

LIBERTARIAN PARTY LP NEWS

The Party of Principle

September 1999

The Official Monthly Newspaper of the Libertarian Party ★ Volume 14 / Issue 9

Alderman jumps to LP in N.C.

An incumbent officeholder in North Carolina has switched to the Libertarian Party, and plans to run for re-election under his new party's banner.

In early July, Alderman Kenneth Lankford of Madison switched his party affiliation to Libertarian, and is now gearing up to run for a second term on the Town Board, announced State Chair Sean Haugh.

"Ken is the first of many to follow," said Haugh. "Those men and women who entered politics out of an honest desire to serve the people and the Constitution are finding that they have a home in the Libertarian Party."

Lankford, a former Republican, said he made the jump because the other parties are too eager to run people's lives.

The only group

"I switched to the Libertarian Party because it appears to be the only group which remains dedicated to keeping government within Constitutional boundaries — and reducing the size and power of government," he said.

"The purpose of governments is to protect our unalienable rights, not to run our lives."

See **ALDERMAN SWITCHES** Page 2

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California LP defeats "3rd party killer" bill

■ PAGE 11

Assistance offered for college Libertarians



Libertarian rally against "baseball welfare"

■ Washington state LP Executive Director Carol Miller is interviewed by a local television station at a rally against Safeco Field — a \$520 million, tax-funded baseball stadium. Behind her, Libertarian protesters carry signs that read: "No more corporate welfare," "It's just wrong," and "Betrayed Fan\$ Unite." See story on page 3.

Libertarians blast 'tiny' GOP tax cut

Party asks: What's the big deal about a tax cut that returns 4¢ on the dollar?

The Libertarian Party has gone on the offensive against the proposed \$792 billion Republican tax cut plan, calling it "disgracefully diminutive."

Spokespeople for the party have already appeared on more than 120 radio stations around the USA, using the opportunity to point out that the Republican plan would trim less than four cents on the dollar of government revenue over the next 10 years.

"The only thing smaller than this proposed tax cut is the Republicans' courage," charged David Bergland, the party's national chairman. "Metaphorically, this GOP tax cut is a flea dancing on the back of the bloated elephant the federal budget has become."

The party issued a press release in early August attacking the tax cut plan, just after the

U.S. Senate voted in favor of it.

Since then, spokespeople for the party — including Press Secretary George Getz and National Director Steve Dasbach — have appeared on the 45-station Radio America Network, the 70-station Westwood One Network, and the four-station Strauss Media network, among others.

Minnesota LP State Chair Charles Test also appeared on WMNN Radio.

Very supportive

So far, the response from talk show hosts and radio audiences has been very supportive, said Getz.

"Several hosts have commented that we're supplying an interesting perspective about the tax cut debate — with the facts to back it up — that no one else is," he said.

For example, Craig Wright, See **TAX CUT PLAN** Page 2

SPECIAL FEATURE PRESENTATION

The 20 best liberty books ever written

A Laissez Faire Books editor recommends the 20 best introductory libertarian books

Editor's note: If you were going to assemble a library of 20 books about liberty, which books would you pick? That's the question LP News asked Jim Powell, editor of Laissez Faire Books. The criteria: The list should be solidly libertarian; should include the essential and the entertaining; should cover a broad range of issues; and should include some basic, introductory works. Here's his list.

By Jim Powell

Editor, Laissez Faire Books

Today, the libertarian movement is being energized by an outpouring of solid work in economics, law, philosophy, history and other fields. Although libertarians still have to work hard for votes, we are ablaze with compelling ideas which have already started to change history.



■ #3: Hazlitt's One Lesson...

time I've been asked to compile top 10 or top 20 lists of the most important books on liberty, and I always enjoy doing it. This time the focus is on introductory

As the editor of Laissez Faire Books, the world's largest source of books and tapes on liberty — with readers in more than 90 countries — from time to

books currently available, including classic libertarian works of the 20th century. There are a number of tough choices, and I'll explain those. If you aren't familiar with all the titles, be assured the list offers you joyous reading. There's insight, passion and eloquence aplenty.



See **TOP 20 LIBERTY BOOKS** Page 12

NEWSBRIEFS

Libertarian "TV Guide" service offered

Looking for something good — and libertarian — on television? A new electronic newsletter may be able to help you. LP member Jon Osborne has started a free weekly "e-newsletter" to inform Libertarians about freedom-oriented television programming and films, ranging from the popular and well-publicized to the obscure and hard-to-find.

"Each week I scan the TV listings of broadcast and cable TV stations for programming of interest to libertarians, organize it into a customized schedule, and e-mail it to subscribers," said Osborne, who lives in Palo Alto, California.

A typical issue of Osborne's e-newsletter might contain a listing for *The Passion of Ayn Rand* on Showtime; an episode of the Simpsons attacking teenage curfews; the 1990 movie *Pacific Heights*, with a plot involving tenant-rights laws gone awry; and *The American Revolution, Part 6*, on the History Channel.

Shows are rated on a scale of one to five stars on libertarian content (from antithetical to supportive) and entertainment value (from below average to "thoroughly entertaining.") Each listing includes the date, time, and network or channel.

With his e-newsletter, Osborne said, "I am trying to bring libertarian programming to the attention of a wider audience."

For more information or to subscribe, visit his website: www.missliberty.com.

It's Uncle Sam versus Father Time

When you want to sell a new high-tech wristwatch, which political group do you mention? The Libertarians, of course.

In the July 1999 issue of the Sharper Image catalog (which markets high-priced, high-tech "toys for Yuppies"), an advertisement for a state-of-the-art timepiece noted: "Libertarians may not rejoice, but the 'time' is what our government says it is — via radio signals, from the U.S. Atomic Clock."

The Sharper Image wristwatch automatically checks the U.S. Atomic Clock (which is accurate to millionths of a second) to maintain its on-time precision.

It's a nice high-tech gadget, admit Libertarians — but does the government *really* control time itself?

"You know the federal government has gotten too big and powerful when people start to think Uncle Sam has taken over for Father Time," said LP Communications Director Bill Winter. "It's time to get politicians out of the time business — and you don't need the U.S. Atomic Clock to confirm that."

Arizona Libertarian Party disaffiliated

In a rare move, the Libertarian National Committee has voted to disaffiliate the LP of Arizona in an attempt to resolve a long-simmering internal political dispute in that state.

At its quarterly meeting in Anaheim (CA) on August 15, the LNC voted 14-2 to officially dissolve the state party, after efforts to mediate a resolution between the opposing sides failed.

"It's a shame that we had to take this action, but wiping the slate clean was clearly the only way to help build an effective, harmonious Libertarian Party in Arizona," said David Bergland, LP National Chair.

The action was taken, he said, because the LNC could no longer determine who were the proper officers of the Arizona LP, and which set of bylaws was in effect.

The dispute which led to the disaffiliation vote involved different strategic and tactical visions among Arizona Libertarians, as well as disputes over interpretations of the state LP bylaws and state law regulating political parties.

The LNC is now accepting applications for a new affiliate, said Bergland, and will then conduct a non-binding referendum among national Libertarian Party members in Arizona to help determine which application to accept. A final decision should be made by the December 1999 LNC meeting.

"Our goal is to put these disputes behind us, and move forward with the business of a political party: Increasing our size and effectiveness and electing more Libertarians," he said.

Libertarians take to airwaves to blast 'tiny' GOP tax cut plan

Continued from Page 1

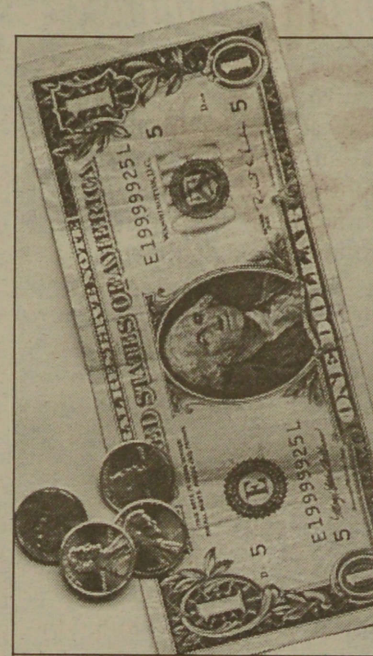
a host at WFIR radio in Roanoke, Virginia, said, "Your press release on the GOP's budget sell-out is really good. Actually, all your releases are good, but this one was really, *really* good."

And Gary Nolan of the Radio America Network said, "You guys put out great press releases, and this one on the GOP tax cut is one of the best ever."

During their interviews, Getz and Dasbach noted that the proposed GOP tax cut does have one thing to recommend it: It's slightly larger than the proposed Democratic tax cut.

How similar

"The Clinton Administration supports a \$250 billion tax cut over 10 years, which is 1.14% of gross federal revenue," said Getz. "So, if we compare those two proposals, we can determine precisely how *similar* Republicans and Democrats have become: They are debating a differ-



■ The Republican tax cut plan would refund 3.63% of gross federal revenue over the next decade — or 4¢ on the dollar.

ence of slightly over 2% of future federal revenues."

The press release pointed out

THE GOP PLAN:
"Federal revenue will increase by 38.9% over the next decade."

that the Republican tax cut plan amounts to a mere 3.63% of the gross revenue the federal government expects to collect from taxpayers over the next 10 years.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, federal revenue will grow from \$1.905 trillion in fiscal year 2000 to a whopping \$2.725 trillion in 2009. During that 10-year span, federal tax collectors expect to rake in a total of \$21.761 trillion.

Of that money, Republicans propose to return \$792 billion — or 3.63% — to the taxpayers.

Do the math

"Do the math: The Republican tax cut is disgracefully diminutive, amounting to a few, insignificant percentage points of overall government revenue," said Bergland in the party's statement. "It amounts to less than four pennies on the dollar. Is that what Republicans mean when they promise a less expensive government?"

Even worse, he noted, the proposed tax cut doesn't reduce the size of government by even those four cents; it merely slows the projected growth rate.

"Under this Republican proposal, annual federal revenue will still *increase* by at least 38.9% over the next decade. Without the tax cut, it would grow by 43%," said Bergland. "Slightly slowing the growth rate of the federal government is not a Republican revolution — it's a Republican embarrassment."

Alderman switches to LP; announces re-election bid

Continued from Page 1

Lankford officially filed for re-election for the non-partisan race on July 9.

If re-elected, Lankford said his principal goal will be to continue to hold down the cost of local government.

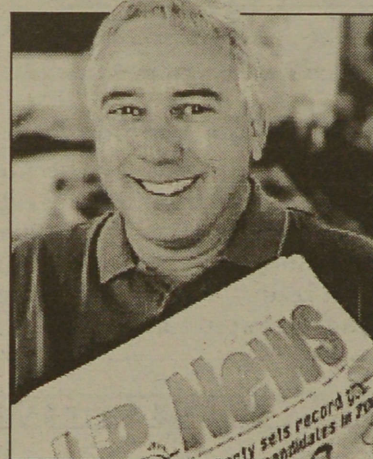
"I want to [put] the finances of the town in better shape without increasing taxes," he said.

"We have the budget in the best shape it's been in for years, although infrastructure costs are going to be a huge challenge. Although we've raised some fees to reflect actual costs, we've managed to keep taxes down."

