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Seehusen contract renewed

Libertarian National Committee members voted at their May meeting in Dallas to renew LP Executive Director Joe Seehusen's contract for two years.

Seehusen was hired in May, 2003, to replace former executive director Steve Dasbach, who resigned in late 2002.

His contract was set to expire on June 30, 2005; he will now remain in the post until June 30, 2007.

"The past two years have been spent creating economic stability for the party and putting in new operations, including accounting and database systems — as well as beginning to get involved with other like-minded organizations including the Americans for Tax Reform and the National Taxpayers Union," Seehusen said.

The quest for financial stability has led to Seehusen's greatest success in his two years with the LNC, said LP National Chairman Michael Dixon, and he is expected to continue successfully in the next two years.

"Joe led the office out of financial difficulties beginning two years ago, proving very effectively what could be done," Dixon continued.

"At the LNC meeting he said his goal now is to ensure that the LNC makes its budget for 2005, and that's the real goal right now.

"The LNC has not met a revenue budget in anyone's memory, so it will be a real challenge for him. But his success in fundraising so far is encouraging."

The key component in Seehusen's quest for fundraising success is tied to his recent leadership in reaching out to other groups in the Washington, D.C. area: As the LP increases its influence and respectability, donations can be expected to increase.

"Joe has started the ball rolling on significant public outreach in the D.C. market,"

See **SEEHUSEN** Page 11

Texas LP chair elected to office

Patrick Dixon, chairman of the Libertarian Party of Texas, was elected May 7 to the city council of Lago Vista, Texas, taking 68 percent of the vote to defeat an incumbent. It was his first campaign for public office.

Lago Vista is a city of about 5,100 residents just northwest of Austin. There are seven council members, and Dixon will serve a two-year term.

Dixon said his two biggest immediate concerns for city governance are the city's debt and zoning ordinances.

"We have at least \$26 million in debt, and our annual revenue is about \$3 million, over half of which goes out for public safety and administration," he said. "We have to find something to do about that debt."

"In my campaign I said we need to concentrate on the core functions of government. I pointed to law enforcement and said that's something the government should certainly do. There isn't really a lot of fat to cut out; we're going to have to be pretty austere about a lot of things. But there are other things that we can streamline, and I hope we'll be able to do so."

The city's zoning ordinances need to be revisited because they keep people from developing property and buying homes or businesses in Lago Vista, Dixon said.

"We're growing, but not very quickly," he noted. "We're being very hard on business owners and people who want to buy homes, and I think that's a disincentive to development. The community is beautiful — a huge lake and hills, and a forest out there — and I think a lot more people would be attracted here if it weren't for the problems we're causing for developers and business owners."

Dixon, an industrial consultant by trade, has lived in Lago Vista for seven years. He said he believes his experience will help bring efficiency to the city council.

He also said he plans to purchase each of the other six council members their own copies of two books: Frederic Bastiat's *The Law* and 2004 LP presidential candidate Michael Badnarik's *It's Good to be King*.

"I'm doing this with the idea that if they wonder about how I

vote on the council, at least they'll be able to understand the principles on which I'm basing my vote," Dixon explained.

This campaign proved something

to Libertarians in the Austin area, he said, noting that "when Libertarians get together on a winnable race like this, we can win big."

"I got donations from Libertarians all over the country on this. The energy put into the race by members of the Libertarian Party had a lot to do

with this victory. To be honest, we really have an unfair advantage in these situations.

"If you're running for Congress as a Libertarian and trying to raise millions of dollars, it's hard. But if you just need a few thousand dollars for a winnable race, it's a distinct advantage to be part of the party. In a city council race like this, our

national organization can be a tremendous advantage."

Using donations, Dixon was able to run ads in the local newspaper, send two direct mail pieces to about 800 people — all those who voted in the previous city election — and hire a caller to do phone solicitation in the days before the election. He also put out 100 yard signs, further spreading his name around the city.

And it worked. Almost 950 people voted, a significant increase over previous city elections, and Dixon defeated his opponent by more than a 2-1 margin.

"While Lago Vista is a rather small city, Mr. Dixon's victory does confirm what I have been saying for years," said Jeff Daiell, a member of the Texas LP's executive committee and chairman of the Libertarian Party of Harris County, Texas.

"In elections where the rules are the same for all candidates and special-interest money is not an overwhelming factor, Libertarians can, and often do, win."

In nearby Austin, Wes Benedict — executive director of the Texas LP — came in second place in a five-way race for a city council seat, earning him "grudging acknowledgement in the media as a serious candidate that represents a growing force in Austin politics," said Rock Howard, chairman of the Travis County LP.



■ Patrick Dixon

Steve Kubby motion denied in CA court

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

On May 16, a judge in Placer County, Calif., refused to hear a motion by medical marijuana patient Steve Kubby — who believes he can establish compelling evidence that county authorities committed fraud in 1999 to obtain a search warrant against him.

Kubby, the Libertarian Party's candidate for California governor in 1998, has lived in Canada with his wife, Michele, since he was convicted in December 2000 for drug law violations in Placer County.

He used — and still uses — marijuana to control the symptoms of adrenal cancer, which he fought with surgery and conventional medicine before discovering that marijuana

was a more effective treatment.

Cancer specialists in both California and Canada have acknowledged that no other medicine will keep Kubby alive, he said in a recent telephone interview from his home in British Columbia.

It was while Kubby was running for governor that the authorities received an anonymous letter about Kubby, prompting them to delve into a six-month investigation while he was on the campaign trail.

Soon after the election, in January 1999, heavily armed police searched the Kubbys' residence. They obtained a warrant by telling a judge that the DEA had identified a visiting journalist as a Jamaican drug smuggler.

The journalist, Pete Brady, later attempted to acquire the DEA's report under the Freedom of Informa-

tion Act, but was told that no such record existed, according to a brief filed by attorney Bill McPike.

McPike is "currently the winningest medical marijuana attorney in the state of California," Kubby said. "Americans for Safe Access are working closely with Bill because he gets such great results. We've seen lately a number of cases where he has represented patients where he has gotten a return of all marijuana and of course, all charges dropped."

In his brief filed with the court in Placer County, McPike claimed county authorities "willfully and knowingly misled the magistrate" when they testified about the alleged statements from the DEA.

It's no coincidence, Kubby said, that he happened to be a Libertarian candidate who happened to be a medical marijuana patient -- and

that the DEA "just happened" to lie to get a search warrant.

"This has been political from the very beginning," he said. "This county is the most Republican county in the state of California. It's a very right wing Republican county, and they went after me with a vengeance. At my trial, they wouldn't even allow Libertarians to serve on the jury, or anyone who was in favor of legalizing marijuana. I'm still outraged that the judge allowed those questions."

"We now know that they lied to a judge in order to get a search warrant to come after me. They relied on this DEA report, and our contention is that unless they can produce this report, they simply lied."

Going into the court on May 16, Kubby said, there was only one
See **KUBBY** Page 4

NEWS BRIEFS

TN Libertarian elected to city commission

Harry L. Hodgdon, a resident of Collegedale, Tenn., was elected in March to the city commission. He finished third out of four candidates and won a four-year term. He received only nine more votes than the fourth-place finisher, who was an incumbent.

This was Hodgdon's first campaign for public office. He is the first Libertarian to be elected to office in Tennessee since Heather Scott was elected to the county commission in Wilson County in 2002.

The Collegedale City Commission seats are nonpartisan, but Hodgdon said it's no secret he has been a Libertarian since he became disillusioned with Republican politics during "the first Bush presidency."

"I started attending commission meetings in 2000 and wasn't too happy with how things had been going," he noted. "I was aghast that no one else registered to oppose the three incumbents this year."

Hodgdon said he looks forward to serving on the commission, but he expects opposition from the other commissioners.

"I agree with much of what the commission does, but I vote my conscience," he told a reporter for the *Chattanooga Times Free Press*. "I very often will cast lone votes."

Collegedale Mayor John Turner said he is pleased to have Hodgdon on the board and thinks "he will prove to be an asset" to the commission. "He is a thorough thinker and usually doesn't offer an opinion until he feels he has all the facts."

Marijuana re-criminalization effort beaten

After months of consistent lobbying and grassroots organizing, the Marijuana Policy Project (MPP) and its allies — including many Libertarians — have managed to beat back efforts to re-criminalize marijuana in Alaska.

Gov. Frank Murkowski had declared that re-criminalizing marijuana was one of his top priorities for this year's legislative session, and the state legislature played along, introducing two bills to impose a five-year prison sentence for possession of four ounces of marijuana.

Under Alaska law, anyone aged 21 and over can possess — and use — up to four ounces of marijuana in their homes, eliminating the need for medical marijuana laws. In September 2004, the Alaska Supreme Court upheld a previous ruling allowing such use.

"The state legislature adjourned for the year without even coming close to passing the legislation," said Rob Kampia, executive director of MPP. "And when the governor called the legislature back into session for the summer, he decided against putting the bad marijuana legislation on the legislature's docket."

In the process, MPP and its allies — including the ACLU and Alaskans for Marijuana Regulation and Control — managed to fund radio ads slamming the legislation, leading thousands of Alaskans to complain to their legislators, and succeeded in getting stories about the public outcry into every major newspaper in the state, he noted.

Next up: eliminating all penalties for marijuana use by adults. In November 2004, 44 percent of Alaskan voters voted for just such a measure — "the all-time biggest vote for the full repeal of marijuana prohibition in any state in the United States," Kampia added.

New Jersey LP removes state chair Phillips

Shortly after being elected as the New Jersey LP chairman at the state's March 19 convention, Brian Phillips issued a directive to State Treasurer Lou Stefanelli and took other measures in an attempt to resolve an internal dispute.

In response to those measures, which were later ruled in violation of the NJLP Bylaws and Robert's Rules of Order, six members of the NJLP Steering Committee suspended Phillips' authority as chair and scheduled a special May 15 meeting to remove Phillips as chair.

Phillips sent an open letter to the New Jersey Attorney General insisting that those trying to remove him were themselves in violation of state law. His targets included other state leaders, as well as Dan Karlan — Libertarian National Committee Regional Representative from Region 1E (which includes New Jersey) — even though Karlan is not a member of the NJLP leadership. He also called on the attorney general to take action against the state LP leadership.

"So far, the attorney general has declined to pursue Phillips' antagonists," Karlan noted on May 23.

At the May 15 meeting, Phillips was removed as chair by unanimous vote of the more than 45 NJLP members in attendance. Earlier, two members of the state steering committee had resigned. Following Phillips' removal, those three vacancies were filled on an interim basis; they are to be ratified at the regularly scheduled meeting in July.

Phillips and his supporters, however, insist his removal was in violation of Robert's Rules of Order, arguing that while the special meeting was not conducted properly.

"This matter probably will not be resolved until the general meeting in July, if at all," Karlan commented.

Freedom and Liberty in Las Vegas: The FreedomFest Experience

By John St. Leger

LP HQ SPRING 2005 INTERN

Editor's note: *FreedomFest*, a production of Young America's Foundation, is billed on its own Web site as "three glorious days of great ideas, great books and great thinkers," with an emphasis on bringing together activists in the freedom movement to socialize, network and become better organized in their struggle to maintain America's crucial liberties.

So it seemed only right that the Libertarian Party should sign on as a co-sponsor of the event this year in Las Vegas.

LP Executive Director Joe Seehusen and LP headquarters staffer Samuel New attended the event on May 12-14 to hear the speakers and pass out party information. They took along John St. Leger, a student at Duquesne University who spent the spring semester in Washington, D.C., interning at LP headquarters while studying with American University's Washington Semester program.

I asked St. Leger to chronicle the event for LP News — to give readers a first-person view of *FreedomFest*.

Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas, it wasn't. But it was, apparently, a fitting capstone to his semester with the LP.

In a recent letter to the LNC, St. Leger described his experience as an intern for the LP as "incredibly interesting and satisfying," as he was able to become an integral member of the headquarters team. And that was even before he went to Vegas for the party.

— J. Daniel Cloud, LP News editor

■ Thursday afternoon, May 12

After assembling our booth, Sam New, Joe Seehusen and I began to discuss the prospects that this event held. Noting that organizations such as Young America's Foundation, Americans for Tax Reform and Bureaucracy (a personal favorite) were all in attendance, we agreed that the next three days promised to be a stellar mix of ideas, discussions and freedom.

As the three of us mingled

around the booth, Seehusen was approached by Ron Robinson, the president of the Young America's Foundation. I could tell that Mr. Robinson was quite happy that the Libertarians were present and we made sure to show that the feeling was mutual.

The exposition hall at the Bally's/Paris Resort officially opened at 1 p.m., and at first it appeared there was a lack of foot traffic around the booths. While this could have been

agreements — such as CAFTA and NAFTA — are helping, Seehusen eventually was able to bring up a very good point, namely, that the very name "free trade agreement" is a hypocritical term.

The idea that we must have a government dictate to bring about free trade is an indication that we don't truly have free trade. If we have free trade, we don't need an international agreement to make that point, and the agreements become further proof that the government has become overly involved in restricting that trade.

Traffic around the booths steadily increased throughout the afternoon, and we were able to distribute a good deal of LP material.

■ Thursday evening

After the exposition hall closed for the day, a VIP reception and the Opening Liberty Banquet were scheduled in the Paris Hotel next door to Bally's, the main location of all activities. New and I were very happy to attend both activities and once again, we met many who were very happy to see the party represented.

Most notable were three college students from Arizona who were very excited about meeting "actual HQ staff members."

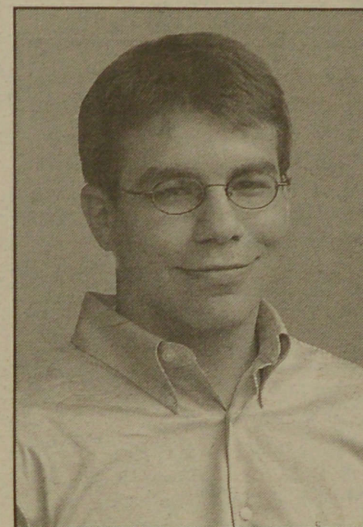
While two of the three were quite familiar with the LP, we were able to give the third a quick education on the party, including some basic information on the party's platform. We exchanged e-mail addresses and I asked him to stop by the booth on Friday to pick up some literature.

The opening Liberty Banquet started with a great speech by FreedomFest founder Mark Skousen, who stressed how far the event has come.

Following Skousen was Ward Connerly, president of the American Civil Rights Institute. His initial comments about race and its influence on freedom definitely piqued my interest and helped me to look forward to his speech on Saturday.

■ Friday morning, May 13

The second day of FreedomFest



■ John St. Leger

an unfortunate turn of events, it allowed those of us representing the different organizations to step away from our respective booths and take in others who were in attendance.

Of the people who inquired about the LP during this introductory exposition, one stood out: the exhibitors of RightMarch.com, which is the right-wing answer to the MoveOn.org project. Where MoveOn.org attempts to assemble liberals into what they call a "virtual march on Washington", RightMarch.com is the "virtual march from the right." As usual, we Libertarians had an interesting interchange with our conservative peers.

Our exchange began with a discussion of the LP's stance on the United States' free trade agreements. While Mr. Seehusen and the RightMarch.com representative eventually agreed that the U.S.'s free trade

Libertarian Party News (ISSN 8755-139X) is the official monthly newspaper of the Libertarian Party® of the United States. Opinions, articles, and advertisements published in this newspaper do not necessarily represent official party positions unless so indicated.

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

began at 8 AM. I was able to take in my morning run at around 6 a.m., but I was actually stopped because of the T-shirt I was wearing, which I got from ThinkLibertarian.com: "God Bless America ... and can you shrink the government, too?"

As I finished my run and stopped for a bottle of water in the hotel lobby, an older woman touched my shoulder and told me with apparent sincerity that I would have her vote in the next election.

She told me that being a lifelong Democrat was beginning to drain her and the free-market ideals preached by the Libertarian Party were beginning to make sense to her.

Better late than never, I suppose.

I was quite touched by her sincerity, and the fact that she was open to our ideals made me appreciate the moment even more.

She hadn't heard of FreedomFest, so after explaining the event and why we were present, I told her about the LP's newly reworked Web site and told her how she could use it to get in contact with other Libertarians in her area.

