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# Oregon LP beats \$1.2 billion tax hike

**L**ibertarians in Oregon were elated Feb. 3 to hear that they had won an impressive victory over a ballot measure that would have raised taxes by \$1.2 billion over three years.

With an estimated 95 percent of the votes tallied, Measure 30 had failed with 59 percent opposed, said Thomas Cox, chairman of the Libertarian Party of Oregon.

"We won!" Cox said.

"If we had done below 55 percent — which I was expecting, to be honest — I would have considered it a weak victory and it would just encourage the enemy to come back again with this type of proposal.

"This was not a weak victory. It was a resounding success."

Measure 30 would have temporarily raised income taxes, reduced certain corporate tax benefits and extended a 10-cents-per-pack cigarette surtax through 2005.

It would also have permanently increased some business taxes, reduced seniors' medical deductions

and changed discounts for early payment of property taxes.

"They were advertising this as an \$800 million tax, but it was more honestly something like \$1.2 billion," Cox said. "They wanted to ignore a lot of secondary expense it would have caused. And they were talking about it as a temporary thing. But of the six changes included, five would have been permanent.

"Their hypocrisy knows no bounds."

The Libertarian Party was the only political party that campaigned statewide against the ballot measure, participating in over a dozen debates on the issue. They were joined by representatives of several taxpayers' rights groups, leaders of the state Republican Party and many Republican legislators.

Integral to the Libertarian plan for opposing the measure was a five-step program: They paid for radio advertisements; spokespeople traveled all over the state, speaking with reporters about Measure 30

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■ LP Oregon Fundraising Director Mark Delphine, left, and Richard Whitehead collect signatures from people driving by during KPAM's live broadcast from LPO headquarters. The signatures were needed to get Measure 30 on the ballot, allowing taxpayers to vote down the tax increase.

## THE TROIKA

### A winning political team

By **J. Daniel Cloud**  
LP NEWS EDITOR

**T**roika is the Russian word for three. It also refers to a vehicle drawn by three horses or a group of three closely related objects or people.

In the Libertarian lexicon, the Troika is a trio of political consultants with a habit of winning. They are Greg Dirasian and husband and wife Fred Collins and Barbara Goushaw-Collins.

Pundits credit Jon Coon's 1994 campaign for U.S. Senate—managed by Goushaw-Collins—with putting the LP on Michigan's political map: The campaign garnered more than 100,000 votes, more than any previous LP campaign in Michigan history.

In 1997, Goushaw-Collins managed Collins's race for Berkley [Mich.] City Council and won. He was the first Libertarian in office in the town of 15,500, near Detroit.

Then in April, 2000, she was a consultant for Martin Howrylak's run for city council in Troy, Mich., an 85,000-resident suburb of Detroit. Collins and Dirasian were Howrylak's managers, making this race the beginning (unofficially) of "The Troika" as a campaign team.

The Howrylak campaign was a great debut for the Troika: He won 68 percent of the vote in the non-partisan race, booting an incumbent out of office. The city council had just weeks earlier voted itself a massive pension increase, which served as ammunition against the incumbent, and shortly after Howrylak was elected, the increase was reversed.

LP National Chair Geoff Neale said the Troika's secret to success is simple: "Barbara and Fred are both very straightforward and realistic, and they realize that more elections are won by hard work and perseverance than by tricks.

"And Greg is the behind-the-scenes guy who provides a lot of the

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## State chairs share successes at conference

**L**ibertarian leaders from approximately 30 states met at the Annual State Chairs' Conference in Raleigh, N.C., on Jan. 23-25 to swap success stories, to learn better ways to reach non-LP member libertarians and to plan how to improve the LP.

In addition to state LP chairs and other state representatives, several Libertarian National Committee members and employees of the national office attended, as well as the national LP's Webmaster, Shane Cory, and fundraising consultant Dan Lewis.

Lewis and Cory each spoke about their specialties. Many present considered these presentations to be high points of the conference.

"I thought Dan Lewis's session was one of the most interesting things we did here," said Steve Damerell, Virginia LP chair. "Most of us have a lot to learn about direct mail fundraising, and what he had to say was very helpful."

"We've done some mailing, but we've not had nearly the results we should have," Damerell said.

Conference facilitator Mark Nelson, chair of the Iowa LP, agreed, and also credited Cory's presenta-

tion on creating effective Web sites: "I'm walking out of here with five new ideas for my Web site, ideas that should attract interest to the site and make our party more broadly known and recognized."

But probably the most valuable feature of the conference was "the intangible things," Nelson said, noting that he enjoyed simply discussing possible improvements with others in his position, from other states.

"There are no original thoughts, and this gives us a chance to share ideas," he said. "We can learn from what worked well in other areas, and use their ideas once we get back home."

Other sessions at the conference included:

- A videotape of Oregon LP leaders explaining how they manage to get media coverage for their efforts. "They're waiting for some excuse to brand you as a nut," said Richard Burke, executive director of the Oregon LP. "The role of an activist is to make people uncomfortable with the idea of a future without change, to make them comfortable with the idea of change."
- Billy Parker of Arlington, Va.'s

Leadership Institute spoke about the real nature of politics, saying that too many Libertarian candidates "subscribe to the Sir Galahad theory of politics: 'I will win because my heart is pure and my cause is just.' It doesn't work like that. Being right, in the sense of being philosophically correct, is not enough. You owe it to your philosophy to study how to win."

- Hollywood producer Aaron Russo, candidate for the LP presidential nomination, made a surprise visit and was allowed to speak.

"I believe America is becoming a police state," Russo said. "America has to change. I alone can't do it, and I believe that the Libertarian Party alone can't do it. But if I get the nomination for president, we will get media coverage all across the country. I believe I've got a background that will take this party to a whole new level."

- Other discussion topics included the nationwide push for ballot access; the ongoing reformatting of the Libertarian Platform; the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act; use of public access television by Libertarian groups; and college campus organizing.



## NEWS BRIEFS

### Judge James Gray visits marijuana clinic

Realizing his only exposure to marijuana was in court, Judge James Gray visited a medical marijuana clinic in Marin County, Calif., Jan. 19 to learn more about the drug and the clinic.

Gray, an Orange County Superior Court judge who has taken a one-year leave of absence to run for the U.S. Senate as a Libertarian, advocates full legalization of marijuana for adults.

Open since 1996, the Marin Alliance for Medical Marijuana is led by LP California member the Rev. Lynnette Shaw.

California voters in 1996 approved an initiative legalizing marijuana use for medical treatment.

Patients who get a doctor's letter saying the drug is needed for health problems are allowed to use it.

In May, 2001, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled unanimously that California cannot legally make marijuana legal, even for medicinal uses. The argument is ongoing.

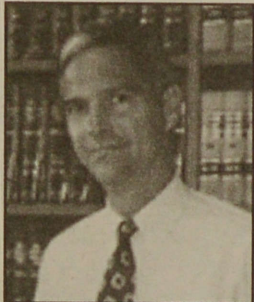
Gray said the visit further convinced him that the War on Drugs is a waste of time and taxpayer money, and he was already convinced the war is one of the country's biggest failures.

"This is everybody's issue," Gray said, noting he wants the federal government to quit interfering with California's medical marijuana policy, and to decriminalize marijuana for adult use in the state.

Doing so, he said, would save the state \$1 billion a year by eliminating costs associated with the failed war on the drug.

Gray will be opposed in the March 2 LP California primary by Gail Lightfoot of Santa Monica.

Lightfoot, chair of the San Luis Obispo LP, is a longtime Libertarian activist who has made several runs for statewide office, including running for California Secretary of State in 2002 on the LP ticket.



■ James Gray

### Opposition to USA Patriot Act growing

Southern Illinois Libertarians have succeeded in pushing their city council to openly oppose the USA Patriot Act, joining the swelling ranks who say the law causes more danger than it prevents.

A coalition of four civic organizations—the Shawnee Green Party, the Southern Illinois Libertarians, the Southern Illinois chapter of the ACLU, and the Peace Coalition of Southern Illinois—brought the issue before the Carbondale, Ill., city council on Jan. 20, and later presented petitions with more than 300 signatures in support of their cause.

The city council approved the resolution, urging President Bush to review and rescind the Bill of Rights-gutting law.

The Patriot Act, which Bush signed into law on Oct. 26, 2001, greatly expands the federal government's power to track e-mail, to tap multiple phones, and to study credit card purchases and bookstore and library records.

The National Libertarian Committee, in March, 2003, called for the repeal of the act, charging that it sacrifices American liberties. Since that time, a few states and a host of local governments have also called for the act to be repealed.

### Libertarian message on Florida radio

Central Florida has a new libertarian radio program, and the show's sponsors are finding that the public is genuinely interested in Libertarian ideas.

"We had our inaugural program on Jan. 10 so we've only had three shows, but the station we're working with is actually quite shocked at how well we're doing," said Michael Gilson-De Lemos, who hosts the show with Paul Malloy, a former radio personality for WGN in Chicago.

Freedom Works!, a two-hour-long show, airs on two radio stations covering the St. Petersburg-Tampa-Sarasota areas in Florida—1340 AM and 1400 AM—on Saturdays at 7 a.m. It can also be heard on the Internet, at [www.thefreedomnetworks.org](http://www.thefreedomnetworks.org). Listeners have e-mailed letters from nations including Spain and Uganda.

Gilson-De Lemos, better known as "MG," said he and Malloy want to prompt dialogue about both political and cultural libertarian ideas. Gilson-De Lemos is a Libertarian National Committee member and secretary of the Florida LP.

They especially want to show what Libertarians are involved in that is "accomplishing change in the world," Gilson-De Lemos said.

Upcoming guests for the show include former Libertarian presidential candidate Harry Browne, Libertarian author Carol Moore, and Frank Lloyd Wright expert Bill Sachs.

## Hancock running for National Chair

Arizona LP activist Ernie Hancock has announced his intention to run for national chair, on a platform of "total local control of libertarian activities" and abolishment of the national office.

A radio talk show host who says the Libertarian National Committee has "lost sight of the most effective methods of achieving freedom," Hancock said he intends to challenge the LP's status quo.

Hancock said he decided to join the race "to restore the joy of being an active Libertarian."

Hancock served as Maricopa County, Ariz., chair from 1994-1996, and again in 1998-2000. He has never run for national LP office.

One thing that is very much right about the LP, Hancock said, are the documents of the party, including the official platform.

"The party documents as they are contain very few flaws and I have been proud to represent them without compromise, fear or shame for more than a decade," he said.

"It has become very clear that there is no other candidate that will advocate total local control

of libertarian activities and the removal of the top-down, central authority structure that has been operating with other people's money," he said.

And that is what Hancock is advocating—removing the power of the National Libertarian Committee and returning all Libertarian activity to the local level.

"I do not seek the office for power," he said. "I intend to eliminate the power of the office. The National Libertarian Party is a net drain on the libertarian movement and I intend to restore the focus on local activism by simply getting out of the way."

While other candidates for national chair may talk about using the chairmanship to improve the party, the best way to improve it is by not getting in the way of party activists by draining resources away from the local level, Hancock said.

"I am of the opinion that there are many activists that understand exactly what I am talking about, while those that seek the shiny badge don't have a clue," he said. "And in Atlanta this May we'll find

out which type shows up in greater numbers, so many long-term decisions can be made.

"Libertarians in convention (not the LNC or national headquarters) are the Libertarian Party of the United States," Hancock said.

The first long-term decision would be his very first official move as national chair, namely, "the immediate closure of the Watergate office with the budget cuts required to fund it," Hancock said.

Hancock, 42, lives in Phoenix, Ariz., where his radio show, "Declare Your Independence with Ernest Hancock," is heard Monday through Friday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on KFNX, AM 1100. The show can also be heard live via the Internet at [www.earnesthancock.com](http://www.earnesthancock.com).

He has been married for 19 years and has four teenage children.

To request more information, to ask questions or to make comments, contact Hancock via his Website, [www.earnesthancock.com](http://www.earnesthancock.com); e-mail, [earnesthancock@cox.net](mailto:earnesthancock@cox.net); phone, 602-717-5900; or write to 5739 N. 11th Way, Phoenix, AZ, 85014.

## Michael Dixon seeking top LP position

Saying he's proud of what he's achieved in six years on the Libertarian National Committee, Michael Dixon has announced his candidacy for LP national chair and says he intends to "benefit the movement as a whole."

Dixon said he counts on his experience in business, and on prior successes with the LP, to convince party members he is the right man to improve the party.

"During my service I have come to realize that my background—in business, as a consultant and as a salesman, as well as my work in the 'small-L' community of issue advocacy—has served me well in crafting solutions to the issues confronting the Libertarian Party and the LNC," Dixon said.

"I have always tried to serve, and represent, the many Americans of libertarian heart, who although not

members of the party, are yet crying out for a viable political solution to the difficulties of our current



national situation, both economic and social."

Dixon said there are changes that need to be made in the

running of the party, especially through encouraging local and state affiliates "to become stronger and more capable in executing their core political work."

"I intend to continue the current term's emphasis on building an LNC, and a national office, that does what it should do and does it very well, and is not an impediment to the great work of the activists and affiliates," he said.

Dixon is a self-employed sales and management consultant in nonprofit and financial services industries in Charlotte, NC. He holds a bachelor's degree in history and an MBA in industrial management from the University of Dallas.

He has been a member of the Libertarian Party since 1989 and a monthly pledger since 1991.

He has served as LNC member-at-large for two terms—1998-2000

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# Former LP Political Director Ron Crickenberger dies

**R**on Crickenberger, who served as the Libertarian Party's political director from 1997 to 2003, died Jan. 20 from cancer. He was 48.

"The quest for liberty — everyone's liberty — was Ron's passion," said Steve Dasbach, who worked with Crickenberger as the party's executive director from 1998 to 2002. "His enthusiasm was contagious, infecting thousands of Libertarians with the desire to run for office, volunteer for campaigns, and willingly contribute their hard-earned money to the cause of freedom."

In November, Crickenberger was diagnosed with metastatic melanoma, which had spread to his bones and lymph nodes.

He was hospitalized two weeks before his death, and died in the hospital.

During Crickenberger's tenure as Libertarian Party political director, the number of Libertarians in office more than tripled, from 180 to about 600.

In 2000 and 2002, the party also set new records for the number of candidates on the ballot.

Before joining the staff in Washington, DC, Crickenberger was a member of the Libertarian National Committee, the party's governing board, from 1989 to 1997. He also served as Georgia LP state chair; was named Southeast Coordinator for Rep. Ron Paul's 1988 presidential campaign; and managed the winning campaign of Bruce Van Buren to the Avondale Estates (GA) City Commission in 1995.

In 2000 and 2002, Crickenberger,

a resident of Falls Church, Virginia, ran for U.S. House in Virginia's 8th District. That same year, he was named a "Rising Star of Politics" by Campaigns and Elections magazine, a Washington, DC-based publication that focuses on campaign strategy and management.

Crickenberger also showed himself willing to take a definite stand outside the walls of the Libertarian Party's national office.

In June 2002, he and fellow staffer Marc Brandl were arrested and taken to jail for their part in a peaceful demonstration in favor of medical marijuana. They were released later that day.

"We're here to focus public attention on this issue," Crickenberger said at the time. "Marijuana is one of the most benign therapeutic substances. It makes no sense for the federal government to prosecute patients who use it."

Helmut Forren, state chair of the Georgia Libertarian Party, said: "Ron was the most driven freedom fighter in the world. Time after time, when everyone else was tired and dragging, weary from the battle for liberty, Ron was still out there in front, leading the charge, never wavering, never slowing down."

Perry Willis, a former executive director who worked with Crickenberger at the party's Washington, DC, office, said: "Ron was the kind of guy you could always count on to step forward for the hard jobs — the tasks most people aren't willing to do."

During the months preceding his death, Crickenberger was assisting the Georgia-based Advocates for



■ Ron Crickenberger: "Completely dedicated to the cause."

Self-Government, a nonprofit educational organization.

"Ron was completely dedicated to the [Libertarian] cause," said the group's president, Sharon Harris. "When he discovered he had cancer, he was helping to raise money for a couple of major projects we have this year. He will be terribly, terribly missed."

Crickenberger is survived by his longtime partner, Noelle Stettner, of Falls Church, VA; a son, Jason; daughter, Anna; and newborn grandchild, Sabrina; all of the Atlanta, Georgia area.

At Forren's request, the national LP sent out an e-mail to its list in January, soliciting contributions for a medical trust fund. Forren said the fund now contains approximately

\$6,000, which will "help Noelle pay for left-over medical and related expenses."

A memorial service is planned for March 10 at 6 p.m., at the Quality Inn located at 6650 Arlington Blvd., in Falls Church, Va.

"To those who ask, 'what can I do?' I will tell you what Ron told Aaron Russo the night he was admitted to the hospital: Give to the Advocates for Self-Government in Ron's name," Stettner said. "He was raising funds for the Advocates when he was stricken. His children will get a portion of the donation, and you will be helping a fine organization."

Forren said he plans a follow-up "thank you and letter of explanation" to all contributors.

## Phillies in three-way race for LP national chair

**K**icking off his third run for LP national chair, Massachusetts Libertarian George Phillies says whoever is elected as Libertarian National Committee chairman must be willing to work.

"The notion that LNC members are there to write management guidelines, but not to get their hands dirty in the shop by doing real work, needs to come to an end," Phillies said, noting that the primary focus of the LNC should be on "doing politics."



"The LNC chair needs to know how to run meetings and adhere to [Robert's] Rules of Order. As a professor active in faculty governance, I've done that under difficult circumstances."

Phillies is a professor of physics at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, Mass.

While knowing how to run meetings would be a benefit to a national chair, many of the techniques used in business would

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## Polls show strong support for Michigan Civil Rights push

**R**ecent polls show that more than 60 percent of Michigan voters support amending the state constitution to prevent the state government from discriminating by race, sex and other criteria.

That's good news, say Libertarians involved in the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative (MCRI), a coalition trying to put an amendment on the November ballot that would prevent discrimination by any state or county government entity. It would not affect federal institutions.

The group argues that because the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 has been applied only to the private sector, the state actively promotes discrimination based on race, sex, color, ethnicity and national origin.

Three polls done over the last few months—most recently in late January—show that the public supports the ballot measure by a two-to-one majority, according to Tim O'Brien, campaign manager for the initiative. O'Brien is also a former Libertarian Party of Michigan

**"MAYBE THE SUPREME Court doesn't think discrimination based on race should be prohibited, but we want to make it illegal in Michigan."**

chair and executive director.

"What we're proposing to put on the November ballot is a constitutional amendment that would prohibit the state—including the counties, the university system and the state government itself—from discriminating against or giving preferential treatment to anyone based on race, sex, color, ethnicity or national origin," O'Brien said.

The MCRI, which kicked off its petition drive in January, must

gather 317,757 signatures of registered voters by July 6 in order to get on the Nov. 2 ballot.

The amendment would ban discrimination in "all functions and all levels of state and local government in Michigan, including hiring, contracting and admissions to public schools," O'Brien said.

In 2003 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the University of Michigan's system of racial preferences violated the equal protection clause of the U.S. Constitution. But justices also ruled that using race as a factor in some school admissions was acceptable.

"That ruling provided the catalyst for the timing of this initiative," O'Brien said. "Maybe the Supreme Court doesn't think discrimination based on race should be prohibited, but we want to make it illegal in the state of Michigan. There has been an immediate outpouring of public support for this."

A similar law and constitutional amendment, Proposition 209, were approved in California eight years

ago, and the white enrollment at universities there "has remained almost unchanged," he said.

"There was a drop in the enrollment of under-represented minorities—black, Hispanic and Native American, whose slots were taken over primarily by Asians—but the numbers have recovered substantially, to about the level of pre-Proposition 209 numbers."

Ward Connerly, a regent on California's public university system board, provided the big push for California's civil rights initiative in 1996, and he is now standing behind the Michigan initiative.

Three television news crews and at least 10 print journalists were present at an MCRI news conference on Jan. 12, and the group's website got an immediate boost. Over the next three days the site had 10,000 visitors—2,000 of whom downloaded the petition—and many others gave financial contributions.

MCRI has a very outspoken opposition, including a few who "are really scary," O'Brien said.

"They have threatened to follow our petitioners around and harass them. They wear their contempt for the democratic process as if it were a badge of honor."

Although a majority of the voters in Michigan support the initiative, as evidenced by the surveys, most of the media are openly antagonistic to the movement, he said.

"They maintain that we are against Affirmative Action, that we want to eliminate affirmative action," he said. "And the way it is currently interpreted, that is true."

