

■ Reverend Nathaniel Craigmiles found himself under attack by the Tennessee Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers for selling “illegal” caskets — until Washington, DC’s Institute for Justice came to his defense.

Institute for Justice: Lawyers for liberty

The ‘merry band’ of libertarian litigators fights eminent domain, stifling regulations

By Jonathan Trager
LP NEWS STAFF WRITER

In December 1998, Reverend Nathaniel Craigmiles walked into a retail casket store in New York City. There, he saw the same model casket he had purchased for his recently deceased mother-in-law at a Tennessee funeral home — with one noticeable difference.

This casket was priced at \$800. Craigmiles had paid \$3,200.

After a bit of research, Craigmiles discovered the disturbing truth: Funeral homes all over Tennessee were engaged in massive price gouging, selling caskets at inflated prices in comparison to other states.

So Craigmiles returned to Tennessee and started his own casket retail business, determined to sell caskets to grieving families at prices much lower than his competitors.

Unfortunately, he soon found himself under assault by the state legislature’s Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers. The agency ordered Craigmiles to close his business immediately — or face extensive fines or jail time.

The reason? Craigmiles was neither a licensed funeral director nor an embalmer, and those were the only people permitted to sell funeral caskets in the state of Tennessee.

In September 1999, Reverend Nathaniel Craigmiles realized he needed outside help. He turned to the Institute for Justice, a public interest law firm based in Washington, DC.

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**SPECIAL
FEATURE**

Eight more Libertarians elected in Spring races around the USA

Massachusetts LP gets seven victories

At least eight more Libertarians have won public office during the last two months — boosting to 19 the number of LP members who were victorious in Spring elections.

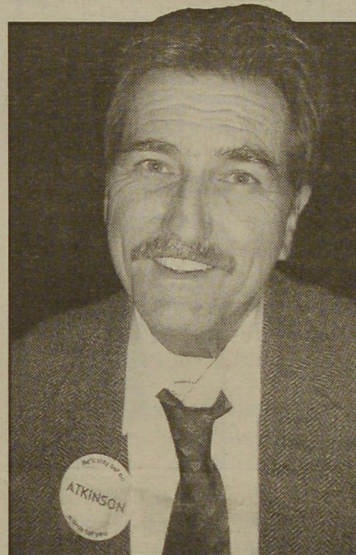
In addition to the 11 Libertarian winners reported in the May issue of *LP News*, another seven LP candidates were elected to local office in Massachusetts, along with one in Mississippi.

“We are building a strong party at all levels,” said Massachusetts LP State Chair Eli Israel, about the flurry of victories in his state. “We are more active now than we’ve ever been, both with local campaigns as well as flagship campaigns such as Carla Howell’s [2000 U.S. Senate] campaign.”

Re-election

Leading the list of Massachusetts victories was the re-election of David Atkinson to the Provincetown Board of Selectman.

Atkinson finished in second place in a five-way race for two



■ David Atkinson retained his seat as Selectman in Provincetown, Massachusetts.

open seats, winning 25.4% of the vote. The non-partisan election was held on May 1.

“Being elected is nice — but being re-elected is far superior, because then you know that people think you’re doing a good job,” said Atkinson.

Atkinson’s win was an “important victory” for the Massachusetts LP, said state Executive Director Christine Schoaff, since it

shows that Libertarians can get re-elected — even if controversial issues like drug legalization are raised during the campaign.

For example, she noted, at a candidate’s forum just before the election, Atkinson was asked to defend the Libertarian Party’s anti-War on Drugs position.

Unwinnable war

“David clarified his position, stating the Libertarian point of view that this is an immoral and unwinnable war,” said Schoaff. “He pointed out to the audience that there are many kinds of addictions including cigarette, alcohol, and even chocolate cake. In David’s libertarian view, drug use is not a criminal problem and should not be treated with criminal solutions.”

Atkinson ran an active campaign for re-election, said Schoaff — raising about \$1,400, hosting a “Meet the Candidate” at a local club, running ads in the local newspaper, and posting about 30 posters and yard signs.

“David’s campaign [was] visible for all the voters in Provincetown,” she said.

Atkinson also got support from the Nevada-based Libertar-

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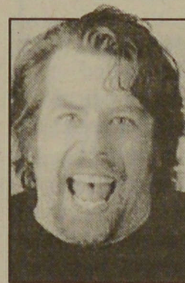
Cult rocker Mojo Nixon joins party

Cult music favorite Mojo Nixon has joined the Libertarian Party — saying it’s the only political party that believes in “treating adults like adults.”

Nixon, 44, joined the party at the Ohio Libertarian Party’s convention in Columbus on April 21. He publicly signed an LP membership form after giving a speech and performing several songs to a crowd of about 150 people.

“I was extremely pleased [that] Mojo decided to join,” said Ohio LP Executive Director Dena Breudigam, who had invited the singer to the convention. “He is definitely one of us.”

The overflow crowd of Liber-



■ Mojo Nixon: Music satirist

Columbus Alive newspaper — has a rabid cult following across the USA. Known for his humorous songs and rough-hewn brand of roots rock ‘n’ roll, he “resides just below the threshold of household name status,” according to

Libertarians reacted with “wild applause and delight” when Nixon signed the LP membership form, she said.

Nixon — who has been described as a “brilliant satirist” by the

TheOnion.com.

In his high-energy speech at the convention, Nixon said, “I want the government out of my face.” He said he was in favor of

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Kenny Kramer will run for NYC mayor

NewsBriefs

Party registers name and slogan

The Libertarian Party has always been the "Party of Principle" — but now it's official. In February, the National LP registered the "Libertarian Party" name and "Party of Principle" slogan with the U.S. Patent Office. The trademark registration gives the national LP and its affiliate organizations exclusive use of the name and slogan in all published material used for political purposes, said LP attorney Bill Hall.

"No longer will unauthorized parties be able to use the 'Libertarian Party' or 'Party of Principle' in brochures, pamphlets, Internet domain names, and other such work," he said.

Why did the LP wait almost 30 years to register its name?

Because unauthorized use has only become a problem in recent years, said Hall. For example, he recently sent a "cease and desist" letter to a group attempting to sell Internet domain names with "Libertarian Party" in the URL.

"They stopped without any problem," he said. "But other groups have ignored the warning in the past. Having proof of trademark registration is much more effective."

As a registered trademark, the Libertarian Party name and slogan should be printed with a registered trademark symbol — a capital "R" enclosed in a circle — whenever possible, said Hall.

It may not always be practical to do so, he said, but "in order to recover damages from someone unlawfully using your trademark, it must be clearly visible that the trademark is registered."

Ken Bisson launches vice chair bid

Libertarian National Committee (LNC) member Ken Bisson has announced that he is running for LP Vice Chair.

Bisson, currently an At-Large member of the LNC, said he decided to run after the current vice chair, Dan Fylstra, said he would not seek re-election.

"I admire the work done by Dan Fylstra, and before him, Hugh Butler, as Vice Chairmen," said Bisson. "I hope to maintain the excellence of their efforts."

Libertarian Party officers will be elected at the upcoming National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, July 3-7, 2002. Officers serve two-year terms.

If elected Vice Chair, Bisson said he would:

■ Help develop and implement a strategic plan for the Libertarian Party.

■ Advance the "ongoing work of professionalizing the national office."

■ Maintain the "excellent values of integrity, diligence, and openness demonstrated by the current LP officers" — Jim Lark, Dan Fylstra, Steve Givot, and Deryl Martin.

"If elected as Vice Chair, I promise you I will not let you down," said Bisson, who is a doctor in Angola, Indiana.

A member of the Libertarian Party for 16 years, Bisson was the Region 3 LNC representative from 1996-2000. He has also served as an Indiana LP Central Committee member, Steuben County LP Chairman, and as chair of the 2000 National Convention Bylaws Committee. He ran for U.S. House in 1996.

Federal medical marijuana bill filed

Congressman Barney Frank (D-MA) has filed a bill that would change federal law to legalize the use of medical marijuana — and effectively overturn a recent Supreme Court decision.

On April 3, Frank introduced HR 1344, the States' Right to Medical Marijuana Act. The bill would amend the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) to allow physicians to recommend medical marijuana, and patients to use it, without facing federal charges.

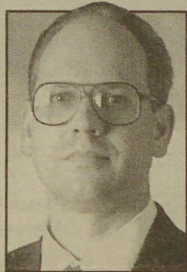
The bill would also reclassify marijuana as a Schedule II drug under federal law, formally acknowledging the drug's potential "medical utility."

Although eight states have passed laws legalizing medical marijuana, the federal government continues to arrest and prosecute patients who use the drug.

"This bill offers an opportunity for my conservative colleagues to decide if they really want to be consistent on the question of states' rights or if they think the federal government should tell states what to do," said Frank.

HR 1344 would also effectively overturn a May 14 Supreme Court decision, which rejected any medical necessity exemption to federal marijuana laws. By changing the CSA, the bill would render the decision moot.

HR 1344 has nine co-sponsors, all Democrats.



■ Ken Bisson: "Excellence."

Cult rock 'n' roller Mojo Nixon joins LP: 'I want the government out of my face.'

Continued from Page 1

personal accountability and "treating adults like adults," and opposed to Drug Prohibition.

Nixon also performed his anti-War on Drugs song, "I Ain't Gonna Piss In No Jar."

Despite his salty language and somewhat wild persona, Nixon is "a really nice person," said Breudigam.

"Afterwards, he joined everyone in the hospitality suite," she said. "He and [his wife] Adaire are both very gracious people. I believe that he and Adaire were very impressed with what the Ohio party has accomplished and what we have planned for the future."

Breudigam said she invited Nixon (real name: Neill McMillan, Jr.) to the convention because the singer has been wearing a Libertarian tee-shirt at his concerts and telling his fans to vote Libertarian for several years.

"I knew all along that Mojo was a libertarian," she said. "He just hadn't had the opportunity to see the Libertarian Party up close and personal until he came to our state convention."

In interviews, Nixon has acknowledged that his music — while irreverent and frequently funny — has serious themes of liberty and self-responsibility.

His basic message, he said, is: "Take responsibility for your own actions. You made decisions, you live by 'em. People always want to blame somebody or something. But it's your own damned fault."

Nixon also said he is not happy with the two major parties.

Don't have a clue

"Republicans and Democrats are both just selling us the same bag of sh-t with different colors on it," he said. "In the big picture, the Republicans and Democrats don't have a clue. Their only plan is to get re-elected."

Ohio Libertarians applauded Nixon's decision to join the LP.

"I felt proud to hand Mojo an LP membership card, and even more proud to watch him sign it," said Donald Gallick, a past Ohio LP officer and master of ceremonies at the convention.

Gallick said he was also pleased that about 40 Nixon fans attended the Ohio LP convention just to see the performer.

"Mojo brought a fresh, new audience to the Ohio convention," he said. "We need his fans to join our fight for liberty."

Those fans, said Gallick, were rewarded with "a defiant speech [that] shows that Libertarians are most effective when they are energetic and entertaining. Everyone can't be a PhD in economics. We need musicians and comedians, too. Mojo is both."

In fact, Nixon is more than just a musician and comedian — he's something of a renaissance



■ Mojo Nixon: "Take responsibility for your own actions. You made decisions, and you live by 'em."

man, having released 12 albums, appeared in five movies, debated Pat Buchanan on CNN, worked as a radio talk show host, and guest hosted on MTV.

Perhaps best known for his novelty hits "Elvis Is Everywhere" (1987) and "Debbie Gibson is Pregnant With My Two-Headed Love Child" (1989), Nixon has been described as "the raving apothecosis of Howlin' Wolf, Chuck Berry, Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, Jimmy Swaggart, Hunter S. Thompson, Richard Pryor, [and] Jonathan Richman" by the OffBeat.com website.

Born in North Carolina in 1957, Nixon graduated from Miami University in 1979 with a degree in Political Science and History.

In 1982, he created the stage persona of Mojo Nixon — a combination of "voodoo and bad politics," he said.

Over the next two decades, he

toured with Skid Roper, the Toadliquors, and the Pleasure Barons, while crafting an impressive oeuvre of quirky music.

Some of Nixon's better-known songs include "Stuffin' Martha's Muffin" (an ode to then-MTV VJ Martha Quinn), "Debbie Gibson is Pregnant With My Two-Headed Love Child" (which starred Winona Rider in the video), "Destroy All Lawyers," "Elvis Is Everywhere" (a tribute to The King), and "Don Henley Must Die" (a critique of the man who fronted the Eagles; Henley was amused by the song, and performed it live with Nixon in 1992).

Bracing tonic

While *Rolling Stone* magazine proclaimed him "a bracing tonic in these bland and kingless times," other critics were not so kind. In fact, *People* magazine said his 1986 album, *Frenzy*, was "as pleasurable as having a wasp fly up your nose."

Nixon has appeared in the movies *Great Balls of Fire* (1988), *Super Mario Brothers* (1993), and *Car 54, Where Are You?* (1994).

His albums include *Mojo Nixon and Skid Roper* (1985), *Root Hog or Die* (1989), *Live In Las Vegas* (1993), and *Gadzooks!!! The Homemade Bootleg* (1997).

In 1999, he accepted a job as a talk show host on WLW radio in Cincinnati, Ohio. He currently broadcasts on WEBN radio (102.7 FM) in Cincinnati.

Nixon has been married to Adaire since 1989, and has two children.

Now that he's an LP member, should Libertarians expect a "Nixon for President" campaign in 2004?

Definitely not, said the singer, when the question was raised at the convention.

"I'm no Dick," he explained.



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Alaska Libertarian wins campaign finance lawsuit

Lawsuit overturns limit on contributions individuals can make to political parties

An LP activist and two other plaintiffs have won a law suit overturning an Alaska law putting a \$5,000 limit on contributions that individuals can make to political parties.

Declaring some provision of the state's campaign finance law to be unconstitutional, U.S. District Judge James Singleton ruled on April 10 that individual Alaskans may volunteer as much time and contribute as much money as they want to political parties — as long as no more than \$5,000 is earmarked for particular candidates.

Longtime LP activist Scott Kohlhaas, who was a plaintiff in the lawsuit, said the ruling was a victory for "ordinary" people who want their voices heard in the political arena.

"This law handicapped people from being involved in the political process, so the judge made a good decision in striking it down," he said.

However, Alaska LP State Chair Len Karpinski said the state party is unlikely to immediately benefit financially from the ruling.

"The Alaska Political Oppression Commission, as we call [the Alaska Public Offices Commission], is still very much alive," he said — and other restrictive regulations are still in place that limit how political parties can

raise money.

For example, he said, "We still can't accept contributions from outside Alaska, except for very limited purposes, such as maintaining full legal party status, and for gathering money for ballot initiatives."

Kohlhaas said he helped file the lawsuit in 1997 when he realized the campaign finance law had been enacted by Democrats and Republicans to further solidify their "duopoly" in the state.

At that time, the Libertarian Party wasn't even recognized in the state as a "party," he said. Instead, the LP was classified as a political "group," and individual contributions were limited to an even more restrictive level — just \$250 per year.

Violation

"I contributed that amount to the state party each month," said the former Alaska LP member, who moved to Illinois in 2000. "And I also bought about 250 copies of *LP News* to distribute at local libraries, so I was technically in violation of the law."

Kohlhaas filed the lawsuit with co-plaintiffs Ken Jacobus, a Republican lawyer, and Wayne Ross, a former Republican gubernatorial candidate.

His goal with the lawsuit, said Kohlhaas, was to regain the right to "make my voice heard and



■ Scott Kohlhaas (right) has a long history of LP activism — which led him to "technically" violate Alaska's campaign finance law by volunteering too much time and contributing too much money. He's shown here — along with Libertarians Greg Emerson and Stuart Toepke — turning in ballot access signatures in North Dakota in September 2000.

contribute my money to causes and candidates I believe in. The major parties know that campaign finance reform is just a euphemism for outlawing speech."

During the trial, state government lawyers urged the court to uphold the individual contribution cap to parties and groups, arguing that it was nearly impossible to discern which contributions to a political party would be used to elect an individual candidate and which would be used for other purposes.

But in his 16-page decision, Singleton said the law went too far.

"It is clear that restricting donations to political parties for purposes unrelated to nominating or electing candidates . . . significantly interferes with the protected rights of speech and association," he wrote.

Party-building

The judge also ruled that contributions to political parties could be earmarked for "party-building purposes" — such as administrative costs, issue advocacy, and voter registration drives — which don't benefit a particular candidate.

Singleton did uphold contribution limits for candidates, saying that such a limitation is an acceptable means to guard against "political corruption."

He also upheld several other provisions in the law that could pose obstacles for Alaskan Libertarians, said Kohlhaas.

For example, a \$500 cap on contributions to any individual candidate, a ban on contributions by lobbyists to candidates running outside the lobbyist's home district, a ban on corporation and labor union contributions, and a limit on out-of-state contributions could all limit the effectiveness of the Alaska LP, he said.

Previously lost

This lawsuit wasn't the only challenge mounted against the campaign contribution statute. The American Civil Liberties Union of Alaska had previously lost their attempt in state court to have the entire law ruled unconstitutional.

Although Kohlhaas said his legal victory is important, he warned that celebration might be premature.

"The state is currently appealing the ruling," he said. "So it ain't over yet. I just hope the verdict is upheld and this is a final victory."

Kohlhaas was the membership chair of the Alaska LP from 1997 to 1999. He is currently the executive director of the Illinois LP, and serves on the East Dundee Public Library Board.

Kenny Kramer wins nomination for mayor

With the Libertarian Party nomination secured, Kenny Kramer is officially set to wage a "guerrilla" campaign to become the next mayor of New York City.

The man who inspired the wacky Cosmo Kramer character on the hit television show *Seinfeld* received the nomination at the New York LP convention in Manhattan on April 28.

With no declared competition, he won the nomination on a 28-5 vote, beating "None of the Above." Afterward, Kramer said he was pleased — and relieved — to have won.

"I remember thinking, thank goodness I beat None of the Above," he said. "That would have been a very humbling concession speech. But now I have a campaign to run, and I think my chances are excellent."

Kramer, 57, said he plans to run a "guerrilla-type" campaign — much like Jesse Ventura's successful bid for governor of Minne-

sota in 1998, when the former wrestler "came out of nowhere" to stun state Democrats and Republicans.

"The situation between me and Jesse is very similar," said Kramer. "He is a celebrity, and many people thought his campaign was just a publicity stunt, which is what many people may think of me."

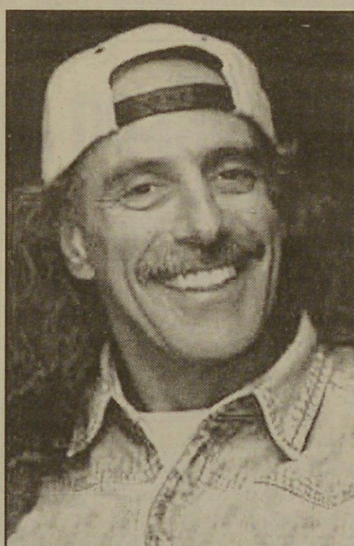
"But I believe that when people see I'm serious about the job and informed on the issues, they will see me as a favorable alternative."

Replicate success

To replicate Ventura's success, Kramer said he hopes to hire Doug Friedline, who served as Ventura's campaign manager.

And like Ventura, Kramer said his campaign will exploit his celebrity status — which he gained in the early 1990s when the *Seinfeld* show became a ratings blockbuster for NBC.

With his connection to the



■ Kenny Kramer: "When people see I'm serious about the job, they will see me as a favorable alternative."

popular Cosmo Kramer character — he lived next to the show's co-creator Larry David and served as the model for Jerry Seinfeld's larger-than-life fictional friend — Kramer launched the "Seinfeld Reality Tour," busing tourists to New York City landmarks made famous by the *Seinfeld* show. The tour is now in its sixth year.

He has also appeared on *Access Hollywood*, the *Oprah* See **KRAMER** Page 15

Party learns 'lessons' from Internet ad effort

The Libertarian Party generated more than 11,000 visitors to its website with an Internet advertising campaign in April — but, more importantly, learned some "valuable lessons" from the experiment, said LP National Director Steve Dasbach.

"As a result of this campaign, we know specifically which advertising techniques bring the most traffic to our website," he said.

The \$25,000 campaign — which ran during the entire month of April — placed four types of LP banner ads on various Internet sites so web surfers could "click through" to the National LP website, www.LP.org.

50 members

The campaign ultimately netted about 50 new LP members, while another 100 people either made contributions to the party without becoming a member, or printed out a membership form to be mailed in at a later date.

Both numbers were "slightly

STEVE DASBACH:

"We are trying to explore methods to increase LP membership."

disappointing," acknowledged Dasbach, given the 11,259 unique visitors to the site. However, the overall 1% response rate was about the same as from a direct mail solicitation.

"The only way you can learn about how to reach your goals is to do trial runs such as these and learn from them," he said. "And we learned a great deal."

The Internet advertising campaign was launched in an attempt to find the most cost-effective

See **BANNER ADS** Page 21

NewsBriefs

Get tear gassed in Washington, DC!

Libertarian Party Campus Coordinator Marc Brandl got tear gassed in Quebec — and now he's looking for volunteers to (perhaps) do it again.

Brandl, who works at the LP national headquarters in Washington, DC, led a contingent of about 16 Libertarians to the protests against the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) summit in Quebec, Canada on April 20-22.

Their goal: To make sure the libertarian "pro-free-trade, anti-government" message was heard amidst the left-wing rhetoric — and amidst the canisters of tear gas that police lobbed at hundreds of rampaging protesters.

"The experience on the whole was good, we managed to get our message out there to the media and the protesters, just not to the extent we would have liked because of the gas and police/protester violence," said Brandl.

Now, Brandl is recruiting Libertarians to attend protests at a meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)/World Bank in Washington, DC on September 28.

Libertarians should attend such events — even if they are outnumbered by statist protesters — because the party's "unique message" needs to be heard, said Brandl.

"If Libertarians had not been at the protests in Quebec, we'd have been about the only ideology not represented," he said. "We are against the IMF and World Bank and have unique solutions and visions of what type of globalism should take place. We just need to get the word out there, and this is a great forum for it."

For information, call Brandl at: (202) 333-0008 Ext. 237. Or e-mail: MarcBrandl@hq.lp.org.

Deryl Martin appointed LP treasurer

Deryl Martin has been appointed as the new treasurer of the national Libertarian Party.