■ Friday afternoon

Traffic through the exposition hall was, as it had been on Thursday, a little slow during the beginning of the afternoon as people attended speeches and discussions in other areas of Bally's. Like many in attendance, I was looking forward to the noon speech by Wayne LaPierre, executive vice president and CEO of the NRA.

When the appointed hour arrived, though, we were informed that while LaPierre wouldn't be speaking, someone at least as charismatic would be taking his place: Mr. Ted Nugent!

As an avid supporter of Nugent's quest for liberty and freedom, I was definitely excited to hear him speak in person. His wife, author Shemane Nugent, was also speaking and signing books at FreedomFest, courtesy of the Clare Boothe Luce Policy Institute.

Mr. Nugent's primary topic was, naturally enough, freedom — and how we must fight for it every day if it is to be maintained and cultivated.

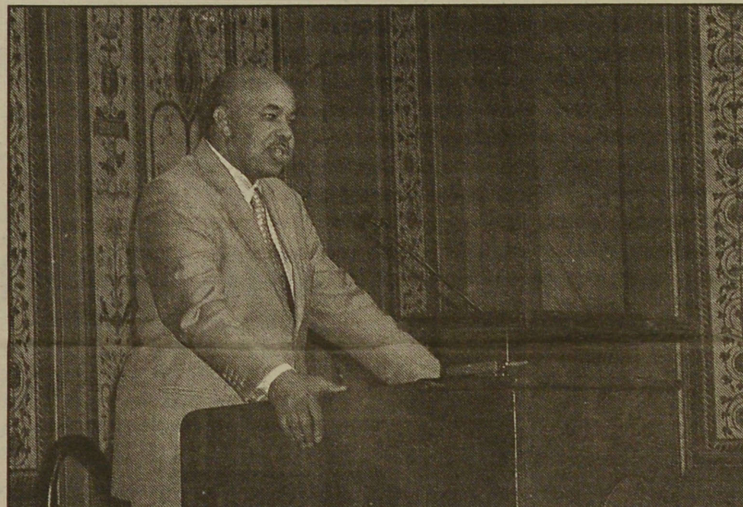
As an example, he discussed how other countries such as France and Germany do not provide its citizens with the freedom to carry firearms. He went so far as to say that areas of the United States where firearms are not banned and the Second Amendment is not stifled is a personal victory caused by him and his team of lobbyists.

In sum, Nugent's speech was quite enjoyable, the points he raised were very logical and the fact that he is such an "extreme" believer in his cause made me feel like I can do so much more than currently I am doing.

After he concluded, I was approached by one of the Rightmarch.org sponsors that we had conversed with on Thursday. She reported being quite impressed with the information that I supplied her with the day before and asked how she could



■ Speakers at FreedomFest in Las Vegas included the inimitable Ted Nugent, above, who brought his particular brand of gun advocacy to the festival, and Ward Connerly, below, president of the American Civil Rights Institute. The LP co-sponsored the event, manning a booth to distribute information about the party. (Photos by Elizabeth C. Brierly, editor of *California Freedom*, the *California LP's* newsletter)



become more involved. I assisted her in filling out an LP inquiry card and made sure that all of her immediate questions were answered.

The rest of the afternoon went very smoothly and the rest of the exposition was definitely enjoyable.

■ Saturday morning, May 14

Saturday began with numerous inquiries while the exposition hall was open. Around mid-morning, the three students that Sam New and I met during the Thursday evening reception stopped by the LP booth to talk and see what else they could do.

After discussing everything from Ted Nugent's speech on Friday to the idea of capitalism and the family, we moved towards the idea of internships. As I always say when given the chance, I told them that my internship with the LP was more than what I could have ever asked for in an internship experience.

They were quite interested and I gave them the contact information of the wonderful internship coordinator, Jessica Neno Wilson.

I also was able to give them some information on the fantastic program that led to my internship, American University's Washington Semester.

■ Saturday afternoon

Because Saturday was the last

day of events, we closed down the booth when the exposition hall closed at 1 p.m. After that, nothing else was on the schedule until the final banquet, where former Congressman Bob Barr debated author Dinesh D'Souza concerning the War on Terror and the Patriot Act.

D'Souza argued that it is necessary and reasonable to abridge Americans' freedoms during times of war, including the War on Terror, and therefore the Patriot Act is an appropriate means of defense.

Barr, of course, argued the more libertarian side in the debate, saying that the Patriot Act and other measures that cut Americans' freedoms — even if it's on a temporary basis — are both unnecessary and unnecessarily extreme.

And then the weekend in Las Vegas was over, and we began preparing for our return flights.

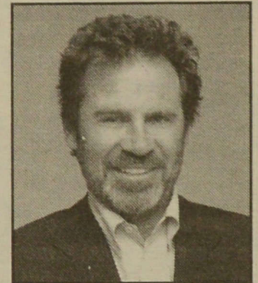
All told, it was good that we were there for this event. We introduced new people to the Libertarian Party, we heard inspiring speakers, and we were able to spread the word about the party's recent activities and changes that are taking place — like the new Web site features.

I've said before that I enjoyed every moment of my internship at the LP's national office. And even now that my internship is over, I'm still enjoying my time with the Libertarian Party.

POLITICS 2005

Dennis Miller, zombism and Darth Dubya

■ In one of the most recent public professions of libertarianism by a noted public figure, funnyman Dennis Miller — well, at least he's funny when he's not trying to do football play-by-play commentary — reportedly said on "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart" that he is "libertarian on everything." And he said it not only once, but twice during the show that aired on April 21, according to James Babb of the Pennsylvania LP.



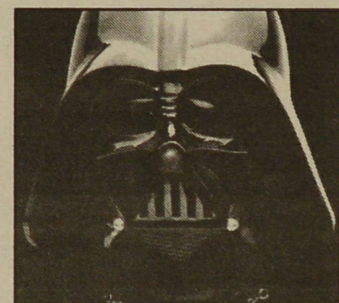
■ On April 1, a story on BBC News Online began making its way around the blogosphere, claiming that there had been an outbreak of "zombism" in Cambodia, with bodies coming back to life briefly after succumbing to a particularly virulent strain of malaria. It's no coincidence that the story broke on April Fools Day: The story was debunked by Snopes.com, which explained that the story was invented by a prankster, who cleverly dropped new text onto a modified copy of BBC's actual Web site. No, there is no strain of malaria that causes dead bodies to resurrect and behave violently. And the Cambodians aren't doing medical research into zombism, hoping to "increase the quality of life for all." And Condoleezza Rice isn't really condemning the Cambodian government for refusing to destroy a powerful biological weapon.

■ People just can't stop talking about illegal immigration. It's even hit Ebay, the megalithic Internet-based auction site. On July 4, the Web site URL www.stopillegalimmigration.com will be auctioned off to raise money to, um, stop illegal immigration. Certain to be one of the odder auctions this summer, the proceeds will go to benefit Americans for Legal Immigration, which claims to support those who want to legally enter the United States.

■ Citizens Against Government Waste named Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii) as Porker of the Month for April, 2005. Inouye added \$40 million in pork projects to the so-called Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Tsunami Relief (H.R. 1268). Among the bacon bits the senator sent to Hawaii on the taxpayer dime are \$10 million for a library and \$3 million for a tropical agriculture research program. Hawaii already ranks third in the nation for pork-barrel spending, CAGW said.

■ Rolf Lindgren, press secretary for the Wisconsin LP, was charged in November 2003 with stealing \$50 from a restaurant waitress. He was exonerated on April 25, when the prosecution dismissed the charge against Lindgren just before jury selection was to begin. Some people think it mere coincidence that Lindgren was arrested just two days after he filed papers with the state elections board to recall Gov. Jim Doyle and that the arresting officer had earlier asked Lindgren dozens of questions about what the Libertarian Party believes. Lindgren isn't so sure, and is considering filing a wrongful arrest suit.

■ Upon the mid-May release of *Star Wars Episode III: Revenge of the Sith*, Michael Medved and certain other right-wing loudmouths began claiming that the film is an open criticism of George W. Bush's empire-building tendencies. Apparently, George Lucas imbued the evil characters with a desire for power — putting such words as "democracy" and "freedom" into the mouths of people on a power trip and "suggesting the film is to be read as a warning" against the abuse of Machiavellian power, according to one columnist. Expect Bush to appear at his next press conference wearing a hooded cape, you should.



■ As most good LPers know, Trey Parker, one of the creators of the Comedy Central cartoon "South Park," is a self-described libertarian. But now there's a book out, written by Brian C. Anderson of the Manhattan Institute, entitled *South Park Conservatives*. According to conservative columnist Michelle Malkin, Anderson argues that the cartoon embodies the "fiercely anti-liberal comedic spirit" of the new media. The theory is that everybody — even some conservatives — wants a little bit of that potty-mouthed cool exuded by the "South Park" gang. Maybe not. Maybe they just want to be libertarian.

Kubby case continues



■ Steve and Michele Kubby

Continued from Page 1
question to be asked: "Was a fraud committed upon the court in order to get a search warrant? It all comes back to this arresting officer and Deputy District Attorney lying to a judge to bring down a Libertarian candidate for governor.

"The judge, John Cosgrove of the Superior Court of California, has already said we cannot bring up the issue of fraud upon the court until we can overcome the protests of the prosecution that they do not have to come forward with this piece of evidence.

"That was his decision on April 29. We submitted to him our evidence of fraud, and his decision was that before he could consider that evidence, we had to establish our right to be there in his court — in other words, they're hiding behind court rules to block an investigation of serious criminal activity by public officials."

At the May 16 court appearance, Judge Cosgrove ruled that Kubby cannot seek a new hearing in that court — which was the original jurisdiction — but must return to the state appeals court that affirmed his conviction. He also indicated that Kubby's status as a "fugitive" swayed his decision not to hear the complaint of fraud.

Kubby maintains he and Michele went to Canada with the permission of the court that now says he is a fugitive.

But in any case, if the courts would accede that fraud did occur before his house was searched in 1998, his status as a fugitive would be moot.

"In California, any conviction obtained through a fraud is legally void," Kubby explained. "It's a catch-22, because I've become a fugitive from a conviction that was obtained through a fraud and is void. On top of that, there was a hearing in the Canadian courts that found I am not a fugitive."

"Yes, I refused to comply with probation. But the only thing I'm guilty of is allegedly violating the terms of my probation — which I was given because of a fraud."

So if Kubby wants to continue pressing the issue — and he's gone

too far to back down now — he'll have to go back to the appellate court. If he does so, is he confident that he'll have a strong case?

"I believe we can show that a fraud was perpetrated on the California court system," Kubby said. "But predicting the outcome in a case before the courts in the police state that is the United States of America is something we've not been able to do with any accuracy."

For the time being, Steve and Michele Kubby will remain in Canada, where he is allowed by law to grow enough marijuana to keep himself healthy.

"My Canadian doctor has said I need up to an ounce a day, in order to keep my lungs clear and have a healthy life," he said. "I'm licensed right now in Canada to grow 137 plants, to possess up to 13.5 pounds, and to travel anywhere in Canada with two pounds."

But what about his court travails in the United States?

"My legal advisors tell me that today's decision is a victory for several reasons," Kubby said after his May 16 court date.

"First of all, this exonerates me by the failure of the district attorney's office and of the court to refute or deny by affidavit evidence the evidence before them. Second, this provides standing for me to sue Placer County officials civilly. And third, under Canadian Law I am now free to pursue business and travel opportunities."

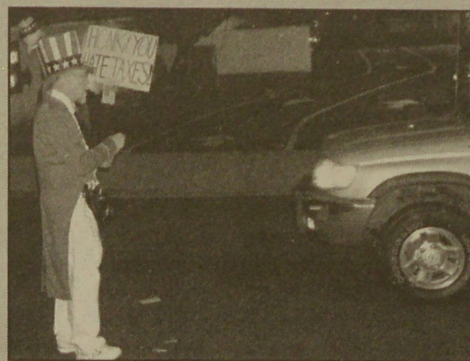
Some Placer County sheriff's deputies are already facing a possible civil trial following an April 19 opinion handed down by a federal appeals court, which cited excessive force by the deputies, and deception and conspiracy on the part of the law enforcement team, according to newspaper reports.

The opinion of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit strongly favors dentist Michael Baldwin and his wife, whose Placer County home was raided in 1998, also on suspicion of marijuana possession.

This raid took place within weeks of the raid on Kubby's home, and the defendants have presented evidence — apparently considered valid by the federal court, which refused to grant immunity to the deputies named in the case — that excessive force was used and that the search warrant was obtained illegally.

While the two cases aren't identical, they are similar enough in many respects that Kubby believes he could also seek justice in the civil courts.

"Nobody is safe if the police can make up evidence, the prosecutors can lie, and the court is willing to cover it up," Kubby said. "It's very easy for them to wiggle out of this. And that's my concern right now. I'm outraged as a Libertarian that anyone in our party was targeted like this — slandered, brought down — and I want to see the people responsible for these illegal political acts held accountable."



■ On April 15, Scott A. Wilson, a longtime activist with the LP in Contra Costa County, Calif., donned his Taxman ("Uncle Sam's evil twin") costume and passed out lollipops and libertarian literature at the main U.S. Post Office in his county. Why the lollipops? Because it gave him a chance to ask last-minute tax filers, "Do you feel like a sucker tonight?" He was joined by other Libertarians including County Chair Cam McDonald, Terry Floyd and Curt Cornell. "We weren't protesting," Wilson explained. "We were commiserating, because we pay



taxes, too. There is no other time in the entire year when you will have a more receptive audience to the Libertarian message. We gave out about a thousand pieces of literature in less than four hours. No advertising budget in the world can beat a smile and a handshake."

Responding to the Census Bureau's 'Community Survey'

To the director of the U.S. Census Bureau, Jefferson, Indiana:

Dear Sir,

I am declining to fill out the "American Community Survey" you sent me. I am a Libertarian, and my party advises us to answer only the two constitutionally tested questions that the Census Bureau is entitled to: "Who are you?" and "How many are in your household?"

In addition, I am citing Section 23 of my Florida Declaration of Rights, the Florida Constitution, and the Privacy Section prohibiting certain government intrusions into my privacy. Further, I am citing the Ninth Amendment to the Bill of Rights, and the Bill of Rights itself.

I will not be submitting answers to your questions from the "American Community Survey." Please do not send anyone to my home.

Thank you.

This is the response I gave to the U.S. Census Bureau's request for me to answer questions from their "American Community Survey."

Two months ago, I received a thick packet in the mail from the U.S. Census Bureau. It came to my home and was addressed to the "resident."

When I received this packet, the outside declared, in large, bold letters, "Your response is required by law..."

Enclosed a 24-page booklet of 235 very personal questions, such as the following:

Has anyone in your home given birth within the last 12 months? What mental conditions do the household residents have? Where

were the residents born? What is there ethnic origin? Is anyone blind or deaf, or do they have emotional or learning difficulties? What time do the residents leave for work? What were the residents' incomes for the past 12 months?

I could go on, of course, but I think you get the picture.

I telephoned the 800 number in the packet. I spoke to the nice young man who answered, and who said he worked for the U.S. Census Bureau. After I had a nice conversation with him, he told me that he had questions about the survey, himself. He said he also believed much of the survey is intrusive, personal and "bogus."

I asked him what law a citizen would violate by refusing to answer the survey, and he said it was Title 13, U.S.C., Sections 141 and 193. The law he read sounded vague to me, so I asked him what was the bottom-line penalty, and he said it was a \$100 fine.

When he told me this, I asked him if he wanted me to send him a \$100 check right away, because I had no intention of answering the intrusive and personal Census Bureau survey. He promised to send me the law that enforced the questionnaire.

Two weeks ago, I got another packet from the Census Bureau. But instead of getting a copy of the law, I received another copy of the survey for me to fill out.

Along with this, they sent a more strongly worded letter, tell-

ing me that if I did not send in the completed survey, a census worker would call me or stop by my house!

They also said the Census Bureau needed the survey so that the government would know where to build more schools and more nursing homes for the elderly!

I am hoping upon hope that they don't decide to fine me \$100, or \$200, or even \$5,000. I am not a rich man.

I must wonder what our country has come to when ordinary citizens are chosen at random, instructed to answer the most personal of questions on an anonymous survey, and told they will be fined if they do not comply with the government directives.

But then again, nothing really surprises me about the government, anymore.