Some company

Meanwhile, the goal of the Libertarian Party of North Carolina will be to give Lankford some company as an elected officeholder.

"The Libertarian Party is on the ballot and will hold primaries in 2000," said Haugh. "[Our plan is to] field over 100 candidates, from Governor and U.S. Congress to County Commissions and School Boards. We don't intend for Ken to be the only elected Libertarian in North Carolina for long."



■ Madison (NC) Alderman Kenneth Lankford reads *LP News*, the monthly newspaper of his new political party.

LP NEWS

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Karl Hess ♦ 1923-1994

Washington LP protests 'field of schemes' stadium

Libertarians rally against \$520 million stadium built for baseball billionaires

Washington state Libertarians turned out in force to protest the opening of a tax-funded Seattle Mariners ballpark that protesters dubbed the "Field of Schemes."

On July 15, more than two dozen LP members and other protesters paraded in front of the Safeco Field, waving signs that said, "No more corporate welfare," "It's just wrong," and "Betrayed Fan\$ Unite."

The protest generated radio and TV coverage for the Libertarians, who have been spearheading the battle against the expensive, tax-financed baseball stadium for four years, said Matt McCally, a leader in the anti-stadium movement and past State Chair of the Washington LP.

Soundbite

"I was interviewed during the protest by the local NPR affiliate," he said. "My soundbite — 'Isn't it a shame that even an otherwise fun game like baseball has become political because of corporate welfare?' — was used in the lead news story the next morning here in Seattle."

"[And state LP Executive Director] Carol Miller was interviewed by at least two different

local TV stations."

The protest was intended to draw attention to the cost of the stadium, the sneaky way state politicians financed it, and the outrageousness of welfare for billionaires, said McCally.

It's a battle that state Libertarians have been fighting since 1995, when a tax hike initiative was placed on the King County ballot to pay for the stadium.

\$285 million

"It would have increased the state sales tax within the county to pay for a \$285 million baseball-only stadium and \$170 million to renovate the Kingdome, the existing all-purpose stadium," he said.

A group called Citizens for More Important Things (CMIT) was formed to fight the initiative, said McCally, who was one of the group's leaders.

"Despite being outspent by the big sports teams and their supporters by more than 40-1, CMIT won when the measure lost 50.1% to 49.9% in September 1995," he said.

But that didn't stop the pro-tax forces.

"The big sports teams had then-Governor Mike Lowry call



■ Libertarian Matt McCally (left) is interviewed by a reporter from KUOW Radio during the rally against the tax-funded Safeco Stadium on July 15 in King County, Washington.

an emergency session of the state legislature," he said. "They voted to create several new taxes, some collected in King County alone and some collected around the

state, to pay for a new baseball-only stadium. Because of the 'emergency' nature of this funding, the tax package was never voted on by the people, as is

usual in Washington state for a measure of that kind."

In exchange for the gusher of tax dollars, the Seattle Mariners' ownership agreed to pay for any cost overruns for the new stadium, he said.

"The new stadium cost about \$520 million to build — almost \$100 million over budget," said McCally. "The ownership's response to this has been to call this red ink 'unforeseen capital cost' (instead of an over-run), and deny all responsibility for payment."

Irresponsible

That kind of irresponsible behavior, along with the burden the stadium taxes placed on ordinary citizens, inspired Libertarians to keep fighting the stadium, said McCally — and to keep insisting that private enterprise could have built it without government money.

"Our previous outdoor baseball facility, Sicks Stadium, was built with private money and without the public land giveaways and other special treatment," he said.

"Mariner ownership includes a couple of billionaires and several multi-millionaires. If they and the team's many fans want a new stadium, they [could] well afford to pay for it themselves."

States mobilize to recruit 2,000 candidates in 2000

With about 14 months to go, a number of LP affiliate parties around the USA have begun to aggressively recruit candidates to reach the party's goal of 2,000 candidates on Election Day 2000.

Over the past month, at least five states have made public announcements about ambitious candidate recruitment goals — and many more will follow over the next few months, predicted LP Political Director Ron Crickenberger.

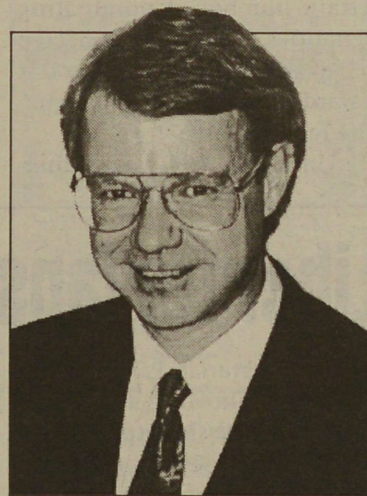
"If we reach our goal of making sure that every American will find multiple Libertarian Party candidates on their ballot in 2000, it will be because of the grassroots efforts of Libertarian activists," he said. "If this current momentum keeps up, I expect we'll have no problem accomplishing our goal of running the most third-party candidates in over eight decades."

Since the party officially announced its "2,000 in 2000" goal in July, California, Indiana, New Hampshire, Washington state, and Texas have launched and publicized candidate recruitment drives.

The efforts range from setting candidate goals of 200 in California, 30 in Washington state, and 100 in New Hampshire, to using press releases to recruit candidates in Indiana, to setting up a "Project Win2K" in Texas.

■ **California:** State party leadership has set a goal of 200 candidates in 2000 — which is almost double the size of their 1998 candidate slate.

"The time has come for our party to take the next step in the astounding growth we've been experiencing over the last few years: Run more candidates than ever before," said State Chair Mark Hinkle. "We are serious



■ LP Political Director Ron Crickenberger: "If we reach our goal, it will be because of the grassroots efforts of Libertarian activists."

about running and serious about winning."

The party ran 108 candidates in 1998, said Hinkle, but plans to boost that figure in 2000 by contesting as many as possible of the state's 153 partisan offices — and by "focusing on non-partisan local offices more than ever before."

California has its primary in

See 2,000 IN 2000 Page 9

Mass. Libertarians save puppies from the taxman

Thanks to local Libertarians in Massachusetts, some lost puppies will get a better home — safe from the ravages of the taxman.

On July 8, the Dartmouth Libertarian Town Committee presented a check for \$1,250 to the Fairhaven Animal Shelter. The money, raised from local Libertarians, replaced the big tax bite the state government had taken out of a successful raffle held by the shelter.

"The people giveth and the government taketh away. And sometimes, when even puppies in need are taxed, good people will make things right," said Mike Conway, Chair of the Dartmouth LP. "That is just what Dartmouth Libertarians are doing in response to this tax."

The contribution from Libertarians came after the Fairhaven Animal Shelter held a raffle and sold tickets to raise

MIKE CONWAY:

"The people giveth and the government taketh away."

sorely needed funds, said Conway. After paying off the cost of the prize, the Fairhaven Animal Shelter had \$6,000 remaining to expand and improve the conditions for stray animals and lost pets held at the shelter while waiting for good homes.

Unfortunately, the shelter was immediately hit by a tax bill for \$1,250 from the state Lottery Commission, since the raffle was considered "revenue."

See PUPPIES Page 11

NEWSBRIEFS

Presidential debates bill gets hearing

In a surprise development, a presidential debates reform bill filed by Congressman Ron Paul (R-TX) received a hearing before the House Administration Committee, winning some words of support — but no promises of votes — from committee members.

On July 13, Paul testified in favor of HR 2027, a bill that would require all presidential candidates who receive government campaign funding to debate any presidential candidate who is on the ballot in at least 40 states, or lose that funding.

The bill replaces HR 2478, which Paul had filed last year.

"It is a good sign that a hearing was held only a month after the bill was introduced," said Richard Winger, publisher of *Ballot Access News*. "In the past, it was impossible to get any hearing on any Congressional bill which had been introduced to help minor party and independent candidates."

Although the committee did not take any action to advance the bill, Winger said the response was generally positive, with Congressmen John A. Boehner (R-OH) and Steny Hoyer (D-MD) agreeing that there was "public dissatisfaction" with the current election system.

"Both tended to agree with Paul's general observation about public dissatisfaction with the current election system, although neither of them expressed support for the debates bill," he said.

In other election law news, a similar bill has been filed by U.S. Rep. James Traficant (D-OH). Filed on July 1, HR 2461 would require all presidential candidates who receive government campaign funding to debate any presidential candidate who is on enough state ballots to win a majority of electoral college votes.

New Christian-libertarian group started

A new "cyber-organization" has been launched to bring together "theologically conservative Protestants who support minimal civil government interference in the economic and social realms."

The Machen-Butler Society will attempt to "re-establish a long-overlooked Christian political perspective," said Florida LP member Daniel Walker, who started the group.

"There needs to be an outlet for Christians who reject the government-oriented social agenda of certain sectors of the Christian Right as well as the economic-intervention of the Christian Left," he said.

The organization is named after J. Gresham Machen, founder of the Westminster Theological Seminary, and Josephine Butler, a Victorian-era British feminist and Christian.

For more information, visit: <http://members.aol.com/MachenSoc/index.html>.

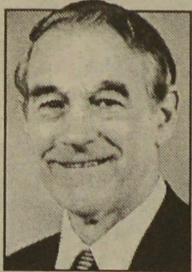
Steve Kubby trial begins in California

The medical marijuana trial of 1998 LP gubernatorial candidate Steve Kubby and his wife Michele got underway in Auburn, California during the first week of August, with pre-trial motions and jury selection taking place.

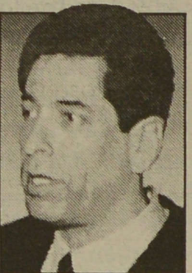
The trial is attracting considerable media attention as the latest test case of the impact of California's Proposition 215, which legalized marijuana for patients in medical need.

Kubby and his wife were arrested in January on charges of growing marijuana in a home garden. Both pleaded innocent to the charges, arguing they were using marijuana for medical reasons: Kubby to treat adrenal cancer and Michele to treat irritable bowel disorder.

"Every aspect of our garden was documented and in compliance with the Compassionate Use Act of 1996 that the voters in this state approved overwhelmingly," said Kubby. "Michele and I broke no laws and should have been protected."



Rep. Ron Paul:
HR 2027 hearing



Steve Kubby:
Trial in August

California Libertarians hold off "third party killer" legislation

SB 365 would have required 'more paperwork, more signatures'

A ballot access bill described as a "third party killer" was defeated after months of lobbying by the Libertarian Party of California.

"We are elated that our hard work has paid off," said state Executive Director Juan Ros. "Libertarians have spoken loud and clear, and the winners are the voters of California who will continue to have the freedom to choose from as many different candidates as possible in the ballot booth."

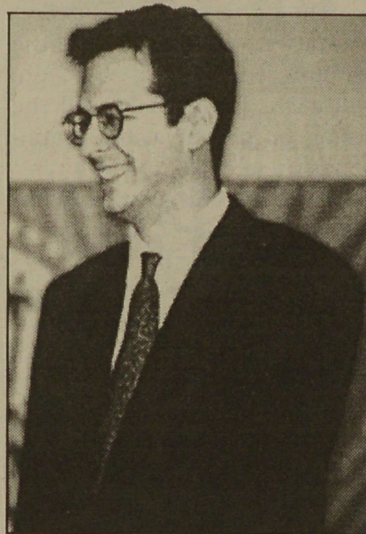
On July 12, the bill — SB 365 — failed to receive the four votes required for passage in the Assembly Elections Committee and is now "considered dead for this legislative session," said Ros.