"But when affirmative action was initially created, it meant going out and actively recruiting from local high schools for colleges or jobs. It meant seeking out people from under-represented minorities, as well as women."

"What it did not consist of, to begin with, was different standards for getting jobs, or for university admissions. What it has degenerated into in recent years is racial and gender preferences, different standards for some groups."



## POLITICAL NEWS

### Charles Jay announces LP VP campaign

Charles Jay, a gambling advocate from Elkhart, Ind., has announced his campaign for the LP nomination for vice president. Publisher of TotalAction.com—an online sports and gambling portal site—Jay is also a former TV broadcaster and radio talk show host.

Jay joined the LP in the early 80s, then rejoined the party when he moved to Indiana last year. Since then, he served as an advisor to his county chair, Rick Bowen, in a run for the Elkhart City Council.

"Right now I'm doing what many LP members advocate, (working to) stop needless government programs that spend money but accomplish little or nothing," he said. He spent the last two years investigating the ineptitude and corruption of public officials, and says he led a campaign to thwart a bill that would federalize control of boxing.

"If the government gets involved, more often than not it's going to deliver less and cost more than budgeted," he said.

Jay, 43, a graduate of the University of Miami, is unmarried and has no children.

Other announced VP candidates include Richard Campagna of Iowa, Scott Jameson of Texas and Tamara Millay of Missouri.

For more information about the Jay for VP campaign, visit his website at [www.charlesjay.com](http://www.charlesjay.com) or send e-mail to [charlesjay@totalaction.com](mailto:charlesjay@totalaction.com).



■ Charles Jay

### Nolan in second place on Amazon poll

In a novel fundraising forum sponsored by online retailer Amazon.com, which since Jan. 23 has been accepting donations for presidential candidates, Libertarian candidate Gary Nolan is running second place in amount donated, behind Democrat John Kerry.

As of February 10, the standings were as follows: John Kerry, \$25,909; Gary Nolan, \$13,000; John Edwards, \$12,982; Howard Dean, \$12,429; Wesley Clark, \$11,144; George W. Bush, \$7,040; Dennis Kucinich, \$2,376; Michael Badnarik, \$1,606; and Al Sharpton, \$970.

The Amazon.com program has drawn attention to Nolan's campaign. And his second-place position is a positive sign for Libertarian politics, said Steve Dasbach, Nolan's campaign manager.

With 37 million active accounts, Seattle-based Amazon.com is one of the nation's most popular on-line retailers. The company says it wants to use its extensive customer base to help candidates raise money in a hassle-free way.

Other candidates for the Libertarian presidential nomination—Jeffrey Diket, Dave Hollist and Aaron Russo—were not listed on the Web site.

### LNC officers not seeking re-election

Three Libertarian National Committee officers—Vice Chair Ken Bisson, Secretary Steve Givot and Treasurer Bill Redpath—have announced they are not running for re-election.

Bisson, who was elected to the board in 1996, said he often considered seeking the chairmanship but doesn't have the time or energy to do so because of his medical practice.

"I'm stepping aside so someone with the ambition can become vice chair and later pursue the chair's position," Bisson said.

He will continue his other LP service, such as chairing his county LP and working with the Advocates for Self-Government.

Givot, who has served three consecutive two-year terms as secretary of the LNC, said it's time to "let someone else have a turn."

He has been on the LNC continuously since 1996, and before that was on the committee in the late '80s. In addition to his LNC position, Givot has served two terms as Illinois LP treasurer and five times ran for public office, including runs in Illinois for U.S. Senate and for Secretary of State, for village board, and twice for his local school board. He has no immediate plans to seek office again, but said he has not ruled out that option.

Redpath explained that he was asked in January of 2003 to serve as LNC treasurer—replacing Deryl Martin, who had resigned—and that the position "is just not where my interest really lies in the LP."

"I am most interested in ballot access and campaigns," he said, noting that he ran for the Virginia House of Delegates in 1993, for the state senate in a January 1998 special election, and as the Libertarian candidate for Virginia governor in 2001.

Redpath said he has no plans "in the foreseeable future" to run for elected office again, but he may do so in the future.

# Phillies in three-way race

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actually be detrimental to running the LP, Phillies said.

"An LNC chair and party CEO must understand that the Libertarian Party is a voluntary organization, not a hierarchical corporation," he said. "Corporate management techniques—not to be confused with honest accounting procedures—routinely fail catastrophically in volunteer groups. I've seen these failures at close range."

If he is elected as LNC chair at May's national LP convention, Phillies says he will create more working subcommittees for the committee, including groups to work on elections, political action, outreach, fundraising, membership and operations.

"We have some of these now, but some working groups should mostly be made up of people who are not National Committee members," Phillies said.

The LNC should push the national party to "develop and distribute extensive candidate support materials, ... foster cooperation with other libertarian groups, ... support ballot access efforts in the 50 states, ... incite activism by encouraging members to run for office, to work on Libertarian campaigns and to volunteer to build a strong party," he said.

"The National Party should consistently ask members to volunteer their time, not just their pocketbooks, should track potential volunteers, and should

see that volunteer lists reach local organizers who use the information. The National Party should strive to develop a stronger voter base, for example, by encouraging local campaigns and referenda.

"The LNC is well-placed for lobbying and press relations. Libertarian lobbyists may lose, but lobbying puts ideas before the press and the public."

Another way to put ideas before the public would be to create a fund "to pay for sending libertarian legitimate newspapers to school and public libraries, coffee houses and old age homes, across America," he said. Such publications could spread the message of libertarianism more efficiently than mass mailings could, he added.

"Membership recruitment and growth will occur when we have a strong party," Phillies said. "We cannot build a strong party by recruiting members. When the Libertarian Party does well, when our candidates are heard with respect and draw serious vote totals, Americans will flock to join us."

On the other hand, sending recruiting letters to mailing lists of non-Libertarians is "a waste of time," Phillies opined. "For a bigger party, first create a better party."

Phillies also calls for the national LP headquarters to move away from Washington, DC, to a city where the cost of living and property costs are significantly less expensive.

"Our lease probably means we cannot move in less than three

years," he said, but when the lease is up, LP headquarters should move to a less expensive part of the country.

He is not advocating complete closure of the facility, Phillies explained: "If you read claims that I want to shut down the national Headquarters, well, it's not true."

Anyone who has read his books, which Phillies believes includes "most party activists," will already know how he thinks on many issues; for those who do not, he said, "My message is, 'It's time for a change. Let's do serious politics!'"

Phillies ran for the national chair's position before, in 2000 and 2002, races which were won by Jim Lark and Geoff Neale, respectively.

His prior libertarian experience includes serving on the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts State Board in 1996-1997, part of which time he was executive director. He is a cofounder of the Pioneer Valley Libertarian Association, the oldest and most active Libertarian organization still remaining in Massachusetts, and was chair for three years. He is now chair of the Worcester County Libertarian Association and covers LP internal politics in "Let Freedom Ring!"

For more information about Phillies or his campaign for LNC chair, contact him at [phillies@4liberty.net](mailto:phillies@4liberty.net), write to 876 Park Avenue, Worcester MA 01605, or call (508) 754-1859 weekends and late evenings, or (508) 831-5334 during the day.

## Michael Dixon seeking top LP position

*Continued from Page 2*

and 2002-2004—and in that time he also served as chair of the Platform Committee and participated on the LP Strategic Planning Team. He has never sought the Chair's position before.

Dixon said he will campaign by traveling to as many state conventions and local meetings as he can in coming months.

"I hope to meet, listen and learn from our local activists what is most important to their efforts," he said. "Over my time on the LNC I have attended many state conventions and even more local meetings of activists or state executive committees."

From this experience, Dixon said, he has learned much about the varying obstacles confronting party activists.

"This is a critical part of developing the proper balance of actions at the LNC, to support and facilitate individual actions without constraining creativity or mandating specific solutions," Dixon said.

Ultimately, Dixon said, the "national hierarchy" of the LP "must remain true to our philosophy

without seeking to define it.

Dixon said he is proud of his work on the Platform Committee in 2002, which presented the planks of the party Platform "in a positive and affirming manner and gave the local activist a much-needed tool"; creation of the Unified Membership Plan II, to "provide clear and meaningful incentives for recruiting new members and donors and to return more money to the state affiliates"; and creation of a standing sub-committee of the LNC, tasked with oversight of compensation and employment issues.

This sub-committee led to the hiring of LP Executive Director Joe Seehusen, who was "selected from a pool of libertarians from across the country, none of whom were national party insiders," Dixon said. "My message is inherent in these actions. We must all strive to improve both our efficiency and our professionalism. We must encourage our affiliates to become stronger and more capable in executing their core political work."

Dixon served in the Illinois LP for several years before becoming

involved at the national level. He served as secretary in 1991-1992 and 1997-1999, as chair in 1993-1994, and as vice chair in 1995-1997. His first Libertarian National Committee position was as an At-Large Representative in 1998, after which he was elected as a regional representative in 2000.

"Additionally I have served in the Arizona LP on campaign positions, and in North Carolina, where I'm currently on the Executive Committee."

Dixon, 40, was born in Akron, Ohio. His wife, Toietta LaBooth Dixon, is a party member; they have one five-year-old son, Noah, and are expecting a daughter this year.

The LNC chair heads the Libertarian National Committee for a two-year term. The new chair will be selected by a vote of the delegates at the LP National Convention in Atlanta, Ga., May 27-31, 2003.

To contact Dixon or his campaign with questions, comments or for more information: Call (704) 576-2332; e-mail, [dixon4chair@earthlink.net](mailto:dixon4chair@earthlink.net); or mail to 821 Greentree Dr., Charlotte, NC 28211.



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Government actions  
NOW!**



**Bob Schulz**

Chairman of We the People Congress & Foundation will share his organizations' latest efforts in exposing and eradicating unconstitutional government behavior.

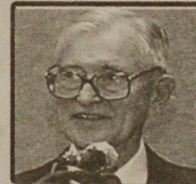
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## TALKING POINTS

# We're number 10, and you will have fun OR ELSE!

### #10 and falling

According to the 2004 Index of Economic Freedom, just published by the Heritage Foundation and *The Wall Street Journal*, the United States is Earth's 10th most open market. Alas, on a 10-car train of the world's freest economies, the caboose would be America. This lackluster performance follows a Number Five-ranking in 2001 and a ninth place showing last year.

The Land of the Free [is] less economically [free] than Number One Hong Kong and Singapore, New Zealand, Luxembourg, Ireland, Estonia, Great Britain, Denmark, and Switzerland.

—DEROY MURDOCK,  
*The Boston Herald*,  
January 17, 2004

### Explaining the deficit

President Reagan vetoed 39 bills during his first term. Three years into his first term, President Bush has failed to veto a single piece of legislation.

You have to go back to James Garfield in 1881 to find a president who did not veto a single bill. And Garfield had an excuse -- he was shot after he had served only four months in office and died soon after.

—JOHN FUND,  
*OpinionJournal.com*,  
January 26, 2004

### Free trade, not war

Some of the worst attacks on our personal freedom come in the form of edicts as to whom we can trade with, and whom we must make war on. This is referred to by the famous dictum attributed to Bastiat: "When goods are not allowed to cross borders, armies will." The truth of the dictum has been demonstrated in history, both ancient and recent, time and again. Restrictions on trade between nations do indeed lead to wars, and while it is harder to observe, freedom to trade prevents wars.

—N. JOSEPH POTTS,  
Ludwig von Mises Institute online,  
January 14, 2004

### Life, liberty and golf

The much-delayed omnibus appropriations bill for 2004 [included] ... federal money for the Please Touch Museum in Philadelphia, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, and one traffic light somewhere in upstate New York. There's \$50 million for an indoor rain forest in Coralville,

Iowa. (For that price we could send the whole town on a rain forest vacation.) There's \$2 million for a golf awareness program in St. Augustine, Florida. The number of such earmarked federal expenditures has quintupled in the past five years to about 10,000, worth \$23 billion, for 2004.

Can anybody honestly maintain that working Americans should be coerced to ante up for golf awareness?

—*The Wall Street Journal*,  
January 20, 2004

### American free speech

While the United States is freer and more democratic than many countries, it is not, I think, either as free or as democratic as we are expected to believe, and becomes rapidly less so. ... Free speech does not exist in America. We all know what we can't say and about whom we can't say it.

—FRED REED,  
*MensNewsDaily.com*,  
January 19, 2004

### You WILL have fun

The staff at the US Army's Combat Equipment Battalion at Hythe, Great Britain, just had to attend the office Christmas party. No, really. They were ordered by the base command to attend the party or face disciplinary action. A memo from the base commander told them: "Let me make it clear that every employee's duty on December 19 is the Base Christmas Party. All employees not on approved leave will participate in the party... If you feel like I am trying to force FUN upon you, then you are correct."

—CHARLES OLIVER,  
*Reason.com*,  
January 13, 2004

### Bush to the rescue!

George W. Bush isn't so much a president as a superhero.

When he's not saving Planet Earth from Evil Terrorists, he's providing the Greatest Generation with free drugs. When he's not colonizing Iraq and Afghanistan, he is planning to colonize the moon. When he's not keeping every child from being Left Behind, he's saving the holy institution of marriage from those who would destroy it.

The marriage-saving thing is what has really caught my attention. I'm no expert on the subject, although next week I will celebrate my 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. What astounds

## CAN ANYBODY

honestly maintain

that working

Americans should

be coerced to ante

up for golf

awareness?

me, is that my wife and I have lasted so long without the help of any government program.

Maybe we're just in denial.  
—STEVEN GREENHUT,  
*LewRockwell.com*,  
January 15, 2004

### The new dating game

The hype [surrounding Howard Dean's use of the Internet] became so intense that comedians started making fun of the whole idea of politicians using Web sites to mobilize supporters. HBO's Bill Maher joked on *The Tonight Show* that howarddean.com was akin to a dating service because it brings people together online. The libertarian comedian said Dean's slogan should be something along the lines of: Vote for me - I'll get you laid.

—DAN BROWN,  
CBC News Viewpoint,  
January 28, 2004

### Iraqis Will Cheer

The U.S. military finally has in custody one of the most brutal dictators in modern memory. But capturing Saddam is only one phase of "regime change" in Iraq. The United States must now turn in earnest to the hand-over of political sovereignty to a new government.

In the process, the United States must not ignore one crucial fact: Many Iraqis will not be satisfied until American troops -- all American troops -- are gone.

Even if the U.S. military were truly perfect -- even if not a single innocent civilian had been hit by a stray bomb, a ricocheting bullet, or a misplaced artillery round -- the victory would still have involved the killing and wounding of soldiers in the Iraqi military.

This is a point that the proponents of regime change seem to completely ignore. Schools can be rebuilt. Electrical power can be restored. The water can flow. All



of the physical reminders of war's brutal reality can be erased. But, even in a "perfect" war against a tyrannical regime, a war in which all military firepower is focused exclusively on the sources of that regime's power, people will die.

We ... should not be surprised if Iraqis welcome our departure even more fervently than they celebrate the demise of Saddam Hussein.

—CHRISTOPHER PREBLE,  
*Cato Institute Daily Commentary*,  
January 15, 2004

### Anti-Terror Television

Former Secretary of Public Safety James P. Jajuga spent \$17,000 in anti-terrorism funds for a 60-inch plasma screen television for his office, although the set has no special capabilities for secure communications or other security functions, records show.

Jajuga, a focus of a federal

investigation into possible misuse of grant money, last June tapped into a special terrorist-fighting account set up after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks to purchase the TV.

—Associated Press,  
January 20, 2004

### 'I'm a conservative.'

A few quick facts. George W. Bush has:

- increased federal spending on education by 60.8%;
- increased federal spending on labor by 56%;
- increased federal spending on the interior by 23.4%;
- increased federal spending on defense by 27.6%.

And of course he has:

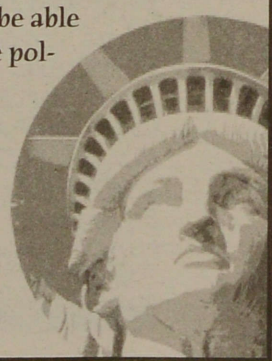
- created a massive department of homeland security;
- signed a campaign-finance bill he pretty much said he thought was unconstitutional;

See TALKING on Page 7

## "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.





# Expansion of Colorado's 'do not call' law prompts protest

Colorado Libertarians are speaking out against a state Senate bill that would apply the "do not call list" law to charitable and political organizations. Currently, the law applies only to for-profit businesses.

"Should this bill ever make it into the statute books, most everyone in Colorado will soon be guilty of deceptive trade practices," said Colorado State Chair Norm Olsen.

For example, "if you call your neighbor and inform him or her that George Bush is a jerk" and your neighbor "is on the No-Call list, that would be Strike One!" Olsen said.

He noted that the bill's definition of telephone solicitors includes people who urge "support for or opposition to a political candidate or ballot issue, or any charitable organization or cause."

Calling a friend about buying Girl Scout cookies would also be a violation of the bill, because solicitations of support for non-profit organizations are prohibited, Olsen added.

Even calling a fellow church member about church business could be prohibited, if that person is on a "do not call" list, he said.

Those with pre-existing business

relationships—and a handwritten invitation to call—would be allowed to continue calling.

"Do we really want the state of Colorado legislating who can call whom, when they can call, and what can be talked about?" he asked.

"Colorado has a reputation for clear, concise and -- for the most part -- sensible laws. If this bill ever makes it into law, it would be quite

an embarrassment for all of us."

If the state Legislature approves the bill, Libertarians and others in the state would be able to file for a referendum on the issue.

"The Libertarian Party of Colorado believes that there is no need for this bill unless Democrats and Republicans desire to further squash political discourse in this state," Olsen said.

## Talking

Continued from Page 6

- signed the farm bill, which was a non-kosher piñata filled with enough pork to bend space and time;

- pushed through a Medicare plan which starts with a price tag of \$400 billion but will — according to every expert who studies the issue — go up a gazillion-bajillion dollars over the next decade;

- got the most people working for the federal government since the end of the Cold War;

- has not vetoed a single spending — or any other — bill, and he has no intention of eliminating a single department.

All of this pandering reminds me of H. L. Mencken's comment about Harry Truman. He said that if there were a sizable number of voting-aged cannibals in the U.S., Truman would promise each a Christian missionary in a boiling pot.

—JONAH GOLDBERG,  
National Review Online,  
January 21, 2004

### Good Educashun

New York City public school teachers have given a failing grade to the latest curriculum guide from the city's Education Department. The guide is riddled with misspellings and grammatical errors. Among other things, the guide told teachers to identify students' "strengthens and weaknesses" and to "think about a time when your family work together." The guide said they should explain the discipline code so "everyone understands how serious we all are in making schools that is safe for student's body's..." The guide also referred to George Orwell's Animal Farm as a story about the importance of rules.

—CHARLES OLIVER,  
Reason.com,  
December 19, 2003

## Help Wanted

Libertarians willing to trade work for LAND in the Caribbean.  
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- ★ 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 World'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.

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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:

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## AFFILIATE NEWS

# It continues: Fighting taxes, getting on ballots, raising funds

### ■ ALASKA Raising money; raising awareness

Alaska Libertarians were busy in 2003, with a high point being the LP's contributions to convincing the state Legislature to oppose the USA Patriot Act.

The LP was also very active at the local level: State Chair Scott Kohlhaas and activist Robert Clifts taught high school students about libertarianism; Nominations Chair Alvin Anders organized a concert event for marijuana decriminalization; a raffle brought the LP about \$3,000; and Christmas cards mailed out in the LP's name netted several hundred dollars, said state LP Treasurer July Leslie.

"In addition to faithfully and often single-handedly manning fair booths and gun shows from north to south Alaska, Al Anders spearheaded a four-day fundraising event for the decriminalization of marijuana," with Judge James Gray as speaker, Leslie said.

The LP expanded their flyering from the standard university, coffee shop and restaurant venues to include more community, hospital

and grocery store bulletin boards, and they sponsored a short-lived radio show, an endeavor that opened doors for Libertarian outreach, July Leslie said.

And aiming at a younger generation, Kohlhaas and Clifts spoke at six social science classes at a local high school, helping the group "foster an interest in liberty in these future Libertarians," she noted. "That's certainly something we want to do more of in the future."

### ■ CALIFORNIA Fighting expanded college 'empire'

Libertarians in the Santa Clara County area are leading the fight against a property tax hike on the March 2 ballot that would cost local taxpayers \$108 million.

The bond issue—called Measure E—would fund repairs and new construction at Gavilan College in Gilroy, Calif. Members of the Santa Clara County LP say the projects, and the tax to fund them, are unnecessary.

