This sets a frightful legal precedent by codifying a popularly held perception of what is public," said Dave Dellinger of the state LP.

"It defines 'public place' as 'an enclosed area to which the public is invited or in which the public is permitted. This is absolutely not the case and totally discounts the property rights of business owners.'"

The state Senate already approved the bill. It is currently in consideration by a state House committee, where it could sit until the legislative session ends.

But the same language has been added by the Senate to a bill already approved in the House — a bill that would make it a crime to smoke in a car carrying children. That bill will go back to the House with the new anti-smoking language included, and it will go straight to the House floor — bypassing the committee where the original bill is being held.

■ KENTUCKY

New election law bad for third parties

Kentucky state law is making it even more difficult for Libertarian or other third-party candidates to run for office.

Under a law enacted in 2003, any third-party or independent candidates to file a "statement of candidacy" by April 1, saying which office they are planning to run for.

"We have to file a statement of candidacy for all of our candidates

now, when we haven't even held our state convention yet," state LP vice chair Greg Holmes said in early March. "We won't have our state convention until the end of April."

This new law was ostensibly written to make elections more fair by preventing candidates from waiting until after other parties' primaries to file, and to keep them from targeting weaker candidates. It applies to all elections in the state.

Before this law was passed, independent and minor-party candidates did not have to advance their candidacies until August.

"This is absolutely destroying us for this election cycle," said Donna Mancini, the LP state chairman.

The LP fielded 10 candidates for the 26 Metro Council seats that were on the ballot in 2002, and because of the new restrictions, will probably have only two candidates for the 13 council seats on the November ballot this year, Mancini said.

A bill pending in the legislature could exempt federal and nonpartisan elections from the law.

"This law is just another barrier to ballot access, and I would contend it was intentionally created by the two major parties to make it more difficult for us," Holmes said.

■ MAINE

Libertarian fights forced 'donations'

A Libertarian in Sidney, Maine, recently asked her town to stop funding nonprofit organizations with tax money, arguing that charity should not be forced. Her proposal wasn't fully accepted at the town meeting March 20, but the town's donations to such agencies were cut by 63 percent.

"When did charity cease to be voluntary and become coercive?" asked Laura Santini-Smith, who wrote the argument against forcible contributions to charity.

Residents in Sidney, a town of about 2,800 just a few miles from state capital Augusta, meet once a year to vote on their budget.

Thirteen nonprofits had requested a total of \$22,868, or about 2 percent of the town's \$1.1 million budget. Seven of them were given a total of \$8,442, following a long discussion among the 150-odd residents at the day-long meeting.

Santini-Smith, who ran as a Libertarian for her local school board in 2003, said she works for a nonprofit organization and donates to four charities; it's not personal contributions she has a problem with.

But by using tax money for charity, "a handful of us are telling people who are losing their homes because of property taxes that these charities are more important than their homes are," she noted.

"There are many people who have fallen on hard times in this town. How can we look them in the eye and say that we voted to raise taxes from them to give money to all these charities?"

"I feel like I'm becoming a broken record, but I have to keep asking: What the heck are we doing, using coercion to fund charities?"

Online Resources for LP Members

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

Visit: www.LP.org

Click on: Organization

Click on: State Parties

Click on: [Your state]

■ Find contact info for the National Committee

Visit: www.LP.org

Click on: Organization

Click on: National

Committee

Click on: LNC Directory

■ Renew your membership

Visit: www.LP.org

See: Special Features (left side)

Click on: Renew

■ MICHIGAN

Saying yes to roads; no to flowerbeds

Michigan LP member Fred Collins recently helped convince his fellow city council members to eliminate a pork project in Berkley, Mich., where he is a city councilman. And he was lauded in *The Detroit News* for his action.

Berkley had received a state grant to landscape an area of town. By government standards, it was a small project; the total project cost would have been \$23,000.

But the city would have had to contribute a \$7,000 match, with another \$3,000 annually for maintenance.

Following Collins' urging, the city council turned down the grant offering and decided to concentrate on road repairs instead.

The editorialist for the *News* noted, "grass and flowers are nice, but well-paved roads are essential. That's the kind of decision city councils should make. Local governments shouldn't let their spending priorities be distorted by the availability of grants."

■ NEBRASKA

Chair running for state senate seat

Nydra Karlen, chair of the Libertarian Party of Nebraska, is climbing in the ring to fight four other contenders for a state Senate seat.

"My constituents will be my only

special-interest group," said Karlen, who is running for the District 45 Senate seat, one of 49 in the unicameral legislature.

"I am not seeking — nor have I received — any endorsements from special interest groups," she said. "The only special interest I'm interested in serving are the taxpayers."

Karlen lives in Bellevue, just south of state capital Omaha. There are five candidates for the seat and incumbent Paul Hartnett isn't one of them, so the race is wide open.

The top two finishers in May's primary will go on to the November general election.

"I want to cut spending, not to add taxes," Karlen said, noting that charter schools would both save money provide better education.

"I hate seeing people out there in the ranching area, when the education system consolidates their schools and doesn't give the ranchers any choices. Some of the ranchers have gotten together to hire teachers for their children, but they end up paying for that schooling out of their own pockets.

"We aren't treating our taxpayers well. Small businesses and individuals are our seed corn, and we are taxing them to death here."

■ OREGON

No to a double-dip retirement system

More than a third of Oregon's public employees who retired in 2003 have returned to their jobs, al-

lowing them to draw two paychecks — one for working and one for having worked.

The situation has led Libertarians in the state to protest the perceived abuse of generous state pension plans.

Of about 3,000 state employees who retired last year, more than 1,000 have been rehired as part-time workers or consultants.

The trend "hurts public employees because whenever they game the system like this — which is what they're doing — it builds resentment among average people against public employees in general," said Richard Burke, executive director of the Oregon LP.

State employees' pensions are worth about 79 percent of what they earned in salary when they retired.

Most of those rehired continue to receive about the same salary they got before retirement, records show.

Oregon's bureaucrats say rehiring former employees as consultants works well for the state because they already know the job and can pass their knowledge along to others. The process is continuing this year.

"It's inexcusable," said Russ Walker, director of Oregon's Citizens for a Sound Economy. "Someone leaves the job and retires, but doesn't really retire.

"They come back the next day to the same job, and they're essentially pulling two paychecks."

■ TENNESSEE

Fighting \$10 million school proposal

Property owners in two small mountain-top towns near Chattanooga, Tenn., are being asked to pay \$10 million toward a new high school, and a new Libertarian-led taxpayers' rights group is opposing the proposal.

Dr. Joe Dumas, faculty advisor for the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga's campus LP affiliate, recently started Friends of Signal Mountain Taxpayers.

The towns will be asked in a referendum May 18 to approve the bond issue, which would increase the school tax for Signal Mountain residents by 21 percent, and for Walden residents by 60 percent, Dumas said.

The taxpayers' group isn't saying a new school is unnecessary, but that the city's small tax-paying population shouldn't be expected to foot the bill.

With a combined population of about 9,500 — 7,500 in Signal Mountain and 2,000 in Walden — the towns pay the same property and sales taxes as other county residents, yet "receive far less in the way of services" than others in the area do, Dumas said.

He noted that the town library, fire and police services, garbage pickup and recreational facilities are all supported by town taxes — not by the county.

"Virtually the only benefit we re-

ceive from our county tax dollars is our school system. And we are now being told that we must ante up millions more in order to get what we are already paying for!"

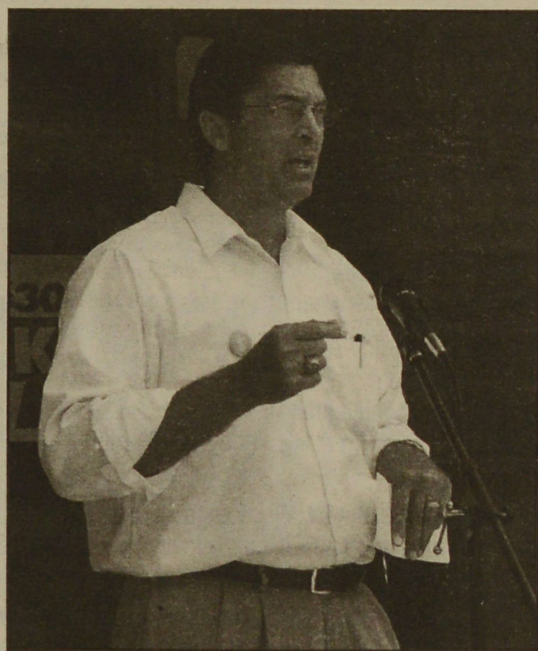
The idea of a referendum was only announced March 8, so a May 18 vote gives town residents barely two months to consider the idea and its merits.

"We do not feel that this is enough time for residents to give the measure the serious consideration it deserves," Dumas emphasized. "It also gives precious little time for those of us who oppose it to get organized and build support — which may be part of the reason for the early date."

Dumas and other friends of the taxpayers have asked that the referendum be put off until August or November — when there are already elections scheduled — because if a special election is called in May, the taxpayers will also have to cover that extra expense.

"Postponing the bond issue referendum until November — when voter turnout is highest and the bond issue could be a major issue in the Town Council election — or at least until August, would allow residents ample time to consider this important decision," Dumas said.

"Property owners in Signal Mountain already pay taxes at least twice for the public school system, whether or not they have children in the schools, and that doesn't count state and federal funds that go to the county schools."



- ✓ In 1994, as the twice-elected Sheriff of Graham County, Arizona, Richard Mack challenged the "Brady Bill" in court ... and won.
- ✓ In 2002, Richard Mack joined with Nevadans to urge voters to pass Question 9 to legalize marijuana ... and lost.
- ✓ In 2004, Utah's incumbent governor overturned an initiative approved by 69% of Utah voters in 2000 to curb asset forfeiture. The Democratic challenger is a former federal prosecutor.
- ✓ On March 11, 2004, Richard Mack filed his declaration of candidacy and is running for Governor of Utah as a Libertarian.

Richard Mack has stood with us. Will you now stand with him?

☐ Yes!!! ... I want to support Richard Mack, Libertarian candidate for Governor of Utah!!!

Enclosed is my contribution (there are no contribution limits in Utah) of:

☐ \$1000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ Other _____

☐ Check enclosed made payable to: Mack for Governor

Name _____

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THE REVIEW

Ripped off and robbed

■ *Mugged by the State*, by Randall Fitzgerald. Regnery Publishing. Hardcover, 155 pages, \$27.95. Available at www.CatoStore.org.

Reviewed by Radley Balko
THE CATO INSTITUTE

Dan Peruchi, father of four, enjoyed fixing up classic cars and reselling them. Peruchi worked with dealers who preferred to deal in cash, so he usually had lots of cash on hand.

He was driving a car home to Texas when he was stopped in Arkansas by a policeman who asked to search the car. Peruchi had about \$19,000 but nothing criminal to hide, so he consented.

The officer found the cash and immediately suspected Peruchi was involved with drugs. He called in drug-sniffing dogs, which reacted suspiciously to Peruchi's satchel. The dogs' reaction was reason enough for the West Memphis police department to seize Peruchi's money.

Peruchi was never arrested. He was never even charged. But the police department put Peruchi's money into its own budget, as Arkansas' drug forfeiture laws allow. Peruchi was told that if he tried to fight the county, his case would be turned over to the Drug Enforcement Administration. "Try fighting the feds," he was told.

This is but one of the many outrageous tales told in *Mugged by the State*, by Randall Fitzgerald.

In his 20 years writing for Reader's Digest, Fitzgerald wrote about innocent people confronted by unforgiving environmental regulations, draconian drug laws, or coldhearted bureaucrats. With a journalist's detailed eye, Fitzgerald's book recounts the most egregious of his encounters over two decades.

In a few cases, these stories will absolutely break your heart.

You'll read about Bernadine Suitum, an 82-year-old who promised her dying husband she'd fulfill their lifelong dream — to build a retirement home in Lake Tahoe, Nevada. Using her life's savings, she purchased the only vacant lot in a fully developed neighborhood. Then her lot was declared a "stream environment zone," and the government kept her from building on the land.

You'll read about a farmer who had the misfortune of allowing a certain kind of endangered snail to find its way onto his property. Not only is the farmer prohibited from developing his land, the federal government is forcing him to spend his own money to ensure the snail's survival. If EPA officials find that geese or ducks eat the snails, the farmer can be fined \$5,000 for each ingested snail.

You'll read about a lost Boy Scout who was forced to spend several nights in sub-zero temperatures because the rescue helicopter that spotted him wasn't permitted to land in the wilderness where he'd wandered, because of environmental laws.

You'll read about a Montana sheep ranger fined \$7,000 for shooting an endangered 372-pound grizzly that nearly killed him.

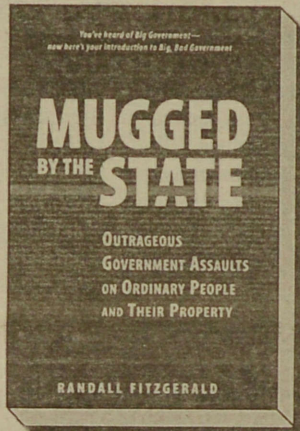
And you'll read about an Akron, Ohio market owner targeted by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Despite a petition signed by 36 black community members in his defense, including the entire board of Akron's NAACP, despite evidence uncovered by his attorney that the EEOC had fudged its data, shop owner Russel Vernon was still cited for race-based employment discrimination by the federal agency, and incurred \$67,000 in legal fees, nearly bankrupting him.

Fitzgerald's ax isn't partisan or discriminatory: It grinds against abuse of power in general. His examples come from programs and policies embraced by both Republicans and Democrats.

He documents outrageous abuses carried out in the name of the drug war, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the EEOC and the EPA. He details cases where city and state governments have seized land from ordinary people under eminent domain, only to hand it over to politically potent corporations and influential businessmen.

Mugged by the State vividly illustrates the hubris of unchecked power, and it shows this using real stories of real people whose only mistake was to happen upon a government office more interested in making an example, making a point, or fulfilling a quota than in serving the people.

■ **About the reviewer:** Radley Balko is a policy analyst for the Cato Institute. He publishes a weblog at www.TheAgorator.com.



Libertarians nationwide protest tax day

If there was ever a day entirely devoted to feeling frustrated, violated, and aggravated, then tax day is it," says Tom Freese, chairman of the Libertarian Party of DeKalb County, Ga.

On April 15, when many Americans rushed to the post office to drop off their income tax returns, they were met by Libertarians protesting taxes — Freese and other DeKalb LP members among them.

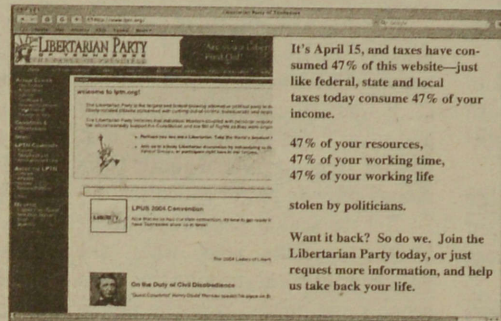
Between state and federal income taxes, sales tax, various fees and a host of other forced "contributions" to big government, the average American pays approximately 47 percent of his or her income to the government each year, said Ray Ledford, chair of the LP of Tennessee.

Tax protests were scheduled in many states, including Florida, Wisconsin and Tennessee, and the Libertarian Party is getting a name for being the official, the only, anti-tax party.

When a CNN/Money reporter wanted to write about anti-tax activists for a Tax Day story, he told what the Libertarians in Washington DC, Minneapolis, and Duval County, Fla., are doing to protest — and pointed to dozens of other locations

nationwide where the LP is calling for limited government.

At the Duval County protest, Libertarians planned to drag balls and chains around to illustrate the imprisonment bureaucrats and politicians impose through taxes, while others intended to dress as patriots, said Doug Klippel, chair of the Florida LP.



In North Carolina alone there were at least four protests scheduled by various Libertarian groups — in Asheville, Durham, Greensboro and Raleigh.

"We want to remind our fellow citizens that the United States grew and prospered for over 130 years without an income tax, and to recognize that we would be better off without this tax today," Freese said. "Only the Libertarian Party is working to eliminate this tax and to limit

government accordingly.

"An income tax is incompatible with a free society. It is simply legalized theft."

Libertarians in Madison, Wis., planned to hold signs with slogans such as:

■ "Budget keeps growing and growing and growing..." — with a picture of the Energizer bunny;

■ "Your tax dollars at work," with a toilet; and

■ "Taxes fund waste," showing a garbage can.

"The Republicans are always talking about lower taxes," said Rolf Lindgren, tax protest coordinator for the LP of Dane County, Wis. "Well, we'll see which political party has the most tax protesters on Tax Day!"

And in Tennessee, almost half of the state LP's website — www.LPTN.org — was obscured by an anti-tax message, "showing quite graphically what happens when 47 percent of every dollar you earn is taken away, in some form of taxation or another," Ledford said, referring to April 15 as "Confiscation Day."

"This shows what happens when the loss from taxes occurs all in one day, instead of in every paycheck or purchase."

Picture yourself...in LP News!

Did you know that a majority of the photographs included in this newspaper are submitted by our readers? Despite this wonderful help, we frequently find ourselves scratching our heads because we often cannot use the photos submitted.

We need your help! We want to vary our content, and put the best face on the LP, our members and Libertarian activities!

Help us picture you! To stand a good chance of getting your photos in *LP News* — where they'll be seen by Libertarians nationwide — follow a few simple guidelines.



✓ **HI-RES:** If you send a photo via e-mail, make sure it is a high-resolution image — meaning at least 300 dpi. We cannot use images found on a website.

✓ **SEND THE ORIGINAL:** When sending a digital photo, please send the original image. Do not edit it. That way, we can crop, adjust color, or otherwise modify the image for the specific spot where we need it.

✓ **CLOSE-UP AND PERSONAL:** When taking pictures of speakers or other events, always remember: Closer is better. Don't be afraid to stand in front of the crowd for a minute or two and get a good picture.

✓ **ACTION SHOTS:** Even if it's only one person, get photos of that person doing something — even if it's only talking. If you've got a group, show them interacting, working on a project, talking to each other — anything other than lining them up and having them smile for the camera or sitting around a half-cleared dining table looking at each other over the scattered remains of a dinner meeting.

✓ **FOCUS:** If you have an activity with 10 or 15 people, don't try to work all of them into the photo unless it's absolutely necessary. Focus on people doing things and on the people who are important to the story you're trying to tell.

✓ **SEND IN A VARIETY:** If you take 12 photos and don't know which one is appropriate, feel free to send them all.

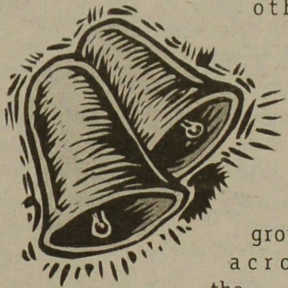
✓ **SEND IN AS MANY AS YOU CAN:** We can always use pictures!

Questions? Contact Daniel Cloud at (202) 333-0008, ext. 226, or by e-mail at editor@hq.lp.org.

Florida Libertarians oppose government involvement in marriage

Marriage is a religious institution and, as such, should not be regulated by bureaucrats and politicians, Libertarians in Sarasota County, Fla., agreed recently.

They joined other



tion — including the state Libertarian Party organizations in Oregon and California — in calling for our government to get out of the marriage business.

"I believe that religious ceremonies — whether marriage, bar mitzvah, confirmation, baptism, or canonization — should not be subject to permission, licensing, or regulation by government but by the institution or deity under which these covenants are pledged," said Jim Theriault, chair of the Sarasota County LP.

Walt Augustinowicz, the current front runner for the Florida House in District 71, said he looks at the state's issuance of marriage licenses as just a part of a bigger picture: "Our government is infatuated with requiring licenses and permits for everyday activities. This is just one more way they can tax and control our daily lives. The mere fact that we need to get permission from our government to get married seems Orwellian."

Libertarians believe that the

structure of government was laid out clearly in the founding documents of our republic. As Bill Van Allen, LP candidate for Florida House District 69, said: "The First Amendment provides that the federal government may not establish a religious standard. Requiring marriages to be licensed violates that most fundamental provision of our republic."

The resolution approved by the Sarasota County LP calls on the government to establish voluntary civil unions for all people who wish to obtain the perceived benefits of state endorsement of their choice in life-partner.

"Our government's jurisdiction is to enforce contracts under common law," Theriault explained. "A civil union or a marriage is a contract and

should come under the purview of a court should a conflict develop."

Copies of the resolution have been sent to all area members of the Florida Legislature, to city and county commissioners in the region, and to various media outlets, and they are producing a response.

Fintan Reilly, secretary of the SCLP, said he has heard back from several elected officials since the

resolution was released, including some unexpected comments of support from a few of them.

One city commissioner — a Republican — said he agrees with the LP's position because it opposes overarching government power, even though his own party is trying to force the issue in the other direction by permanently outlawing same-sex marriage.

The Advocates for Self-Government Presents... 2003 Lights of Liberty AWARD WINNERS!

The Advocates for Self-Government congratulates the following people for outstanding libertarian activism that reached millions of people in 2003 with a positive libertarian message.

Each did one or more of the following: (1) had three or more letters-to-the-editor published with the word "libertarian" in them; (2) gave three or more speeches to non-libertarian audiences; (3) participated in three or more Operation Politically Homeless (OPH) outreach booths. Each winner deserves our thanks & congratulations!

Those with ★★ by their names completed 2 of the 3 activities; the seven people with ★★★ did all 3 outreach activities — the "Libertarian Triathlon."

■ **ALABAMA**
Jack K. Andrews
Dick Clark
★★★ Stephen Gordon

■ **ALASKA**
Al Anders
Dr. Michael Mitchell
Judy Leslie
Len Karpinski
★★ Rob Clift
Sara Cotham-Chambers
★★ Victoria Pate

■ **ARIZONA**
David Euchner
Ernest Hancock

■ **CALIFORNIA**
Bradley Bobbs
Bruce Cohen
Chuck McGlawn
★★ Douglas Lorenz
Jarret Wollstein
John Thomas
Kelly Simpson
Lance Brown

Paul T. Ireland
Robert Mish
Scott Bieser
Lorne Strider

■ **COLORADO**
Mike Spalding
L. Neil Smith

■ **CONNECTICUT**
Courtenay Hough

■ **FLORIDA**
Barry Rowe
Britt Craig
Peter Fortunato, Sr.
Bruce Wechsler
Frank J. Gonzalez

■ **GEORGIA**
Adrian Wood
Barbara Richard
Chris Swartz
★★★ Dave Richard
★★ David Corr
David Lockhart
Eddy Johnson
★★ Jim Miller
Julie Miller
Matt Nicholson

Philip Bradley
Robert Rahm
Scott Kjar

■ **IDAHO**
Rob Oates

■ **ILLINOIS**
Scott Bludorn
Donald Fricker
Austin Hough
Ron MacArtney
★★ John Nickels
Ken Prazak
★★★ Jeffrey Trigg

■ **INDIANA**
Michael Houze
Mark Rutherford

■ **IOWA**
★★ Richard Campagna

■ **MAINE**
Ben Barth

■ **MASSACHUSETTS**
Rich Aucoin
Carla Howell

■ **MICHIGAN**
James Allison
Bill Bradley
★★★ Kenneth Howe

■ **MINNESOTA**
Stephen Baker
Rev. Bob Graner
Cisse Spragins

■ **MISSOURI**
Mike Bozarth
R.S. Davis
Tom Knapp
John Williams

■ **MONTANA**
Westley Deitchler

■ **NEBRASKA**
Nydra Karlen

■ **NEW HAMPSHIRE**
John M. Barnes, J.D.
Lois Gardner
Howard Wilson

■ **NEW MEXICO**
Alex Harris

■ **NEW YORK**
★★ Joshua L. Brazee
Jim Lesczynski
★★★ Gary Snyder

■ **NORTH CAROLINA**
★★ Danny Brooks
Pete Camp
Christopher Cole
Sean Haugh
Anita Hermes
Susan Hogarth
Shane Killian
Lee Wrights

■ **OHIO**
Jim Babka
Kenneth Maccutcheon
Steven R. Cuckler

■ **OKLAHOMA**
Albro Daniel
★★ Jimmy Cook

■ **OREGON**
Richard Easbey
Ralph Edwards
James Karlock
Scott King
Michael H. Wilson

■ **PENNSYLVANIA**
Mark Crowley
Martin Fox
Tom Giles
Thomas Gillooly
★★ Ron Goodman
John Haley
Dave Jahn
Jack Matthews
Joe Scinta
Sarah Sherifff
Todd Zullinger

■ **SOUTH CAROLINA**
Doug Kendall
Victor Kocher
Mary Lou Seymour

■ **SOUTH DAKOTA**
Andre Ager

■ **TENNESSEE**
Harry Browne
Daniel Lewis
Steve Trinward

■ **TEXAS**
Lex Concord
Jeff Daiell
David DeLamar
Robert Hansen

■ **UTAH**
★★ Aaron Turpen
Fran Tully

■ **VIRGINIA**
Elizabeth Bowles
Steve Dasbach
Robert S. Hart, Jr.
Jacob Hornberger
★★★ James W. Lark III

■ **WASHINGTON**
★★★ Bruce Guthrie

■ **WISCONSIN**
Aaron Biterman

■ **ITALY**
★★ Emma Bonino

All winners received a handsome certificate of honor and valuable discount coupons for libertarian products. Their names and achievements are featured on an Honor Roll at our Web site, www.TheAdvocates.org.