The bill, had it passed, would have complicated the signature-gathering process for candidates, "creating the strong probability that fewer third party candidates would qualify for the California ballot," said Ros.

Collect signatures

Under current law in California, candidates may collect signatures in lieu of paying a fee when filing a declaration of candidacy. In addition, all candidates are required to collect a certain number of nominating signatures. Signatures collected in lieu of the filing fee also count towards the nominating signature requirement.

Under SB 365, that "dual-



■ Juan Ros: "Libertarians have spoken loud and clear, and the winners are the voters of California."

use" of signatures would have been eliminated. Candidates would be forced to collect signatures twice, during two separate time periods, and the signatures would be counted independently of each other for purposes of meeting the required amounts.

The bill was "intended to reduce confusion for candidates and facilitate the filing process, [but would] actually accomplish the exact opposite," said Ros. "By requiring more paperwork, more signatures, and more filing, SB 365 [would] increase the workload for County Clerks and create more confusion for candidates."

Libertarians sprang into action to fight SB 365 after the State

Senate passed the bill on May 25 without a single dissenting vote.

"Libertarians bombarded members of the Assembly Elections Committee with phone calls, faxes, and e-mails," said Ros. "In addition, members of the Green and Reform Parties also joined the fight." Ros also testified in person against the bill before the legislature.

Victory party

Now that the bill has died in the Assembly Elections Committee, California Libertarians will "throw a victory party" said Ros — and celebrate, among other things, considerable financial savings.

"If SB 365 had passed, third parties would have had to expend scarce resources on signature gathering and filing fees," he said. "This is a tremendous victory for all third parties in California [and] represents long-term financial savings."

And, according to one of the country's leading ballot access experts, the defeat of SB 365 also demonstrates the growing clout of third parties.

"This shows that third parties do have a lot more legitimacy than they did 20 years ago," said Richard Winger, editor of *Ballot Access News*. "The entire electoral process benefits from the presence of third parties, and it is wrong to weigh them down with additional burdens."

Libertarians speak at DC hemp rally

JANICE PRESSER:

"Vote for principles, not for prohibition."

told the crowd, "If you vote for Republicans or Democrats, you are voting for people who want to put you in jail."

And Presser encouraged attendees to "support the only political party that supports your right to be free. Don't believe that the other parties — the parties of prohibition — will protect your rights. Vote for principles, not prohibition. Call 1-800

The Libertarian Party made a strong showing at a hemp rally in Washington, DC on July 4th, with several LP speakers urging attendees to help the party end the "outrageous war on people" — Drug Prohibition.

LP Political Director Ron Crickenberger, Virginia LP State Chair Gary Reams, and former New Jersey LP State Chair Janice Presser all spoke at the rally in Lafayette Park, near the White House.

2,000 people

The event — which was designed to raise public support for abolition of marijuana laws — was organized by the 4th of July Hemp Coalition and attracted upwards of 2,000 people.

In his speech, Crickenberger

ELECT US and join us in raising our collective voices against this outrageous war on people."

Presser said the Libertarian Party wanted to end Drug Prohibition because it violated "Libertarian Family Values: Don't hurt other people, don't take their possessions, don't be a bully."

The Libertarian Party also sponsored a booth at the rally, said Reams, where party members handed out information, bumperstickers, and membership forms.

"Much interest was shown at the booth," he said. "[In an] interesting twist, staffers put chairs on the outside of the booth so visitors could sit and talk. The booth seemed to have a half dozen people there all the time."

Why attend Success '99? Because... Winning Beats Losing

"Everyone is raving."
— CAROL MILLER
Executive Director, LP of Washington

**Boston
Massachusetts**
Sept. 11-12

★★FEATURING★★



Bill Winter Libertarian Party Director of Communications
Michael Cloud 1998 Candidate for U.S. Senate
Jim Lark Advisor, Liberty Coalition

**Minneapolis
St. Paul
Minnesota**
Sept. 18-19

★★FEATURING★★



Sharon Harris Advocates for Self-Government
Aaron Starr Libertarian Campaign Manager
Steve Dasbach Libertarian Party National Director

**Kansas
City
Kansas**
October 9-10

★★FEATURING★★



Ken Bisson Founding Member, Advocates for Self-Gov.
Steve Dasbach Libertarian Party National Director
Ron Crick-enberger Libertarian Party Political Director

"Go to Success '99."
— BARBARA CUNNINGHAM
Editor, *Lone Star Liberty* (Texas)

**Biloxi
Mississippi**
Oct. 16-17

★★FEATURING★★



Jim Lark Advisor, Liberty Coalition
Sharon Harris Advocates for Self-Government
Ron Crick-enberger Libertarian Party Political Director

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— **Sean Haugh**
(Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina Success '99)

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— **Nancy Millionie**
(Baltimore, Maryland Success '99)

"The knowledge we gained at Success '99 has made our odds of winning better than ever."

— **Mary Maas**
(Seattle, Washington Success '99)

Success '99 was "better than Christmas morning with a pile of new toys under the tree. It was more refreshing than an ocean cruise. I had a wonderful time."

— **Barbara Lockwood**
(Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania Success '99)

"Success '99 [is] a major success [with] a tremendous amount of helpful material."

— **J.R. Prohaska**
(San Jose, California Success '99)

"Best event in years! Exciting, informative, helpful."

— **Bruce A. Smith**
(Southfield, Michigan Success '99)

"A terrific seminar."
— STACY VAN OAST
State Chair, LP of Michigan

**Nashville
Tennessee**
October 23-24

★★FEATURING★★



Dr. Mary Ruwart Author, *Healing Our World*
Barbara Goushaw 3-time LP campaign manager
Jim Lark Advisor, Liberty Coalition

"Excellent program."
— CHUCK WILLIAMS
State Chair, LP of South Carolina

**Augusta
Maine**
November 6-7

★★FEATURING★★



Bill Winter Libertarian Party Director of Communications
Sharon Harris Advocates for Self-Government
Michael Cloud 1998 Candidate for U.S. Senate

"Speakers are excellent!"
— AUTUMN BROWNE
LP Member, Huntington Beach, California

**Denver
Colorado**
Nov. 13-14

★★FEATURING★★



David Bergland Libertarian Party National Chair
Ron Crick-enberger Libertarian Party Political Director
Jim Lark Advisor, Liberty Coalition

"First-class presentation."
— RODGER ROSIE
LP Member, Los Angeles, California

**St. Louis
Missouri**
Nov. 20-21

★★FEATURING★★



Barbara Goushaw 3-time LP campaign manager
Dr. Mary Ruwart Author, *Healing Our World*
Steve Dasbach Libertarian Party National Director

INTERESTED?

☐ **YES!** I plan to attend the following **SUCCESS '99** conference (below). **Sign me up.** Check the one(s) you'll attend.

- ☐ **BOSTON, MA** / September 11-12
- ☐ **MINN.-ST. PAUL, MN** / Sept. 18-19
- ☐ **KANSAS CITY, KS** / October 9-10
- ☐ **BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI** / Oct. 16-17
- ☐ **NASHVILLE, TN** / October 23-24
- ☐ **AUGUSTA, ME** / November 6-7
- ☐ **DENVER, CO** / November 13-14
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AFFILIATE NEWS

LP activists tackle smart guns, big boxes, & pro-tax lawmakers

■ CALIFORNIA

State LP vows to repeal "assault weapons" ban

The state LP has voted to endorse a referendum campaign to repeal the "assault weapons" legislation recently signed into law by Governor Gray Davis, the party announced on August 2.

The campaign, dubbed "Veto the Governor," is being spearheaded by San Francisco radio talk show host Geoff Metcalf of KSFO. The referendum would repeal a bill that outlawed certain types of firearms based on physical characteristics.

"The LP of California is proud to support Geoff Metcalf's effort," said State Chair **Mark Hinkle**. "This campaign may be unpopular with some, but it is the right thing to do, and Libertarians will work hard to make sure this question gets on the ballot."

"Our goal is to send a message: Stop telling us how to live our lives and start letting us make decisions for ourselves."

To qualify for the March 7, 2000 primary ballot, the campaign must submit 419,260 signatures from registered voters by October 19.

■ CALIFORNIA

Party blasts "asleep at the switch" lawmakers

Are state lawmakers asleep on the job? That's the question the California LP is asking after the *Los Angeles Times* publicized a new law that allows the state to sell personal income information to private companies — a law opposed by only three members of the legislature.

"Our representatives are asleep at the switch and should never have voted to violate the privacy of Californians," charged State Chair **Mark Hinkle** on June 4. "If they let this bad law slip through, how many others must there be?"

The new law, AB 604, authorized the state's Employment Development Department to sell confidential salary data to private companies.

"There is no excuse for the Legislature's ignorance of this measure," Hinkle charged. "Our

government should not be in the information-selling business — but rather in the privacy-protecting business."

■ CONNECTICUT

Governor gets a "D" for ballooning state budget

That "D" beside the name of Governor John G. Rowland doesn't stand for Democrat — it's the grade Libertarians gave his budget.

"Republican governors who act like Democrats by supporting spending increases get low marks," explained **Courtenay Hough**, Chair of the Stamford Libertarian Town Committee.

And "acting like a Democrat" is what Rowland has done by demanding a 4% increase in the 1999-2000 budget — to \$11.6 billion, according to an in-depth analysis done by Hough in June.

The governor reneged on his 1992 campaign pledge to abolish the state income tax, and is demanding more money for state-run schools, job training, and "work force" development programs, noted Hough.

The governor narrowly escaped an "F" by advocating a few minor tax credits and a tuition freeze at state universities.

"Rowland is taking some steps in the right direction, but overall his budget reflects the status quo," Hough said.

■ FLORIDA

Fingerprint legislators not doctors, urges LP

Fingerprint legislators, not doctors, say Florida Libertarians in response to a new state mandate requiring FBI background checks for doctors.

The Florida Department of Health announced on July 21 that it will require all of the state's 60,000 physicians, chiropractors, osteopaths, and podiatrists to submit their fingerprints for a background check — or lose their licenses.

"The state cites one bad doctor out of 60,000 [found to have a criminal record] and uses this as an excuse to regulate a whole profession," responded **Brian Collar**, Chairman of the Florida LP. "Who's next? Is every person

who works for a living to be treated as a potential criminal needing supervision by Big Brother?"

"Maybe legislators should get background checks to see if they've read the Bill of Rights."

■ MAINE

State LP to oppose new \$50 million bond issue

Libertarians are leading a battle against the state government's plan to issue \$50 million in bonds to finance a massive takeover of private property.

Although polls show an 8-to-1 majority supporting the bonds, State Chair **Mark Cenci** said, "Sportsmen have been bought off with promises of future access for hunting and fishing. But they have access now, so what are they gaining? We believe a strong opposition campaign could sway them to vote no."

LP members **Mary Adams** and **John Reisman** are actively researching the bond issue, which must win voter approval, and Cenci issued a call to arms in the party's July newsletter.