At its April 21 meeting in Washington, DC, the Libertarian National Committee (LNC) voted 14 to one to approve Martin, who had been serving as LNC Representative (Region 7). Martin, a Tennessee resident, replaced Mark Tuniewicz, who resigned in April. Martin will serve as treasurer until the July 2002 Convention.

Previously, Martin was the LNC Alternate Representative for Region 8 (1998-2000) and a vice chair of the Tennessee LP (1994-1996). He is currently a member of the state's Committee of 66 ballot access group.

Professionally, Martin is a professor of Economics and Finance at the Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville.

Tuniewicz, who had served as Treasurer since 1998, resigned as of April 21. Simultaneously, he resigned from the Libertarian Party and renounced his LP membership certification.

Tuniewicz, a Massachusetts resident, said he would issue a detailed explanation of why he resigned at a later date.

In other LNC news, New Jersey resident Dan Karlan was appointed as the LNC Representative (Region 6), following Ken Lindell's resignation. Karlan had been the Region 6 Alternate.

Police brutality protests planned

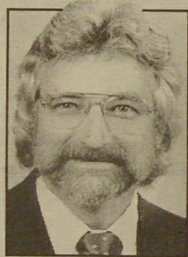
A California LP member is working to organize a strong Libertarian presence at rallies across the USA on October 22 — the National Day of Protest against Police Brutality.

"Libertarians need to confront the growing police state in America," said Joseph Miranda, a longtime California LP activist. "The October 22 protests are an opportunity for libertarians to get out in the streets and demonstrate against the insane drug war, gun control, police checkpoints, profile searches, IRS abuse, Waco, and the government killing Peter McWilliams."

National Day of Protest events are being scheduled by "civil libertarians, community activists, Greens, radicals, human rights advocates, anarchists, and just plain concerned citizens," said Miranda, and are planned for major cities throughout the USA.

"We need to get as many libertarian groups as possible mobilized for the 2001 protest," said Miranda. "Yes, socialists do have a role in organizing this event, but libertarians need to ask themselves who is the bigger enemy of freedom these days: Left-wing radicals who are protesting the police killing innocent people, or law enforcement officers who incarcerate citizens for victimless crimes?"

For information about planned October 22 events, visit: <http://home.earthlink.net/~jamiranda/oct22index.html>. Or e-mail Miranda: jamiranda@earthlink.net



■ **Deryl Martin:**
New treasurer

Libertarian Party conditionally joins lawsuit against federal election law

The Libertarian National Committee has conditionally agreed to join a lawsuit that will challenge the Federal Election Commission — and the byzantine web of federal laws that regulate modern campaigns.

By a vote of 10 to four, with two abstentions, the LNC agreed at its April 21 meeting in Washington, DC to become a plaintiff in a suit that will be filed by RealCampaignReform.org, a group headed by Harry Browne, the party's 2000 presidential candidate.

According to the resolution, the LP may also furnish other support, such as access to the party's mailing list. The LNC did not authorize any money to pay for the lawsuit.

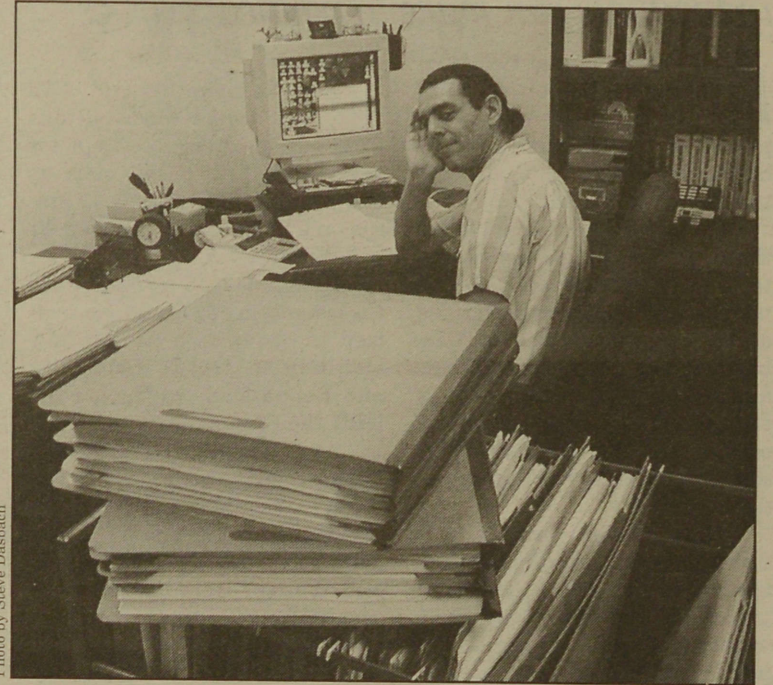
Conditional

However, any support is conditional upon the LNC approving yet-to-be-finalized terms with RealCampaignReform.org, said LP Chairman Jim Lark.

"I have been given responsibility as Chair to work out the terms with the lawsuit organizers," he said. "Assuming that I can do so, I shall present the LNC with a proposed set of terms, presumably by the August 2001 meeting."

A majority vote of the LNC will be required to give final approve to the agreement.

Voting to join the lawsuit were Ken Bisson (At-Large Member), Mike Dixon (Region 1), Dan



■ **LP Operations Director Nick Dunbar** looks at a stack of paperwork the Libertarian Party must file with the Federal Election Commission. Such burdensome regulations are "the main impediment to our future growth, so we need a strategy for removing or reducing that impediment," said Perry Willis, who is working on the lawsuit against the FEC.

Fylstra (LP Vice Chair), Steve Givot (LP Secretary), Ed Hoch (Region 1), Eli Israel (At-Large), Dan Karlan (Region 6), Scott Lieberman (Region 2), Deryl Martin (LP Treasurer), and Ben Scherrey (Region 4 Alternate).

Voting against were Joe Dehn (Region 2), Lorenzo Gaztanaga (At-Large), Lois Kaneshiki (At-Large), and Carl Milsted (Region

5 Alternate). Abstaining were Mary Ruwart (Region 7 Alternate) and Jim Lark (LP Chairman).

The debate over whether to join the lawsuit was somewhat heated, said Lark, with sharply divergent views about whether it would benefit the party.

"From what I can tell, most of those in favor of the lawsuit See **FEC LAWSUIT** Page 17

Republican group declares 'war' on LP

A tiny Republican organization appears to have declared a state of "all-out war" on the Libertarian Party after a magazine reported that the LP had cost Republicans control of the U.S. Senate.

In an e-mail on April 30, Eric Dondero announced that the Fairfax, Virginia-based Republican Liberty Caucus (RLC) plans to "fatally strike at the LP."

Dondero, a member of the RLC's Executive Committee, said, "We are now at a state of all-out war with the LP. We must deal the Libertarian Party a fatal blow. They are the enemy. Much more so than the Democrats or moderate Republicans."

Dondero, whose real name is Eric Rittberg, did not elaborate on the nature of the "all-out war."

No confirmation

There was no confirmation from the RLC — which says it exists to move the Republican Party in the direction of "limited government [and] personal freedom" — whether Dondero was

ERIC DONDERO:
"We are at a state of all-out war with the LP. They are the enemy."

speaking officially.

Dondero's announcement came after the April 16 issue of *National Review* reported that LP candidates are "seriously hurting Republicans" — and had probably caused two GOP candidates for U.S. Senate to lose their races.

Because of those two defeats, Republicans have a 50-50 split with Democrats in the Senate, rather than a 52-48 majority, according to *National Review*.

"Libertarians have put Republicans on the brink of losing the Senate," wrote political reporter John J. Miller and Senior

Editor Ramesh Ponnuru.

The Libertarian Party used that article as the basis for a mid-April e-mail fundraising appeal — which apparently caught the attention of the RLC.

In the fundraising letter, the LP said it planned to run more candidates in 2002 to keep the pressure on Republicans and to give the GOP incentive "to pay attention to the growing Libertarian voter block."

However, the Libertarian Party does not specifically focus on Republicans, said LP National Director Steve Dasbach.

Any politician

"I'm not sure why the Republican Liberty Caucus is so upset, since we don't go out of our way to target Republicans," he said. "Libertarian candidates will run against any politician, of any party, who doesn't vote to reduce the size, power, expense, and intrusiveness of government."

Besides, wondered Dasbach, why is the RLC declaring "war" See **WAR** Page 17

How to Make Liberty Happen Now

For the Next Elections: Instant Libertarians

"16% of Americans are libertarians" said the Rasmussen Survey. (*LP News*, October 2000) So why is Washington D.C. growing faster than ever?

Buried in the article is the key: most of those 16% don't know they're libertarian! Even though they have somehow withstood the calls to dependency upon the megastate, they look upon proponents of political and economic freedom with ignorance, suspicion and fear.

It's obvious, if we're going to make liberty happen, we're going to have to look to the free market for a solution.

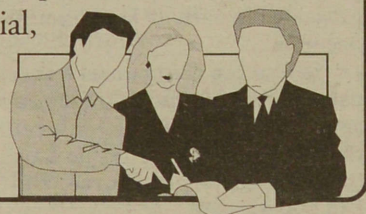
LIBERTARIANS
16%
RASMUSSEN
SURVEY

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While the student learns life-changing techniques, he's learning that liberty is his right, and that responsibility is its price!

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Pinnacle Support Systems offers its customers a perpetual support system that evolves with the industry technology.

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- Meeting and working with people passionate about liberty
- Being a facilitator/presenter
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Special bonus to LP News readers: Callers will receive free, with no cost or obligation, our powerful course section on "Liberty and Self-empowerment, or 'Common Sense II' "

For more information about Pinnacle Support Systems, call 1-800-432-0018 Ext. 5260.

TalkingPoints

68,937 reasons to hate taxes, & how smokers save us money

■ Monkey business

Well, I'll be a monkey's uncle. And you're no doubt a monkey's uncle, too.

I'm talking about the Chimpanzee Health Improvement, Maintenance and Protection Act, the excellent retirement system Congress just set up for chimpanzees. No, really, I kid you not. This is Washington.

The National Taxpayers Union calculates that we taxpayers are spending \$45,000 a year per chimp. Not a bad retirement program. In fact, it beats Social Security.

These are chimpanzees once used in federal government research who have now entered their golden years. They do have to be cared for, of course. But \$45,000 a year?

Isn't it funny that chimps get a lot better retirement program than the chump taxpayer? Well, we chumps are in the same boat with the chimps in one respect. Neither of us have control of our own retirement money. The politicians are in control. And that's another problem.

— PAUL JACOB

Common Sense, April 9, 2001

■ Classes in bribery

A Buffalo, N.Y. public school program announced it will pay some high school students \$5 an hour to attend English and math classes this summer.

— NEWS OF THE WEIRD

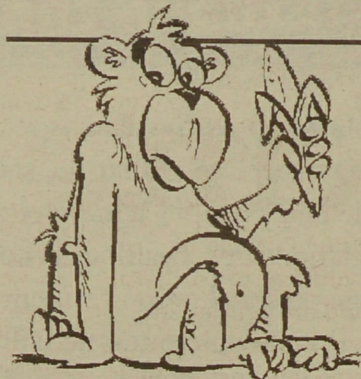
April 1, 2001

■ Cigarette savings

When Bill Clinton first launched his political and legal war against the tobacco companies, he told us he was doing so on behalf of taxpayers. Smokers, he insisted, cost taxpayers money.

Well, according to a well-respected study by Harvard economist W. Kip Viscusi, smokers actually save taxpayers money because, on average, they die at an earlier age than non-smokers, which results in substantial savings in Social Security. It may sound cold, but it is true.

A June 1999 Congressional Research Service report confirmed that since smokers statistically die prematurely, they save the federal government approximately \$29 billion each year in health-care costs. And get this, directly from the report: "All in all, smoking has apparently brought financial gain to both the federal and state governments,



ISN'T IT FUNNY
that chimps get a better retirement program than the chump taxpayer?

especially when cigarette taxes are taken into account. In general, smokers do not appear to currently impose net financial costs on the rest of society."

— DAVID LIMBAUGH

The Washington Times
April 30, 2001

■ Manifest this

The attitude of too many Democrats and Republicans in Congress was captured by Michael Lerner in the May/June issue of *Tikkun*: "Government ought to be the vehicle through which we manifest our caring for others."

For those folks, government spending is a religious exercise. Spending your money demonstrates their goodness.

— JIM BOULET, JR.

National Review Online
April 1, 2001

■ Dubious milestone

On [April 10] on *Who Wants to Be A Millionaire*, a smart and lucky fellow won \$2 million, the most ever awarded on a television game show. If Regis Philbin were to award a \$2 million jackpot to a contestant every night, seven days a week, he would have to host the show for the next 2,739 years before he had given out \$2 trillion — the amount George W. Bush has proposed (\$1.96 trillion to be precise) the federal government spend the next year.

It was in 1987 that the federal government first reached the dubious milestone of a \$1 trillion budget. That is, it took 200 years for the nation to surpass \$1 tril-

lion. But it's taken only 14 years to reach the \$2 trillion mark.

— STEPHEN MOORE

The Wall Street Journal
April 12, 2001

■ Taxing numbers I

According to *The Harper's Index Book*, 68,937 government entities in the United States have the power to tax you. So hold on to your wallet.

— MARGARET SHAPIRO

The Washington Post Sunday Magazine, April 15, 2001

■ Taxing numbers II

The Internal Revenue Code has 1,395,000 words. It has 693 sections applicable to individuals, 1,501 sections affecting businesses, and 445 sections dealing with tax exempt organizations, employee plans, and government.

As of June 2000, the Treasury Department had issued 20,000 pages of tax regulations containing more than 8 million words. Last year alone, the IRS published 68 revenue rulings, 49 revenue procedures, 64 notices, 100 announcements, at least 2,400 private letter rulings and technical advice, 19 actions on decisions, and 240 field service advice.

There are 649 different IRS forms, schedules, and instructions totaling more than 16,000 lines; 159 worksheets contained in IRS instructions; and 340 different IRS publications totaling more than 13,000 pages. The 1040 form alone has 79 lines, 144 pages of instructions, 11 schedules totaling 443 lines, and 19 worksheets.

No wonder, then, that taxpayers contacted the IRS 117 million times in 1999 — and got the wrong answer 47% of the time.

— BRUCE BARTLETT

The Washington Times
May 2, 2001

■ 911 is a joke

A Los Angeles Police Department report released in January revealed that, because of high turnover of operators and slowdowns in construction of new 911 facilities, a total of 219,733 calls to 911 last year were never answered by an operator.

— NEWS OF THE WEIRD

March 25, 2001

■ Super Surveillance

(Tampa) As 72,000 fans filed into Raymond Jones Stadium for Super Bowl XXXV, police recorded dozens of images of each of their faces. The patented FaceTrac sys-

tem digitalized the images, and, measuring 128 characteristics such as nose width, cheekbone angle, distance between the eyes and thickness of lips, compared each image with the photos in a database of criminals. Although they made no arrests, police said the faces of 19 people matched those of crooks already on file.

They called the face-scanning exercise an "experiment."

— PLAYBOY, June 2001

■ Rosie O'Surprised

Talk show host and anti-gun activist Rosie O'Donnell is conducting a poll on gun control at her online magazine *Rosie*. Given her views, she may wish she hadn't. Among respondents, 82% say, "I think everyone has a right to own a gun with no restrictions." Only 2% say, "I'm for gun control." A combined 13% support private ownership if licensing or point-of-sale background checks are in place.

— PETER ROFF

UPI's Capitol Comment
April 10, 2001

■ A losing battle

Three-fourths of Americans think the nation is losing the war on drugs and that the demand for drugs is so high it will be impossible to stop their use, a poll says.

The poll of 1,513 adults [was taken] by the Pew research Center for the People & the Press.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

March 22, 2001

■ People v. Leviathan

Prior to the rise of the Leviathan state in America in the 20th Century, the idea that the average person would be forced to pay 40-50% of his or her income to politicians was unheard of.

For example, Thomas Jefferson ran on a platform that would abolish *all* federal taxes, and indeed when elected president, he not only did just that, but he set a precedent of no federal taxes (except briefly during the War of 1812) that lasted until Abraham Lincoln became president in 1860.

Hence, Leviathan continues to grow uninterrupted in modern

America. The reason for this is that the public by-and-large still blindly accepts the view that government power is still a force for good that somehow creates the "free lunches" of a safer, healthier, freer, smarter, and more equitable society.

And, politicians profit from this situation to enrich themselves and those who keep them in power by redistributing wealth from an ignorant public to the politically influential few.

— DAVID J. THEROUX

The Independent, April 2001

■ No evidence

America now spends twice as much money annually to combat illegal drugs as it spent fighting the Persian Gulf War, yet there is no evidence indicating that existing policies are either working or cost-effective, charge authors of a newly released study by the National Research Council.

"It is unconscionable for this country to continue to carry out a public policy of this magnitude and cost without any way of knowing whether it is having the desired result," said Charles Manski, chief author of the report, and a Board of Trustees Professor in Economics at Northwestern University. The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) commissioned the study in 1998.

According to the report, drug enforcement activities have grown exponentially since 1980. There are now 12 times as many drug offenders in state prisons than there were in 1980, and police arrest approximately 1.6 million Americans per year on drug charges, three times as many as they did 20 years ago.

Government funding to pay for these activities has grown from \$1.5 billion in 1980 to nearly \$20 billion today.

Nevertheless, "the nation is in no better position to evaluate the effectiveness of enforcement than it was 20 years ago, when the recent intensification of enforcement began," the report said.

— NORML FOUNDATION PRESS
RELEASE, April 12, 2001

"Politics is the art of the possible."

— OTTO VON BISMARCK



We're all active in the Libertarian Party because we believe liberty is possible. More importantly, we know that liberty is necessary. But our political work is only possible because of your support. Can we count on your continued support — for as long as this struggle takes? One way to help us is by naming the Libertarian Party in your will or insurance policy. For a confidential discussion, call National LP Treasurer Deryl Martin at (931) 858-0915. Or e-mail him at: dnc@multipro.com.

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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. **Federal law** requires political committees to report the name, mailing address, occupation, and name of employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year.

Books for Sale

Q'NTY COST

Why Government Doesn't Work • Browne

Libertarianism In One Lesson • Bergland

Ready-to-use Literature

Brochure: "Is This the New Political Party...?"

Brochure: "Towards More Sensible Drug Policy"

Brochure: "What Happened/Your Family Budget?"

Brochure: "Ending the Welfare State"

Brochure: "Making Neighborhood Safe Again"

Brochure: "Equal Rights/America's Gun Owners"

Brochure: "Working to Cut Your Taxes!"

Flyer: "Political Party/100% Pro-Gun Rights?"

America's Libertarian Heritage booklet

Fact Sheets: LP history/bibliography (package)

World's Smallest Political Quiz

"Million Dollar Bill" Literature

Yard Signs

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH/Vote Libertarian

Bumper Stickers

Don't Blame Me...I Voted Libertarian

I'm Pro-Choice on Everything!

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH/VOTE LIBERTARIAN

Vote Libertarian/1-800-ELECT-US

Buttons

Don't Blame Me, I Voted Libertarian

VOTE LIBERTARIAN/800-ELECT-US

Libertarian Party: Pro-Choice on Everything

Miscellaneous Items

Lined windbreaker. Circle one: M L XL

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.

Large & Small Banners

Large: "LIBERTARIAN PARTY" (18" h x 5' w)

Please check preferred second line:

☐ Defenders of Liberty ☐ 1-800-ELECT-US

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

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

TOTAL PAYMENT DUE

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

☐ Bill my Visa ☐ Bill my MasterCard

☐ Bill my AMEX ☐ Bill my Discover Card

Acct. #

Expires Signature

Name

Membership ID# (On label)

Street

City State Zip

Occupation

Employer

I'm Pro-Choice on EVERYTHING! LIBERTARIAN PARTY 800-ELECT-US

Vote Libertarian! 1-800-ELECT-US

Don't Blame Me... I VOTED LIBERTARIAN FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY, CALL TOLL-FREE 800-ELECT-US

Stick it to 'em!

Become a "moving billboard" for the Libertarian Party: Put one of these attractive, eye-catching bumperstickers on your car or truck. All three popular bumperstickers are a big 3" x 11" and are printed in bright, bold colors. And they all feature the party's toll-free phone number.

Remember: Bumperstickers are long-lasting, hard-working low-cost mobile advertising for the Libertarian Party. So help us "stick it" to the Republicans and Democrats — and put an LP bumpersticker on your car or truck today!

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

Also available: ENOUGH IS ENOUGH/VOTE LIBERTARIAN bumpersticker (Blue & red — big 3" x 11" size). \$1 each; \$7.50 for 10; \$50 for 100

LIBERTARIAN PARTY BROCHURES



Is This the New Political Party You've Been Looking For? Brochure, 2-color (violet & black). Introductory brochure; gives a general, friendly overview of Libertarian Party beliefs.

★ Cost: Sample: 50¢ Or \$7 for 100

Towards A More Sensible Drug Policy. Brochure, 2-color (blue & black). Argues that drug legalization is a sensible and workable alternative to the government's dangerous "War on Drugs."

★ Cost: Sample: 50¢ Or \$7 for 100

Ending the Welfare State. Brochure, 2-color (green & black). The LP's welfare reform plan, promoting opportunity, work, and personal responsibility — instead of failed government programs.

★ Cost: Sample: 50¢ Or \$7 for 100

Equal Rights for America's Gun Owners. Brochure, 2-color (orange & black). Explains and defends the Libertarian Party's strong pro-Second Amendment position for a general audience.

★ Cost: Sample: 50¢ Or \$7 for 100

Yard Sign

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

Cost: \$8.00 each.

What Happened To Your Family Budget? Brochure, 2-color (blue & black). Looks at how the government impoverishes Americans by taking more in taxes than most families spend on food, clothing, and shelter (combined).

★ Cost: Sample: 50¢ Or \$7 for 100

Making Your Neighborhood Safe Again. Brochure, 2-color (red & black). Explains the LP's five-point crime-control program that protects civil liberties — while providing more resources to fight real criminals.

★ Cost: Sample: 50¢ Or \$7 for 100

Working to Cut Your Taxes. Brochure, 2-color (green & black). How the LP would drastically reduce the size and cost of government by privatizing government services, abolishing corporate welfare, and ending income taxes.