You can become a 2004 Lights of Liberty winner!

The 2004 Lights of Liberty award program for outstanding libertarian activism is already underway. To learn how to qualify, visit www.TheAdvocates.org/lights.html or call toll-free 800-932-1776.

Advocates for Self-Government, 213 South Erwin Street, Cartersville, GA 30120-3513

Note: If you met the requirements in 2003 but aren't on this list, you can still get your award and have your name added to the Honor Roll at our Web site. Contact us.

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CORRECTIONS

■ Due to technical difficulties, a few ads in the March and April 2004 issues of *LP News* did not reproduce properly. The formatting problems have been addressed.

■ In the April 2004 issue, Dick Fuerle's web address was incorrect. The correct address is www.whiskeyrebellion.us.

■ In the March 2004 issue, in the article "Libertarian message on Florida radio," Paul Molloy's name was misspelled. The correct website address for Molloy's show with Michael Gilson-De Lemos is www.thefreedomworks.org.

Reformatting the Libertarian Platform: What to expect at this year's national convention

With the LP National Convention rapidly approaching, the '04 Platform Committee is finishing up their suggested alterations to the Platform.

The committee was told to rework the platform into a more easily understood document — something that will be less easily twisted by our political opponents, who frequently use it to misrepresent the LP.

Convention delegates will vote on whether to accept the new format.

Rather than having a one-piece plank that addresses each issue, the new format contains four parts: issue, principle, solution and transition.

First it names the issue at hand; then tells how libertarian principles apply to it; explains what needs to change so address the issue; and explains how to make the change.

"Each of the Platform's planks has been restructured, but it will take much more work to polish the new version," said George Squyres of Arizona, an LNC member who is on the '04 Platform Committee.

Those advocating changes to the document say that consistently hurts the party, by opening LP candidates to attack. The Indiana LP Central Committee and the Prince William County (Va.) LP have distanced themselves from the national platform for just such reasons.

Those who want to keep the current platform explain that while they know the document isn't perfect, it isn't meant to be a tract — something to distribute to non-Libertarians to convince them to join. Rather, they say, it is a guiding document for Libertarians.

Here are some comments from those who support changing the platform's format:

■ The current platform is a solidly principled document, but it needs to be clearer and easier to comprehend. The platform reformat ... represents a real improvement over the current mixed format that is different for each plank and sometimes difficult to follow.

—JASON AUVENSHINE
Chair, Arizona LP

■ I wholeheartedly support both the effort and the product of the Platform reformat. It represents an encapsulation of just where we've failed to be successful in the past: marketing our ideas. This effort stays true and consistent with our principles, while packaging these very same ideas in a manner that tells what we're about, why we think the way we do, how we want to change things, and how we can get there.

—GEOFF NEALE
Chair, LNC

■ The county chair in Vigo County, Indiana reports that he had voters

tell him they wouldn't vote for him because Libertarians were going to do away with Social Security and hurt their parents. While he agrees Social Security should be replaced, our platform doesn't say how in a positive way. Thus, in a race where it shouldn't be an issue, it gets used against him.

—MARK W. RUTHERFORD
Indiana State Chair

■ In 2000 I ran for the West Virginia House of Delegates. The morning of the election, a local TV news anchor said, "The Libertarian party qualified for ballot access during the last gubernatorial election year and have entered many state races. The Libertarian party supports legalizing drugs and prostitution, and eliminating Social Security and Medicare." That was her whole report.

—GREG HENSHALL
Nitro, West Virginia

■ The campaign was for town council in Signal Mountain, Tenn. In two public candidate forums, a plant in the audience brought up my membership in the LP, implying that I was going to abolish the police department, marry homosexual couples in the town hall and start a red-light district. I got email from local police officers asking me if I planned to eliminate the department!

—JOE DUMAS
Hamilton County, Tennessee

■ The new format proposed for the platform is the perfect balance of moderation for our candidates, simplicity for the voter and purity of principle for the party. It proves Rand's point that between rational individuals, there are no conflicts of interest.

—MIKE DIXON
LNC, At-Large Representative
Candidate, LNC Chair

■ This effort has been ongoing for more than two years and is the result of innumerable hours of work by many hard working activists from around the country. The result will be

a party Platform that remains true to our libertarian principles and is more user-friendly for all our Libertarian candidates across the nation.

—R. LEE WRIGHTS
Editor, *Liberty for All*
Candidate, LNC Vice-Chair

■ When I ran for Governor of Oregon in 2002, the Republican didn't want me in any of the debates. He said (as I recall) "I won't be in any debate that includes Cox. Cox isn't a serious candidate - he's an anarchist who wants to legalize heroin."

—TOM COX
Candidate for Oregon state House

Platform change unnecessary

While it appears to me that it is the job of the party to communicate its ideas clearly to others, especially to those populations who are naturally pro-freedom, the party platform is not the primary place to do so.

No platform is about preaching to the unconverted, so why all this presumption that the language must be revised? The platform is not the face of the party, as far as outsiders are concerned. It is a statement of beliefs, based on the consensus of current members, and of importance mainly to insiders.

"The face" of the LP is embodied in who its candidates are. To some, we're a crew of lonely nerds who are consumed over the drug issue; to the average woman, we're the people who will eliminate the social safety net and put more guns on the street.

To such people, no amount of rephrasing the tax, drug or gun planks will change the latent, demographic emotional impression.

The regular public usually looks to what the main candidates are promoting, or to the party's generic messages, to grasp where the group is coming from. That is what the

LP should be concentrating on, to communicate better to the public. Soundbites, emotions, symbols and themes — not minute intellectual prattle from a general platform document — are what the general public takes in, to form an opinion about the party.

Some in the LP want the platform to be an official statement of beliefs, a PR department, and other things it does not need to be. No other party I know of has attached so much baggage to its platform.

The wholesale revision of a document that few people outside the party will ever read — regardless of how interested they may become with the LP — is the latest exercise in the very navel-gazing that perpetuates our insularity.

If this or that section of the platform is unclear, or can be misinterpreted, then change this or that section at convention time, as parties are supposed to do. Why overhaul the car over a dent or two? Why has the party committed itself to draining its energies in another cycle of busywork, instead of working on building a more libertarian-friendly society?

So I still think the project was unnecessary. It will not solve the problem of opponents trying to make the party look bad (they'll just reference the earlier version or other writings),

or of people voting for a badly worded amendment on the floor of the convention, as per the old format; they'll just be poorly wording them according to the new format.

While the new set-up may make communication of the party's ideas easier and less prone to be distorted, it seems to structurally subordinate the principles into a reactive context — unless we're responding to something, we cannot assert our beliefs.

The current platform is mostly presuppositional — it presumes the right to declare something apart from its specific application — while the revamp seems to proceed from a universalist assumption, that if we could just establish common ground first, then we could get people to rationally accept our principles and solutions.

I am skeptical that this universalist bias is any better than the current structure, and think it puts the new platform in the posture of being on the defensive.

I am concerned this will underscore the perception the party is more concerned with appearance than substance, and in converting what should be a straightforward, fundamental statement of principles, into a list of LP home remedies.

■ **About the author:** John Clifton is the New York LP state chair.

Sample plank reformat Freedom and responsibility

This plank is composed almost entirely of statements of principle. The statement of the issue is thin at best, and though understood by insiders to the freedom movement, does not clearly present the issue to the average voter. Similarly the statement of the solution is watered down and overly idealistic. The suggestion offers more teeth. The lack of proposed action gives our candidates little to campaign on, while the suggested replacement provides three steps that could be taken.—George Squyres, member, '04 Platform Committee

Current Plank

We believe that individuals should be free to make choices for themselves and to accept responsibility for the consequences of the choices they make. We must accept the right of others to choose for themselves if we are to have the same right. Our support of an individual's right to make choices in life does not mean that we necessarily approve or disapprove of those choices.

We believe people must accept personal responsibility for the consequences of their actions. Libertarian policies will promote a society where people are free to make and learn from their own decisions. Personal responsibility is discouraged by government denying individuals the opportunity to exercise it. In fact, the denial of freedom fosters irresponsibility.

Reformatted Plank — Existing Language Only

The Issue: Personal responsibility is discouraged by government denying individuals the opportunity to exercise it. In fact, the denial of freedom fosters irresponsibility.

The Principle: We believe that individuals should be free to make choices for themselves and to accept responsibility for the consequences of the choices they make. We must accept the right of others to choose for themselves if we are to have the same right. Our support of an individual's right to make choices in life does not mean that we necessarily approve or disapprove of those choices. We believe people must accept personal responsibility for the consequences of their actions.

Libertarian Solutions: Libertarian policies will promote a society where people are free to make and learn from their own decisions. Libertarian Action/Transition: (No suitable language.)

Reformatted Plank — Suggested Language Additions

The Issue: Government's removal of individual responsibility and substitution of public responsibility for individual action has fostered a culture of irresponsibility at the individual level, and allowed government to insert itself in the running of individuals' lives at all levels.

The Principle: (The existing language is suitable.)
Libertarian Solutions: A society where strict liability is enforced and not abrogated by a public sector social and political agenda will foster freedom and responsibility at all levels of society.

Libertarian Action/Transition: Restore the concept of strict liability to the civil and criminal code. Teach school children responsibility for action in consumer and product affairs; enforce statutes against fraud and theft in the affairs of economics.

By John
Clifton

LNC CHAIR CANDIDATE

Ernest Hancock for LNC Chair

EDITOR'S NOTE: Each of the three candidates for Libertarian National Committee chair were invited to submit a column of up to 700 words, explaining why they should be elected chairman. All three appear in this edition of *LP News*.

If you're not having fun, then you're doing it wrong."

And the National Libertarian Party hasn't had much fun for a long time. "Doing it right" isn't what this national chair election is about since "Doing it right" is different for each individual. For that percentage of you that already understand what I'm talking about I'm pretty sure I can count on your support in Atlanta if you can be convinced it's worth your trouble to attend.

For the rest of you that are less informed I'll make my case as clear as possible. Libertarians, real libertarians, anarcho-capitalist libertarians, hard-core no-compromise libertarians, the libertarian wing of the Libertarian Party, the Western Libertarian Alliance and thousands of libertarians known by other classifications have been on the front lines for decades and are tired of constantly having to defend their home ground from those claiming to be libertarian while having a collectivist mindset. In spite of this distraction tens of millions of web hits monthly are spreading the libertarian message outside the LP without asking permission or seeking approval.

This country is quickly being polarized into two groups, those who wish to be left alone and those who will not leave them alone. It is impossible to have any credibility criticizing those that are intruding on the rights of individuals while taking on the characteristics of those you claim to oppose.

Defenders of unprincipled behavior under the libertarian label will often remind us that we are a political party and as such we must act accordingly. What they mean is "act just like them." Those of us on the front lines know the battles for individual rights are won by individuals or small groups. These successful local activists can then expect to have their story used to justify the existence of an organization that produces little more than shiny badges for a select few. These "shiny badgers" have followed, and promise to follow, a tradition of fund raising that uses fear and guilt to generate as much immediate cash as possible to cure the crisis du jour. And this

trend is to be expanded even more.

The idea that libertarians could beat the collectivists at their own game as long as libertarians were in charge of a competing collective is seen as silly from the start to many. But what is disturbing is the disdain the Shiny Badgers have for those that even question the desire of the LNC

to become a big tent carbon copy of what we are supposed to be fighting.

It should be fun to watch our support grow in the minds of the public and the media. It should be fun to see our rhetoric stolen by our opposition. It should be fun to make light of politicians that increasingly refer to themselves as libertarians. But the constant cry for an LPUS with the resources to go toe-to-toe with the Bad Guys on their field — with their rules, their referees and their sportscasters — is like asking the Revolutionary Militia to get into formation

like the Red Coats.

The intellectual battle for freedom is being won a mind at a time in a guerrilla war to help encourage the first generation that has grown up knowing that government regularly lies, that most laws do more harm than good, that the government has little interest in doing its job of protecting individual rights and that "Freedom's the Answer, What's the Question?"

Even a child knows that to catch a thrown ball you don't run to where it is, you position yourself to where you know it is going to be and let it

come to you. Individual libertarians have been great at predicting where the ball is going to be while the LPUS has been wasting far too much time, effort and resources trying to control the flight of the ball.

I have total confidence of exactly where we should be. We need to have a bear hug on the Liberty Tree with the full knowledge that the best and the brightest will find libertarians there defending it.

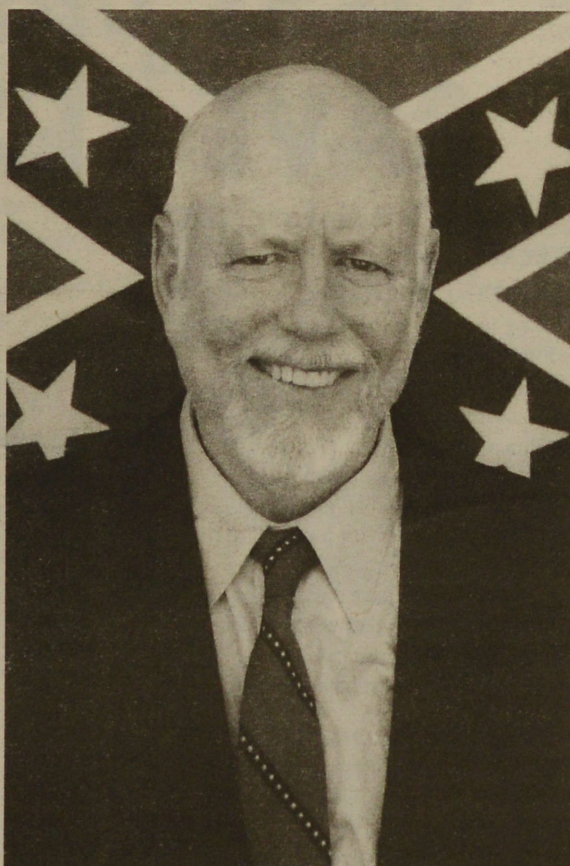
Those found carving collectivist slogans in the bark should be replaced immediately, cheerfully and without hesitation.

We, the members of the Libertarian Party,

are engaged in an effort to bring peace, prosperity and progress to the people of our planet. Our cause is too important to let false pride or bad judgment impede our progress. The presidential candidates of the Libertarian Party have all run small imitations of Democrat and Republican presidential campaigns. This approach is a failure. The current people seeking the nomination of the Libertarian Party for president are not going to change this approach, and they believe they can win or at least do very well. I believe they are wrong. I have

lived in the state of Nevada for more than thirty years. I know the value of the ability to predict the future. If I could predict the future with accuracy, I would be rich. I am not rich. But, I do have more than \$20,000 in an IRA. I am willing, indeed, I am anxious to lay a wager of \$20,000 that if the next nominee is one of those currently running and they do not change their strategy, they will receive less than one million votes in the November election. Do I have any takers?

I propose that we cause George Bush to lose the election. Here is how: In the southern states, we use a set of TV spots and we would run against the Republican Party in the person of Lincoln and identify him with George Bush. (I have produced a twelve minute video with six TV spots and an explanation which I would be happy to send to any delegate to the national convention.) In other states where the contest is close, we would use direct mail and mail political literature only to Republicans. If you are in a multi-candidate race and if you take enough votes away from the leader, the person in second place becomes the winner. If five hundred Republican votes in Florida are taken away from Bush, then Gore is president.



To most libertarians it does not make much difference if Bush or Kerry wins. However, who wins does make a difference to others. As most libertarians know, if you can provide people with what they want, there is often money in it. Money is one thing we need above all others. Furthermore, the paramount interest of the media is the horse race. If we can affect the outcome of the election, the media will take us seriously. If the Libertarian Party is taken seriously, we will have taken a salient step in the conflict for liberty. Thank you. I need your help or things will stay the same. It is up to you. What will you do? Do not wait: Act.

Jim Burns for President

117 North 4th Street, #1776

Las Vegas, Nevada 89101-2932

(702) 642-4165

Paid for by Jim Burns for President Committee J.D. Smith Treasurer:
Contributions are not tax-deductible for federal income tax purposes.

The "Women's Rights & Abortion" plank dodges the libertarian issue: Do preborn humans have rights? But in effect, it supports the government's two-tiered legal policy of a superior class of human beings with rights and an inferior class that does not count. **Isn't it time to delete this plank?**
Doris Gordon, MDLP,
301-460-4141, www.L4L.org,
libertarian@erols.com

POLITICS 2004

Ballots, candidates, Russians and more

■ To get on the ballot, the **Pennsylvania** LP needs about 25,000 signatures before July 25. Ballot access coordinator **Jay Russell** and East Vice-Chair **Charles Fournier** hope to get 30,000 to 35,000 signatures — they have pledges for 15,300.

"I am relying on county coordinators and candidates — all volunteers — to reach that goal," Fournier said. "We desperately need LP members to help out in states where ballot access effort is all volunteer."

■ In **Missouri**, Libertarian **Karl Timmerman** was elected to **Holden** city council; **Tom Knapp** was appointed to the Selective Service Board for the **St. Louis** region — a presidential appointment to a federal office.

Eric Dondero, of **Brazoria County, Texas**, also serves on a Selective Service board in his region. "We don't have a draft right now, so all we have to do is go to the training sessions, and it's a 20-year appointment," Dondero said. "If we do end up with a draft, I would just vote no on everybody," to prevent the system from functioning.

■ On March 17th, **Victor Kaplan** — **New Jersey** LP chair and a Russian-speaking congressional candidate from the 5th district — was interviewed by a news program on NTV, Russia's largest TV station.

■ And in Russia's Ulyanovsk (Lenin's hometown), 14 candidates for a parliament seat were all beaten in December by the Russian equivalent of "none of the above."

Twenty percent of the city's voters cast ballots for "against all," which got more than twice as many votes as any of the candidates. In a March 14 attempt, "against all" went up to 21.5 percent. Local officials are, understandably, embarrassed.

About 56 percent of registered turned out for elections — they simply refuse to elect anybody out of apparent disgust with the candidates.

■ In the **Utah** governor's race, LP candidate **Richard Mack** came in third in an Instant Runoff Voting straw poll in March — ahead of the top Democrat on the list. Mack defeated 11 other candidates to earn his slot in the straw poll.

■ **Russ Diamond**, a Libertarian from **Annvile, Pa.**, has announced his candidacy for Congress in that state's 17th District. Diamond is also running for General Assembly in the state's 101st Legislative District. He said he will spend the majority of his time and money on the state legislative race, but will also give disgruntled voters an alternate choice for Congress.

■ **Minnesota** state Sen. Steve Kelley, a Democrat, has introduced a bill that would drop the voting age to 17. Federal law allows voting at 18, and states are allowed to set the age lower.

Maine is considering letting 17-year-olds vote in primaries, as long as they turn 18 by the general election, something several other states already allow.

In **Florida**, advocates hope this year to lower the voting age to 16. Similar proposals have been introduced in **Texas** and **Hawaii**.

California's proposal calls for a constitutional amendment that would give 16-year-olds a half vote and 14-year-olds a quarter vote in state elections beginning in 2006.

■ "Reason" magazine is targeting its own readership. Literally. When the libertarian magazine's subscribers get the June issue, they'll see their own houses, circled in red on front cover satellite photos. The stunt is to illustrate the power of databases, and how information can be gleaned from disparate sources, then used to pinpoint an individual — for marketing or for more nefarious purposes.

■ **Ken Chazotte** was selected by the LP of **New Jersey** as a candidate for the state's 12th Congressional District. Chazotte was also elected chair of the **Monmouth/Ocean County** LP.

■ The **Berkeley, Calif.**, Food and Housing Project is shutting down its oldest program, which for over 30 years has provided meals to homeless people for 25 cents. The group hasn't seen a drop in revenue. But the city "living wage ordinance" requires that the group increase its workers' wages. One of the primary supporters of the ordinance: The Food and Housing Project. Officials explained that the group still supports the ordinance even if implementing it will force their own flagship program to close.

LP PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

Jeffrey Diket for president

EDITOR'S NOTE: Each of the seven announced candidates for the LP presidential nomination was invited to submit a column of up to 750 words to tell LP News readers who they are and why they should be nominated for that position. Commentary from six of the seven appear in this edition of LP News.

Protection of liberty is my aim, and the securing of rights by law is my basis for action. In foreign policy and liberty, free trade between privately controlled entities is the objective.

Only when defense matters within the U.S. are considered is this standard deviated from, in which case — especially in large weapons systems — government can be considered a customer.

No trading and diplomatic relations with statist regimes and/or members of supporting parties or front organizations acting as individual traders or factory owners is permitted, as these relations give approval to initiation of force. When tyrannies initiate force against U.S. (Cuba), war is justified. Working with those who initiate efforts to replace tyranny with libertarian regimes is justified. Gun possession and militias are protected. Automatic gun production is encouraged.

Where free trade meets standards stated prior, tariff barriers are lifted

and businessmen control trade. Government only sets weights and measurements, stops piracy and clears shipping and air lanes.

Domestic policy:

■ To avoid economic chaos, cash registers must have provisions for interlocking with New York gold market so gold coins can be circulated again in banks, stores, and can be used as legal tender for payment of debts. New York gold spot market determines relation between ounce of gold and \$1. Government does not set gold price.

■ Liberty amendment destroys graduated income tax. Fixed percentage income tax substituted for all other taxes. Each person pays 2 percent tax to federal government, 2 percent to state, 2 percent to local government, independent subtreasury system installed. All levels of government shall not issue bonds, property, sales and excise taxes.

■ Independent subtreasury means only cash taken in provides cash for appropriations — cash in equals cash out. Federal Reserve Bank destroyed and issue of coins and paper money returned to Congress.

■ Rights are conditions of rational and genetic origin needed for man to live. Rights of infants and unborn protected by law. Unborn declared persons.

