
The Free Press

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A totally unofficial newspaper of libertarian activities around New York State

CDLP Office Pledges Up

Tim Boomhower of the Capital District Libertarian Party has been busy raising money to cover the monthly expenses of the proposed office. So far, over 30 members have pledged \$298 per month towards the effort.

The office is located on Central Avenue in Albany, less than half a mile from the state capitol. CDLP is looking for another organization to share the space with. ACTA has been suggested as a potential partner. The money pledged so far is enough to cover about two-thirds of the CDLP's expected expenses.

Visit the LPNY Web page at:
<http://www.gfr.com/~lpny>

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Schulz Strikes Again

Robert Schulz, the LP candidate for Governor in 1994 has filed another lawsuit against New York State. The lawsuit which was filed on February 12 challenges the constitutionality of an agreement among Fleet Financial Group, IBM and the state. Under the agreement, the state would purchase eight vacant IBM buildings in the Kingston area. The buildings would then be used as office space for 850 state data processing jobs and 3,150 tax processing jobs that will be moved from Albany to Kingston.

However, on March 6, Supreme Court Justice Anthony

Kane of Sullivan County dismissed Schulz's suit saying that it was premature. He said that Schulz could renew the suit, though, if State Comptroller H. Carl McCall approves the deal.

Schulz says the contract violates the state constitution, as well as finance law and public buildings law by using public money to benefit private corporations. Schulz claims the finance law gives taxpayers the right to sue the state if illegal spending is proposed.

Schulz says he will renew the suit if McCall approves the deal.

New York Ballot Laws Unconstitutional

U.S. District Court Judge Edward Korman has ruled that New York State ballot access laws are unconstitutional because they are so difficult to comply with. The decision was handed down on February 21 and reaffirmed a decision Korman had handed down last November. That decision had been overturned in December by the U.S. Court of Appeals, 2nd circuit.

On February 29 a different panel of the 2nd circuit affirmed Korman's ruling of February 21.

The panel ruled that the petition requirement of 1,250 signatures or 5% of the registered voters (whichever is less) is so difficult that it is unconstitutional. The court also criticized the short petitioning period of 37 days and the difficult processing procedures required of all New York Petitions.

Governor George Pataki and Senator Alphonse D'Amato who both supported the restrictive access law prior to the New York primary now say they will work to make ballot access easier.

Tuniewicz Seeks Region 6 Seat

Jim Lewis, former Libertarian Party candidate for Vice-President, formally endorsed LP activist Mark Tuniewicz's bid for a seat on the Libertarian National Committee. Lewis, who traveled the country in support of his own candidacy (with running mate David Bergland in 1984), has a long history of Party involvement.

"Mark is one of the next generation of Libertarians who will lead the Party to electoral and ideological success beyond the year 2000" said Lewis. "His LNC term promises to be one which will help foster unprecedented levels of cooperation between the state parties in his region, with a focus on local organizing and campaigning. I strongly urge all my friends who are National Convention delegates from New York and New England to support Mark as we move the Party forward."

Lewis noted that Tuniewicz's approach to the LNC campaign was in itself unique: "Mark is hitting every convention, meeting every delegate and staying in touch via phone, e-mail, and direct mail to get his message out to Party members in seven states. He's running to win, and I'm confident he will."

Separately, Tuniewicz continues fulfilling his pledge to meet every delegate from each state in his region. On January 21, he attended the Vermont LP

state convention where, unexpectedly, he was pressed into service for a lengthy presentation to the convention delegates there. Said Tuniewicz: "Harry Browne was running about an hour late due to weather, and Ken Lindell asked if I could help."

What followed was about an hour's worth of interactive discussion between the crowd of delegates and Tuniewicz. "I asked them what issues were 'ripe' to run on in their state, then we talked about how other state parties (and other liberty-leaning organizations) have successfully capitalized on those same issues. After all, there's no reason that Vermont---or any other state---should have to reinvent the Libertarian wheel." Tuniewicz has led similar strategy discussions, with groups of candidates in the Northeast.

The candidate also traveled to Cambridge, Massachusetts for the LPMA convention on February 10th. Initially eschewing the spotlight, he had previously arranged to help work the busy registration table. "Party members have to be willing to 'walk the walk' of retail politics--to do the basic work every state party news done. Our LNC Representative should lead by example in this area." With speaker Dick Boddie a no-show, Tuniewicz addressed the delegates at the request of LPMA Chair Dean Cook.

Additional appearances are scheduled for Maine, New York, Rhode Island, Connecticut and the LP National Convention.

Letter

Larry Pratt's name first came to the attention of most Americans when it was announced that a member of Pat Buchanan's campaign team was a sympathizer of white supremacist groups. He was known to libertarians long before this as the director of Gun Owners of America. GOA is a group to which many libertarians belong. Mr. Pratt has also attended many Libertarian Party functions including the most recent national convention in Salt Lake City in 1993. The letter reprinted below comes from Florida's Fort Pierce Tribune on February, 24, 1996.

The opponents of Pat Buchanan have launched a savage attack on his character by trying to malign my name.

While his surging popularity certainly explains the vicious attacks against me, the allegations which have been raised are outrageously false.

Most of the media's attack is based upon a type of guilt by association.

Well, if you want to judge me by the company I keep, then let's use company that I *choose* to associate myself with, and organizations to which I *voluntarily* belong.

I am a member of Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership.