"Don't agonize; organize!" he said. "Northern Maine people are upset at the prospect of political hacks with fistfuls of cash buying up parcels of productive woodlands and pronouncing them wilderness."

■ MAINE

LP plans 11 months of newspaper advertising

Readers of *All Maine Matters* — a free weekly newspaper with a circulation of more than 10,000

— will get a dose of Libertarianism for 11 months, thanks to a new Maine LP advertising campaign.

The state party is running two advertisements a month for almost a year in an effort to explain "Libertarian positions on issues which concern many Maine voters," said **Mark Cenci**, the Maine LP State Chair.

Party members contributed money for the advertising campaign, which will cover issues like property rights, the Second Amendment, education policy, taxes, drug law reform, and regulations.

■ MICHIGAN

2,000 in 2000 is state LP's membership goal

State Libertarians are gearing up for the millennium by launching a "2,000 in 2000" membership drive.

"Since the sole purpose of any political party is to elect people to office, a large base of active party members is essential," said state executive director **Tim O'Brien**. "A party needs candidates, campaign managers, volunteers, and money to run a successful campaign — and more members will ensure that we get all of those."

At a meeting on June 13, Libertarians set the goal of boosting membership from the current 1,437 to 2,000 by next November 30, and decided on a strategy for achieving it. The efforts will include targeted direct mail; phone calls to prospects; door-to-door contacts; continued radio advertising; and more political campaigns.

"Our fight for personal liberty cannot be won with words alone," said State Chair **Stacy Van Oast**. "Let's recruit the numbers that we need for political victory."

■ NEVADA

Flamboyant new mayor vows to work with LP

Libertarians have found common ground with the flamboyant new mayor of Las Vegas, the featured guest speaker at the LP of Clark County meeting in June — and may even get the opportunity to advise the mayor on political issues.

Oscar Goodman — whose election made national headlines thanks to his colorful background as a defense attorney — told the Libertarian audience that "he would not allow the city government to trample on people's rights," reported **Tim Hagan**, editor of the *Free Nevada!* newsletter.

Goodman's vow to stamp out corruption at City Hall, end abuses of eminent domain law,



Photo by Jeff Chase

A new registered Libertarian voter in Cambridge, Massachusetts

■ Jason Solinsky, chairman of the Cambridge Libertarian City Committee, talks to Sharon Ghantas at the party's outreach booth at the World's Fair in Cambridge on June 6. His explanation was apparently persuasive: Ghantas eventually signed the voter registration form she is holding, and became a new registered Libertarian voter.

and consider legalizing drugs and prostitution also won the approval of Libertarians, said **Ed Uehling**, who helped organize the event.

In fact, Goodman promised that he would have an "open door" for Libertarians, and said, "I would like to have a Libertarian as one of my advisors."

"This could be the beginning of a much more productive relationship between the LP and the City of Las Vegas," said Uehling.

■ NEW JERSEY

Libertarian tells ELEC: End unfair election laws

The New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC) should eliminate burdensome state campaign laws — not tinker with them.

That was the message delivered by **Len Flynn**, Vice Chair of the New Jersey LP, at a public hearing in Trenton on June 24 to consider regulatory changes in the state's campaign finance laws.

"You cannot cure a stifling, burdensome, and oppressive political regulatory system by tinkering with ELEC's rules," he said. "These regulatory barriers favor the status quo and the existing political establishment."

However, since abolishing such laws isn't going to happen immediately, the state should adopt a proposal to "delete much of the stringent expenditure threshold requirements" for gubernatorial campaigns, said Flynn, but reject a plan to expand ELEC's regulation of Internet-based campaigning, since it would "serve to dampen the new and exciting interchange of political ideas and issues in the electronic media."

■ OREGON

LP to legislature: Don't reduce initiative rights

Libertarians accused the state legislature of attempting to "take rights away from the voter" after the Oregon House passed a resolution making it harder for citizens to place constitutional amendments on the ballot.

"[We] oppose legislative action which limits or further restricts the power of the electorate, particularly with regard to the initiative petition process," said **Richard Burke**, Lobbying Director of the Oregon LP and spokesman for the Mainstream Liberty Caucus, in reaction to the July 1 vote.

"By tampering with this right of the people, it will make it more difficult for grassroots organizations to bring about changes to the Constitution," he said.

House Joint Resolution 21, if



Photo by Hardy Macia

Lights, camera, action: Public access television outreach in Vermont

Libertarians have taken to the airwaves in Vermont, and are using a new public access television show — *Liberty in Vermont* — to spread the word about the party. Shown here: Host Soren Smith (left) interviews Libertarian State Representative Neil Randall, State Chair Scott Berkey, and Outreach Coordinator Kristine Chapman. "Our goal with *Liberty in Vermont* is to spread the word about the great comeback the Vermont LP has achieved over the last three years," said Brendan Kinney, editor of the *Vermont Libertarian*. "Our membership has doubled, our outreach efforts are better than ever, and the show allows us to show Vermonters where the party stands on the issues they care about."

signed into law, would boost the requirements for citizens — but not legislators — to place amendments on the ballot.

"They are now raising the requirements for citizens, yet they made no changes to the way they present amendments to the voters," noted Burke. "If this is passed, only those with the most money will be able to change the Constitution. Should we be at the mercy of wealthy special interest groups?"

■ PENNSYLVANIA

Smart guns are dumb, LP candidate argues

Mandating "smart" guns is dumb — that's the point that potential Libertarian candidate **John Featherman** made in an op-ed piece in the *Philadelphia Daily News*.

"If it's 3 a.m. and someone breaks into your home, should you take a chance on a chip in your smart gun malfunctioning?" asked Featherman in the August 3 issue of the newspaper.

Featherman, who is weighing a campaign for U.S. Senate in 2000, wrote the essay in response to growing threats from politicians to mandate so-called smart guns, which only function for their registered owners.

"Smart guns have no track record, and there is legitimate concern about failure rates," he said. "I'm not opposed to smart gun technology; I'm simply opposed to a government mandate of smart guns."

Featherman is president of Privacy Protectors and an internationally recognized authority on privacy issues.

■ TENNESSEE

Punishment for tax hike: An LP candidate in race

Libertarians in Knox County have vowed to punish legislators who voted for higher taxes by running LP candidates against them.

"The Libertarian Party has a simple rule: Any elected official who supports a tax increase will be expelled. Kicked out. Given the boot. It's a simple rule, and one that voters can count on," said **John Sebastian** of the Knox County LP.

The June 2 warning came after state politicians voted to impose an income tax, and county politicians demanded a "record" property tax increase.

"While Democrats and Republicans are bemoaning tax increases, Libertarians are looking at it as a golden opportunity — and plan to run candidates locally and across the state," said Sebastian. "People used to worry that voting for a Libertarian candidate was a wasted vote. But

what's more wasted than a vote for a politician who promises not to raise taxes and then immediately does the reverse?"

■ WEST VIRGINIA

LP spreads the word the "old-fashioned" way

State Libertarians are spreading the word about the party the old-fashioned way: They are distributing literature door to door.

"It's slow, and it's untargeted, but it's also cheap," said State Chair **Richard Kerr** about the campaign, which is visiting 20,000 households around the state for literature drops.

Party activists are leaving a copy of the LP's "Is This The New Political Party You've Been Looking For?" brochure and a cover letter, and are tracking the results to see if it is cost-effective.

"As we get more activists, I hope to expand," said Kerr. "If nothing else, 20,000 or more folks will have gotten exposed to some Libertarian ideas, and that can't hurt in the long run."

■ VERMONT

Libertarians join lawsuit against campaign laws

The Vermont Libertarian Party has joined a lawsuit to try to overturn the state's campaign finance laws, calling them "blatantly unconstitutional."

"The party has stated its belief that Vermonters have the right to support the candidates of their choice to whatever extent that they wish as befits a free people," said **Chris Costanzo**, head of the state party's Legislative Watch.

The Vermont LP joined several of the state's other smaller parties as a plaintiff in the suit in early July. State Representative **Neil Randall** (L) has also joined as an individual plaintiff.

"[We] worked hard against Vermont's campaign finance legislation, announcing in 1997 that in view of the law's unconstitutionality, the party would not consider its candidates bound by it," said Costanzo.

■ VIRGINIA

LP lobbies for rights of "big box" developers

Jefferson Area Libertarians (J.A.L.) have launched an effort to protect the rights of companies to build "big-box" stores.

"We believe in the right of property owners to develop their property as they please, provided they don't violate the rights of others," J.A.L. Secretary **Jim Lark** told the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors.

The Board, which met on July 14, was considering a zoning change to allow a developer to build a "big box" store (like Wal-Mart or Target).

"Many people were in favor of abridging the property owner's rights to fight sprawl," Lark said. "Those citizens should use means that respect the rights of property owners, rather than using government."

The Board of Supervisors won't vote on the issue until August, and Libertarians "will continue to work on this issue for as long as it takes," said Lark.

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TALKINGPOINTS

Hillary Clinton's patronizing pap and Al Gore's historic ignorance

■ Patronizing pap

And so now we have this leftist First Lady [Hillary Clinton] complaining to her adoring audience of collectivists in Paris about the limited government movement back home in "my country."

According to the *Washington Times*, Mrs. Clinton said: "There are those, particularly in my country, who insist on assaulting government, who claim that if we would only abolish or severely weaken it, then everyone's freedom and prosperity would blossom." She informed her audience that such a perspective is "a very mistaken notion. We need strong and efficient governments . . . that are able to empower citizens, to help them take responsibilities for their families and their communities."

What patronizing pap. What in the world would American families do without help from the federal government? But of course this is consistent with the Clinton administration's paternalism toward the American public.

— ED CRANE

CATO Memorandum
July 6, 1999

■ Auto-spin

President Clinton goes on *Good Morning America* to advance what he calls the "common sense" idea that guns should be registered just like cars. At last check there was no federal DMV, no waiting period to buy cars, and no limit on the number of cars you can buy. Nor do the feds monitor car sales between individuals. Yet Clinton, Sarah Brady, and other gun-grabbers continue to make the analogy.

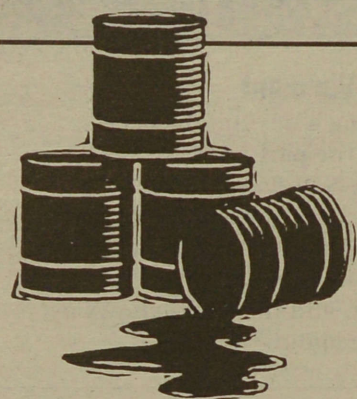
— REASON MAGAZINE

August/September 1999

■ 'Public service' myth

The accident involving John F. Kennedy Jr. has filled the airwaves with much rhapsodizing about "public service." Never mind that Kennedy did not go into public service, but rather launched a for-profit enterprise, *George* magazine (although it glamorizes public service). That didn't stop commentators and politicians from lavishing praise on the Kennedys for, as Vice

EDITED BY
Marc Beauchamp



SUPERFUND FACT:
Nearly \$6 of every \$10 of Superfund money is used for purposes other than clean-up.

President Al Gore put it, giving so much to the country.