★ Cost: Sample: 50¢ Or \$7 for 100

LITERATURE BUTTONS & MUCH MORE!

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

■ **LP "Fact Sheets":** Updated for 2000: 2-page LP history (with political highlights, accomplishments, and victories from 1971-1999) and comprehensive two-page bibliography (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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

■ **Vote Libertarian** 1-800-ELECT-US

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

Miscellaneous Items

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

Tools for Campaigning

■ **Libertarian Political Action: Techniques for Effective Campaigning:** 32 pages. Comprehensive explanation of winning campaign techniques for Libertarian candidates. A must read! 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 & Small Banners

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

■ **Large Banner.** (18" x 5'). White on blue. First line "Libertarian Party." You can pick the second line from these two choices: "800-ELECT-US" or "Defenders of Liberty." (Specify which on order form.) Cost: \$40 each

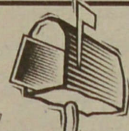
HOW TO PLACE YOUR ORDER



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(202) 333-0072 by fax



By mail...
The Libertarian Party
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NW, Suite 100
Washington, DC 20037



Affiliate News

Fighting the income tax (legally), & celebrating Tax Freedom Day

■ ALASKA

Pot legalization initiative gets filed in Anchorage

A Libertarian Party member and two other activists have submitted a marijuana legalization initiative to the Anchorage Division of Elections.

LP member **Jerry Rohacek**, who is also a professor of economics at the University of Alaska at Anchorage, delivered the proposed initiative on April 6.

The initiative would end criminal penalties for marijuana use and possession, and permit hemp farming, said LP Alaska Membership Chair **Al Anders**.

A similar initiative appeared on the ballot in 2000, but failed with 40% of the vote. The previous bill was defeated, said Anders, because it included a provision to provide restitution to people who had been arrested for marijuana charges.

"We are confident [the initiative] will pass this time," he said. "I think the amount of support we got for the last one shows that many Alaskans don't believe adults should be arrested for smoking pot."

Libertarians must still collect about 20,000 petitions to put the initiative on the November 2002 ballot.

■ CALIFORNIA

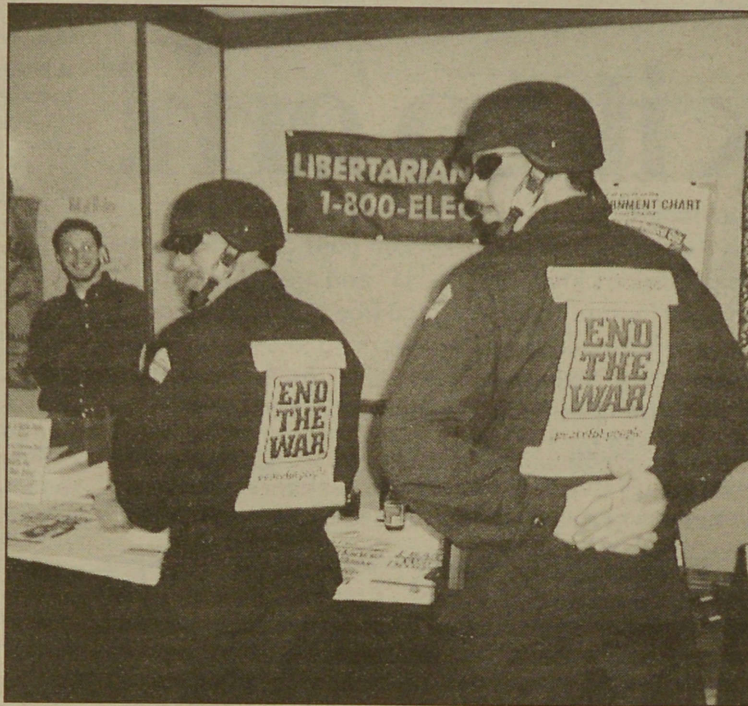
State LP praises report on environmental damage

The state LP has praised a coalition of four environmental and consumer groups that endorsed cutting \$23 billion in state spending on programs that harm the environment.

"We are very heartened to see these groups advocating cuts in destructive government programs," said LP State Chair **Aaron Starr** on May 4. "Libertarians have long supported restricting the government's ability to harm the environment."

The groups — the California Public Interest Research Group, Friends of the Earth, the California Tax Reform Association, and Green Capital — recommended that the state government abolish special tax breaks for oil and gas companies, implement a "Polluter Pays" system, and turn an environmental study over to a private group.

"We support the spirit of the report," said Starr. "Libertarians know that government is the biggest polluter of all, and the best



To protect and serve... donuts

■ They're not the Police — they're the Polite.

They're the Reams Rangers, a public relations stunt for the Gary Reams for Governor campaign in Virginia. Shown here at the Virginia LP convention in Richmond on March 10, their motto is: "To protect and serve... donuts."

"It's a very clever concept," said LP Political Director **Ron Crickenberger**. "The idea is to show that if we ended the War on Drugs — which is the principle focus of the Reams campaign — Americans would have to fear the police less. And that's true whether you use drugs or not, since everyone's rights are in danger from Drug Prohibition. Instead of having the police, we'd have the polite, who are here just to protect us from real crime."

The Reams Rangers will travel with the candidate to some appearances, said Reams' campaign staff.

ways to ensure a clean environment are to establish innovative markets in public resources, protect property rights, and eliminate government's role as much as possible."

■ DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

DC Libertarians support income tax opt-out bill

The DC Libertarian Party has endorsed a bill that would exempt District of Columbia residents from paying a federal income tax.

The bill, HR 1193 IH (the "No Taxation Without Representation Act of 2001"), was filed by Congresswoman **Eleanor Holmes Norton** (D-DC), and "would repeal the federal income tax for DC residents until such time as DC residents have permanent representation in Congress," said DC State Chair **Carol Moore**.

Currently, DC has non-voting

representatives in Congress, since it is a federal district and not a state.

"The DC Libertarian Party doesn't take a stand on what form that representation should take — and some members would be happy to forgo representation, if it meant an end to the D.C. income tax," said Moore.

"Nevertheless, DC libertarians will be using this [issue] as a means to network with D.C. residents and acquaint them with libertarian views on taxes and liberty."

■ INDIANA

State Libertarians score 100% in lobbying effort

A lobbying campaign by the state LP racked up a 100% success rate — with Libertarians affecting the fate of seven bills.

Of the bills targeted by Libertarians during the Spring leg-

islative session, three either passed or failed as the LP recommended, while four others were changed to gain the party's approval, said Indiana LP Executive Director **Brad Klopfenstein**.

"It is important that people realize that our influence and activity don't just disappear with the election," he said.

Indiana Libertarians opposed bills to move up the state's ballot access deadlines; to mandate a special voter identification number; to create a statewide voter registration database; to make it illegal for a candidate to reimburse lost income with campaign funds; and to create a statewide voter registration list.

The state LP's legislative success is "a huge step toward becoming a political force in Indiana," said Klopfenstein.

■ MAINE

LP promotes Universal Education Tax Credits

The Maine LP is spearheading an effort to promote Universal Education Tax Credits (UETC) in the state.

State Libertarians have met with several groups — including Christians, Roman Catholic schools, and Republican legislators — to try to build a coalition to support the tax credit idea, said State Chair **Marc Cenci**.

"Although it is too early to make a public announcement of an official coalition, all participants are supportive of a tax credit bill," he said.

Under the UETC proposal, Maine residents and businesses would get a dollar-for-dollar tax reduction from the state income tax for money spent on education, or for donations made for other people's education.

The effort to promote UETC is a turning point for the Maine LP, said Cenci.

"A project like this will allow us to meet and work with people who have never worked with Libertarians before," he said. "[And] we will be able to demonstrate that we are indeed Defenders of Freedom."

■ MICHIGAN

Owosso LP forces vote on 'historic' ordinance

Libertarians in Owosso have succeeded in forcing a referendum on an ordinance requiring property owners to conform to "historical authenticity standards" when making changes to buildings or grounds.

On April 19, the city clerk said that nearly 1,700 petitions had been filed — more than enough to trigger a referendum on the ballot in November.

Owosso Libertarian Chair **Mark D. Owen** said the ordinance is unpopular with many residents.

"There [is] a small hard-core group that [is] in favor of the historical district," said Owen, who is also a spokesman for Owosso Residents for Property Rights.

"The general sentiment is the community is against it."

But despite community support, Owen said he has met with vehement opposition from the Historic District Commission, which charged that the LP is "targeting" Owosso.

That's a "hysterical reaction," said Owen. "Instead of trying to defend the reasoning of what they do, [they] try to smear the opposition."

■ MICHIGAN

Eastpointe Libertarians battle 'living wage' bill

Eastpointe Libertarians are fighting an ordinance to guarantee a so-called "living wage" to government employees and businesses receiving government funds — a proposal they say will actually hurt the poor.

Ordinance 901, which was adopted unanimously by the Eastpointe city council on April 3, would raise wages to \$11 per hour.

"This is a transparent attempt to artificially inflate the wage scale for unions at the expense of young people and the working poor — who will be forced into the unemployment lines simply because their skills cannot command the \$11-per-hour mandated," charged LP activist **Dianne Barnes**.

Libertarians are working to put the ordinance on hold until it can be put on the November election ballot. The group must collect 286 signatures by May 3 to keep the ordinance from going into effect.

"We will overturn this attack on Eastpointe taxpayers, businesses, and working people," vowed Barnes.

■ MONTANA

State LP points out the cost of Tax Freedom Day

Libertarians celebrated — or mourned — Tax Freedom Day in Montana this year by pointing out that state citizens must work 115 days "to pay off their taxes."

In an April 25 statement, State Chair **Mike Fellows** said the problem is simple: Too much spending by politicians, at the state and national level.

"The 2001 legislature has increased the Montana state budget, and somebody has to pay," he said. "We know where the legislature's priorities are, and the taxpayer is not one of them."

According to the Washington, DC-based Tax Foundation, the typical Montana resident pays 31.7% of his or her income in taxes, and must work until April 25 to pay off all state, local, and federal taxes.

When do Human Beings Begin? "Scientific" Myths and Scientific Facts

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

If government's role were limited to protecting people's lives, rights, and property, then Montana citizens could "keep more of what we earn," noted Fellows.

■ MONTANA

Libertarians stop three bills in Spring lobbying

State Libertarians went three-for-three in a legislative lobbying campaign this Spring — and helped demonstrate that the state party was "involved in the process."

In April, State Chair **Mike Fellows** testified in person at the State House in Helena against three proposed bills that would have raised taxes, increased ballot access barriers, and squandered tobacco settlement money. The party's scorecard:

- HB 636 (to impose a state sales tax) was tabled in the senate.
- HB 607 (to implement state funding of campaigns) was tabled in committee. "I don't think we need this kind of political welfare," said Fellows about the bill.
- HB 96 (to channel tobacco settlement money to state health-care programs) was voted down.

Overall, Fellows said he was pleased with the party's lobbying success. "I have always thought lobbying the legislature was a good thing [because] a political party has to be involved in the process," he said.

■ NEW HAMPSHIRE

State LP blasts 'worst' possible state sales tax

State Libertarians have condemned a proposed statewide sales tax — saying that troubled economic times are the "worst possible time for a new tax."

On April 16, the state party issued a statement against the so-called EXCEL plan, proposed by Democratic Governor Shaheen, which would impose a new 2.5% sales tax to fund the state's education system.

The tax could destroy small businesses in the state, warned **John Babiarz**, the party's 2000 candidate for governor.

"It's clear there will be some unknown number of small businesses that will fail if the 2.5% sales tax passes," he said. "[And] the beginning of a possible recession is the worst possible time for a new tax — especially one that's not needed."

"After waiting four years to finally suggest a 'solution' to the school funding 'crisis,' the best [Shaheen] can come up with is a tax that will put some small businesses to death."

The bill was defeated in the N.H. House on May 1.

■ NEW YORK

State LP may request a civil rights investigation

In an ironic twist, the New York LP says it may call for a civil rights investigation by the U.S. Department of Justice after a town razed a church it had seized



Libertarians rally against tax-funded stadium in Charlotte, North Carolina

■ Members of the Mecklenburg LP rally outside the Charlotte Coliseum — home of the Charlotte Hornets NBA team — to protest a plan to tear down the stadium and build a new one at taxpayers' expense.

Politicians shouldn't "steal [money] from the wallets of honest, hard-working people in Charlotte" to build sports stadiums, said Mecklenburg County LP Chair Dave Gable.

At the rally, held in late April, Libertarians were joined by members of COST — Charlotteans Opposed to Sports Taxes.

The groups are trying to rally a "No" vote on a non-binding referendum on sports and cultural facilities that will be held on June 5, arguing that "taking money from citizens under the threat of force for the benefit of select individuals or groups is abhorrent to the concept of liberty."

under eminent domain laws.

"Were there civil rights violations? We don't know," said New York LP State Chair **Richard Cooper**. "It looks suspicious."

In April, the town of New Cassel, New York demolished St. Luke's Pentecostal Church, which it had seized from Rev. Fred Jenkins. The town paid only \$80,000 for the \$130,000 building, and demolished it as part of an urban renewal scheme.

Before the seizure, a member of the the Zoning Board had stated, "We have enough churches here in New Cassel."

"We know that the government replaces Martin Luther King's dream with an urban renewal scheme," said Cooper. "We hope that Ashcroft's Justice Department takes a look at this."

■ NORTH CAROLINA

Buncombe County party fights Asheville expansion

The Buncombe County LP has announced it will oppose an effort by the city of Asheville to "ETJ" — expand its extra territorial jurisdiction.

"What does the city council think this is: The Empire of Asheville?" asked **Kevin Rollins**, the Chair of the Buncombe County LP, in early March. "The ETJ expansion makes the city council a non-elected dictatorship over those [additional] areas of the county."

Libertarians oppose the ETJ — which would put land outside the city limits under the jurisdiction of the Asheville city council — partially because residents on the affected areas would not get

to vote on the matter, said Rollins.

In addition, "The new ETJ areas will not be able to vote in city elections [and] this is the first step toward annexing those areas," he said. "The city has too many regulations — and now they want to expand it to the country."

■ NORTH CAROLINA

Raleigh Libertarians find friends at Drug War rally

Libertarians in Raleigh held a protest against the War on Drugs that was a "huge success," according to rally organizer **Phillip Yardley**.

The protest, held on March 3, drew about 20 people despite cold, rainy weather, he said — and "demonstrators were cheered by honks and 'peace' hand signs from many passersby."

The protest also generated words of support from an unlikely source: A local police officer.

"We even had a policeman stop by and say that he agreed that drugs should be decriminalized for the sole reason that they create a black market," said Yardley. "Needless to say, I was quite pleased with his response."

Helping to organize the rally was North Carolina LP Executive Comm. member **Tom Howe**.

■ OHIO

Franklin County LP urges: No tax money for YMCA

Franklin County Libertarians are opposing a plan to spend \$2 million for a new YMCA branch.

In early March, Franklin County LP Chair **Rick Sargent** sent a letter to Gahanna Mayor

Jim McGregor protesting a plan to construct the new facility with taxpayer dollars.

"Subsidizing a YMCA branch places unfair competition toward other recreation facilities that pay their own way," he said. "City tax dollars should never be used to fund private development or to open such facilities."

The mayor has refused to allow town residents to vote on the plan, saying that a survey found 53% of voters support building a new recreation center.

But Sargent said that means that 47% do not support the project. A better idea, he said, would be for the city to return the money to taxpayers.

"Once that is done, the citizens who want a Y branch in Gahanna can donate that money directly to that group," he said.

■ VERMONT

State LP finds surprising support in opinion survey

Vermont LP to state legislators: Public attitudes are more Libertarian than you may think.

At least, that appears to be the conclusion that can be drawn from a public opinion survey taken by the party on March 6.

LP volunteers passed out a survey on Town Meeting Day to citizens in 30 towns, and found that a significant number of Vermont voters agree with Libertarian positions, said LP State Chair **Scott Berkey**.

"The results of the survey indicate conclusively that the attitudes of the Vermont public are far more libertarian than the actions of Vermont's legislature

would indicate," he said.

For example, about 47% of the respondents believe that socialized health care would fail in America, 47% believe that private firearm ownership reduces crime, and 45% oppose the War on Drugs. The survey results were printed in several daily newspapers the following day.

"Our intention was to get the attention of legislators concerning public support of Libertarian ideas," Berkey said.

■ UTAH

LP member is #1 favorite at Salt Lake City station

They like him — they really like him.

In fact, listeners of KTKK Radio (AM-630) in Salt Lake City like former LP State Chair **Jim Dexter** so much they voted him the most popular talk show host on the station.

"It's gratifying to know that listeners respond to a message of less government, lower taxes, and more freedom," said Dexter, who hosts his show, Radio Liberty, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm, Mondays and Wednesdays.

In the online poll, taken in March, Dexter won 28% of the vote, easily besting his nearest competitor by 11% points. He also beat some nationally syndicated hosts, like G. Gordon Liddy.

"It's hard to beat a Libertarian on the Internet," noted Dexter.

One listener, explaining why he voted for the Libertarian host, wrote: "Dexter sets the standard other hosts should follow."

Dexter served as Utah LP State Chair from 1996-2001.

The Review

Some things that must be said

■ *The Ten Things You Can't Say in America*, by Larry Elder. St. Martin's Press. 354 pages, hardbound. \$23.95.

Reviewed by Jonathan Trager
LP NEWS STAFF WRITER

Unless you've been living under a rock for the past 10 years, you know that it was Jack Nicholson who uttered the classic line, "You can't handle the truth!" in the movie *A Few Good Men*. But after reading the book *The Ten Things You Can't Say in America*, I think the words might as well have been uttered by Larry Elder.

In all honesty, this book is hardly a literary masterpiece. Although the self-proclaimed "Sage From South Central" should certainly be considered among the most prominent of black libertarian thinkers today, Elder does not possess the graceful writing style of a Thomas Sowell, for instance.

What Elder does have is a wildly popular radio show on KABC in Los Angeles, a law degree from the University of Michigan, and an uncanny ability to reduce statist arguments to obviously ridiculous premises.

Overall, *The Ten Things You Can't Say in America* is a no-holds-barred intellectual tirade against public policies that undermine personal responsibility in the name of "compassionate" Big Brotherism.

It is the latter half of the book that will really pique the interest of Libertarians. In those chapters, Elder effectively skewers statist laws, regulations, and even some politicians.

For example, he blasts the moral illegitimacy of the welfare state and denounces handout programs that subsidize irresponsibility. He points out that three-quarters of Americans make charitable contributions each year, and even more volunteer their time to charity work.

"The question is not whether we should help those who, through no fault of their own, cannot cope. The question is how we should help," Elder explains. "The libertarian-minded believe that individuals can and will help other individuals with more efficiency and compassion than can the government."

Elder frequently employs effective analogies to put his views in perspective. For example, he likens the idea that rich people get wealthier at the expense of the poor to the claim that a runner gains speed only by making others slower — an obvious absurdity and a very effective comparison.

Elder devotes whole chapters to perennial Libertarian issues such as the War on Drugs, government health care, and gun control, but my favorite part of the book was definitely Chapter 8, titled "Republicans versus Democrats — Maybe a Dime's Worth of Difference." Charging that the appropriate word for mainstream Democratic ideology is "Socialism," and the appropriate word for mainstream Republican ideology is "Socialism-lite," Elder wholeheartedly embraces Libertarianism as the only philosophy suitable for a free society.

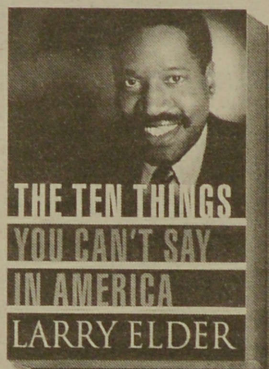
To that end, he outlines a practical plan that calls for "maximum freedom built on a foundation of personal responsibility." His "Ten-Point Elder Plan" includes replacing the personal and corporate income tax with a national sales tax, reducing government spending by 80%, eliminating all government handouts, and dismantling trade barriers.

LP members will also enjoy a section in which he specifically advocates the election of Libertarian Party candidates to office. Elder, who voted for Libertarian presidential nominee Harry Browne in 2000, rails against the "Wasted Vote" syndrome and maintains that Americans should not be goaded into electing the lesser of two evils.

From cover to cover, the text is laced with sarcastic quips, witty anecdotes, and well-placed statistics to back up his arguments. Whether talking about his childhood experiences or yesterday's conversations, Elder has a personable style sure to engage his readers.

The mass media generally present only two political philosophies to America — neither of which is terribly concerned with honoring the rights of individuals. For this reason, Elder's unapologetic defense of individual liberty is incredibly refreshing.

In *The Ten Things You Can't Say in America*, Larry Elder makes it clear that he doesn't care whether you can handle the truth — he's going to dish it out anyway.



Rep. Ron Paul's medical privacy bill picks up eight more co-sponsors

A bill filed by Congressman Ron Paul (R-TX) that would repeal new federal "privacy" regulations has picked up eight more co-sponsors over the past month — while the party's cyberpetition in support of the legislation has garnered another 4,000 signatures.

Since mid-April, when the Libertarian Party refocused its medical privacy campaign to generate support for HJR 38, Paul's resolution has picked up six Republicans, one Democrat, and one independent supporter. The bill now has 11 co-sponsors.

In addition, the number of signatures on the cyberpetition — at the LP's pro-privacy website, www.DefendYourPrivacy.com — against the so-called privacy regulations had hit 58,255 by May 18 (when *LP News* went to press), up from 54,130 a month earlier.

"This phase of the campaign is definitely picking up momentum," said LP National Director Steve Dasbach, who is helping coordinate the campaign. "We still have an uphill battle, but we're making progress."

However, he said, time is short: Both the House and Senate must pass HJR 38 within 60 legislative days in order to stop the Health & Human Services' so-called privacy regulations, which would force doctors to turn their patients' confidential medical records over to the government.

June 15

"In other words, we only have until about June 15 to generate enough Congressional support for HJR 38 to stop this federal raid on our medical privacy," said Dasbach.

HJR 38 would declare that the HHS rules "have no force or effect."

The Libertarian Party opposes the HHS regulations — which were originally drafted by and endorsed by the Clinton administration — because they would "kiss your medical privacy goodbye," said Dasbach.

Although touted by government officials as "medical privacy" regulations, the rules would actually mandate that doctors turn patient records over to the HHS and other federal agencies for "safekeeping"; allow the release of medical records to other government agencies without patient consent for unspecified "public health" surveillance activities; and permit law enforcement agencies to access medical records without a search warrant.