■ About the author: Mike Wynn lives in Tallahassee, Fla. And that's all he's going to say. Actually, he reported after writing this column that he has received telephone calls from the Census Bureau, but no action against him had been taken as of May 24. Wynn promises to keep LP News readers posted if he is actually fined for not filling out the census survey.

Legal, anonymous U.S. Banking & International Cash Transfers. Your Social Security number is never needed!

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lp@onebornfree.com

By Mike Wynn

Carla Howell invites You to visit her new Center for Small Government Action Website

Today's Big Government is way too big, too powerful, too costly, too nosy and too bossy.

Big Government regularly and repeatedly infringes on and deprives us of life, liberty and property.

The only way to expand liberty is to shrink government. The only way to restore liberty is make government small.

Do you agree?

The Center for Small Government seeks to dismantle, reduce, and remove Big Government policies and programs. Our mission is to make government small.

Here are just a few things you'll discover at our Center for Small Government Action Website:

- ✓ Why do the 5 Iron Laws of Big Government slash through the Gordian Knot of No-Win political arguments?
- ✓ Want to see through and expose the phony government spending "Cuts" of Big Government politicians? The Weight Watchers Test for Big Government does the job.
- ✓ Do you know why "small government is beautiful?"
- ✓ Why Does Small Government Plus One Exception Always Result in Big Government?
- ✓ "The Bonsai Remedy": the small government compass that guides our libertarian efforts.

- ✓ Are you engaging in these "Random Acts of Liberty?" Are you involved in libertarian efforts that waste time and money — and don't advance the cause of liberty one iota?
- ✓ Why the theory and practice of "Limited Government" is fatally flawed. Why advancing "small government" is the only way to advance libertarianism.
- ✓ "The Bonfire Test" for Big Government will let you see why government spending hurts us far more than taxes do.
- ✓ Orwell's Secret. Why libertarians are shut out of political conversations. How and why we can and must re-define the political landscape, reframe the political debate, introduce the language of liberty — and change politics from liberal vs. conservative to Big Government vs. small government.
- ✓ "The Big Government Bias Spotter" Game. A fast, fun, effective way to learn to detect and correct the Big Government Bias in Newspapers, Magazines, Textbooks, TV and Radio Political coverage and commentary. Your political and economic conversations will take on a new zest and excitement.
- ✓ The secret strength of "the Small Government Pledge." Whatever your level of involvement and activism, "the Small Government Pledge" guarantees maximum libertarian impact.
- ✓ "You Can Fight City Hall — and Win!" Believe it or not, you and 3 neighbors can defeat a tax increase, roll back a government spending hike, or run a tax cut. In your spare time. With an embarrassingly small amount of work and money. See exactly how libertarians like you have done it.

- ✓ Why small government is possible.
- ✓ Simple things you can do to make government small. Some take 4 minutes. Some take 40. None require a Ph.D. or heavy lifting. Small things can make a big difference.
- ✓ Why tax limitation is not enough. Why "holding the line" on government spending and power leads to ever-growing Big Government.
- ✓ "Reading diet books won't make you thin. Reading exercise books won't make you fit. Reading libertarian books won't make you free. If you want small government and freedom, you must act."
— Michael Cloud

The Center for Small Government offers you all this and more. We show you the key differences between small government and Big Government. You'll discover how to leverage liberty with language. You'll learn what to do to make government small — and how to do it. Step by step. Simple as A-B-C. And we'll share libertarian success stories with you. Not just the results or highlights. Exactly what they did. How they did it. What worked and what didn't. News you can use.

Carla Howell is the President and Founder of the Center for Small Government. She spearheaded the 2002 ballot initiative to End the State Income Tax in Massachusetts, which won an unprecedented 45% of the vote.

Michael Cloud works with Ms. Howell. He is a legendary Libertarian Party activist and the author of *Secrets of Libertarian Persuasion*.

You're invited! Please go online now and click on the Center for Small Government Action Website:

www.CenterForSmallGovernment.com

TALKING POINTS

Tax hikes, terrorism, troops and cleaning up cable TV

■ Patriot Act

Excessive secrecy is hurting the Bush administration's effort to win renewal of the anti-terrorism Patriot Act, lawmakers told top law-enforcement and intelligence officials yesterday.

The administration wants Congress to make permanent all 15 provisions of the law that expire at the end of the year, some of which have aroused civil liberties concerns among liberals and conservatives.

Sen. Olympia J. Snowe, Maine Republican, said fears persist about U.S. authorities spying on Americans and peeking at library records because the administration has released scant details about the use of the law.

"We need to have a more public disclosure to enhance the public's confidence in the way in which this additional and broader authority is being used," Mrs. Snowe said at the hearing.

The administration also has not submitted a report about its use last year of a provision of the law expanding the FBI's power to compel Internet access firms and other businesses to provide information about their customers or subscribers, senators said.

"We're to some extent doing oversight in the dark," said Sen. Ron Wyden, Oregon Democrat. "I operate under the Ronald Reagan theory: trust but verify. What I do know is we haven't gotten the report that is supposed to be filed."

—The Washington Times

April 27, 2005

■ Double standard?

Under growing international pressure, U.S. authorities Tuesday seized a Cuban exile accused by Fidel Castro's government of masterminding a 1976 airliner bombing that killed 73 people. He had been seeking asylum in the United States.

Luis Posada Carriles, a 77-year-old former CIA operative and Venezuelan security official, was taken into custody by U.S. immigration authorities, the Homeland Security Department said in a statement.

The department did not say what it planned to do with Posada. Cuban authorities want him to be extradited to Venezuela or to go before an international tribunal. Venezuela is also seeking him.

Generally, the U.S. government does not return people to countries acting on Cuba's behalf, the department said. It has 48 hours to determine his immigration status.

Posada escaped from prison in Venezuela in 1985 while awaiting a prosecutor's appeal of his second acquittal in the bombing of a Cuban jetliner near Barbados. His whereabouts had been unknown until he surfaced in Miami in March and sent word that he was seeking asylum.

The request brought protests from Cuba and put the United States in an awkward position, given the war against terror.

Castro has demanded Posada's arrest by U.S. authorities for his alleged role in the airliner bombing and other anti-Castro violence.

"The majority of Americans would never be in favor of harboring a terrorist," said Wayne Smith, a former U.S. envoy to Cuba who now heads the Cuba program at the Washington-based Center for Inter-

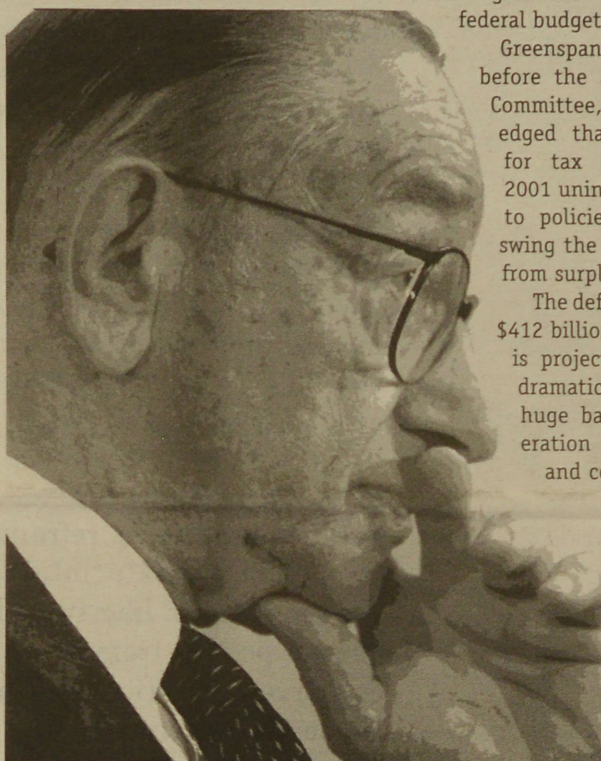
national Policy.

If the United States were to grant asylum, Smith added, "we will be seen as hypocrites and as being against terrorism only when it suits our purposes."

—ADRIAN SAINZ

Associated Press

May 17, 2005



■ Military bases

The Pentagon announced they are closing more than 150 military bases in this country. If the Bush administration wants to close military bases, how about the ones in Iraq?

This has been a long time coming. You know when President Bush first thought of closing military bases? When he was in the National Guard.

—JAY LENO

The Tonight Show

May 13, 2005

■ Bush to veto bill?

"The Republican-controlled Senate brushed aside a presidential veto threat Tuesday and passed a \$295 billion highway bill, arguing that massive spending was necessary to fight congestion and unsafe roadways," according to the *Chicago Tribune*.

"The Bush administration said the Senate version was too expensive in a time of war and debt and could result in the first veto of the Bush presidency. The vote was 89-11 with a majority of Republicans joining Democrats in approving a

six-year package that the administration said was \$11 billion above what it would accept."

In *Federal-Free Highways*, Gabriel Roth, a former transportation economist at the World Bank, urges the federal government not to "reauthorize the federal financing of roads; to abolish the FHTF [Federal Highway Trust Fund]; to eliminate the federal taxes dedicated to it; and to restore highway-financing powers to the states. ..."

—GREG GARNER, EDITOR

Cato Daily Dispatch

May 18, 2005

■ Greenspan predicts

Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan said yesterday, for the first time explicitly, that he expects tax increases to be part of any eventual agreement to reduce the federal budget deficit.

Greenspan, appearing before the Senate Budget Committee, also acknowledged that his support for tax cuts in early 2001 unintentionally led to policies that helped swing the federal budget from surplus to deficits.

The deficit hit a record \$412 billion last year and is projected to expand dramatically as the huge baby boom generation starts retiring and collecting Social Security and Medicare benefits.

"The federal budget deficit is on an unsustainable path, in which large deficits result in

rising interest rates and ever-growing interest payments that augment deficits in future years," Greenspan said in his prepared testimony yesterday.

The Fed chief called for "major deficit-reducing actions" and proposed several procedural steps Congress could implement to restrain the deficit's growth.

—NELL HENDERSON

The Washington Post

April 22, 2005

■ Rice cookers

On March 8, Fidel Castro received a standing ovation after announcing that rice cookers will now be included in the Cuban rationing system. It's hard to imagine a better illustration of this island dystopia's bizarre ways, more telling than any list of political prisoners or of human rights violations — which, after all, are typical of any dictatorship, totalitarian or not.

Consider the surrealistic aspect of announcing the distribution at subsidized prices of an appliance that, in order to function properly, needs two things: rice and electricity. Yet rice is rationed at less than

three kilos per person each month, hardly enough, considering that it's a staple for two meals a day with often hardly anything else to cook.

As for electricity, planned blackouts were recently six hours a day. It is almost like subsidizing the distribution of forks for foie gras and champagne glasses among the homeless.

—THERESA BOND

The Wall Street Journal

May 13, 2005

■ Troops in Iraq

Ratio of the number of U.S. troops in Iraq to the number of Iraqi resisters, as estimated by Iraq's new director of intelligence: 3:4.

Chances that an FDA scientist lacks confidence in the agency's ability to monitor the safety of current drugs: 2 in 3.

—HARPER'S INDEX

Harper's Magazine

March 2005

■ Controlling cable

President Bush and his right-wing colleagues in Congress have launched a full-scale effort to limit and control the programming Americans are able to see and hear over the airwaves and the Internet. In short, they're going after your computer, your radio and your remote control.

In March, the House passed legislation to dramatically raise "indecent" fines for broadcast television imposed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to \$500,000. Rep. Joe Barton (R-Texas), chairman of the House Commerce Committee, heralded the high fines, saying, "This legislation makes great strides in making it safe for families to come back into their living room."

Emboldened by this success, conservative leaders like Barton and Sen. Ted Stevens (R-Alaska) are threatening to go even further. For the first time, they want to apply indecency standards to cable, to satellite and even to the Internet.

"We put restrictions on the over-the-air signals," Stevens, chair of the Senate Commerce Committee, said in March, while speaking to the National Association of Broadcasters annual state leadership conference. "Cable is a greater violator in the indecency arena. ... I think we can put restrictions on cable itself."

Let's keep in mind that these are not shows broadcast on public airwaves but rather on cable programs that consumers select and pay for. Apparently the right-wing ideologues believe they know best what programs Americans should be allowed to purchase and view.

This is not simply about cleaning up offensive content; it is about the extreme right wing pushing to limit the free exchange of ideas.

The time has come for all Americans who love freedom to let the government know that they don't want Uncle Sam turning into Big Brother.

—BERNIE SANDERS

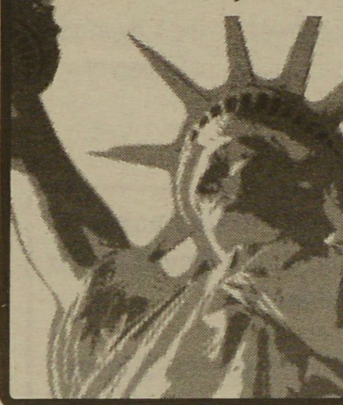
InTheseTimes.com

May 10, 2005

**"THE SMALLEST
MINORITY
ON EARTH IS THE
INDIVIDUAL."**

— AYN RAND —

Not to argue with Ayn Rand (who would dare to?), but sometimes it seems that the smallest minority on Earth are the Libertarians. There just aren't as many of us as there should be. That's why the support of each individual Libertarian Party member is so crucial for our party to succeed. And Job One (for all of us) is to figure out ways to get more Libertarians. Here's one way you can do your part to help the party grow: Name the party in your will or insurance policy. For a confidential discussion of this option, call National LP Treasurer Mark Nelson at (563) 340-6151. Or e-mail him at: treasurer@lp.org, and include "Planned Giving" in the subject line.



■ Toasting the Court

The Supreme Court case had some classic components: the wine industry vs. liquor distributors; interstate commerce rules vs. a constitutional amendment that repealed Prohibition in 1933.

All of these were factors in the recent 5-4 Supreme Court ruling that will allow local wineries to ship their product to consumers in other states.

We toast the court's decision.

The ruling says that states that allow wine to be shipped within state boundaries — New York and Michigan, for example — but ban incoming shipments from other states are being discriminatory and anti-competitive.

Terry Speizer, owner of Domaine Alfred in Edna Valley, saw that inequity firsthand when a pair of wine critics from Michigan visited his vineyard and wanted to ship home some of his pinot noir. When they discovered that they couldn't do so, Speizer joined the critics in suing Michigan. The case eventually ended up before the Supreme Court after two appellate courts reached opposing conclusions.

States will now have to hammer out laws that are compatible in regard to shipping wine. Such legislation could take up to a year to craft.

—San Luis Obispo Tribune
May 18, 2005

■ Monkey trial

Debating a question that the scientific establishment considers settled, Kansas education authorities put evolutionary theory on trial Thursday in a hearing marked by sharp exchanges over Earth's origins and what students should be taught in science class.

Scientists who support the idea of intelligent design, a set of assumptions that challenges established scientific thinking, told an approving Kansas State Board of Education subcommittee that modern Darwinian theory relies too much on unproven reasoning. Gaps in the science, they argued, leave open the possibility that a creator, or an unidentified "designing mind," is responsible for earthly development.

It would not be far-fetched, said William S. Harris, a Kansas City researcher who favors intelligent design, to conclude that DNA itself is the work of an intelligent being. Students, he said, should be told that.

Outside the auditorium, scientists and educators dismissed the arguments as claptrap.

"It's clear from the beginning that this is not a real science discussion. This is a showcase for intelligent design," said Jack Krebs, vice president of Kansas Citizens for Science, which is boycotting the four days of hearings. "They have created a straw man. They are trying to make science stand for atheism so they can fight atheism."

The debate is the highest-profile confrontation over evolutionary theory in years, pitting the im-

passioned corps of anti-Darwinists against a scientific establishment that considers the evidence of the chemical and biological origins of life to be beyond dispute.

Usually it is the evolution forces that accuse the intelligent design side of wanting to teach religion in science class. But Harris said educators who teach Darwinian evolution effectively introduce religion by rejecting the possibility that God created the universe and all living things.

—PETER SLEVIN

The Washington Post
May 6, 2005

■ Social Security

In defending the Social Security status quo, many liberal commentators take inconsistent positions.

The fact is that the promised benefits of the current system are simply not payable. If no policy changes are made until 2042, current laws specify that benefits must be slashed by 25 percent in the year 2042, and the cuts will have to be gradually deepened each year thereafter — growing to 31 percent by 2080.

The liberal spin is: "There's nothing wrong with the current system.