It is odd that devoting one's life to acquiring power is seen as more noble than devoting one's life to acquiring money. One makes money by offering value to consenting customers. The business people we regard as powerful are actually quite lacking in power. The power is yours. You have to decide whether you'll ultimately buy.

Contrast the money maker with the public servant. They certainly dish out a lot of money. But they don't create it. They take it from the creators. If you and I try that, it's called theft. "Public service," then, consists of taking from producers in order to give it to non-producers. So enough of the adulation of public servants. They aren't servants; they're masters. We're the servants.

— SHELDON RICHMAN

Future of Freedom Foundation
July 27, 1999

■ A rare crime

Add the medium-rare burger to the endangered list of American vices. States including California, Illinois, and North Caro-

lina have enacted laws requiring that burgers be cooked medium to medium well.

— THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
July 15, 1999

■ Superfraud

Nearly \$6 of every \$10 of Superfund money is used for purposes other than toxic materials clean-up, according to a report issued by the non-partisan General Accounting Office. The majority of all Superfund money, the GAO found, goes to overhead expenses, including salaries for managers and secretaries, rent, and laboratory work. The GAO also found that the percentage of money spent on clean-up has been steadily declining for several years.

— ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS
August 1999

■ George who?

January 17, 1993: During a tour of Monticello, [Vice President Al] Gore inquired about a row of marble busts: "Who are these people?" One was George Washington; another, Ben Franklin.

— INTELLECTUAL AMMUNITION
July/August 1999

■ Embarrassing Results

The nation's largest, federally funded teen anti-drug program, D.A.R.E., has no long-term effect on adolescent drug use, a new study to be published in the August issue of the American Psychological Association's (APA) *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology* found.

"This study joins a growing body of academic research demonstrating D.A.R.E.'s ineffectiveness as a deterrent to youthful drug use," NORML Foundation Executive Director Allen St. Pierre said. "For this reason, numerous localities, including Houston, Oakland, and Seattle are scrapping the program."

Researchers tracked over 1,000 students who participated in the D.A.R.E. program in sixth

grade. They re-evaluated the student at age 20, ten years after receiving the drug prevention education. The study found that the program initially influenced the students' perceptions towards drug use, but concluded that these changes did not persist over time.

— NORML FOUNDATION NEWS
RELEASE, July 29, 1999

■ This law stinks

Halifax [Canada] has become fixated on smells. Most of Halifax's public institutions, and a growing number of its private businesses, come right out and ask people to abstain from using perfume. Some even require that they be "scent free."

Maxwell Moulton, principal of Halifax's Clayton Park Jr. High School, says students willingly comply with a strict fragrance ban. "If I have one or two kids a week that come in with smells on, that's a busy week," he says. Offenders are sent home to shower. About 80% of Halifax schools now have some form of scent free policy, according to the Halifax school board.

[In other locations, people are prohibited from] using perfume, after-shave, scented deodorant or shampoo — even strong-smelling mouthwash — on the job.

— THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
July 28, 1999

■ How to spend a surplus

So what happens when a surplus appears? Politicians devour it. [Economist Richard] Vedder and his Ohio University colleague Lowell Galloway have studied government budgets since 1789 and discovered the following: In the last 50 years, 74 cents of every surplus dollar has gone for new spending, 21 cents for debt reduction, and five cents for tax reduction.

— TONY SNOW
The Washington Times
July 30, 1999

■ Free PBS!

Thirty of the nation's 75 largest public television stations swapped lists with political parties and advocacy groups (most of which were Democrat or liberal). It would not be an issue if public television weren't receiving more than a quarter-billion dollars a year from the federal treasury. If the Corporation for Public Broadcasting were weaned from its taxpayer subsidies, it hardly would mean the death of public television. Federal money accounts for only 10% or so of the yearly budgets of most of the major PBS stations.

Yes, it is noncommercial. But the same can be said of C-SPAN. If C-SPAN can not only survive, but thrive without tax subsidies,

surely PBS can do likewise.

How? One obvious way is through increased merchandising of PBS-related products. Like Ken Burns' *Civil War* series and the Three Tenors and profits from Tickle Me Elmo and Barney dolls. And there are folks who would be only too happy to pay as much each month for PBS as we pay for, say, HBO or Showtime.

— JOSEPH PERKINS
The Washington Times
July 27, 1999

■ 50% ignorant?

Fox News Opinion Dynamics conducted a survey. On July 16, the results were reported on its website by Fox News reporter Dana Blanton. One question asked: "Some people say the government has plenty of money of its own and it should be spent on programs. Other people say that the government has no money except that which it takes from citizens in taxes. Which do you believe?"

Thirty-nine percent of the respondents said the government has no money except what it takes from citizens in taxes. Eleven percent said neither or they were not sure. But get this: 50% said the government has plenty of money of its own.

Since government can't spend what it doesn't first take, the correct answer is government has no money except what it takes from its citizens in taxes. But what about that 50% of the American people who believe government has plenty of money of its own? These are the people big-spending politicians love.

Politicians can convince these people that any elected official wanting to hold down spending for Medicare, food stamps, welfare, you name it is mean-spirited, uncaring, stingy and possibly a racist. After all, if government has plenty of money of its own, what else could explain why a politician would want to limit or cut government spending?

— WALTER WILLIAMS
The Washington Times
July 31, 1999

■ Snuffing out business

The architects of California's smoking ban routinely claim they passed the law for the benefit of employees. According to a recent survey of 300 California bars and taverns, the employees could do with a little less help:

■ Since January 1, 1998, 60% of California's bars have lost business.

■ Almost 30% have had to lay off employees or cut working hours of shifts.

— THE GUEST CHOICE NETWORK
July 1999

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States work to reach goal of 2,000 in 2000

Continued from Page 3

March, so the party had to begin recruitment efforts especially early, said Ted Brown, who is coordinating the effort.

"We're lining up candidates early, and a record number have stepped forward," he said.

"We look forward to 200 Libertarian candidates challenging the status quo candidates from the Democratic and Republican parties," said Hinkle.

■ **Texas:** Libertarians want to do more than run candidates in 2000 — they want to win.

The Texas LP is working with its county affiliates to recruit "activists, members, and voters" over the next 14 months — with the goal of getting Libertarian candidates in the "W" column via Project Win2K.

"The State Executive Committee has plans to recruit and assist candidates at all levels, beginning with Project Win2K," said Barbara Cunningham, editor of *Texas Liberty*.

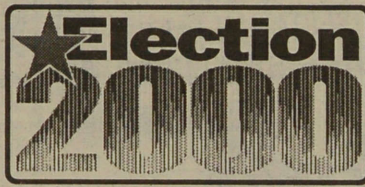
■ **New Hampshire:** While party activists are circulating petitions to get on the 2000 ballot, the State Chair of the "Live Free Or Die" LP has made a personal commitment to run at least 100 candidates for office.

"Not only will the LPNH have access to the 2000 ballot, but I've taken on the task of recruiting 100 Libertarian candidates to run," said State Chair Danielle Donovan. "Our best hope to regain [major party] status will be to have as many Libertarians campaigning as possible. Each candidate bolsters the chances of the other candidates."

The previous high-water mark for LP candidates in New Hampshire was 96 in 1992, but Donovan hopes to break that record with a combination of winnable candidates, outreach candidates, and "paper" candidates — plus greater support from the state party.

"The LPNH will do all it can to help candidates run successful campaigns," she said. "We will be organizing campaign seminars and helping with campaign materials and strategies."

■ **Washington state:** After running just a handful of candidates in past elections, the state party has raised their sights for 2000, and hopes to run upwards of 50 candidates.



The state's candidate recruitment committee is "attempting to recruit a full slate of statewide candidates and at least one state legislative candidate for each of the 49 districts," said state party

member Kelly Haughton.

"I am confident that Washington state will do its share to get 2,000 Libertarians running in the year 2000," said state Executive Director Carol Miller.

■ **Indiana:** State Libertarians have taken an innovative approach to candidate recruitment: They sent out a press release inviting Indiana citizens to run as Libertarians. The score: One candidate and a lot of publicity.

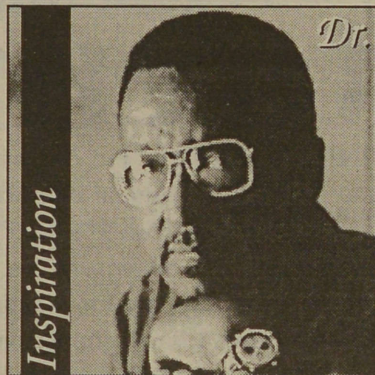
"While I have had only one confirmed report of an individual responding directly because of the [press release] — and who is now running for mayor of Hobart! — the media attention it generated was well worth the effort," said state Executive Director Sara Cotham.

In all, the Libertarian Party plans to run 2,000 LP candidates at the federal, state, and local levels in the 2000 election.

"This would not only be the largest slate of LP candidates in our history, but the largest slate of third-party candidates in the USA in almost eight decades," said Crickenberger.

Correction

■ In the article, "David Nolan: A leading 20th Century thinker?" in the August *LP News*, Friedrich Hayek's name was incorrectly printed, due to an editing error.



Dr. Walter E. Williams

is a syndicated columnist and frequent guest host of The Rush Limbaugh Show. His 1982 book, *The State Against Blacks*, was made into a television documentary entitled "Good Intentions." His most recent book is *Do the Right Thing: The People's Economist Speaks*.



Tim Slagle

Slagle fights a never-ending battle for truth, liberty, and the American way," finding himself compared to Lenny Bruce and George Carlin along the way. According to the *Twin City Reader*, Slagle is a "droll, flag-burnin', politically incorrect satirist. Slagle's delivery is plenty polished; his arguments are more rational than most you'll hear on C-SPAN; and the punch lines are potent and abundant."

For Out-of-Town Guests

For the convenience of its out-of-town guests, Heartland has reserved a block of sleeping rooms at the Palmer House Hilton Hotel for the evening of Wednesday, October 6. Room rates are \$165 single and double. To make hotel reservations, call the Palmer House Hilton Hotel directly at 312/726-7500, and indicate that you are with the Heartland Benefit.

Tables

Gold Tables, located closest to the speaker's platform, are available for \$5,000 each. Guests receive special nametags and the tables are specially decorated. Gold Table sponsors are thanked from the podium and identified in the evening's program.

Silver Tables, located close to the speaker's platform but behind the Gold Tables, are available for \$2,500. The tables have silver cloth highlights and special centerpieces, and guests receive nametags decorated with silver ribbons. Sponsors are thanked from the podium and identified in the evening's program.

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Libertarian Party Literature

■ **Libertarianism In One Lesson** by David Bergland. Expanded 7th edition. The classic introductory work. Outlines Libertarian positions on all major political issues and contrasts them to liberals and conservatives. A must-read. Softbound, 158 pages. **Cost:** \$10 each; or 5 for \$35.