■ States nullify federal laws only to protect your rights under 10th amend-

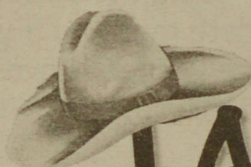
ment provisions. Upon Congress' receipt of instrument of nullification, law in question repealed, and state complaints investigated.

■ Drugs legalized except prohibiting poisons or killer drugs including abortifacients, which are abortion-inducing drugs such as RU-486. Military and veterans hospitals must have alternative medical practitioners on staff in emergency rooms, health food stores on site, and laws prohibiting these practices in private hospitals repealed.

Biography

I was born Sept. 14, 1945, in Neptune City, N.J. I became blind because of an overdose of oxygen in an incubator, a virus, and an attack by KKK members in high school. I attended Tulane University from 1963-66, and East Carolina University from 1966-1973, receiving my BA and MA degrees in history and political science. After receiving rehabilitation at Arkansas Enterprises for the Blind, where sensitivity training left me a victim of delayed stress syndrome, I joined the John Birch Society, and through JBS connections, joined the LP in 1976.

I have 15 years experience as a vending stand operator, speak French and Spanish, and understand the danger of government control over business. I am objectivist-based, having read the Fountainhead and Atlas Shrugged in 1973-74. I served as Louisiana LP treasurer (1978), candidate for Congress (1990), U.S. Senate (1998), vice Chairman Louisiana LP (1998), and served on the LALP state central committee.



LAST CHANCE TO SAVE TEXAS!

For the first time since 1986, Texas must petition to get on the ballot.

✦ We have one month to raise the funds required.

✦ We are the only 3rd party in Texas with a shot at it.

✦ We almost certainly will exceed the requirement to automatically be placed on the 2006 ballot.

This will put us on the ballot for the next 3 years!!

Starting March 10, we have only 75 days to gather more than 80,000 valid signatures from voters who did not participate in the primary election. The window is very short, so we must have funds up front.

Why is Texas important?

✦ Texas has the 2nd largest LP membership in the USA.

✦ Since 1986, we've retained ballot access through election results, but we fell narrowly short in 2002.

✦ We have filed candidates for all US Congressional districts in the state except for Ron Paul's district!

✦ For the last 3 election cycles, we've had more Congressional candidates than any other party.

✦ In 2000, our six Texas statewide candidates received a total of 4,298,871 votes.

✦ In 2004, we will retain ballot access through the ballot box.

Can we count on you?

Texans have helped other states get on the ballot for 18 years without asking a dime of anyone. Will you help us now?

Please send your donations to: Libertarian Party of Texas, Box 27932, Houston TX 77227. Write "Ballot Access" on the notation line, and please send us a note telling us your employer.

Thanks, y'all!!!



Michael Dixon for 2004 LNC Chair: The Right Choice

MICHAEL DIXON HAS GREATLY BENEFITED THE LIBERTARIAN

PARTY through his service on the Libertarian National Committee. He brings with him – from the world of business and nonprofit boards

– invaluable experience and honed management skills. His patient but focused leadership of the search committee for our new executive director for the party has produced obviously positive results. His leadership as national chair will continue to advance the professionalism of the Libertarian Party. I strongly endorse Michael Dixon for national chair.

Mark W. Rutherford—*Chairman, Libertarian Party of Indiana*

I HEARTILY ENDORSE MICHAEL DIXON

for Libertarian Party National Chair. His efforts to help swing this party back onto the road to responsible – and accountable – leadership have been invaluable. His diligence and effective work in seeking, finding and negotiating with a new executive director of proven capability has been a major factor in bringing us back on course toward becoming an effective force in the political arena. This above all else makes him the ideal person to continue us on our present path to a decentralized LP, driven by local and state activism.

Steve Trinward—*LNC Representative, Region Seven; Contributing Editor, Rational Review*

MIKE DIXON IS INTELLIGENT, DETAIL-ORIENTED AND A

CONSUMMATE PROFESSIONAL. In spite of that, he's still an all around likeable guy. He would make an excellent National Chair.

Rachel Mills—*LPNC Press Secretary; Durham County Chair; Lady of Liberty, calendar producer; Light of Liberty Award winner 2002*

I SEE THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY FINALLY COMING INTO ITS

OWN. It is the Spring of 1860, and we are those lunatic fringe Republicans who don't have a snowball's chance in Hell. Of course, the Fall of that year, and possibly THIS year, can change the political landscape forever. That's why it is vital that we elect an LNC Chair who can and will handle the onslaught. I am supporting Mike Dixon for the LNC Chair because I believe he is uniquely qualified and distinguishable among the candidates. There is no question of his administrative ability to help guide the Libertarian Party into prominence and success – while keeping the message of Freedom for the Individual pure and clean without watering it down.

Barry Hess—*2004 National Convention Delegate; 2002 candidate for Arizona Governor; Candidate for 2000 Libertarian Presidential Nomination; U.S. Senate Candidate (2000); National speaker on freedom issues (Fully Informed Juries, drug laws, education); Vice-Chair, Arizona LP; campaign consultant for Aaron Russo*

AS A LONG-TIME LIBERTARIAN, I AM PLEASED to see someone of Michael Dixon's caliber running for the position of National Chair. In my discussions with Michael, I am impressed by his passion for liberty, and with his vision for the Libertarian Party of the future. I am confident that the LP will be well-served by his wisdom, perspective, and guidance. I wholeheartedly support Michael's candidacy, and encourage others to help support his campaign.

Doug Klippel—*Chairman, Libertarian Party of Florida*

MIKE DIXON HAS THE RIGHT MIX OF BUSINESS

AND POLITICAL EXPERIENCE to move the Libertarian Party forward.

Jeremy Keil—*Former Executive Director of Wisconsin LP; Wisconsin Executive Committee alternate; former Maryland Executive Committee member*

I HAVE KNOWN MIKE DIXON FOR MANY YEARS, and had the pleasure of serving with him on the LNC during the 1998-2000 and 2000-2002 terms. In my opinion, he has all the tools necessary to be an excellent chairman of the Libertarian Party, and I am delighted to endorse his candidacy.

Jim Lark—*Past LNC chair, 2000-2002; Past Virginia LP vice chair; Campus coordinator, College Libertarians; Past LNC at-large representative, 1998-2000*

MIKE DIXON'S LEADERSHIP on the platform committee has enabled some of the party's best and brightest to come together and redevelop the nation platform into a truly principled and dynamic document. I look forward to those same leadership skills as national chair giving our activists what they need and knowing how to get out of their way, as well as bringing professionalism to the jobs that are beyond the limits of activism. And Mike truly knows the difference between the two.

George Squyres—*LNC Region 2, Arizona & Hawaii; Champion, Strategy 3, Strategic Plan; '04 Platform Committee; Second Vice-Chair, Arizona Libertarian Party; Chair, Coconino County Libertarian Party*

MIKE DIXON IS THE RIGHT PERSON AT THE

RIGHT TIME, with the right perspectives and administrative experience to lead our party forward. Now it's up to you and me to see that the Libertarian Party is properly run. Join me in voting for Mike Dixon for National Chair.

David W. Owens—*Libertarian campaign Manager*

ONE COULD NOT HOPE FOR A NICER LOOKING, BETTER SPOKEN NATIONAL CHAIR FOR THE LP

THAN MICHAEL DIXON. He's successful, hardworking and committed to our success. I enthusiastically endorse him! They just don't get any better than Mike.

Bruce Cohen—*LP California Executive Committee; LPCA Fundraising Chair; LP Congressional Candidate*





CONVENTION 2004 REPORT

Don't be left out!

This is the last issue of *LP News* before the Convention! The Early Bird deadline has passed, but the package prices are still very low. The number of early registrations has exceeded our expectations, and I hear that many states have more than filled their delegations. It looks like we may have a "full house!"

Get your registration in to ensure that you can attend all the events. If you wait until the last minute we cannot guarantee availability, especially for the meals. And don't forget to book your hotel room by May 5th. The Marriott will continue to honor the low \$99/night rate, but it will be "subject to availability."

Call the Marriott at 404-521-0000 or 800-228-9290 and tell them you are with the Libertarian Party Convention. You can get a room with a king size bed or two doubles. The rate is the same for up to four people. If you wish to share and need a roommate, contact Joseph Henchman (JDHenchman@aol.com) who is coordinating room-sharing.

If you are an LP member and become a credentialed delegate you will be able to participate and vote in the Business Sessions. Most of Friday and Saturday will be spent reviewing changes proposed by the Platform Committee. The highly anticipated Presidential Debate will take place at the end of business on Saturday afternoon. This is expected to draw a large contingent of media (we are getting *lots* of media inquiries), and we expect the Main Convention Hall to be standing room only!

The nomination of our presidential and vice-presidential candidates will take place on Sunday. (Link to the preliminary business agenda off the *Schedule* page of the convention site, lpconvention.org.) This too will be highly attended and anyone with at least a Basic package will be able to observe the process (as well as everything else in the Main Hall).

Concurrent with the Business on Friday and Saturday will be two tracks of Workshops; one primarily for "nuts and bolts" and strategy and one primarily for issues, including some "hot" topics, such as the War and the PATRIOT Act, education, gun rights, religion and liberty, the drug war, gay marriage and the environment. A Speaker package (or higher) will get you into any of these Workshops, but *you do not have to be a member to attend any of the non-business events!*

If you are a serious candidate or campaign manager, one of the best investments you can make is to attend the "Libertarian Victory School" on Thursday, May 27th. Go to the *Special Events* page of the convention website to register; and fill out the Attendee Questionnaire to help the instructors tailor the class for you.

And do buy your tickets for the "Red, Rock & Blues" Concert on Friday night. This will be an awesome concert, enjoyable by all ages! This concert will be open to the public as well. Atlanta is a big music town and Jimmie Vaughan has played there before to big audiences. And Poker Face and Dan Litwin will really rock the house, too.

The Vendor Spaces and Exhibitor Tables are going fast. Go to the *Vendors* page of the convention site to read about them and contact Marianne Volpe to see if there are any left.

I still need a couple of piano players!

We are looking for someone to play some background/easy listening tunes (jazz/pop standards) at the Torch Club Reception. I also want an accompanist for singers; we have some budding composers among us who would like to premier some of their libertarian songs.

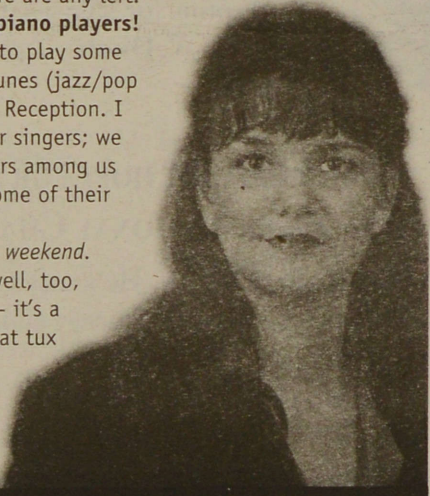
Be a part of this fantastic weekend.

We encourage you to dress well, too, especially for the Banquet — it's a great opportunity to wear that tux or evening gown!

See you very soon,

Nancy Neale

convention@hq.LP.org



LNC CHAIR CANDIDATE

George Phillies for LNC chair

EDITOR'S NOTE: Each of the three candidates for Libertarian National Committee chair were invited to submit a column of up to 700 words, explaining why they should be elected chairman. All three appear in this edition of *LP News*.

The purpose of a political party is to do politics. Our party exists to incite members to run for office, to give them support when they run, to help them advance our agenda when they win, to advance our agenda by other means, and to create the pre-conditions ABCDE for electoral victory: Activists, Base voters, Campaigners, Dollars, and Education.

If you want that to happen, please elect me National Chair. Our National Committee should handle the following:

■ **Ballot access:** A major task of the National party has been to mobilize resources on a national scale to help state parties that face challenges. Recently, ballot access has not been a consistent focus for the LNC. While others talked, I have been helping to launch a new ballot access PAC to help our fellow Libertarians get onto the ballot.

■ **Candidate Support:** Every year or two, thousands of Libertarians from sea to shining sea stand up for liberty by running for office. Our Libertarian champions need ideas on local organizing, fundraising — in short, tools to run stronger campaigns. While others talked, Bonnie Scott

and I acted. The Libertarian Candidate Campaign Support Disk has 20 megabytes of indexed material on campaigning and organizing.

■ **Affinity Groups:** When I ran for National Chair in 2000, I laid out a coherent plan for action for our party. My book "Stand Up for Liberty!" — www.3mpub.com/phillies — is that plan, based on Gene Ciesewski's local organization strategy. One strategy was creating affinity groups -- groups of people who support our party on the issue that they care about. In cooperation with the Russo for President Campaign, we are starting to form those groups. The first, Log Cabin Libertarians, targets several million Republican voters. The next, Bring Them Home Alive!, a Libertarian anti-war, anti-intervention group, is in the works as I type.

■ **Strategy:** Where can you turn for news about our party, including state chair meetings, LNC meetings, ideas on tactics and strategy? My newsletters — Libertarian Strategy Gazette and Let Freedom Ring! — help fill the gap.

■ **Candidate incitement:** I encourage my Libertarian friends to run for office. When they rise to the occasion, I do my part to help them get on the ballot. I've assisted with petition mailings, served as their treasurer, chauffeured the candidate rural door to rural door so she can ask for signatures, spoken to local gay/lesbian/bisexual groups (a major issue here in Massachusetts at the moment) about the importance of fielding

candidates, and encouraged other Libertarians to do the same.

That sort of support needs to happen on a national scale. Elect me Chair and we will do this.

■ **Volunteer incitement:** Our Party's greatest resource is the time and energy of its members. Fundraising is important, but volunteer time is more valuable. Our National Party needs to incite volunteerism and put volunteers into action. Ask Aaron Russo's team what I did for them.

■ **A few more:** Party outreach. Why aren't the Bill of Rights Defense Committees Libertarian at the core? Lobbying: Defend Your Privacy campaign actually worked. The *New York Times* said so. We should do that again.

This National Convention you have a choice. Ask my opponents what they actually propose to do. Ask my opponents what they have recently done.

Then look at my record. It's your choice.

My record: Two monthly magazines. One book, *Stand Up for Liberty*, on libertarian strategy. Another book, *Funding Liberty*, on our presidential campaigns. The Liberty Congressional PAC that distributes the Libertarian Candidate Support Disk. A Massachusetts Libertarian PAC.

The Libertarian National Committee needed serious attention to its business practices. Thanks to Geoff Neale, it got that attention. It's time to start doing politics. It's time to incite and mobilize volunteers. It's time to become *but America's First Political Party*, not America's Third Political Party.

Contact George Phillies: (508) 754-1859; phillies@4liberty.net; 87-6 Park Avenue, Worcester MA 01605

Michael Badnarik's (world famous?) INTRODUCTION TO THE CONSTITUTION Convention Special — ½ price registration

Michael Badnarik's 8hr class is an entertaining and stimulating way to rediscover the fundamentals of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. This class is intended for anyone who believes in private property and individual rights. The cost of admission is normally \$50, however the price has been slashed to encourage convention delegates (and their friends) to arrive in Atlanta before the convention gets underway. Course material includes a copy of Michael's new book, "*It's Good to be King!*" which was recently given a favorable review by Congressman Ron Paul. His comments conclude:

"Anyone who believes in limited government- that is to say anyone who believes in liberty- will benefit from reading this book. If we wish to remain free, we must constantly question and challenge conventional views about the proper role of government in our society. *It's Good to Be King* will serve as needed ammunition for libertarians and constitutionalists committed to resisting tyranny in America. I commend Michael Badnarik for authoring a compelling text on the foundations of liberty in America." — Congressman Ron Paul

Thursday, May 27th - Marriott Convention Center — from 9am to 6pm
To register, call (512) 799-8200 or eMail Constitution@badnarik.org
www.ConstitutionPreservation.org

PARTICIPANTS MUST REGISTER BY SUNDAY, MAY 23RD IN ORDER TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS REDUCED RATE!

LIBERTARIAN PARTY 2004 NATIONAL CONVENTION

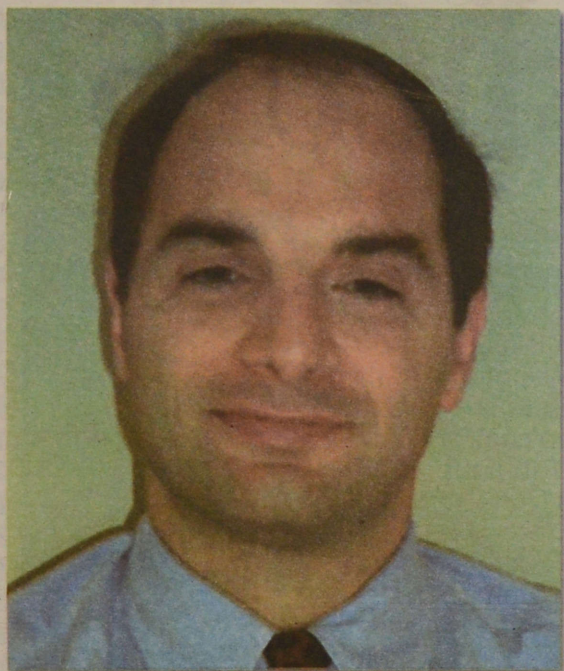
MAY 27-31, 2004

MARRIOTT MARQUIS • ATLANTA, GEORGIA

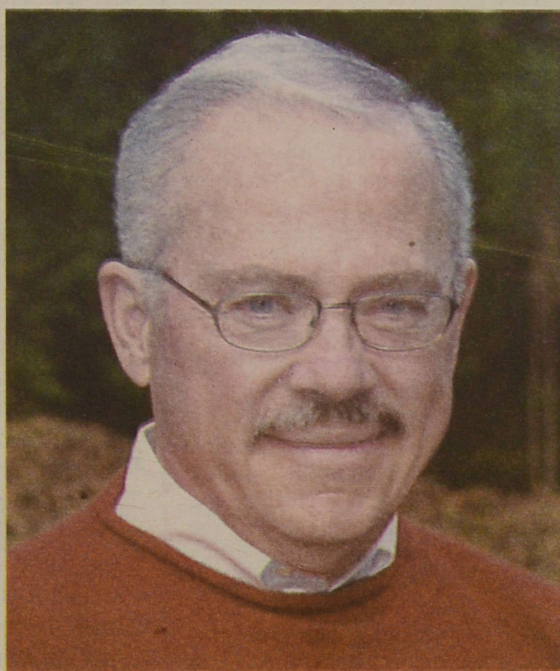
www.LPconvention.org



Recently Confirmed Guest Speakers Add to Richness, Diversity of 2004 LP Convention



John Berthoud



Bob Barr

John Berthoud, Ph.D.

John Berthoud is president of the National Taxpayers Union (NTU) and the National Taxpayers Union Foundation (NTUF) based in Alexandria, Virginia. Founded in 1969, the NTU is the nation's largest grassroots taxpayer group and boasts 350,000 members. NTUF was founded in 1977 and provides critical research on a variety of tax and fiscal issues.

This is taken from his statement on the NTU website: *Since we first founded the National Taxpayers Union over 35 years ago, our Number One job has been helping to protect every single American's right to keep what they've earned. Our guiding principle since we first started in business back in 1969 has been, "This is your money and the government should return it to you."*

Dr. Berthoud began his career in Washington as legislative director for tax and fiscal policy at the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC). He has also worked for other policy and advocacy groups in the DC-area, and has extensive experience in all levels of government policy.

He received his B.A. from Georgetown University, an M.A. in International Affairs from Columbia University and a Ph.D. from Yale University for his dissertation on the impact of the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings deficit reduction law. Dr. Berthoud is an adjunct lecturer at George Washington University, teaching graduate-level courses in budgetary politics.

His writings have appeared in

many diverse publications and he has appeared on numerous radio and television programs; he has also testified before Congress. There is so much that could be written about this man and we are pleased that he again wants to be a part of our Convention. You can do a web-search on his name and also checkout www.ntu.org if you want more info.

Bob Barr

Former U.S. Congressman Bob Barr (R-Ga) may be best known within the LP as the incumbent against whom both national and local Libertarian efforts were made in 2002 to unseat. He did not win his nomination, perhaps partly due to Libertarian efforts.

But don't prejudge this man as our enemy. He recently spoke at the Georgia LP state convention and followed it up with a quite favorable article in *Creative Loafing* (Atlanta) telling readers to take the LP seriously as a viable force on the political scene.

We can applaud Barr for his current position on the Patriot Act. Although he voted for it while in Congress, he is now working to have it repealed. He also writes about privacy issues in general and the errors of current US foreign policy.

Barr represented the Atlanta-area 7th District in the U. S. House from 1995 to 2003, serving on the Committee on Financial Services

and as a senior member of the Judiciary Committee.

He holds several board-level positions with various government-policy and privacy groups; he's also on the board of the NRA. He consults with many organizations, including on privacy issues with the ACLU, and is a member of the Legal Advisory Board for the Southeastern Legal Foundation. *New York Times* columnist William Safire has called Barr, "Mr. Privacy."

Barr is a contributing editor for *The American Spectator*, has served as a commentator for CNN, and frequently appears as a guest on television news and opinion shows. He hosts a nationwide weekly radio show on the Radio America network entitled "Bob Barr's Laws of the Universe." His writings have appeared in academic, local, regional, and national publications and he writes regularly for UPI and *Creative Loafing*.

An attorney in private practice for many years, he currently works with the Law Offices of Edwin Marger, with national and international practices in civil and criminal law.

Read more by and about him at www.bobbarr.org.

Preston Coleman, Ph.D.

Preston Coleman is going to be our announcer for the (non-business) events in the Main Convention Hall.

He will be introducing many of the speakers and also filling in any lulls in the business (like during vote tabulations, especially on Sunday) with some of his irreverent but stinging political satire.

Dr. Coleman received a Masters degree in journalism from the University of Georgia and a doctorate in mass communication from the University of Iowa. He has taught at these two alma maters as well as at Athens Technical College, Kennesaw State University and the American International University. His courses included English composition, public speaking, advertising and broadcasting and he always receiving very high student-evaluation marks.

Having experienced firsthand some violations of his first amendment rights, this prolific writer (and professional website developer) now devotes most of his time and talents to writing for his two successful websites, RebelHoller.com and RealStupidNews.com, the latter having beaten the traffic of

Boortz' site on a few Saturdays. An "equal opportunity" satirist he attacks political leaders and their policies on the left and the right!

D. Eric Schansberg, Ph.D.

Eric Schansberg is a professor of economics at Indiana University at New Albany (just outside Louisville, KY), specializing in economics and public policy. He received a B.A. in mathematics and a B.S. in economics from George Mason University and a Ph.D. in economics from Texas A&M.

Dr. Schansberg is the author of two "libertarian" books, *Turn Neither to the Right nor Left: A Thinking Christian's Guide to Politics and Public Policy* (2003) and *Poor Policy: How Government Harms the Poor* (1996) which describes how welfare programs designed to help the poor are not only ineffective, but are actually harmful. He has co-authored other books and written numerous book reviews.

See **SPEAKERS** Page 2

Don't Wait Until The Last Minute!

by Nancy Neale

CONVENTION CHAIRMAN

This is the final issue of the *LP News* before the National Convention. I hope you're all looking forward to it as much as we are.

Our early registrations are running higher than anticipated! We can't guarantee the availability of packages and events (especially for the meals) if you wait until you arrive in Atlanta...Make sure you have your hotel room reserved.

And we can't stress enough how very valuable the "Libertarian Victory School" will be for you candidates out there; remember that space is limited. Register at www.lpconvention.org.