Benefits can be paid until 2042. And, even after that year, there is enough money in the system to pay 75 percent of benefits." This position appears to imply that liberals' could live with such steep cuts when it came time to implement them.

But then, confronted by a reform plan such as the one put forth by Dr. Robert Pozen (chairman of the Boston investment firm, MFS management), which would introduce progressive price indexing, they cry "This plan will unravel the system!"

The reason that these responses are inconsistent is, of course, that both lead to lower benefits in the

future.

Sure, the timing of benefit reductions is different: Under Dr. Pozen's plan benefit cuts will commence sooner and, therefore, will have to be less steep in the future. But opponents argue that a shift to price indexing will leave future beneficiaries with the same living standards as today's.

If we are to believe liberals' defense of the current system, however, the same would be true under the status quo as well.

—JAGADEESH GOKHALE

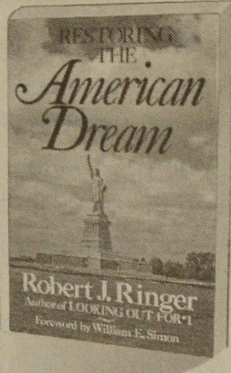
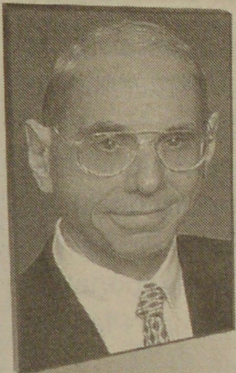
Cato Daily Commentary
April 29, 2005

ANNOUNCING

The Advocates for Self-Government's 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION: Fastforwarding Our Libertarian Future

FEATURING

ROBERT RINGER



Be part of history!
The legendary author of the bestselling classic *Restoring the American Dream* will make his first appearance before a libertarian audience in over 25 years!

Join Robert Ringer and a spectacular line-up of the planet's most exciting, inspiring, and provocative speakers — including Congressman **Ron Paul**, **Harry Browne**, and **David Bergland** — at the Advocates for Self-Government's gala 20th Anniversary Celebration.

This is the first time in a quarter century that Ringer, author of the #1 bestseller *Restoring the American Dream*, will appear before a libertarian audience! Ringer also wrote the classic books *Looking Out for #1* and *Winning Through Intimidation* — bestsellers that taught Americans how to be more successful at life and business. His new *Action! Nothing Happens Until Something Moves* was published in 2004.

The theme of the 20th Anniversary event is "**Fastforwarding Our Libertarian Future**" — it's all about optimism, camaraderie, and progress. We'll focus on how we can advance our libertarian tomorrow — today!

In three jam-packed days, you'll meet the freedom movement's best and brightest. You'll discover proven techniques for spreading the ideas of liberty. You'll have fun. You'll be inspired!

Sign up today and you'll qualify for the "**Early-Early Bird**" Special — only \$239. That includes three exciting days of events, all speakers, two

luncheons, dessert reception, gourmet snacks, book signings, and the gala banquet. The at-the-door price is \$349, so you save \$110 by acting now!

PLUS... The first 100 tickets sold before July 15 will include a reserved seat at a VIP banquet table with one of our featured speakers AND a coupon for a FREE tape of your favorite speech from the weekend.

The Advocates for Self-Government's 20th Anniversary Celebration will be THE libertarian event of the year. Don't miss it! Sign up today.

First 100 tickets sold before JULY 15 include reserved seat at a VIP banquet table with a featured speaker!

YES! Sign me up for _____ ticket(s) to the Advocates 20th Anniversary Celebration: *Fastforwarding Our Libertarian Future*. Enclosed is the **Early-Early Bird Special** price of only \$239 per person. **AMOUNT DUE:** \$ _____

Name(s) of attendees: _____

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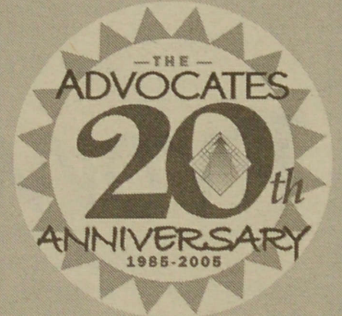
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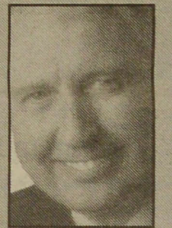
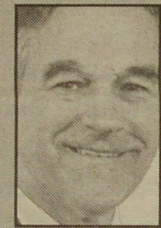
— DATE —

October 14-16, 2005

— LOCATION —

Renaissance Atlanta
Airport Hotel
Atlanta, Georgia

— SPEAKERS —



Congressman Ron Paul
Harry Browne
David Bergland
Dr. Mary Ruwart
Michael Cloud
Sharon Harris
Bill Winter

(More speakers to be announced soon!)

— PRICE —

Save \$110! Early-Early Bird Special Only \$239!
(At-the-door price: \$349)
First 100 tickets sold by July 15 get VIP banquet table seating with featured speaker!

— QUESTIONS? —

Call: 800-932-1776

Email: anniversary@TheAdvocates.org

Heritage event inspires, informs LP leaders

On April 28-29, LP Executive Director Joe Seehusen, LNC Treasurer Mark Nelson and LP staffer Samuel New attended the 28th Annual Heritage Foundation Resource Bank meeting in Miami.

The annual resource bank meeting is a place for think tank professionals, public interest lawyers, policy experts, elected officials and activists from around

the world to discuss current issues and strategies for advancing free-market, limited government public policies.

"The event was incredibly informative, largely because of the State Policy Network breakfast, where there was a great discussion of organization management," said New, who is responsible for much of the LP's communication with the

state affiliates.

"I think that meeting was the single most valuable portion of the Heritage Foundation event.

"Many of the issues discussed were very applicable to the sporadic and systemic issues that we face as an organization."

Nelson agreed that the State Policy Network session provided important insights into planning for

the organization's future, including an exhortation to "be a river, not a puddle."

"A puddle is any organization that has a single idea, or a single source of funds; a river is the continuous flow of ideas and funds, from a wide variety of sources," he explained.

Unfortunately, the Libertarian Party "is an ideological and

operational puddle," he continued. "We focus on a narrow, small set of ideas that are static — and with no movement or fluidity, they don't influence the debate. We also fund operations with a narrow, limited donor base that dries up between storms.

"We have to look at what kind of organization we must have in place five years from now, and what kind of people it will take to run that organization."

Other sessions during the event included presentations by a host of speakers representing groups including the Heritage Foundation, Liberty Institute, the National Religious Broadcasters, the Family Research Council, the National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise, the Evergreen Freedom Foundation, the Montreal Economic Institute, the Landmark Legal Foundation and the Leadership Institute.

The educational sessions were quite valuable, but the event also gave the LP's participants an opportunity to continue reaching out to more conservative — yet in many cases libertarian-leaning — attendees, Seehusen noted.

"Our party's profile continues to grow among various organizations of substance, such as those we encountered in Miami," he said.

"We were very well received by the attendees at that event, and we were able both to strengthen our existing relationships and to meet the heads of many other organizations."

Promotes Good Health



Eat plenty of fruits and vegetables, doctors say, and you dramatically boost your chances of staying healthy.

The same is true of political parties. Except instead of fruits and vegetables, parties need donations to keep them healthy and vigorous. And regular donations are the best kind.

Enter the Liberty Pledge Program. It's a way for you to make regular, convenient contributions to the Libertarian Party.

Pledges are good for the LP because they produce predictable

income, which makes it easier to plan and fund projects. It's also a cheaper way to raise money than by sending out fundraising letters, which means more of your donation is spent on vital projects.

It's regular, convenient

What's in it for you? When you join the Liberty Pledge Program, your membership will be renewed automatically, for as long as you remain a pledger. You'll also get

Liberty Pledge News each month. It's got news stories about party activities, and recent newspaper clips from around the USA.

Will you make a commitment to keep the party financially healthy — and become a Liberty Pledger? It's simple, easy, and important.

You can join the Liberty Pledge Team online. Go to: www.LP.org/services/contributions.html

Or join over the phone. Just call (202) 333-0008 x221.

Sign up today!

Why I Became a Liberty Pledger

"Monthly pledging is a painless way regularly to add small bricks to the edifice of liberty all Libertarians are working to build; you can help by adding bricks of your own."

— Dave Hoesly, Webster, NY
Computer engineer (retired)

[] YES! I want to support the Libertarian Party on a more regular basis — and join the monthly Liberty Pledge in the amount indicated below. Please send me the insider's newsletter, *The Liberty Pledge News*, each month.

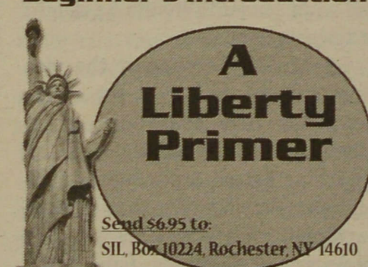
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[] \$30 per monthA dollar a day for liberty!
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Beginner's Introduction



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SIL, Box 10224, Rochester, NY 14610

Online Resources for LP Members

■ Find contact info for your state Libertarian Party or your State Chair
Visit: www.LP.org
Click on: Organization
Click on: State Parties
Click on: [Your state]

■ Find contact info for the National Committee
Visit: www.LP.org
Click on: Organization
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George Getz resigns from LPHQ

Communications director had been with LP 9 years

The Libertarian Party's communications director, George Getz, resigned his position in mid-March, almost exactly nine years after beginning to work for the LP in April of 1996.

"George was the primary voice of the party for the last several years, and he served that role very well," said LP National Chair Michael Dixon. "We depended on him to craft our press releases, as well as to reach out to the media, and he was successful in both of those areas."

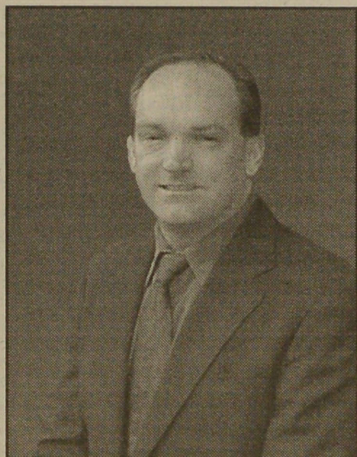
Getz started working for the party just before Harry Browne's first campaign for president, but he started in a much different position — raising money over the phone.

His activity with the communications department began when he was hired as assistant to then-communications director Bill Winter, who was also serving as editor of *LP News*.

Getz's previous career posts — on the staff of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, and as a press secretary on Capitol Hill — gave him experience that would later come in handy as he began writing press releases for the LP.

He was elevated to the position of communications director when Winter left that post in 2002, although Winter remained *LP News* editor until February 2004.

Besides writing press releases, Getz's job involved writing op-eds



■ George Getz

for the party, arranging media interviews for other spokespeople, and helping state parties capitalize on media opportunities. He worked the media room during five national conventions (1996-2004) and logged more than 1,000 radio and TV interviews during his years working at LP headquarters in Washington, D.C.

These interviews included appearances on shows such as "The O'Reilly Factor" and "MSNBC Countdown," and he debated several political celebrities in on-the-air radio interviews, including Bill Clinton advisor Dick Morris, former Calif. Rep. Bob Dornan, and several congressmen.

Later in his career at LPHQ, in the cash crunch of 2003, he was given responsibility for the direct

mail program, which raised more than \$800,000 over the next year.

"We thought he was a valuable part of the team at HQ, and we certainly appreciated his efforts for us," Dixon said. "We wish him well in the future, with whatever he ends up doing."

"Nine years and three presidential campaigns is a very long time, and I was starting to feel burned out," Getz said when asked why he decided to resign. "Now I'm going to take a few months to regroup and spend time with my wife, Lea, who's expecting our first child in August."

After that?

"I'm going to start looking for opportunities in either media or fundraising," he said. "Then again, I might try something totally different and non-political, though I have no idea what. I just might surprise myself."

Getz said he "considered it an honor and a privilege to have served" as the LP's spokesperson for several years. "I enjoyed every minute of it."

And after nine years with the party, he still thinks the LP can become a major force in American politics.

"I believe the party has a bright future, because the American people are hungry for freedom — and the Democrats and Republicans clearly aren't going to give it to them."

THE PROFILE

Actor Kurt Russell

By Bill Winter

THE ADVOCATES FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT

It's easy to see a libertarian streak in many of the characters movie star Kurt Russell has portrayed over the years.

As anti-hero Snake Plissken in 1996's *Escape from L.A.*, he sneers about freedom, "In America? That died a long time ago."

As genetically engineered trooper Sgt. Todd in 1998's *Soldier*, he defends peaceful farmers on the planet Arcadia 234 against murderous cyborg supermen sent by a militaristic government.

As real-life Olympic hockey coach Herb Brooks in 2004's *Miracle*, he defies authority and uses unconventional coaching methods to mold a ragtag collection of American college kids into a team that beat the "unbeatable" Soviets.

That libertarian steak is no coincidence; Russell himself is one of Hollywood highest-profile libertarians — one who has talked about his pro-liberty beliefs on numerous occasions.

In the British magazine *Talking Pictures* (Spring 1997), Russell said, "I am by nature libertarian... Don't tread on me. Just leave me alone, that's all."

When he introduced former House Speaker Newt Gingrich at a speech in Los Angeles, Russell went out of his way to note, "I'm not a Republican; I'm a libertarian." (*Variety*, Jan. 19, 1998)

At the 20th anniversary celebration of the Cato Institute in Washington, D.C., Russell said, "I'm a libertarian. I think a lot of people are libertarians and are afraid to admit it — or don't know." (*The Washington Post*, May 2, 1997.)

And on Fox TV's "The O'Reilly Factor" (Feb. 6, 2004), Russell said his politics are "limited constitutional government. I believe in that. Freedom, freedom, freedom. Being a libertarian, I do believe that limited government is good."

Russell wasn't always a libertarian. As he told the *Toronto Sun* in 1996, "I was brought up as a Republican. But when I realized that at the end of the day there wasn't much difference between a Democrat and Republican, I became a libertarian."

Russell wasn't always a movie star, either — although sometimes it seems that way. He was only 10 when he got signed to a contract with Walt Disney; he was 12 when he appeared in an uncredited role in his first movie, *It Happened at the World's Fair* (1963); and he was only 18 when he starred in the Disney classic *The Computer Wore Tennis Shoes* (1969). He went on to star in *The Barefoot Executive* (1971), *Now You See Him, Now You Don't* (1972), and *Superdad* (1973).

After a stint in the mid-1970s as a minor league baseball player in the Texas League (a potential career cut short by a rotator cuff injury), Russell returned to show business.

He starred in a number of TV series and made-for-TV movies (most notably as Elvis Presley in 1979's acclaimed *Elvis*), before making the jump back to movies in the early 1980s. He appeared in *Used Cars* (1980) and *Escape from New York* (1981) — his first movie with a distinct libertarian flavor.

In the years that followed, Russell starred in a variety of films; some of them big box-office hits (*Stargate*, 1994), some critically acclaimed serious movies (*Silkwood*, 1983), some high-profile flops (*Captain Ron*, 1992), and some cult favorites (*Big Trouble in Little China*, 1986).

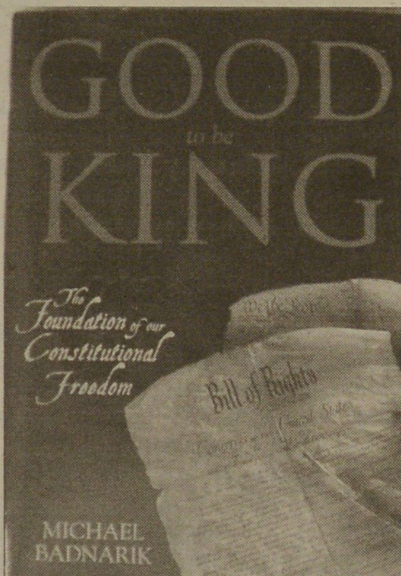
Veering back and forth between leading man and character actor, he also appeared in *Swing Shift* with Goldie Hawn (1984), *Tequila Sunrise* with Mel Gibson (1988), *Tango and Cash* with Sylvester Stallone (1989), *Backdraft* with Robert DiNiro (1991), *Tombstone* with Val Kilmer (1993), *3000 Miles to Graceland* with Kevin Costner (2001), and *Vanilla Sky* with Tom Cruise (2001). In 1994's Academy Award-winning *Forrest Gump*, he was the uncredited voice of Elvis Presley.