The party started its campaign against the regulations in late March.

At that time, the regulations were still in the proposal stage, so the party encouraged people to contact their Congressional rep-

resentatives and ask them to put pressure on HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson to reject the rules.

However, on April 12, President George W. Bush quietly ordered Thompson to ignore the outpouring of complaints, and implement the regulations immediately.

Plan Two

"More than 67,000 Americans spoke out against these regulations — but their opinions were ignored by the Bush Administration," said Dasbach. "That's why we had to go to Plan Two, and try to block the regulations through the House and Senate."

To sign the petition and send an e-mail to your U.S. House Representative and U.S. Senator urging support for HJR 38, visit: www.DefendYourPrivacy.com.

"If these rules aren't stopped, your medical privacy will be in critical condition," said Dasbach.

JOIN THE CAMPAIGN!

For more information about the HHS "medical privacy" regulation, and to sign the cyberpetition opposing it, visit:

www.DefendYourPrivacy.com

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Eight more Libertarians elected in Massachusetts and Mississippi

Continued from Page 1

ian Victory Fund, a new Libertarian PAC that helps elect Libertarians to local office.

"They were a decisive factor," said Atkinson.

The LVF produced a glossy, full-color postcard, and mailed it to every registered voter in Provincetown. Since Atkinson finished less than 5% ahead of the third-place contender, the mailing probably made a difference, said LVF Executive Director Chris Azzaro.

"David was very pleased with the response it got from the voters," he said. "[And] we are very proud to have played a significant role in the campaign. He's a very effective freedom fighter.

"He's done a lot of good work and deserved to be re-elected. This is an important victory for Libertarians everywhere."

Atkinson will serve a three-year term on the Board of Selectmen, which is similar to a city council.

Private ownership

In his second term, Atkinson said he will focus on getting a small stretch of Provincetown-owned beach designated as "clothing optional," having an area of a town-owned soccer complex set aside for skateboarding and roller blading, and trying to turn a senior citizen facility over to private ownership.

"This isn't an ideal Libertarian way to govern, but right now, it seems to be the best we can do," he said.

In other Massachusetts election results:

■ Jack B. Hirschmann won a three-year term to the Dartmouth Town Committee (Precinct 9) on April 2. With 8.39% of the vote, he won one of four open positions.

■ Laura M. Hirschmann won a three-year term to the Dartmouth Town Committee (Precinct 9) with 8.15% of the vote.

■ Richard Mardigan won a three-year term to the Dartmouth Town Committee (Precinct 9) via a write-in campaign.

■ Michael W. Conway won a one-year term to the Dartmouth Town Committee (Precinct 9) via a write-in campaign.

■ Craig Rosen was elected as chairman of the School Board in Swansea.

■ Katie Rosen won a spot on the Swansea Recreation Commission.

In a near-miss in Massachusetts, Brian Thomas won 46% of the vote in a two-way race for Dartmouth Town Assessor. However, Thomas was appointed to the Dartmouth Municipal Land Committee the week following the election.

The Massachusetts victories were the result of a deliberate

strategy to run a record number of local candidates this year, said State Chair Eli Israel.

Major party

"We are shrugging off our previous role as the irrelevant third party, and taking our first true steps as the newest major party [in Massachusetts]," he said.

And in another election win, Mike Chambers was elected to the Polkville City Council in Mississippi, winning the "largest vote" for the five open positions.

In May, *LP News* reported that 11 Libertarians were elected to office in Missouri, California, Oregon, Illinois, New Hampshire, and Wisconsin.



■ Massachusetts LP members (l-r) Jack B. Hirschmann, Laura M. Hirschmann, and Richard Mardigan were all elected to positions on the Dartmouth Town Committee (Precinct 9).

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The Institute for Justice: Litigating for liberty

Continued from Page 1

Less than a year later, a federal judge ruled against the state of Tennessee — and declared that Reverend Nathaniel Craigiles and three other individuals charged with the same so-called “crime” were not criminals at all.

“There is no reason to require someone who sells what is essentially a box to undergo the time and expense of training and testing that has nothing to do with the state’s asserted goals of consumer protection and safety,” U.S. Judge R. Allen Edgar wrote.

The Institute for Justice had won again.

Founded in September 1991, the firm known in libertarian circles simply as “IJ” is engaged in an ambitious legal mission: Defending liberty.

“Simply put, we sue the government when it stands in the way of people trying to earn an honest living, when it takes away individuals’ property, when bureaucrats instead of parents dictate the education of children, and when government stifles,” IJ explains on its website.

“We seek a rule of law under which individuals can control their destinies as free and responsible members of society.”

Pro-liberty victories

Now, as IJ celebrates its tenth anniversary, founders William “Chip” Mellor and Clint Bolick can look back on an impressive list of pro-liberty victories: Beating Donald Trump in an eminent domain battle. Defending would-be taxi drivers from regulations designed to stifle competition. Protecting the rights of African-American hair-braiders.

And they can see a public interest law firm that has become not only well-known, but also well respected.

For example, syndicated columnist George Will described IJ as a “merry band of libertarian litigators who fight for economic rights wherever they are menaced.”

Investors Business Daily wrote: “The Institute for Justice’s influence is being felt across the nation.” And *U.S. News & World Reports* lauded IJ for “opposing government infringement on individual rights.”

Looking back on what they have accomplished, Mellor and Bolick said, “It doesn’t seem possible that nearly 10 years have passed since the day we first opened the doors of the Institute for Justice.”

But it has been almost a decade — since September 1991, to be precise — since the Institute for Justice set up shop.

Many years before joining forces to launch IJ, Mellor and Bolick had worked together, serving in different departments in the Reagan administration.

Then Bolick joined the Virginia-based Landmark Legal



■ Vera Coking: The Institute for Justice helped her win a fight to protect her Atlantic City home against billionaire Donald Trump and a New Jersey state agency. “This is my home. This is my castle,” she said.

Foundation, while Mellor moved to California to become the executive director of the Pacific Research Center.

But, separated by a continent, they still shared a dream of joining forces again to “pursue a vision of public interest advocacy devoted to individual rights and economic liberty,” said Mellor, who now serves as IJ’s President/General Counsel.

“We had witnessed first hand the graphic difference between pro-business and pro-free enterprise litigation,” he said. “Clint and I concluded that a very different approach was necessary — a long-term, philosophically and tactically consistent litigation program based on natural rights and the role as guarantors of liberty.”

Public opinion

To implement that ambitious program, IJ has grown to include a half-dozen full-time litigators, as well as additional support staff, researchers, and interns. Bolick serves as Executive Vice President/Litigation Director. And rounding out the IJ team is public relations guru John Kramer — whose job is to publicize cases “in the court of public opinion” while IJ’s lawyers litigate in government courtrooms.

And, sometimes that court of public opinion is almost as important as the legal maneuvering. Just ask Dr. JoAnne Cornwell.

Cornwell’s mother and grandmother had been hairstylists in

Detroit, Michigan. It was from them that Cornwell, a professor of African Studies at San Diego State University, learned a unique technique of African hairbraiding that she called sisterlocks.

Cornwell wanted to use her skill — and her love of her African heritage — to open her own African hairbraiding service.

CHIP MELLOR: “A very different approach was necessary.”

“I knew I had come upon something that would have the potential for radically changing the way women like me related to ourselves,” she said. “That realization brought with it a sense of elation that can hardly be described.”

But the state bureaucrats had other ideas.

The California Department of Consumer Affairs informed Cornwell that she would need to undergo 1,600 hours of schooling (and pay more than \$5,000) to obtain a cosmetology license from the state — even though African hairbraiding was not taught in cosmetology classes.

Cornwell turned to the Institute for Justice.

As the case was moving through the courts, IJ’s public relations wizards unleashed a bruising attack on the licensing laws in the media, forcing California bureaucrats to try to explain why they were spending hundreds of thousands of dollars to try to keep an African-American woman from starting a business.

The debate created such a buzz that millionaire magazine publisher Steve Forbes publicly endorsed IJ’s efforts — saying he hoped the case would “cause leaders at all levels of government to reexamine the barriers to opportunity that they’ve created.”

Failed muster

Finally, in August 1999, Cornwell won. Federal Judge Rudi Brewster said forcing African hairstylists to undergo such expensive training “failed to pass constitutional muster” under the Fourteenth Amendment.

The decision was a “decisive victory” for entrepreneurs, said Bolick.

“Not only is this victory a blow to protectionist government regulations across the country, it is a boost to the hopes and dreams of everyone who is trying to earn an honest living.”

While IJ cases make for colorful headlines, they are anchored by solid — if less glamorous — Constitutional principles.

For example, IJ’s lawyers frequently rely on the the “Due Process and Equal Protection Clause” of the Fourteenth Amendment. It

mandates that no state government shall “deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.”

IJ has used this clause to attack “eminent domain” laws of various states — laws that, in essence, allow governments to confiscate private property, often transferring it to private businesses in the name of “economic development.”

That can happen even if the owner of the property is a widow. And even if the business interest who covets it is billionaire real-estate mogul Donald Trump.

Almost homeless

That was the case with Vera Coking. A widow who had lived in her Atlantic City home for more than 35 years, Coking almost found herself homeless when Trump took an interest in her property.

Coking’s nightmare started in 1994. She received a letter from the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority, a private company that had been endowed with eminent domain authority by the state of New Jersey. The CRDA informed Coking that she had 30 days to accept its offer to buy her property — at one-quarter its appraised value — or be forcibly removed soon after.

The CRDA plan was to seize the property and transfer it to Trump at well below market value, so the billionaire could expand his hotel and casino empire by constructing a limousine parking lot.

Coking refused. “This is my home. This is my castle,” she said.

The CRDA didn’t care. Soon, it had seized all the land around Coking’s home. On almost every side, the widow was surrounded by Donald Trump’s parking lot.

With only her house left standing, an Atlantic County Superior Court decision halted the development in 1995 on a legal technicality. Coking thought her suffering was finally over. She thought wrong.

Later in 1995, an Appellate Division Court reversed the lower court decision, and gave the CRDA the green-light to raze Coking’s house.

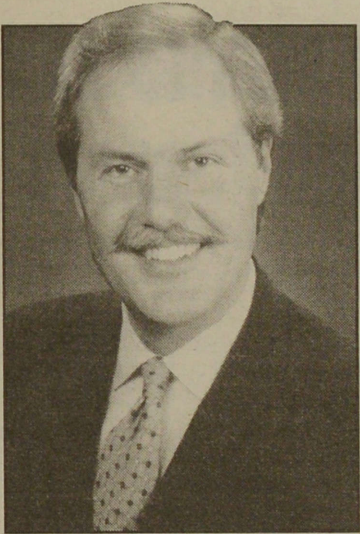
Enter the Institute for Justice.

IJ lawyers argued that the state of New Jersey had unconstitutionally delegated its condemnation power to the CRDA, had misused the power of eminent domain, and had exceeded its lawful authority in an “unreasonable and abusive use” of government power.

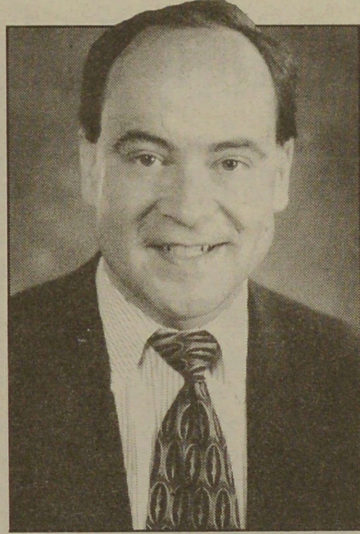
In 1998, a New Jersey Supreme Court judge agreed. His ruling upheld the right of Coking — and her neighbors — to retain ownership of their property.

“We hope this decision represents a new age where courts will

See JUSTICE Page 13



William "Chip" Mellor: "Clint and I concluded that a very different [legal] approach was necessary."



Clint Bolick: Has helped "boost the hopes and dreams of everyone who is trying to earn an honest living."

Institute for Justice: Lawyers for liberty

Continued from Page 12

more carefully scrutinize whether government condemnation of private property is justified, and whether private parties or the public truly benefit from these actions," IJ attorney Dana Berliner said after the decision was announced.

But the eminent domain battle goes on elsewhere. Currently, IJ is litigating similar cases in New London, Connecticut, and New York City.

The firm is also fighting legal battles on other grounds: Arguing against repealing "school choice" programs in several states. Against licensing Internet publishers of commodity information. And against government adoption standards that discriminate against couples on the basis of race.

And there are many more victories still to be won, said Mellor and Bolick.

"IJ's accomplishments and this 10th year anniversary make us even more excited about the future," they said.

The future

That's why IJ is planning for its future: The firm has started hosting a three-day law student conference at Georgetown University each summer. At the event, dozens of students from top law schools across the nation come together to learn the "ins and outs" of litigating for liberty.

Also, two years ago, IJ launched the Clinic on Entrepreneurship in Chicago. The program helps "aspiring entrepreneurs successfully navigate the regulatory terrain," said Mellor and Bolick.

But, despite their optimistic plans for the future, IJ's "merry band of libertarian litigators" knows that government bureaucrats won't stop passing regulations that stifle free enterprise. And, along with their legal victories, IJ has also suffered its share

of courtroom setbacks.

So what keeps them going?

"The joy, excitement, and fulfillment of seeing a [new taxi cab company] in Denver, despite the best efforts of regulators to kill it," said Mellor and Bolick. "Seeing a home still standing in the shadow of a Trump casino despite the determination of government to seize it."

"Helping people protect their freedom — there is nothing in the world more rewarding than that."

■ For more information about the Institute for Justice, visit: www.ij.org. Or call: (202) 955-1300. Or e-mail: general@ij.org.

Steve Kubby avoids any jail time, despite defying judge's sentence

Past gubernatorial candidate gets three more months to "keep refusing"

Steve Kubby has avoided jail for at least three months — and perhaps indefinitely — after publicly refusing to serve a sentence imposed on him for misdemeanor drug charges.

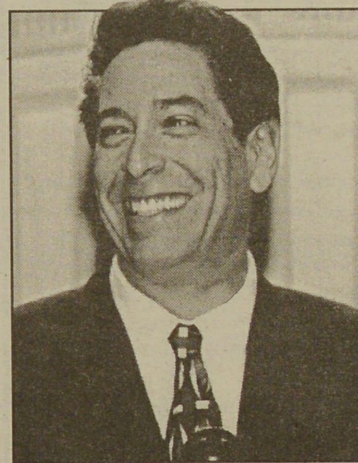
At a hearing on April 27, a superior court judge in Auburn, California said he would postpone until July 20 any decision about whether to require Kubby, the California LP's 2000 gubernatorial candidate, to serve time in Placer County jail.

"I'm home free," said Kubby after the ruling. "I have been a terrible nightmare for them, openly defying their fraudulent courts and their lawless law enforcement. [And now the judge has] essentially ruled, OK, we'll give you another three months to keep refusing."

120-day jail term

Kubby, 57, had faced a 120-day jail term for refusing to serve a four-month house arrest, wear an electronic monitoring bracelet, pay a \$2,700 fine, or spend three years on probation.

The sentence had been imposed on Kubby in March after he was convicted of possession of minute quantities of psilocybin and mescaline — charges which were a byproduct of a 1999 medical marijuana raid on his house. The medical marijuana charges



■ Steve Kubby: "It was a cosmic game of chicken and the jailers blinked... Their fear is colossal."

were later dropped by the judge after a jury refused to convict Kubby or his wife, Michele.

But Kubby said he refused to serve any sentence for the misdemeanor psilocybin and mescaline convictions as a protest against a "broken criminal justice system," and because he was "unable to physically, financially, or morally complete electronic monitoring, probation, or payment of any fines assessed against me."

Although prosecutors at the April 27 hearing asked Superior Court Judge John H. Cosgrove to put Kubby in jail immediately for

his defiance, local prison officials said they could not accept Kubby because they couldn't furnish him with medical marijuana.

Under Proposition 215, it is legal in California to use medical marijuana for legitimate medical purposes. Because Kubby — who suffers from a rare form of adrenal cancer — takes medical marijuana under doctor's orders, prison officials apparently feared that they would be required to furnish him with marijuana.

"It was a cosmic game of chicken and the jailers blinked," said Kubby. "[Prison officials] are afraid that I will get the legal right to smoke medical marijuana in jail — and gain that right for thousands of cancer and AIDS patients. It would be their worst nightmare. Their fear is colossal."

Proposition 36

The three-month sentencing delay could be even longer, said Kubby, since Proposition 36 — an initiative passed in 2000 by California voters that mandates treatment rather than jail time for first-time drug offenders — becomes effective on July 1.

"After July 1, it will be illegal to put me in jail for possession," said Kubby. "Prop. 36 will be in effect and we don't think the judge can order any jail time at that point. In fact, we think the judge planned it that way."

And by July, he said, the Supreme Court may also have ruled on the legality of medical marijuana laws. Kubby is one of 14 plaintiffs in a case currently being considered by the high court.

Between the impact of Proposition 36 and the possible Supreme Court ruling, Kubby said he is confident that he will emerge victorious from his protracted legal wrangling.

"We've won every step of the way," he said. "For the past two months, I have publicly defied Placer County, refused probation, refused to pay any fines, and refused to register as a drug offender. To the utter dismay of the prosecutors and law enforcement, I have remained free [and] continued using medical marijuana."

Filed an appeal

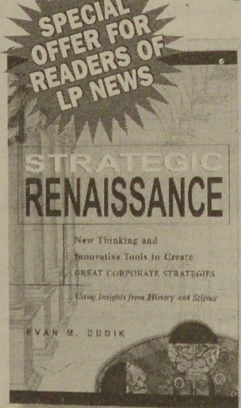
However, Kubby's legal battles are not over yet: On April 27, Placer County prosecutors filed an appeal with the Third District Court of Appeals to turn his misdemeanor drug charges back into felonies.

But that appeal may actually work to his benefit, said Kubby, since it will allow him to argue again that the original medical marijuana charges against him

See **KUBBY** Page 19

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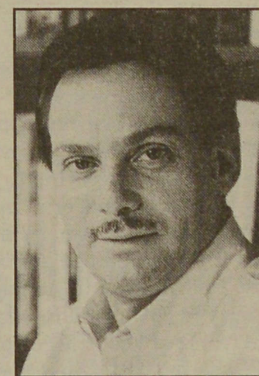
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The Issues

EDITOR'S NOTE: Each month, "The Issues" will highlight several Libertarian Party press releases. To get the complete text of all press releases issued by the LP, send a message to "announce-request@lp.org" with the word "subscribe" in the subject line.

Supreme Court to sick people: Drop dead

A Supreme Court decision rejecting a "medical necessity" defense for medical marijuana users is a heartless assault on AIDS and cancer victims, the Libertarian Party charged. "Supreme Court to sick people: Drop dead," said Ron Crickenberger, the party's political director. "With this ruling, the federal government has officially turned its War on Drugs into a war on life-saving medicine."

"That's not just cruelty — it's cruelty directed at people who are struggling with life-threatening diseases, and who have now been sentenced to slow, painful deaths by the Supreme Court."

On May 14, in an 8-0 ruling, the nation's high court approved a Justice Department injunction against a California cannabis cooperative which legally supplied medical marijuana to patients under Proposition 215, a state referendum that authorized medical marijuana in 1996.

In the decision, the court rejected any medical necessity exemption to federal marijuana laws. Even if a state has legalized medical marijuana, the court ruled, the federal government can continue to prosecute people who violate federal marijuana laws.

The Supreme Court ruling means that the federal government "would rather let sick people die than make any exception to its War on Drugs," said Crickenberger.

"The Supreme Court has ruled that the federal government can continue to imprison people suffering from AIDS, cancer, and multiple sclerosis — for the 'crime' of trying to save their own lives," he said. "That's not just tragic and cruel, it's repugnant."

Proposed law unfairly attacks SUVs

Even if you hate gas-guzzling, road-hogging, parking lot-jamming SUVs, you should still reject a proposed federal law that would shrink the popular motorized behemoths down to size, the Libertarian Party says.

"Americans should be allowed to buy the kind of vehicles they think are best for their families — without having to worry that grandstanding politicians won't like that choice," said the party's national director, Steve Dasbach.

In mid-May, Senators Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and Olympia Snowe (R-ME) introduced a new bill to require manufacturers to boost the average gas mileage of popular SUVs and light trucks by one-third — from 20.7 mpg to 27.5 mpg — within six years.

The senators said the bill would reduce global warming and "save consumers at the pump."

The real effect of the bill would be to force automakers to drastically reduce the size of large SUVs or construct them out of flimsier materials — since technology does not currently exist to allow hulking SUVs like the Lincoln Navigator or the Ford Explorer to get the same gas mileage as compact cars.

"Americans shouldn't be subjected to a law that would cause more people to die in traffic accidents and force American autoworkers to lose their jobs," said Dasbach. "That's too high a price to pay just because a few politicians don't like SUVs."

U.N. treaty goes after global smoking

United Nations bureaucrats are drafting an international treaty to try to get everyone on Earth to stop smoking — a troubling development that could mark the beginning of a "World War" against cigarettes, the Libertarian Party warned.

"It's bad enough that American politicians are trying to prohibit your right to smoke," said Steve Dasbach. "But now, instead of having to fight local battles over smoking, Americans need to be concerned about politicians from Zimbabwe and Brazil who want to decide whether you will be allowed to smoke."

In early May, representatives from 190 governments met in Geneva, Switzerland to negotiate the terms of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) — to battle what they call the "devastating" effects of tobacco around the world.

The conference, sponsored by the U.N.'s World Health Organization, is expected to result in a treaty that will call for dramatic increases in cigarette taxes and an agreement to make cigarette prices the same everywhere in the world.

The World Health Organization says it wants the FCTC ratified by U.N. member nations and in effect by 2003.

But the Libertarian Party says that American adults have the right to decide whether they will smoke.

"Smoking is a personal choice, not an international crisis," said Dasbach. "Adults should have the right to engage in behavior that hurts no one but themselves, as long as they are willing to take responsibility for the health consequences."

Strategic Planning Team starts to set specific goals and time-frames

After several months of preliminary work, the Libertarian Party's Strategic Planning Team is getting down to specifics: Dates, numbers, and goals.