■ **Ain't Nobody's Business If You Do** by Peter McWilliams. The definitive argument against "consensual crimes," packed with facts, quotes, and statistics. Paperback, 693 pages. **Cost:** \$9.95

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

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

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

■ **Million Dollar Bills:** Green Ink. A faux \$1,000,000 bill that highlights excessive federal spending. Perfect for Tax Day, taxpayer groups, and almost any other outreach project! **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ or \$5 for 100

■ **LP "Fact Sheets":** Updated for 1998: 2-page LP history (with political highlights, accomplishments, and victories from 1971-1997) and comprehensive two-page bibliography (more than 150 books about liberty!). Sold as a set. **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ or \$10 for 100

■ **LP Program.** 4 pages, blue ink. LP positions on education, jobs, political corruption, health care, and crime — plus solutions. **Cost:** Sample: \$1.00 or \$10 for 100

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

Bumperstickers

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

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

■ **Don't Blame Me... I Voted Libertarian** (Blue & white; LP address and phone # below.)

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

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

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

■ **Don't Blame Me, I Voted Libertarian** 1-800-682-1776

■ **Vote Libertarian** 1-800-682-1776

■ **Libertarian Party: Pro-Choice on Everything** 1-800-682-1776

Miscellaneous Items

■ **Libertarian Party stickers.** Size: 5/8" x 2-1/8". (Red and blue.) Text: "Tired of big government & high taxes? Call the Libertarian Party." Includes LP 800#. **Cost:** Four sheets (96 stickers) for \$1. Or 25 sheets (600): \$5

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

Tools for Campaigning

■ **Libertarian TV Ads:** A videotape of TV ads by LP candidates — from State Representative to president. (For informational use only; not broadcast quality.) **Cost:** \$20.00 each

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

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

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

Large & Small Banners

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

■ **Large Banner.** (18" x 5'). White on blue. First line "Libertarian Party." You choose second line: ★ "800-682-1776" ★ "Defenders of Liberty." **Cost:** \$40 each

I'm Pro-Choice on
EVERYTHING! LIBERTARIAN PARTY
800-682-1776

Vote Libertarian!
1-800-682-1776

Don't Blame Me...
I VOTED LIBERTARIAN
FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY, CALL TOLL-FREE: 800-682-1776

Stick it to 'em!

Become a "moving billboard" for the Libertarian Party: Put one of these attractive, eye-catching bumperstickers on your car or truck. These three popular bumperstickers range in size from 3" x 11.5" to 3" x 13.5" and are printed in bright, bold colors. And they all feature the party's toll-free phone number. Remember: Bumperstickers are long-lasting, hard-working low-cost mobile advertising for the Libertarian Party. So help us "stick it" to the Republicans and Democrats — and put an LP bumpersticker on your car or truck today! ■ **Cost:** \$1 each; \$7.50 for 10; \$50 for 100

LIBERTARIAN PARTY BROCHURES



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

★ **Cost:** Sample: 50¢
Or \$7 for 100

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

★ **Cost:** Sample: 50¢
Or \$7 for 100

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

★ **Cost:** Sample: 50¢
Or \$7 for 100

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

★ **Cost:** Sample: 50¢
Or \$7 for 100

Yard Sign

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

Cost: \$8.00 each.

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

★ **Cost:** Sample: 50¢
Or \$7 for 100

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

★ **Cost:** Sample: 50¢
Or \$7 for 100

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

★ **Cost:** Sample: 50¢
Or \$7 for 100

ORDER FORM

There is no charge for standard shipping. Allow up to 3-4 weeks for delivery. Or: Add \$5 for same-day shipping. Call (202) 333-0008 Ext. 221 for instructions on rush deliveries. Minimum order: \$5.00. Orders shipped via UPS; please add \$5 for Post Office box deliveries. Make checks payable to: Libertarian Party. **Federal law** requires political committees to report the name, mailing address, occupation, and name of employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year.

Ready-to-use Literature

_____ "Million Dollar Bill" Literature

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

_____ Brochure: "Towards More Sensible Drug Policy"

_____ Brochure: "What Happened/Your Family Budget?"

_____ Brochure: "Ending the Welfare State"

_____ Brochure: "Making Neighborhood Safe Again"

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

_____ Brochure: "Working to Cut Your Taxes!"

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

_____ *Why Government Doesn't Work* book

_____ *Libertarianism In One Lesson* book

_____ *Ain't Nobody's Business If You Do* book

_____ *America's Libertarian Heritage* booklet

_____ Fact Sheets: LP history/bibliography (package)

_____ 1995 LP Program

_____ World's Smallest Political Quiz

Yard Signs

_____ ENOUGH IS ENOUGH/Vote Libertarian

Bumper Stickers

_____ Don't Blame Me...I Voted Libertarian

_____ I'm Pro-Choice on Everything!

_____ ENOUGH IS ENOUGH/VOTE LIBERTARIAN

_____ Vote Libertarian/1-800-682-1776

Buttons

_____ Don't Blame Me, I Voted Libertarian

_____ VOTE LIBERTARIAN/800-682-1776

_____ Libertarian Party: Pro-Choice on Everything

Miscellaneous Items

_____ Sheets of LP stickers (24 per sheet)

_____ Lined windbreaker. Circle one: M L XL

Tools for Campaigning

_____ Libertarian TV Ads Video

_____ Statue of Liberty logo master

_____ LP Statue of Liberty logo on 3-1/2" PC disk

_____ Newsprint ads: "Libertarian Party — Defenders of Liberty" set of seven.

Large & Small Banners

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

_____ Please check preferred second line:

_____ ☐ Defenders of Liberty ☐ 1-800-682-1776

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

Total Due

_____ Merchandise Total

_____ RUSH handling: Add \$5 for same-day shipping

_____ RUSH shipping: Call office to arrange

_____ Send to a Post Office Box: \$5 extra

_____ TOTAL PAYMENT DUE

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

☐ Bill my Visa ☐ Bill my MasterCard

Acct. #

Expires

Signature

Name

Membership ID# (On label)

Street

City

State

Zip

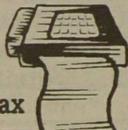
Occupation

Employer

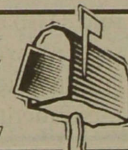
HOW TO
PLACE
YOUR
ORDER



By phone...
(202) 333-0008 Ext. 221
(202) 333-0072 by fax



By mail...
The Libertarian Party
2600 Virginia Avenue,
NW, Suite 100
Washington, DC 20037



THE ISSUES

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

NAACP gun lawsuit is a "racist mistake"

The NAACP made a "racist mistake" by filing a lawsuit against gun manufacturers — and is following in the shameful footsteps of the Ku Klux Klan, the Libertarian Party charged.

"With this lawsuit, the NAACP is not only attacking the civil rights of African-Americans, but is also continuing the legacy of the KKK and other racist organizations that have historically tried to keep guns out of the hands of blacks," said Steve Dasbach, the party's national director.

In mid-July, the NAACP announced that it will file a federal suit against 85 gun manufacturers for "dumping guns into black communities." The group wants to ban sales at gun shows and limit how many guns can be sold in one transaction.

But the reality is, such gun control measures would disproportionately affect minority communities, where people are exposed to higher crime rates, said Dasbach.

"The NAACP wants to limit the ability of its members to defend themselves and their families against violent crime," he said. "That's shameful enough, but what's even worse is that this lawsuit continues the disgraceful legacy of white racists who don't think blacks can be trusted with guns."

Something stinks: Federally funded manure

Politicians in Washington have budgeted more than \$1.7 million this year to study manure — yes, *manure* — and that stinks to high heaven, the Libertarian Party says.

"Talk about government waste," said Dasbach. "Apparently nothing is safe from politicians' urge to spend our money — even cow pies and chicken droppings."

According to a new study by Citizens Against Government Waste (CAGW), at least three government programs are devoted to dung: A Mississippi research project on "manure handling and disposal" (cost: \$500,000); a Maryland study on "using poultry litter to generate electric power" (\$225,000); and a Missouri "outreach project associated with animal waste" (\$1 million).

"The only thing not being subsidized is bull manure," noted Dasbach. "On the other hand, there's plenty of that to go around in Washington."

But manure research is just the tip of the "dung heap" when it comes to government waste: CAGW uncovered 2,838 pork-barrel projects costing \$12 billion in the 1999 fiscal budget.

"Everybody gets their share — except for the beleaguered American taxpayers who pay the bill," said Dasbach.

Will shooting restrict the First Amendment?

The tragic shooting at a Jewish community center in Los Angeles should not be used as an excuse to restrict the First Amendment, the Libertarian Party says.

Wait a second: The *First* Amendment? That's right, said Dasbach: After guns, freedom of speech could come under attack because of the latest, highly publicized shooting spree.

On August 10, a neo-Nazi walked into a Jewish community center and started shooting, wounding five people.

"Of course, anti-gun fanatics will use this senseless shooting as an excuse to try to further restrict the Second Amendment," said Dasbach. "But they won't stop there. The First Amendment could be next."

Why? Because there is solid evidence that the recent wave of shootings around the USA is being fueled by the sensationalist media coverage. As evidence, Leonard Berkowitz, a University of Wisconsin psychologist, said such public rampages seem to be prompted — in part — by excessive media coverage.

"In other words, a case can be made that 'irresponsible' use of the First Amendment is killing people," said Dasbach.

So would the LP censor the press? No, said Dasbach. "Our point is that trading liberty for supposed security won't stop with guns. And journalists who loudly demand restrictions on the Second Amendment may find the First Amendment is next."

Help offered for college groups

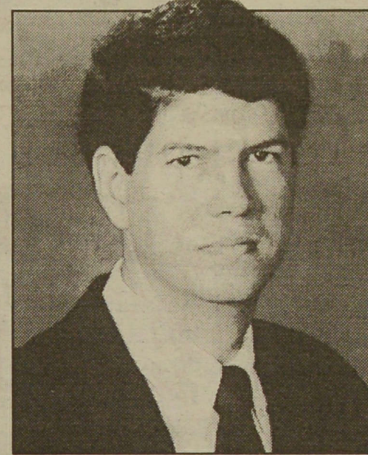
Interested in starting a new college Libertarian group for the 1999/2000 school year? Or want to make a currently existing college group more active?

Either way, Jim Lark — one of the country's leading experts on organizing college groups — wants to hear from you.

Lark, an adjunct professor at the University of Virginia, faculty advisor to The Liberty Coalition student group, and national LP campus outreach coordinator, said he is working to "establish a channel that provides campus Libertarians with useful information" about building the Libertarian movement.

"We are in the process of building what we intend to be a first-class outreach network, and people who seek advice on campus organizing are welcome to contact me," he said.

The college Libertarian network has already established a



■ Jim Lark: Will serve as a personal resource for students.

webpage — www.lp.org/lp-for-students.html — which includes information on how to organize a campus group, a directory of campus contacts, and links to helpful organizations.

In addition, Lark said he is willing to serve as a personal resource for students — answering

questions about "subjects ranging from how to obtain information from school administrators about campus group regulations to providing names of interesting Libertarian speakers."

Upswing

Interest in Libertarian college groups seems to be on the upswing, said Lark, with inquiries coming in recently from the University of New Mexico, Elon College (North Carolina), the University of Montana, the New College (Florida), and the University of Georgia.

"If I can be of any help to you in your campus work, please do not hesitate to contact me, too," he said.

Students can contact Lark by phone: (804) 982-5016. E-mail: liberty@virginia.edu. Mail: The Liberty Coalition, Box 514, Newcomb Hall Station, Charlottesville, VA 22904.