Community-based educational centers in nearby Hollister and

Morgan Hill would also be funded, but there are already extensions of the main campus in those two cities, said Mark Hinkle, former state LP chair and author of the party's arguments against the bond.

"They are currently leasing buildings (in those communities) but want to expand their empire by buying buildings" and equipping new facilities, Hinkle said.

On top of that, Gavilan College's own educational master plan warns against overdeveloping the satellite campuses, and says that expanding them would result in too much classroom space on the main campus; so, what Gavilan wants to do contradicts its own plans.

The Gavilan board of directors also claims the money is needed to expand parking areas at the school, but Hinkle says: "There is already plenty of parking; I've been there and seen it. With some rescheduling (of classes) there would be no need for more parking."

Hinkle scoffed at the board's promises to appoint an oversight committee to ensure fiscal accountability.

"Who will appoint this committee?" Hinkle asked,

rhetorically. "Answer: the same people who used Gavilan funds to put this measure on the ballot!"

### ■ COLORADO Shnelvar says, "I told you so"

Last fall, Ralph Shnelvar told voters in Boulder County, Colo., that the local government didn't need more tax money to pay for an expansion of the county jail.

It now appears that Shnelvar—who ran for governor of Colorado on the Libertarian ticket in 2002—was correct.

In November, voters approved a sales tax extension—which will cost them \$2.1 million—to pay for expanding the jail. And in December, the jail's population dropped to its lowest point in four years.

When asking Boulder taxpayers to approve the sales tax extension last fall, the county government claimed an urgent need to relieve overcrowding. Now those same officials are trying to explain away the sudden decrease in jail population.

Jail official Capt. Larry Hank said the average daily population at the jail typically drops in December, but added that even he "can't remember it being this low," in December or any other month in at least four years.

The jail's average daily inmate population in December was 358; the maximum capacity of the facility is 400.

And based on the current overcrowding at the jail, Shnelvar is sticking to his guns.

"There's nothing unusual in government claiming desperate need, and then once the voters vote for the additional taxes, all of a sudden we discover the needs really weren't as bad as they said," he noted.

Not all of the money will be used for the planned expansion. It will also pay for a new detoxification area and some alternative sentencing measures.

### ■ FLORIDA 'Don't limit contributions'

Libertarians in Alachua County, Fla., are lobbying against a November ballot measure that would impose a \$250 cap on donations to candidates for county office. The cap is currently set at \$500.

"Limiting campaign donations could knock the sails out of third party campaigns," said Ray Roberts, chair of the county Libertarian Party, noting that stricter limits on contributions would hurt the party's fund-raising efforts. "It makes it more difficult for independents or third party candidates to get the money they need to run, to oppose the incumbents."

Cutting the cap on giving also "restricts the rights of citizens to support candidates they feel strongly about," Roberts said.

Alachua County Libertarians actively opposed the change in campaign law at meetings of the

county commission, receiving local media coverage for their arguments against the ballot measure.

"Frankly, I'd very much like to find several millionaires that would be willing to put their significant resources into spreading the Libertarian philosophy and supporting good Libertarian candidates," whether for local or for state and federal office, Roberts said. "I think that would be an honorable and valuable way to use their resources."

The proposed change in the county charter will be put to voters in November, so any changes would not take effect until sometime in 2005, he said.

With the nation in full election mode, a primary push in Alachua County will be to keep the higher contribution cap, helping to ensure that future Libertarian candidates can raise the money they need.

If the amendment passes, Alachua County would join Sarasota and Miami-Dade counties as the only counties in the state with smaller contribution limits than the state.

### ■ MARYLAND Petition drive continues

Third parties in Maryland must submit 10,000 valid signatures every four years to be recognized as political parties. The Maryland LP submitted a box of 11,759 on Oct. 24, and 6,665 of them were validated by the state Board of Elections.

The LP filed suit in the circuit court of Anne Arundel County to get approximately 2,500 disputed signatures—which were disqualified because of technicalities on the petition form—validated, state LP Chair Chip Spangler said.

But even if they are validated, the state will still not have enough signatures. With the initial 6,665 the state Board of Elections validated, plus up to 2,500 that were called into question, plus approximately 600 additional the LP has collected, they are still several hundred short of the required 10,000. All



### Nevada LP member honored for contributions to community

■ Bob St. Louis, at center, was recognized recently by the county commissioners of Elko County, Nevada, as Volunteer Citizen of 2003. A member of the Nevada LP, St. Louis received the award for his contributions and commitment to the Elko County Public Lands Use Advisory Commission—from which he recently resigned—and other projects, commissioners said. "This was the first such award that the county has ever given," said Mary Rahn, central region representative for the Nevada LP, noting that she is very proud of St. Louis's honor. Pictured with St. Louis, from left, are county commissioners John Ellison, Charlie Myers, Mike Nannini, Warren Russell and Sheri Eklund-Brown.

### Online Resources for LP Members

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

Visit: [www.LP.org](http://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](http://www.LP.org)  
Click on: Organization  
Click on: National Committee  
Click on: LNC Directory

#### ■ Renew your membership

Visit: [www.LP.org](http://www.LP.org)  
See: Special Features (left side)  
Click on: Renew



signatures have to be turned in by Aug. 2 for the general election.

"For anyone who wants to help, we are collecting money both for getting more signatures and for the lawsuit," said state LP Vice Chair Roy J. Meyers. "We're trying to get people out there to collect signatures, but it's hard, slow going right now."

"We are definitely still looking for signatures," Spangler said. "If we get enough money in, we will use paid petitioners, but right now we're using volunteers."

"There's obviously no guarantee that we'll get a court date anytime soon, and when we do, there's no guarantee we'll be able to keep those [disputed] signatures."

"We need all the help we can get."

#### ■ NEVADA

### Litwin to rock Nevada convention

If Libertarian conventions were more fun, more people would be interested in attending and taking a more active role in the party's business as well, says Joseph P. Silvestri, vice chair of the Nevada LP.

With that in mind, Silvestri thinks he has the ticket to a winning state convention.

He received a copy of Dan Litwin's "Peacemakers" CD as a Christmas gift, thought it was a "great album," and decided to invite the rock musician to perform at the Nevada LP state convention in Las Vegas on March 13, 2004.

"My hope is that my music can help get the Libertarian message to more people," Litwin said.

"Libertarian ideas promote harmony by allowing each of us to live in our own unique way, requiring only that we respect the rights and property of others," Litwin said. "Also, the Libertarian policy of a strong military that defends—but never offends—is exactly what America needs if we're ever going to have peace."

#### ■ TENNESSEE

### Let taxpayers vote on tax hikes

Heather Scott, a Wilson County commissioner and vice chair of the Tennessee LP, wants her constituents to be able to vote on property tax hikes. Doing so would require a change in state law.

Under Tennessee law, only county commissioners can set property tax rates. But Scott and other officials—along with an alliance of other groups, including Tennessee Tax Revolt—are calling for a statewide Taxpayer Bill of Rights, which would put all tax hikes to a referendum.

"This resolution is based on Colorado's Taxpayer Bill of Rights, which limits state spending and allows the people to vote on tax increases and new taxes," Scott said.

Scott's resolution was proposed to the county commission in late January, but a vote was deferred

until the February meeting (after LP News goes to print). If the resolution is approved, the resolution will be sent to the state, where Scott believes it will meet strong acceptance.

"Two of our state representatives from Wilson County are very supportive of this resolution," she said.

A conference on the Taxpayer Bill of Rights issue, sponsored by Republican state Sen. Jim Bryson, is scheduled for March 2 in Nashville. Scott plans to attend, along with State Chair Ray Ledford.

John Andrews, president of the Colorado State Senate, is scheduled to speak. He was one of the leading proponents of the Colorado Taxpayers Bill of Rights, approved in 1992.

"My philosophy is weaning people from their reliance on government," Scott said, noting that her position on the county commission also gives her the opportunity to share Libertarian philosophy with her fellow commissioners.

The Taxpayer Bill of Rights will not come easily, she conceded.

"Given the push for a state income tax in the past few years, it will be a drawn out process before we see any change," she said. "But we have to make that first step."

#### ■ TEXAS

### LP to contest 31 U.S. House seats

Texas Libertarians have filed for 31 of the 32 U.S. House seats in the state—or every one except the one held by Rep. Ron Paul.

"Our candidates are ready, willing and able to debate and challenge the Texas Democrats and Republicans," Texas LP Chairman David DeLamar said.

There is a hitch, though: To qualify for a place on the November ballot, the LP must collect 45,540 valid signatures between March 10 and May 21. They'll need to gather about 75,000 signatures to get enough valid ones. That's about 1,000 per day during the available time, and it will cost the LP about \$150,000 to pay for the collection.

In addition to the 34 Texans running for the U.S. House, there are at least 43 others running for office in the state, including three for state-wide offices, two for state Senate, 13 for state House and one for state school board.

If any of the state-wide candidates draws more than 5 percent of the vote, the state LP will retain ballot access for the 2005 and 2006 election cycles.

"Given past experience, it seems very likely that we will be able to earn future ballot access—as long as our ballot drive this spring successfully puts our candidates on the November ballots," DeLamar said.

#### ■ UTAH

### "Dear IRS..."

The following is a letter to the IRS, attached to the sender's tax forms:

Dear IRS,  
Enclosed you will find my form

1040, my Schedule C "Profit and Loss from Business," and my Schedule SE "Self-Employment Tax." As per your requirements I have filled out these forms after having painstakingly checked my business books for errors and accounting totals.

Enclosed you will also find my invoice for compiling all of this information for your benefit. As a self-employed contractor, I charge \$45 an hour for all work not under prior contract agreement. As I have no agreement of contract with the IRS, I am billing at my hourly rate. A time sheet is below, for your reference when reviewing the enclosed invoice, payable without penalty by April 15, 2004.

- Accounting and bookwork to comply with IRS forms: 16.75 hours, \$753.75.

- Accounting-Tax preparation software: \$79.99.

- Filling in of software forms: 7.25 hours, \$326.25.

- One-half gallon of mid-priced rum, Coca-Cola, ice, etc. to keep blood pressure down during vexing tax preparation process: \$39.95.

- Visit to emergency room for possible heart attack symptoms: \$873.

- Hotel room for wife, who tired of listening to my lengthy screams of agony and various colorful phrases to describe tax code: \$79.99.

- Money put in basket while attending church to atone for my sins (see above): \$50.

- Long distance phone calls to my Uncle Leonard, a CPA: \$45.92.

- Lost contract with client who was unable to reach me due to my repeated use of the phone to call Uncle Leonard: \$4,875 (estimated).

- Visit to emergency room after finding out about the above: \$936.

Total of above: \$8,063.13. Deducted from my debt to you of \$3,027, I show a deficit of \$5,036.13. This is redeemable by check, money order or cash, and is due on or before April 15, 2004, as per my attached invoice. Please be reminded that failure to pay by the date due will result in penalties and interest.

Thank you.  
Aaron Turpen, Holladay, Utah.  
(Secretary, Utah LP)

#### ■ VIRGINIA

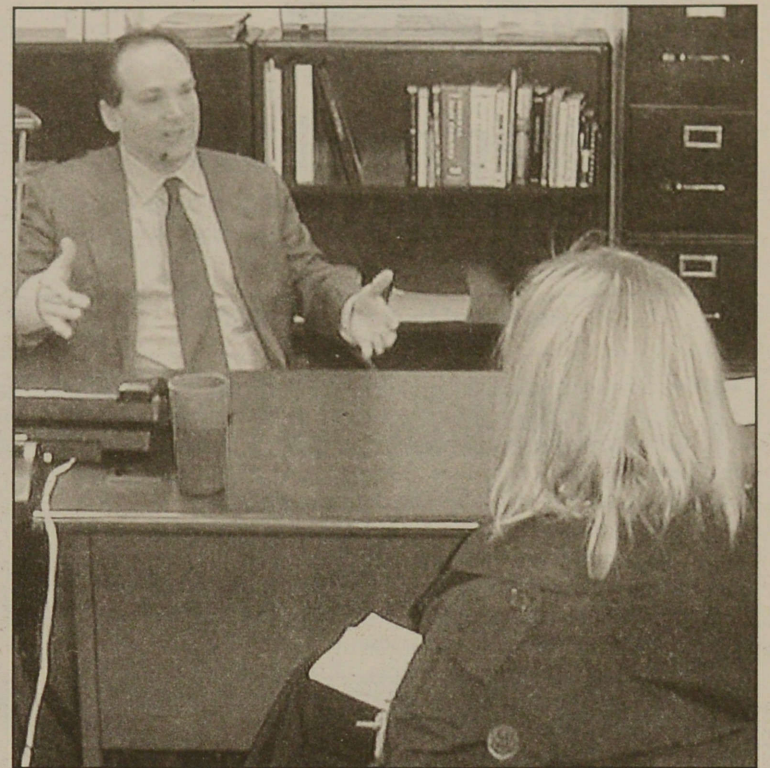
### LP leader for Berryville mayor

Pointing to abuse of power and misuse of funds by the current mayor in Berryville, Blue Ridge LP Chair Bill Wood has announced he's running for mayor of the town.

"I want to try to keep the council from spending taxpayer money investing in real estate," Wood said, noting that the city council routinely ignores citizens' wishes.

His goal is to convince the council to stop funding projects that are not core functions of government, such as its recent vote to put \$200,000 in city and county taxpayer funds into an arts center.

Wood's first run for office was for county supervisor, in the 80s, on the Republican ticket. As a member of the county Republican executive



### Giving the LP view on "Megan's Law"...

■ LP Communications Director George Getz is interviewed in the LP's Watergate office on Feb. 13 by a reporter for WJLA TV, the ABC News affiliate in Washington, DC. Getz was asked for the Libertarian Party's view on "Megan's Law," which requires released sex offenders to register with local police departments. He told ABC News, "The solution isn't to let sexual predators out of jail early and tell parents, 'It's OK, because you can read about it on the Internet.' The solution is to keep them locked up until they're no longer dangerous. And one way to do that is to release nonviolent drug offenders and use that space for violent offenders instead."

committee, he became aware that the GOP was as pro-Big Government as the Democrats were.

After getting away from party politics, he encountered Harry Browne in the 2000 campaign, studied LP policy and joined the party four years ago.

Wood, a licensed optician since 1975, works for The Optical Center in Winchester, VA.

#### ■ VIRGINIA

### Libertarian named to fathers' group

Virginia LP member Dr. Stephen Baskerville was on Jan. 5 named president of the American Coalition for Fathers and Children, which encourages equal protection for men and women in divorce court, where custody of children is concerned.

Baskerville, professor of political science at Howard University, is known for his fight against what he calls the federal government's "reign of terror on fathers."

"The government is in a war on fathers today," Baskerville said, noting that he was drawn to the Libertarian Party because it is the only one that looks at individual liberty and responsibility as a primary goal.

"This [issue] is a natural for Libertarians," Baskerville said, in

that extending government power into the lives of the citizens "is the essence of the totalitarian dream."

The court system has become a system for subsidizing divorce, he argues, by "providing bribes to encourage divorce as much as possible." In 80 percent of divorce cases, the parent who expects to get custody of the children files for divorce over the protests of the other parent, he said.

The end result: There are between 15 million and 20 million non-custodial parents in this country, the vast majority of them male, Baskerville noted.

The coalition's executive director, Michael McCormick, said Baskerville's incisive commentary is setting the stage for "a new national critique of prevailing government and social policies on divorced fathers and their children."

The absence of fathers in a family-based society is blamed for "virtually all of today's social problems," but fathers are blamed for being absent even when they are not allowed their right to be present, Baskerville said. "The bitter truth is that no one can 'save the children' but their parents. We alone are responsible for our children, and we alone must protect them."



## THE REVIEW

### U.S.: Bad neighbors

■ **Bad Neighbor Policy: Washington's Futile War on Drugs in Latin America**, by Ted Galen Carpenter. Palgrave Macmillan, hardcover, 282 pages. \$17.47.

Reviewed by William Ratliff  
THE HOOVER INSTITUTION

**T**his new book is an indispensable examination of "Washington's futile war on drugs in Latin America," as its subtitle states. Ted Galen Carpenter, a vice president at the Cato Institute, surveys the history of this policy, dissects the "ugly American" tactics used to carry it out, and concludes with "a blueprint for peace."

The title twists Roosevelt's "Good Neighbor" phrase of the 1930s to fit the destructive buck passing that epitomizes the U.S. drug war in Latin America. Americans, including drug policy analysts, seldom consider this international aspect. Meanwhile, the "prohibitionist [drug] strategy works at cross purposes to all of these objectives."

The United States began anti-drug initiatives in the Americas before the 1970s but "escalated the stakes" when Nixon made drug policy "the functional and moral equivalent of war." Ford and Carter expanded the "supply-side" offensive, and Reagan "launched a new and decidedly militant phase," more than tripling the funding for drug eradication, interdiction, and crop substitution.

These programs, Carpenter argues, are in large part propagandistic and impractical; U.S. policy increasingly seeks to "encourage, persuade, bribe, or coerce foreign governments into joining the U.S.-led drug war." Latin American governments have often supported the war just enough to qualify for U.S. aid without losing the income and graft that are central to the war, while involved U.S. institutions now expect continued funding for their programs.

The American anti-drug hysteria reached record levels in 1986 after the death of basketball star Len Bias from an overdose of cocaine, provoking the Anti-Drug Abuse Act and the declaration that drug trafficking is a national-security issue warranting involvement by U.S. military and intelligence forces. The invasion of Panama to seize Manuel Noriega in 1989 was the most overt U.S. military intervention to date. The Clinton administration increased "supply-side" spending and the current Bush administration has increased the spending further, while finally admitting that separating anti-drug operations in Colombia from involvement in the country's insurgent war is impossible.

Neighboring countries have become unwilling hosts to drug producers and traffickers driven out of southern Colombia by expanded eradication campaigns -- the inevitable "push-down, pop-up" phenomenon. U.S. policy successes so far have been "short term and localized." More commonly, arrogant policies have weakened fledgling institutions, angered the public, and driven peasants into the arms of narcoguerrillas.

"The supply-side campaign against illicit drugs is doomed to fail," Carpenter notes. "As long as there is a substantial global demand for those drugs, the supply will continue to flow."

In his final chapter, Carpenter concludes that the only way out is drug legalization in the United States, and that would be a leap in the right direction. Unfortunately, very few American politicians will yet consider legalizing drugs and working on the international challenges that would result, so realistically we must expect the United States to persist in its pernicious policy for some time.

In the meantime, while working toward legalization, we must deal with the crises the U.S. government has caused or aggravated in other countries. We must consider what action might in some degree reduce, if not eliminate, the expanding chaos.

We should debate possible short-term responses to the fallout from the drug disaster even as we intensify efforts to terminate the drug war altogether. We need to highlight the dilemma, pointing constantly to the international consequences of the prohibitionist drug strategy and to the extremely difficult options it throws in the laps of American policymakers, who of course made the bad policies in the first place and are in a position to change them.

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■ **About the reviewer:** William Ratliff is a research fellow and curator of the Americas Collection at the Hoover Institution. He is currently working on interpreting Latin American history, the traditional roots of modern China, and U.S. foreign policy.

## Film to document Ed Thompson's story

**A** restaurant owner is raided by police, discovers the danger of an over-reaching government, stands up to said government in court and wins. Sounds like a movie, right?

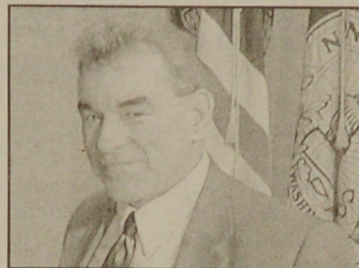
It's actually the story of Wisconsin Libertarian Ed Thompson, who ran for governor of his state in 2002. But this spring it will also be a movie: Independent filmmaker David Lee Hendrickson is nearing the end of shooting his documentary of Thompson's experiences and will soon begin editing.

"This is maybe one of the best Libertarian stories ever," Hendrickson said. "The story really transcends politics. It's about one guy who got dumped on by the people in power and how he decided to do something about it."

Thompson, chair of the Wisconsin Libertarian Party, said he believes the film will be "very positive for the party."

A former boxer, prison guard, butcher and professional poker player, Thompson was running a supper club in Tomah, Wis., when he became politically active. The turning point came when police raided his restaurant.

"The cops took his poker machines and his money, and Ed was facing a \$40,000 fine and eight years in prison," Hendrickson said. "But when it went to trial they



■ **Ed Thompson: His story is "in fact, the story of libertarianism," the filmmaker says.**

could not get an unbiased jury, and the judge dismissed the case."