At its last two meetings — in Washington, DC on April 22 and in Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina on May 5-6 — the Strategic Planning Team (SPT) has started developing time frames for its plans, winnowing down the list of possible goals, and discussing "third-rail" issues, said SPT facilitator Steve Givot.

"Progress is somewhat slower than I had hoped," he said. "However, the result is much greater consensus than I would have expected. I am very pleased."

The 20-member Strategic Planning Team is working to create an "integrated strategic plan" to augment the LP's success.

A final plan is scheduled to be presented to the LNC for possible approval in August 2001.

During its first several meetings, the SPT brainstormed with LP State Chairs to create a list of more than 700 success-oriented ideas, and organized them into general categories.

At its April meeting, the SPT crafted a time line for the evolving strategic plan, said Givot.

"We determined that we will be developing plans for four time frames: 2002, 2003-2004, 2005-2008, and 2009 and beyond," he said. "We also determined which of the goals would (tentatively) be worked on in each time frame, as well as when we expected certain goals would be achieved."

Divide Libertarians

At its May meeting, the SPT started discussing ways to handle issues and strategies that have the potential to divide Libertarians, said Givot.

"We dealt with about 20 'third rail issues,'" he said. "These were identified as strategic alternatives which tend to polarize Libertarians — though not necessarily dividing them at all equally."

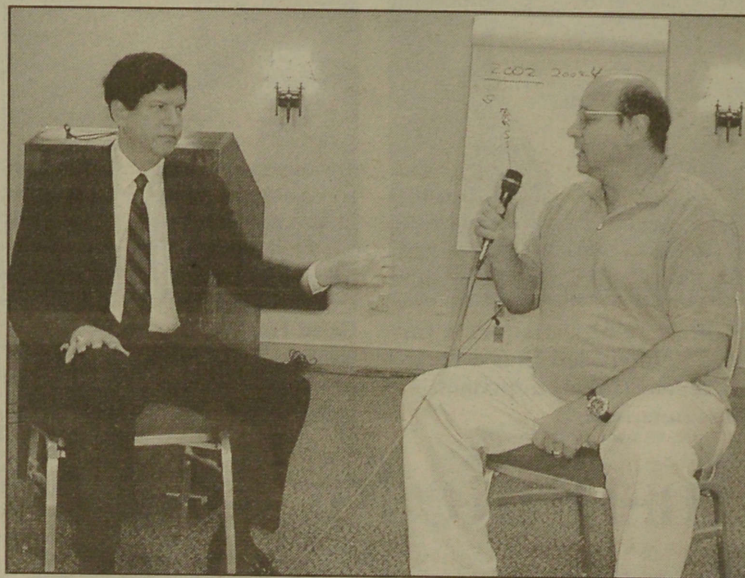
Such issues included whether the party should require a signed membership statement, the debate over "purity," and whether the party should try to focus on a single political issue.

The SPT did not attempt to resolve those issues, said Givot, just to determine whether there was any consensus about them.

At the same meeting, the SPT also worked to reduce the number of broad goals, and to create "metrics" to identify progress.

"This work specifically related to the plan for 2002 [as well as] the foundation for the subsequent time frames," he said.

The next SPT meeting is June 16-17 at the Hyatt Hotel Dallas-Ft. Worth Airport, Texas. It is open to all LP members.



■ LP National Chair Jim Lark (left) and Strategic Planning Team facilitator Steve Givot lead the discussion at an SPT meeting in North Carolina on May 5-6. At that meeting, the team discussed potential "third-rail" issues.

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Kramer wins nomination for NYC mayor

Continued from Page 3

Winfrey Show, the Today Show, Dateline NBC, and others.

After almost a decade in the public spotlight, the New York Times said in a recent article that Kramer may "have better name recognition than any other candidate for mayor."

Kramer acknowledged that some people may harbor doubts concerning his credibility as a political candidate. He also admitted that in 1997, when he sought the Democratic Party nomination for mayor, he did so mainly for publicity.

But Kramer — who has held an eclectic mix of jobs, including stand-up comedian, reggae band manager, karate coach, and disco jewelry manufacturer — said his current bid for mayor is no joke.

"Four years ago, when I sought the Democratic nomination, everyone knew that nobody was going to beat [incumbent Republican Mayor] Rudy Giuliani," he said. "But now, Giuliani is going to be term-limited out of office and the seat is up for grabs."

"I believe it is an excellent opportunity to show voters that there is an alternative candidate who can win. I'm in it to win it. And this time I'm not kidding."

Major boost

New York LP State Chair Richard Cooper said Kramer's nomination will be a major boost to party name recognition.

"Kenny Kramer's candidacy has already focused media attention in a toughly competitive media market," he said. "[The state party] has received inquiries and expressions of support as well."

Kramer said that once he gets Friedline on board, he plans to organize a committee to flesh out his platform on the issues.

"Obviously, I need to stand on issues that mesh with [Libertarian ideas], but they must also be saleable to New Yorkers," he said. "I know that I will focus on ending victimless crimes such as drug use. But right now, I have other immediate challenges to face."

The first obstacle Kramer must overcome is getting his name on the ballot. To be listed, he must gather 7,500 signatures by the August 21 filing deadline — which he said should pose little problem.

But Kramer said his second challenge will be more difficult.

To qualify for \$1 million in city government matching funds, he must raise \$250,000 by June 1. The funds must be raised from at least 1,000 New York City residents, in contributions of \$1,000 or less.

Cooper said that while he personally has "mixed feelings" about taxpayer-financed campaign funding, he supports Kramer's decision to try to qualify for the money.

"If we qualify for the funding, we get a much needed infusion of

resources, and qualify for debate participation," he said. "To not participate amounts to unilateral disarmament."

Media blitz

In order to raise money and awareness of his campaign, Kramer said he is waging an all-out media blitz, and plans to continue doing as many interviews as he possibly can.

"I've been doing radio morning, noon, and night, and even

television appearances," he said.

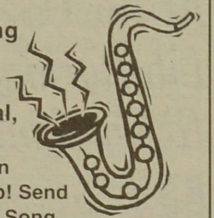
Kramer said he might even be willing to cut off his shoulder-length hair to generate more media attention.

"Doug [Friedline] suggested I go on Oprah or Letterman and do a make-over," he said. "I don't just throw my hat in the ring, I throw my hair into it as well."

Kramer also said he plans to buy ads in local newspapers such as the Village Voice and on local cable television.

Best Libertarian Song?

Calling all music fans: What modern song (1950-2001) best exemplifies the spirit of liberty? Or expresses a strong Libertarian sentiment — about freedom in general, or about a specific libertarian issue?



For a future issue of LP News, we're planning an article on "Liberty's Best Songs." We need your help! Send us information about your favorite Libertarian song: Song title, performer, and the name of the album where it can be found. Plus, tell us in about 100 words what makes it one of "Liberty's Best Songs."

■ E-mail to: Bill.Winter@hq.LP.org. Or mail: LP News, 2600 Virginia Avenue, NW, Suite 100, Washington DC 20037. Fax: (202) 333-0072.

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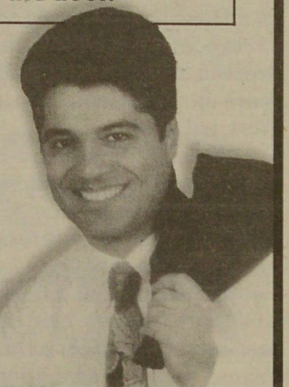
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Libertarians protest the income tax on April 14-16

At Tax Day events, Libertarians blast IRS and high taxes

Honoring a longtime tradition, LP activists from coast to coast gathered to protest the income tax and advertise the Libertarian Party's "economic freedom" alternative to last-minute income tax filers.

During the weekend of April 14-16, Libertarians displayed signs, distributed literature, did media interviews, and chanted anti-tax slogans at dozens — perhaps hundreds — of post offices across the country.

Libertarians also distributed tens of thousands of "million dollar bills," a popular party hand-out highlighting the fact that the federal government spends \$1 million every five seconds.

Of that nationwide tsunami of million dollar bills, 1,500 were handed out by the "ruckus raisin'" San Francisco LP.

"The protest was a blast," said city LP Chair David Moloney. "We had 24 shoutin', hollerin', ruckus raisin' Libertarian maniacs at San Francisco's Main Post Office. We even had San Francisco government-paid Muni Bus drivers honking their horns and giving us the thumbs up."

Other Tax Day protests attracted attention with LP activists dressed in costume.

"One guy had a black robe, white face paint, and a Social Security number printed across his forehead," said Oklahoma LP Coordinator Lynn Atherton. "We got a lot of attention from that."

Highlights from Tax Day activities across the country include:

■ **California:** Orange County Libertarians brought a fake toilet to their protest at the Santa Ana Post Office to remind people that the government is "flushing their money down the drain," said Vice Chair Doug Scribner.

"It worked great and the press loved it," he said.

Other signs at this protest included a large banner warning, "Don't Feed the Feds!" and a slightly wordier sign that read: "Hell No! We won't relent to your artificial socioeconomic subsidization of political contributors and special interests!"

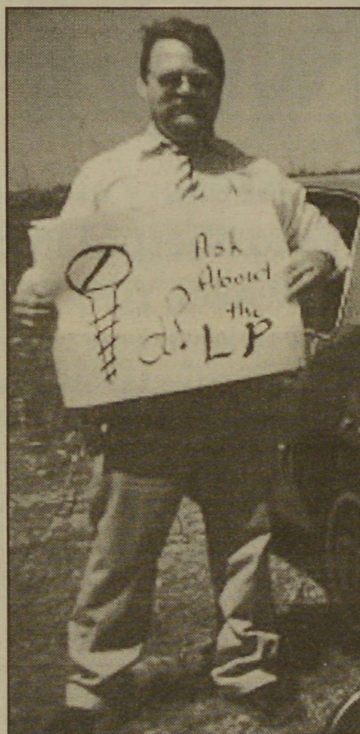
■ **California:** Taxpayers in San Diego were treated to Libertarian activist Jim Reynolds dressed up as Darth Vader, the fearsome villain from the *Star Wars* trilogy.

"Colorful signs and colorful people made the night interesting," said JR Graham — while the costumes generated press coverage for the group.

■ **California:** Libertarians in Ventura County held up a sign that read "Honk If You Don't Like Taxes," distributed million dollar



■ **Above:** Stephanie Sailor endures a soggy Tax Day protest in Chicago, Illinois. **Right:** Bob Geller asks a pictogram question at the Canton, Georgia post office.



— syndicated Atlanta radio talk show host Neal Boortz — who promoted the event on his show.

Several journalists showed up to interview LP participants, said County Chair Tom Freese.

■ **Georgia:** About 15 Libertarians in Cobb County held their first-ever tax protest, led by County Chairman Mike Powers.

"Of course, our most popular sign was one that read 'Honk If You Hate The IRS'" said local activist Jason Butler. "That created a parade of horn-honking cars up and down the entire street."

■ **Illinois:** Despite freezing rain conditions and competition from other groups staging demonstrations, Chicago activists handed out lollipops to taxpayers at the Main Post Office saying, "I bet you feel like a sucker."

Libertarians also refused to back down when police instructed them to stop handing out million dollar bills.

"I have no idea how the police [thought they] could justify stopping us from doing that," said



■ **Above:** Libertarians march outside the East Bay Station post office in Charleston, South Carolina. **Left:** The "Statue of Liberty" is interviewed at the Chicago rally.



sion show *The Sopranos*.

Three LP activists dressed in dark shades and suits pretended to extract money from a fourth, who was posing as a mother with a bundled baby in her arms, said Libertarian Byron Himmelheber.

However, he said, "The difference between [the IRS] and the Sopranos is the Sopranos have a code of honor."

■ **Michigan:** LP members from four counties — Allegan, Kalamazoo, Kent and Ottawa — rallied at the Holland Post Office and drew a "sharp distinction" between the LP and Republicans.

"Unlike Republicans, Libertarians don't want to just cut taxes, we want to return the federal government to its Constitutional limitations," said local activist Roger Bouwman.

■ **Missouri:** A rally by St. Charles Libertarians was allowed to continue when the police told a Post Office bureaucrat that he couldn't force the LP members to leave.

After a Post Office supervisor called the police to stop Libertarians from protesting, "officers spoke to the supervisor, telling him we were within our rights and suggesting he back off," said State Chair Bob Sullentrop.

The next day, Sullentrop delivered a thank-you note to the local police lieutenant commending the officers for their "mature display of tact, diplomacy, and community service," he said.

■ **New Mexico:** Several Lin-

See **TAX DAY** Page 17

TAX DAY 2001 REPORT

Chicago LP activist coordinator Bill Passmore. "But we continued distributing them anyway."

■ **Indiana:** Bloomington Libertarians protested at the Main Post Office with a trombone soloist and a few College Republicans.

"We enjoy hearing admiring feedback from taxpayers," said Erin Hollinden, vice president of the Indiana University campus Libertarians. "They are overwhelmingly resigned to the inevitability of the income tax. But we try to give them hope that liberty will prevail."

■ **Kentucky:** At a rally at the Jefferson County Courthouse, local Libertarians put on a street play comparing the IRS to the mobsters on the hit HBO televi-



■ With a giant toilet as a prop, Orange County Libertarians — led by past Chair Bill Todd — show last-minute tax-filers “where your taxes go.”

Tax Day 2001 round-up

Continued from Page 16

coln Libertarians used the Tax Day opportunity to not only distribute million dollar bills, but also to gather signatures to put Libertarians on the ballot.

Lincoln County LP Chair Susan Ruch said that hundreds of anti-tax flyers were distributed at the six largest post offices in the county, while LP activist Wes Owen gathered four pages of signatures for the state ballot drive.

■ **New York:** Manhattan Libertarians distributed about 2,000 million dollar bills outside the General Post Office in midtown as “thousands of last-minute filers scrambled to complete and mail their tax returns,” said organizer Charles Eppler.

“We introduced ourselves to a lot of angry taxpayers, who appeared very receptive to the Libertarian message,” he said.

■ **Oklahoma:** Libertarians joined forces with Republicans, Democrats, and Reformers to protest the income tax at the “All-American Tax Day Rally” at the Main Post Office in Tulsa. About 50 people attended the rally.

“Everyone joined in a little good old fashioned (but polite) rabble-rousing,” said LP regional Chair Albro Daniel.

■ **Oregon:** Oregon Libertarians didn’t just protest on Tax Day — they held a press conference to demand the return of a \$336 million surplus to taxpayers.

Speaking at the event was 2000 LP candidate for state treasurer Mitch Shults, along with two state senators, Gary George and Randy Miller.

Shults blasted the governor for using “accounting tricks” to try to keep from refunding the state’s surplus to taxpayers. By law, when tax revenues exceed the budget by 2%, that money must be returned to taxpayers.

“[It] turned out to be one of the most visible and politically effective Tax Day events ever held by the Oregon LP,” said past State Chair Richard Burke, and generated “statewide press coverage.”

■ **South Carolina:** About 18 activists from the Greenville, Pickens, and Anderson County parties and the Upstate Libertarian Society gathered in front of the Greenville U.S. Post Office to protest the income tax.

“Thousands of people responded to our ‘Honk If You Hate Taxes’ signs by honking their horns,” said Upstate Libertarian Society Chair Lee Ott. “People whose horns did not work rolled down their windows and yelled ‘Beep Beep’ or ‘Honk Honk.’”

■ **South Carolina:** Horry County Libertarians protested at two locations in Myrtle Beach — the Main Post Office and the Branch Post Office — and distributed more than 1,500 million dollar bills.

“We distributed million dollar bills to citizens from all over,” said Libertarian Joe Clarkson, including visitors who “paid their taxes while on vacation here!”

■ **Vermont:** The state LP “honored” big-spending politicians at a rally at Burlington City Hall by distributing “Enemy of the Taxpayer” awards.

“Year in and year out, these politicians do their best to take as much as they can from hard working Vermonters,” said Vermont LP State Chair Scott Berkey.

■ **Virginia:** At their rally in Woodbridge, Libertarians handed out fliers with a tea bag attached, asking taxpayers if they were “Tea’d Off Over Taxes,” said Prince William County LP member Robert McBride.

■ **Washington:** Nothing could stop Libertarians in Snohomish County from their tax protest — not even an earthquake.

After an earthquake hit in February, 20 counties were declared disaster areas and the government extended the tax-filing deadline until April 30.

Despite the lower-than-usual turnout, it was still important to stage a rally, said Blythe Brockway: “We’re just raising awareness that people have a choice and they can make a difference.”

LP joins lawsuit against FEC

Continued from Page 4

believe the Federal Election Campaign Act is an unconstitutional restraint on our freedom that should be challenged,” he said.

On the other hand, some LNC members expressed concern about giving access to the party’s mailing list to RealCampaign Reform.org, said Lark.

“A couple of people expressed a concern that participation in the lawsuit might be seen as serving the particular interests of Harry Browne,” he said. “Others felt that while the cause of fighting the FEC is just, the LP must use discretion in choosing which battles to fight, and that this is not one of the fights we should undertake at this time.”

Perry Willis, one of the founders of RealCampaign Reform.org, said he was “very pleased” with the LNC’s decision

to join the lawsuit.

“The primary intent of this suit is to benefit the Libertarian Party,” he said. “So, obviously, we want the LNC as a plaintiff.”

RealCampaignReform.org hopes to file the lawsuit “later this year,” said Willis — and it won’t be cheap.

“We expect the case to cost about \$500,000 and take a couple of years to work its way up to the Supreme Court,” he said.

Coordinate lawsuit

RealCampaignReform.org has filed for 501(c)4 (non-profit) status with the IRS, and will coordinate the lawsuit, said Willis.

The lawsuit coalition includes Howard Phillips, Phillips 2000, Inc., the Constitution Party, Citizens United, Gun Owners of America, and other to be added, he said.

The lawsuit will seek to have the Federal Election Commission, the Commission for Presidential Debates, and the federal campaign funding system declared unconstitutional.

Specifically, the lawsuit will charge that the Federal Election Commission and its myriad regulations hurt smaller parties, while giving preferential treatment to the major parties; that taxpayer-funded campaign subsidies are unconstitutional; and that campaign contribution limits discriminate in favor of “celebrities, incumbents, and ruling families.”

“The purpose of Real CampaignReform.org is to restore the American election process to the voters and taxpayers, to open up the system to new voices, and to remove the advantages our ruling parties have granted themselves,” said Willis.

Discover Liberty now set for June 30

Discover Liberty — a nationwide project the Advocates for Self-Government is calling “the biggest one-on-one libertarian outreach effort in history” — will officially kick off on June 30, the weekend before July 4th.

That’s a month later than previously planned, said Advocates president Sharon Harris, which will give the Advocates time to finalize plans, allow volunteers to take advantage of the Fourth of July crowds, and get Discover Liberty off to a strong start.

“The Fourth of July weekend is a great kick-off date,” she said. “What better time to proclaim liberty? And there will be barbecues, rallies, and other holiday events across the nation celebrating the Fourth — perfect opportunities for outreach.”

SHARON HARRIS:
Project will reach half-million people over 12 months.

Discover Liberty is an ambitious plan to reach a half-million or more Americans face-to-face with libertarian ideas over a 12 month span.

The Advocates plans to coordinate 2,000 Operation Politically Homeless (OPH) outreach booths in all 50 states, with volunteer regional and national coordinators to keep track of the effort.

If successful, said Harris, 500,000 people will encounter an OPH booth; 250,000 people will take the World’s Smallest Political Quiz; 75,000 libertarian-leaning people will be discovered; and 36,000 names and addresses of prospects will be collected.

Numerous state and local LP organizations have already signed up for Discover Liberty, said Harris — with the Washington state LP leading the nation with a commitment of 60 days of OPH booths this summer.

But more states are needed, she said: “Our goal is 50-state OPH status.”

For more information — or to volunteer — call the Advocates: (800) 932-1776. Or e-mail: DiscoverLiberty@TheAdvocates.org. Or visit: www.TheAdvocates.org.

Small Republican group declares ‘war’

Continued from Page 4

on Libertarians — instead of on Republicans who vote for larger government?

“The RLC says it wants to make the Republican Party more libertarian,” he said. “If that’s the case, why doesn’t the RLC deal a ‘fatal blow’ to Republicans who vote for higher taxes, more gun laws, bigger government, and fewer civil liberties?”

In fact, said Dasbach, an independent study suggests that the typical RLC Republican isn’t particularly libertarian.

According to an article published in *Liberty* magazine, Republican U.S. House Representatives affiliated with the RLC are only marginally more “libertarian” than the typical Republican — and one is even worse than

most Democrats.

Based on a dozen representative votes cast during the 1999 session, the 11 U.S. Congresspeople who serve on the RLC Advisory Board had an average “libertarian” score of about 61 (out of a possible 100) — compared to an overall Republican average of 52, according to the study.

Score of 40

One RLC-affiliated Congressman (Brian Bilbray, R-CA) had an average score of 40, which was lower than the average Democratic score of 41.

The study was conducted by David Boaz of the Cato Institute, and appeared in the May 2000 issue of *Liberty* magazine.

Even if Dondero’s threat of an “all-out war” is true, said Das-

bach, Libertarians probably shouldn’t lose any sleep over it.

“It’s difficult to get too worried about the lilliputian RLC,” he said. “They have been around for 13 years, but are organized in fewer than two dozen states. They have had zero luck in making Republicans more libertarian. And, according to the FEC, the RLC raised only \$9,049 last year — which is what the Libertarian Party raises in about two days.”

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Politics 2001

Campaigns, LP elections, & awards

■ In Texas, **Bill Utterback** won 24.6% of the vote in a two-way race for Bulverde Marshal on May 5. In Washington state, **Cary Thomas** has filed papers to run for Seattle city council. In New York, the Manhattan LP will run its largest-ever slate of candidates this November: **Kenny Kramer** (mayor), **James Eisert** (comptroller), **Travis Pahl** (public advocate), **Scott Jeffrey** (Manhattan borough president), **Jordan Kaufman** (city council, District 1), **Tom Capotosta** (2), **Jak Karako** (3), **James Lesczynski** (5), **Gary Snyder** (6), and **Michelle Olave** (7). In Pennsylvania, **Julian P. Heicklen** is running for jury commissioner in Centre County. In Delaware, **Robert Kitz** was appointed to the Frederica City Council.