Libertarians save puppies from taxman

Continued from Page 1

Complained Jay F. Bissonnette, fundraiser for the Fairhaven Animal Shelter: "The greedy state government of Massachusetts is forcing us to surrender over 20% of the money we have available for this very worthy cause."

Upon learning of the shelter's plight, the Dartmouth Libertarian Town Committee — which wasn't even officially formed until June 30 — sprang into action, quickly raising the \$1,250 to reimburse the shelter.

"What you have here is government taxation out of control," said Conway. "This is a simple case of people trying to help their community while the government is just getting in the way. Our state's system of taxation is many things, but compassionate isn't one of them."

The incident with the shelter is another example, he noted, of why "the Libertarian Party calls for the cessation of all taxation on non-profit groups."

Abortion and Rights: Applying Libertarian Principles Correctly

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

From the author of *Healing Our World...*



Short Answers to the Tough Questions

Inspired by Dr. Ruwart's Internet column at the Advocates Web Site (www.self-gov.org)

Score a libertarian victory with the voters, press, friends, and family by explaining how liberty works — in 30 to 60 seconds!

Topics include: Roads, restitution, children's rights, environment, animal rights, national defense, drugs, gun control, assisted suicide, discrimination, abortion, poverty, education, and more!

Written by long-time libertarian activist, Dr. Mary J. Ruwart, veteran of two dozen campaigns! Dr. Ruwart has been a contender for the LP vice-presidential and presidential nomination, has served on the Platform Committee, and is a National Committee Member At Large.



Unconditionally guaranteed!

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Yes! Please rush me *Short Answers to the Tough Questions*. ☐ I enclose \$12 plus \$2 (S&H) (Total = \$14). Or: I'll pay by ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

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Telephone: 1-616-384-8751

The 20 best books about liberty

Continued from Page 1

modern libertarian movement. "Why did men die of hunger, for six thousand years?" she asked. "Why did they walk, and carry goods and other men on their backs, for six thousand years, and suddenly, in one century, only on a sixth of this earth's surface, they make steamships, railroads, motors, airplanes, and now are flying around the earth?"

Incidentally, Lane turned her mother Laura Ingalls Wilder's story outlines into the extraordinary *Little House* books about personal responsibility, self reliance, courage, and love.

BOOK NUMBER 2 Ayn Rand has brought more people into the libertarian movement than anybody else because she was a dramatic storyteller who made a moral case for natural rights. Many of Rand's admirers would include *The Fountainhead* (1943) on a top 20 list. That thrilling book helped inspire the libertarian movement, but if we're limited to a single title, I'd go with her more philosophical novel *Atlas Shrugged* (1957) which has sold almost 5 million copies. According to a survey by the Library of Congress and the Book-of-the-Month Club, *Atlas Shrugged* ranked second after the Bible as the book that most influenced people's lives.

BOOK NUMBER 3 The best introductory case for economic liberty is Henry Hazlitt's *Economics in One Lesson* (1946) which he wrote while working for the *New York Times*. He rebuts the most destructive economic fallacies persisting to this day. The art of economics, he explains, consists in looking not merely at the immediate but at the longer term effects of any act or policy; it consists in tracing

the consequences of that policy not merely for one group but for all groups. This unusually easy-to-read book, with the audacious title, has sold over a million copies.

BOOK NUMBER 4 For the past two decades, Thomas Sowell has maintained his position as the most prolific author on liberty, and I'm not talking about his Forbes articles or his newspaper columns which have filled several volumes. You'll find Sowell fans who would rate *Conflict of Visions* (1987) as his greatest book, while others would pick *Vision of the Anointed* (1995) or *Inside American Education* (1993) or *Ethnic America* (1981) or *Conquests & Cultures* (1995). Sowell himself has said he considers *Knowledge and Decisions* (1980) his most important work.

Building on insights from Hayek, he explains that a successful society requires all kinds of knowledge which, dispersed in the minds of millions, cannot be centralized. That's why governments tend to make bad decisions. A profound critique of government intervention.

BOOK NUMBER 5 Way back in 1920, long before mainstream intellectuals admitted the horrors of socialism, Ludwig von Mises identified the reasons why it would impoverish millions. Mises expanded on his discovery in the book *Socialism* (1922) which is about as thorough an intellectual demolition job as you're likely to see. Mises was vindicated by the collapse of the Soviet empire.

What about including *Human Action* (1949), Mises other major work, on a top 20 list? Certainly many people would favor this over *Socialism*. *Human Action* presents the most comprehensive case for economic liberty ever written, and it exposes the errors of every type of government intervention, so

this would be an excellent choice, too.

BOOK NUMBER 6 In *The Road to Serfdom* (1944), F.A. Hayek showed that political liberty, which mainstream intellectuals cherished, was impossible without economic liberty, which they disdained. Hayek explained that while most people might agree on a few basic functions of government, like national defense, there's increasing disagreement as government ventures into more

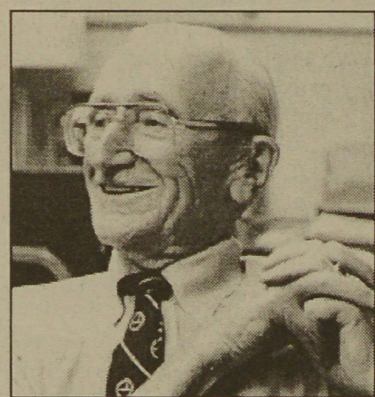
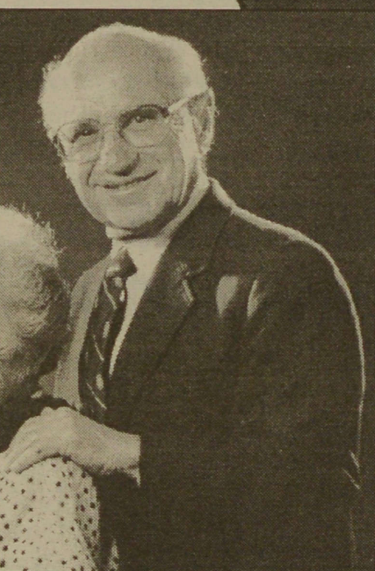
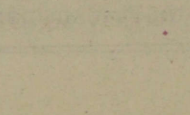
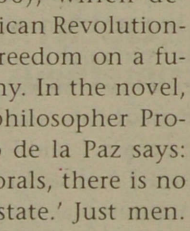
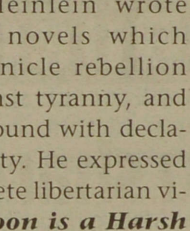
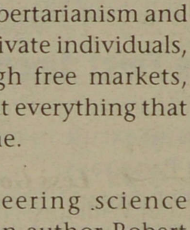
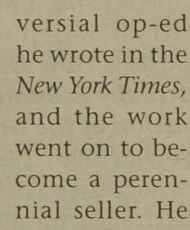
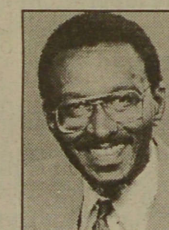
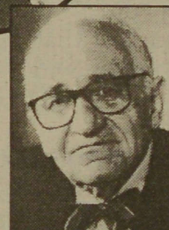
big audiences in the United States and was smuggled into China, the Soviet Union, and other totalitarian countries. The book is a compelling case for economic liberty.

The Friedmans make clear that those who give up liberty in the hopes of gaining security end up losing both. The book sold over a million copies. I might add that sensational *Free to Choose* videos are still available, too.



Nobody did more than Murray Rothbard

to promote the view that life would be better without government interference. His classic book *For a New Liberty, The Libertarian Manifesto* (1973), resulted from a contro-



■ Some of liberty's best authors (clockwise from top): Rose Wilder Lane, Murray Rothbard, Ayn Rand, Walter Williams, Robert Heinlein, Henry Hazlitt, Thomas Sowell, and Rose & Milton Friedman.

and more areas. This means government must use increasing amounts of coercion, and it tends to attract thugs. Hence his famous chapter about why the worst get on top.

BOOK NUMBER 7 Milton and Rose Friedman adapted *Free to Choose* (1980) from the acclaimed TV documentary which attracted

Heinlein has sold over 100 million books world-wide.

BOOK NUMBER 10 Charles Murray has the rare gift of plain talk, explaining complex things simply as if you're across a kitchen table. This is apparent in *What It Means to Be a Libertarian* (1997), a book from the heart. An adult making an honest living and minding his own business, Murray writes, deserves to be free.

BOOK NUMBER 11 Bestselling author Harry Browne's *How I Found Freedom in an Unfree World* (1973) offers much practical advice. He tells how to deal with government restrictions as well as restrictions that are self-imposed. You'll learn how to avoid social restrictions without becoming a hermit, how to avoid the common problems of marriage without giving up love, how to achieve big tax savings without going to jail, how to succeed in your career and still have a life.

BOOK NUMBER 12 I well remember how David Friedman used to run intellectual circles around me, when we shared an apartment at the University of Chicago. There, he wrote the essays which became *The Machinery of Freedom, A Guide to a Radical Capitalism* (1973). It abounds with keen insights and provocative lines. "Greedy capitalists get money by trade," he quips. "Good liberals steal it." This is one of the early books to make a case for free market medicine, free market environmentalism, and much more.

BOOK NUMBER 13 Richard Grant's *The Incredible Bread Machine* (1966) was a spirited underground classic which sold thousands of copies entirely by word-of-mouth, and a new edition is now available. "Can we assume that a thing is right if it is legal?" he asks. But slavery was once legal; Nazism was legal. Well, can we assume a thing is "right" if it is endorsed by majority rule? But a lynch mob is majority rule. Well, how about the Constitution? But again we run into difficulties, for

BOOK NUMBER 9 Pioneering science fiction author Robert A. Heinlein wrote five novels which chronicle rebellion against tyranny, and his writings abound with declarations on liberty. He expressed his most complete libertarian vision in *The Moon is a Harsh Mistress* (1966), which describes an American Revolution-style fight for freedom on a future lunar colony. In the novel, revolutionary philosopher Professor Bernardo de la Paz says: "In terms of morals, there is no such thing as 'state.' Just men. Individuals. Each responsible for his own acts."

New Book

From the author of *The Drug Controversy and the Rise of Antichrist*, comes *The Heresy of the Cup*. This time Fredric Madeleine attacks the complete absence of theological basis for prohibition, and gives direction to ministers trying to deal with the drug issue.

The Heresy of the Cup \$3.00
The Drug Controversy and the Rise of Antichrist \$3.00
Forsaken Fountain Henry Boston \$7.00
Gun Control: A Historical Perspective Benedict D. LaRosa \$3.00
Shipping & Handling \$3.00

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<http://business.fortunecity.com/simplot/708>

THE
Concise Guide to Economics

The Advocates
 Laissez Faire Books
 Amazon.com

Liberty's 20 best books (ever)

the Constitution can be amended to say anything the society wishes it to say. The moral basis of capitalism is the right of each individual to live his own life, for his own sake.

BOOK
NUMBER

14

Robert Nozick's *Anarchy, State and Utopia* (1974) caused a sensation when it was published. Here was a philosopher at Harvard, no less, who decisively refuted the egalitarian doctrine of distributive justice (basically, what's yours is mine and what's mine is mine). The book couldn't be ignored, and it got a lot of ink. It requires close attention as Nozick proceeds, step by step, to demolish the rationale for the welfare state.