Thompson, who continued to support video gambling, was one of four tavern owners in the county who refused to accept a deal to resolve the case out of court. Eventually, state law was changed, allowing taverns to have up to five video gaming machines in their businesses.

Prompted by his experiences with hyperactive government, Thompson "ran for mayor of Tomah in 2000, won by a landslide, saved tons of money for the community and was just a wonderful mayor," Hendrickson noted.

During the 2002 gubernatorial race, Thompson received nationwide media coverage as his grassroots campaign yielded the second-

highest vote totals ever for a Libertarian candidate for governor, and he had the best showing for a third-party candidate in Wisconsin in 60 years.

"People said he would get 2 percent of the vote; he got 10.4 percent," Hendrickson said. "He was kept out of three of the five debates, and he still managed to get a good percentage of the vote, with more than 180,000 votes."

Democrat Jim Doyle won the governor's seat with 45.2 percent, Republican Scott McCallum got 41.4 percent and Green candidate Jim Young won 2.5 percent.

Hendrickson, a member of the Wisconsin LP, started out to make a film about libertarianism in general, not about one Libertarian specifically.

"When I joined the Libertarian Party, I discovered pretty quickly that a lot of people just don't understand libertarians," he said. "I wanted to make a film to change the perception of Libertarians."

"We're common-sense people, and we're honest. And some people -- when confronted with honesty -- don't know what to do with it. We're just ordinary people who see things a little more clearly than most."

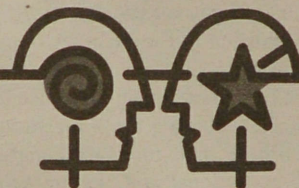
While collecting ideas for the film about libertarianism, Hendrickson was told to go interview Thompson

See FILM Page 13

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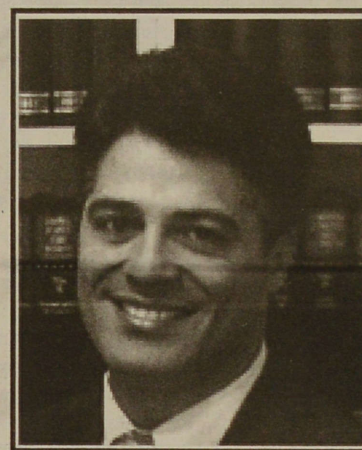
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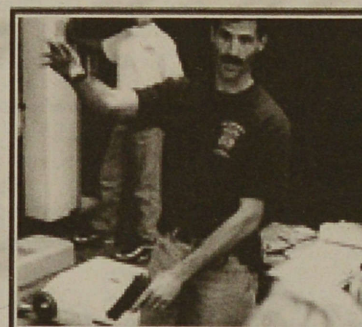
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## CONVENTION 2004 REPORT

### Something Old, Something New...

**Y**ikes! The Convention is now less than three months away! By now you've cleared your calendar to be in Atlanta for Memorial Day weekend, made your room reservation with the Marriott, purchased your Gold Package (and your concert ticket), made the necessary arrangements through your state party to become a delegate, and now you're just waiting with anticipation, counting down the days until May 27!

**I know I've been working feverishly**, juggling all the various aspects of putting this shindig together. (It would be so much easier if I didn't have to eat or sleep!) I'm sure you've heard that dealing with Libertarians is like herding cats. Well, truer words were never spoken, and I'm becoming quite the cat-herder. But good things are happening and everything's falling into place.

And I know I promised last month that the Convention website would be in great shape. I feel terrible that it has taken so very long to get it up and running. My goal always was to have a very comprehensive website that would (hopefully) explain everything and answer all your questions. But I've been limited to available resources and I've had to do some cat-herding with this as well.

**The speaker line-up is getting bigger and better.** Many of the speakers are familiar faces from within the LP ranks. These are actually the easy ones, since many of them would be there anyway. The outsiders are the ones that can require some delicate negotiating. It would be really nice if we had an unlimited budget; we could bring in all sorts of big-name speakers at \$10,000 each. But then we'd have to charge \$1,000 for a convention package, and you wouldn't be there.

Some people have expressed objections to Neal Boortz being there as a speaker. The Convention planners have thought this over quite extensively and have run it by many influential and highly respected Libertarians. Our general philosophy is that we don't apply a litmus test to our speakers. The idea is not just to have people "preaching to the choir." Remember that the outsiders and the semi- or even non-Libertarians give us the opportunity to network and reach out to people with whom we may share only one issue in common.

Most of the speakers in the Workshops and on the Main Floor will be of the variety that "toes the party line." But some of the meal speakers may be there because they agree with us on a single issue, where we feel we have some common ground. Maybe they will help us think about a different angle on something that might help us reach out to a new segment of the population. They don't have to agree with us 100 percent to be valuable. (And remember high-profile "outsiders" could bring their followers to us; we could win over some new recruits.)

**With the feedback I've gotten on Boortz's appearance** -- running well over 50 percent to "keep" him, and many of the "boot" ones coming from outside the LP -- it's very clear that the "war" issue could be a contentious one in Atlanta whether Boortz is there or not. We're planning to have a panel discussion on the issue and I expect it to be a hot topic in the Platform debates.

Boortz plans to speak mainly about eminent domain, by the way.

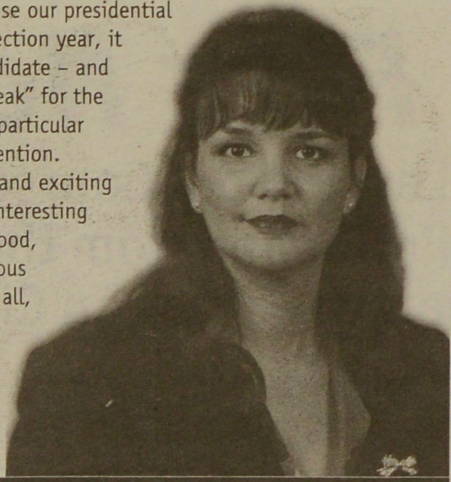
So you need to be there to vote on the Platform -- and to help choose our presidential candidate. This being an election year, it will be our presidential candidate -- and our Platform -- that will "speak" for the Libertarian Party -- not any particular speaker we had at our Convention.

This will be a wonderful and exciting weekend: We'll have many interesting and varied speakers, great food, all the exhibitors, the fabulous entertainment, and most of all, you will be there!

See y'all in Atlanta!

**Nancy Neale**

convention@hq.LP.org



## The Troika: A winning political team

*Continued from Page 1*  
support for the organization."

Or, as Goushaw-Collins said: "Greg Dirasian does creative work and production, and he has a real gift for getting nasty when the situation calls for it."

### You asked for it

When is it called for?

"They could be accused of spreading truths at times that are inopportune for their opponents," Neale said.

They don't apologize for that.

"We all agree that if special interests are backing the opposition, we have a moral obligation to disclose that to the voters," Goushaw-Collins said.

The Troika has a few hard-and-fast rules for the candidates they choose to stand behind.

"We are very selective about who we choose to run," Goushaw-Collins said. "We would never ask a candidate to violate their principles, nor would we ask them to say anything that was untrue. But candidates absolutely cannot make strategic or tactical decisions. If they can't agree with that, we won't run them."

### Don't sabotage your campaign

"After talking to other political campaign managers, they found that most candidates sabotage their own campaigns," Neale said. "Fred, being an elected official, has learned the essential skill of winning not only election, but re-election. There are things you have to do if you want to get elected."

"Getting Libertarians elected to

non-partisan office is actually easier than one might expect," Dirasian said. "But it does require a great deal of work. And for many Libertarians, it requires a shift in their way of presenting our ideas."

"For example, when Fred was asked to support a 'snow shoveling ordinance' he didn't launch a tirade about property rights," Goushaw-



■ Goushaw



■ Collins



■ Dirasian

Collins said. "Instead, he said, 'I am concerned about our seniors feeling that they have to get out there and shovel or risk getting a ticket. And I am concerned that this ordinance would be ripe for selective enforcement. Therefore I oppose it.'"

"He endeared himself to several constituencies, and this intrusive ordinance was defeated. It's all about how the Libertarian message is presented."

### It's hard work

A Troika-led campaign requires hard work. But given their record, election to the desired post is, though not a certainty, more likely than in candidate-run campaigns.

Success stories include:

\* David Eisenbacher, who narrowly missed election to the Troy, Mich., city council in 2001, won the seat in 2002.

\* Collins was re-elected to Berkeley City Council in 2001, running unopposed.

\* Andy LeCureaux won a city council seat in Hazel Park, Mich., population 30,000, in 2001, with Goushaw-Collins consulting and David Collver managing. LeCureaux was re-elected in November, 2003, becoming mayor pro-tem.

\* Martin Howrylak for Troy City Council, with wins in 2000 and 2003. In the latter he won 70 percent of the vote.

\* Erin Stahl won a 2003 bid for city council in St. Clair Shores, Mich., with a population exceeding 60,000.

"Thus, the Troika is 5 for 6, with 2 'assists' in other winners, over the last 3 years," Goushaw-Collins said.

The Troika has set up a political action committee—the Fully Informed Voter Effort, or FIVE-PAC—which allows them to "build up a war chest of funds to use in an emergency and enables us to get more money to a candidate when we have a large donor," Dirasian said.

"We have found the magic bullet. It's called hard work," he said. "And people understand that at long last, there are serious people working to reduce the size of government."

### Learning from The Troika

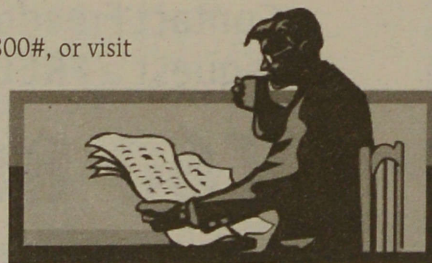
For those who've run unsuccessful campaigns, or who wish to improve their next run, you can learn the Troika's techniques.

"Any of our candidates who want to learn from them can do so" at the LP National Convention in Atlanta, where the three will be part of a candidate training workshop on Thursday, May 27, Neale said.

"Most people could learn a lot from the Troika."

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# LIBERTARIAN PARTY 2004 NATIONAL CONVENTION

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## Environmentalist Carl Pope to Speak at LP Convention

Sierra Club Executive Director touts free market solutions to environmental problems

by Geoffrey Neale

LP NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

For the record, I invited Carl Pope to be a speaker at our National Convention. So please reserve any ire for me alone. Over recent months, while I wrestled with the appropriateness of inviting Mr. Pope to speak to us, I talked to many libertarians to see how they felt. I was surprised that the vast majority were overwhelmingly in favor of the invitation, with few words of protest.

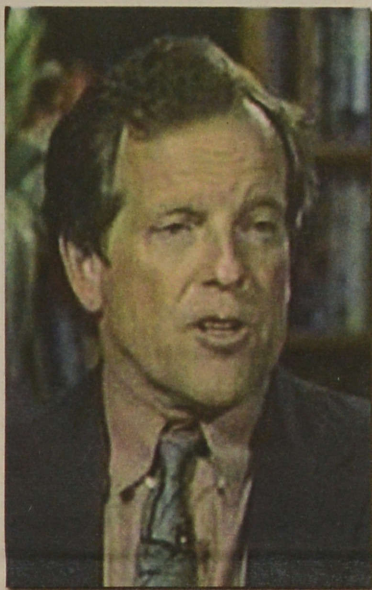
Carl Pope was the first person I became aware of who spoke of how the free market was a better solution to some environmental issues than government "solutions." The article I read (back in the mid 1980's) was an explanation of how government-subsidized water projects were subsidizing the beef industry. He clearly showed how tax dollars poured into various major water projects resulted in grain farmers paying below-cost rates for water, resulting in below-market prices for grain, leading to beef costs paid by consumers representing a fraction of the actual cost of raising cattle. His argument was that actual beef prices under a free market would be much higher, beef consumption would go down, and the amount of land used to raise the feed for the cattle would decrease, leaving more land in its natural state.

Although Carl Pope is *not* a libertarian, I found this argument to be completely consistent with what I believed as a libertarian. Since reading that article, I have wanted to hear more from this man.

Polls indicate that the majority of Americans are concerned about environmental protection. I consider myself to be a "functional" environmentalist; but as a libertarian, I do not look to the government to solve these problems, primarily because its track record has been abysmal.

In a recent poll of our membership, there was a very high interest in reaching out to the political left. There may be no better issue on which to find common ground with the Left than the Environment.

The Sierra Club is one of the



Carl Pope

major-league players in the environmental movement. Their membership exceeds not only the LP's, but that of both the Democrats and the Republicans. As their executive director, Carl Pope represents an organization committed to environmental protection and preservation. Many of us may hold the myopic viewpoint that their membership represents some far-left collection of tree-hugging socialist extremists; but the reality is that their membership is a broad cross-section of America. And I happen to know that there are more than a few tree-hugging Libertarians, and that we too are viewed myopically as extremists by much of America.

So why should we listen to Carl Pope? For me, first and foremost, is the fact that in order to reach out to any outside group, we must be effective politicians: first, we must *listen*. We should not assume that we can address the concerns of other groups until we fully understand their issues.

Secondly, I am a huge fan of Sun Tzu's *The Art of War*. The most important factor in any conflict is to *know yourself*—you must evaluate your strengths and your weaknesses. In order to defend yourself, you must *know where you are weak*; in order to preserve yourself, you must first determine how an opponent can defeat you. I believe that our defense of the environment could use some *bolstering*.

The next most important factor in conflict is to *know your opponent*. I do not consider the Sierra Club, or Carl Pope, as opponents. However, the Democrats and the Greens, who clearly are our political opponents, currently "own" the environmental issue. I think this is something we should not only fully understand, but actively work to change.

Additionally, being an engineer by temperament, I believe that the only way to be sure that you have built something solid is to attempt to destroy it, not attempt to defend it. If you cannot destroy it, then ask someone else to try. If they can't destroy it, maybe it's good. Likewise, I like when our libertarian principles and positions are *challenged*. I believe we should actively, *constantly* challenge our own beliefs. It's the only way we're going to strengthen our positions.

Lastly, as Chair of the LP, my job is to promote our Mission Statement, which can be summarized as "achieve political victory without compromising libertarian principles". We cannot do this by looking *inward*. We must look *outward*.

I have asked Carl Pope to speak on the subject of the compatibility of environmentalism and the free market. I know that his beliefs overlap with ours in many areas, and I know they differ in others. Carl warned me that we would probably consider him to be controversial. I like controversy. It makes you think. I want him to challenge us, because I believe the challenge will make us stronger.

I often feel I have more in common with those who disagree with me—yet are passionate about their beliefs, and are committed to making a difference in the world—than with so many that sit idly on the sidelines watching the world go by. I have no doubts regarding the passion and commitment of Carl Pope, and hope to learn and grow from this encounter.

I look forward to hearing him, and I'm absolutely confident that we will extend him a warm welcome in Atlanta!

For up-to-date convention information, please visit our new website:  
**www.LPconvention.org**

## RED, ROCK & BLUES

That's what we've named the Friday Night Concert and you don't want to miss it! Of course you know about the headliner, multi-Grammy-Award-winning blues/rock singer/guitarist (and Libertarian) **Jimmie Vaughan** and the very excellent kick-[you know what] rock-n-roll band **Poker Face**. Added to the line-up is the very talented singer-songwriter-guitarist **Dan Litwin**, who is also and LP Activist in California.



Jimmie Vaughan



Dan Litwin

Dan's been playing guitar since 1970, influenced by the classic rock guitarists. He's been a Libertarian activist since he first understood the concept that you should be free to do "anything that's peaceful." He has had many of his (very well-written) letters-to-the-editor published in *USA Today* and the *L.A. Times*, and over forty in his local *San Diego Union-Tribune* over the past decade.

Many of Dan's 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." You can listen to some of the songs from his CD on



Poker Face



## LIBERTARIAN PARTY 2004 NATIONAL CONVENTION

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## More Guest Speakers Confirmed

### Charlotte Twilight

Charlotte Twilight is currently Professor of Economics at Boise State University. She received a B.A. in English and American Literature from CSU, Fresno, an M.A. and a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Washington and a J.D. from the UW School of Law. She is also a member of the Washington State Bar Association.

Dr. Twilight is a contributing editor of *The Independent Review* and is an Adjunct Fellow with the Center on Peace and Liberty at The Independent Institute, and has spoken at their conferences, as well as for CATO seminars.

She is an expert on the expansion of the federal government's power in such areas as medical care and privacy, public education, data collection, broadcasting regulation, Social Security, and income tax withholding. Her numerous articles on these subjects have appeared in many respected economic and political journals. Her article "Prying Eyes: The End of Medical Privacy" was posted January 21, 2003 on FoxNews.com.

She is the author of two books, *America's Emerging Fascist Economy* and *Dependent on D.C.: The Rise of Federal Control over the Lives of Ordinary Americans*.

Some published reviews of *Dependent on D.C.* include "She shows that today's intrusive federal government, unthinkable to the Founders, is not some evil conspiracy but the natural result of Americans attempting to live at the expense of one another." — Walter E. Williams.

CATO Executive VP David Boaz (author of *Libertarianism: A*



Charlotte Twilight

*Primer*) says, "...[she] has developed an original and striking indictment of how the federal government has made more and more Americans dependent on it and has worked to increase the costs of resistance to government expansion....[it] reads like a good detective story."

Dr. Twilight claims that "as long as Congress and the federal bureaucracy exist, there will always be new research projects to discover what they're doing and why — and how they get away with it."

She is also a skier, runner, backpacker, and mountain climber.

### Stephen Baskerville

Stephen Baskerville holds a Ph.D. from the London School of Economics and currently teaches political science at Howard University in Washington, D.C. He is a regular radio commentator for the Free Congress Foundation. In January 2004 he became President of the American Coalition for Fathers and Children (ACFC).

In an interview published recently on *LP News Online*, Dr. Baskerville stated that ACFC encourages a new system of law to

put an end to the governmental practice of "taking children away from their fathers and criminalizing fathers for situations they can often do nothing about" and that "the absence of fathers in a family-based society is blamed for 'virtually all of today's social problems' but fathers are blamed for being absent even when they are not allowed their rights to be present."

His writings on family and fatherhood issues have appeared in many leading publications, including the *Washington Post*, *Washington Times*, *Liberty* magazine, *Women's Quarterly*, *Catholic World Report*, *Crisis* magazine, *Insight*, *World Net Daily*, *Family Policy*, *The American Spectator*, *American Enterprise* magazine, *National Review*, as well as *LewRockwell.com*.

These writings have led to appearances on such television programs as *The O'Reilly Factor*, *Hardball with Chris Matthews* and *Court TV with Fred Graham* and *Catherine Crier*.

He is an advisor to Men's Health Network and a spokesman for Men, Fathers and Children, International, a coalition of twelve fatherhood organizations from nine countries. He also serves on the board of affiliates of Gendercide Watch, a human rights organization that monitors gender-selective atrocities around the world.

A member of the Virginia LP, Dr. Baskerville says he was drawn to the Libertarian Party "because it is the only one that looks at individual liberty and responsibility as a primary goal." And he feels this issue is a "natural" for Libertarians and that he and the LP can reach out fathers who have suffered injustices in "family" courts.

This international scholar is also the past chairman of the Department of Politics and European Studies at Palacky University in Olomouc, Czech Republic.

Read some of his stuff at [www.stephenbaskerville.net](http://www.stephenbaskerville.net).



Mark Selzer

### Mark Selzer

Mark Selzer has been Southern Vice Chair of the California LP since 2001. He has also served as Chair of the Central L.A. LP. Born and raised in the Los Angeles area, he became active in the LP in 1998 when he noticed that his "fellow liberals were all becoming 'Big Brother' liberals, thinking that if they were in charge instead of conservatives, things would be better." He says, "I do not trust any Big Brother — no matter what philosophy they think they must force on others."

Mark is a man on a mission. He ran for State Assembly in 2000. In his relatively short time with the LP he has registered over 1000 new voters as Libertarian in his state, and has signed up over 100 as dues-paying LP members. He relentlessly works to take the LP message to the air waves, logging over 100 hours on radio and TV, including the numerous times he's been invited back.

And if that's not enough he created and hosts his own public access TV show, *The Libertarian Alternative*, which is possibly the highest-quality, most professional libertarian talk/interview show out there. He is convinced that "in politics, if it doesn't happen on TV, it doesn't happen at all." The show has played in over 200 cities, throughout California and around the country, on public access, government and educational channels.