We found out that Jimmie Vaughan has been invited by Eric Clapton to open for him on some of the dates in a big upcoming

mega-guitarists-tour. His manager told us that he was granted a special dispensation to still be able to play the concert date for us, and \$25 is an incredible price to hear this blues great (as well as the other bands in the line-up).

More speakers are announced in this, the final issue before the Convention, including another potentially controversial one. But controversy and excitement is a good thing and we welcome the opportunity to network with people who may not agree with us 100% on every issue. These high-profile "outsiders" will attract their own followers and the media.

The Workshop schedules have not been finalized by my press deadline, so check the website for that, as well as any last-minute additions to the speaker line-up; there will also be other pricing options for various segments of the Convention.

Atlanta, here we come!

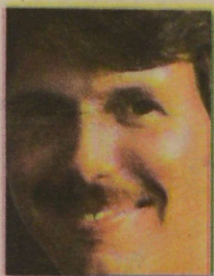
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Preston Coleman



Eric Schansberg



Ray Carr



Tom Cox



Jerry Cameron

SPEAKERS From Page 1

He is an adjunct scholar for the Acton Institute and a contributing editor to their *Religion & Liberty* publication and an adjunct scholar for the *Indiana Policy Review*. He has written many articles for magazines and newspapers on such subjects as welfare reform, education, taxation, term limits and the connection between Christianity, ethics and public policy.

Ray Carr

Raymond R. Carr, R.Ph. (registered pharmacist) is the Executive VP and COO of SFBC New Drug Services, Inc., one of a growing number of companies whose services are contracted by the major pharmaceutical manufacturers to assist in their product development and chemical/clinical research. Ray Carr has worked in this field since 1987 and has held positions with Pharmaco (PPD), BioClin and Phoenix International. He earned his B.S. in Pharmacy from the University of Texas and is a co-founder of Sci-Com, which produces and hosts communication courses for scientists.

During his first year of professional pharmacy school he took a course called Pharmacognecy - the study of medicinal plants. Having the societal prejudice that marijuana was "bad" he was intrigued by his (former Christian missionary) professor's assertions of the many nutritional and medicinal benefits of cannabis sativa. Carr also began to study the history of the use and the prohibition of cannabis and hemp.

The innocent hemp plant became one of the unfortunate victims of the war on marijuana. Ray contends that hemp is "the most versatile and environmentally friendly plant on earth" and that including this variety of cannabis, which has no psychoactive properties (and in fact contains anti-psychoactive components), has caused incredible harm to our environment and our economy.

The political prohibition on marijuana and hemp meant that hemp's natural fibers and seed oils were no longer available to compete with wood pulp and cotton and the emerging petroleum products. He feels that the hidden agenda behind the war on marijuana was the destruction of the industrial hemp industry.

This Texas native served as vice-

chair for the Kentucky LP from 1997-1999 and now lives in North Carolina.

Tom Cox

Tom Cox is the immediate past chairman of the Oregon LP. During his tenure the LP played a key role in defeating Measure 30, the state legislature's proposed \$800-million tax hike.

Under his leadership the state party produced two radio ads and hired a spokesman to travel the state. They mobilized members in their 18-plus organized counties to participate in town hall meetings covered by the media, calling talk-radio shows and writing letters to the editor. (It lost 40-60!)

Tom ran for governor in 2002 and was the only gubernatorial candidate to submit a state budget proposal. His candidacy received nationwide attention, resulting in the highest third-party vote for such a race. Tom credits his use of strategic planning for the unusually strong result.

This year he's running for the State House in District 29. Tom feels he has a real chance to win this race, especially with the credibility he has established in Oregon and in his district.

Tom graduated from the University of Chicago with a degree in Behavioral Sciences. He attributes his business success to his skills with technology and people. He has worked internationally in a wide range of fields with Pricewaterhouse Coopers and IBM, and he founded his own company, Cox Business Consulting, Inc.

He wrote *The Oracle Workgroup Server Handbook*, which was translated into several languages, including Chinese. He has contributed articles and editorials to various publications, including *The Portland Tribune*.

Tom enjoys sailing, and he and his wife Heather have two daughters; he considers it his "job" to make his corner of the world a better place for them to inherit.

Jerry Cameron

Jerry Cameron is a "recovering" Republican. More importantly, he is a recovering "drug warrior," having served seventeen years in law enforcement, including chief of police of two small-town departments. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy, the DEA Basic Drug Enforcement Course

and two DEA Advanced Drug Enforcement Professional Institutes.

Cameron was a front-line drug warrior, recognized nationally for developing a street enforcement technique known as "Operation Pressure Point." He was published in *The Police Chief*, *The Florida Police Chief*, and *Law & Order* magazines. He also taught drug interdiction, roadside interrogation techniques and police ethics at the Institute of Police Technology and Management at the University of North Florida.

He eventually began to question the efficacy as well as the morality of the "war on drugs." He did some serious research and came to the conclusion that the war on drugs was a total failure and had caused tremendous damage to the country. "The simple truth," says Cameron, "was that not one benefit could be identified and a myriad of unintended consequences were evident. In fact, the 'war' proved counterproductive to every one of its stated goals."

He saw firsthand the devastation of neighborhoods, perversion of the law enforcement mission and the squandering of resources as a result of prohibition and now speaks out against decades of failed policy and encourages re-legalization as the only solution.

He had been on the GOP's executive committee in St. Johns County, Florida (about 30 miles south of Jacksonville) and is now chair of the St. Johns County LP. He has switched to the LP for good and is running for Florida House District 20 on the LP ticket, having learned his lesson in trying to "reform" the GOP! Until resigning in February to run for the Florida House, he was also on the St. Johns County P&Z board, where he had been a very eloquent and effective opponent of eminent domain.

Since leaving law enforcement in 1991 his profession has been managing successful small businesses turnarounds.

You can read more about Cameron in the front-page article in the April *LP News* and on his campaign website www.cameronforliberty.org.

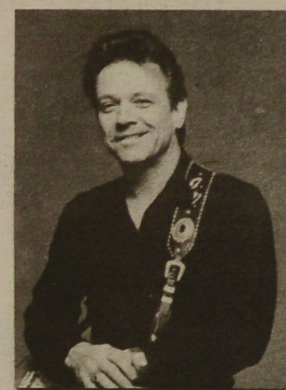
Correction:

The website given last month for Dick Cheatham's Living History Associates was incorrect; it should have read LHALtd.com.

RED, ROCK & BLUES

Friday Night Blues and Rock

The headliner is blues/rock singer/guitarist (and Libertarian) **Jimmie Vaughan**, known as the "avatar of retro cool." He founded The Fabulous Thunderbirds (*Tuff Enuff*) and other bands, developed a successful solo career and has earned four Grammys. He is highly respected by the likes of Eric Clapton, B.B. King and Muddy Waters. JimmieVaughan.com



Jimmie Vaughan



Dan Litwin

We also have the very excellent kick-ass Pennsylvania rock-n-roll band **Poker Face**. They sing about love, life and liberty with powerful and poignant lyrics and a rich sound reminiscent of Boston and Pink Floyd. These guys are real pros and have four excellent CD's to their credit. PokerFace.com and PokerFace.org

Also in the line-up is the very talented rock singer/songwriter/guitarist **Dan Litwin** (and LP activist in CA). Dan's been playing since 1970, influenced by the classic rock guitarists. Many of his lyrics reflect this quote from him: "The purpose of a reasonable, moderate government is simply to keep you free, so you can enjoy the peace." PeacemakersRock.com



Poker Face

For more information please visit LPconvention.org



May 2004

a supplement to the **LP NEWS** • PAGE 3

LIBERTARIAN PARTY 2004 NATIONAL CONVENTION

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2004 Convention Guest Speakers Featured in Previous Editions



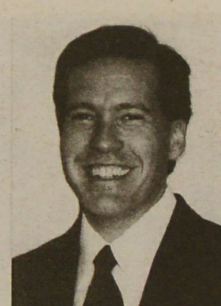
Dick Cheatham



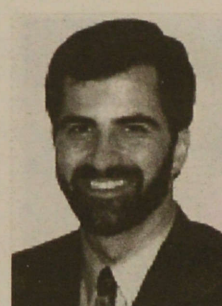
Harry Browne



Stephen Baskerville



Andy LeCureaux



Joe Bast



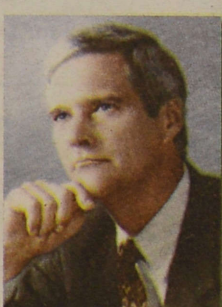
Ken Krawchuk



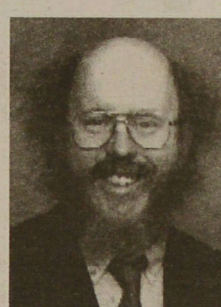
Barry Hess



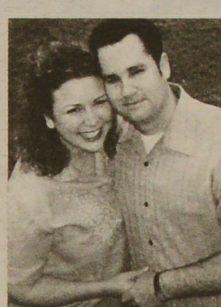
Fred Collins



James P. Gray



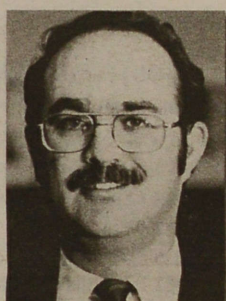
James Bovard



Kori & Chad Crow



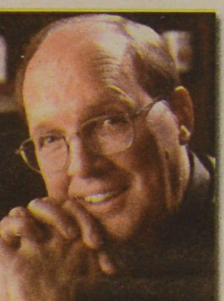
John Clifton



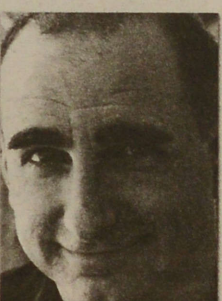
David Nolan



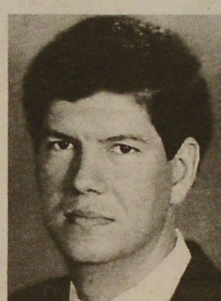
Richard Mack



Neal Boortz



Dean Cameron



James W. Lark



Carl Milsted



Mary Ruwart

2004 LP CONVENTION SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

	THURSDAY, MAY 27	FRIDAY, MAY 28	SATURDAY, MAY 29	SUNDAY, MAY 30	MONDAY, MAY 31
7		B-fast w/ Steven Baskerville	Breakfast with Neal Boortz	Breakfast with Joe Bast	
8					
9		Welcome/Keynote	Ron Paul		Business Sessions
10	Libertarian Victory School (9am-5pm)	Business Sessions	Business Sessions	Business Sessions	
11		Workshops (2 tracks)	Workshops (2 tracks)	Workshop (1 track) "Libertarianism 101"	
12	Committee Meetings (times TBD): Platform, Bylaws, Credentials, LNC				Lunch Break
1		Lunch with Carl Pope	Lunch with James Bovard	Lunch Break (TBD)	
2		J.Gray/R. Mack	C. Twilight		LNC Meeting
3		Business Sessions	Business Sessions	Business Sessions	
4		Workshops (2 tracks)	Workshops (2 tracks)	Workshop (1 track) "Libertarianism 101"	
5	Dinner Break		Presidential Debate		
6		Dinner Break (Torch Club Reception - invitation only)	Dinner Break (Liberty Pledge Reception - invitation only)	Pre-Banquet Reception No-Host Bar + Live Music	
7	"Welcome" Reception Munchies • No-Host Bar Live Music				
8					
9		Red, Rock & Blues concert featuring Jimmie Vaughan, Poker Face & Dan Litwin	Possible off-site event hosted by Georgia LP	Presidential Banquet Honoring LP Pres. & VP Nominees; Harry Browne, MC; plus David Nolan, Barbara Goushaw, Dean Cameron, and more! (dancing afterward)	
10					
11					

Note:

Schedule subject to change - see website for updates:
lpconvention.org

LIBERTARIAN PARTY 2004 NATIONAL CONVENTION

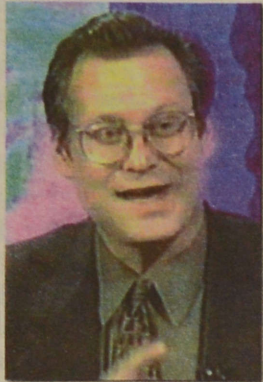
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More Speakers Featured in Past Issues



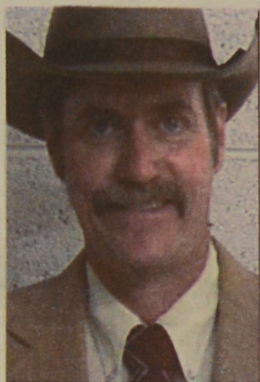
Mark Selzer



Barbara Goushaw



Sharon Harris



Willy Star Marshall



Charlotte Twilight



Carl Pope



Michael C. Colley



Ron Paul

Graphic design by Upton Ethelbah (www.UnityDesign.net)



Call 404-521-0000 or 800-228-9290 for reservations.

CONVENTION PACKAGE OPTIONS

GOLD (\$369) This is the "all-inclusive" package that includes three (3) Breakfasts with top speakers, two (2) Lunches also with top speakers and the Sunday Night Banquet, with great speakers and entertainment and honoring our presidential nominee. It also includes the Thursday "Welcome" Reception, plus access to all events in the Mail Hall and all Workshops.

SILVER (\$269) This mid-priced package includes three (3) Breakfasts with top speakers plus the Sunday Night Banquet, with great speakers and entertainers and honoring our presidential nominee. It also includes the Thursday "Welcome" Reception, plus access to all events in the Mail Hall and all Workshops.

BRONZE (\$169) Start your mornings off right! This lower-priced package includes three (3) Breakfasts, which will feature some of our top speakers, access to the Main Hall and all Workshops, plus the Thursday "Welcome" Reception.

SPEAKER (\$99) This is the "economy" package, providing access to the Main Hall, also allows access to hear speakers/panels at all Workshops. It also includes the Thursday evening "Welcome" Reception. (Does not include meal speakers.)

BASIC (\$49) This is the "bare-bones" package for the truly committed delegate on a shoestring budget. It provides access to the Main Convention Hall, including many key speakers therein.

All Packages come with a Tote Bag, Name Badge and a complete Convention Program book, including the Convention Schedule, Business Agenda and current LP Platform and Bylaws.

RED, ROCK & BLUES (\$25) The Friday night Concert featuring Jimmie Vaughan is a separately ticketed event, and will also include other fantastic (libertarian) musicians.

FRIDAY BREAKFAST (\$29) Featuring Steven Baskerville.

FRIDAY LUNCH (\$49) Featuring Carl Pope.

SATURDAY BREAKFAST (\$29) Featuring Neal Boortz.

SATURDAY LUNCH (\$49) Featuring James Bovard.

SUNDAY BREAKFAST (\$29) Featuring Joe Bast.

PRESIDENTIAL BANQUET (\$99) Honoring LP Presidential & Vice-Presidential Nominees. Featuring MC Harry Browne, David Nolan, Barbara Goushaw, Dean Cameron, and more! (dancing afterward.)

LIBERTARIAN PARTY 2004 NATIONAL CONVENTION
REGISTRATION ORDER FORM

MAY 27-31, 2004

MARRIOTT MARQUIS • ATLANTA, GEORGIA

www.LPconvention.org

Please use one form per person. If necessary, make a photocopy of this form.

1 FILL IN CONTACT INFORMATION

Full Name:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Phone(s): ()

E-mail:

Employer:

Occupation:

Name as you would like it to appear on badge:

2 PLEASE CHECK PACKAGE AND/OR EVENT(S) OF CHOICE

- ☐ Gold Package \$369 ☐ Friday Breakfast \$29
☐ Silver Package \$269 ☐ Saturday Breakfast \$29
☐ Bronze Package \$169 ☐ Sunday Breakfast \$29
☐ Speaker Package \$99 ☐ Friday Lunch \$49
☐ Basic Package \$49 ☐ Saturday Lunch \$49
☐ Red, Rock & Blues Concert \$25 ☐ Presidential Banquet \$99

Order Total:

\$

3 PAYMENT OPTIONS

Check enclosed payable to "Libertarian Party" ☐
 Visa ☐ MC ☐ AmEx ☐ Discover ☐

Account #:

Exp. Date:

Cardholder Name:
 (if different from above)

Signature:

Federal law requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, occupation and name of employer of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 in an election cycle.

4 THREE EASY WAYS TO REGISTER!

MAIL TO

Libertarian Party
 Attn: National Convention
 2600 Virginia Avenue, NW, Suite 100
 Washington DC 20037

ONLINE

www.LPconvention.org

FAX

Fax plain paper copy of form to (202) 333-0072.
 Credit card orders only.

Special needs:

QUESTIONS? E-mail convention@hq.LP.org or call 800-272-1776.

ATLANTA MARRIOTT MARQUIS HOTEL RESERVATIONS:
 Call 404-521-0000 or 800-228-9290. Mention the "Libertarian Party Convention" to get the \$99 special room rate. Room availability guaranteed through May 5, 2004.

NOTE: this form is for purchasing admission to Convention events and activities; becoming a credentialed Delegate is a separate process; contact your state party. (5/04)

Federal court: Oklahoma election law unconstitutional

In a major Libertarian victory, a Denver, Colo.-based federal appellate court ruled April 6 that Oklahoma's election law is unconstitutional because it prohibits a political party from allowing registered voters with other parties to vote in its primary elections. State LP officials say it's a good step, but more change is needed in the law.

**WE NEED A
change in the law.
But it's hard to even
get someone to
introduce a ballot
access law, much less
get it through the
legislature.**

—STEVE GALPIN

The Oklahoma Libertarian Party challenged the law in a lawsuit that was first heard in state court about two years ago, Oklahoma LP Chair Steve Galpin said.

The federal court ruling reverses

the decision of a judge in Oklahoma City, who in 2003 refused to grant an injunction and throw out the primary law.

Oklahoma election officials may appeal the federal court's decision instead of changing state law. But according to the ruling, the LP and other parties should now be allowed to invite all registered voters in the state to vote in the party primaries, regardless of affiliation.

"The question is, does the party determine who votes in our primary, or does the state make that determination?" Galpin said.

"Our contention is that it should be our decision, and the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals unanimously agreed with us — giving a 3-0 ruling that the law is unconstitutional."

The judges determined that the election laws "impermissibly violate" the LP's constitutional right "to freedom of political association."

The court's ruling does not require each party to allow other parties' registered voters to vote across party lines: The Democrats won't necessarily allow Republicans to vote in the Democratic primary.

But the parties now have an option they didn't have before.

"Oklahoma law said the party could allow Independents only to vote in our primary," Galpin said, "and we let them. But the Democrats and Republicans have never

want to let people decide for themselves whether they want to vote Libertarian — no matter what party they belong to.

And they support the change in election law for one reason: "to allow more freedom in the voting process," Galpin said.

Freedom in the voting process is one thing Oklahoma does not have. At least, not where third parties are concerned.

The LP is now in a petition drive, trying to get enough signatures on a petition to get on the ballot in this fall's elections. By state law, the LP "or any other party that isn't currently classified as a major party" must get signatures from 5 percent of the people who voted in the previous general election, before they are granted access to the ballot, Galpin said.

"And if we get on the ballot and we don't get 10 percent of the vote in the presidential election, we'll lose that ballot access again," he added.

"Then in 2006, whoever our nominee is for governor would have to get 10 percent of the vote or, again, we'd lose that status."

"We need a change in the law. But it's hard to even get someone to introduce a ballot access law, much less get it through the legislature. This law has been in effect since 1972, and the major parties certainly don't want to change it now."

It will be very difficult for the LP to get enough signatures to get on the ballot this fall, he said.

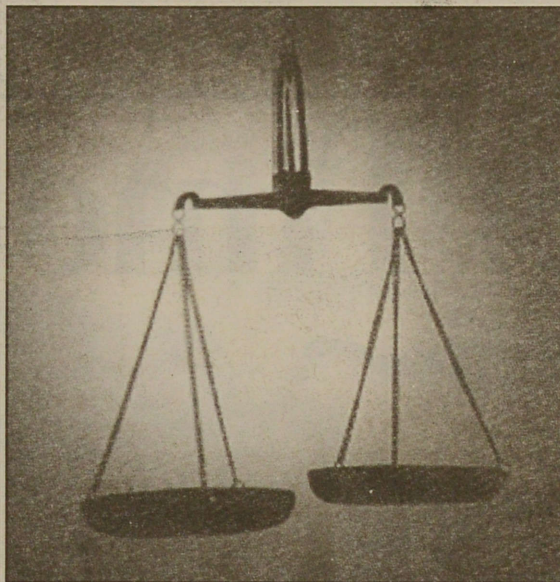
"To tell you the truth, it's probably not going to happen," Galpin said. "We need about 60,000 valid signatures. That means we need to collect at least 75,000 or 80,000 signatures, or more, to make sure we get enough good ones."

"I don't think we're going to have the money, the time or the support to get that many signatures."

Even if they don't get enough signatures, he said, the Oklahoma LP's leaders will submit those they do get, to let the state power structure know they are serious.

But while ballot access in the state is miserable — one of the worst in the nation, Galpin said — and the state's primarily Democrat legislature is uncooperative in changing that election law, the federal court's ruling against a portion of the law is encouraging for the Oklahoma LP.

"This is a good victory for the First Amendment," said James Linger, an attorney for the party.



"Aaron Russo is a man of his word." — Jack Nicholson, Actor

"I want you as president" — Howard Stern, Talk Show Host

"For decades the Libertarian Party has been clamoring for the attention that Aaron Russo will bring. Is the party ready to hold firm to the principles that Aaron is espousing? It better, millions more than ever before will remember how well we represent the standard we would have others live by." — Ernest Hancock, Talk Show Host

"Russo is a bornleader." — Bette Midler, Actress

"IF I COULD COUNT ON ONLY ONE MAN TO TAKE ON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO DEFEND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE, IT WOULD BE AARON RUSSO" — ROBERT ATKINS, M.D., AUTHOR AND CREATOR OF THE ATKINS DIET

"...he should be president -- look at all the things he's done." — Robin Quivers, Producer, the Howard Stern Show

Thomas Knapp, Editor, *Rational Review*

"This year, one presidential candidate stands out for his ability to bring the message of liberty to the American people. Aaron Russo's combination of media acumen and raw libertarian passion are just what the LP needs." — Tamara Millay, Candidate for Vice President

"He's an impressive candidate, and a far cry above either Bush or Kerry on every single issue we discussed — and we discussed at least a dozen important political, social, economic and of course Constitutional issues." — Angel Shamaya, Founder, *KeepAndBearArms.com*

"Aaron Russo may be the best kept secret in American politics, but I believe he is capable of having a profound impact on the upcoming presidential elections. He has an impressive track record of delivering award winning productions and we can expect a Russo Presidential Campaign to deliver impressive results." — Steve Hubby, former candidate for governor of California

"The more I hear and see Aaron Russo, the more I like him." — Richard Winger, Publisher, *Ballot Access News*

for President 2004
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Los Angeles, CA 90048

www.RussoForPresident.com

Washington governor selects LP-approved primary law

Washington state Governor Gary Locke has vetoed a primary election scheme that would have excluded the Libertarian Party — and other smaller parties — from many political races in the state.

In its place he approved an election system that will allow each major party to have both its own

primary ballot and a place on the general election ballot. The LP has major party status in Washington because of strong showings in recent elections.

The system Locke vetoed after it was approved by both the state Senate and House — known as a “Cajun” primary because it is used in Louisiana — would have allowed

only the top two vote-getters to move up to the general election.

That would have the effect of excluding many Libertarians, party officials say, even though the LP is recognized as a major party in the state.

And other small parties would almost certainly have been “truly destroyed,” said John Mills, a for-

mer state LP chair who is helping to fashion new primary election rules.