■ **News from Sweden:** According to *Forbes* magazine (April 2, 2001), there's a new breed of "libertarian" who is shaking up Sweden's stodgy economic system. The magazine quotes one such pony-tailed, sushi-eating Internet entrepreneur: "I am a libertarian. But I think the politicians have the responsibility to move society in the right direction." Oh, the kind of libertarian who wants politicians "to move society in the right direction." That would be a . . . socialist libertarian?

■ In Washington state, **Robin Palachuk** announced his candidacy for State Representative (District 4, Position 1) on Tax Day, April 16th. In New Hampshire, **James Maynard** and **Michelle Otterson** expect to run for Keene City Council this year. In North Carolina, **David Goree** is running for mayor of Asheville. In New Jersey, **Henry Cheney** is running for Haddonfield Borough commissioner. In Michigan, **Roger L. Bouwman** has filed petitions to run for a seat on the Ottawa Area Intermediate School District. In Virginia, **David Nemzoff** and **Sam March** are considering bids for House of Delegates. In Georgia, **Eric Pilcher** has been appointed to the Gwinnett County Development Advisory Committee.

■ In Michigan, **Michael Corliss** was elected new State Chair. In Indiana, **Sara Chambers** was selected as Chair of the new Scott County LP, and **Mark Schreiber** got the nod as Chair of the Hamilton County LP. In Michigan, **Roger L. Bouwman** was elected Chair of the Ottawa County LP. In Kansas, **Steven Rosile** was elected State Chair at the state convention on April 28. In Indiana, **Mark Rutherford** won — along with past gubernatorial candidate **Andrew Horning** — the state party's annual Light of Liberty Award. In Ohio, **John McAlister** was named Libertarian of the Year at the state convention on April 28.



■ **Andy Horning:** Light of Liberty

■ **College Libertarian news:** In Massachusetts, **Alex Knapp** has started an LP group at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. In Texas, the Libertarians of North Harris College has become an officially recognized group. In Utah, **C.W. Ross** is serving as the head of the Brigham Young University Libertarians; **Helen Obzansky** is starting a Libertarian group at the University of Utah; and **Sam Jacobs** is getting a group organized at Utah State University.

■ A new website called "The Christian Liberty Network" — www.christianliberty.net — has been set by **Dan Graaff**. And for Libertarian students, www.LibertarianStudents.com, a gateway site of resources, is now also online. In Massachusetts, **Howard Pearce** won the 2001 Lifetime Achievement Award at the state convention. In Kansas, **Douglas N. Merritt** won a first place award from the Kansas Press Association for a newspaper column about medical marijuana. In Virginia, Libertarians mourned the passing of activist **Jason Willency**, who died of a heart attack on March 18. In April, the national LP did 14 radio interviews about its "Tax Day" press release, which listed the Top 10 silliest ways the government wastes money. In Illinois, a revival of Ayn Rand's play, *Night of January 16th*, is running at the Chopin Theatre through June 9.

■ In North Carolina, **Kevin Rollins** was elected Chair of the Buncombe County LP. In Utah, **Bruce A. Daniel** was elected Chair of the new Uintah County LP. In New Jersey, **Steve Lang** was elected Chair of the new South Jersey LP. In New Mexico, **Frank Martin** was picked to be Chair of the Grant County LP, while **Bob Ziesmar** was elected Chair of the San Juan County LP. And **Laura Hirschmann** was elected Chair of the Southeastern Massachusetts Libertarian Committee.

CAMPAIGN



REPORT

Bill Redpath runs for governor to highlight Virginia election reform

Campaign will focus on solutions to 'uncompetitive democracy'

Saying that America has become a "politically boring and uncompetitive democracy," Libertarian Bill Redpath has officially entered the Virginia gubernatorial race to promote reforms that would revolutionize the state's election process.

The former Virginia LP Chair, who was nominated at the state convention in Richmond on March 10, said he will focus his campaign on two specific election reforms: Proportional representation and instant runoff voting.

Both reforms, said Redpath, will open up the political process to smaller parties such as the Libertarian Party.

"With [such reforms], the voting public would suffer no more with the 'wasted vote syndrome' associated with minor party candidates, and would take a serious look at our candidates," he said.

In his campaign for governor, Redpath will propose:

■ **Proportional representation** voting for the Virginia legislature. Under his plan, representatives would be elected proportionate to the votes each political party receives on a statewide ballot, rather than via a winner-take-all, district-by-district vote.

The major benefit of such a system, said Redpath, is that almost every voter could actually help elect a Senator who shares his or her political viewpoint.

With such a plan, "voters would be able to contact representatives that they specifically helped elect to office, and keep in contact as though they were in their own district," he said.

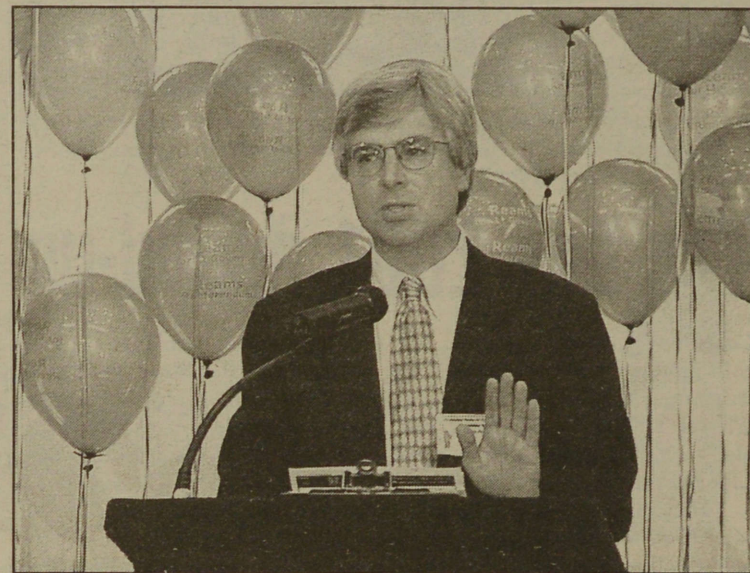
■ **Instant runoff voting** (IRV) for all state races.

Under the IRV system, voters could rank candidates for single offices — such as governor — in order of preference. If one candidate receives a majority of first-place votes, he or she wins the election.

Otherwise, the candidate with the fewest first-place votes would be dropped from the race, and each vote for that candidate would be transferred to the next-highest candidate. This process continues until a remaining candidate has a majority of votes.

Under such a system, voters would have more than an "either/or" choice, said Redpath, and would be able show support for the LP even if a "major" party candidate was their first choice.

If both reforms were implemented, the Libertarian Party —



■ **Bill Redpath**, accepting the gubernatorial nomination of the Virginia LP at the state convention in Richmond on March 10: "With [election reforms], the voting public would suffer no more with the 'wasted vote syndrome.'"

currently a political minority in a winner-take-all system — would benefit greatly, said Redpath.

"I disagree with Libertarians who say we should focus all our resources on local election efforts, because I feel our positions do appeal to a wide audience," he said. "With electoral reform, the party would finally be effective on the state and national scene."

Anything peaceful

In addition to election reform, Redpath said he will also talk about other issues — focusing on the broad theme of "Anything That's Peaceful."

For example, he will support the repeal of victimless crime laws, abolition of capital punishment, substantial tax and spending cuts, and a universal tuition tax credit for grades K-12, he said.

Campaign Manager John Buckley said Redpath's campaign is important because it marks the first time the Virginia LP has run a candidate for governor — and for another reason as well.

"This will be the first time the Democrats and Republicans will have their candidate's party ID printed next to the candidate name," he said. Previously, no Virginia candidates had partisan labels on the ballot.

"If we are successful in getting Bill's name on the ballot — which we expect to be — we plan to move to have the Libertarian [label] listed with his name, so people will be able to identify LP candidates on the ballot," he said.

However, Redpath first needs

10,000 valid signatures to get on the ballot, said Buckley.

Accomplishing this goal by the June 12 deadline will be challenging, said Redpath, but his past experience gathering signatures for the LP will help. As the former LP National Ballot Access Chair, Redpath led the LP's presidential ticket to 50-state ballot status in 1992 and 1996.

Professionally, Redpath is a appraiser of broadcasting, telecommunications, and cable properties. However, after Labor Day, Redpath said he will put his career on hold to work fulltime on his campaign.

Until then, ballot access will be his main priority, he said.

"Without being on the ballot, I will not be able to get the interviews necessary to voice my ideas," he said.

Every legislature

"But ultimately, I believe I will be able to take my message of election reform and libertarian proposals to the voters of Virginia. With the proper reforms, there's no reason why Libertarians couldn't be represented in every legislature in the country."

Redpath was a member of the Libertarian National Committee (1989-1993), a candidate for General Assembly (1993), and a candidate for State Senate (1998).

For more information about the Redpath campaign, or to make a contribution, call Redpath at: (703) 430-1316. Or e-mail: RedpathForGovernor@LPVA.com. Or visit: www.Redpath2001.com.

Kubby avoids jail time in sentencing dispute

Continued from Page 13

were the result of an illegal "fishing trip" by police, and that the psilocybin and mescaline found in the raid were tainted evidence.

Earlier in April, Judge Cosgrove said he was convinced that Kubby had used the psilocybin (a single mushroom stem) for research for a book about the religious use of psychedelic mushrooms, and that the peyote button had been left by a visitor to Kubby's home.

Since Kubby had no previous

criminal record, the judge had reduced the felony drug charges to misdemeanors — and imposed the sentence that had set off the current round of legal wrangling.

Raided home

Kubby's odyssey through the California criminal justice system began in January 1999, when police raided his Olympic Valley home. He and Michele were charged with violating 19 drug laws, including conspiracy, cultivation, and possession of mari-

STEVE KUBBY:

"I have been a nightmare for them, defying their fraudulent courts."

juana with intent to sell.

Both pleaded not guilty to all charges, arguing that they had used marijuana in accordance with Proposition 215.

In December 2000, after a four-month trial, a "hopelessly deadlocked" jury said it could not reach a verdict on the most significant charges against the Kubbys, and voted 11-1 in favor of acquittal.

In March 2001, the judge dismissed all medical marijuana charges against Steve Kubby, and

ruled that he could continue to use medical marijuana.

"We stood and fought and defended the rights of sick people," said Kubby about the ruling. "Our case shows that juries won't convict bona fide patients, even in ultra-conservative counties."

Kubby was the LP's gubernatorial candidate in California in 1998, and sought the party's vice presidential nomination in 2000. He also played a key role in helping to pass Proposition 215 (The Compassionate Use Act) in 1996.

Kubby said he plans to run for governor of California again in 2002, and expects to make a formal announcement by June.

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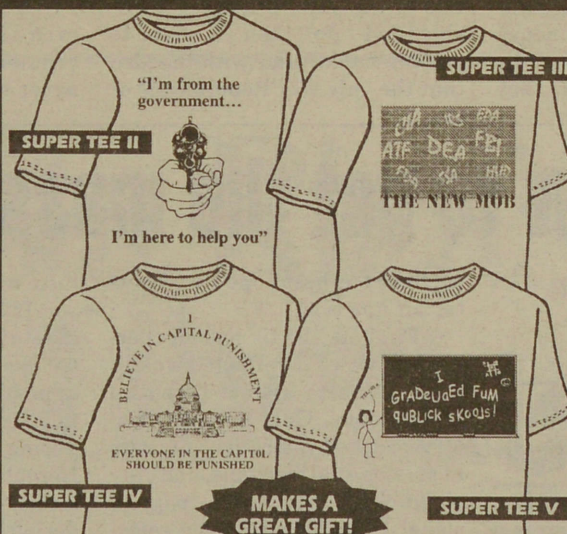
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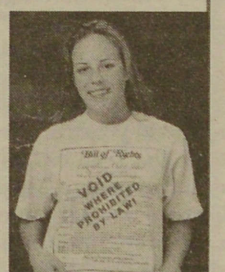
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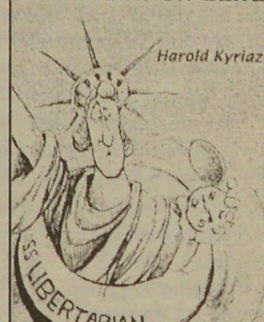
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The Forum

Why Republicans should be very afraid

Chuck Muth, national chairman of the Republican Liberty Caucus — a group that claims to be trying to move the GOP in a libertarian direction — has nothing but disdain for the Libertarian Party.

This despite the fact that the Republican Liberty Caucus is an unmitigated disaster whose biggest annual budget is less than half of the amount of money the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts just raised at its most recent state convention.

"What Libertarians have to realize," said Muth in a recent article in *National Review Online*, "is that they are only spoilers."

We hear this often: That Libertarians are the "spoilers" in the race, and are keeping "decent conservatives" from getting elected. Some say we should avoid running in races where we could cause a Republican to lose.

The idea that we should not "spoil" the election for another candidate seems to me to be fatally flawed. I cannot accept several of the key assumptions that seem built into the statement.

I would give a Republican or Democrat a pass only when I thought there was a clear possibility of converting that candidate

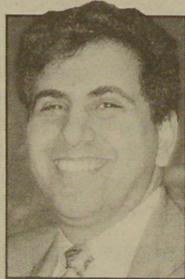
to wearing the Libertarian label at some future date. Hence, Congressman Ron Paul (R-TX) gets a pass from me. But he's on a short list (with only one entry).

Other than that, I can't say I agree with the "anti-spoiler" argument. Some of the assumptions embedded in that argument are:

Assumption 1. That the Republicans are better than the Democrats on some issues.

I do not agree. They may be better at spouting the sort of rhetoric that makes them seem to support small government, but they're no better at practicing it than Bill Clinton is good at practicing celibacy.

Sure, they're talking about a (very) modest tax cut, and that's great. But at the same time, they're trying to completely gut our party's ability to raise money by demolishing what is left of the First Amendment, and what they



By Eli Israel

don't get on this round, I'm sure John Ashcroft will come back for when he opens up his rendition of "Ed Meese II: All the smut you've come to love, now on the Internet!"

They will talk about the Second Amendment just long enough to sell us out to Handgun Control Inc. They will talk about free trade only until their buddies line up for fat government contracts. They do it every time.

At least Ted Kennedy as much as tells you he stands for socialism and practices it. Republicans compound their sin by lying to us about it as well.

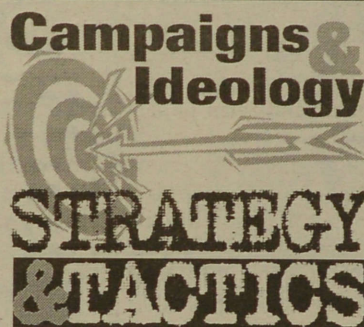
Assumption 2. That we can shift American politics towards Libertarian thought without threatening the other parties

We talk about moving public policy in a Libertarian direction by making the other parties adopt our positions. I personally do not like that vision of the future as much as the one in which the Libertarian Party complete dominates American politics.

Nevertheless, if you believe that adoption of Libertarian policies by the other parties is desirable (and I do), then you have to become comfortable with the idea that the only way Republicans or

Democrats will ever adopt our ends is if we represent a credible threat of taking away their seats.

We're talking about politicians, not angels. The fact that we might give one of them a free ride is not going to cause them to move in a Libertarian direction. On the contrary, it will make them realize that they don't have to. These changes will only happen at the gleaming point of an electoral knife.



Assumption 3. That when the Republicans fail to live up to their "small government" rhetoric and thus fail to win election that somehow we're to blame

If the Republicans lived up to even a quarter of their "small government" rhetoric, they would never have to worry about Liber-

tarians stealing votes from them

We're not to blame if the voters prefer us; the Republicans and Democrats are. I can't accept the idea that someone else's failure is our fault.

Assumption 4. That we can grow our movement by helping out another party.

To my mind, the only way that we can grow the influence of Libertarian ideas is by growing the power and prestige of the Libertarian Party. It is a sad fact that in this world very few pundits take you seriously until you demonstrate that you can hurt someone politically.

The only way for us to achieve this is to run as many candidates as possible in as many races as possible and to target whatever additional resources we have in places where we can visibly hurt a Democrat or a Republican (preferably both, by winning).

I believe that the "wasted vote syndrome" has a great deal to do with our apparent reluctance to draw blood. To a typical voter, it is perfectly reasonable to ignore the candidates whose presence won't change the outcome. So let's start changing outcomes. Shrinking from hurting supposedly better Republicans or Democrats runs completely counter to that goal.

My message to Chuck Muth is simple. Be afraid. Be very afraid.

■ **About the author:** Eli Israel is the Chairman of the Massachusetts LP and an At-Large Member of the LNC. This essay reprinted from the May 2000 issue of Massachusetts Liberty.

Celebrity power: How to get the mass media to cover us

You can't get elected without the mass media. And the only thing it cares about is fame...

I'm going to throw in my two cents about the Libertarian Party — past, present, and future — and I'm not going to pull any punches.

Although dedicated Libertarian activists have accomplished a great deal at the grassroots level in the 30 years of the LP's existence, the true barometer of any political party success comes down to a single question: How many people has the party elected who are working to achieve its public policy goals?

Answer: The LP has never elected a single candidate to federal office, and has elected only a handful of candidates on the state level. The vast majority of victories the party has had thus far have been in local elections.

I empathize with the frustration of individuals who have jumped ship from the LP because of the party's history of electoral impotence. When you want something badly, as Libertarians do liberty, it can hurt more than listening to Fran Drescher when you

don't get it.

Nevertheless, I think deserting the LP to join either of the two major parties is a big mistake.

As of right now, your chance of electing a Libertarian to high office is poor — but your chance of electing a libertarian on a major party ticket isn't much better. No matter how anyone might try to spin it, there is only one elected libertarian serving in federal government: Rep. Ron Paul (R-TX).

Why is this the case?

Because rich, huge, rabidly anti-liberty coalitions control the core of both the Democratic and the Republican parties. The Democratic Party houses the union bosses, new "civil rights" representatives, and environmental-socialist gurus, while the GOP is the "big tent" of subsidized business and farming leaders, military hawks, and religious authoritarians.

Consequently, I believe the

By Jonathan Trager

LP to be our best hope for a libertarian America.

First off, the LP has an enormous pool of disaffected voters from which to attract potential Libertarians. Only about half of all registered voters actually vote in presidential elections, and only about one-third do so in congressional years. Many of the registered non-voters don't have any political affiliation.

In addition, an August 2000 poll done by the Rasmussen Research Company found that a whopping 16% of Americans are political libertarians — more than are straight liberals or conservatives — but only 2% know it.

Latent

So how can the LP reach these latent Libertarians?

Unfortunately, if we resign ourselves completely to face-to-face persuasion, I don't see how the LP will be competitive with the D's and R's until most of us are long gone — and America is much farther down the Road to Serfdom.

If Libertarians want electoral success at the state or national level soon, there is only one ve-

hicle to it: The mass media.

In 2000, LP presidential candidate Harry Browne was a quality spokesperson for liberty. He appeared on the Internet, local talk radio programs, and cable TV during his campaign. But despite Herculean efforts, the big media outlets still snubbed him — rendering him largely invisible.

If you want to have a shot at statewide or federal office, you must get regular coverage from the biggest newspapers and magazines, radio talk shows, and TV networks. Let's face it: If Jesus Christ returned to Earth today, many people wouldn't even know it unless he appeared on *Oprah*, *20/20*, or the six o'clock news.

My suggestion: The LP should actively recruit celebrity and/or independently wealthy candidates for top offices.

A celebrity, or even quasi-celebrity, running for office on any ticket is worthy of consistent news coverage. A non-celebrity running for office as a Libertarian is not, pure and simple.

In the case of a candidate who has the fortune but not the fame, we don't even need much media attention, because we will have

the bucks to buy plenty of big advertising spots touting the Libertarian message.

I understand why some LP members have qualms about such candidates. We should make sure that any such candidate knows what the party stands for, generally supports its goals, and opposes explicitly unlibertarian ideas. The LP should always remain "the party of principle."

But I don't believe that success and principle are mutually exclusive. And if the LP is going to be in a position to advance serious political reforms anytime soon, it's crucial that we Libertarians think "outside the box."

Let's think big.

■ **About the author:** Jonathan Trager is a staff writer at the LP's Washington, DC headquarters.

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Students: Our natural audience

According to the Rasmussen survey last year, 16% of voters support libertarian positions on political issues. But few of these libertarians vote for Libertarian candidates.

My own experience and recent articles in *LP News* and *Liberty* indicate that our biggest problem is the "wasted vote doctrine." Even at our election night victory party there were Michigan LP members who admitted that they voted for the lesser of two evils rather than for Harry Browne and [U.S. Senate candidate] Michael Corliss.

We need to find good ways of encouraging libertarians to vote for Libertarians.

Last year the Michigan LP spent over \$40,000 on radio ads. Although the ads were brilliant, Harry Browne got only 0.4%, Michael Corliss got only 0.7%, and only one of our 16 Congressional candidates got more than 2%.

My analysis: The ads were the wrong medium (radio), directed at the wrong audience (persons who listen to talk radio).

My proposal on how we can best use our limited funds: We should focus on persons who are most likely to agree with libertarian positions and who are least likely to think that voting for a small party is a waste. Specifically, we should focus on young persons.

1. Young persons are naturally rebellious and anti-authoritarian.

2. They're more open-minded than are older persons.

3. They're not addicted to voting for Democrats and Republicans.

4. They are not so accustomed to Democratic and Republican hypocrisy and broken promises that they are no longer outraged.

Best time

Specifically, we should pass out fliers at colleges and community colleges and place ads in student newspapers. The best time for student outreach is not a few weeks before the election, when students are busy with mid-term exams and term papers. Rather, student outreach should be at the beginning of each semester, when students have more free time.

We should start test-marketing our fliers and newspaper ads in September 2001, to attract students to help with our petition drive. This will also help us create new campus affiliates and strengthen existing ones well in advance of the 2002 election.

■ **About the author:** *Leonard Schwartz is a member of the Libertarian Party in Michigan.*

Banner ad campaign: Lessons learned

Continued from Page 3

tive medium to advertise the party, said LP Political Director Ron Crickenberger.

And with the lessons learned from the the experiment, advertising on the Internet looks like a "very promising" way to recruit new members, he said — especially in comparison to direct mail, which tends to be much more expensive.

The four ads that the LP created for the campaign dealt with the Income Tax, the Drug War, Social Security, and Big Government in general.