Some of his guests have included American Indian activist Russell Means and gun rights activist Anna Z. He encourages his fellow Libertarians to purchase and use tapes of his shows in their

own area.

He will discuss why TV and radio are so important and how you can get booked. He will also fill us in on *what* to do and *what not* to do when you do get on there. His five major points are 1) Talking Your Way onto Talk Shows and Other Media; 2) How to Prepare For a Media Appearance; 3) Learning How to Sell Your Ideas; 4) Appearance and Why It is Important; and 5) Using Public Access Television.

Mark claims that the most important thing about having your ideas taken seriously is *how you look* and *how you present yourself*; the *text* of what you have to say is only about 7% of how you are judged.

You can check out some clips on his show's website at [www.flashhome.com/libalt](http://www.flashhome.com/libalt).

### Willy Star Marshall

Willy Star Marshall was elected Mayor of Big Water on November 6, 2001, having run for various offices twelve times before. He won by 23 votes in this tiny town in southern Utah just north of the Arizona border near Glen Canyon.

A couple of his first acts as mayor were to decriminalize marijuana and to repeal his own annual salary of \$13,000. He then cut property taxes by 54% and was still able to pave all the streets, most of which were previously dirt and gravel.

He also serves as vice-chair of the Glen Canyon Special Service

## Three Awards to Honor Libertarian Party Members

For several years, three awards have been presented at our National Conventions to Libertarian Party members who have exemplified the qualities of great activism, communication and leadership.

These three awards are:

The SAMUEL ADAMS Award — for the LP member who has been the *most effective activist* in building the national, state, and/or local parties, organizing outreach projects, running as a candidate, or serving as a campaign manager.

The THOMAS PAINE Award — for the LP member who has been the *most effective communicator* of Libertarian ideas and values, through written (and/or published) or spoken communication.

The THOMAS JEFFERSON Award (this is the Libertarian Party's highest honor) — for the LP member whose lifetime achievements merit the highest honors that best exemplify *outstanding leadership, character, and dedication* to the goals of the Libertarian Party.

All members of the Libertarian Party are eligible to submit nominees. You may of course "lobby" your fellow members, but *any LP member may nominate only ONE person for each award category* (no "stuffing the ballot box"). Send your nominations to me (e-mail or "snail"-mail, see below) *before April 1, 2004. You must include your name and your city and state.*

The top three nominees in each

award category will be announced in April. All members who have *pre-registered for the Convention* will be able to vote (exact procedure TBA) for one person from among the top three nominees for each award.

The three winners will be announced — and the awards presented — at the Grand Banquet on Sunday night at the Convention.

This information, along with a list of past recipients, will be the Convention web page. You may also contact me if you have any questions.

Yours in Liberty,  
Sean Haugh  
1821 Hillendale Rd  
#1B-332  
Durham NC 27705  
[director@LPNC.org](mailto:director@LPNC.org)

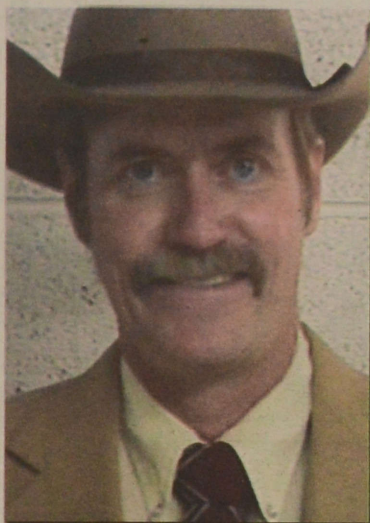


Please visit our dedicated 2004 LP Convention website:  
**[www.LPconvention.org](http://www.LPconvention.org)**

See **SPEAKERS** Page 3



**SPEAKERS** From Page 2



**Willy Star Marshall**

District (Water Board) and is on the Kane County Natural Resources Development Committee, two very important boards in his area.

Formerly a television station owner, he is currently an Emergency Medical Technician and a dispatcher for a helicopter ambulance.

Willy has been a fixture at LP National Conventions, having attended every one since 1981 (they used to be on odd-numbered years). He has also served on the LNC as a regional representative.

Very likable and always entertaining, he enjoys sharing his "adventures in office" and has also developed "Three Simple Rules" for getting elected to public office.

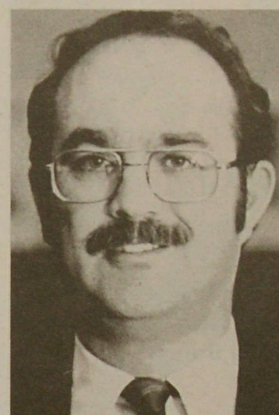
## Speakers Featured in Previous Editions



**Barbara Goushaw**



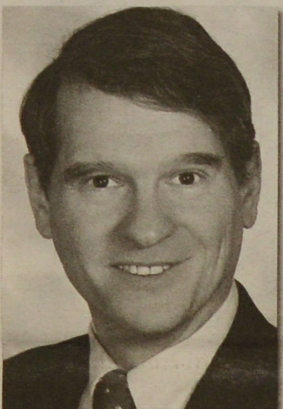
**Sharon Harris**



**David Nolan**



**Michael C. Colley**



**Ken Krawchuk**



**John Clifton**



**Mary Ruwart**



**Dean Cameron**

See **FEATURED** Page 4

# 2004 LP CONVENTION SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

	THURSDAY, MAY 27	FRIDAY, MAY 28	SATURDAY, MAY 29	SUNDAY, MAY 30	MONDAY, MAY 31
7		Breakfast with Speaker	Breakfast with Speaker	Breakfast with Speaker	
8		Welcome/Keynote	Speakers	Business Sessions	Business Sessions
9	Campaign Training Workshop (9am-5pm)	Business Sessions	Business Sessions	Workshop (1 track) "Libertarianism 101"	
10		Workshops (2 tracks)	Workshops (2 tracks)		
11	Committee Meetings (times TBD): Platform, Bylaws, Credentials, LNC			Lunch Break (TBD)	Lunch Break
12		Lunch with Speaker	Lunch with Speaker		
1		Speakers	Speakers	Business Sessions	LNC Meeting
2		Business Sessions	Business Sessions Presidential Debate (end time TBD)	Workshop (1 track) "Libertarianism 101"	
3		Workshops (2 tracks)	Workshops (2 tracks)		
4				Pre-Banquet Reception	
5	Dinner Break	Dinner Break (Torch Club Reception - invitation only)	Dinner Break (Liberty Pledge Reception - invitation only)		
6				Grand Banquet Honoring LP Presidential Candidates + Many Others (dancing afterward)	
7	"Welcome" Reception, Munchies • No-Host Bar, Live Music	Red, Rock & Blues concert featuring Jimmie Vaughan, Poker Face, Dan Litwin, & others!	Possible off-site event hosted by Georgia LP		
8					
9					
10					
11					

**Note:**

Some times may be revised slightly as needed.



# LIBERTARIAN PARTY 2004 NATIONAL CONVENTION

MAY 27-31, 2004

MARRIOTT MARQUIS • ATLANTA, GEORGIA

[www.LPconvention.org](http://www.LPconvention.org)



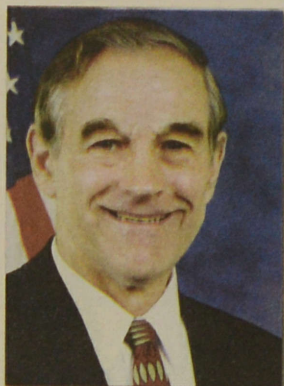
## FEATURED From Page 3



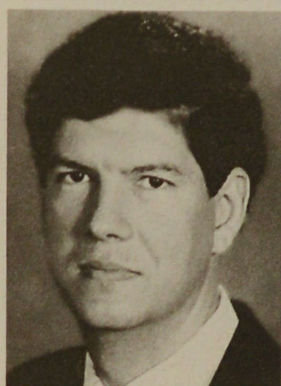
Richard Mack



Neil Boortz



Ron Paul



Dr. James W. Lark



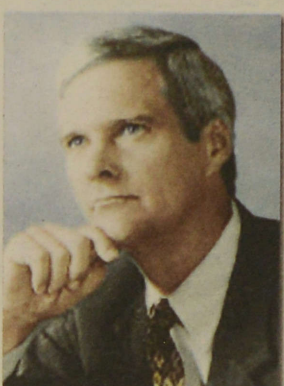
Carl Milstead, Jr., PhD



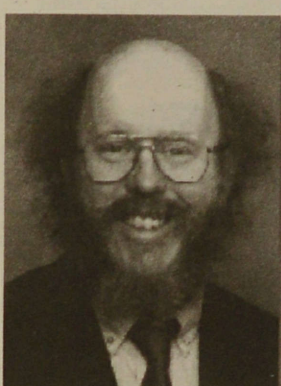
Barry Hess



Fred Collins



Judge James P. Gray



James Bovard



Kori & Chad Crow

"Liberty Works" logo, newsletter design & layout by Upton Ethelbah ([www.UnityDesign.net](http://www.UnityDesign.net))

## LIBERTARIAN PARTY 2004 NATIONAL CONVENTION

*Early Bird*

## REGISTRATION ORDER FORM

MAY 27-31, 2004

MARRIOTT MARQUIS • ATLANTA, GEORGIA

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## CONVENTION PACKAGE OPTIONS

WITH *Early Bird* PRICES.

GOOD THRU MARCH 31, 2004

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 OF CHOICE

These are *Early Bird* prices, good through **March 31, 2004.**

- ☐ Gold Package \$329
- ☐ Silver Package \$239
- ☐ Bronze Package \$149
- ☐ Speaker Package \$89
- ☐ Basic Package \$49
- ☐ Jimmie Vaughan Concert \$25

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](http://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](mailto: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.

**GOLD (\$329)** 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 (\$239)** 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 (\$149)** 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 (\$89)** 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.

**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.

"A la carte" meal events will be available for purchase at a later date once we determine exactly which speaker will be at which meal event.

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

**NOTE:** this form is for purchasing admission to Convention events and activities; becoming a credentialed Delegate is a separate process; contact your state party. (3/04)



# Sierra Club director to speak at LP Convention

Carl Pope, executive director of the Sierra Club, has joined the roster of guest speakers for the LP National Convention at the personal of National Chair Geoff Neale.

Neale acknowledged that Pope's invitation may be a controversial one because of the Sierra Club's environmental activity, but said Libertarians' concerns should be

allayed when they hear Pope speak.

"I've wanted to hear him speak [ever since] I heard him say that one of the best things we could do for the environment would be to cut all government subsidies to water projects, which would effectively cut subsidies to the cattle and grain industries," Neale said.

In some ways, a free market-driven society would also be a more environmentally friendly society, he said, noting that "environmentalists

aren't all left-wing socialist freaks who think government should be in control of everything."

Based in San Francisco, Calif., the Sierra Club boasts about 700,000 members and lobbies on the state and federal levels in the United States -- as well as in other countries -- on a wide variety of environmental issues.

Pope will talk about whether environmentalism is compatible with the free market, Neale said, adding

that he's interested in hearing a speaker who will challenge the Libertarian listeners.

"I have a feeling ... that we're going to agree on many things. Where we're going to disagree is on the extent to which the free market will work. I would say that the free market will totally work; he's going to say that there should still be some government control."

"Their organization has 700,000 members, more than the Democratic

and the Republican parties combined. They've obviously been more effective in attracting members than we have. If nothing else, you can't learn how to talk to the Left unless you're willing to occasionally listen to the Left as well."

"If these people are our enemies, I want to learn how they think," Neale said, paraphrasing Sun Tzu's "The Art of War."

"And if they're not our enemies, I want to reach out to them."

## Film

Continued from Page 10

at a state fair. And having heard Thompson's story, the filmmaker decided that a movie about the restaurateur-politician "would, in fact, be the story of libertarianism," he said.

Thompson said he is excited to see an early cut of the film, after being initially surprised at Hendrickson's interest in his story.

At the film's start, Thompson will be seen in his tavern in Tomah, the Tee Pee Supper Club, where every Thanksgiving for 10 years he "has opened up his restaurant for anyone who wants a free meal," Hendrickson said. "We were there filming this past Thanksgiving and they served over 1,600 meals."

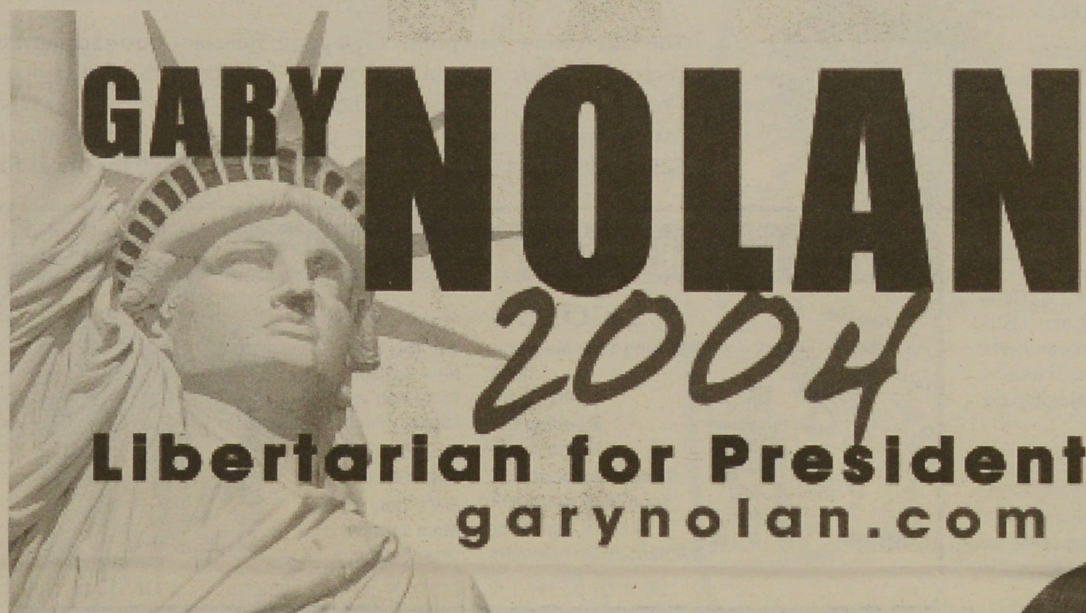
Although he is very involved in the state LP—the Wisconsin party has grown from about 200 members to approximately 600 members in his one year as chair—Thompson does not currently hold public office. That could change: He is considering a run for U.S. House or for state Senate in the future.

For now, though, he is taking a break from the political scene.

"I gave everything I had to that governor's race, and I got 10.4 percent," he said, noting that he came in third in the eight-way race. "We made a big impact, but it wasn't enough."

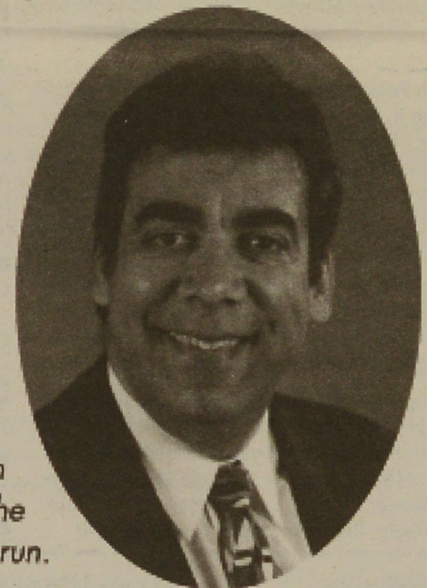
If another political campaign for Thompson is in the offing, Hendrickson's film could be the catalyst needed to bring attention to the race. When it's completed this spring, Hendrickson said, he plans to post it to a Web site, as well as offering it to television affiliates in Wisconsin and trying to get it screened at local film festivals.

"We'd love to premiere it in Tomah," Hendrickson said. "We want to get people thinking about freedom, and I think Ed Thompson epitomizes the idea of freedom."



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- 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."*



### Get Involved! Take a Stand! Make a Difference!

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

Volunteer and sign up to receive Nolan email updates.

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Make a generous contribution to help Gary's campaign succeed.

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[L4L.org/library/governmentout.html](http://L4L.org/library/governmentout.html)

**Libertarians for Life**

13424 Hathaway Dr. #18

Wheaton, MD 20906 301-460-4141

[libertarian@erols.com](mailto:libertarian@erols.com)





## THE REVIEWS ARE IN FOR THE LP'S OUTREACH NEWSPAPER, THE LIBERTARIAN VIEWPOINT:

**'OUTSTANDING'**

— RICHARD G. REED, CALIFORNIA

**'GREAT'**

— DAVID MOFFETT, KANSAS

**'EXCELLENT'**

— LOUIS DOOLEY, FLORIDA

**'PERFECT'**

— DEB HAMM, COLORADO

**'INTELLIGENT'**

— SARAH K., WISCONSIN

**'SUPERB'**

— RICHARD KERR, WEST VIRGINIA

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The Libertarian Viewpoint: An 8-page, full-color outreach newspaper! Contains articles on crime, poverty, corporate welfare, foreign policy, and more. Add to that fascinating "Fact Files," glowing media quotes about the Libertarian Party, and full-color photographs, and you have a professional-looking, eye-catching newspaper that asks readers to "imagine a better America." Includes a membership response form. **Sample: \$1 each ★ 100 for \$25 ★ 1,000 for \$100 ★ Includes free shipping. ★ Call for prices for bulk quantities (10,000+)**

### LP Literature & Books

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

■ **Libertarianism In One Lesson** by David Bergland. Expanded 8th edition. The classic introductory work. Outlines Libertarian positions on all major political issues and contrasts them to liberals and conservatives. A must-read. Softbound, 158 pages. **Cost: \$10 each; or 5 for \$35.**

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

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

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

### 2-COLOR ★ LIBERTARIAN PARTY BROCHURES ★ 4-COLOR



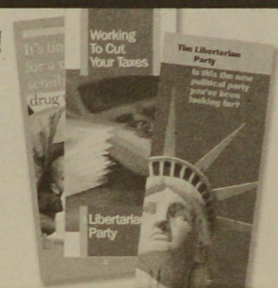
#### 2-COLOR

- **Making Your Neighborhood Safe Again**
- **Ending the Welfare State**
- **What Happened to Your Family Budget?**
- **Equal Rights for America's Gun Owners**

2-color brochures: Sample: 50¢ ★ Or \$7 for 100 / 4-color brochures: Sample: 50¢ ★ Or \$10 for 100

#### 4-COLOR!

- **Is This the New Political Party You've Been Looking For?**
- **Working to Cut Your Taxes**
- **It's Time for a More Sensible Drug Policy**



■ **LP "Fact Sheets"**: Updated for 2000: 2-page LP history (with political highlights, accomplishments, and victories from 1971-2001) and a comprehensive two-page bibliography (featuring more than 150 books about liberty!). Sold as a set. **Cost: Sample: 50¢ or \$10 for 100**

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

### Bumperstickers

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

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

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

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

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

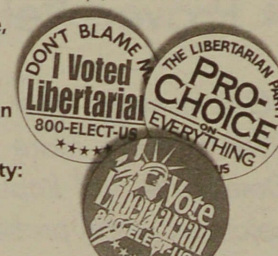
### Buttons

Cost: \$1 each; \$7.50 for 10; \$50 for 100

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

■ **Vote Libertarian** 1-800-ELECT-US

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



### Tools for Campaigning

■ **Libertarian Political Action: Techniques for Effective Campaigning**: 32 pages. Comprehensive explanation of winning campaign techniques for Libertarian candidates. Includes everything from creating a campaign timeline, deciding on issues, raising money, working with volunteers, dealing with the media, and organizing a Get Out The Vote (GOTV) effort. A must read for every Libertarian candidate — state, local, or federal! **Cost: \$3.00 each**

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

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

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

### Large Banners

■ **Large Banner**. (18" x 5'). White lettering on bold blue background. The first line says: "Libertarian Party." The second line says: "800-ELECT-US." Perfect for local Libertarian Party meetings, state or county conventions, Operation Politically Homeless (OPH) booths, etc. **Cost: \$40 each**

## ORDER FORM

There is no charge for standard shipping. Allow up to 2-3 weeks for delivery. Or: Add \$5 for same-day shipping. Call (202) 333-0008 Ext. 221 for instructions on rush deliveries. Minimum order: \$5.00. Orders shipped via UPS; please add \$5 for Post Office box deliveries. Make checks payable to: Libertarian Party.