Russell was nominated for an Emmy Award for *Elvis* in 1979, and for a Golden Globe Award for *Silkwood* in 1983.

Since 1984, Russell has lived with actress Goldie Hawn, but the two choose not to marry.

"We're very individual," he said of the relationship. "Society can rule you or you can be concerned about doing what you think is right for you."

■ Each month, *LP News* features a column about celebrities who call themselves libertarian. This article reprinted with permission from the *Advocates for Self-Government*. To read profiles of dozens of libertarian celebrities, visit: www.TheAdvocates.org/celebrities.html.



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AFFILIATE NEWS

Tax Day protest, legislation and the Ed Thompson film



■ **Ryan Dancoss, secretary of the Libertarians of South Central Kansas (LSOCK), handed out Libertarian Viewpoints and other brochures in front of the downtown U.S. Post Office in Wichita, Kan., on Tax Day. Dancoss was joined by other members of LSOCK. "We passed out these brochures to many people as they were mailing off their tax returns," said Shawn S. Smith. "Most felt as if they were being taxed to death and were very receptive to our message of much smaller government." The event led to an interview for the evening news on the local ABC-TV affiliate. After being asked to stop handing out literature in front of the post office, the Libertarians had a decision to make. "Not wanting to get arrested for exercising our First Amendment rights, we moved to the sidewalk for the rest of the protest," Smith said.**

(Photo provided by Shawn S. Smith)

■ MICHIGAN

Heartland president speaks at LP convention

Joseph Bast, president of the Chicago-based Heartland Institute, addressed the Michigan LP's state convention, encouraging the Libertarians by saying that he believes the Libertarian Party will supercede both the Republicans and Democrats within just a few years, according to a report in *Central Michigan Life*.

Bast predicted that by 2008 the Democratic Party will divide into two wings — conventional and progressive — allowing the Republicans to remain in power for another few years.

And within four years after that, Bast opined, the Republican Party will also split, losing a great many

moderates to the Libertarian Party and creating a serious four-way presidential race soon after.

"By 2016, I predict the Libertarians will win, because only the Libertarian Party will be addressing the underlying issues that unify the interest groups," Bast was quoted as saying.

Two Michigan Libertarians who serve on the city councils in their respective cities were also quoted in the *Central Michigan Life* story.

Hazel Park City Councilman Andy LeCureaux said he was excited to hear Bast's thoughts on the LP's potential for advancement in the next decade, and St. Clair Shores City Councilwoman Erin Stahl said she thought Bast "gave a really reasonable prediction of what will happen."

■ NEW HAMPSHIRE

Giving a manicure as civil disobedience

Michael Fisher, 23, of Newmarket, NH, was arrested recently for breaking state law — and he freely admitted to the crime. He even invited the media and the public to watch him commit his crime.

So now he's guilty of giving a manicure without a license, which he did to protest New Hampshire's licensing laws.

There wasn't much chance of the state Board of Barbering, Cosmetology and Esthetics not seeing his crime: He set up his "business" right outside the board's office in Concord.

Fisher, a libertarian and a member of the Free State Project, charged

fellow libertarian Kat Dillon a \$1 fee for the manicure he gave her, making it a business transaction.

Members of the state board demanded that he stop. He refused. They called the police, and Fisher's point was made.

News outlets around the state — and then across the nation — picked up the story.

New Hampshire insists on 300 hours of training for manicurists, and the training must take place at a government-approved school. Other beauty-oriented businesses are also illegal without official training, including cutting hair, giving massages and the like.

Fisher was protesting not only the manicure licensing laws, but also the host of other state laws that make it difficult for people to make a living.

"In a free country, people do not need permission to start a business," he said. "We are no longer free to make a living without government approval. It's time to put an end to licensing laws once and for all."

■ TEXAS

LP making headway with legislative agenda

The Texas House of Representatives' Elections Committee is considering a resolution that if approved would create a commission that would be tasked with rewriting the state's election codes — and would likely include a representative of the Libertarian Party on the commission.

The resolution — HCR44 — calls for the Texas lieutenant governor and the House speaker to create a commission to update and modernize the Texas Election Code, a process that was last undertaken in 1985.

Rep. Mary Denny, the committee chair and author of the original resolution, has "given her blessing" to the concept of including a Libertarian representative on the committee, said Patrick Dixon, chairman of the Texas LP.

"We are pleased that Rep. Denny supports our inclusion on the code rewrite," Dixon added. "Her public statement of support gives confidence that this amendment will go through."

The proposed bill was heard in committee on April 13, 2005, and included testimony from Robert "Rock" Howard, the legislative advisor for the Texas LP.

The primary point he made was that several sections of the election code specifically pertain to non-primary political parties and independent candidates, and that the proposed commission would not include anyone to represent the concerns of these groups unless the legislation is amended.

Denny reportedly agreed on the spot that the commission should include a representative of the Libertarian Party.

Dixon subsequently contacted the leaders of the Green and Constitution parties in Texas, as well as the Independent Texans PAC, all of

whom agreed to have the LP represent their interests on the commission.

Election reform has been a major focus of the LP's legislative efforts during this legislative session; party representatives also drafted a bill to end "primary screenout," which prevents people who vote in any political party's primary from signing petitions that would add new political parties to the general election ballot.

Texas is the only state that still has primary screenout provisions. Several members of the state House have signed onto the Libertarian-promoted bill — HB 1721 — that would end the practice.

■ WISCONSIN

Thompson film debuts at Black Point festival

Ed Thompson, a Tomah, Wis., Libertarian who was recently elected to the city council in an unexpected write-in campaign victory, is now the subject of a recently completed documentary movie that was screened at the Black Point Film Festival in Lake Geneva in late April.

The movie, *A Remarkable Man*, details Thompson's life, with interviews featuring Ed's brother (long-time Wisconsin governor Tommy Thompson); Rolf Lindgren, press secretary of the Wisconsin LP; criminal defense attorney Steve Hurley, who successfully defended Thompson on gambling charges involving video poker games at his bar in Tomah; and a host of others who have known Thompson over the years, including a number of Libertarians.

Thompson has been a boxer and a professional poker player, and now owns and operates his Tomah supper club, Eddie's.

The documentary was written and produced by Dave Hendrickson, who followed Thompson around during his recent Libertarian campaigns for public office and who has contributed several photos to *LP News* in recent months.

As Rolf Lindgren noted, "Ed Thompson's story is about the determination of a not-so-ordinary guy who refuses to bow to injustice, battling for both himself and others against the forces of a powerful political machine."

Sounds like a Libertarian story, all right.

Until this spring, Thompson was chair of the Wisconsin LP. He decided not to run again for the party position, saying at the time he was going to take some time off from political activity and think about what he wanted to do next time he got involved.

In April, a group of Tomah residents decided to help him make that decision and mounted a write-in campaign just before a city council election.

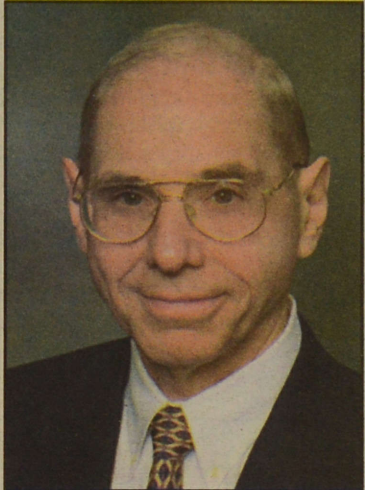
Thompson received about 90 percent of the vote, winning handily.

He considered turning down the council seat, but decided in the end to accede to the voters' wishes and serve his two-year term on the council.

Author Robert Ringer to address Advocates' conference

Robert Ringer, author of the #1 best-selling *Restoring the American Dream*, will address a libertarian audience for the first time in 25 years when he speaks at the Advocates for Self-Government's 20th Anniversary Celebration.

"*Restoring the American Dream* arguably reached more people with libertarian ideas than any other ex-



■ Robert Ringer

PLICITLY libertarian book in history," Advocates President Sharon Harris said. "People are always asking us, 'What is Robert Ringer up to now?' or 'How can I get in touch with him?' Here's your chance!"

The Advocates' 20th Anniversary Celebration, called "Fastforwarding Our Libertarian Future," will be held Oct. 14-16, 2005, at the Renaissance Atlanta Airport Hotel in Georgia.

The event will mark two decades of work by the Advocates to promote libertarian ideas, Harris said. The nonprofit, nonpartisan organization was founded by Marshall Fritz in 1985.

The Advocates is best known for its innovative World's Smallest Political Quiz, which features a two-axis model of politics; for Operation Politically Homeless outreach kits; and for seminars, books and audio learning programs on effective political communication.

"We've spent 20 years serving the libertarian movement," Harris said. "We were pioneers in the field of helping libertarians better com-

municate the ideas of liberty, and our efforts have transformed the libertarian movement."

Harris said it is appropriate that Ringer will speak at the 20th Anniversary Celebration because the author has done so much to promote libertarian ideas.

In 1979, Ringer's *Restoring the American Dream* hit #1 on the *New York Times* bestseller list. The book acquainted millions of readers with the libertarian principle that every individual has the right to live his life as he chooses, as long as he doesn't infringe on the rights of others.

The book also exposed the multitude of problems caused by big government, while prescribing freedom and laissez-faire capitalism as the solution and urging readers to consider supporting the Libertarian Party.

Restoring the American Dream has been called a "libertarian classic" by the West Coast Libertarian Foundation (Canada) and a "precious treatise on personal freedom"

by talk show host David Gold.

To the general public, Ringer is probably more famous as the author of *Winning Through Intimidation* (1975) and *Looking Out for #1* (1977). Both titles were listed by the *New York Times* among the 15 best-selling motivational books of all time. In 2004, Ringer published *Action! Nothing Happens Until Something Moves*.

Other speakers at the 20th Anniversary Celebration will include:

■ Ron Paul, the maverick U.S. representative from Texas and the Libertarian Party's 1988 presidential candidate.

■ Harry Browne, the Libertarian Party's 1996 and 2000 presidential candidate, legendary financial advisor, and author of *Liberty A-Z* and *The Great Libertarian Offer*.

■ David Bergland, the Libertarian Party's 1984 presidential candidate, and author of *Libertarianism in One Lesson*.

■ Dr. Mary Ruwart, the author of *Healing Our World In An Age of Ag-*

gression.

■ Michael Cloud, the Thomas Paine Award-winning speaker and author of *Secrets of Libertarian Persuasion*.

Harris said the 20th Anniversary Celebration will feature a dozen additional great speakers, information about how to "fast-forward" the growth of the libertarian movement, and a positive attitude about the future of liberty.

"The emphasis will be on honest optimism and how you can help make the liberty movement flourish," she said. "You'll leave this event excited, inspired, and with a renewed passion for freedom!"

The "Early-Early Bird" Special price for the event is \$239, which includes all speakers, two luncheons, a dessert reception, snacks, and a gala banquet. The at-the-door price will be \$349.

For information or to register, call: 800-932-1776. Or e-mail: anniversary@TheAdvocates.org. Or visit: www.TheAdvocates.org.

Supreme Court rules against LP in Oklahoma ballot access suit

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled on May 23 that the state of Oklahoma does not have to allow a qualified political party to invite members of other parties to vote in its primary.

The court's 6-3 decision against the Libertarian Party reversed an appellate court's ruling; the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals had decided in the OKLP's favor.

Had the party achieved ballot access in 2004, the party would have been allowed to invite registered Democrats and Republicans to participate in the LP primaries. But because of the high signature requirement for ballot access in the state, the LP did not make it on the ballot.

The Supreme Court ruled that the state may limit participation in partisan primaries to a party's members — though independents may vote in any party's primary.

Justice Clarence Thomas wrote the majority opinion, which Richard Winger of *Ballot Access News* found ironic.

"It is ironic [because] he seemed to pay little attention to the oral argument back on Jan. 19," Winger commented. "Also, the majority decision was signed by Chief Justice Rehnquist, who didn't even attend the oral argument."

On a positive note, two of the justices who voted to uphold the law, O'Connor and Breyer, "wrote separately to say that state laws that make it difficult for minor parties and independents to get on the ballot may very well be unconstitutional," Winger wrote on his Web site, www.Ballot-Access.org.

O'Connor wrote that if all the election laws of Oklahoma that impact on minor parties had been brought into the case at the first stage, the decision might well have

been different. This is the first time Justice O'Connor has expressed any sympathy or interest in minor party ballot access problems."

Oklahoma LP spokesman Chris Powell said, "It's shocking that the unanimous 10th Circuit ruling was overturned."

Dissenting Justice John Paul Stevens concluded that the majority opinion "has little to support it other than a naked interest in protecting the two major parties," a statement in which Powell and other Oklahoma Libertarians take some comfort.

"Now that it seems a majority of the Supreme Court may favor overturning election law that is clearly unfair to alternative parties, maybe our legislature or state courts will be encouraged to act for ballot access reform and allow Oklahoma voters the possibility of more choices on Election Day," Powell said.

Seehusen planning for growth

Continued from Page 1

and we're looking for success out of that," Dixon said.

Of course, there's more to the outreach than a mere fundraising scheme, Seehusen noted.

"We are beginning to have the LP work on getting legislative initiatives either passed or repealed, making a serious effort to impact public policy," he said. "This has already increased our profile on Capi-

tol Hill and in Washington.

"The next two years is going to be all about getting the LP focused in an outward direction, engaging the American voters and legislators to get specific legislation passed or repealed, and moving our country in a libertarian direction.

"And as we increase our profile in Washington, D.C., and are increasingly seen as a player in national politics, we'll be better able to at-

tract quality candidates to run for office at all levels of government. We're demonstrating to the American people that we can have a direct impact on legislation, thereby creating a freer America.

"I think this will resonate with the American people. Many continue to be dissatisfied with the Democrats and the Bush Republicans, and they're looking for a viable alternative."

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Registration and event details at:

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THE FORUM

Define 'civil marriage' rather than redefining marriage

The true issue of same-sex marriages is being overlooked and misrepresented by politicians, the media and citizens alike.

The question of what marriage "means" becomes important to answer foremost. Marriage has many meanings, depending on whether one is discussing religious marriage, personal commitment/marriage, or civil marriage. In the debate over government legal-

ization, it is clear that civil marriage is the only type that is relevant to the issue at hand. In days gone by, marriage could not be distinguished in such manner. Governments were theocratic, and thus the church and the state were inseparable. Since the founding of the United States, however, and as well the idea that the church and state are unique entities, we now must do so.

The question thus becomes: What is civil marriage?

The answer: a contract. It is a legal binding of two parties in terms of finances and contractual obliga-

tions and privileges.

That being the case, the decision regarding their allowance of same-sex partners cannot be labeled as a slippery slope to allowing such things as adults marrying children, marrying multiple spouses (a marriage contract is, after all, a two-party-only contract by definition), or other such nonsense.

Unfortunately, politicians and the public tend to confuse the various types of marriage.

Naturally, people who tend to sign civil marriage contracts tend to do so in conjunction with religious marriages and personal commitments to one another. They often do so, however, without realizing that the religious ceremony and the marriage contract are completely distinguishable.

Due to the freedom of religion, all religious institutions are free to recognize marriages as they please. The morality of individual citizens and churches is free from government intervention. Civil marriages, however, have no ties with those other types of marriage. To avoid confusion, civil marriages would benefit from a more befitting name, such as "civil union."

"Gay marriage" is another mis-

nomer, because the contract that is civil marriage has nothing to do with sexual activity or desire. The government cannot see to it that the two parties involved in a marriage contract engage in sexual activity, nor should bureaucrats be allowed to.

Thus, by allowing same-sex marriages, the government is in no way condoning or condemning homosexual orientation or homosexual acts — meaning that both religious opponents and gay-rights activists stand on an irrelevant issue. The most accurate term for two members

of like gender entering into civil marriage is "same-sex marriage."

However, this does not mean the denial of same-sex marriage is non-discriminatory. If I, as a man, am free to marry someone we'll call Jennifer, whereas Christina is not, then the discrimination is of gender, rather than of sexual orientation. The simple fact is Christina is being denied the same opportunity that I enjoy, simply because she is a female.