Locke approved a “modified Montana” primary system, which allows voters to request a Democrat, Republican or Libertarian ballot. Democrats and Republicans in the legislature favored the “top two” system because it is closer to Washington’s old blanket primary system

— which is what got them elected, state LP Chair Larey McLaren said.

The system Locke vetoed was created by the state Legislature after a federal court declared the state’s blanket primary unconstitutional. When Washington lawmaker’s appealed the decision, the Supreme Court upheld the lower court’s ruling, saying that the blanket primary violated the political parties’ right to choose their own nominees for the primary.

Under the old system, voters could cast ballots for any candidate regardless of party affiliation. Also, candidates could run under any banner they chose — without the approval of the party they chose to run for.

Allowing voters from other parties to select a Libertarian candidate — or allowing non-Libertarians to run under the LP name — could create confusion about the party’s positions, Mills said.

Candidates will now be able to file for office only if they are endorsed by their party or gather signatures from 5 percent of their party’s registered voters. Every candidate nominated by a minor party will automatically be included on the general election ballot.

The battle against a top two primary system is not over, however. The Washington Grange, an influential fraternal organization that is the blanket primary’s strongest proponent, has promised to continue trying to get the top-two system adopted, and will probably try to get the governor’s veto overturned in court.

Saves Time



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has stories so

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Or join by mail, using the easy response form below. Thank you.

Join Online!

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“The LP is the living result of 30 years of sweat and toil by thousands of real American patriots. I see it as our only political hope short of violence. Fifty dollars a month is the small price I pay toward preserving this monumental effort.”

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Vice President, Los Alamos National Bank, Los Alamos, NM

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Gary Nolan for president

Continued from Page 4

sage of individual liberty, personal responsibility, and constitutionally-limited government.

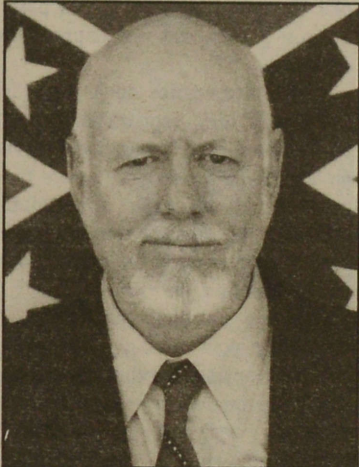
As the host of two nationally-syndicated radio shows, Gary Nolan entertained listeners with insightful political commentary and substantive public policy debate. His “Nolan at Night” program, broadcast nightly from Washington, DC on the Radio America Network, featured interviews with politicians, pundits, and public policy experts, including an entire night each week devoted to scholars from the libertarian CATO Institute.

Gary Nolan also served as President of “Capitol Watch” from 1997-1999, defending taxpayers from “higher taxes and wasteful spending.”

As a small businessman in Cleveland, Ohio, Gary Nolan was initially attracted to the Republican Party. Over time, he became increasingly frustrated with their bloated budgets and continuing failure to cut spending. In January 1999, he publicly resigned from the Republican Party and joined the LP.

LP PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

Jim Burns for president



outcome of the election, the media will take us seriously. If the Libertarian Party is taken seriously, we will have taken a salient step in the conflict for liberty. I need your help or things will stay the same.

Biography

I discovered the LP in September, 1973. By January of 1974, I was elected chairman of the LP of Nevada.

At that time, the LPN did not have enough strength to get 5 percent of the voters of Nevada to sign our petition to place us on the ballot. To build the LPN, we decided to run a candidate for office. I was a registered Republican. I decided to run for Congress, the only statewide office up for election. I needed to tell as many people as possible that I was not a Republican and that there was an LP.

So I legally changed my middle name to "Libertarian," and I appeared on the Republican primary ballot as "Burns, James Libertarian." We got some notice. We gained some experience.

In 1975, I ran for mayor of Las Vegas. I dropped "James," so "Burns, Libertarian" was on the ballot. I came in fifth in a field of nine. The LPN got bigger. In 1976, I was the leader of the first successful petition drive that placed the LPN on the ballot. I was the first candidate to file for the LPN: Congress again. We did not get enough votes to stay on the ballot, but the LPN got stronger. In 1978, I financed and led the successful ballot drive. I ran for the assembly. I was the first LPN candidate to come in second in a three-way race and the first LPN candidate the get more votes than a Republican.

In 1996, I ran for the assembly. I

came in second in a three-way race. In 1998, I ran for Congress. I came in third in a four-way race, getting more votes than a former Clark County chairman of the Republican Party.

I have twice been chairman of the LPN, twice Clark County LP Chairman, Southern Regional Representative of the LPN Executive Committee, and this is my second time as At-Large Representative of the LPN Executive Committee.

I have been a delegate three times to national conventions of the LP, and in 1979, I was a member of the Platform Committee. I am a life member of the National LP.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Each of the seven announced candidates for the LP presidential nomination was invited to submit a column of up to 750 words to tell *LP News* readers who they are and why they should be nominated for that position. Commentary from six of the seven appear in this edition of *LP News*.

We, the members of the Libertarian Party, are engaged in an effort to bring peace, prosperity and progress to the people of our planet. Our cause is too important to let false pride or bad judgment impede our progress. The presidential candidates of the Libertarian Party have all run small imitations of Democrat and Republican presidential campaigns. This approach is a failure.

I am seeking the LP nomination for president because I have an idea that I hope can change the course of the LP.

The current people seeking the nomination of the Libertarian Party for president are not going to change their approach. They are going to continue imitating the Democrat and Republican presidential campaigns, and they believe they can win or at least do very well. I believe they are wrong.

I propose that we cause George Bush to lose the election. Here's how: In the southern states, we buy TV spots, and we run against the Republican Party in the person of Lincoln and identify him with George Bush.

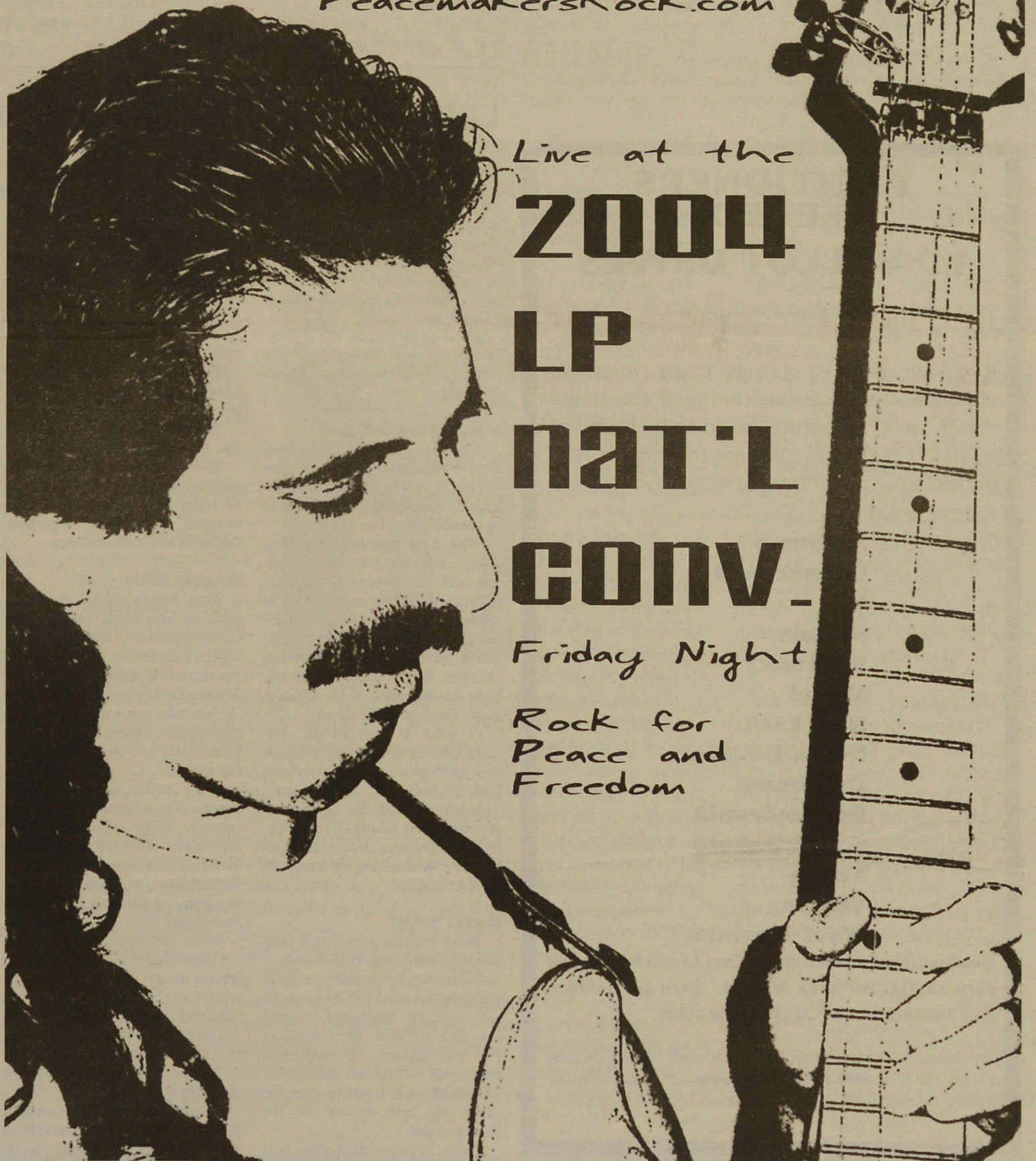
I have produced a 12-minute video with six TV spots and a further explanation of what I would like to accomplish. I would be happy to send this video to any delegate to the national convention. In other states, we would use direct mail and mail political literature only to Republicans.

If you are in a multi-candidate race and if you take enough votes away from the leader, the person in second becomes the winner. If 500 Republican votes in Florida had been taken away from Bush, then Gore is president.

To most libertarians it does not make much difference if Bush or Kerry wins. However, who wins does make a difference to others. As most Libertarians know, if you can provide people with what they want, there is often money in it. Money is one thing we need above all others. Furthermore, the paramount interest of the media is the horse race. If we can affect the

Dan Litwin

PeacemakersRock.com



LNC CHAIR CANDIDATE

Michael Dixon for LNC Chair

EDITOR'S NOTE: Each of the three candidates for Libertarian National Committee chair were invited to submit a column of up to 700 words, explaining why they should be elected chairman. All three appear in this edition of *LP News*.

At the beginning of January, when I announced my candidacy, I said I was running for very specific reasons.

Since then I have crossed the country attending LP state conventions and other events, meeting new people and renewing old friendships, and I have found that what I see as the main needs of the party are shared by a broad cross section of those I meet.

It is both humbling and inspirational to meet the incredible dedication that our activists and leaders

bring to this party, and it is to those people that I want to dedicate the next two years of hard work.

We must encourage our affiliates to become stronger and more capable in executing their core political work.

But delivering on that recognizes that how we do that is critical. Our activists need resources and access in order to be successful, and then they need a national organization that knows how and when to get the hell out of their way, without abandoning them in the process. They need to see their actions bringing results, not just the participation of a small group.

We must constrain our organizations to those things that are properly within their scope, and not allow them to attempt to be everything to everyone. That past error, though

well-intended, has rendered us ineffective in the places that were most critical. That is why I chaired the committee to identify and implement the needs of our party in terms of professional staff.

We must recognize the limits of activism in today's political arena, and where professional talent is required, be ready to deliver it. Without that our activists at the local level will forever struggle for far too little gain. And those activists are what make this party.

We must all strive to improve both our efficiency and our professionalism. We must continue to gather, codify, and disseminate the best practices of each of our activists and organizations -- building a national clearinghouse of information and resources without mandates or constraints. We have some of the best minds and greatest political talents in the country in this party.

It is our job to ensure — when they are successful in their efforts

— that others know quickly how they did it, and are able to duplicate it elsewhere. It is our job to ensure those channels of communication and distribution are effective through a disciplined national committee and a strong state chairs' group. That is why I worked to create an UMP program to return more resources to the states, where it is truly needed and most effective.

Our national hierarchy must remain true to our philosophy while not seeking to define it. We must recognize the need to improve our marketing techniques and reach those people who don't yet even know that we exist, and reach them with a message that they will respond to, while ensuring that our party remains true to its principles.

The work I have done as chair of the Platform Committee was to see that goal realized and find that balance between two often conflicting needs. Delivering on that promise is part of the next two years.

My vision for the Party in these coming years includes growth and recovering our strong base of activists and donors. That growth must not be based on simple marketing hype and salesmanship, but on delivering real value and integrity in our party, as true growth will not happen any other way.

Soft memberships don't last, just like soft voter registrations don't build a real party or political movement. We must recognize where professional marketing is appropriate, and where we must go one-on-one to earn a vote, recruit an activist and win an election.

As your national chair you will find me at your meetings, attending your conventions, finding out where you have been successful, learning what you need, and knowing what it takes to deliver it to you and others around.

Nothing else will get the job done of making us an effective force in American politics.

Candidates vying for LP presidential nod

Continued from Page 1

Badnarik and Nolan announced their intentions to run last year, with Russo deciding in December to throw his hat into the ring. He had originally announced he would run as an independent candidate, but said he was "planning to end up as a Libertarian anyway."

Other candidates for the LP nomination for president include Jim Burns, Jeffrey Diket, Dave Hollist and Ruben Perez.

■ MICHAEL BADNARIK

Since Jan. 8, Badnarik has been driving around the country with campaign worker Jon Airheart, visiting as many state LP conventions as possible along the way.

They have traveled more than 16,000 miles in that time, starting with the presidential debates in Wisconsin, then participating in conventions in Iowa, Oregon, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Missouri, California, Illinois, Virginia, and Massachusetts. Still to come are conventions in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, South Carolina, and Colorado.

"I speak at high schools, colleges, and local community groups and participate in radio interviews, both in studio and by telephone," Badnarik reported. "In addition to standard fund raising, I am teaching my eight-hour class on the Constitution, and selling my book, *It's Good to be King!*"

■ GARY NOLAN

Nolan took his presidential campaign to the airwaves in February, doing more than 130 radio and television appearances between Feb. 14 and April 13. Highlights included the first national TV appearance this year for any LP presidential candidate — "Dolans Unscripted" on CNN-FN — followed by "The Big Story with John Gibson" on Fox News Channel.

Nolan, a former talk show host

on the Radio America Network, was interviewed on the network by several of his former colleagues, including Ellen Ratner, Alan Nathan, Joe Farah, and Bob Barr (twice). He also appeared on national shows hosted by Neal Boortz, Ken Hamblin, Michael Medved, and Alan Colmes.

Along the way he picked up endorsements from various radio hosts, including Trapper John (a liberal Democrat) in Indianapolis, and Mancow Muller, host of the biggest talk show in Chicago.

Mancow announced on the air that Nolan is the man he'll vote for.

Nolan campaigned across the country, appearing at 57 events in 24 states, and picked up primary victories in Missouri, Wisconsin, California and Massachusetts.

■ AARON RUSSO

After Russo's official announcement on Jan. 24 at the LP State Chairs' Conference that he was seeking the nomination, he and his staff "went into overdrive," said Stephen Gordon, Russo's campaign manager. "In less than one week, we built an organization sufficient enough to immediately get Mr. Russo out on the road."

Since then, Russo has been speaking to audiences across the country, while obtaining significant media attention from outlets including Fox News, Neal Boortz, Howard Stern, Newsmax.com, World Net Daily, the *New York Post* and the *Washington Times*.

Russo supporters are gathering signatures for ballot access in several states. Additionally, Russo said, "The party told me we needed \$250,000 [toward ballot access] to guarantee success in this endeavor, so I have offered to give the party 25 percent of the first million I raise to assure ballot access."

In addition to making campaign stops, speaking at LP conventions and appearing at media events,

Russo has also produced television commercials: The first two 30-second spots have finished production, and at press time were expected to begin running soon in several major markets.

While Nolan swept the primary elections, the Russo campaign maintains that polling is the best indicator of their political campaign's efficacy: He is leading in a poll sponsored by the Cass County, Mo., LP; he is leading in the Tennessee LP's poll; and he got 51 percent in the California LP convention's straw poll.

■ JEFFREY DIKET

Diket said he has attended three state conventions: in Louisiana in August; in Georgia on Feb. 28; and in Hot Springs, Ark., on March 27.

In addition, he has made appearances on several radio programs, including "Declare Your Independence with Ernest Hancock," Jerry Carlson's "The Privacy Factor," Dr. Stanley Monteif's "Radio Liberty," and Joyce Riley and Dave Von Cleis's "The Power Hour."

Diket also campaigned for the LP nomination for president in 1996, winning one delegate vote from the 605 cast at that year's national LP convention.

■ DAVE HOLLIST

Hollist, of Alta Loma, Calif., said he has "enjoyed visiting regions from Washington to California," and has sent literature to many state conventions when asked to participate in their debates.

"While my state party didn't put me on the ballot or allow me in the debate, I am trying to participate in our national debate," he said.

Hollist campaigned for the LP's presidential nomination in 2000, picking up eight votes from the 878 credentialed delegates who cast ballots at that year's national LP convention.

PETITIONERS NEEDED for LP BALLOT DRIVES

The Libertarian Party currently has petition drives underway in several states. While it is our goal to get as many volunteer signatures as possible during these ballot drives, many signatures need to be gathered by paid petitioners. We are looking for paid petitioners to petition now or soon in the following states:

**Alabama
Connecticut
DC
Illinois
Kentucky
Maine
New York
North Dakota
Oklahoma
Pennsylvania
South Dakota
Texas
Virginia
West Virginia**

Good petitioners who are willing to work hard can earn \$1,500 per week or more. Earn good money and advance the LP at the same time.

Interested? Please e-mail Bill Redpath, Ballot Access Coordinator, at wredpath@his.com. Put "petitioning" in the subject line. He will respond to you as soon as possible. Thank you.

2004 LP Ballot Access: Where We Stand

Dear Libertarians,

THIS JUST IN: We have successfully completed the South Dakota petition drive. This will allow us to run U.S. House and U.S. Senate candidates this year, along with the presidential ticket. It will also qualify us for the ballot in 2006 for the US House and Governor. And our success will give impetus to a state bill that would change the requirement for ballot access retention from 2.5 percent of the last vote for Governor to 2.5 percent of the last vote for any statewide office, which the LP has done in the past. Thanks to all of the contributors, the petitioners and the SDLP, who made all of this possible.

Also, we successfully settled our lawsuit with the State of Maryland, losing virtually no signatures in the process. We're only a few hundred signatures from finishing the Maryland petition drive, and volunteers (who are so vital to every petition drive) will wrap it up. Congratulations to the Maryland LP!

Once we're certified in those two states, we'll have ballot status in 29 states. But we can't — and won't — rest on our laurels. We've got a lot of signatures to collect over the next five months — and April and May will be particularly important months for the following ballot drives:

(1) Texas — The Texas LP has until May 24 to gather 45,540 valid signatures to qualify the LP for the November ballot in that state. We already have gathered more than 10,000 and are ramping up the paid petitioner effort right now to supplement a healthy contribution from volunteer LP members in the Lone Star State. If we succeed, we will qualify our presidential ticket — and 31 U.S. House candidates — for the ballot in this nation's second largest state. The Texas LP has raised over \$50,000 for this ballot drive, but

that's not going to be enough. We need to be ready with another \$50,000 to make sure that we're on the ballot in George W. Bush's home state.

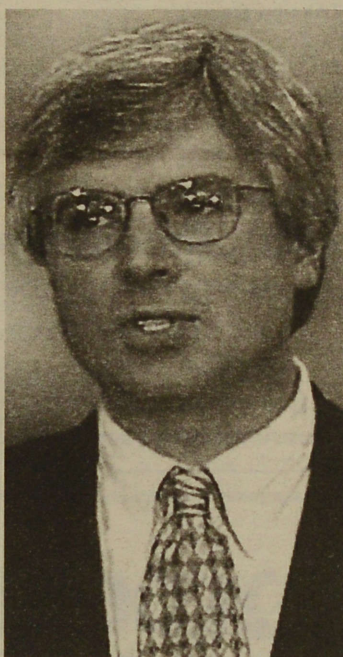
(2) Oklahoma — THIS ALSO JUST IN: We just won our lawsuit in the U.S. Court of Appeals to allow voters registered Independent to vote in the LP Primary in Oklahoma. That's what the LPOK wanted to do; but the Oklahoma legislature said "No." We sued; we won the right to run our party the way we want to run it. This was only the 7th time that the LP won a case in the U.S. Court of Appeals in which it was the sole plaintiff. Congratulations and thanks to our magnificent attorney, Jim Linger, and to the Oklahoma LP.

This sets the stage for the new lawsuit we just filed to reform Oklahoma's outrageous ballot access laws. We have gathered over 20,000 signatures so far to support this lawsuit.

The Oklahoma Constitution says that elections in that state "shall be free and equal." (I'm not kidding.) Oklahoma ballot laws have been a curse for the LP for over 30 years. Example: For any office other than President, if you are an Independent, a \$500 filing fee will get you on the ballot — but not if you are a registered Libertarian. Libertarians are barred from the ballot unless the LP has gathered 51,781 valid signatures to qualify as a political party. If we do not qualify as a political party again in 2004, the state will delete the Libertarian Party designation of all such voters in Oklahoma, so we won't then have the standing to sue, to permanently change the unconsti-

tutional ballot laws in Oklahoma. Also, Ballot Access News publisher Richard Winger thinks our chance of winning this lawsuit is excellent. Winger pledged \$17,000 to fund this lawsuit and petition drive — if the LP stepped up to match him. We did, but we may need more funds to continue to fight this battle in the Sooner State.

(3) West Virginia — The West Virginia LP has about 3,000 signatures and has raised \$15,000 on its own for the petition drive to place Simon McClure for governor and the LP presidential ticket on the ballot. We have to gather 12,963 valid signatures by May 11 to get on the ballot for governor. That's a mighty tall order for such a small state. Getting a gubernatorial candidate on the ballot is very important, because the only way to retain ballot access in WV is to earn at least 1 percent of the vote for governor. Our 1996 gubernatorial candidate, Wallace



Johnson, did that. But, in a five-way race in 2000, we earned 0.86 percent of the vote for governor, coming up just short. In 2004, it will almost certainly be a four-way race for governor, and it is very likely we will earn more than 1 percent again — if we get Simon McClure on the ballot. The national LP has to be ready to help if the West Virginia LP can't finish this up themselves. We've got to have another \$15,000 on hand to do just that.

(4) Illinois — The Illinois LP has 90 days, from late March to late June, to gather 25,000 valid signatures. Illinois LP Executive Director Jeff Trigg has developed a plan by which 5/8 of the

drive will be handled through volunteer signatures and money raised by the Illinois LP. The national LP needs to have \$25,000 ready to go to help get the Illinois LP over the finish line.

(5) Pennsylvania — The LPPA petition drive just started. We need to gather 25,697 valid signatures by August 2. The LPPA doesn't currently have the funds to do this themselves. National needs to have another \$25,000 ready to make sure all LP candidates are on the ballot in Pennsylvania.

Ohio Update: In Ohio, the Secretary of State's office — without validating a single signature of the 57,000+ turned in — ruled that the Ohio LP's petition was invalid because of minor cosmetic changes to the prescribed petition form — changes we made to make the petition more user-friendly. We've retained top flight ballot access attorneys, who have sued the Ohio Secretary of State. We have an excellent chance of winning. If we do, we won't just get dozens of candidates on the ballot in 2004. We may completely undo the unconstitutional ballot access laws of Ohio — the worst such laws of any major state.