### Ready-to-use Literature

- | Q'NTY | COST   |
|-------|--|
| _____ | TABLOID (4c): "Libertarian Viewpoint"            |
| _____ | BOOKLET (4c): "A New Vision for America"         |
| _____ | Brochure (4c): "Is This/New Political Party...?" |
| _____ | Brochure (4c): "Working to Cut Your Taxes!"      |
| _____ | Brochure (4c): "What Happened/ Family Budget?"   |
| _____ | Brochure: "Ending the Welfare State"             |
| _____ | Brochure: "Making Neighborhood Safe Again"       |
| _____ | Brochure: "Equal Rights/America's Gun Owners"    |
| _____ | Fluor "100% Pro-Gun Rights?"                     |
| _____ | America's Libertarian Heritage booklet           |
| _____ | Fact Sheets: LP history/bibliography (package)   |
| _____ | World's Smallest Political Quiz                  |
| _____ | "Million Dollar Bill" Literature                 |

### Bumper Stickers

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

### Banners

- |       |                                    |
|-------|------------------------------------|
| _____ | "LIBERTARIAN PARTY" (18" h x 5' w) |
| _____ | Second line says: "1-800-ELECT-US" |

### Tools for Campaigning

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

### Books for Sale

- |       |                                     |
|-------|-------------------------------------|
| _____ | <b>Why Government Doesn't Work</b>  |
| _____ | By Harry Browne                     |
| _____ | <b>Libertarianism In One Lesson</b> |
| _____ | By David Bergland                   |

### Buttons

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

### Total Due

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

[ ] Cash, check, or money order enclosed. (No corporate checks!)

Bill my: [ ] Visa [ ] MasterCard [ ] AMEX [ ] Discover

Acct. # \_\_\_\_\_

Expires \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Membership ID# [On label] \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

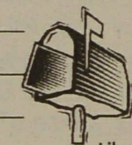
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## HOW TO PLACE YOUR ORDER



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**By Mail:**  
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2600 Virginia  
Avenue, NW, Suite 100  
Washington, DC 20037



# Oregon beats \$1.2 billion tax hike

Continued from Page 1

and taking part in town hall meetings; 18 formally organized county LP affiliates mobilized in grassroots campaigns on the local level; LP leaders throughout the state participated in public debates sponsored by groups like the League of Women Voters and covered by the media; and alternatives to raising taxes were developed.

"We got an enormous amount of press coverage," Cox said, noting that the press interest in the Libertarians' part in the battle continued from the signature-gathering stage straight through to the vote results, including a photo of himself and several coalition members on the front page of *The Oregonian* after the election.

Libertarians "only gathered perhaps 10% of the needed signatures, but we reaped coverage in about one-third to one-half of the stories on the topic," he said. "We really capitalized on our previous 6 years of groundwork."

Local television coverage of the Libertarian involvement in the campaign against Measure 30 included multiple spots on Portland and Bend area local TV, as well as invitations to town hall and similar TV specials discussing the vote.

"Measure 30 was a defensive fight," Cox said. "It needs to be our last defensive fight."

"We had an excellent coalition. We Libertarians will report some \$50,000 in contributions and expenditures for this 'No on 30' fight. We toured to more than 50 cities statewide, and we were invited to over two dozen panels, debates, and forums. We must keep this coalition together and strong as we move forward. We must march on the enemy."

Coming on the heels of January 2003's ballot-box defeat of Measure 28, which would have cost Oregon taxpayers \$725 million over three years, the victory over yet another tax hike is genuine cause for celebration, said Cox, who was the Oregon LP's 2002 candidate for governor.

The anti-tax campaign in 2003 cemented the Oregon LP's reputation as a political force to be reckoned with, said Cox, adding that this year's repeat makes the point even more clear.

"When we were working on Measure 28, we were the only organized opposition to that measure," Cox said. "We were the only political party opposing it."

Libertarians visited 27 cities around the state in 17 days, offering arguments against Measure 28, which 55 percent of voters opposed.

"The turnout for Measure 28 was close to 66 percent, which for a special election was considered very good," said Secretary of State Bill Bradbury, Oregon's elections chief, noting that it was one of the largest turnouts for a special election in state history.

Voters had close to three weeks to fill in their ballots on Measure 30. In the weeks running up to this vote, Cox and other LP leaders said the 16 Republican legislators in the state who voted in favor of the tax increase should resign. If not, they'll be challenged for their seats.

"The Libertarian Party will field candidates against every Republican legislator who voted for this tax," Oregon LP Executive Director Richard Burke promised in December.

Because the added tax money won't be on hand to bail the legislature out of a bloated budget, state officials have promised to put \$544.6 million in scheduled cuts into action, slicing education, public safety and social services.

The Legislature has been spending at an unsustainable level, and they need to get their priorities straight, Cox said.

Cox said he was particularly proud of having won 58 percent of the vote in Multnomah County, which he called "the most liberal

bastion in Oregon, where Portland is. We really brought it home to them, and they supported us on this."

If the state will start with a zero-base budget, institute an internal audit to protect the taxpayers' money from fraud and implement a fiscally conservative budget plan, they won't get in the current situation again and have to invent excuses for raising taxes, Cox said.

At a speaking engagement the day after the vote, Cox announced his candidacy for the Oregon House of Representatives, where he will run against an incumbent Republican, Mary Gallegos, for the District 29 seat.

"We need a Colorado-style Taxpayer Bill of Rights that limits not just taxes, but total state spending," as well as a "completely reformed state budget process that drives up efficiency and drives down cost," he said. "We need one good fiscal conservative in every race in November."

## POLITICS 2004

### Libertarian candidates chosen in Iowa

■ Endorsed at the Iowa LP convention were: **Christy Ann Welty** of Fairfield for U.S. Senate. Welty currently sits on the **Fairfield City Council**. **Kevin Litten** of Cedar Rapids, for the District 2 congressional race. **Jeremy Oehlert**, a 28-year-old Iowa State University student, for the District 5 congressional race. **Zach Smith**, another student and former Army specialist, was endorsed for state House District 45.

■ **Jerry Kohn**, seeking the Libertarian nomination for U.S. Senate from Illinois, took part in a debate Jan. 25 with Democratic and Republican candidates for the position. Illinois LP executive director **Jeff Trigg** said Kohn handled himself well: "While the Democrats were saying we should repeal the Bush tax cuts and the Republicans paid lip service to the notion of tax cuts, Jerry came right out and questioned the existence of the federal income tax, followed by a round of applause from the mostly conservative audience."

■ Members of the Fairfax County, Va., LP re-elected **Fred Childress**, **Chuck Eby** and **Jim Turbett** to the county committee, and **Paul Cox**, **Marianne Volpe** and **Dana Johansen** were elected to join them. Johansen was appointed chair.

■ **Rex Bell**, a Libertarian in Wayne County, Ind., was reappointed to the **Hagerstown Planning Commission**, and another LP member—**Brian Golliher**—was appointed to the same board. "Libertarians can serve on these boards to contain and reduce, not maintain and expand, government's role in our lives," Bell said.

## UPCOMING

### ■ March 26-27, 2004

**Virginia LP Convention**, Richmond Marriott Hotel, Richmond. Speakers include James Bovard (author, *Terrorism and Tyranny*), Gary Nolan and Michael Badnarik (candidates for 2004 LP presidential nomination), and Robert McBride (2003 Virginia LP candidate for Prince William County Board of Supervisors). For information, contact Jim Lark at: (434) 973-5958. Or e-mail: affiliates@lpva.com.

### ■ March 27, 2004

**Arkansas LP Convention**, Hot Springs Convention Center, Hot Springs. Speakers TBA. For information, e-mail: bfarlp@leapfroginet.com. Or call: (866) 244-7341. Or write: Arkansas LP, P.O. Box 15214, Little Rock, AR 72231.

### ■ April 3-4, 2004

**Maryland LP Convention**, Vitali's Restaurant and Pub. Speakers and workshops TBA. For information, contact Chip Spangler at (301) 346-2361. Or e-mail: chip4lib@yahoo.com.

### ■ April 3-4, 2004

**Tennessee LP Convention**, the Sheraton Columbia Hotel and Conference Center, Chattanooga. Speakers to include Sharon Harris of Advocates for Self Government, LP Presidential candidate Gary Nolan and LP Vice Presidential candidate Tamara Millay. For more information, e-mail state chairman Ray Ledford at chair@lptn.net, or Bill Bolen at valley.coordinator@lptn.net.

### ■ April 17, 2004

**Vermont LP Convention**, bi-annual convention, in Montpelier, VT. For more information e-mail chair@vtlp.org or visit www.vtlp.org.

### ■ April 23-25, 2004

**Ohio LP Convention**, Clarion Hotel and Suites, Cincinnati. Speakers TBA. For information, e-mail Steve Schulte at: srschult@iac.net. Or call: (513) 923-4299.

### ■ April 24, 2004

**Connecticut LP Convention**, The Colony Hotel, New Haven. Speakers TBA. For information, e-mail: vicechair@lpct.org.

### ■ April 24, 2004

**New York LP Convention**, Holiday Inn Martinique (Manhattan), New York City. Speakers include Gary Nolan (candidate, 2004 LP presidential

nomination). For information, visit: www.ny.lp.org. Or e-mail Thomas Ruks: TRuksLP@yahoo.com. Or call: (516) SOS-GOVT.

### ■ 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 Gary Nolan (candidate for the 2004 presidential nomination), Richard Winger (editor, *Ballot Access News*) and Richard Sanders (Washington state Supreme Court justice). For information, contact officemanager@lpws.org.

### ■ May 13-15, 2004

**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. Questions, comments, suggestions, e-mail: convention@hq.LP.org.



## THE FORUM

# Should the LP reconsider its position on immigration?

At present, the Libertarian Party favors open immigration, for which there are two principal arguments.

The first argument is based on the benefits of free trade. Certainly, when trade occurs both parties believe (usually correctly) that they will benefit from it. Barring trade across a national border denies the trading parties those benefits, though barring trade does benefit people offering competing goods and services. But in terms of living standards, as measured in dollars, the benefits of trade outweigh the losses to competitors.

It is also true that the movement of labor across a national border can increase living standards, again as measured in dollars. That may not be true, however, if the immigrants commit crimes or fail to pay for all the services they use.

California, for example, has a \$38 billion deficit, a substantial portion of which can be attributed to services for immigrants who pay little in taxes.

Last year, immigrant use of hospital emergency rooms cost taxpayers \$340 million in Los Angeles County

alone — according to the Department of Health Services — an amount that has been increasing for years. Immigrant crime is also increasing and almost a fourth of the California prison population is from Mexico. So, in terms of dollars alone, recent immigration has been a net loss in California.

But people act to achieve values, not just dollars. If people don't want immigrants taking over their neighborhoods and cities and changing American culture, then immigration has no value to them. That loss is not considered when calculations are made in dollars.

The Libertarian Party, however, is the party of principle, not the party of economic benefits; and the non-aggression principle says that people should be free to go where they wish — except, of course, that they cannot go onto private property unless invited.

Immigrants could therefore come onto only public, government-owned property (public airports,

roads, parks, etc.) and onto private property when invited to do so. But the LP also holds that taxation is theft. Government property is property that was purchased with stolen tax dollars, so it really belongs to the taxpayers, not to the government. The taxpayers, then, as voters, should be able to make the decision as to whether to permit immigrants on public property, which is really their property.

**“THE LP SHOULD  
neither favor nor  
condemn  
immigration  
but should  
leave it up to  
the candidate.”**

The LP position should be changed to permit LP candidates to represent the taxpayers on the position of immigration. That is, the LP should neither favor nor

By Richard J. Fuerle

# Republicans concede ‘small government’ battle

This past summer our county organizations sponsored outreach booths at many of Ohio's county fairs. At one of the fairs, I had a very encouraging experience. During a slow period, I decided to pay an incognito visit to another party's booth.

When I stopped by the GOP's booth, one of the rank-and-file began to chat me up on the candidates running in this year's races. Feeling rather pesky, I asked this volunteer a direct question concerning his party's intentions:

“When are you Republicans going to deliver on all these promises that you've been talking about for years? You know, making government smaller and all that?”

“Well, first we need to fix all of our problems. That takes money.”

“So, you're going to shrink government by making it bigger?”

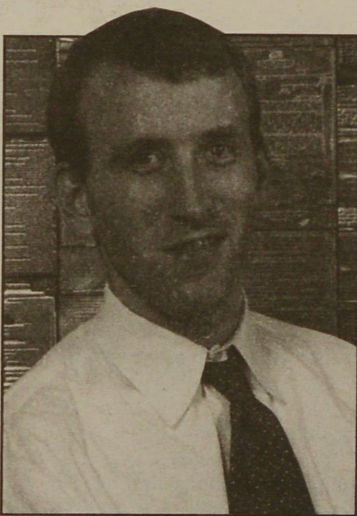
“If you want small government, you should talk to the Libertarians. They're just around the corner.”

There you have it, folks — straight from the elephant's mouth. The supposed party of small, constitutionally limited government is finally admitting the truth: They are not for reducing the size, scope and cost of government.

They're not for restoring the constitutional framework our Founders established. They're not for releasing us from the oppressive burden of our current system. In short, they're not for individual liberty.

Now, the question is: Are we ready to pick up the banner they have arrogantly cast aside?

By Jason Hallmark



■ About the author: Jason Hallmark is the chair of the Libertarian Party of Ohio. This essay reprinted from the Winter 2003 issue of The Ohio Libertarian.

Give me your tired, your poor,  
your huddled masses yearning  
to breathe free...

“GIVE ME YOUR TIRED, YOUR POOR,  
YOUR HUDDLED MASSES YEARNING TO BREATHE FREE,  
THE WRETCHED REFUSE OF YOUR TEEMING SHORE,  
SEND THESE, THE HOMELESS, TEMPEST-TOST TO ME,  
I LIFT MY LAMP BESIDE THE GOLDEN DOOR!”

THIS TABLET, WITH HER SONNET TO THE BARTHOLOMEW STATUE  
LIBERTY ENGRAVED UPON IT, IS PLACED UPON THESE WALLS  
IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
EMMA LAZARUS

—The Statue of Liberty

condemn immigration, but should leave it up to the candidate.

Both the Republicans and the Democrats favor immigration, while most Americans want immigration greatly reduced, according to a recent Roper ASW poll. Thus, the majority of Americans are represented by neither of the two major parties on this issue. These unrepresented people are looking for a party to represent them. But because the LP favors open immigration, it will not be the LP.

The book “Mexifornia: A State of

Becoming,” by Victor Davis Hanson, blames California's immigration problems on the “Corporate/Libertarian Right.”

As more Americans are adversely affected by immigration, it will become the deciding issue for many people, and they will not vote Libertarian even if they agree with us on other issues.

■ About the author: Richard D. Fuerle is a semi-retired patent attorney. He lives in Grand Island, New York.

# The Brady Bunch visits Wonderland

The Brady Campaign is once again asking us to believe the impossible.

Every January, the gun control group issues a state report card, giving each state a grade on the basis of their gun laws. One look at their report card reveals that the grades have no relation to how safe people are in the state.

Their report card is somewhat reminiscent of Lewis Carroll's classic “Alice in Wonderland.” When Alice doesn't believe the White Queen is 101 years old, she is encouraged by the Queen to spend more time trying to believe the impossible.

“When I was your age, I always did it for half-an-hour a day,” the Queen smiled. “Why, sometimes I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast.”

Well, the Brady Bunch would have us believe many impossible things. Here are six for starters.

Vermont gets a grade of D- because, supposedly, the “state's weak laws make it too easy for criminals, the mentally ill and juveniles to get guns.”

But that's laughable, for crime in Vermont is virtually non-existent. In 2003 Vermont earned the Safest State in the nation award from the Morgan Quitno Press — a group of statisticians who rank each state according to its safety record.

The Green Mountain State consistently has one of the lowest

crime rates in the nation: They have earned this “Safest State” award three times in the last ten years.

The real reason the Brady Bunch doesn't like the state of Vermont is because it has relatively few restrictions on firearms. In fact, anyone in the state can carry a gun without first getting a permit or submitting to a government background check.

For a similar reason, the folks at the Brady Campaign also gave Alaska a low grade.

The Land of the Midnight Sun is now following in Vermont's

footsteps, having passed a law last year allowing citizens to freely carry firearms without first obtaining government permission.

The Brady Bunch doesn't like this at all. They awarded a D- to Alaska — the second unbelievable grade — and sentenced the entire state to the “time-out chair.”

No, that's not a joke. Their press release says that Alaska was “put in the Time-Out Chair for passing a new law that allows people to carry concealed handguns without even having a permit. Gun violence in the state could increase....”

A look around the nation shows just the opposite: Crime dramatically

See BRADY Page 22

**Miss Liberty's Guide to Film and Video**  
The definitive guide to Libertarian film. A great gift!  
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## THE VOLUNTEER

# Show respect through effective communication

Communication is an essential skill in politics, both for broadcasting our message outside the party and for conversing with others within the Party.

Effective communication occurs only when the message sent is identical to the message received.

In the game "Telephone," people relay a message around a circle, each one whispering the message to the next person. When the message travels around the circle, the final message often has little similarity to the original message.

A technique called intentional dialog can be used to ensure that the message sent is the same as the message received, minimizing misunderstanding and promoting effective communication. By using intentional dialog, people can avoid disagreements based on misunderstanding. Before arguing with someone, it is best to make sure that you really disagree!

Intentional dialog is a very simple technique. One person is a speaker, and the other is a listener. If the technique is used with larger groups, there is always one speaker and multiple listeners.

The speaker controls the conversation until the speaker relinquishes that role. The listener must agree to this, or the technique will fail. When the speaker relinquishes control of the dialog, then the roles are reversed. This gives the former listener a chance to speak.

Here are the simple steps of an intentional dialog:

The speaker begins by stating some message—a viewpoint, position, opinion or feeling. The message must be short and concise. Loading the message with too much content can interfere with comprehension. The speaker can add to the message later.

The listener then repeats – in the listener's own words – the points the speaker made. This is called "mirroring." By mirroring the speaker's points in the listener's own words, the listener demonstrates an understanding of the speaker's message.

The listener asks: "Did I get it?" The speaker answers either "yes," "no," or "yes, but..."

If the answer is "Yes, but..." the speaker makes another short and concise statement to attempt to clarify the message. This continues until the listener fully understands.

Then the listener invites the speaker to continue to expand on the broader message by asking, "Is there more?" This ensures that the speaker – who sticks to short



and concise statements – gets an opportunity to say everything desired regarding the subject at hand. If the speaker has more, the cycle begins again at the top. This continues until the speaker has nothing more to say.

Then the roles are reversed. The initial speaker now becomes the listener, and the initial listener now becomes the speaker. They continue to swap roles until there is a complete understanding of the viewpoints of each on the subject matter being discussed.

This technique is extremely helpful in avoiding situations where people are speaking "past each other," when people are talking about different things, with neither person understanding or responding to what the other is actually talking about.

Intentional Dialogue can keep this from happening, by ensuring that your points are understood by others and that you understand the points that others are making.

The final step in Intentional Dialogue is called validation.

The listener tells the speaker, "I can understand how a person with your background and experience would feel as you do."

The purpose of validation is often misunderstood. The listener is not saying, "I agree with you" or "What you are saying is right." The listener is merely accepting that a person in the speaker's position can reasonably hold the opinions expressed by the speaker.

If the speaker is a socialist, it is perfectly valid for the speaker to support Social Security, Medicare and government-provided day care

for children!

Validation is very important in communicating both with others within the Party and externally, with those not in the Party.

In the internal context of a campaign, there are often differing opinions regarding strategy. By using intentional dialog, the campaign team can be sure that they begin by truly understanding the alternative strategies under consideration. By validating each others' statements, they acknowledge that others have a basis for advocating a given strategy.

Instead of arguing, the campaign team begins by understanding and respecting their differences of opinion. After validation, a positive outcome with broad support is much more likely to result. Without validation, a lot of argument and bad feelings are more likely to result.

In the context of a candidate interview, a one-way intentional dialog technique can be used when the interviewer is speaking. The interviewer's ideas can be mirrored, showing that the candidate is listening and understands, signaling respect for the interviewer. The candidate's own views are offered in the interview as well.

As the interview draws to a close, the candidate can validate the interviewer's views and note that the candidate's different background and experience are the basis of the candidate's differing views. The net effect can be greater respect of the candidate and the LP because instead of belittling the interviewer or the interviewer's views, the candidate has validated them and perhaps established in the mind of the interviewer that the candidate's views are also reasonable.

Validation brings people closer together by exhibiting outward

respect for the rights of other people to form their own beliefs or feelings.

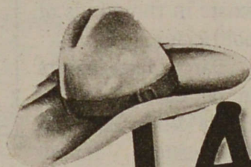
Validation is the antithesis of the macho-flash response, "If you don't understand and agree with me, then either you don't believe in freedom or liberty or you just don't understand me!"