The decision about whether same-sex marriages are allowed is a matter of setting contractual law. We must keep in mind that a contract is not a sacred institution. The sacred institution that does exist is that of religious marriage, which should remain unscathed by government interference.

In fact, allowing the denial of same-sex marriages on religious grounds would open the door to the government's future interference with religious marriage and other religious rites. As one who is devoted

to the preservation of religion's independence from governmental dicta, I am vehemently opposed to any action which would compromise religious groups' current protections.

By the same token, religious influence should not penetrate civil law. Doing so would allow future leaders to impose their religious beliefs upon the rest of us as well. Allowing the president religious carte blanche is a precedent we cannot afford to set.

In the interests of preserving both the sanctity of the institution of religious marriage as well as the non-discriminatory nature of the United States government, same-sex marriage must not be legislated against.

■ **About the author:** Timothy M. Vock recently joined the LP after years of "keeping an eye on the party, to see what it was about." He is a 26-year-old product design engineer and lives in Carol Stream, Illinois.

By Timothy M. Vock

Increased drug penalties proposed

As libertarians we are fortunate in that the state regularly provides us with an opportunity to show the public the true nature of government.

There recently has been a dangerous bill released by the House terrorism committee to drastically increase drug penalties. According to several sites maintained by the National Organization to Reform the Marijuana Laws (NORML) and Families Against Mandatory

Minimums (FAMM), the bill HR 1528 — introduced by Congressman James Sensenbrenner (R-WI) — will establish a five-year mandatory minimum prison sentence for anyone aged 21 or older who sells or otherwise distributes any controlled substance to someone under the age of 17.

If someone were to do the same act to a person who had ever been to a drug treatment program, the penalty would be the same. A second offense would result in a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years.

Why this insane proposal from Sensenbrenner, who hails from the liberal state of Wisconsin? Maybe it's not enough that the United States already has eight times as many people per capita in prison as Europe does.

Perhaps Sensenbrenner does not realize that even the conservatives have largely abandoned the drug war.

Those who have read the conservative magazine *National Review* have noted many articles — even entire issues — devoted to drug legalization, including works by such luminaries as William F. Buckley and Milton Friedman.

This latest legislative outrage has a historical precedent. In the last years of alcohol prohibition in the 1920s, penalties were greatly increased by the big-government conservatives and their fundamentalist allies. Prohibition also helped to destroy the economy and threw the GOP out of office for almost 20 years.

As Libertarians, we have been handed an opportunity even greater than the "know your customer" fiasco of a few years ago when we generated tens of thousands of e-

mails to defeat proposed legislation. Ever since the beginning days of our movement, the drug issue has been the litmus test distinguishing libertarians from the statist right.

During the last election I exhorted anyone who would listen to go into conservative chat rooms on the Internet and defend liberty. I now realize that during the election too much attention was wasted on arguments of who was worse, Bush or Kerry.

Now we have a better opportunity: There is no election or other phony crisis, the GOP is mired in scandal, the economy is sinking and Bush's popularity is extremely low.

Now is the time to raise the issue of liberty and find who our real friends are.

Even discovering the stupid and fascist arguments raised against us should prove interesting.

So what can we do?

Call talk shows, write letters and get in chat rooms.

Talk to any politically aware conservative or liberal person you know.

Write a letter of protest to your congressman.

In my opinion there has never been a greater need for libertarian activism. Pass the word and help create a coalition that will give us victory. Either work for liberty today or meet me in prison tomorrow.

■ **About the author:** Don Meinshausen is a long-time Libertarian activist who lives in Hoboken, New Jersey.

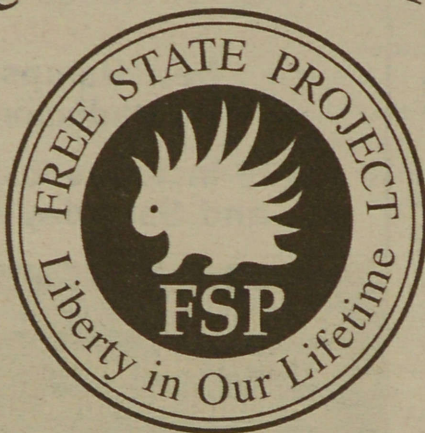
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THE FORUM

Libertarians aren't 'Democrats and Republicans, with a twist'

Many libertarian bloggers and bulletin board sloggers reacted with rancor to the March 15 *Wall Street Journal* article by Julia Gorin, "Party On," which colorized libertarians as comic strip characters.

But many libertarians have brought it upon themselves.

"Libertarians generally bill themselves as fiscally conservative but socially liberal," observed Gorin, a position statement I've deplored ever since "Libertarianism for Dummies," my very first online article: "Calling libertarianism an amalgam of certain left handed and right handed principles just perpetuates the myth that all political philosophies exist on a one dimensional scale, like a DOA's flat line."

In case you don't want to read her editorial, Gorin first answers her own question, "So what's a Libertarian, anyway?" and then quotes

knee-slapping definitions from other named sources, thusly:

A libertarian is ...

"A Republican with a wild side."

"An amoral Republican."

"A cheapskate who can't keep his pants zipped."

"A Democrat who wants to own a gun."

"A Republican who wants to smoke pot."

Notice one theme that runs through almost all of these definitions. People are thought-bots who can't divest their cranial cavities of the Red-Blue political concept they've become accustomed to. All American politics, they're convinced, must fit somewhere on the Left-Right, Liberal-Conservative, Democrat-Republican horizontal thermometer. They can't compre-

hend "libertarian" without a reference to that stale two-dimensional standard.

They're descendents of people who saw their first Technicolor movie and wondered where it fit on the black-and-white scale. ("Hmmm, it's sort of like those reds are fiscally black and those blues are socially white.") Or people who thought TV was just radio with pictures.

They don't get it that libertarianism is not just another note on their harpsichord; it's a whole different instrument entirely.

But don't worry about articles in the *Wall Street Journals* of the world that color-code all of us as toon buffoons. They're actually doing us a favor. The more of these articles that appear in big-time newsprint, the better. Why? If Gandhi was right, "First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win."

By Garry Reed

.....

chuckles.

"Another ludicrous libertarian lampoon, eh?" they'll say, putting aside their *Post* or *Times* or *Journal*. "But I've read something else about these Librarians or Liberians or Libertarians before. A friend mentioned them a couple of times. And that local third-party political chick had some interesting ideas. Maybe I'll need to check these folks out."

Those are the people we want. And someday, when all those unthinking people with their flat-lined brain valves repeatedly hear from opinion-makers all around them that only libertarianism safeguards their rights and their property, they'll nod, agree, and go on with their lives.

The statist authoritarians will be fighting us soon enough, when they sense their power is threatened. The storm is coming. So for now, enjoy Gandhi's "laugh at you" phase while it lasts.

Some day the *WSJ* will know, "so what's a Libertarian, anyway?"

And the laugh will be on them.

■ **About the author:** Garry Reed is a freelance writer living in Ft. Worth, Texas. His articles have appeared in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram and the Jefferson Review. See more of his work at www.FreeCannon.com, or contact him at reedcannon@aol.com.

America: Land of the less free, home of the not-so-brave

There is not much our government has done in response to the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 that I support, particularly the concept of fighting a War on Terror.

It's not the government's motivation that troubles me. It is the methodology that I find so bewildering. I'm just not comfortable with such a huge canopy for our elected officials to hide under — basically because I have a healthy distrust of absolutely everything that originates in that most heinous and corrupt of places, Washington, D.C.

Because of this healthy distrust, I need more content from my government — more details, more specifics, and more information.

If terrorist groups are our targets, why not declare war on groups like Hizballah, Al Qaida, and Mujaheddin e Khalq? Why be ambiguous about it? What's wrong with being target specific? Terror is defined as intense fear. How do you fight a war on intense fear? I just can't wrap my mind around it, no how.

Now, fighting a war against Al Qaida? That I can handle. For example, I can say to you, "Let's go kill Al Qaida today," and we each would have a basic understanding of what it is that we were about to undertake. However, if I suggest that today we should head out of our bunkers to kill intense fear, in what direction should we point our guns?

The only way to fight a War on Terror is for the people to be terrified. On 9/11, America became terri-

fied. The question today is whether we're still terrified. I'm not, but not because I believe the federal government is keeping me safe. I resent such a notion and any politician who lays claim to such an accomplishment.

I'm not terrified because of my beliefs about life and death.

Today my goal is not to live longer; it is to live better. How my God takes me home is none of my business,

and if it's none of my business, how can it be anyone else's business?

But that's just me.

The government is glad there are not many more people like me, because people like me accept that dead people outnumber live people a million to one and that we are dead much longer than we are alive.

This philosophy of life makes each day special but not all that important. It keeps things in perspective, and perspective is logical, something government cannot comprehend. No doubt, the government needs terrified people so that it can keep its big top open for business.

Just how does the government keep the people terrified?

They keep the bogeyman alive, that's how, or they turn the other way when catastrophe is about to strike and then use the event to capture the people under their net. They do it by spoon-feeding actual intelligence or fake news to the media — which is either corrupt or

spineless.

A terror threat here, a hostage taking there, and the mother of all terror trump cards — Osama Bin Laden remaining on the loose. That's how our government is rolling.

Do you really believe that the United States government cannot locate, capture or kill Bin Laden? If so, then step right up and get your tickets for the greatest show on earth folks, and pay no attention that shadowy figure behind the curtain. It's show time.

Make no mistake about it. This War on Terror is wrought with fraud. The Department of Homeland Security is an abomination to liberty and freedom. The intelligence czar, the Transportation Safety Administration, the Patriot Act, they're each born out of soiled wombs.

The bottom line is that in 1998, the FAA had intelligence that a group of unidentified Arab men intended to hijack commercial aircraft and fly them into the World Trade Center.

Furthermore, the airline industry knew unequivocally that its cockpits were vulnerable and that the fix was as simple as installing secure cockpit doors. The FAA did not mandate the airline industry to do so, and the airline industry chose profit over passenger safety by failing to secure their cockpits on their own.

Had the FAA done its job in 1998, 9/11 would not have happened. Had American and United Airlines fulfilled their responsibilities to the flying public by securing their cockpit doors, 9/11 would

have never happened.

Because of incompetence, dereliction of duty, and greed, America is now land of the less free, home of the not-so-brave — because rather than the government and the airline industry chastising themselves and being done with it, they have decided to punish us by making each and every one of us terrorist suspects.

God forbid that you or somebody you love becomes caught up in their witch-hunt because in America today, to be wrongfully accused is to be tragically condemned.

It's call tyranny, people.

■ **About the author:** Ed Haas is a freelance writer and the press secretary of the South Carolina Libertarian Party.

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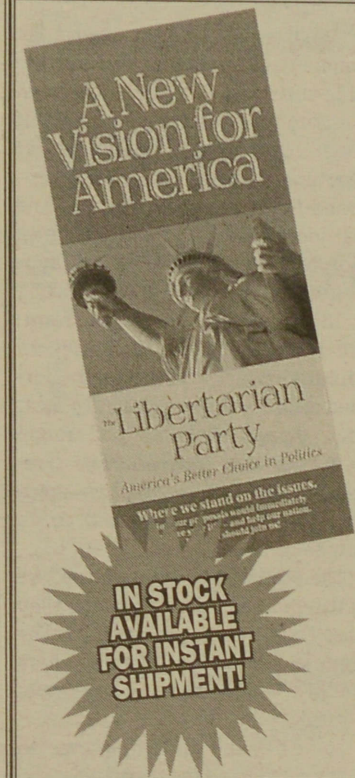
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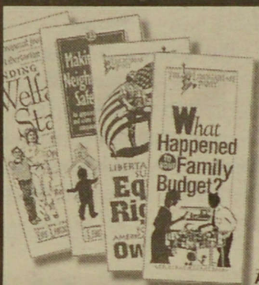
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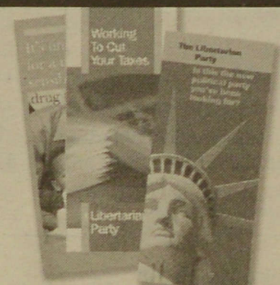


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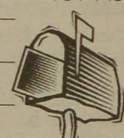
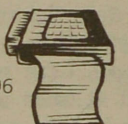
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LP blog: A new communication tool

Editor's (really long) note: On April 23, the Libertarian Party's Web log — better known as a blog — was introduced on LP.org, concurrent with other new features on the Web site, including a daily poll.

Of course, there have been libertarian blogs for years, but there's never been one right on the party's site — and it was an almost immediate hit.

Yes, there were some early difficulties with the newly redesigned site, with numerous people complaining that they couldn't find a particular feature that used to be on LP.org.

But for the most part, the response to the blog has been great.

For example, one of the first blog topics was, quite simply, a welcome to the newly interactive site, with Shane Cory — president of Cory Consulting, who designed and built the new site — explaining a few of the technical features.

And most of the comments directed specifically at the blog, instead of merely on the blog, were positive.

For example: "I just want to congratulate the LP on the launching of the new interactive Web site," wrote someone calling himself (or herself) "Libertarian TV."

"Nice work. The blog looks fantastic," wrote Stuart Richards a day later. "The site's increasing interactivity is good, too. Nice to know that the first political party on the Net hasn't lost its edge."

And the comments went on from there.

But as an introduction to the blog, for those of you who haven't been there, here are three of the postings from the past few weeks, in no particular order.

I didn't bother counting the number of responses to each of these. Suffice it to say that the response to one of them, pre-editing, would have taken up a third of this newspaper. So you'll have to live with the abridged version of these comments.

If you want to see all of the comments made on these and other issues, go to LP.org and see for yourself.

Of course, some of you reading this don't have access to the Internet, or simply don't choose to spend time reading blogs. Let me know if you're interested in continuing this sort of "Best of the Blog" every month or two. I look forward to hearing from you.

—J. Daniel Cloud, LP News editor

■ United Airlines defaults on pension plan, could spark a new massive government bailout

—May 19, 2005

—By Matthew Dailey

A new government bailout could be looming on the horizon. United Airlines received approval by a bankruptcy judge re-

cently to default on the company's pension plan, which covers 120,000 active and retired employees, according to *USA Today*.

Judge Eugene Wedoff permitted the airline company's burden of unfunded pension liabilities to be shifted to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp, a federal agency that insures benefits are paid to retirees in the event the employer is unable to pay the required premiums. The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp is funded by insurance premiums paid by employers who sponsor insured pension plans, plus any money earned from investments and any funds from pension plans they acquire.

Even though the PBGC is not funded by general tax revenues, the American taxpayer in the end could be footing the bill as a result of misguided government policy. More and more companies in recent years have defaulted on their pension plans, transferring a great deal of under-funded pension liabilities to the federal government. According to the *Wall Street Journal*, the agency has taken on obligations exceeding its assets by \$23.3 billion — including the new United Airlines bailout.

The bankruptcy judge's decision in United Airlines favor could provide a perverse incentive for other companies to follow suit. Within the last week, Delta Airlines announced it may seek bankruptcy protection and could very well take the same path as United.

By shedding responsibility for its pension plan, United Airlines now has a cost advantage against competitors. Other airlines could look to default on their own pension plans as a way to severely reduce costs and remain competitive.

This could very well turn into another massive government bailout along the same level of the massive S&L crisis of the 1980's.

[Matthew Dailey is an employee at LP headquarters. He recently received his Master's degree in public policy from George Washington University, and has been active in the Massachusetts LP for several years.]

Reader Comments:

Why be responsible if the government (or more accurately, the citizenry) will clean up my mess?

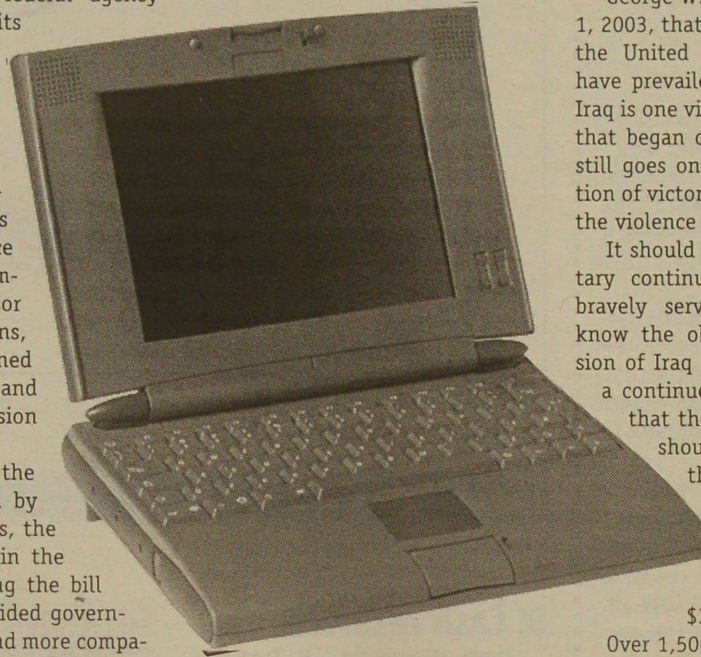
After all, isn't everyone entitled to get a government-sponsored muligan?