We're fighting outrageous ballot access laws — and succeeding in petition drives. But we can't keep this moving forward without your generous financial support. Please send a check ASAP to the Libertarian Party Ballot Access Fund, 2600 Virginia Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20037, or contribute to the Ballot Access Fund via the LP's Web site, www.LP.org. Thank you very much. With your help NOW, every American will have a Libertarian (or several) on their ballot in 2004.

Bill Redpath

William Redpath
LNC Treasurer/Ballot Access Coordinator

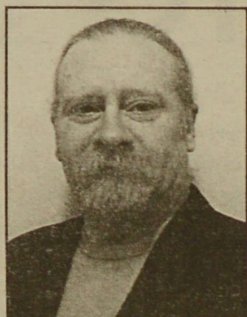
NEWS BRIEFS

Wrights running for LNC vice chair

R Lee Wrights, editor of "Liberty For All" and an at-large representative to the Libertarian National Committee, is seeking the LNC vice chair's seat; current Vice Chair Ken Bisson is not running for re-election. The LNC elections will be held at the LP's national convention in Atlanta.

In his two years on the LNC, Wrights has served on the Advertising and Publications Review Committee and the Platform Committee.

He has been an activist since junior high school, when he organized protests against the Vietnam War and supported the civil rights movement.



■ R. Lee Wrights

Wright served five years in the US Air Force, then attended Willmar College in Minnesota, earning a degree in journalism and history. He has worked as a salesman, carpenter, writer, musician and editor.

Always philosophically a libertarian, Wrights joined the LP in 1999. Since then, he has served as Forsyth County LP secretary, North Carolina LP ballot access coordinator, vice chair of LPNC, and Forsyth County chair. He is also Web master of his county's LP affiliate.

In 2001, Wrights was awarded the Losing Sleep for Liberty Award by his county affiliate; a Lights of Liberty Award from the Advocates for Self-Government; and he was named LPNC's Most Valued Activist at the 2001 state convention.

Since May, 2001, the LPNC has almost doubled the number of organized county affiliates.

"We owe it all to improving our communications with new contacts and prospective members, and to the state party's commitment to helping new affiliates get on their feet," Wrights said. "Every new county we help to get organized puts us one step closer to electing Libertarians at the local level, where the effects of Libertarian principles applied to government will be most evident and beneficial."

Wright lives in Winston-Salem, NC, with Pam, his wife of 24 years, and their younger daughter Kelsey. He is a co-founder and editor of LibertyForAll.net, a Libertarian e-magazine; operates several e-groups; is an editor for "Rational Review News Digest" and is a contributing editor for "Rational Review," another online publication.

Rutherford seeking At-Large LNC seat

Mark W. Rutherford has announced his candidacy for LNC at-large representative. He is currently LNC Region 3 representative.

Chairman of the Indiana LP since 2000, Rutherford said he is proud of that group's successes under his leadership. In that time, Indiana has grown from six to 39 affiliated counties; there are seven Libertarians elected to partisan offices, one elected to nonpartisan office and seven appointed to government boards; the LP ran 70 candidates in 2003's municipal elections, 159 candidates in 2002 and 112 in 2000.

Indiana ballot access demands that parties get 2 percent of the secretary of state vote. LP candidate Rebecca Sink-Burris got 4.12 percent in 2002, securing ballot access until 2006.

Similar successes are possible on the national level, but have been thwarted by "internal obstacles ... that frequently hamstring state and local parties,"

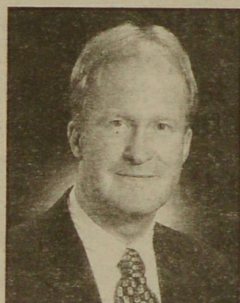
Rutherford said. "It's the counterproductive internal bickering that is most frustrating. Quibbles about ideological purity ironically squelch the very liberty that we all cherish."

Rutherford said he also wants to continue the LP's progress toward running the national office "on the small corporate model."

An LP Life Member, Rutherford pledges money monthly to both the national and Indiana Libertarian parties. He has been on the LNC since 2001.

Rutherford is a partner in the Indianapolis law firm Laudig George Rutherford & Sipes and is admitted to practice in Indiana courts, in Indiana's U.S. District Courts and in the U.S. Court of Appeals, 7th Circuit. He has served as a pro tempore judge for municipal and superior courts in Marion County and as a public defender and deputy prosecutor.

He has served in leadership positions in the Indiana State Bar Association and the Indianapolis Bar Association, where he was chairman of the Litigation Section in 2001-'02. He graduated from the Valparaiso School of Law in 1986 and from Wabash College in 1982.



■ Mark Rutherford

Illinois LP says:

'Keep Bush off the ballot'

Illinois election officials should follow state law and prevent President Bush from appearing on the November ballot as the Republican presidential candidate, says Jeff Trigg, executive director of the Illinois Libertarian Party. Trigg is trying to convince officials either to uphold the law by keeping Bush off the ballot, or to eliminate the obstacles for all candidates.

"Republicans wrote these rules and they should live by them," Trigg said. "They made their bed and now they must lie in it by petitioning to get on the ballot, just like they require of us."

Current law requires the Illinois Board of Elections to certify the names that will appear on the general election ballot 67 days before the election. This year that deadline is Aug. 27.

But Bush will not be nominated until Sept. 1, when the GOP holds its national convention in New York City. Therefore, his name cannot legally appear on the ballot as a Republican unless the law is changed, Trigg points out.

The proper solution, he says, is for the board to insist that Bush's name appear as an independent — as the law allows — or to ease

ballot access for all political parties, not just the Republicans.

Instead, Republicans and Democrats are collaborating to enact a new law that would carve out an exception only for Bush, which is "nothing less than favoritism and a mockery of the principles of democracy," Trigg said.

On March 25, the state Senate approved SB 2123, which would allow only Republicans and Democrats to be nominated after the deadline, while leaving the requirements the same for all other candidates.

The Illinois LP responded by holding a press conference on March 30 at which they demanded that the Illinois House refuse to pass the bill and called on Governor Rod Blagojevich, a Democrat, to veto the measure if it was approved by the legislators.

"The Senate bill doesn't change the deadline; it just lets them ignore it for 2004," Trigg said.

Since Republicans knew about the deadline in Illinois before they set their convention date, they could have simply held their convention before the August 27 deadline, Trigg pointed out.

But instead they "deliberately ignored the rule of law and arrogantly expected the law to be changed just for them," he said.

The current effort to sidestep the law isn't the first time Republicans have engaged in such election-year shenanigans, he pointed out.

In 1998, then-Secretary of State George Ryan, who was running for governor, put his state employees to work challenging petitions collected by Libertarians, and succeeded in

knocking seven Libertarians — including LP gubernatorial candidate Jim Tobin — off the ballot. Ryan won the election by only a 4 percent margin.

In the ensuing scandal, Ryan was indicted for improper use of state resources.

At the March 30 press conference, the Illinois LP also called on the legislature to eliminate other disparities in election laws.

For example, in the race for U.S. House District 1, the Republicans need 196 signatures to get on the ballot, while "new parties" and independents need 9,793 signatures.

State law will also force the Libertarian Party to collect about 50,000 petition signatures in 90 days just to run its presidential and U.S. Senate candidates, making Illinois's restrictive ballot access one of the most arduous in the nation, Trigg said.

In neighboring states such as Missouri and Wisconsin, gathering just 10,000 signatures would allow a political party to run for every partisan office in the state — so the LP's request is more than reasonable, Trigg said.

"In fact, with two-thirds of all General Assembly races unopposed in 2004, Illinois should be copying those states' election laws so more voters in Illinois will actually have a choice on the ballot," he added.

"This whole episode shows that Republicans will even break the law in order to remove us from the ballot. Now it's time to insist that they live by the laws they create — without giving themselves special rights."

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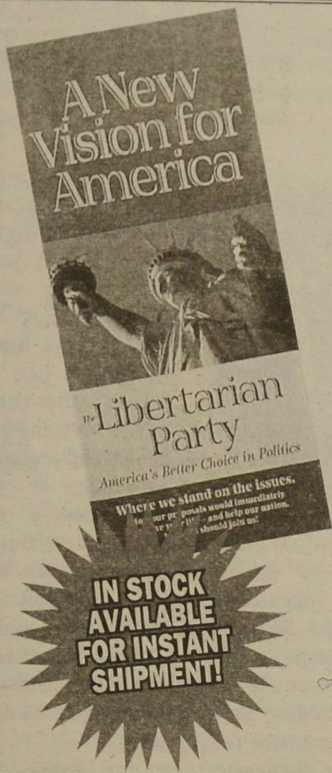
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■ **Libertarianism In One Lesson** by David Bergland. Expanded 8th edition. The classic introductory work. Outlines Libertarian positions on all major political issues and contrasts them to liberals and conservatives. A must-read. Softbound, 158 pages. **Cost:** \$10 each; or 5 for \$35.

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| _____ | Second line says: "1-800-ELECT-US" |

Tools for Campaigning

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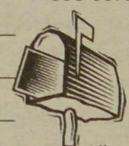
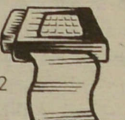
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THE FORUM

Developing your 'compass'

When I started out as a Libertarian activist I was very confused about who in the party I should trust and believe. Different factions inside the LP have had things to say about other factions, candidates, or leaders. Many Libertarians have learned the hard way not to trust those in power or "leaders."

We often look at our Libertarian leaders as people with power and authority, and we forget that they are people who oppose the misuse of power and authority. How do you know which Libertarians you can listen to, and which you shouldn't take seriously?

When I was a new activist, I had a parade of people bend my ear and tell me that various individuals or groups were not to be trusted. When looking into it, I usually discovered that the mistrust was caused by people who had made mistakes as they — or the party — moved into unfamiliar territory.

After all, no one has done before what we are doing, so there is no manual on how to build a long-lasting, successful new political party. If the party is not having the

success you think it should, it is probably because the public is not as ready for us as we would like, not because some of us did not try our best with the information and experience we have.

Over time, I have developed a Libertarian "compass" which tells me who I can take seriously when I hear people criticizing others in the Libertarian Party.

■ First, judge criticism based on the person who is delivering the critique. Does this person have a history of criticizing people who do well for the Libertarian Party? Has this person shown they could do things better? Is this person running a successful organization in their own state or county? Do they claim to have a "magic bullet" that will make the LP successful, but for some reason, they've never put it into practice? Have they demonstrated success in libertarian activism? How many people have they personally registered to vote as Libertarians? Have they ever signed

up a new member? Have they done rather than talked? Do they think that they are the saviors of the LP, that we can only be successful if we do things their way?

■ I would also judge the opinion by its harshness. If it is an attack rather than constructive criticism then I have a tendency to disregard it. We are all Libertarians; why would someone wish to divide us or attempt to harm the Party? Is it irresponsible criticism, such as implying someone is a huge crook attempting to defraud us, or is it a constructive, well-thought-out criticism, offering a solution?

Does the person name call and attempt to degrade and humiliate the person they are criticizing, or are they respectful? Are they convinced the person they are criticizing must be part of some conspiracy? Is the person doing the criticism motivated by jealousy? Are they trying to draw attention to themselves by attacking others

because they can't get attention by successful activism? (The best way to criticize what someone else has done is to go out and do it better, not to attack the original action.)

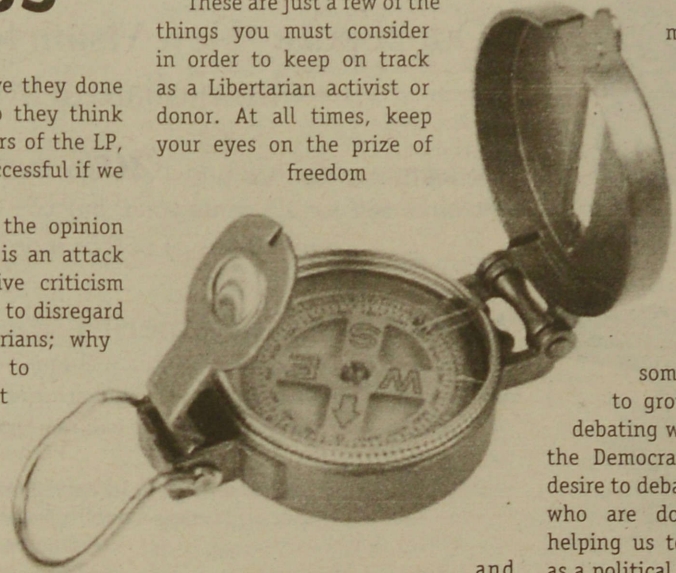
These are just a few of the things you must consider in order to keep on track as a Libertarian activist or donor. At all times, keep your eyes on the prize of freedom

or more powerful organization to which they are now loyal? Are they just burned out and want to quit, but need someone to blame for their departure, in order to save face?

Let us strive to move forward as an organization. Always do the things you want to do and think are fun, or soon you will burn out. If you like to debate rather than to go out in the street and register new voters or get some other concrete thing to grow the party, then try debating with the Republicans or the Democrats. Don't satisfy your desire to debate by distracting those who are doing concrete things, helping us to gain more influence as a political party.

Remember that our leaders are mostly voted in because we — as a body — thought they will hinder the growth of the state and the destruction of our civil rights. Our leaders are unlike the leaders of other political organizations; in our case it may be possible for us to rebel by emulating our leaders, rather than by opposing them.

■ **About the author:** Mark Selzer is the southern vice chair of the California Libertarian Party.



and put principles before personalities. Do not let anyone distract you from that goal.

■ Lastly, to establish the credibility of criticism offered by your fellow Libertarians, consider whether the person making the criticism has divided loyalties. Has this person lost faith in the movement? Is he or she simply hanging around, trying to discourage others because they think it is a lost cause? Do they think that the Libertarian Party is just getting in the way of a better

Advocating 'good government' laws to promote liberty

Should Libertarian candidates be "Goo Goos"? Advocating certain types of Goo Goo legislation is a low-risk tactic that may produce liberty-enhancing outcomes.

The term "Goo Goo" is political slang for advocates of so-called "good government" reforms. I believe the term was widely used during campaigns in the 19th Century for civil service reform by elimination of political patronage. Most contemporary self-identified Goo Goos tend to support activist government, and much legislation they support would reduce our liberty. The Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act is a prime example.

However, some types of Goo Goo legislation tend to be liberty-enhancing. These include:

■ **Sunshine legislation:** Such laws make it easier for citizens to monitor the activities of government. Provisions in such laws may include requirements that government agency meetings be open to the public, and that certain types of documents be made available at reasonable cost to citizens upon request. An important example of a sunshine law at the federal level is the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

■ **Sunset legislation:** The term refers to laws mandating that govern-

ment programs automatically end by a specified date unless the programs are explicitly reauthorized. Many such laws were passed by state governments in the 1970s and 1980s. A few states subsequently repealed these laws.

Such repeals were sometimes justified by claims that the task of reviewing whether endangered government programs were actually necessary imposed too heavy a burden upon legislators and staff.

■ **OIG legislation:** Several government agencies have an Office of Inspector General. Many federal departments and agencies have OIGs, as do several departments and agencies at the state and local level.

Robert Redding, a consultant to the Office of Inspector General in Montgomery County, Md., wrote about the importance of local OIGs in "Capital Ideas," a National Taxpayers Union Foundation publication.

He noted that the statutory mission of the Montgomery County OIG includes the following: To prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse in government activities; to review the effectiveness and efficiency of county programs and operations; and to propose ways to increase the legal, fiscal, and ethical accountability of county departments and county-funded agencies.

Additional types of potentially

liberty-enhancing Goo Goo legislation include establishing ombudsmen for government departments and agencies, developing nonpartisan commissions and processes for redistricting, and establishing proposed legislation review committees. Such committees would vet all proposed legislation to determine whether such legislation passes Constitutional muster.

There are several potential advantages to Libertarians advocating Goo Goo legislation, such as:

■ **Advocacy of Goo Goo legislation** by a Libertarian candidate may force his opponents to address and perhaps support such legislation. In my experience, candidates find it very difficult to oppose openly the concepts of sunshine, sunset, and OIGs. Libertarian support for well-crafted Goo Goo legislation may push other candidates to climb aboard that bandwagon.

■ **Most of the journalists** I have met are (or believe themselves to be)

protectors of the citizens against the power of the state. Hence, many journalists who cover politics and government affairs frequently support Goo Goo legislation, especially sunshine laws. I believe LP candidates who promote such legislation well are more likely to gain the attention and respect of "the Fourth Estate."

■ **Some LP candidates** I have met have little idea how government actually works or what powers they would have if they were actually elected. Such candidates are easily dismissed by voters as being ignorant concerning the offices they seek. Candidates who promote Goo Goo legislation are more likely to be seen as serious, thoughtful, and responsible advocates of reducing the size and scope of government.

By suggesting that Libertarians promote such legislation, I am not suggesting that cease advocating the elimination of government programs. To the contrary: We should be bold in calling for elimination of programs that do not pass muster on moral, constitutional, or prudential grounds. However, given that big government is likely to be around for a while, enactment of such legislation should make it easier to keep government from growing even larger.

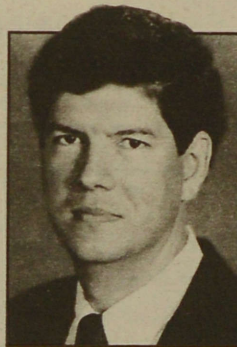
Promoting Goo Goo legislation should be an adjunct to — not a

replacement for — promoting hallmark Libertarian positions. Libertarians or any other candidates who promote good government ideas are unlikely to be elected to office based solely on such advocacy. But if support of such ideas clearly becomes popular, all candidates are likely to become advocates of the ideas.

Please note that crafting specific Goo Goo proposals properly can take a great deal of time and effort. Moreover, adoption of sunshine, sunset, and OIG legislation, even when such legislation is well crafted, will not necessarily reduce the size and scope of government. Using sunshine, sunset, and OIG laws to restrain expansive government usually requires a great deal of hard work by citizens.

However, I believe promoting the right type of good government legislation will be helpful, both in aiding our campaigns and in moving us toward a Libertarian society. I hope LP candidates will give the Goo Goo tactic a whirl.

■ **About the author:** James W. Lark, III is a professor in the Department of Systems and Information Engineering at the University of Virginia. He holds several positions in the Libertarian Party of Virginia, and served as the national chairman of the Libertarian Party during the 2000-2002 term.



THE VOLUNTEER

One success helps others to succeed

A story in the December, 2003, *LP News* helped defeat 11 of 12 tax increase referendums in McHenry County (or as some of us refer to it, McHightax County), Illinois, in our March 16 primary election.

In the eight school districts that asked for property tax increases, their revenues from property taxes have easily exceeded the rate of enrollment increases and the rate of inflation.

But that wasn't nearly enough for them. Over the past several years, these districts have been spending well beyond their means, and at three to five times the rate of inflation. Not surprisingly, they're out of

state's attorney — the top prosecuting attorney in the county — refused to do his job by enforcing Illinois' Election Interference statute.

The pro-referendum groups accused people who were against the referendums of hating children, of being anti-education, and of destroying communities. Although we were the vast majority, the pro-taxers scared most from exercising their right to freedom of speech. The few of us who weren't intimidated by the name-calling managed to find each other, and frugally organized.

Around this time I read an article in the December 2003 *LP News* about Oklahoma LP state chair Robert Denard, who helped organize a fight against a tax increase in Stephens County. In September, 2003, that increase was ultimately crushed by 62 percent of the vote in a referendum. The story mentioned a pamphlet Denard developed and distributed.

The pamphlet told how much money the state of Oklahoma spends per year on education, how much was spent in the county, and asked "how much is enough?"

I contacted Denard, he sent an electronic copy of his pamphlet, and we replaced the Stephens County specifics with some from the Cary school district in McHenry County. We left the general points about what ever-increasing taxes are doing to US citizens, and I had a great piece of tax opposition literature.

While we only had a version of the pamphlet for one of the eight school districts, it served as an inspiration for handbills, PowerPoint presentations, and (lightly attend-

ed, but effective) tax opposition workshops across the county.

We learned in the early morning hours of March 17 that our efforts had, for the most part, been rewarded — with 11 of 12 tax-increase referendums failing. The lone winner was a smaller school district, which won by only 49 votes — thanks in large part to the \$128,000-a-year district superintendent going door-to-door to protect his phony-baloney pension.

(Side note: The Teachers' Retirement System is beginning to rival Social Security, with \$23 billion in assets, and \$47 billion in liabilities — and with the teachers' unions' inexorable drive for smaller class sizes, more and more teachers are entering the public school system.)

The other school tax increase referendums in McHenry County were defeated with an average of 58 percent of voters against each one. In my home district, the community's confidence in the school board and administrators was demonstrated by a 71 percent blowout of the tax increase.

Pro-taxers clearly don't understand most aspects or implications of the word "no." One district has already declared they'll be asking again in November. As none of the 18 districts in the county have done a thing to address their spending problems and they've all complained about funding problems, we expect there to be many more tax increase referendums on the ballot again in November.

And we'll be there hammering away despite the name-calling, with liberty and reason on our side. Our continuously evolving strategy and solutions will work anywhere in Illinois, and we suspect they can be adapted pretty much anywhere else. Contact us through www.noreferendum.org or groups.yahoo.com/group/cutmchenrycountytaxes.

Thanks to Robert Denard, and to all Libertarians with the courage to stand up whenever pro-taxers and opponents of personal responsibility try to inject government another notch into our lives.

■ **About the author:** Chris Jenner is an LP member in Cary, Illinois. He works in management for a large U.S. corporation. This was his first active tax-fighting effort.

A new agenda for libertarian candidates

In large political parties, underling elected officials and political hopefuls watch as their heroes set the agenda. All down the line, from Congressman to precinct captain, the issues of the leader are parroted and promoted.

The strategy of the leader is defined by the speech, and those listening are seeking clues on how to address issues, and how best to attack the enemy. The focal points shift, foreign to domestic, defense

becomes annoying to the recipient. No clear Libertarian message is being sent, much less sent regularly.

With each candidate moving a different message, it is difficult for the general public to find a thread they can follow or a theme that would keep them involved. Mostly, candidates and activists spend their resources ranting against the evils and problems of government.

Instead of draining energy in this way, positive solutions can be championed. There is no need to remain mute because an issue is not one of the chosen core of issues. But we can draw most conversations or debates on other issues back to our main driving agenda.

In a recent speech in Phoenix, Arizona, Dr. Nathaniel Branden clearly stated the most important Libertarian 'wedge issues' in order of priority — issues which, if championed by candidates far and wide, could provide the growth and media exposure the Libertarian Party needs to flourish. They were: a flat federal income tax, privatization of Social Security, and an end to the War on Drugs.

A strong national agenda for the party would offer candidates the opportunity to dovetail their messages behind a much larger message and see personal campaign benefits. The movement will continue to lack focus until the LP sets the focal points. There may not be a well-known national leader, but there can be an agenda.

If Libertarians all say it at once, it will have great impact.

■ **About the author:** Richard Lamping is a political consultant and cab driver in Aspen, Co. His latest project, "The New Prohibition: Voices of Dissent Challenge the Drug War," is a book of 21 essays by notable reform advocates, edited by Sheriff Bill Masters and Ari Armstrong of Colorado.

By Chris Jenner

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PRO-TAXERS
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clearly don't
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money. Also not surprisingly, they thought the taxpayers would (temporarily) fix their spending problems, since it was "for the kids."

In December, articles and letters to the editor were hitting the local papers about the upcoming referendums. Of course, the pro-tax groups formed, positioned themselves as pro-kids, pro-teachers, pro-education, and raised and spent thousands of dollars to promote yes votes on their tax increase referendums.