By validating another person's opinion, you create a foundation on which to build mutual respect and understanding. You also create an environment in which you can work constructively to build coalitions with people who agree with you on some issues but disagree with you on others. Validation is a critical element in building working coalitions under such circumstances.

Intentional dialog—including validation—is a technique which can greatly aid Libertarians in building our party and electing people to public office.

Effectively used, it can help us to focus on areas of agreement while helping us to treat each other and those outside the Party respectfully in areas where we disagree.

■ **About the author:** Steven Givot is secretary of the Libertarian National 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!!



### HANDWRITING ANALYSIS

—AND/OR—  
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\$10.00 each. Please send S.A.S.E. to:  
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E137, San Marcos, TX 78666

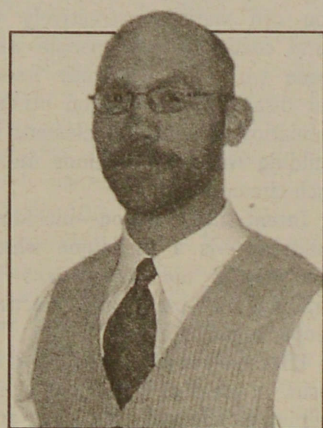


## THE EDITOR

# How libertarian is 'libertarian enough'?

**H**ow libertarian is the new editor of *LP News*? That's what I'm trying to figure out. Although I am said editor, the varying opinions of other Libertarians makes it hard for me to judge my own libertarianism. I've been reading the letters to the editor, listening to people's comments over the phone, and fielding scores of e-mails from people who don't agree on political and social points. Are Libertarians for or against the Iraq war? Do we need to change the LP policy on immigration? Do you have to be a 100 percent "Big L" libertarian to represent the LP in public office?

Even free trade comes into the question, with a couple of well-meaning folk explaining to me that foreign goods entering the U.S. market is "initiation of force," because it takes American jobs away, thereby hurting American workers.



**By J. Daniel Cloud**

**LP News Editor**

When I interviewed for this job, LP executive director Joe Seehusen said he didn't require that the editor be 100 percent libertarian, and it's a good thing: The World's Smallest Political Quiz ranks me at a notch down from the peak, on the "personal self-government" scale.

Yes, I'm a member of the party. Yes, I wholeheartedly oppose the initiation of force to achieve social or political goals.

But I don't feel quite as libertarian as perhaps I expected, in part because so many long-time LP members continue saying how non-libertarian others in the party are. Being introspective by nature, I am forced to wonder if I'll be considered one of the woefully under-libertarianized party rejects.

In my 31 years, I've been a landscape artist, a tree surgeon, a wedding photographer, a tow boat deckhand on the Tennessee River, a CNC machine operator and a coffeeshop barista.

I've worked in an ER X-ray department, mucked out stalls in a horse barn, roofed houses, replaced clutches and transmissions in cars, painted boats and hunted copperheads around a catfish pond.

I've done a lot, but I've never before been a "Big-L" libertarian. I've never edited a libertarian newspaper. And I've certainly never had to tell long-time Libertarians that their hard-held beliefs aren't really libertarian.

Do we have to agree on every issue? Or is disagreement on some contentious problems to be expected?

I will continue to believe that the federal red-orange-yellow alert chart serves primarily to let terrorists know when our guard is down, that my taxes are entirely too high, and that Tom Waits, Lyle Lovett and Miles Davis are three of the best musicians ever.

You should be free to disagree with me on any of these issues. But if you accuse me of being non-libertarian because I disagree with you on certain points, you're missing the fundamental point: My primary goal is to change my government, with the eventual goal of convincing the powers that be to leave me alone.

Personal goals aside, my assignment with *LP News* is a journalistic one. My background is primarily in newspaper journalism, and I hope to use that experience to accurately depict what's happening in the libertarian movement.

Am I going to agree with every letter to the editor? No, there have already been items I disagree with.

Will I refuse to print those letters, Forum essays and articles that I happen to disagree with? Most assuredly not.

My purpose is to speak of both the internal and the external workings of the party not as a cheerleader, a marketing whiz, a politician or a campaign manager, but as a reporter.

I hope I can do the job effectively, filling the rather large shoes that Bill Winter left behind; I hope I can help Libertarians avoid the in-fighting that is—in my opinion—the greatest shortcoming of the LP.

Most importantly, I hope we can do what we claim is our mission: Elect Libertarians to public office and work toward a free country.

# Do we need federal childcare?

**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

**E**verybody knows there is a child care crisis -- and that there aren't enough preschools and day care centers to hold all of the children lining up to get in. Right?

Wrong. As frequently occurs, what "everybody knows" is what everybody has been told. It often transpires that we have all been given the same faulty information.

Advocates of government-run child care say private child care is too expensive for many people, that a shortage of day care centers drives the cost up. They say it's a taxpayer responsibility to provide early childhood education and day care for all families who need it, and that most families with children need the help.

The truth is that this is a manufactured crisis that primarily exists in the minds of politicians.

Darcy Olsen reports in a Cato Institute Policy Analysis, "The Advancing Nanny State: Why the Government Should Stay Out of Child Care," that there is a 12 percent vacancy rate in day care centers across the country, not including the unregulated centers in people's homes. In addition, roughly 40 percent of family day care providers report having space for more children.

The point is that there is plenty of room in day care centers for children whose parents want to put them there. However, relatively few parents actually want to do so.

In the mid-90s, the Wirthlin Worldwide polling firm asked parents in a nationwide survey to rank nine different daycare options. Heading the list was having a parent stay home with the child, followed by asking another relative to help with the job. Coming in dead last: government-sponsored day care centers and preschools, with professional day care centers faring slightly better.

## Put it into action

To a large extent, these parents have already put their wishes into action. In 1997, when the Census Bureau did the first nationwide study examining who takes care of

## Libertarian SOLUTIONS

children, it found that about a third of all preschoolers were "presumably under maternal care."

Out of 19.6 million preschool-age children in the USA, 7.2 million spent most of their time at home with their mother, the report says.

Among those children who were in a non-maternal child care arrangement, grandparents were the leading care providers, caring for a full 21 percent of preschool-age children. In-home care by fathers and other family members accounted for another 20 percent of the nation's children.

Of the remaining children, 12

claims of politicians.

Yes, skeptics might argue that if all those poor fathers and mothers could find decent day care centers, they wouldn't be trapped in the home and they'd be able to go to work or school and "make something of themselves."

But several recent studies show that over 70 percent of parents of young children say that having a parent at home is the best arrangement for young children, and a huge majority of parents say they actually want to stay home with the kids. It doesn't make sense for politicians to insist that all these parents actually want the opposite of what they say they want.

And they insist that we want the government to pay for it.

George W. Bush thinks he'll solve the day care "problem" by throwing money at it. Bill and Hillary Clinton thought it would "take a village" to pay for it.

It may very well take a village, but parents have demonstrated time and again that they want to select the village; they don't want politicians making child care decisions for them.

In a Jan. 25 televised forum on women's issues at Dartmouth College, Democratic presidential hopefuls Howard Dean, Dennis Kucinich and Joe Lieberman each

detailed their plans for preschool and day care policies.

Kucinich said he would provide federally funded day care programs and universal pre-kindergarten (as well as free college tuition) by cutting defense spending.

Dean said he would fund federalized child care on a sliding scale, and fund it by cutting spending in Iraq.

Lieberman said he would fully fund Head Start—which provides preschool for low-income families—and increase spending on federal children's programs, paying for the changes by repealing Bush's tax cuts for higher income levels.

The statements of these three Democrats tell some people what they want to hear about child care—that it is the government's responsibility to pay for it, that people have a right to expect the federal and state governments to pay for it, and that the next president will provide it.

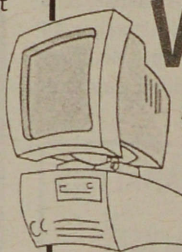
As in any socialist endeavor put forth in the United States, the politicians are careful to couch the child care issue in "public good" speech, making sure we know that they're

See **CHILDCARE** Page 22



percent were in day-care centers; 7 percent were cared for by a home-based day care provider; and 6 percent went to nursery schools or preschools. Only one-quarter of the preschool-aged children in America were in non-immediate-family settings, while the vast majority of children were cared for at home, with family members. Clearly, millions of Americans simply don't want to send their kids off to day-care centers, notwithstanding the

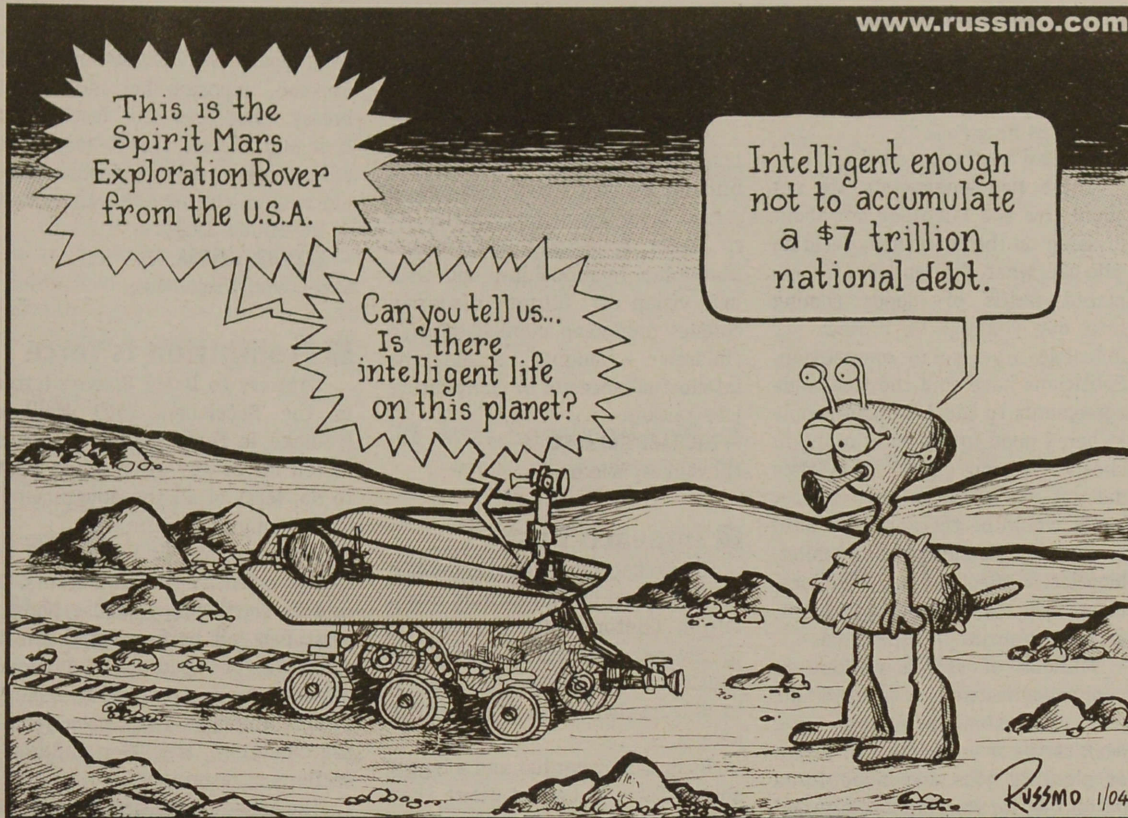
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## THE MAILBOX

### Change your platform

Richard Mack is launching his campaign for Utah governor stating he will "support, obey, and defend" the Constitution of the United States and the Utah state constitution. With all that has changed recently in Constitutional amendments, I'm not sure that is such a good platform for Libertarians to run on.

Constitutions really don't mean a hill of beans anymore since they are constantly being rewritten to fit the dogma of the ruling party. Maybe Mack should stand on the platform of changing constitutions back into documents of liberty instead of documents of bullying.

—JOHNNA BUNN  
Chicago, Illinois

### Spiteful letters

Please in the future discard any letter or Pulse response that has any reference in it to someone else not being a true Libertarian. I know some will scream "censorship," but as it is nothing more than childish name calling, I don't agree.

Some think that every one involved in the party has to agree with 100% of the party platform [as well as] their own interpretation of the platform.

For example, Mr. Jim Davies writes he would like to boot out 67 percent of the current membership for disagreeing with him about open borders. [The MailBox, Feb. 2004] Most Americans are concerned about the possibility of terrorists crossing our open borders, hardly an unreasonable concern in today's world.

In the future, if you disagree with someone's position on an issue, please explain how you believe it is

misguided, not by name-calling and cries to remove them from the party.  
—KEVIN R. FLEMING  
Indianapolis, Indiana

### Anti-smoker's rights

Robert Willcutt's spiteful and insulting condemnation of non-

**MOST AMERICANS**  
.....  
**are concerned**  
.....  
**about the**  
.....  
**possibility of**  
.....  
**terrorists**  
.....  
**crossing our open**  
.....  
**borders...**

smokers [RE: "They are insane," Jan. 2004 MailBox] demands a reply. He asserts smokers' rights while being totally blind to everyone's right to breathe comfortably.

Disturbingly, he goes on to wish us all dead. Such death-to-the-enemy emoting is not Libertarianism, it's just selfish, anarchistic hatred.

Both smokers and non-smokers have rights, rights that collide whenever and wherever we meet.

Since Libertarians are not anarchists, we still condone some government to peacefully resolve such collisions of rights. Furthermore, Libertarians with varying interests can favor many different policies without abandoning our shared principles. In other words, not every issue can be solved by principles alone.

With nearly 80 percent of

Americans now free from smoking, smokers should accept the fact that they are rapidly losing the power to make many suffer for the convenience of a few. It's very possible that within a generation or two, smoking in the presence of others could be as socially taboo and walled off as urinating is today.

—JEFF FISHER  
Vancouver, Washington

### Not ready to run

I agree with Kevin Rollins's Stability Checklist for LP Candidates, in the January [2004] issue of LP News. Anyone who scored 10 or more points on the items listed would indeed make a salable candidate for public office.

Because of this, I could not personally consider running for any government position. Frankly, I score but a measly 5 points on the aforementioned quiz.

But there is much we party members who are not running for office can do to advance the cause of liberty, such as writing letters to the editor of local newspapers, to inform the populace about the LP.

And of course, as we all know, the general public could sorely use a dose of "Freedom" enlightenment.

—BARRY ROWE  
Melbourne, Florida

### Globalization furor

The issue of jobs going overseas will be excused as good for the country by both the Republicans & the Democrats. They are the ones who enabled the transfer of your jobs through NAFTA and GATT, the two agreements that bring tariff-

See THE MAILBOX Page 20

## THE PULSE

# R or D in 2004?

We know one thing for certain: A majority of Libertarians aren't fans of George W. Bush.

Another thing: While Libertarians would prefer a government decreasing in size, many of those who responded to this month's (unscientific) Pulse question are willing to accept governmental gridlock as a temporary substitute for a libertarian federal government.

The question—"If a Libertarian doesn't win the presidential election, would we be better off with a Democrat or with George W. Bush getting re-elected?"—prompted 40 responses.

Of the responses, 15 (close to 38 percent) favored a Democratic candidate being elected, with about half of those mentioning the word "gridlock" in their response: If there's a Democrat in the White House to offset the GOP-controlled Congress, the readers reason, not much will happen politically in the near future.

Ten of the responding readers, a solid 25 percent, opined that Bush is a better option than any of the Democratic hopefuls, with most mentioning the Iraq war or anti-terrorism efforts as their reason for supporting Bush if a Libertarian doesn't make it into the presidency.

And, in response to the second part of this month's question—"Or doesn't it matter whether it's a D or an R who gets elected?"—eight readers (20 percent) said they think either a Democrat or a Republican would be a lousy choice for president, while another seven (about 18 percent) answered that the only acceptable choice is a Libertarian. They aren't willing to even consider another option.

Of course, some readers waffled, answering that Bush has some good points, the Democrats aren't entirely negative, and that there's not much chance of a Libertarian getting elected so the question is meaningless. In those cases, the prevailing response was tallied, in place of the two or three muddled additions.

Here's what LP News readers had to say:

■ The best thing to happen would be a divided government. If the president and Congress spend more time fighting each other, that is a good thing for the American people.  
—ROGER FRITZ, Roland, Iowa

■ Since the Republicans controlled most states' redistricting in 2002, they'll gain seats in Congress in '04. That means we need a Democratic president to return to glorious gridlock.  
—BRIAN GOMEZ, Cleveland, Ohio

■ It doesn't matter. I will never vote for anyone but a Libertarian candidate.  
—BARRY ROWE, Melbourne, Florida

■ Liberty would be best served if the White House and the Congress were run by opposite parties. I'd rather have them fighting amongst themselves than have them all on the same side. Gridlock is good!  
—JOHN HOLTON, Marietta, GA

■ It doesn't matter. While the Dems swing things left and the Repubs swing right, the march mostly moves to more government and less freedom.  
—PHILIP MITCHELL, Concord, California

■ Given a choice between Bush and the eventual Democratic candidate, I would favor Bush for one reason: the Supreme Court. With a Democrat, you will probably end up with justices who believe in a Constitution whose meaning changes.  
—STEVEN LAW, Lajes Field Air Base, Azores, Portugal

■ Twiddle Dean or Twiddle Dubya: I really don't care which side of the road to ruin we drive on.  
—JEREMY LYNES, Atlanta, Georgia

■ Since [Democrat Dennis] Kucinich has a strong pro-third party stance, as well as being in favor of legalizing marijuana and ending the Patriot Act, if he wins the nomination I'd not only prefer him to Bush, I'd consider voting for him.  
—PAUL TRIPP, Omaha, Nebraska

■ Given Bush, I'd prefer a Democrat. A party split between President and Congress is a deterrent to more legislation.  
—JIM BRENTAR, Euclid, Ohio

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## THE PULSE

Continued from Page 19

■ It doesn't matter. Both Democrats and Republicans over-tax us, destroy our rights, and send us into unjustified wars. Either way, we get screwed. This question is akin to asking if it's better to be executed by hanging or firing squad -- not much of a choice!

—JOE JOHNSON, Fredrick, Colorado

■ Are you kidding? The lesser of two evils is evil. Anyone who believes in freedom, peace, and personal responsibility really only has one decision...to vote Libertarian in 2004.

—JIM FULNER, Cumberland, Wisconsin

■ There is no question that the U.S. would be better off with George W. Bush than with any of the Democrats. He has shown that he will defend our country against all attackers. Defending the country is the most important responsibility of the federal government.

—MARTIN BRETHERTON, Atlanta, Georgia

■ None of the candidates running appear to be Libertarian enough to deserve our votes. Only a true Libertarian running as Democrat or Republican would merit our votes.

—JAMES M. YOUNG, Reno, Nevada

■ It doesn't matter if a Republican or Democrat is elected president. I'd probably die in the voting booth if I was told I couldn't leave before making a choice.

—CRAIG TODD, Elgin, Illinois

## May Question: Can art be libertarian?

Author Ayn Rand is a hero to many Libertarians, with her philosophy of objectivism and denouncement of collectivism. Other authors—including Camille Paglia, Robert Heinlein, Terry Goodkind—have their adherents in libertarian circles, as well.

And there are musicians, as well. LP News recently reported that Queensryche leader Geoff Tate has libertarian leanings; blues guitarist Jimmie Vaughn is a libertarian and is slated to play at the LP national convention in Atlanta in May, and the list goes on.

Some visual artists—painters, sculptors and photographers—are libertarians, but would the work they produce be considered libertarian, as well? Should any artistic work produced by a libertarian artist automatically be considered libertarian in its own right?

Think hard, now: Can visual art be libertarian? If so, are there any artists producing such work for a wide audience?

■ **QUESTION: Consider your favorite artists, whether authors, musicians or visual artists: Who are the libertarians in the crowd? Give an example or two, explaining how the artist (or the work) is libertarian. In the future we may write more about your favored artists. Or if you think art cannot be libertarian, tell us why. Please keep responses to 100 words.**

■ **DEADLINE:** April 8, 2004.

## April Question: Boot Neal Boortz?

Listen to the anti-Neal Boortz crowd and the syndicated radio talk show host is a statist devil. He's a fanatical supporter of the U.S. invasion of Iraq and thinks the FBI ought to investigate anti-war protestors. He's not a libertarian, they say—and it's an outrage that he's been invited to speak at the 2004 LP National Convention. Listen to the pro-Boortz crowd and the guy is 98% Libertarian—but one who happens to disagree with the LP about the War on Terrorism. He'd make a great speaker, they say—and, besides, it would be hypocritical for us to "Boot Boortz," since Libertarians are supposed to support free speech. There's a third view, too. It's the "Get a life!" crowd, and they say the debate over Boortz is a waste of time. It won't make any real difference if Boortz speaks, they say, and LP members should stop battling about it—and, instead, work to get Libertarians elected to public office. Which side do you agree with most?