The leader of that organization, Aaron Zelman, just recently issued a statement saying that JPFO and Gun Owners of America have worked hand in hand to restore the Second Amendment rights of all Americans, and will continue to do so.

"JPFO considers Larry to be cut of exactly the same cloth as the many righteous gentiles who risked their lives during the Holocaust to rescue Jews from

the hands of Nazi murderers," Zelman said.

I am a member of the Congress of Racial Equality.

The national chairman of CORE, Roy Innis, has this to say of our friendship: "We have walked the streets of the black community explaining to black people their rights under the Constitution. Larry Pratt and I will continue our efforts undeterred."

One of my pastors is an African-American. Twenty percent of my employees are either Jewish or African-American.

These memberships and policies of mine reflect my Biblical opposition to racism. According to Galatians 3:28, "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

On a more personal level, the woman I have been married to for over 30 years is a native Central American and we speak Spanish in our home.

I loath the Aryan National and other racist groups with every fiber of my being.

I have never belonged to or advocated membership to any group which devalues the integrity of human life.

In fact, in response to a question at the meeting I attended in Colorado -- which has now been publicly scrutinized in the press -- I gave a spirited defense of the Jewish group mentioned above. I heralded Aaron Zelman's

work and told them his group (JFPO) should be strongly supported.

On a professional level, I have shared platforms with many who are my ideological opponents.

For instance, last year during the debate over the so-called anti-terrorism bill, I took the stage with the ACLU to denounce that bill.

Many of the provisions of that bill would strip the Bill of Rights to its bare bones, and would negatively impact minorities of all kinds (including gun owners).

The press has not, however, selected to label me a closet liberal for that reason.

But let's keep things in perspective. The issue today is not my beliefs. The issue today is a scurrilous attack designed to derail the success of the Buchanan campaign, which is substantially due to the support of pro-Second Amendment Americans.

One should always consider the source of an attack.

The group which has leveled the charges, the Center for Public Integrity, is hardly a neutral and independent group.

Its advisory board is made up of members who have a very liberal and partisan bias.

I specifically gave the above information about myself to the Center for Public Integrity before they published the report, but they refused to print it.

What "integrity" is that?

The CPI relied heavily on information provided by an anti-gun activist who has been the

subject of the same charges he so effortlessly hurls at me.

Morris Dees, of the Southern Poverty Law Center, has been criticized by an African-American former employee as being "more (of a) detriment to my people" than the Ku Klux Klan.

And as for Dees' views on gun control, he was the head of an anti-gun group in the 1970's making anything he says about a gun rights spokesman suspect indeed.

Even Senator Bob Dole's attack against me is politically motivated.

He said that I should be fired and that I've given him "fits" for years.

Indeed, Gun Owners of America has held him accountable for his role in helping pass the Brady Bill and the semi-auto ban, and for specifically stopping amendments to repeal the gun ban.

I speak hundreds of times a year, and almost never am I the person who sets the agenda for the meetings. In fact, I often do not know who the other speakers will be.

One thing is certain, however. In the over 20 years I have been involved in public speaking as executive director of Gun Owners of America, I have only spoken on the subject of the Constitution, and of the unalienable right of the people to keep and bear arms.

Larry Pratt
Executive director
Gun Owners of America
Springfield, Va.

More Libertarian Cartoons in Mainstream Media

Reprinted from an LP press release.

A nationally-syndicated cartoonist -- known for his pronounced anti-government comic strips -- has acknowledged this month that he agrees "with a lot of the Libertarian point of view."

The creator of the popular "Non Sequitur" cartoon, who signs his comic strips with the single name "Wiley," was asked recently via e-mail if he considers himself a Libertarian.

Wiley's response was: "I do not label myself in any manner, as no single group has all the answers. But I agree with a lot of the Libertarian point of view."

"Non Sequitur" has a long history of libertarian-flavored

themes, including cartoons which skewer the IRS, politicians, and government in general.

For example, Wiley's February 11, 1996 cartoon showed a caveman setting up a table and a sign. Several other cavemen gather around to read the sign, which says: "Deposit 1/3 of Income. Expect Nothing. Get What You Expect." The caption: "The First Formation of Government."

Libertarian Party National Chair Steve Dasbach said Wiley's comments were another sign of the increasing ubiquitousness of libertarian ideas.

"Marshall Fritz, the founder of the Advocates for Self-Government, once said we would know we were succeeding when

our ideas had become part of mass culture to the point where they weren't even noticed, said Dasbach. "If these cartoons by Wiley are any indication, that libertarian infiltration of pop culture is already happening in a major way."

Wiley joins Bob Thaves, creator of the "Frank & Ernest" comic strip, and Baloo, cartoonist for Liberty magazine, as one of a growing number of cartoonists whose work features decidedly libertarian themes.

Vermont House Approves Cultivation of Hemp

The following article is reprinted from Florida's Fort Pierce Tribune on 2/29/96.

Vermont lawmakers approved a plan Wednesday to allow the cultivation of hemp, saying it will help save the family farm. Opponents called it the first step toward legalizing marijuana.

The Vermont House voted 108-33 to give preliminary approval to a two-year experiment to grow hemp, a raw material for clothes, paper and agricultural products. Supporters said it would be a new cash crop for Vermont's struggling dairy farms.

Opponents contend there is no way to separate hemp from marijuana, one byproduct of the plant.