They used kids and public resources to promote the tax increases, while our lame duck Republican

NO CLEAR
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Libertarian message
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is being sent,
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much less sent
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regularly.

to pocketbook, but the issues of importance are defined and explained by the leadership.

Political parties are important. Group strength is very important in the American democracy, both as a means of moving a message and as a form of self-defense. Parties provide a base of support for those looking to lead, and provide leaders for those looking for guidance. Independents rarely gather the organized support necessary to continue to grow in political influence.

When Jesse "The Body" Ventura ran for governor of Minnesota, he understood the value of a political machine and associated himself with the Reform Party. When he outgrew this group, he separated himself from it and began The Independence Party of Minnesota.

The LP transcends individual personalities. The issues are what bring people into the Party, and will continue to hold it together.


In a group like the Libertarian Party there are few leaders setting the agenda and keeping the rank and file on task. In order to move a message it must be heard until it

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THE CHAIR

Quite a few things to say, and time's up

Occasionally, as one of my duties as Chair, I'm called upon to write this very column. Because I write only as a means of communication, not for pleasure, this task has often been arduous for me. In order to perform, I've had to decide exactly what I want to communicate. Add to that the requirement that I must craft a 750-word piece, and I've often struggled with what to say, and how to say it.

This being my last "From the Chair" column, I now find myself in the position of having quite a few things I want to say, and having to constrain myself.

I've decided to limit myself to passing on a few assorted personal opinions and perspectives.

■ The Libertarian Party extols the virtue of the free market. Why aren't we all successful at making the free market work for ourselves? If you want to promote the market as a solution, but you haven't made it work for yourself, are you a good advertisement for the free market? To be an effective Libertarian, perhaps we all need to be more of an example, and less of an advocate. Otherwise, it's kind of like priests being marriage counselors, or drunks speaking on behalf of sobriety.

■ The average Libertarian Party member donates about \$60 per year to National. That's about one Starbucks latte every 18 days. That's like one movie admission every 50 days.

Even with the maximum cost-effectiveness and efficiency from our staff, would that buy us liberty? Would that get our message out? I most assuredly value activism, but growth-oriented activism has not been manifested in our organization. The vast majority of current members entered the party through National prospecting efforts, or because of presidential candidates. Until positive activism manifests its success through increased numbers, we at National have to rely on the only thing that has consistently worked for us -- prospecting. If we want that growth, it's going to cost more than \$60 per member per year. How much growth we achieve is not determined as a multiplier of that \$60 number. \$120 will not buy us double the prospecting. Since our overhead costs will remain about the same, and the cost of sending you an LP News will not change appreciably, and our rent will be unchanged, it could very well be that by doubling what you give, we can increase our prospecting activities by more than 10 times. How badly do you want more members? Or perhaps there are some who are happy with remaining where we are.

■ Value and price are often indistinguishable. If a local steakhouse sold a steak and lobster dinner for \$8, would you think that's great deal, or would you think there must be something wrong with the food? If the owner told you the food was really top-notch, would you believe him? I know what I'd think. Because we ask people to commit so little indicate how much we value liberty? By raising the bar, don't we make a statement of just how much liberty is worth to us?

■ Are we a political party or a religion? Is our primary job preaching an ideology, or working for political success guided by an ideology? I've read our mission statement. I know the answer to this one. n Are we running on the big tent theory, or are we looking only for those that agree with us on every issue? If someone has to be 100% libertarian to join or participate, then let's stop using the "World's Smallest Political Quiz," because we're acting fraudulently and inconsistently with our pledge. If we're running on the big tent theory, then we as individuals do not get to decide which issue we will mandate, and on which our constituencies must agree with us. Politics is about appealing to a spectrum of thought, not a dogmatic singularity.

Libertarianism is much more about action than thoughts and words. I don't care how anyone thinks. I care only about how they act. The world is peopled with so many libertarians who are libertarians because they live libertarian. I want them with us because they are libertarian. Perhaps they haven't read Von Mises or Rand. Perhaps they don't read. Perhaps they don't think about these things. Perhaps they just know what's right, feel it in their hearts, and act accordingly. They are your brothers and sisters, and they live on every street in every town in every state. Find them, greet them, welcome them home.



By Geoff Neale

NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

Can you apply comparable worth to incomparable jobs?

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

By J. Daniel Cloud
LP NEWS EDITOR

Equal pay for equal work sounds great, in theory. Certainly two people who work equally hard should be paid the equally, right?

Since 1963, when John F. Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act into law, it has been illegal for employers to pay men more than women — assuming the two were employed in the same job, had been on the job the same length of time and performed equally.

When the Equal Pay Act was signed, the median woman earned 58 percent of what the median man earned. It was thought that matching pay for the sexes would allow women to make 100 percent of what men do, that there would no longer be a discrepancy in earning power.

But by 2001, the median woman still earned only 75 percent of what the median man earned, according to the National Committee on Pay Equity. Yes, that's a significant improvement over the situation in the 1960s, but it's not good enough to please equal pay advocates.

In the 1970s, studies by women's rights campaigners showed that the problem was not unequal pay in the same jobs; rather, that jobs women traditionally were drawn to — receptionist, elementary school teacher, nurse — paid less than jobs dominated by men — truck driver, vocational teacher, factory worker.

"Consider a nurse who earns less than a maintenance worker working for the same employer," Amy Gluckman, co-editor of "Dollars and Sense" magazine, wrote in a 2002 issue of that magazine — explaining that this was "typical of the pay gaps researchers uncovered in studies of municipal pay scales in several U.S. cities in the 1970s."

The nurse was responsible for the health — even the lives — of her patients, and had to attend college for at least two years; the maintenance worker had less serious responsibilities and didn't have to go to college or even get a high school diploma to do his job, Gluckman wrote.

"Any reasonable evaluation of the two jobs supports the nurse's

Libertarian SOLUTIONS

claim that she should earn the higher salary," she concluded.

The idea that education level, physical difficulty of the job, responsibility, and other factors should be considered in wage setting is called "comparable worth," and its proponents insist that it is the only way to correct generations of gender bias in the workplace.

Problems arise, however, when trying to enact rules that will establish equal payment for jobs of comparable worth.

"In the United States, mandatory comparable worth to date

has been applied only to public employees and only at the state or local level," Steven E. Rhoads, a professor of government at the University of Virginia, wrote in a 1993 Cato Review

on

business and government.

In the United Kingdom, however, comparable worth is mandatory for both private and public jobs and had been for a decade when Rhoads wrote his critique of the concept. The UK's system was decentralized, with each employer bringing in "experts" to determine what jobs were similar, he wrote.

And the problems with comparable worth in the UK were rampant: Rhoads described tribunals that tried to rank jobs based on perfunc-

tory, inadequate job descriptions; fluctuating ideas of job worth; attempts to equate primarily brain-powered occupations with almost purely physical ones; and the slow expert-report process.

"Though the tribunal system was meant to provide a quick, cheap and informal process, it has achieved none of these," Rhoads said. "The experts were meant to report in 42 days, but no expert has ever met this goal. The average report has taken 12 months to complete," and the complete review process took, on average, almost 18 months.

Any decentralized plan for comparing comparable job worth would meet similar difficulties; and while a centralized, government-run system could claim to avoid some of the pitfalls by having a single agency do the work, such centralization would be similarly doomed, he opined.

"The inherent subjectivity of job evaluation means that arbitrary and inconsistent determinations are inevitable" in any comparable worth system, he concluded.

Because efforts at comparable worth haven't worked in the places where it has been tried, is there a solution to the earning differential between men and women?

Yes, there are. And they are without exception attributable to the free market process — without the intervention of bureaucratic programs.

■ Let the market set the value

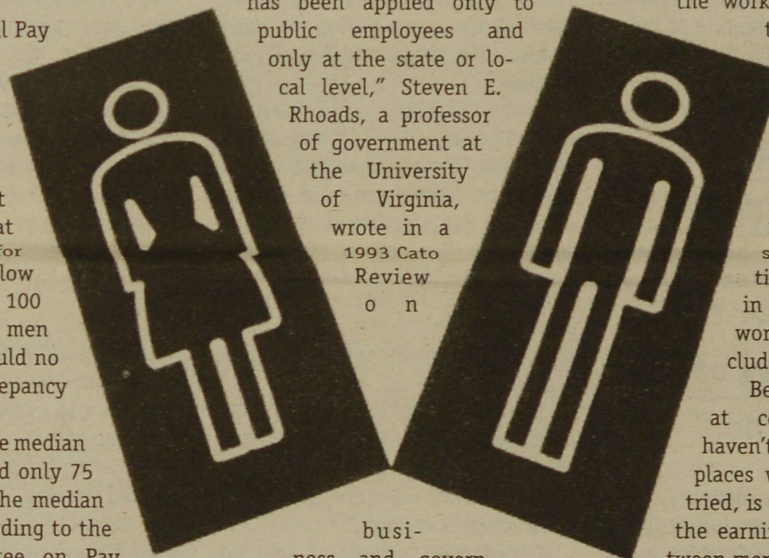
When there is a scarcity of people to do a specific job, anyone who can do that job becomes more valuable — regardless of gender. And the converse is also true: If there is a glut on the market, with more workers than there are jobs, the value of each employee decreases.

Setting equal pay for men and women doing the same job helps, but it doesn't solve the problem totally because men and women are historically drawn to different jobs.

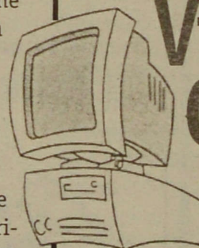
Nursing, for example, is traditionally a female-heavy market. For years, there were more women who wanted to be nurses than there were jobs for them, so nurses didn't earn as much as employees in fields without a large labor pool: If one turned down a job because it didn't pay enough, another was there to take her place.

In recent years that trend has reversed. Women started going into other fields, a shortage of nurses and

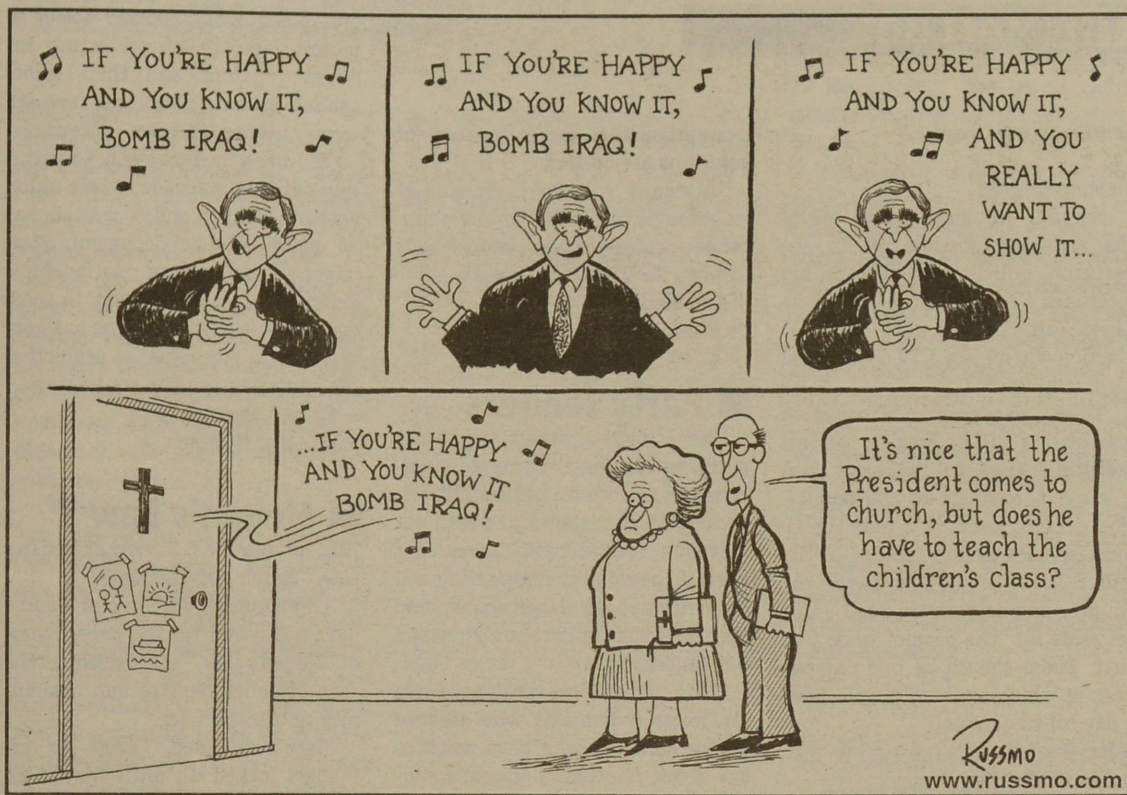
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THE MAILBOX

■ Anti-Bush march

During the Republican "Bush Re-nomination Rubberstamp" — I mean convention — in New York, there are to be massive protest demonstrations, including one on Aug. 29. I understand that these are being planned in a number of cities.

I personally plan to march in New York on Aug. 29, and I would very much like to do so under an LP banner. I hope you will do the same. Hopefully there will be many states represented with state LP banners, fliers and copies of the Quiz! Most participants will be Kerry supporters. Kerry is not a small government, individual rights man as we know.

This is a major opportunity not only to oppose Bush, but also to educate the public and to promote our own candidate.

—ALICE LILLIE
Henderson, Nevada

■ We're the masters

[RE: The Pledge of Allegiance]

If we had separation of school and state there never would have been all this conflict in the first place, the Supreme Court wouldn't be busying itself with the matter, and millions of kids would be much better educated. In particular, they wouldn't be indoctrinated in a system of socialism that teaches them at an early age that theft is acceptable as long as the loot goes for a

"good cause."

What are we doing pledging allegiance to the state, anyway? The state is our servant, our agent — not our master. It was called into existence by free people and serves at their pleasure.

When have masters ever pledged allegiance to their servants?

—CARL E. VASSAR
Trumbull, Connecticut

LET'S STOP CARPING
.....
about whether we
.....
should be in Iraq
.....
or not; let's talk
.....
about what the heck
.....
we should do next.
.....
—DAVE OVERSTREET

■ Good advice

[RE: Campaign advice from Barbara Goushaw-Collins and Greg Dirasian, The Forum, April, 2004 LP News]

These two pointed out the most important fundamentals addressing a successful campaign. I have tried locally to point out to our candidates that being informed on issues and doing research are of utmost importance in a campaign.

I hope in a few months LP News

will re-run this article so prospective candidates might consider the suggestions that were offered.

—CHARLES E. CRISWELL
Wichita, Kansas

■ Boortz talk I

"The enemy of my enemy is my friend."

I am very excited that our national convention in Atlanta will allow radio host Neil Boortz an opportunity to speak. Though I oppose America's involvement with Iraq, we must remain united as a citizens' party and allow Mr. Boortz his right to voice the opposing opinion.

Most Libertarian hawks and doves remain strong on a majority of our party Platform planks. That's why every person should have a say. This is my hope when he is speaking: No booing from either side.

—JERRY ESKRIDGE
Port Royal, South Carolina

■ Election reform

The Libertarian Party is without question the answer to most of this country's problems. Voting Libertarian is so obvious that I'm amazed our numbers are so relatively few. To fix this it's imperative the LP do four things.

First, we must look at least eight years into the future. By not worrying about this election or the next we will have more resources for the

See **THE MAILBOX** Page 28

THE PULSE

Libertarian art?

Apparently most LP News readers think of Ayn Rand primarily as a philosopher, and only secondarily — or not at all — as an artist, even though her books are masterpieces of literature in addition to presenting her philosophy.

This month's question assumes that our readers consider literature an art, and extends the issue to visual art forms — Can visual art be libertarian, and should any artistic work produced by a libertarian artist automatically be considered libertarian in its own right?

A minority in the responses questioned the necessity for the question, as you can read below. Others gave heavily qualified "Yes" responses, and a few believe that it doesn't matter — that art by its very nature should be above political issues.

Those who responded addressed literature, music, film and dance as conducive to libertarian ideals, especially when the artist is prompted by personal liberty and expression and does not kowtow to his or her critics, giving in to outside pressure. To these LP News readers, pursuit of personal goals and individual standards of quality is a prime attribute of libertarianism.

Interestingly, Rand considered herself primarily to be a novelist, with her philosophy serving as a necessary adjunct to her art. Does that imply that all artists should decide for themselves whether or not to draw on their political and philosophic views for artistic inspiration? Maybe.

Or perhaps it means that politics should be incidental to art, and by extension that discussion of art has little or no place in a predominantly political publication — a publication that exists solely to serve a political party whose goal is to elect Libertarians to office.

That may be the preeminent viewpoint of LP News readers: We received about a third as many responses as usual for this column.

Here's what some readers had to say:

■ Sure, art can be libertarian — especially when it's not bought with taxpayer funds!
—FRED CAUDLE, Atlanta, GA

■ Can art be libertarian? Of course! Art Olivier was the LP's candidate for vice-president in 2000.
—TODD KRAININ, Los Angeles, CA

■ In her Romantic Manifesto, Ayn Rand said that "art is the technology of the soul." One's sense of life alone is the quintessence of one's art. All other elements and paradigms of one's expression follow from that spirit.

I believe in libertarian principles, but my art and songwriting are not limited to those — I explore many different themes and "try on" many different expressions to stretch and come to better understand myself as well as others' points of view and techniques.

To me, the finest art is the liberation of one's creativity and imagination from the accepted limits of one's times. The artist can lead the vanguard into newer and newer realms of possibility. Thanks for the topic!

—DAVID MELVIN THORNBURGH, Miami Beach, Florida

■ I love freedom, and want to feel it in every fiber of my being. Therefore I love to dance and watch dancers, and encourage all Libertarians to do likewise. Let your taste in music or your ancestral heritage guide you.

No matter your tastes, there's a studio, community or performance group, music venue, or dive bar that's right for you. All critics, including your internal critic, are irrelevant, because you're free.

By learning how to dance, you can show the world how good freedom feels!

—TOM HARTUNG, Five Points, Colorado

■ Rush, who need no introduction to most Libertarians, have written songs based on Ayn Rand's books — as well as songs opposing socialism, regulation and intolerance, and promoting peace, justice and freedom.

Queensryche has written songs based on George Orwell's books, opposing imperialism and the war on drugs, and made a concept album focusing on the dangers of extreme socialism. Dream Theater, who toured with Queensryche last summer and made a tribute album to Rush, have written songs promoting individualism, but the band generally stays out of politics. The three bands share a similar musical style known as "progressive rock," much of which is libertarian.

—PAUL TRIPP, Omaha, Nebraska

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Miss Liberty's Guide to Film and Video

The definitive guide to Libertarian film. A great gift!

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THE PULSE

Continued from Page 27

■ I am an artist. I realized I was libertarian while reading Ayn Rand during my teens, then later discovered the LP. While in graduate school at the San Francisco Art Institute I encountered Angela Davis, who professed the virtue of socialist art — art that glorifies Everyman overcoming his oppressors, preferably with the help of a strong, centralized government. I “learned” that Diego Riviera was a “better” artist than Leonardo da Vinci, Daumier was superior to Rembrandt, and slave music transcended Rachmaninoff. Must libertarian art be political? Unless one considers Objectivism or that making art is inherently libertarian, although I am a Libertarian, my art is decidedly not.

—DENA CORNETT, Mill Valley, California

■ Can art be Libertarian? Who cares?

If this is the kind of “important” question we can expect from now on, get rid of The Pulse and use the space for something that isn’t a waste of ink.

—RYAN GALLOWAY, Bowie, Texas

■ Can art be libertarian? Yes, by showing that the artist values freedom, such as Mel Gibson’s “Braveheart” and “The Patriot.” Even his new movie, “The Passion of the Christ,” shows what the establishment wants to do to a free man, and the resurrection of Jesus shows what God thinks of the establishment.

—ANDREW LOHR, Chattanooga, Tennessee

July Question: How important is the pledge?

As any Libertarian knows, signing the LP Pledge — “I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals” — is the only real requirement for membership in the LP.

But as Forum essays, MailBox letters and other items in *LP News* attest, individual interpretations of “initiation of force” vary widely.

For example, look at the controversy the Iraq war causes in Libertarian circles. Did the fact that Iraq had an anti-American dictator in power constitute initiation of force, with America responding to that initiation by going to war? Or was our going to war with Iraq an initiation of force in and of itself?

Hang on — that’s only an example, not the question of the month.

The question is, given that Libertarians have trouble deciding as a group exactly what “initiation of force” consists of, is it necessary or reasonable to ask potential party members to sign the Pledge? Or is its wording too open to interpretation?

No person in his or her right mind would openly advocate the initiation of force, right? But how many people know when they see the Pledge for the first time that “initiation of force” includes the quintessential Libertarian position that taxation is theft and, therefore, an initiation of force which must be opposed?

■ **QUESTION: Should the Libertarian Party continue to use the Pledge as a condition of membership? Or is it so open to personal interpretation as to become almost meaningless? Is there a way it could be reworded to make it more clear, yet remain simple enough? Please keep answers to 100 words.**

■ **DEADLINE:** June 8, 2004.

June Question: What is our one issue?

In the 2000 presidential campaign, Harry Browne focused on three issues: Social Security, the War on Drugs and income taxes.

Looking at our current socio-political situation, should we continue focusing on these issues, or should we pick a different one?

Let’s face it: The list of issues our candidates could address is endless, including immigration, abortion, the space program, racism, the federal deficit, the so-called War on Terror, cyber-snooping and the Patriot Act, among a multitude of others.

■ **QUESTION: If you could tell our presidential candidate to focus on one issue throughout the campaign, what would it be? What single issue is more important to you than anything else? Part 2: Is there one issue you would tell our candidate to avoid? If so, why? Please keep responses to 100 words, and give us only one issue to emphasize and one to avoid.**

■ **DEADLINE:** May 8, 2004.

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

■ **E-mail:** Editor@hq.LP.org. (Put “Pulse” in subject line.)

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

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

THE MAILBOX

Continued from Page 27

election of 2012.

Second, we must spend all of the resources possible on TV advertising, which is what wins big elections. I did not know the Libertarian Party existed until the 2000 election when I saw a TV commercial for Harry Browne.

Third, change the Libertarian mascot to a buffalo. Finally, the real political change will not occur until a larger percentage of the population gets involved. It is time the LP pushed real election reform. In the end, it is the people’s job to run the country and as such we need a day set aside for “the people” to do just that. There should be one day per year in which working people have a day off to go vote.

—JAKE GOSS

Browns Mills, New Jersey

Nonintervention

At the beginning of US history, the policy of non-intervention was easy to follow. But through the years, various government leaders or agencies departed from that principle and entered into the dreaded “entangling alliances” — including the current controversy over Iraq and terrorism.

I wonder if we serve best by questioning whether we should be there in Iraq, or if we should instead be helping to figure out how best to deal with the current reality.

Is there very much we could be doing very differently in Iraq right now? I’m sure potential new Libertarians are questioning the divisive hostility within our Party.

Let’s stop carping about whether we should be in Iraq or not; let’s talk about what the heck we should do next. And I do not want to hear another, “Well, we shouldn’t have gone there in the first place.”

—DAVE OVERSTREET

Bedford, Virginia

Open borders?

Jim Davies [Feb. 2004 *LP News*] says that Libertarians who oppose illegal immigration are either abandoning principle or resorting to political expedience. I postulate a third possibility.

In a libertarian world, those coming across the border would be those seeking genuine opportunity and individual freedom. The perceived problems of immigration would be minimized. This is not the current case. Instead, demand for public services exerts pressure for more government, not less.

Some think solving the fundamental problem of burgeoning government comes first. To address the immigration issue in isolation may be counterproductive to this end.