■ **QUESTION: Should Neal Boortz be un-invited from the 2004 National Convention? Or should he be kept on the roster as a speaker? Or are Libertarians just wasting their time debating this issue? And why? Please keep answers to 100 words.**

■ **DEADLINE:** March 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 19

free global trading into being.

These two agreements are not about free and fair trade but about dividing up the commerce, deciding who gets what. Our founding fathers placed tariffs on goods coming into our country to protect our industries from unfair competition. Politicians have sold the free trade agreements to the American people as being good for us by bringing in cheaper foreign goods. What they did not tell us is that the cheaper goods would be the goods we used to make, including automobiles, bicycles, electronics, produce, machinery, and farm equipment, across the entire jobs spectrum.

Millions of skilled workers in poor countries are now eager to take jobs away from Americans. Bring back tariffs if you want the return of plentiful jobs and hope for a better life, for your family's future. I thought it was every American's job to do what is best for the country, not to serve the best interests of world trade.

—GLEN MOORE

St. Clair Shores, Michigan

## An Irish crank

In your Mailbox article titled "Prove it, Charlie," [RE: letter from Richard J. Savadel, Dec. 2003] you mention that Minister Michael Martin, Ireland's Commissar of Health, claims 1,200 people in New York City die from secondary smoke each year, because that's what Mayor Bloomberg told him.

"Ireland's new anti-smoking laws are worse than New York City's," the letter continues. I'm an Irish citizen and I have noticed a gradual erosion of the libertarian sensibility of this country.

We have been infected by an excessive political correctness [that] originated in your country. It was brought here by Irish emigrants returning from the USA, and by so-called liberal media influences in America.

Sadly, I think the anti-smoking legislation will succeed because the silent majority have gotten used to being cowed into submission by the new fascists.

The truth is that Mr. Martin is regarded as a crank in this country but it seems that often it's the cranks who end up wielding the power. I mean look at your country! Now how did that happen?! By the way, have you ever considered forming in Ireland? Best of luck from an overseas Libertarian.

—DAVE GREESON

## Libertarian mother?

Heartiest praise and thanks to Allison Brown for her January [2004] front page essay, "Why aren't there more female Libertarians?" and to LP News for publishing it.

Sarah, wife of Abraham in the Bible's first book, is considered the mother of all Israelites and a spiritual ancestor of all Christians.

Allison Brown, an attractive Libertarian single woman and brilliant essayist – with her zeal to recruit more female libertarians and to foster compatible male-female libertarian relationships, and with her vision of future libertarian couples producing more libertarian children – might become the intellectual ancestor of many future Libertarians.

—MICHAEL HOLASEK

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

## Impeach Bush

Three cheers to Charles Pendergast for his article on Impeaching Bush. During Clinton's eight years, the LP favored impeaching Clinton for abusing the Constitution. Abuse it he did. He also lied to the American people.

Bush is a bigger liar and a bigger abuser [of the Constitution] than Clinton. Clinton mainly lied to us about his sex life. Bush lied to us about Saddam Hussein. Clinton at least reduced the debt. Bush, not some big spending liberal, asked for the biggest budget deficit in history. We say go for it.

—LINDA and KEN MITCHELL

Newburgh, New York

## Isolationism?

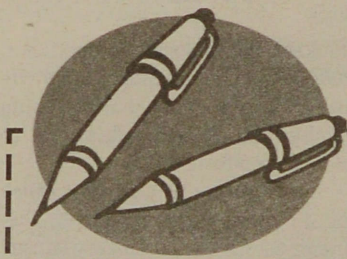
I have a technological solution to the smoking fight: Let smokers smoke anywhere, each in his or her own environmentally self-contained suit, that they will not have to "share" their carcinogens with those who prefer not to be exposed to them.

—DAVID MELVIN THORNBURGH

Miami Beach, Florida

## Not-so-Super Bowl

While Super Bowl XXXVIII had a very exciting ending, the Half-Time Show produced by MTV (otherwise known as Maggot TV) was a complete insult to the ears and eyes of the audience. The Hog Callers and their Rap "Music" was an insult to anyone with any sensibility.



## Make Your Voice Heard!

LP News welcomes letters. Send correspondence to:

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And when Justin Timberlake tore open the blouse of Janet Jackson, exposing her nude right breast, that was the last straw. Is it any wonder that a very large percentage of devout Muslims hate our modern culture and want us out of the Middle East?

—ARTHUR KULOSA, JR.

Cazenovia, Wisconsin

## Prohibition is force

Contrary to David Brown's letter in the December, 2003 Mailbox ("Smoke Is Force"), nobody needs to tell me or any other adult what to do, least of all the government. Shame on you, Mr. Brown.

I'm sorry you find the smell of smoke offensive in restaurants. I find the smell of mayonnaise, booze, most fish, all perfume, and sweat offensive. It's part of the social atmosphere. I also find screaming infants offensive, but I have yet to see "Children" and "Non-Children" sections of restaurants.

The obvious solution here is to complain to the management, and let them best decide how to run their privately owned businesses.

So speak to the management. Tell them to turn up the fans, or to ban us altogether. I'm sure they would listen so as not to lose your business. If they find that they have a larger non-smoking clientele, they would make the establishment non-smoking.

That, Mr. Brown, is the Libertarian solution, not supporting government regulation and increasing the nanny state.

—MICHAEL J. PUSCHAUER

Berlin, Connecticut

## I did not fizzle

[RE: The top Libertarian news stories of 2003, February 2004] You wrote that I "fizzled" in the 2003 California gubernatorial recall election. Actually, at 4:45 p.m. on election day, I declared a victory and went home. It took a couple of months to realize I'd received 147 too many votes. I spent next to nothing and I had a blast.

To avoid getting "Roscoed," advise the next candidate to bring \$30 million. On the other hand, our party would be well served to have people run for the opportunity to communicate libertarian ideals – not just to win the largest total.

If we had 2003 to live over, I'd want 199 other Libertarians to run for governor with me. That would have been even more fun!

—NED ROSCOE

Benicia, California

## Poorly run campaign?

I'd like to comment on your top story #4. [RE: The top Libertarian news stories of 2003, February 2004] Ned Roscoe didn't lose because he spent less than \$1000 or because he ran on an unpopular issue (smokers' rights). He lost because he ran a poorly organized campaign.

I have some experience in this, having run in two recent elections myself. When I saw that Roscoe was

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## THE MAILBOX

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appearing at a local cigarette store, I went to check him out.

As far as I know, he never put in an appearance. Apparently, he didn't have anyone responsible for advance notification to stores, for organizing a crowd at his events, or for making sure he stayed on schedule. I decided that if he didn't know how to run his own campaign, I sure as heck didn't want him running my state.

—WILMA BENNETT

Reseda, California

### No free market

Regarding Daniel Traub's opinion on Wal-Mart and cutting costs: Everyone wants to cut costs. I have no problem with that. But I dislike the double standard that the Bush administration set up.

Companies can close plants, lay off people and move corporate headquarters off shore, and open new plants and hire people in other countries. They're trying to cut costs. That's free market.

But heaven help a retired senior citizen on a fixed income trying to buy prescription drugs in Canada in order to cut costs. That's considered disgraceful and un-American.

—KEN MITCHELL

Newburgh, New York

### Purity police

Examples from the February issue of *LP News*: If only a handful of people qualify for Libertarian approval, so be it. Anyone supporting the war is blinded by religious bigotry. Those interested in controlling immigration, even if that includes 67 percent of the members, should be expelled.

Good grief! Is this a political party or a religion?

In the World's Smallest Political Quiz, the Libertarian area of the chart encompasses 20 percent of the spectrum. Libertarian is not just the wee point at the tippy top. Put another way, the LP will accept as Libertarian people who believe in 50% government control in some spheres if they want much more freedom in other areas.

It's a bit presumptuous and arrogant for individual LP members to demand a much higher standard than does the LP itself. We all have different life experiences upon which we build our beliefs. A wide variety of views is natural and beneficial.

Libertarianism has proven to be a tough sell under the best

of conditions. The task becomes downright impossible when the Utopian wing of the party demands that everyone either march in lock step with them or else be excommunicated from the Libertarian Church - er, Party.

—DON WACKER

Issaquah, Washington

### Anti-Semitic LP News

I wonder if anti-Semitism has become part of the "mission" of the Libertarian Party. There are suggestions within the December 2003 issue of the *LPN* that such is the case.

I refer to the glowing review by the editor of the *LPN* of the book, *Terrorism and Tyranny*, by James Bovard. The main reason for the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States, the editor agrees with Bovard, was "the U.S.'s support for Israel."

Then, ample positive publicity was provided in the *LPN* for Gary Nolan's speech at the Arab American Institute's National Conference. The AAI repeatedly has accused Israel of starting and perpetuating military atrocities against so-called peace loving Palestinians.

—PATRICK GROFF

San Diego, California

[Editor's note: The review of Bovard's book stated: "Maybe, just maybe, Bovard suggests, al Qaeda attacked us for exactly the reason they said they did: Because they [are Islamic fanatics who] hate the U.S.'s support for Israel, and loathe the presence of U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia, the home of their holiest city, Mecca." No anti-Semitism is intended or implied. Reporting what "fanatics" of any race or creed believe is not an indication that we agree with their beliefs.]

### Pro-Prop 58

[Re: "Richard Rider writes anti-Prop 58 argument," *Political News*, February 2004.]

I don't understand Richard Rider's objection to California's Proposition 58. It may not do everything (or even much) that we would want to reduce California's spending problem, but a balanced budget and fewer loopholes to get around balancing the budget must be considered good things from a libertarian standpoint. By far the worst tax that a government can force on us is one that is deferred to our children. Opposing Prop. 58 because it doesn't limit spending is like opposing a proposition to legalize marijuana because it doesn't also legalize speed. It's ridiculous.

—MIKE JARVIS

Swarthmore, Pennsylvania

### Protect the borders

Re: Jim Davies' "Expel members" letter in the February 2004 *LP News*. I don't know if I am reading the same Constitution as you, but the one I'm reading gives the government the responsibility of protecting its citizens. I am not sure how to do that without some sort of protection at the border. Please enlighten me.

—HAL LONGMAN

Manitou Beach, Michigan

### Anti-draft lieutenant

I was delighted to read your anti-conscription piece in the February issue. Given the present Iraq mess, it's about time the party comes out loud and clear and often against such Divine Right of Kings nonsense as a military draft. If nothing else, in the party's quest for new members, think how an anti-draft campaign would resonate with all those young males who would be the victims of that fascist form of involuntary servitude!

I want to share the best and most honest description of military conscription I've ever heard. It comes from my own service as a draftee during the Korean War, when one day during indoctrination the lieutenant-instructor (he was a civilian lawyer before being called up from an Army Reserve unit) gave us this gem:

"As for you poor draftee

slobs, don't let anybody kid you. Conscription is the blatantly political way to fight a war on the cheap.

"You guys have to take whatever pay and conditions the political majority approves of through Congress while the members of that majority -- 98.5 percent of the population, that is -- stay home and talk patriotic. And of course, if you refuse to stay on the job, your own government can shoot you for that.

"Consequently, if you do survive Korea and get back home, you may want to use this description in the years to come. 'Military conscription is nothing more than an instance of male rape repeated endlessly while wrapped in a flag and set to martial music.'"

Can anybody out there top that one?

—JACK SIMONS

Sheffield, Vermont

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# The non-existent childcare crisis

Continued from Page 18

only providing what public outcry has demanded.

But Americans haven't demanded free or government-sponsored child care.

Some have, to be sure: They're called socialists, and they're dedicated to giving you child care and forcing you to pay for it whether you want it or not.

Don't believe this constitutes socialism? Look at the platform of the Socialist Party USA. "We support the expansion and full funding of 24-hour child care facilities. We believe that work at home, including child care, should be shared to enable women to fully participate in society."

And it goes on from there: The platform of the Democratic Social-

ists of America includes providing free 24-hour child care.

The Democratic Socialist Party also complains that "basic rights like free child care and education ... are being threatened," and they call for "free child care on demand and free education"—exactly what major party presidential candidates are promising.

"The only way we can do this is by creating a society that does not rely on the exploitation of the majority of people for the benefit and profit of a few," the socialist platform continues.

The socialists are exactly right, in a way: All Americans are being exploited—taxed—to provide a service for a small minority of the population.

But what about all those children

who won't do well in school because they didn't have good preschool care?

That's yet another fallacy: Children who go to preschool programs—government sponsored or not—have no long-lasting advantage over children whose first school experience is kindergarten.

A federal Department of Health and Human Services analysis of the Head Start program found that "by the end of second grade, any short term boosts from the program had washed out," says a policy report by the Cato Institute.

And in Georgia, the first state to fund universal preschool for every 4-year-old child, the program has proven fruitless. Georgia State University researchers found that children who had been through the state's pre-kindergarten programs did not progress any more in their kindergarten year than those who had not.

"If you look at the whole test, from 1992 to 1996, we have gained nothing," said Linda Schrenko, Georgia's state school superintendent, when the study was done. "The only message you can get from it is that our kindergarten non-ready rate is the same, regardless of what we do."

## Toss the program

Preschool programs provide no lasting benefits; people don't want their children in preschool in the first place, especially a government-run program; and the people who run government preschool programs say they don't work.

America's child care problem calls

for a common-sense, Libertarian solution.

When you have a system that doesn't work, isn't needed, and which people don't want in the first place, jettison that system. Besides, if Americans didn't have to pay about half of their income in taxes, then one parent in a two-parent

home could stay home and care for the children—as a vast majority want to do.

The solution, then, is to keep our government out of the childcare business, period. Few are actually demanding it, and even those who run it say it was a failed experiment.

## The Brady Bunch

Continued from Page 16

increases in places that give criminals a safer working environment. Just look at Washington, DC, which has seen its murder rate increase 51 percent since imposing a draconian gun ban in 1976. By contrast, the murder rate decreased 36 percent throughout the entire nation during that same 25-year period.

FBI statistics showed last year that the states which enjoyed the lowest murder rates earned grades of D or D- from the Brady Campaign because of their lenient gun laws. New Hampshire, North Dakota and Maine have murder rates that many other states or countries can only dream about. But the Brady Bunch suggests that these are not states where you would want to live, because they are not keeping kids "safe from gun violence."

Again, these states have the lowest murder rates in the country. Doesn't that count for anything?

Finally, the Brady Bunch awarded Maryland one of the highest grades in the nation (an A-), even though they had the second HIGHEST

murder rate in the nation.

How can the Brady Campaign give that state an A- with a straight face? The state is not keeping its citizens safe from gun violence—or any other violence, for that matter. But hey, Maryland gets an A-, simply because they have strict gun control laws, disregarding the question of whether those laws are keeping people safe.

Do you see the irony here?

The White Queen would probably have no problem believing this Report Card, but the rest of us should.

It's a sad thing when people try to claim fiction—such as the Brady Campaign's Report Card—is fact.

At least with Alice in Wonderland, Lewis Carroll knew he was writing about make-believe. And he didn't expect us to take it seriously.

■ **About the author:** Erich Pratt is the Director of Communications for Gun Owners of America, a national gun lobby with over 350,000 members. 8001 Forbes Place, Springfield, VA 22151.

## Russo talks to state chairs



■ **Travis County [Texas] LP chair Patrick Dixon, left, talks with Aaron Russo, candidate for the Libertarian presidential nomination, at the State Chairs' Conference in Raleigh, N.C., Jan. 24. Also pictured is LNC representative Fred Childress.**

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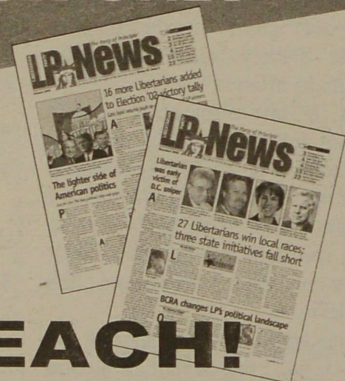
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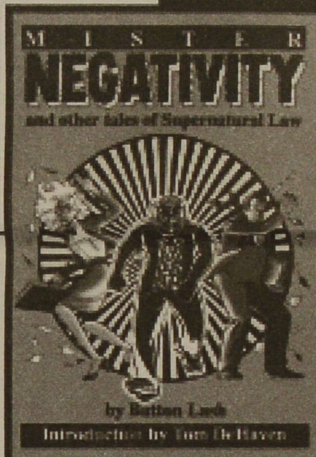
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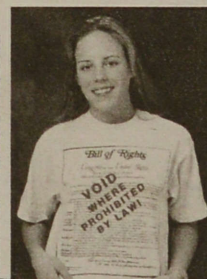
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## UPCOMING

### ■ March 5-7, 2004



#### ■ Badnarik

Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska LP Convention, Holiday Inn Stadium Complex, Kansas City, Missouri. Speakers include Dr. Mary Ruwart (author, *Healing Our World*), Mark Nelson (LNC Representative), Kathryn Graham (author, *Flight From Eden*), Michael Badnarik and Gary Nolan (candidates, 2004 LP presidential nomination), and Tamara Millay (candidate, LP's vice presidential nomination). For information, visit: [www.st-charles.lpmo.org/Conv2004.html](http://www.st-charles.lpmo.org/Conv2004.html). E-mail: [MOLP@LPMO.org](mailto:MOLP@LPMO.org). Call: (877) VOTE-4-US.

### ■ March 6, 2004

Delaware LP Convention, Holiday Inn Select, Claymont. Speakers TBA. For more information, call (302) 478-5919. Or e-mail: [chair@de.lp.org](mailto:chair@de.lp.org).

### ■ March 12-13, 2004

New Jersey LP Convention, Seaview Marriott Resort and Spa, Galloway Township. Speakers include Mary Ruwart (author, *Healing Our World*), Dean Ahmad (president, Minaret of Freedom Institute), and John Berthoud (president, National Taxpayers Union). For information, visit: [www.njlp.org](http://www.njlp.org).

### ■ March 12-14, 2004



#### ■ Nolan

California LP Convention, San Jose DoubleTree Hotel, San Jose. Speakers include Congressman Ron Paul; Michael Badnarik, Gary Nolan and Aaron Russo (candidates, 2004 LP presidential nomination); US Senate candidate and Superior Court Judge James Gray; tax fighter Richard Rider; John Gilmore (co-founder of the Electronic Frontier Foundation); Vince Miller of ISIL; professors David Henderson and Daniel Klein; actor Dean Cameron; Peter Thiel

(founder, PayPal), Geoff Neale (LP national chair), Joe Seehusen (LP executive director), and the Rev. Lynnette Shaw (marijuana activist). For information, e-mail: [convention@ca.LP.org](mailto:convention@ca.LP.org). Or visit: [www.ca.lp.org/conv/2004](http://www.ca.lp.org/conv/2004). Or call 408-778-5454.

### ■ March 13, 2004

Nevada LP & Clark County LP Convention, Italian-American Supper Club, Las Vegas. Speakers TBA. Entertainment by rock musician Dan Litwin. For information, visit: [www.LPNevada.org](http://www.LPNevada.org). Or call Joe Silvestri: (702) 218-6228. E-mail: [ViceChair@LPNevada.org](mailto:ViceChair@LPNevada.org).

### ■ March 18-21, 2004

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### ■ March 19-21, 2004

Pennsylvania LP Convention, Hilton Harrisburg & Towers, Harrisburg. Speakers include Dr. Walter Williams (syndicated columnist), Gary Nolan (candidate, 2004 LP presidential nomination), Matthew Brouillette (president, Commonwealth Foundation), David Mincin (Free State Project), and Jeff Katz (radio talk show host). For information call: (717) 233-6000. Or e-mail: [info@lppa.org](mailto:info@lppa.org).

### ■ March 20-21, 2004

Illinois LP Convention, Ramada Plaza Hotel O'Hare, Rosemont. Speakers include Aaron Russo, Gary Nolan, and Michael Badnarik (candidates, 2004 LP presidential nomination) and Tamara Millay (candidate, 2004 LP vice presidential nomination). For information, visit: [www.il.lp.org/2004convention](http://www.il.lp.org/2004convention). Or call: (800) 735-1776.



#### ■ Russo

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—Lex Concord, *SierraTimes.com*, November 9, 2003