Different sites

These ads were then placed on several different sites, including content-specific sites such as TaxPlanet.com, Bankrate.com, Quicken.com, AdFlight.com, Engage.com, and WorldNetDaily.com, as well as general search sites, such as GoTo.com and SelectSmart.com.

Lessons learned include:

■ **Ads run on issue-specific sites were more cost effective than those on search engine sites.**

After tracing the origin of each person who ultimately contributed or became an LP member, ads that were placed on sites such as TaxPlanet.com failed to deliver more traffic than on those such as SelectSmart.com, said Crickenberger.

CRICKENBERGER:

"Search terms brought the [most] people to the website."

"We advertised on targeted sites on the advice of people who had a lot of business success taking that route," he said. "Unfortunately, it wasn't as successful for us."

■ **"Per-click" ads, were more cost-effective than "per impression" ads.**

Once the cost of each ad was compared to the number of people it generated who ultimately contributed to the LP, the ads priced an a per-click basis cost about 30 cents, said Dasbach, while the per-impression ads cost about six times as much.

Prices for per-click ads are based on how many visitors actually click through to a website. Impression ads are priced based on how many people viewed the page where the banner ad was placed.

■ **Keyword searches were more cost-effective than banner ads.**

"I believe this was one of the

most promising things that came out of the ad campaign," said Crickenberger. "We should definitely focus most of our resources on search terms over banner ads in future runs, because those brought the greatest percentage of people to the website."

When someone types a word or phrase into a search engine, all the websites the engine has found come up in a particular order, he said. With the GoTo.com search engine, the LP outbid other websites so that the LP website would come up first whenever certain terms — such as "War on Drugs" — were typed in.

Next few months

A new Internet ad campaign will probably be launched sometime in the next few months, based on the lessons learned from the first, said Dasbach.

"We are trying to explore different methods to increase LP membership and funding," he said. "This was definitely a worthwhile experience."

However, the most cost-effective way to get publicity for the LP is to have individuals download the banner ads and place them on their own website, said Dasbach.

"That's free advertising for us," he said.

To view the banner ads, visit: <http://www.lp.org/action/banners/vote0052.html>.

Join Costa Rica's Can-Do Libertarians!

Or you can visit
www.libertario.org
and contribute
through our
website!

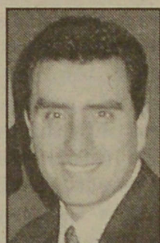
CAN-DO: Elected ONE of the country's 57 legislators in our first electoral run in 1998, attorney Otto Guevara, a Harvard graduate. Also gained permanent nationwide ballot access. In the U.S. and elsewhere the road to liberty is long and difficult. But through

your financial contributions you can join the worldwide team that is making it happen in Costa Rica.

CAN-DO: For the third consecutive year Otto has been chosen best Congressman by 80% of news media people. And we average 3.9 newspaper citations daily. The libertarian position is now part of every political debate in Costa Rica.

CAN-DO: Otto was named best Congressman in all six nationwide polls since 1998. A projection of the latest one shows that libertarians have a good chance of electing 6-8 out of 57 Congressmen.

CAN-DO: in that poll, even before declaring his imminent candidacy or doing any publicity, Otto got 7.5% of the presidential preference. The top-rated candidate only got 22.5% after 3 years of a costly publicity campaign.



All this indicates great potential for the February 2002 elections. But our openly libertarian educational and electoral campaign must be media-intensive, which is costly everywhere, and as

libertarians we don't accept government funds. With a strong campaign we have an outside chance of winning the Presidency in 2002. But we certainly will by 2006 if we can elect many Congressmen next year.

At long last, let all the world's libertarians join hands to achieve the libertarian dream in one country, so it can spread everywhere!

Costa Rican law allows contributions from foreign individuals and entities in any amount (see our website).

Yes! I want to financially support making the libertarian dream come true in Costa Rica so it can spread everywhere. Sign me up as a proud member of Costa Rica's CAN-DO libertarian team!

CONTRIBUTION CHECK

I have enclosed my check for \$ _____

Make checks payable to: Movimiento Libertario, SJO 1410, P.O. Box 25216, Miami, FL 33102-5216

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ AmericanExpress (check one)
Please charge \$ _____

MONTHLY/QUARTERLY PLEDGE

I pledge \$ _____ to be charged (check one):

☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly installments of \$ _____

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EXPIRES: SIGNATURE: _____

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PRIVACY

☐ Please do not exchange my name with other organizations.

Email newsletter: Contact us at candoteam@libertario.org



FROM the Director

This summer, you can help 'Discover Liberty'

Will you help someone "Discover Liberty" this summer? Last October, Rasmussen Research administered the World's Smallest Political Quiz (WSPQ) to a random sample of Americans. Among their findings: 16% of those polled scored Libertarian on the quiz, second only to the 32% who scored as Centrists. However, only 2% of those polled described themselves as "libertarian."

If you aren't familiar with the WSPQ, it adds Libertarian and Authoritarian to the traditional Liberal and Conservative labels, to form a more accurate four-way political spectrum. It doesn't just improve on the inaccurate notion that politics is a straight line — from Liberal to Centrist to Conservative — it makes such old-fashioned thinking obsolete. (A link to the WSPQ is available from the party's website, www.LP.org.)

On July 4, the Advocates for Self-Government plans to launch a year-long "Discover Liberty" campaign to identify tens of thousands of these "missing" libertarians. Their ambitious goals:

1. To coordinate 2,000 Operation Politically Homeless (OPH) outreach booths over the next year, where volunteers will . . .
2. Encounter 500,000 people and . . .
3. Administer the WSPQ to 250,000 people, of whom . . .
4. 75,000 will score as libertarian, of whom . . .
5. 36,000 will provide their name and address requesting libertarian information.

So why am I writing about this project in *LP News*?

Here's why: During odd-numbered years, we receive about 2,000 inquiries each month. So this one project has the potential to more than double the number of inquiries we receive over the next year.

That's why I hope that LP members and our local organizations will take the lead in organizing hundreds of these OPH booths. It's a great outreach activity for Libertarians, especially during times when there aren't elections going on.

If you've never worked an OPH booth, I can assure you that it's easy, non-threatening, and fun. You simply invite people to take the WSPQ, which consists of 10 short Yes/No questions. You help them score the quiz, determine their political orientation, then put a dot on a big display graph to represent their view of politics.

If they score libertarian — and a lot of them will! — you ask if they would like to receive information about libertarian organizations and events. If they say yes — and about half will! — then you get their name and address. That's all there is to it.

As Advocates President Sharon Harris has noted, these people are "hot prospects to become activists, members, voters, and contributors."

Based on past experience, at least 10% of these newly discovered libertarians will decide to join the LP. That means for every day you work an OPH booth, you'll probably generate at least two new LP members to help build your local organization.

Could your local organization use more members? More volunteers? More candidates? More leaders?

If so, then "Discover Liberty" is the way to make it happen.

At the national level, if the project succeeds in generating 36,000 inquiries, the LP should gain at least 3,600 new members and subscribers, nearly a 10% increase over current members and subscriber levels.

Millions of Americans are already libertarians — they just don't know it. This is a great opportunity to help them "Discover Liberty" and the Libertarian Party.

For more information or to volunteer as a coordinator or an OPH booth participant, contact the Advocates:

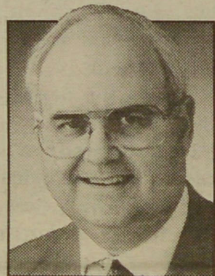
■ Phone: (770) 386-8372.

■ E-mail: DiscoverLiberty@TheAdvocates.org

■ Website: www.TheAdvocates.org

■ Write: The Advocates for Self-Government, 5 South Public Square, Suite 304, Cartersville, GA 30120.

Sharon Harris has said, "I hope libertarians across America will jump on board with Discover Liberty!" I hope so, too. The continuing growth of the Libertarian Party depends on it.



By Steve Dasbach

LP National Director

Social Security is going broke: Can a privatized system work?

EDITOR'S NOTE: How can Libertarianism solve America's problems? Each issue, *LP News* will showcase how "Libertarian Solutions" — or interim steps in a libertarian direction — can help improve our nation.

By Jonathan Trager
LP NEWS STAFF WRITER

Who is going to take care of me when I'm old? Most Americans ask themselves this question at some point during their lifetimes. After years of working to meet their financial obligations and make ends meet, people want to know they'll be taken care of when they retire. So politicians promised that under the government's Social Security program, no one would ever have to worry about financial security after retirement again.

They promised — and they lied.

Today's Social Security program may be social, but it certainly isn't secure — and many Americans know it. In fact, a survey done by the Wirthlin Worldwide polling company found that a majority of workers under 30 years old don't believe they will receive anything from Social Security.

Occasionally, to alleviate public anxiety, Democrats and Republicans will boldly announce that they are going to "save the system" for future generations. But, despite all the rhetoric and righteous indignation, the truth is that most politicians don't want to relinquish the control over the retirement system they have enjoyed for more than 60 years.

Pay-as-you-go

When Social Security was created in the 1930s it was a "fully funded" system, in which each worker paid a portion of his or her paycheck into the system to be saved for retirement. However, Social Security quickly morphed into a "pay-as-you-go" system, wherein current worker payments are immediately paid out to retirees.

Today's Social Security system is the single largest wealth redistribution program in America. Workers and employers pay a combined 12.4% Social Security payroll tax on all wages up to \$76,200 — preemptively withheld from each paycheck, of course.

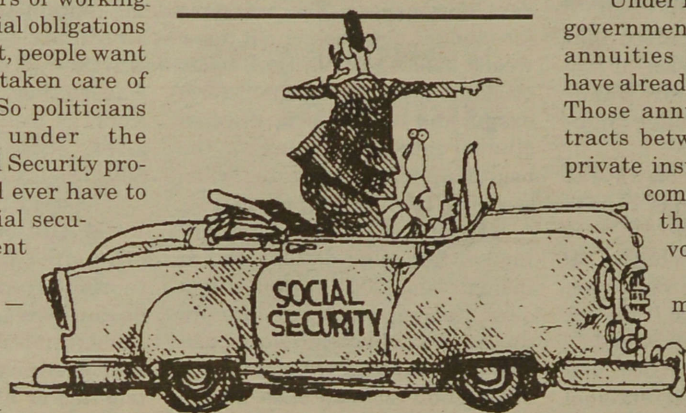
Nevertheless, The Social Security Board of Trustees has reported that Social Security is a system in trouble. By 2016, the system will start running a deficit at current benefit levels. By

Libertarian Solutions

2032, the so-called "trust fund" — trillions of dollars in IOU's the government owes itself — will be depleted, and the system will be totally insolvent.

Why the impending disaster?

When the system was created, there were 42 workers per



QUESTION:

Can a privatized Social Security system work?

retiree. Consequently, there was a lot of money coming in, and very little going out. But today there are just three workers per retiree, a number that will dwindle further when the Baby Boomers begin to retire en masse in 15 years. Given that Social Security is a transfer program from workers to retirees, there is clearly no way that the current benefit level can be sustained.

The bottom line is that there are only three alternatives to avoid Social Security spending deficits. Two of the alternatives — raising payroll taxes or slashing

benefits — would harm either workers or retirees. The third — privatizing the system — would not.

There are two major types of privatization plans currently being debated in Libertarian circles. Some Libertarians, such as former Libertarian Party presidential candidate Harry Browne, recommend moving immediately to a private system. In contrast, the Cato Institute, a libertarian think tank in Washington, DC, advocates a more gradual transition.

Under Browne's proposal, the government would buy private annuities for individuals who have already paid into the system. Those annuities would be contracts between individuals and private insurance or investment companies — with no further government involvement.

Where would the money come from? From assets — defunct military bases, vacant land, pipelines, oil reserves, buildings, and so on — the federal government doesn't need to fulfill its Constitutional duties. According to some estimates, those assets could be sold for about \$12 trillion, which is more than enough to compensate every American who has already paid into the system.

And under that plan, as Browne has noted, "You'll get a private annuity you can count on. You'll never again have to worry that Congress will alter your pension."

Problematic

The Cato plan is more gradual — and, since it maintains some government involvement, more problematic for some Libertarians. However, Cato argues that their plan is more politically feasible.

Devised by Peter Ferrara and Michael Tanner, the plan allows each worker to transfer a significant portion of their 12.4% Social Security tax into private accounts. The remaining percentage would be used to pay benefits to current retirees until they are fully compensated for previous contributions, at which point the remaining tax would be phased out entirely.

The Cato alternative also offers every taxpayer who opts into the private system a "safety net" that guarantees a minimal rate of return.

But whether the transition to a private retirement system is immediate or gradual, and whether the end result is 100% private or retains some government involvement, the transition

See **SOCIAL SECURITY** Page 26

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The Mail Box

■ No property right

Eric Bryant's essay, "Why Napster is nothing more than theft," [The Forum, May 2001] confuses basic tangible property rights with legally-constructed "intellectual property" rights such as copyright.

Libertarians should be slow to support copyright law simply because it has been mislabeled as a property right.

While we should protect real property such as cars and houses, which can not be shared, we should hesitate to grant monopolies for ideas and expressions, which can be shared without harm. If I copy a song, you still have your copy. The same goes with ideas, language, and other forms of free expression.

The reality of copyright is that it is a form of social welfare and wealth redistribution used by the government to put money in the hands of "poor" starving artists such as Sheryl Crow, Dr. Dre, and Metallica.

I see no reason why the same artists could not earn their money with live performances and the sale of physical products such as T-shirts and CDs. Surely, artists can find new markets in which to sell their services if the imaginary "copyright" market is deregulated.

There are dangerous consequences of laws enforcing copyrights on the Internet.

The record companies and the government will have to develop and use tools to spy on your communications in order to determine if you have been trading "illegal" copyrighted materials; there is no other way to enforce the law (without banning privacy tools such as encryption).

It is unclear to me why, as

long as my actions do not cause harm to others, I should not be able to say or download whatever I want on the Internet. Ideas and information want to be free. Large record companies might lose their government welfare, but this is the price we pay for liberty.

— TROY KLYBER
Dunlap, Illinois

**"I SHOULD BE
able to say or
download
whatever I want
on the Internet."**

■ What's the fuss?

In "Why Napster is Nothing More Than Theft," Eric Bryant claimed that, despite the fact that Napster does not actually sell or distribute any copyrighted material themselves, it should still be shut down because "people abuse the sound library, burning and reproducing CD's, and then selling them for their own profit."

This is the most un-libertarian statement I have ever heard from a libertarian publication.

What Bryant means to say, is that because a few people abuse a certain privilege, it should be denied to everyone. If this is the case, it is time for the government to start confiscating those guns right away.

The fact of the matter is, most people do use Napster responsibly, as a means of locating rare or discontinued material, creating

publicity for unsigned or independent artists, sampling music from CDs they intend to buy, or simply downloading a single song that they want without having to purchase an entire CD.

The only logical solution is to leave Napster free to operate. The rate of sales by the recording industry has not been affected by Napster, so what is the fuss about, anyway?

— JOSH CLAXTON
Paducah, Kentucky

■ Steaming tripe

In reply to: "Why Napster is Nothing More Than Theft." What a steaming load of tripe. I can't believe anyone with a Libertarian world view can take the position of that espoused by Eric Bryant.

According to that thinking, the music industry had best assign a watchdog with every CD it sells to me. Otherwise, how can they be sure that I'm not loaning it to a friend who then makes a copy who then loans that to a friend who then burns a CD and sells it?

By Eric's logic, I am then guilty of racketeering since I facilitated this act. And so are most libraries in the U.S. Almost every public library has CDs you can borrow. What's keeping these evil pirates from checking out Dr. Dre's latest (as if) from the local library and burning ten, a hundred, or a million copies and selling them?

Napster is in no way different from the public library other than that they don't own the music themselves. They just supply a way that I can share the music that I've bought with people who want it and vice versa.

No money changes hands. I
See **THE MAILBOX** Page 24

ThePulse

Our least popular politician

Want Libertarians to detest you? Not just *dislike* you — but really loathe, revile, scorn, and abhor you? If so, here's the recipe: Support every big-government initiative that comes along, from gun control to higher taxes. In a blatant appeal to class warfare, constantly prattle on about how rich folks abuse the "working man" — even though you come from a family of millionaires. And drive your car off a bridge and, while you swim away, let a young woman drown.

That's not just Massachusetts Senator Ted Kennedy's resume, it was also the formula for the most popular answer to this month's unscientific Pulse question: What one politician — local, state, or national — do you most dislike? Mr. Chappaquidic was the clear, ahem, winner, with 21.7% of the vote.

Worried that it's impossible to duplicate Mr. Kennedy's lifetime of socialist successes and moral failures? Don't despair. There's a simpler way to get disliked by Libertarians: Just marry Bill Clinton. That was Hillary Clinton's path to a second-place finish, with 13% of the vote.

And if that doesn't work, try marrying *Hillary* Clinton. Her husband, Bill "Is he Gone Yet?" Clinton, finished third with 8.7% of the vote.

Here is a representative cross-section of responses:

■ So many deserving choices...but one stands head and shoulders above the rest: That lying, cheating, murdering, big-spending, sanctimonious hypocrite Ted Kennedy. His posturing of concern and help for the ordinary person is particularly galling even as he insists upon the proper adulation and servility "due a Kennedy."

— MARY WACKER, Issaquah, Washington

■ Senator John McCain (R-AZ). From his phony campaign finance reform to his support of law suits against the tobacco industry to his support of gun control laws to his support of the United Nations to his support of an interventionist foreign policy, Senator McCain has proven himself to be a hypocritical jerk.

— ANDREW JACOBS, Mission Hills, California

■ That's an easy one. Bill Clinton.

— STU YOUNG, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

■ [Congressman] Charles Schumer (D-NY). No contest. This man is the Marquis de Sade reincarnate, less the Marquis' good taste and class. I first saw him in the Waco hearings, browbeating some Davidian old man. He had him crying, and I saw him smile with pleasure, then continue to grind away. This man doesn't belong in the institution of government — just an institution.

— CHARLOTTE PATRICK, Edinburg, Virginia

■ Pat Robertson. This former [Republican] presidential candidate espouses absolute theocracy, stiff prison sentences for non-violent drug users, censorship of adult pornography, excoriation of same-sex partnerships, zero tolerance for women's reproductive rights, [and] denunciation of atheists as immoral and unAmerican.

— BARRY ROWE, Melbourne, Florida

■ The worst politicians are those whose rhetoric promotes government as the protector of women, children, and the disadvantaged, but who in practice abuse state power to reward friends, smite enemies, and amass personal wealth. One candidate stands out above all others: Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY).

— JIM KLANN, Glendale Heights, Illinois

■ No contest, Senator Ted Kennedy, the lady-killer from Massachusetts. He gave new meaning to the word "hypocrite" during the Clarence Thomas nomination and the Clinton impeachment. He is the political archetype in the United States of Absurdity, so pathetic and embarrassing he is even beyond good satire.

— BARBARA HOFFMAN, New York, New York

■ Hillary. Do I really need to explain why?

— JEFFREY KRANDIN, Delray Beach, Florida

See **THE PULSE** Page 24

ThePulse

Continued from Page 23

■ Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-MS) who spends all his time talking on the Sunday news shows and never seems to back his words up with actions. I wish he would vote the way he talks. He wants to cut waste, but then makes the Navy buy ships they do not want. His attitude is what causes our government spending to keep rising.

— MICHAEL LINDER, Edgewood, Maryland

■ There is no question: Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA). She supports price controls, gun controls, the war on drugs, big government spending, foreign intervention, censorship of the internet, high taxes, controls on free speech. She is in favor of a national ID card, oppressive anti-crime proposals, the flag-burning amendment.

— TIM BRACE, San Francisco, California

■ My own former mayor, present governor, and, being a legend in his own mind, potential president. The bigger blowharder himself — Jesse Ventura. His guiding principle is what's good for Jesse is good. He is not shrinking government, he didn't give the surplus back, and he is pushing a billion-dollar boondoggle in Light Rail [public transportation system]. Ventura is a trash-talking bully.

— LARRY CLIFFORD, Brooklyn Park, Minnesota

■ No question here — Senator Tom Daschle (D-SD). He's shown himself to be nothing but a class bigot and massive hypocrite since Bush was elected.

— RICH TOMASSO, Nashua, New Hampshire

■ You asked for the politician who is the biggest liar, blowhard, anti-freedom zealot, big spender, shameless panderer, or double talker. Where have you been? That guy was replaced months ago by George W. Bush.

— BOB DOSTAL, Iowa City, Iowa

August Question: Drug use drop?

For years, Libertarians have been arguing that the War on Drugs is a failure. The government has locked up millions and spent billions, we note, yet a vast majority of high school kids still say marijuana is easier to buy than beer. And, after three decades of this war, the percentage of teenagers trying drugs is on the upswing. Not so fast, say conservative Drug Warriors: Between 1986 and 1991, the USA experienced a 72% drop in cocaine use and a two-thirds decline in marijuana use — and overall drug use is still well below what it was in the 1980s. This proves, they say, that the War on Drugs is effective (as long as Bill Clinton is not president, that is.)

■ Question: What explains the sharp drop in drug use from 1986-1991? Is it proof the War on Drugs *does* work? And how would you respond to Drug Warriors who make that argument? (Please keep answer to 100 words or less.)

■ DEADLINE: July 8, 2001

July Question: Spy plane crisis?

For 11 days, the United States and China stood eyeball to eyeball. Why? Because an American "spy plane," monitoring communist China from international airspace, had collided with a Chinese jet and had to make an emergency landing. The Chinese held the crew for 11 days, demanding an apology from the USA. Libertarians had different reactions. Some said the spy plane mission was just another example of our interventionist foreign policy. Others said the U.S. had legitimate reasons to monitor a potential military threat (as long as we didn't actually violate another nation's airspace.) What do you think?

■ Question: What was the proper Libertarian response to the China spy plane crisis? Why? And should the U.S. government fly such surveillance missions, as long as we don't violate other nations' airspace? Why or why not? (Please keep answer to 100 words or less.)

■ DEADLINE: June 8, 2001

ENTRY GUIDELINES: Include name and city/state; anonymous answers won't be tallied. Enter just once per month.
 ■ E-mail: Bill.Winter@hq.LP.org. ("Pulse" in subject line.)
 ■ Fax: (202) 333-0072 (Attn: The Pulse).
 ■ Mail: Libertarian Party, Attn: LP News/The Pulse, 2600 Virginia Avenue, NW, Suite 100, Washington DC 20037

TheMailBox

Continued from Page 23

don't profit. My Internet buddies don't profit. And I'm not paying Napster a dime for the service they provide.