With a libertarian government, open borders make sense. Without such a government, problems abound, both in selling libertarian ideas and in reducing the common

perception that more government solutions are needed.

Attempts to solve problems in isolation is what led to the unintended consequences which have been so destructive of liberty.

—DAVID HINES

Pittsburgh Pennsylvania

Party leaders

When inviting others to join our party, to become a registered Libertarian or to vote for our candidates, my hope is that they agree with our party on several basic issues. But even if they don’t, I hope they will be welcomed by Libertarians, and that they will support our party and our candidates.

With convention speakers, there are many individuals who are not Libertarians but who have much to say about libertarian issues. I welcome them to our conventions and hope that they will learn more about our positions on other issues.

Our candidates and party officers, however, are our public representatives. Our party officers help shape our party and what is represented to the media. It is essential that we nominate candidates who agree with LP platform issues as completely as possible.

Let’s take the advice of many others, and welcome those who wish to join us and help them grow in our principles. But let’s also recruit and support only candidates and officers who “hold the right principles.”

—GEORGE REIS

Santa Ana, California

Don’t amend

George Washington told us, “Government is not reason, it is not eloquence, it is force.” The reason people establish constitutions is to control that use of force against innocent citizens. A constitution is the law governing government. A proper constitution forbids government from harming the innocent.

James Madison wrote that the trick in writing constitutions is to

give government enough power to perform its job of protecting innocent citizens and their rights against criminals, but not enough to grant power to harm citizens.

An amendment to the Constitution defining marriage to be a union between a man and a woman has no place in that document. Marriages are contractual relationships. Religion has a part to play in some marriages; but government has only one role in the issue — protecting the contracts and the contractors.

—WESLEY F. DEITCHLER

Miles City, Montana

Megan’s Law I

[RE: “Giving the L.P. view of Megan’s Law,” March 2004 *LP News*]

Communications Director George Getz was asked for the party’s view of “Megan’s Law,” also known as the “sex offender registry and community notification act.”

Getz responded, “Keep sex offenders locked up until they’re no longer dangerous.”

How does Getz define “dangerous”? The term “sex offender” is used to describe a myriad of different actions.

I cannot support Megan’s Law. People use this law to target those who are stigmatized by the law. “Offenders” have been driven out of their residences due to death threats and other forms of harassment. No one in sound mind should support Megan’s Law in these instances.

—MIKE LYGA

Landing, New Jersey

Boortz talk II

In the April 2004 MailBox, Larry Stone attacks me for saying that Neal Boortz, radio talk show host and outspoken Iraq War supporter, isn’t a libertarian.

The idea that a government should invade other nations — destroying people and property and squandering tax money in a misguided effort to “fight terrorism” or “promote democracy” — is objectively un-libertarian. It’s not a matter of my subjective opinion.

In some areas, such as abortion, each side can make a somewhat plausible charge of initiation of force. Shades of gray exist in libertarianism, at least in certain cases. But not when the issue is an offensive war. A “libertarian” who supports mass death, destruction and military occupation is like a “vegan” who eats chicken and cheese.

—JONATHAN TRAGER

Washington, DC

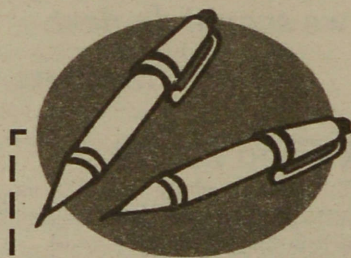
Edit the mail

[RE: The Editor’s column, “How libertarian is libertarian enough?” March, 2004 *LP News*]

Libertarian enough? Anyone who lives their own life to their satisfaction while allowing everyone else to do the same is Libertarian enough. Careful observation will reveal that to be a considerable achievement.

Calling someone “not libertarian” because he or she disagrees is anti-

See **THE MAILBOX** Page 29



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Washington, DC 20037

THE MAILBOX

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libertarian. I am appalled by my fellow Libertarians who scream "initiation of force" about anything with which they disagree — especially in matters personal and private.

The libertarian movement is about bringing change to government and society, not about achieving perfection and purity of political dogma. I am pleased with your openness; your willingness to be disagreed with and to accept ideas with which you disagree.

Whether you publish them or not, set some ground rules for the MailBox. Reserve the right to edit for length, clarity and civility — but never for intention, meaning or opinion. Include your editorial opinion when it is needed. And grow a thick skin. That may be all you lack to help us all to redirect ourselves beyond issues important to us toward the uncomplicated message of liberty.

I wish you great success as editor, possibly because you deserve it, but certainly because our world needs it.

—JOSEPH GATES

Mulberry Grove, Illinois

Pro-air bags

Will Rogers once said, "I'm not a member of an organized political party. I'm a Democrat." If he were alive today he would have to end that one liner with "Libertarian."

Right alongside Joe Seehusen's excellent — if somewhat scholarly — piece on the importance of building externally [April, 2004 LP News] we have J. Daniel Cloud ranting about seat belts and air bags, making us look like a disorganized random collection of extremists.

We all recognize that neither safety system is perfect. Air bags were rushed to market prematurely by government, so they were seriously flawed in their early configuration. What Cloud and other extremists fail to concede is that, on the whole, using these devices improves your odds of survival. Installing the device in every car drastically reduces the cost per car, and the national survival rate goes up.

We need to concentrate on Bill Winter's departing advice and concentrate on core issues. Core issues will bring more members to the party, not small constituency peeves that allow most people to dismiss us as kooks. The enforcement policy? Now that is a core Libertarian issue.

—KENNETH OBENSKI

San Diego, California

[Editor's Note: As the column says, air bags have saved thousands of lives, with "only" about 146 killed by them as of 1999, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The point of the column is that Americans have a right to choose which danger to face, and that right should be recognized. As one of the concluding paragraphs says, "We should be given the choice of whether or not to participate..." If

increasing choice and freedom isn't a core Libertarian issue, what is?]

Megan's Law II

Reading the opinion of George Getz regarding Megan's Law reminded me of my frustration with many Libertarian speakers. Instead of answering the question, he avoided it and gave a robotic statement from our platform. Megan's Law is not about being tougher on crime. It is about how to treat certain people after their sentences are over, no matter how short or long they were.

Contrary to Mr. Getz's opinion, most sex offenders are not released early from prison. Most do the maximum allowable by law, including the tens of thousands serving time for non-violent offenses. I am in prison and have yet to meet a "non-violent drug offender." I stand by our platform on most of the issues, but we can't continue to over-simplify them.

—TONY CORRENTI

West Islip, New York

A higher standard

I believe that our party — if it is to grow — must welcome those who do not support our entire platform. However, candidates for office

should meet a higher standard. This is where I part ways with Richard Fuerle, who suggested in the March LP News Forum that we permit LP candidates to pander to xenophobic voters.

Libertarian candidates are often caught between a rock and a hard place because they are expected by party members to stick to principles as they attempt to overcome voters' perceptions that we are "extreme." However, the difficulty of this challenge does not excuse retreat to either belligerent rhetoric or politics as usual. Both harm the party — the former by playing into our opponents' hands and the latter by denying our very reason for existence.

Purists should ask themselves whether they are really serving their party by attacking fellow members.

—STEVE RICHARDSON

Falls Church, VA

Electoral college

I liked your piece about Andrew Bradley and third parties [April 2004 LP News, "College Libertarian leader addresses secretaries of state"].

He brings up a good point [concerning ballot access]. I would like to expand on it and call for eliminating the electoral college and having direct election of the president.

Right now, if a third party presidential candidate is knocked off the

ballot in the state, you can't write in the candidate, the way you could in other elections.

Since you aren't voting for president, but for electors pledged to vote for him in the electoral college, you in effect need to write in the names and addresses of all of the electors who would vote for that candidate, should he or she carry the state.

In 1980, the *New York Times* wrote an editorial opposing direct election of the president because it would encourage third parties. Isn't that what we need right now?

—KEN MITCHELL

Newburgh, New York

Narrow our pillars

I have been a libertarian since Ron Paul's run for the presidency in 1988.

Through the years, becoming more dramatic since Sept. 11, 2001, I have witnessed continuous debates, disagreements and challenges, even to some basic libertarian principles, i.e. the renunciation of the use of force in our pledge. Our Platform is a prime example of this confusion, undergoing bitter battles at our conventions. The labeling of members with little "l" or big "L" — depending on how high they score with someone's ideal libertarian principles — is ludicrous.

The LP needs to narrow its posi-

tion to "Three Pillars of Libertarian Philosophy" with which all libertarians can agree: Property rights, with self-ownership being paramount; freedom of choice; and diminishing the power of government, whose only function is the protection of the first two. All other liberties stem from these basic three pillars.

—NICHOLAS G. BENNETT

South Lake Tahoe, California

Communication

I was glad to see an article about effective communication in the March issue of this newspaper. I am hoping to see more articles on this subject in future issues. I think that how much we will achieve as a political party and how soon we will achieve it depends to a great extent on how good our interpersonal skills are.

It also depends, among other things, on how good our personal skills are. Those are the skills that I am hoping to improve. I think that, because I am a social being, the quality of my life depends to a great extent on the quality of my relationships with others and that the quality of my relationships with others depends to a significant extent on how good my personal skills are and on how good my interpersonal skills are.

—VLADIMIR RAZDOLSKY

Roseville, Michigan

Libertarian Party Membership!

☐ **YES! Sign me up today as a proud, dues-paying member of the Libertarian Party!**

I'll receive 12 monthly issues of LP News, and a membership card. I'd like to be a Libertarian Party member in the following category:

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|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
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Should we give comparable worth a try?

Continued from Page 26

other healthcare workers resulted, and wages for those jobs rose.

And comparable worth legislation actually worsens the situation.

"In Minnesota, for example, nurse shortages arose in many cities after the passage of comparable worth legislation," wrote Rebecca A. Thacker and Joshua C. Hall, respectively an associate professor of management at Ohio University and the Director of Research at The Buckeye Institute, in a 2003 study of comparable worth.

In 1984, Minnesota became the first state to mandate that all local governments use comparable worth schemes.

"Many job evaluation systems determined that nurses were paid more than they were 'worth,'" Thacker and Hall said. "This occurred despite existing nursing shortages that would normally indicate the need to raise wages. The subsequent decline in nurses' compensation led to an even greater shortage of nurses, illustrating perfectly the danger of ignoring supply and demand in setting wage rates."

Minnesota bureaucrats' attempt at comparable worth actually hurt those women they were trying to help.

And under this scheme, if you raise the wages of one profession, you must raise the wages of comparable professions even if they've done nothing to merit an increase.

Between 1985 and 1992, public salaries in the city of St. Paul, Minn., increased by \$32 million — leading to increased taxes, increased bureaucracy and increased frustration, wrote Dr. Lawrence W. Reed of the Mackinac (Mich.) Center for Public Policy, in a 1995 policy statement published in "The Freeman."

Minnesota's policy led to "endless disputes about who is comparable to whom, and [to] lingering uncertainty if the city is even in compliance with the law," Reed added.

Meanwhile, in the healthcare market, wages continue to increase as the skilled workforce remains low. That's the function of a free market economy — to reward those who provide a service or a product that others find valuable.

And it's helping to bridge the salary gap between genders.

In the second quarter of 2003, the wage gap was smaller than any quarter on record — with women's hourly median pay totaling 81.3 percent of men's, according to a study by the Washington D.C.-based Economic Policy Institute.

"Sectors such as healthcare that are disproportionately female are doing very well right now, while manufacturing is doing very badly, and that hurts men," said Jared Bernstein, a co-author of the study.

He reported further that women's

wages had steadily been closing the gap with men's — and the credit is attributable to market economy, not to comparable worth.

■ Compare only what is comparable

What is a job worth? Often, the unquantifiable aspects of jobs render them incomparable — no matter how hard politicians try.

The phrase "apples and oranges" comes to mind.

Back to Minnesota's experience: The experts charged with comparing worth ranked firefighters in St. Paul as comparable to the city's librarians, Reed reported.

As valuable as librarians are, and as specialized as their knowledge is — anybody ever study the Dewey Decimal System? — how can anyone compare solely the specialized knowledge of each profession and somehow ignore the intrinsic danger the firefighter faces?

But because firefighting is almost exclusively a man's game, comparable worth insisted that the two should be paid the same, to avoid "penalizing" women for tending away from the more dangerous, more physical job.

As Rhoads noted, after a decade of attempting to match comparable jobs in the UK, it was almost impossible for the experts to reach consensus, causing litigation and therefore greater expense for employers, thus leading to lower available funds for salaries.

■ Reward ability, aptitude and dedication — not gender

The wage differential between men and women exists primarily because "women, in comparison, generally have less education and fewer skills and are higher risks for employers," Deborah Walker of the Center for the Study of Market Processes at George Mason University said in a 1984 Cato Policy Analysis.

"Men do not leave their jobs to have children and are less likely than women to leave their jobs to care for their children," Walker continued. "Men are usually physically stronger than women and they tend to work in jobs that have a higher probability of physical harm. Because of this increased risk ... these jobs command higher wages."

At that time, women on average still earned only about 59 percent what men earned, and they were "largely concentrated in certain types of jobs," she wrote.

However, giving preferential treatment to women through legislation would hurt both women and men, while "the unhampered market gives opportunity to everyone and even encourages the discovery of more challenging, more exciting and greater opportunities," she added.

And she was right.

"Currently, women make up 46 percent of the labor force, and 37 percent of U.S. businesses are operated and owned by women," wrote Lindsay McNutt, in a 2002 paper called "The Glass Ceiling: It can't be shattered if it doesn't exist."

"Women earn 95 percent to 98 percent as much as men when all the demographic characteristics are the same," McNutt said. "From 1987 to 1992 the amount [sic] of women in business increased 43 percent. Out of those who are earning their associate, bachelor or master's degree, the large majority is women, and 40 percent of doctoral candidates are female."

When a greater percentage of women started going to college, their pay levels began to rise.

It will take time for the pay scales to equal out, if indeed they ever do, because there are still many women in the workplace who did not go to college, or who did not go as far in their education as their male counterparts did. But as that generation of workers retires and is replaced by the younger, the pay scales will grow closer.

And with the number of women entering certain high-paying professions, they may actually surpass men in some fields that were traditionally male dominated.

The legal profession, for example, is already seeing such a possible transformation.

"The number of women in law school has risen dramatically in the last 30 years — from 8 percent in 1970, to 49.4 percent in the fall of 2000," McNutt noted. "There are actually more women than men in some of the country's most selective law schools, including Yale, Columbia and New York University."

"In the last 10 years, the number of females in executive offices doubled. It can be safely determined that women no longer need affirmative action."

■ Conclusion

Advocates of comparable worth often argue that women who choose traditionally female-dominated careers should not be penalized for making that decision, an argument that goes completely against the concept of personal responsibility.

If you can't be penalized for your own decisions, we should all be paid equally, with no respect to how hard we work, what job we have, where we live or any of a thousand other factors.

More appropriately, it could be argued that people in higher-paying jobs are penalized by attempts at comparable worth legislation: If additional money is given to people who don't earn it — to people who knowingly enter lower-paying jobs

— it is taken away from someone else.

In the United Kingdom, where comparable worth has been in place for two decades now, the "experts" are still trying to find a way to compare incomparable jobs. Do we actually want to get our American bureaucracy involved in the same quagmire?

When you look at men and women working the same jobs, with the same of education, and with similar employment history, there is very little difference in the pay scales. What more is needed?

Concerning the pay scales of professional athletes, Stephen Moore — director of fiscal policy studies at the Cato Institute — wrote in 2000 that female athletes complain because they don't earn as much as male athletes.

"Why shouldn't the women who

won the World Cup last July — who are performing the same job as men, only better — make at least as much money as their male counterparts?" Moore reports being asked.

"They do not do the job as well as men," he added. "The male professional soccer players are far superior. That is why they have a women's team in the first place!"

It doesn't make sense for women to compete with men in most sports, but that's what Moore suggests — if people want "to create a true meritocracy in sports."

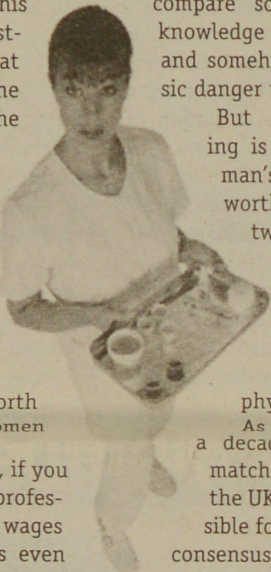
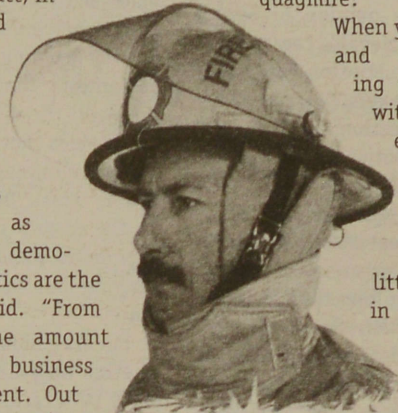
He further noted: "The only decisive factor would be talent."

In the worlds of business, healthcare, law and many others, however, women can compete with men on the same playing field. There are no men's and women's teams.

As women get more education, seek out jobs with more pay and determine the markets they want to compete in, they are proving they can make as much money as the men do.

It will be, in Moore's words, a true meritocracy.

And the women won't need "comparable worth" legislation to bridge the gap.



Dave Hollist for president

Continued from Page 4

home now.

Howard Johnson...

At minimum, if we are successful at equating that a Libertarian vote is a vote to return our heroes, we will show the other parties that a growing number of Americans see our work as being finished in Iraq. While some may disagree with my reasons, I hope we can all agree on this goal.

Michael Bitz...

As a citizen of the United Nations, I am working to improve that government by calling for the election of a congress representing the people from all the constitutional republics around the world. This should help the Iraqi people if they choose to join, but this has nothing to do with my campaign for federal office in the United States.

Brian Buesing...

As president, my first priority would be to keep our military ready to defend all those in the US. If people choose to travel outside our country, they would be wise to join in the efforts to make the UN more effective.

Jorge Gonzalez...

While it is wrong for the UN to give membership to kings, it is very dangerous for our US government to give aid to these dictators — like the one in Arabia. Those trying to establish a different system in their country will see Americans as their enemy — like those who killed so many on 9/11.

Patrick O'Day...

Our nation was started by removing the English king's influence, and those helping him were our enemies as well. Our government shouldn't take sides, but especially shouldn't take the side of a king. Fortunately the old political parties allow airline

pilots to carry guns again so they can at least defend themselves and their customers until our party can improve our foreign policy.

David Fribley...

While sometimes our president has to send our military to hunt down those who attack and run, this should be very focused and of short duration with the goal of returning them for trial if possible.

Jose Garibay...

If we don't protect our military personnel, they won't re-enlist and if the old parties draft my son like they did my brother that almost will be unbearable.

Please, let's end this latest death list — please.

Jonathan Gifford...

Andrew ...

Biography

My college degree is in science and I have been a federal candidate since becoming old enough to run for the House. At 30, I ran for the Senate, and the Presidency at thirty-five. Selling a voluntary method to finance government has been the focus of my campaigns.

I tried to get on the ballot as an individual, and then started the Capitalist Party before joining our party in '96. In my last bid for the presidency, I received over 2,500 primary votes. I have served as secretary of the San Bernardino County LP, and currently am database manager.

After the pleasure I receive from working with my wife and son fixing up a house we bought, I enjoy corresponding with those who have read my website <http://i.am/trading>. Being a charter bus driver allows me to work on my campaign most of the day while my customers are visiting places like Disneyland.

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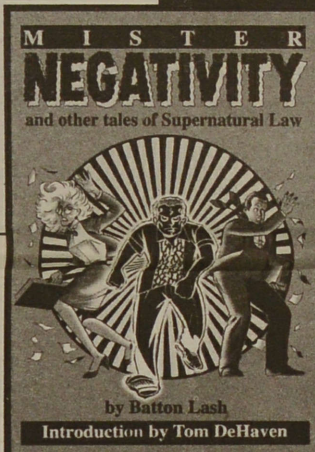
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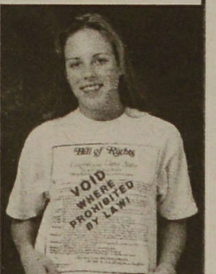
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UPCOMING

■ April 30-May 2, 2004

South Carolina LP Convention, Sheraton Hotel & Conference Center, Columbia. Speakers include Michael Badnarik and Gary Nolan (candidates, 2004 LP presidential nomination), Michael Gilson-De Lemos (LNC Representative), Robert Butler (Libertyworks), Bea Jones (Hardeeville city councilor), and Chris Panos (political advisor). For information, visit: www.sc.lp.org. Or e-mail: events@sc.lp.org.

■ May 1, 2004

Washington State Convention, Doubletree Bellevue Hotel, Bellevue. Speakers scheduled include Libertarian presidential candidate Gary Nolan, Richard Winger (editor, *Ballot Access News*) and Richard Sanders, Washington state Supreme Court justice. For information, contact officemanager@lpws.org.

■ May 13-15, 2004



■ Browne

Freedom Fest 2004: "Where Free Minds Meet," Bally's and Paris, Las Vegas. Sponsored by The Young America's Foundation. Speakers include John Mackey (founder, Whole Foods), Charles Murray (author, *Human Accomplishment*), Harry Browne (1996 and 2002 LP presidential candidate), James Bovard (author, *Terrorism and Tyranny*), and Ron Paul (U.S. Representative, R-TX). For information, visit www.freedomfest.com or call: (800) USA-1776.

■ May 21-23, 2004

Colorado LP Convention, Rocky Mountain Park Holiday Inn, Estes Park. Speakers include Boston T. Party (author, *Hologram of Liberty*). For information, visit: <http://home.earthlink.net/~libertytool>.

■ May 27-31, 2004

Libertarian Presidential Nominating Convention, Marriott Atlanta Marquis Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia. Speakers include U.S. Rep. Ron Paul

(R-TX), Dean Cameron (actor), James Gray (U.S. District judge), Neal Boortz (syndicated radio talk show host), James Bovard (author, *Terrorism and Tyranny*), Sharon Harris (president, Advocates for Self-Government), Michael C. Colley (retired U.S. Navy vice admiral), James Lark (past LP national chair), Richard Mack (anti-Brady Bill sheriff), David Nolan (Libertarian Party founder), Mary Ruwart (author, *Healing Our World*), and Ed Thompson (2002 Wisconsin LP gubernatorial candidate). Entertainers include blues musician Jimmie Vaughan.



■ Ruwart

Questions, comments, suggestions, e-mail: convention@hq.lp.org.

■ June 11-13, 2004

New Mexico LP Convention, Best Western Mission Inn, Las Cruces, New Mexico. Speakers include author Vin Suprynowicz and Michael Badnarik, candidate for the LP presidential nomination. For information, call 505-378-8025 or e-mail lpncnm@zianet.com.

■ June 11-13, 2004

Texas LP Convention, College Station Hilton Hotel, College Station. Speakers TBA. For information, call Christopher Jagge at: (979) 695-9646. Or e-mail: c_jagge@email.msn.com.

■ July 21-26, 2004

ISIL's 23rd World Conference, Novotel Rotorua, New Zealand. Sponsored by the International Society for Individual Liberty & the Institute for Liberal Values. Speakers include Elbegdorj Tsakhia (former prime minister, Mongolia), Michael Cloud (creator, *The Art of Political Persuasion*), and Rodney Hide (member, New Zealand Parliament). For information, visit: www.ISIL.org. E-mail: isil@ISIL.org. Call: (707) 746-8796.



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FIRST WORD



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—SEAN VIVIER, *The Daily Campus*, University of Connecticut, January 23, 2004