Posted by: Allen W. Jenkins

What I want to know is where my bailout is. My business has been hurting financially ever since that crook took office and started giv-

ing away all of my tax dollars to his buddies. Since everyone is created equal, I am entitled to a bailout. But I do not get a bailout. And neither should United Airlines. No corporation has the right to pay its bills with taxpayer money.

Posted by: Keith



The problem with airlines and transportation in general goes back to our abandonment of market based transportation in the 1950's. With massive federal investment in transportation commencing in the 1950's the business became a client of the government. Self-supporting private transit systems failed by the hundreds all over the country because they couldn't compete with the federal handouts. Today's heavily subsidized airline industry is illegitimate on its face. The current pension mess in just a variation on a theme.

Posted by: Lew Jeppson

■ The Growing Toll of the Iraqi Conflict

—By Shane Cory

—April 28, 2005

Although media coverage of the ongoing occupation of Iraq is sparse, American service members and contractors continue to die each day in the sustained violence.

To date, 1,564 American military personnel have died in the conflict that began as a preemptive war due to the threat of non-existent weapons of mass destruction. Approximately 17,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines have been wounded seriously enough to have been evacuated from the combat arena.

In addition to military deaths, 84 American contractors have lost their lives in Iraq. Last week, the North Carolina security firm, Blackwater, lost five employees in a missile attack. The 84 American civilians killed does not include government civilians attached to the CIA or other agencies.

The total human toll is unknown.

There is no accurate accounting of how many Iraqis have been killed since the invasion. Hospitals in Iraq were ordered to stop counting the dead in December of 2003 at the direction of the Coalition Provisional Authority. Estimates of Iraqis killed range from 20,000 to over 100,000.

George W. Bush declared on May 1, 2003, that, "In the battle of Iraq, the United States and our allies have prevailed" and "The battle of Iraq is one victory in a war on terror that began on Sept. 11, 2001, and still goes on." Despite the declaration of victory nearly two years ago, the violence in Iraq is sustained.

It should be noted that our military continues to honorably and bravely serve even though they know the objections to the invasion of Iraq and are surrounded by a continued loss of life of those that they stand next to. They should be honored now and throughout history for their service to their country.

Reader Comments:

\$300 billion dollars!

Over 1,500 dead Americans!

Over 20,000 wounded Americans!

Open border!

Massive National Debt!

These are conservatives?

Posted by: Kenny

I agree with what everyone has said, but, what anguishes me the most about many people in our society is their seeming detachment and willingness to look away from this horrid situation.

This is one of the many reasons why I joined the LP.

When more people are willing to open their eyes to the vast lack of real leadership, political selfishness and destructive decision making in DC, maybe, they will look more closely at the party of real principles.

Posted by: Robin

■ The Real Implications of the Real ID Act

—May 12, 2005

—By Shane Cory

The latest "Outrage of the Week" is an eye opener as to the implications of the recently passed Real ID Act. Here's an excerpt:

Driver's licenses issued by states not fulfilling federal requirements will not be accepted by any federal agency. What does that matter? Here are a few scenarios that may occur if your state were to not fulfill the new federal obligations:

Flying to see a relative in another state? Don't forget your papers: Domestic travelers could not pass through airport security checkpoints without a passport or a "Real" I.D. card.

Want to serve your country? Apply for a passport first: Prospective military enlistees could not meet

identification requirements with only state issued identification.

Want to get a job? Not without federal documentation: The INS I-9 form is a required document for all U.S. workers. Section Two of the form requires identification to be examined by the employer. As no federal agency will accept "old" driver's licenses, your I.D. would no longer be valid. Be sure to bring your passport along to your next job interview.

While it may be easy to write off objections to the new Real ID as paranoia, once it is fully implemented all Americans will realize the true impact of this bill which was slipped into an appropriations bill by Republican leadership.

Reader Comments:

I think the "domestic passport" aspect is most worrisome.

By establishing driver licenses as "internal passports," Real ID makes it easier for Americans to forget that a new aspect of control is being rolled into place.

If everyone had to get a passport to use air travel, the airline industry would go belly up even more quickly than it is now, or at least there would be a huge backlash of outrage that might topple the careers of several people in Washington.

But now, getting on a plane (or soon, I expect, proceeding through checkpoints or across state lines), will come "for free" if you have a driver license.

Since most people will be getting those licenses anyway, they won't pay as much attention to the fact that citizens will be required to have a "hall pass" just to move around in their own country.

Posted by: James Anderson Merritt

I am in the U.S. Air Force. I can remember being taught that the old Soviet Union would require an internal passport for its citizens to move from city to city.

What is the difference with the Real ID concept? Not a whole heck of a lot.

Posted by: Frank Martin

If you remember the film *Red October* with Sean Connery, there is a great scene where his second-in-command is talking about what it will be like living in America and Sean Connery explains that he will be able to travel the U.S. without carrying his "papers." Maybe they can edit that scene out in future runnings.

Posted by: Dave Cattie

Our freedoms are constantly being diminished by ill-thought-out legislation designed to make us think that our Government is doing something useful when, instead, it is simply putting a band aid on a festering sore.

Enough!

Posted by: Dan Miller

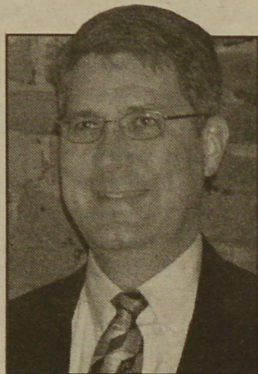
THE CHAIR

Changing membership dues not done lightly

Over the last few months there has been considerable discussion of a proposal to change the dues structure of the Libertarian Party. Since the matter is still under discussion and review I thought it would be a worthwhile topic for my quarterly contribution to this space.

First some definitions.

Unified Membership Program (UMP): A program engaged in by 45 affiliate parties wherein the state party and the national party maintain a common membership. The benefits to the member are a single renewal date and single payment (currently \$25). The benefits to the state party are the elimination of the volunteer effort managing a renewal process, and a healthy share (\$12 or \$18) of the unified dues.



By Michael Dixon
NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

Membership: Participation in the national LP defined by the signature on the non-initiation of force pledge and the payment of current dues. Membership counts are used to apportion delegates for national conventions.

The national committee has voted to increase the cost of renewal dues (national and unified) to \$50 effective Jan. 1, 2006. This was done with no increase in the state party share of the dues, which will remain either \$12 or \$18 depending on the version of unification the state has chosen.

Many of you have complained that this increase is unfair on its own, and that an increase without a parallel increase in the state share is especially unfair. I have received many formal and informal complaints to this point.

It is of passing interest to note that I received exactly 0 (zero) "thank you" notes when I increased the state share from \$12 to \$18 last year.

The national committee took this action at its February meeting and imposed the changes more than nine months forward on the calendar — leaving themselves plenty of time to reconsider and review the decision. Committee members knew there would be meetings in May, August and November before the change goes into effect in 2006.

This decision was not made lightly.

Since the action in February, several other proposals have been made and a group of committee members has been assigned to develop an action plan regarding one of those.

This proposal questions the very need for dues of any kind. Neither the Republican National Committee nor the Democratic National Committee requires any kind of payment for the privilege of calling oneself a Republican or Democrat.

Because this matter will come up again at the August meeting of the national committee, I urge members who wish to be heard on this to contact their LNC representatives.

Since the beginning of this controversy I have urged caution for anyone who would want to react too rashly. As veteran observers of the Libertarian National Committee know, there is often an unintended method in their madness. The choice to schedule this change in this way allows for time to review the options and to gather input on the best course of action.

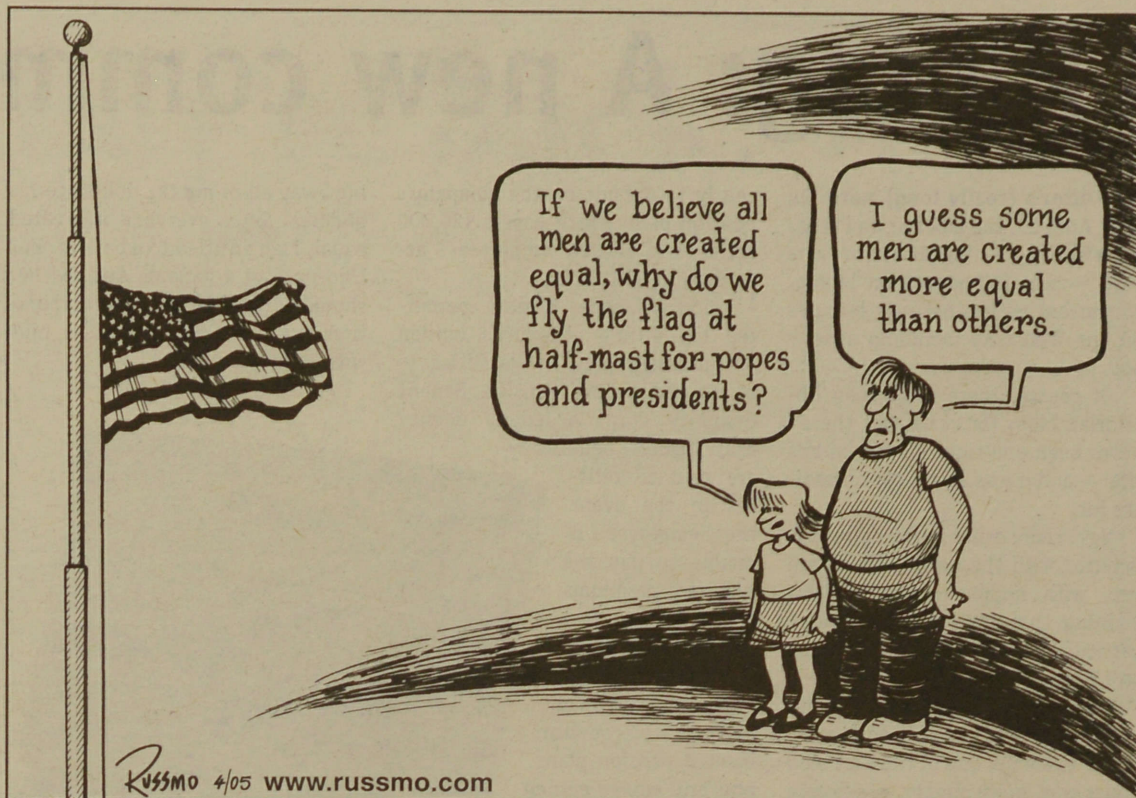
There are still two meetings before their self-imposed deadline and I expect that we will see much more on this topic before the year is out.

Personnel Note

Many of you have contacted me regarding the resignation of George Getz as our director of communications. (See story on page 16.) I have tried to answer each of you personally, but fear that I may have missed a chance to make myself heard.

I was as disappointed in George's resignation as you all were. George was responsible for the press presence of the party for many years. He did a world-class job representing the party in the electronic media.

I am heartened to see, however, that he is moving on to bigger and better things in a career that will doubtless result in his efforts to further our cause in many other ways. We wish him — and his family — the very best.



THE MAILBOX

Cash reserves

Three cheers for LP Treasurer Mark Nelson's lucid and informative 2004 Annual Report on the Libertarian Party's finances (April 2005 LP News).

I agree that our party needs cash reserves. How about segregating life membership payments? Being the capitalist party, the LP presumably could invest such funds to provide an endowment.

Remember, "great oaks from little acorns grow."

—DAVID BERSOHN
Arroyo Grande, California

Pot heads

I would like to politely disagree with Mark Rutherford's statements regarding "irresponsible pot heads" in the April 2005 issue of LP News. I consider myself qualified to respond, because I have been a Liberty Pledge member and LP supporter for over 10 years now.

It is precisely the more extreme elements of the LP's platform, especially the legalization of marijuana and preventing a draft, that convinced me and many other Libertarians to join the party.

Interestingly, Rutherford claims the party should change its image and/or soften its positions to become more acceptable to mainstream America. Of course, it would no longer be a party of principle — just a group of moderate Democrats who tolerate victimless crimes. Somehow, I can't see that listed with "Give me liberty or give me death."

Finally, I disagree with Rutherford in that the fight for freedom does not require self-sacrifice. Ayn Rand has proven that no action is sacrifice if an individual believes in what he or she is fighting for, espe-

cially freedom.

—ADRIAN C. HINTON
Cincinnati, Ohio

Bargaining

While the optimistic among us never cease to hope, we all know that a third-party victory in any major election remains an impossibility, and we all know why. The numbers are simply too large, and without a major shift in public perception, nothing is going to happen.

**IF YOU DON'T CHOOSE
a living will,
then some demagogue
like Tom Delay
can choose a
living death for you.**

—TOM GERBER

Our focus must shift from trying to get votes for ourselves, to trying to make our votes count. This requires one simple thing: bargaining.

Firstly, we do not put our candidate on the ballot unless they are going to win. Doing this is what loses us our ability to actually make a difference. Instead, when we can't win we should use our votes for leverage. Offer deals for endorsement. All along, we should let each candidate know what they'd need to do to win our vote, and then, come election time, we vote for whichever candidate has proven the most attractive. With elections as close as they are, our votes can make a difference.

This immediately has several effects. It means that we are no longer "stealing" votes from the preferable major party candidate. It means that the larger our base, the larger the concessions we can ask for, so registering and voting as a libertarian has a real and direct effect without us having to actually win. Suddenly, there's real reason to be registered Libertarian, rather than picking the lesser of the two major evils.

To do this properly, we need to set priorities and determine what we would be willing to trade for what, and what we need to ask for first. We do this through discussion, and make final decisions through the primary elections, where we would pick the candidate that represents our particular beliefs about the focus of the party rather than one we think can win.

We still can, and indeed should, spend every bit as much effort advancing our own candidates for state and local office. We've shown many times that we can win these, and it both serves as good advertising and makes a real, substantive difference — which is precisely what we need.

In this way, we can break out of the current deadlock, making a difference in the present, and increasing our numbers toward the day when advancing a Libertarian candidate for President makes sense.

—DAVID THOMAS
Troy, Michigan

Compliments

My compliments to J. Daniel Cloud for his excellent article on aid to tsunami victims (LP News April 2005).

I encounter numerous people
See THE MAILBOX Page 17

THE MAILBOX

Continued from Page 16

who believe that forced government "charity" serves to increase the total amount of aid that the unfortunate receive. I find this hard to refute in part because "donation" rates to government (taken at gun-point) are inherently more reliable than donations to private charity (which are reliant on individual initiative).

Most are willing to concede that government "charity" is less efficient than privately run charity, but on balance, does this mean that overall benefits to, for example, tsunami victims would be greater in the absence of government-run aid programs?

Mr. Cloud's resounding "yes" is carefully laid out with well-supported arguments and facts.

Bravo!
—ERIC LEAVER
Davis, California

Living wills

Much can be learned from the Shaivo tragedy. The most important lesson is this: If you don't choose a living will, then some demagogue like Tom DeLay can choose a living death for you.

—TOM GERBER
Sturgis, South Dakota

Insurance (again)

In response to Jerry L. Dixon's letter, "Insurance," in the March 2005 issue of *LP News*, I don't think insurance companies are colluding against their customers. As usual, the state governments are responding to special interests by screwing things up.

I think what is happening is that they are doing the same sort of thing they were doing with the phone companies, i.e., forcing one class of customers (long-distance callers) to subsidize another class (local callers).

In this case, the labor unions have "convinced" the government that employees of big business deserve cheaper health insurance than the rest of us.

Except for requiring very large

amounts of capital, the insurance business is no different from any other.

In the absence of coercion by the government there would be many companies competing for our business. Since different groups of customers with differing risks could be identified, perhaps some customers would specialize in high-risk cases, charging higher premiums (as is done with auto insurance). But the definition of a group should be up to the company.