Additionally, what if someone snatches these songs out of the air while they are being played on the radio? Maybe we should stop broadcasting music on the airwaves since any song can be recorded on a \$29.95 combo box.

But, gee, I thought that the laws were in place to punish people who had committed crimes, not to infringe on the rights of innocent people because of something they might do.

Eric never says that sharing music is criminal or theft. It's the potential criminal act of copying and selling the music that worries Eric. Great! Then give Napster and all their users a potential sentence.

And, Eric, make sure you don't loan your CDs to anyone. They might make you an accessory to racketeering.

— BILL SHAW
 Pineville, Louisiana

■ He's confused

The man who was nabbed in the LP death threat case was sent for a 15-day mental health evaluation [LP News, April 2001].

Former landlords claimed he was obsessed with Communist Party politics and was confused about what the LP stands for.

I don't think he's nuts — he's a typical public school graduate.
 — BOB DOSTAL
 Iowa City, Iowa

■ True colors

The May issue of LP News almost scared me.

It saddened me to see the New Hampshire LP allowing a Democrat to run on the Libertarian Party's ballot line, just because the Democrat had been beaten in his own party's primary ["Two 'Libertarian' legislators file ballot access, election reform bills"].

I suspect that [State Representative Steve] Vaillancourt said he would do a few things for the LPNH as part of the deal.

Now, Vaillancourt's true colors are revealed: According to the *Manchester Union Leader*, Vaillancourt sponsored a 1% tax increase bill that went through the legislature and passed.

I hope Libertarians have learned a lesson about wooing politicians on the rebound.

Therein lies the danger of allowing old-party adherents to run as Libertarians — especially right after their own party booted them out. It's one thing if a sitting, incumbent politician has a solid Libertarian record (like Congressman Ron Paul), is getting along well with old-party friends, but resigns of his own free will — it's quite another to accept "sore losers."

The correct reaction for the New Hampshire LP is to immediately push Vaillancourt away. Otherwise, I and many other Libertarians will no longer be able to claim that "no Libertarian officeholder has ever supported a tax increase."

The party must remove its sanction of him — because if we don't "just say no" to tax-and-spend traditional politicians, they will overrun us. We already lost the word "liberal" to the socialists; let's not lose "libertarian" as well by not practicing vigilance.

— MARC MONTONI
 Edinburg, Virginia

SUGGESTION:

*Change our name
 to the Libertine
 Party. It's shorter
 and sounds better.*

■ The Peace Party

I want to share (what I think is) a fresh idea, an idea which I believe to be simple, elegant, bold, and potentially transformative. And an idea about which I hope people will keep an open mind without a quick rush to judgment.

The idea is a name-change proposal, a change which could potentially shift the public's perceptions of our philosophy. The proposal is that we change our name to "The Peace Party."

Because liberty and peace walk hand in hand. Without liberty we cannot have peace, and without peace we cannot have liberty. One necessarily implies the other because they're two facets of the very same jewel.

"Liberty" emphasizes the personal and solitary aspects of that jewel, while "peace" emphasizes the relational and communal aspects. Neither is more true, they're simply two (among other) wonderful facets of our political philosophy.

Now consider the following two statements: 1. I'm in the Libertarian/ Liberty Party. We believe in personal liberty to pursue one's interests, while not impacting other's interests.

2. I'm in the Peace Party. We believe in peace, and we believe in peaceful means. These state-

ments are quite functionally equivalent, and yet they each have a very different ring. Which rings warmer to you?

The Peace Party would make us harder to pigeonhole as representing anarchy and selfishness. The Peace Party would claim the mantle of peace, which would be a tremendously strong position to work from. It's a name which is simple to say, which suggests inspiration and vision, and which speaks to people's highest ideals.

Deep down, people are always hungry for the truth because only the truth is ultimately satisfying. And thus we bear an inspired message that people are hungry to hear, if only we can communicate it effectively.

The message is that we'll ultimately either learn to live peacefully together or not at all.

— MICHAEL NEWMAN
 Ithaca, New York

■ The Libertine Party

I suggest the Libertarian party change its name to the "Libertine Party." Libertine is shorter, sounds better, and is more provocative than Libertarian.

Because the word libertine already has a non-political meaning that's humorous and amusing, changing to the Libertine Party would attract greater attention from the media.

I'm sure this would make the party a butt of jokes around the nation. However, I believe it's better to call ourselves "libertines" and be subjected to lots of good-natured ribbing which results in a massive, never-ending stream of publicity than to continue going by a proper, dignified name that guarantees anonymity.

In my opinion, the word libertarian is boring and stale. Changing to the Libertine Party would generate broader and more intense scrutiny by the media.

It also has the potential to create much greater interest in the party by young people. The Libertine Party would tell young Americans that we have swagger, we're daring, unconventional, and not afraid to have fun. We need the younger generation.

— MIKE DASS
 Telford, Pennsylvania

■ Conservative?

In his article, "Does government 'management' help or hurt the U.S. economy?" [Libertarian Solutions, May 2001], Jonathan Trager offers two conservative-sounding solutions to the "twin terrors" of inflation and taxation: "Change the tax code" and "Pass a balanced budget amendment."

Instead, I suggest he recommend the twin Libertarian solutions, namely, closing down the Federal Reserve and ending the income tax. As Harry Browne says: "If you don't ask for what you want, you'll never get it!"

The LP should be asking for liberty, not busy rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic.

— MICHAEL R. EDELSTEIN
 San Francisco

See THE MAILBOX Page 25

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The MailBox

Continued from Page 24

■ No Libertarian

I can't help but notice: Of all the people who write in suggesting we entice Jesse Ventura into the Libertarian Party — none are Minnesota Libertarians [The MailBox, May 2001].

Jesse probably still sounds Libertarian, but his actions speak otherwise. He's currently working hard to wrest control of the government schools away from the local level, to be controlled by the state.

A few years ago, he was elected, in my opinion, because he said he'd return *all* of the large surplus. But, sadly, some of that money was needed for other government pet projects and he gave back less than even the Republicans wanted.

Jesse a Libertarian? Sigh. I only wish...

— SUE COX

Rochester, Minnesota

■ More efficient

I wanted to leave a suggestion how to save tax dollars while creating a more efficient Congress.

In my opinion, the organization is too large and is in need of a good pruning. Would it not be better and less expensive if each state had just one senator instead of two? Just think of the savings on staff salaries and retirement benefits.

However, that is just the beginning. Just think of what could be accomplished if the U.S. House Representatives that are elected from each state could be halved, except for those states that have only one Representative.

Maybe the Constitution could be amended to allow for four-year terms instead of two-year terms, because elections are quite expensive.

There is one more thought I would like to share with you. Members of Congress are our employees, but most employees in the private sector do not set their own pay. Maybe our state legislatures should decide their U.S. Senators and Representatives pay. The salaries could be paid by the respective states instead of the federal government.

— DAVID WOMICK

Cowpens, South Carolina

■ Abortion agenda?

I was reading some of the responses to the abortion articles. One of the biggest questions about abortion is when does life begin?

Well, that is not for us to de-

cide. Otherwise, we are playing the role of God.

It is also not for us to decide the value of a life. We've already seen how people are considered worthy or worthless on any number of criteria, whether it be skin color, looks, size, moral beliefs, income, etc... God decides the value of life, not us.

That being said, nowhere in the Constitution does it say that the government shall be involved

in abortion. It shouldn't fund it, prohibit it, encourage it, discourage it, etc...

The so-called pro-choice people claim they are for choice. If so, then why do they seek to use tax money to fund abortions? Why do they seek to pass laws making it a crime to shout "Abortion is Murder." Are they really pro-choice?

Could they really be seeking to make abortion mandatory? We already see how when the government is involved in such a matter — such as China — how things really are. It's called "population control."

Likewise, the so-called pro-lifers seek to use the government for their own purposes. Could they be seeking to use the government to pass a law banning abortion as a substitute for setting a personal example and being involved in people's lives?

Shouldn't they be stressing personal responsibility and setting examples for people instead of just assuming a law would fix the problem?

By having the government involved, the real danger is always that the government will make the decision on abortion, not individuals. Ultimately, people

will have to make their own decisions and will be accountable to God, not humans.

— CHRIS FORTNER

Knoxville, Tennessee

■ Biblical view

After reading Duane Grindstaff's letter [The MailBox, May 2001], I was initially taken aback by the claim he made. He claimed that the Bible says in Exodus 21: 22-25 that the punishment for causing a miscarriage is merely a fine, thus implying that the life of an unborn child is of less value.

Since I would not expect an
See THE MAILBOX Page 26

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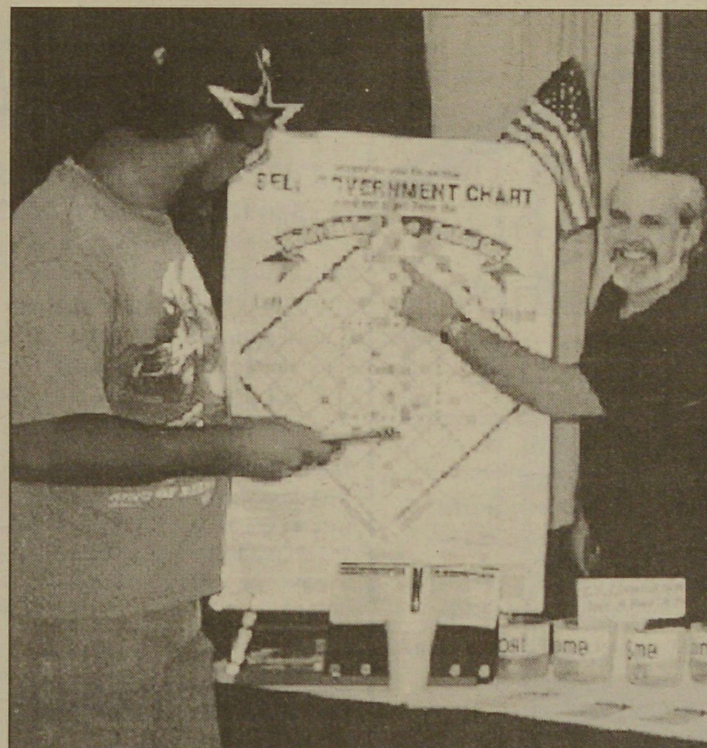
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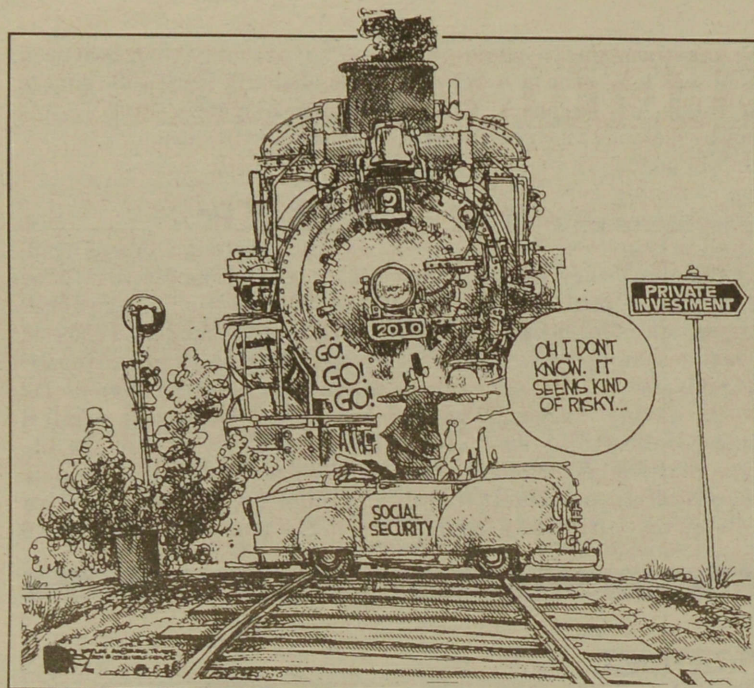


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Replacing Social Security with a private alternative

Continued from Page 22

ment involvement, there are several immediate benefits that would accrue from shifting Social Security toward a private investment system:

■ **Greater investment returns.** In the long-term — which is the relevant consideration when discussing an individual's entire working career — stock market growth is as solid as a rock. Even during the 20 years encompassing the Great Depression, the market had a growth rate of more than 3%, compared to Social Security's return of less than 2%. And over the long haul, the stock market has returned an average of 7.6% annually.

But politicians don't want you to know that Social Security is a terrible deal. So they scare people into believing they might lose all their money in an uncertain market. But, over 30 years, the stock market is always more reliable than politicians' promises.

■ **Professional money management.** You don't need to be a savvy investor to reap the benefits of a private retirement system — any more than you need to be a medical expert to benefit from private health care. In a private retirement system, professional money managers would compete for clients. Those who invest poorly would lose clients to more competent professionals.

Again, politicians like to scare people by arguing that poor people aren't sophisticated enough to make smart investments. But Joe Sixpack doesn't need to read the *Wall Street Journal* to plan for a successful retirement. He just needs to be able to read the Yellow Pages — and call successful investment companies like Fidelity, Paine-Webber, and Janus. Any one of those firms has a better track record than the politicians who have bankrupted the present Social Security system.

■ **Asset ownership rights.**

The Supreme Court has ruled that because Social Security is a government program, politicians have a right to rescind it at any time, and divert all money collected to other federal programs. In other words, your "investment" in Social Security is totally dependent on the whims of politicians.

Any privatization plan that retains some government control

should include a provision that grants individuals complete control over the money they invest. That way, individuals would be able to transfer their money to family members or beneficiaries, if they die before fully collecting.

Of course, a fully privatized system wouldn't have this problem: Your money would be 100% yours, to keep, spend, invest, or pass on to heirs.

Either way, a privatized system would take your money out of the hands of politicians — who have proven themselves better at spending money than saving it.

Inexorably graying

Social Security's problems stem from the undeniable truth that the American population is inexorably graying. A lower worker-to-retiree ratio means trouble for a system that simply transfers money from one person's paycheck to another's.

Americans have little control over changing demographics. However, we *do* have control over whether we are going to immediately address the Social Security problem. Or whether we will wait, hapless, until the program is completely broke.

Hopefully, Americans will choose the former route.

Then, when future workers ask themselves who is going to take care of them when they're old, they won't answer: "The government." They'll be able to answer: "I will."

The MailBox

Continued from Page 25

outright lie from a fellow Libertarian, I began to suspect a translation issue. Checking nine different English translations of the Bible, I found that two use the term "miscarriage" as stated and seven use the term (or clearly refer to) "premature birth." Which of these translations are correct?

The only solution is to go to the original Hebrew. These are the words of Greg Hartman:

"The phrase translated 'premature birth' does not favor the idea that the death of the baby is described here. The phrase 'yeled yatsa' is never used in passages referring to miscarriage; the word that is used for miscarriage (Hebrew 'sakal') is not used here."

Based on the Hebrew, the verses clearly refer to a premature birth and not a miscarriage.

The verses also go on to say that if any further harm is caused, the proper punishment is an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, and a life for a life. This infers that the value of the life of the unborn child is no less than the value of the life of the person causing the miscarriage.

I hope it is now clear that the proper Christian view on abortion is that abortion is murder.

— ERIC J. BOONE
Comstock Park, Michigan

■ A great lesson

When did I know I was a Libertarian? When I was about 8 years old, Butchy Moore and I were pitching baseball cards in my basement.

The competition was fairly even until we decided to play "leansies." Neither of us was very good, and when we had pitched almost our entire collections onto the floor, Butchy leaned one against the leg of the laundry tub.

It was very painful to watch Butchy walk across the street to his house carrying what was my collection of baseball cards.

It never occurred to me to run to my mother to right this "terrible wrong." As young as I was, I knew that this was not the business of the local government (my mom) and that Butchy and I had voluntarily engaged in this game. We were both aware of the potential for gain and loss.

At age 8, I could not have expressed it but I knew that with liberty goes responsibility for consequences and though the game may not have been smart, it was fair and I was not forced into it.

It was a great lesson in growing up and, in hindsight, a clear example of a libertarian personality in development.

— MATT MARHEFKA
Doylestown, Pennsylvania

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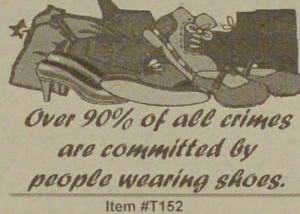
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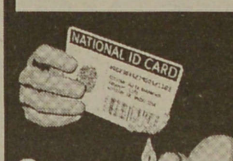
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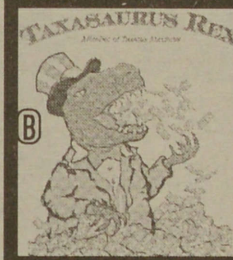
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UpComing

■ June 8-10, 2001

New Mexico LP Convention, Courtyard-Marriot Hotel, Farmington. Speakers include Richard Linville (Prosecutor, Gem County, Idaho), Atilla Csanyi (Hungarian freedom fighter), Dorsey J. Glenn (Chaves County Residents Against Annexation, Period), and Steve Dasbach (LP National Director). For information, call Joseph Knight: (505) 334-7713.

■ June 16-17, 2001

Libertarian Party's Strategic Planning Team Meeting, Hyatt Hotel Dallas-Ft. Worth Airport, Texas. Open to all LP members. For information, call: (202) 333-0008 Ext. 231. Or e-mail: DiannePilcher@hq.LP.org.

■ June 15-17, 2001

National Taxpayers Conference 2000, Radisson Hotel & Suites, St. Louis, Missouri. Sponsored by the National Taxpayers Union Foundation. Speakers include James Glassman (syndicated columnist) and John Fund (*Wall Street Journal*). Features workshops, strategy sessions, and policy forums. For information, visit: www.NTU.org. Or call: (703) 683-5700.

■ July 13-15, 2001

Texas LP Convention, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Houston Intercontinental Airport. Speakers include Russell Means (Indian rights activist, actor, and author), Carla Howell (2000 U.S. Senate candidate, Massachusetts), Carol Jones (Texas Citizens for a Sound Economy), and Marshall Fritz (Separation of School and State Alliance). For information, e-mail: torchess@texas.net. Or call Nancy Neale: (512) 263-1681.

■ August 4-10, 2001

Cato University Summer Seminar, Rancho Bernardo Inn, San Diego, California. Speakers TBA. For information, call: (202) 218-4633. Or visit: www.cato-university.org.

■ September 21-23, 2001

Gun Rights Policy Conference, Drawbridge Inn & Convention Center, Cincinnati, Ohio. Co-sponsored by the Second Amendment Foundation and the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep & Bear Arms. Speakers TBA. For information, call: (425) 454-7012. E-mail: info@saf.org.

■ September 21-23, 2001

Liberty Editor's Conference, Port Townsend Conference Center, Port Townsend, Washington. Sponsored by *Liberty* magazine. Speakers include Alan Bock (columnist, *Orange County Register*), Ron Paul (U.S. House, Texas), and Richard Sanders (Washington state Supreme Court). For information, call: (800) 854-6991. Write: P.O. Box 1181, Port Townsend, WA 98368.

■ October 6-7, 2001

Freedom Summit, Embassy Suites Hotel at the Biltmore, Phoenix, Arizona. Speakers include Jacob Hornberger (president, Future of Freedom Foundation), Vin Suprynowicz (syndicated columnist), and Clint Bolick (vice president, Institute for Justice). For information: www.freedomsummit.com.

■ October 25-28, 2001

Cato University Summer Seminar, Hotel Omni Mont-Royal, Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Speakers TBA. For information, call: (202) 218-4633. Or visit: www.cato-university.org.

■ October 27, 2001

New Hampshire LP Convention, Holiday Inn, Concord. Speakers include "Libertarian" State Representative Steve Vaillancourt (L-Manchester) and Richard Winger (publisher, *Ballot Access News*). For information, call Rosalie Babiarz at: (603) 523-8315. Or e-mail: rosalie@endor.co

For more Upcoming Events, see page 26.

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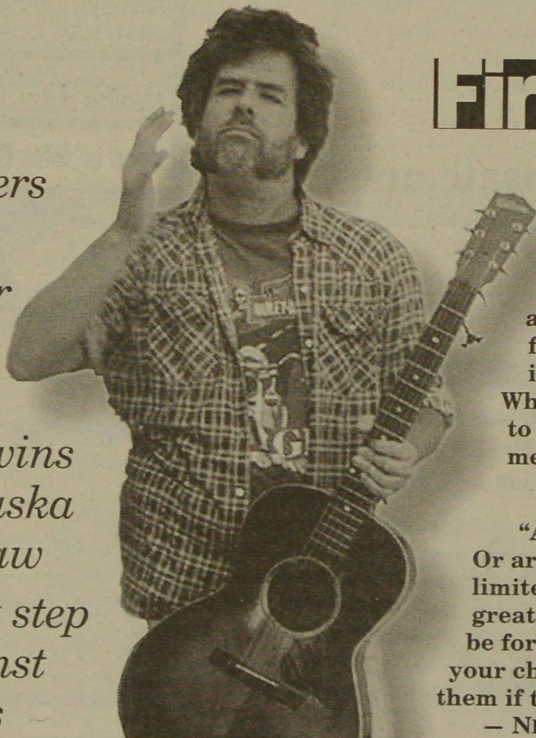
InSide

■ **PAGE 1** 8 more winners in Spring elections

■ **PAGE 1** Rock 'n' roller Mojo Nixon joins Libertarian Party

■ **PAGE 3** Libertarian wins suit overturning Alaska campaign finance law

■ **PAGE 4** LP takes first step to join lawsuit against federal election laws



FirstWord

"The most underappreciated political phenomenon of the last two election cycles [is that] in both 1998 and 2000, a Republican candidate for the Senate lost to a Democrat by a margin far less than a Libertarian's vote total. To some extent, Senate Republicans have only their spendaholic ways to blame for this predicament. They blanched at President Bush's proposal that the federal budget grow 4%, and have forced the White House to accept a 5% increase that will almost certainly increase later this year when 'emergency' spending bills come up. When the GOP is a full participant in this predictable process, it isn't hard to see why Libertarians believe there isn't just a single party of big government in Washington."

— JOHN J. MILLER, *Investor's Business Daily*, May 9, 2001

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— NEAL BOORTZ, Syndicated Radio Talk Show Host, May 7, 2001