—MARTIN COHEN
Melrose Park, Pennsylvania

Run for office

Since the United States is a republic, the only way to protect the public interest and ensure honest government is for citizens to participate in the process of government.

Holding elected, appointed, or hired officials accountable means that every citizen has a duty to stay informed and exercise the right to vote. Taking the time to educate ourselves and voting at all elections is the least we can do to protect our freedom and our liberty.

But the highest standards for good, clean government only work if competent citizens agree to serve as elected representatives.

The crisis of American politics is the neglect of the civic business between the high-profile elections.

Elections every two and four years become highlighted by emotion. In reality, the creation of laws and the spending of taxpayer funds take place between and around the two- or four-year election cycles. Great harm to our country is done by the ignorance or indifference of the majority when lulled by business as usual.

Nowhere does this crisis have more immediate and lasting effect than at the local level of politics. And it is at the community level of government where the greatest positive change can be made.

Many candidates for local office go unchallenged, as though only one person is qualified to run for a position. Lack of choices for candidates brings a greater risk of mismanagement of public affairs.

The reason for the lack of people willing to serve, I believe, results from an ungrateful community when honest officials work hard and make tough, even unpopular decisions. Public officials also have to sit through long and often boring meetings while most people just complain about what they do.

To start the process of restoring the idea of service for the good of the community, I would suggest citizens say "Thank you for serving" to elected officials who represent the community interest.

Finally, if a citizen disapproves of the job elected officials have done, the only moral course open is for people to get involved and take immediate action. Only through active participation in the process of government can we preserve our

freedom and create healthy communities.

—TIMOTHY J. KRENZ
Osceola, Wisconsin

John McCain

Bill Winter's column about Sen. John McCain (May 2005 *LP News*) should surprise nobody.

McCain is just another Bush-supporting automaton. As I write this, he and the 99 other senators have just rubberstamped billions more to kill Iraqi kids and institute what amounts to an internal passport here at home.

I recently read that McCain was the one who started the rumor that Jane Fonda, having collected the I.D.'s of American POWs held at the "Hanoi Hilton" who hoped she would notify their families that they were still alive, instead gave their names to their Viet Cong captors. After all these years, it is believed that he made that up. I'd like to find out for sure.

—ALICE LILLIE
Pahrump, Nevada

Common ground

The election of 2004 will long be remembered for the great divide in the American political system. It went deeper than the red state vs. blue state paradigm that the media has waxed philosophical over these many months.

Morality and religion became the 600 lb. gorillas that came out of the corner to make themselves known in a very real and lasting way. Religion and morality do play a role in American politics after all!

People of faith showed themselves to be the pivotal demographic, the deciding factor and the story of the year. Hollywood underestimated them (note the success of Mel Gibson's "The Passion"), the Democrats overlooked them and the Republicans attempted to monopo-

lize them. Libertarians would do well to learn from these examples. Libertarians need to appeal to people of faith, we need to reach out to them and share our common beliefs. Christians in particular share our disdain for big, all inclusive, all intrusive government.

So how do we do it? It begins with finding common ground. Libertarian thought is an extension of the fundamental belief that all of mankind has a free will and is capable of making individual decisions. All three major religions (Christianity, Islam and Judaism) share this belief. Four billion people can't all be wrong, can they? Furthermore, Libertarians believe that we should be free to exercise those rights and liberties in our daily lives.

Libertarianism is therefore the logical choice for those who seek freedom, and freedom is a central tenant in every major religion.

As Republicans and Democrats fight it out in our national and state capitols, we Libertarians need to be at work in our communities, churches, mosques and synagogues. We need to remind our fellow Americans that the lesser of two evils is still evil! Libertarianism is the only alternative that makes any sense right now.

—DR. MILES B. BATEMAN
Trenton, Illinois

Kwiatkowski

Since others are already offering suggestions for our 2008 presidential candidate, I'd like to nominate the woman who should have been our candidate in 2004: Virginia LP member Karen Kwiatkowski.

We had a fine lineup of contenders in 2004, but none with Kwiatkowski's creds. Those who've read her articles at LewRockwell.com (among other places) know that she's a retired Lt. Col. who worked in the Pentagon during the planning stages for the Iraq War. She later

revealed how the neocons had pressured the military into doctoring their intelligence analyses in favor of war. Kwiatkowski's been interviewed by significant media outlets across the political spectrum: Fox News, *L.A. Weekly*, *In These Times*, *The American Conservative*.

As a retired military officer, she had the expertise to debate foreign affairs and national security — the big issues of 2004 — on a level playing field with Kerry and Bush. As someone known to the media, she'd have drawn more extensive and respectful coverage than any of the other "big three" LP contenders. And as retired military, it'd be hard for anyone to besmirch her patriotism.

Though I'd long read her work, I only discovered that she was a 10-year LP member during the convention. I wish I'd circulated a "Draft Kwiatkowski" petition, but it was my first LP convention and I didn't know the mechanics of nomination until too late.

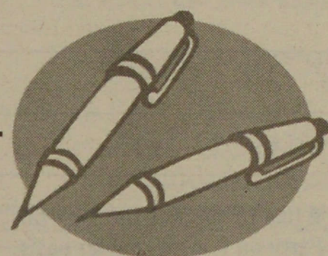
Provided that she's willing, I think Libertarians should seriously consider Karen Kwiatkowski for president (not merely for veep) for 2008.

—THOMAS M. SIFOS
Santa Monica, California

Unique appeal

Libertarians gain most when we use argumentation and advocacy which places both Democrats and Republicans at a disadvantage simultaneously, instead of attacking one party or the other. Without using the right issue in the context of both parties, our advocacy can be substantially weak.

For example, Republicans have complained about illegal immigration. Democrats have complained about the "outsourcing" of jobs. Both parties want to reform Social Security but neither would mention the 12.4 percent Social Security tax



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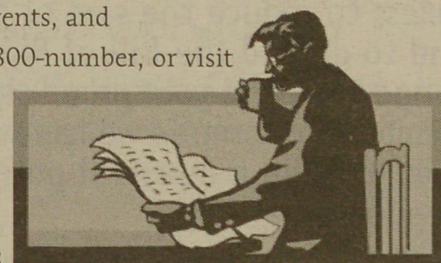
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THE MAILBOX

Continued from Page 17

paid between employer and employee.

Neither party will consider cutting the Social Security tax to alleviate the problems confronting American workers. By raising [the issue of] the need to cut back on the Social Security tax to alleviate problems caused by illegal immigration and "outsourcing," Libertarians can make a unique appeal to partisan constituents of both parties which are taken for granted.

—ANDREW L. SULLIVAN
Omaha, Nebraska

Taxation

The history of taxation is a history of injustice. There has never been a fair tax and there probably never will be. Calling a national sales tax "The Fair Tax" doesn't make it fair, and Libertarians should be wary of the claim.

A sales tax makes the federal government a partner in every retail transaction, and you know once their hand is in it their nose will be too. Do we really want the IRS invited to patrol every swap meet, farmers market and garage sale?

Fat cats who avoid income tax will find ways to avoid a sales tax too, like making their big purchases in countries that don't impose the

same tax. "Shall I go shopping in Tijuana or pay 30 percent extra in San Diego?"

A 23 percent "fair tax" plus 7 percent state and local taxes equals 30 percent!

"Should I buy my yacht in Florida, or buy the same yacht in Panama and save \$60,000?" A federal luxury tax bankrupted boat-related businesses and threw thousands out of work a generation ago.

Sales taxes encourage black markets, because a 30 percent discount is hard to resist. Prices will depend on whom you know. Not that a black market is completely bad, they often make up for inadequacy in over-regulated markets.

Unfortunately, black markets operate outside the law and therefore can become ruthless, like the illegal drug black market. As more business is driven off the books, politicians will push the tax higher "to recover the lost revenue." This will result in an escalating tax rate for the ethical market and drive more traffic to black markets.

—KEN OBENSKI
San Diego, California

Freeing Grenada

I disagree with a recent letter to *LP News* suggesting that we should have stayed out of Grenada. Presi-

dent Reagan was absolutely correct in freeing Grenada from Cuban domination. We were able to do it quickly with little loss of American lives and we were welcomed by the local population.

Of course, we should support a general policy of nonintervention in foreign affairs. It is not moral or practical for us for us to become entangled in unnecessary prolonged expensive engagements. When we put our troops in danger, it should be only for defense or humanitarian reasons.

There should be exceptions to the LP idea that we should stay out of non-defense military actions. We dropped the ball in preventing the massacres in Cambodia, Rwanda and other places. Unfortunately, not all cases are clearly right or wrong. The present Iraq engagement is a good example. If we invaded Iraq for oil, we made a terribly immoral decision. If we invaded because of faulty intelligence, we again made a mistake. If we invaded to free the people of Iraq, we should have been better prepared for a police action. We should have remembered the difficulty of pacifying Germany after World War II.

If we claim to be the party of principle, we should not include economic interests as a reason to engage in war. We should limit military engagements to defense, treaty obligations, easy liberations, and humanitarian reasons such as

prevention of genocide.

—ROLAND O. PETERSON
Waltham, Massachusetts

Voting systems

The last few issues of *LP News* "The Mailbox" have included several letters regarding the pros and cons of different voting systems.

Most of the discussions focus on comparisons of the plurality (first-past-the-post) method with what is referred to as Instant Runoff Voting (IRV), which considers voters' lower-ranked preferences.

They are all correct in observing that the rules of the political game limit any "third" party's opportunity.

My own research on the subject indicates, however, that the benefits of IRV are illusory. Minor parties must work for reform of election law, but there are better choices.

In the 2003 California Recall gubernatorial election, Arnold Schwarzenegger won almost 49 percent of the vote despite facing 134 opponents representing 7 parties. In the weeks preceding Election Day, polls fueled fears that the free-for-all would lead to a lame duck governor favored by just 20 percent of the voters.

What happened? Duverger's Law, a political science hypothesis of the wasted vote syndrome, explains why the plurality rule produces two-party systems.

Democrats and Republicans need

not worry about minor party challengers as long as they populate the ballots, enjoy any party loyalty at all and don't change the way we count votes. All voting is strategic, i.e., we take into account what others will do.

In California's special gubernatorial election, lesser candidates withdrew, voters chose the lesser of evils, and major party candidates wound up with 96 percent of the vote total.

Due to strategic behavior, changing the rules is not a panacea. Using California voter registration data and preference assumptions based on the Advocates for Self-Government's social/economic freedom issue space (used in the World's Smallest Political Quiz), I constructed a model comparing hypothetical results of the recall election under five systems — Plurality, Hare (IRV), Approval, Borda and Condorcet.

My conclusion is that, because the Hare system essentially allocates minor party votes among the major parties, it would be the second choice among Ds and Rs. Minor parties should push for Approval voting, in which voters list all acceptable candidates without ranking their choices. Condorcet's method, which is least susceptible to strategic voting and uses all information regarding preferences, benefits everyone and is most "fair."

—STEVE RICHARDSON
Falls Church, Virginia



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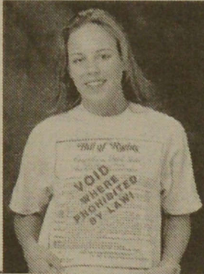
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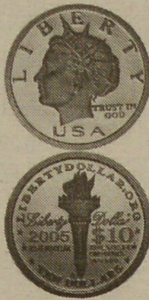
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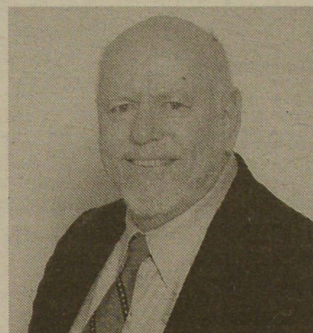
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UPCOMING

■ June 5, 2005

Hawaii LP Convention, Call (808) 537-3078 for information.

■ June 10-11, 2005

New Mexico LP Convention, at the Western Skies Inn and Suites, Los Lunas, NM. For more information, go to www.lpnm.org.

■ June 25-26, 2005

5th Freedom Summit, at the Radisson Hotel in Manchester, NH. Speakers to include Nathaniel Branden, James Bovard, Ron Paul, Vin Suprynowicz and many others. Visit www.freedomsummit.com for information.

■ June 29, 2005

Cato Institute Policy Forum, at the Cato Institute in Washington, D.C. "Locking Down Loose Nukes," about how the threat of nuclear terrorism might be prevented. Featuring Laura Holgate, Nuclear Threat Initiative; Rensselaer Lee, Foreign Policy Research Institute; and Charles Pena, Cato Institute. This event is free. To register, call (202) 789-5229; e-mail events@cato.org; or visit www.cato.org.

■ July 10-15, 2005

ISIL's 24th Annual World Conference, in St. Petersburg, Russia. Celebrating "The Year of Ayn Rand," (it marks the 100th anniversary of her birth) the International Society for Individual Liberty will hold its annual conference in Rand's home city — concentrating on the



■ Suprynowicz

enormous influence the author had on the world of individualist and free-market philosophy. For details, go to www.FreeMarket.net; e-mail isil@isil.org; or call (707) 746-8796.

■ July 23-31, 2005

Free State Project Freedom Festival, at Roger's Campground, Lancaster, NH. Admission is free. For reservations, call Roger's at (603) 636-1062. Go to freestateproject.org/festival for information.

■ September 29-October 1, 2005

State Policy Network 13th Annual Meeting, at the Mills House Hotel, Charleston, SC. Focusing on current policy issues including health care policy reform, education reform and a fiscal policy forum, as well as on "the nuts and bolts of running a think tank," such as fundraising, marketing and leadership development. For information, go to www.spn.org; e-mail info@spn.org; or call (510) 965-9700.

■ October 14-16, 2005

The Advocates for Self-Government's 20th Anniversary Celebration, "Fastforwarding Our Libertarian Future," at the Renaissance Atlanta Airport Hotel, Atlanta, Ga. Speakers to include Robert Ringer, Harry Browne, David Bergland, Dr. Mary Ruwart, Michael Cloud, Sharon Harris and Bill Winter. For more information, call (800) 932-1776; e-mail anniversary@TheAdvocates.org; or write to the Advocates at 213 South Erwin St., Cartersville GA 30120.



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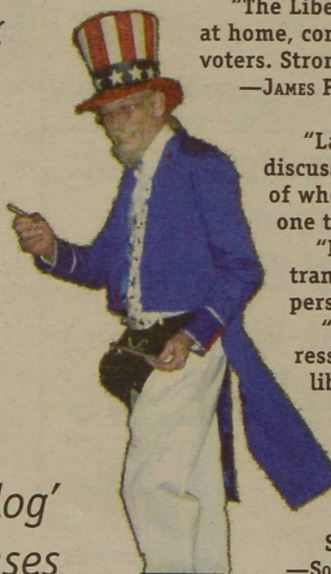
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■ **PAGE 2** FreedomFest: A first-person account from a first-time attendee

■ **PAGE 15** A look at the new 'blog' at LP.org — including responses



FIRST WORD

"The Libertarians, with their consistent message of personal freedom and limited government at home, combined with nonintervention abroad, have an attractive message to many Republican voters. Strong Libertarian candidates could jeopardize Republican power."

—JAMES P. PINKERTON, *Newsday*, April 19, 2005

"Last weekend, hundreds of libertarians and conservatives descended upon Las Vegas to discuss and celebrate freedom. One topic that drew a great deal of interest was the question of whether innovators and entrepreneurs in Silicon Valley are really as libertarian as everyone thinks."

"Like conservatives, libertarians believe that government involvement in the economic transactions of society should be minimal. However, they also believe, like liberals, that a person's social life should be free of interference."

"The libertarian ideology is forward-looking and assumes the goal of humanity is progress. That's where there's much in common between Silicon Valley types and hard-core libertarians. Silicon Valley is, after all, all about the future."

"Valley folks care very much about the freedom to change and grow, but unfortunately they don't often think deeply about the idea of freedom in general. This is further proof that the Valley isn't libertarian in the way most think. And this could lead to problems in the longer term. If one uses freedom, but doesn't put effort into defending it, it can quickly disappear. Next year, it would be nice to see more Silicon Valley entrepreneurs at Freedom Fest."

—SONIA ARRISON, *TechNewsWorld.com*, May 20, 2005