BOOK
NUMBER

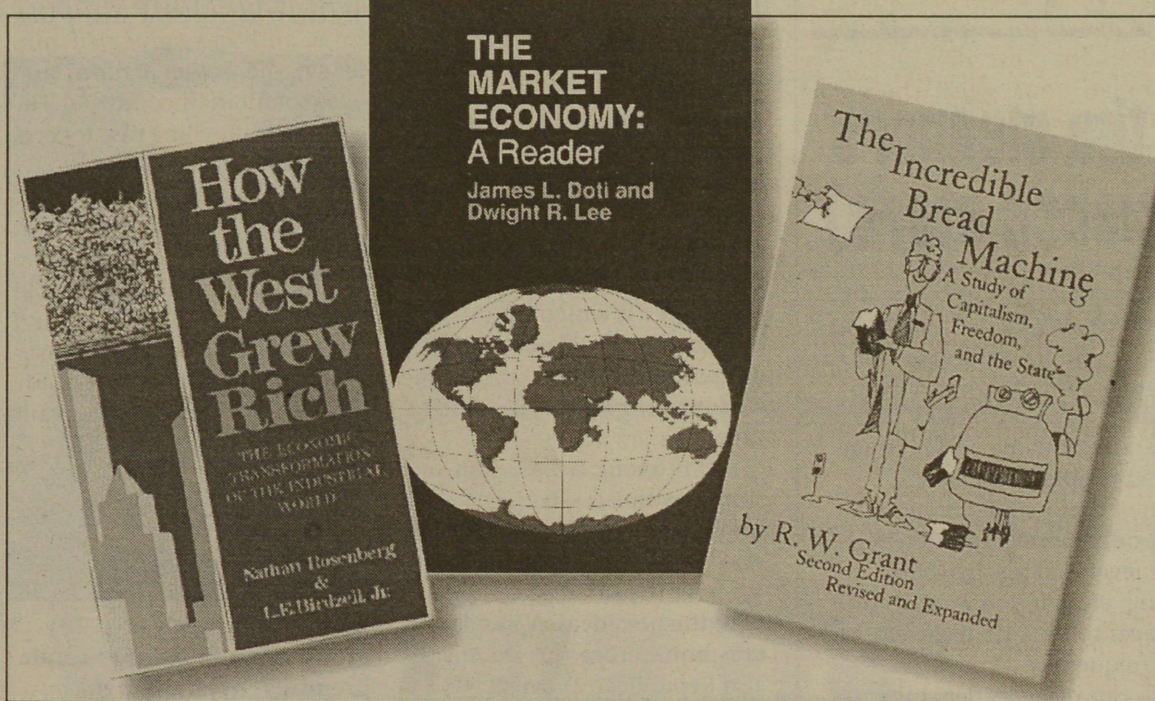
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Intellectual fireworks go off when Richard A. Epstein starts to write. He's the James Parker Hall Distinguished Service Professor of Law at the University of Chicago. The choice here would seem to be between *Principles for a Free Society, Reconciling Individual Liberty with the Common Good* (1998); and *Simple Rules for a Complex World* (1995). *Principles* tells why government efforts to remedy alleged market failures make people worse off. I'd probably go with *Simple Rules*, which presents a sophisticated case for scrapping most laws and regulations.

BOOK
NUMBER

16

One of the most original thinkers now is Randy E. Barnett, the Austin B. Fletcher Professor at Boston University's School of Law. His book, *The Structure of Liberty, Justice and the Rule of Law* (1998), applies natural law principles to the criminal justice system. In particular, he explains why crime is likely to fall if the



■ Three of the books that made Jim Powell's Top 20 Libertarian book list: *How the West Grew Rich* (#17), *The Market Economy* (#20), and *The Incredible Bread Machine* (#13).

criminal justice system is privatized and if criminals must pay restitution to victims.

BOOK
NUMBER

17

How did the West achieve phenomenal prosperity so much sooner than other regions of the world — some of which remain mired in poverty, worse than anything we've ever experienced? Some historians have attributed Western success to natural resources, technology, imperialism, and slavery. But Nathan Rosenberg and L.E. Birdzell's *How the West Grew Rich, the Economic Transformation of the Industrialized World* (1986) shows how material success was a byproduct of the struggle for liberty.

BOOK
NUMBER

18

For a solid libertarian round-up on issues of the day, you probably can't do better than *More Liberty Means Less Government* by Walter Williams, chairman of the

economics department at George Mason University (as well as popular radio talk show host and newspaper columnist). He covers race, sex, taxes, gun rights, government schools, Social Security — just about all the things people are debating today. He does it with wit and style.

BOOK
NUMBER

19

Cato Institute Executive Vice President David Boaz does a splendid job linking libertarianism today to the libertarian tradition. He wrote *Libertarianism, A Primer* (1997) and he edited *The Libertarian Reader* (1997). Both books belong in every libertarian's library, but if I had to pick only one, it might be *The Libertarian Reader* because it performs a unique role in the literature, drawing from key writings on liberty going back several thousand years to Lao-Tzu. I don't know any other volume where you can get such a generous sampling. Sixty-eight selections altogether.

BOOK
NUMBER

20

James L. Doti and Dwight R. Lee edited *The Market Economy: A Reader* (1991) which gathers together the very best recent writing about the philosophical underpinnings of economic liberty. This includes Ayn Rand (*The Moral Meaning of Capitalism*), F.A. Hayek (*The Creative Powers of a Free Civilization*), Milton Friedman (*Social Responsibility of Business and Labor*), R.H. Coase (*The Problem of Social Cost*, the most widely-cited article in the entire economics literature), among others. Forty-four selections.

Afterword

That's my list. I realize many readers will be quick to note great books that aren't on it. For example, Isabel Paterson's *The God of the Machine* (1943), a passionate attack on collectivism and defense of free markets. Linda and Morris Tannehill's *The Market for Liberty* (1970) is an influential case for life without gov-

ernment interference. Many people admire George Reisman's monumental *Capitalism* (1996). Paul Johnson's *Modern Times* (1983, 1991), the magnificent story of 20th Century tyranny, sold 5 million copies in 20 editions. There are many more books that should be on the list, but if we're limited to 20 currently available, the question is always which book will be bumped to make room.

The list reminds us that the literature on liberty is incredibly rich. I envy those of you who are about to discover, or rediscover, some of the works. You're going to have a wonderful time and learn a lot more about this glorious subject!

■ **About the author:** Jim Powell is editor of *Laissez Faire Books*, whose website www.laissezfaire.org features hundreds of libertarian books at discount prices. Or, call toll-free for further information: (800) 326-0996.

Powell's book, *The Heroic Struggle for Liberty, A History of Heroes & Heroines During the Last 2,000 Years*, will be published next year by Free Press, with a foreword by Paul Johnson.

Did we miss one?

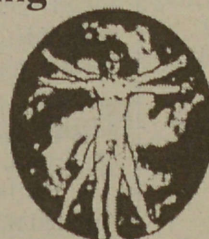
Was there *one* libertarian book you believe should have been on this Top 20 list — but wasn't? Send in your suggestion and a brief explanation of why it should have been included (100 words or less), and we'll print a reader's Top 10 list in a future *LP News*. You can suggest a book about libertarianism in general; one that explores a particular social/political issue very well; or one that is just a personal favorite of yours. E-mail to: 73163.3063@compuserve.com (include "Top 20 Books" in the subject line). Fax to: (202) 333-0072. Mail to: *LP News*, Attn: Top 20 Books, 2600 Virginia Ave, NW, Suite 100, Washington DC 20037.

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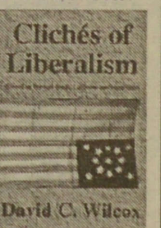
Clichés of Liberalism: Governing Through Insult, Confusion and Sound Bites provides ammunition for understanding and combating the leftist radicals who have hijacked the term liberal. *Year 2000: Separating the Hype from the Reality* explains why Harry Browne is right that you'll have a hard time unloading coins and bulk food as 1/1/2000 comes with no major adverse effects.



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HowTo

Take liberty to the cleaners (and the convenience store)

Growing the Libertarian Party is much like introducing a major new consumer product. We need to focus on building a recognizable brand, on informing people of its availability and desirability, and then we need to get them to buy! All of these require us to continually look for new ways to get the Libertarian Party name and message in front of as many liberty-minded people as possible.

Market researchers have learned that people living in a specific area frequently share not only demographics (e.g., age range, marital status, income level) but also psychographics (religion, political leaning, etc.). If you want to find other libertarians, what better places to look than the stores and businesses that you yourself frequent?

This article describes how you can place leaflets in stores in your area by spending only 30 minutes to an hour one week, and much less than that in succeeding weeks. By doing so, you can help to build "brand awareness" for the Libertarian Party, and attract additional members.

Here's what you do, broken down into easy steps:

- 1. Get some literature.** Contact your state party or purchase it from LP News. Choose leaflets which are most appropriate for the town in which you live.
- 2. Choose a few stores,** preferably where you are recognized by the clerk/owner and which you visit at least once every week or two.
- 3. Identify a location within the store** which you feel will give reasonable exposure to the literature and which you think will be acceptable to the operator.
- 4. With literature in hand, ask the store operator if you can leave it.** Offer to leave samples with him/her to read if they aren't sure. (This offer seems to get them to say "yes" right away, since they probably feel that they shouldn't say no without reading it but don't want to commit to taking the time to read it.) Leave about 25 flyers at once: enough that they won't legitimately all be taken within a few days, but few enough that if they are thrown out it will not be that bad a loss.
- 5. Find out if the clerk/owner is personally interested in more information.** If so, get their name and address and send it to your state party.

6. Go back the next day to make sure the literature is still there, and at least once a week thereafter. Observe the rate of flyers being taken, and keep them replenished.

Literature in stores has a fairly high decay rate. Things get moved around, and with no one who cares about the literature, it may get buried or lost. Because of this, I recommend that you leave leaflets only at stores which you are willing to visit weekly.

Before I first approached store operators, I expected that they would be leery about accepting overtly political material. I thought that some might not wish to say "no" to my face, and simply discard the literature later. I was surprised that every store I asked — except one gun store — said yes. Even more surprisingly, many of the operators appeared somewhat interested. The gun store clerk was definitely receptive, but said the owner had decided to avoid "political stuff."

If there are several activists in your area, team up for this project. If at least one of you stops in each store every few days and straightens out or replenishes the literature, it will be easier and more effective.

So, there's a whole project you can perform in almost no time, broken down into six easy steps. So go ahead: Take Liberty to the Cleaners!

■ **Editor's note:** Reprinted from the October 1997 issue of Massachusetts Liberty.

By Greg
Troxel

New Libertarian PAC launched

Political action committee will financially support winnable LP campaigns

A new Libertarian political action committee has been formed to channel money to winnable LP campaigns and to help train Libertarian candidates.

Based in Oregon, the Libertarian Political Action Committee (LPAC) is designed to "give Libertarian candidates a fighting chance for victory," said Jerome Cole, the founder of the organization.

"My group is based on one simple premise: Given the right tools, Libertarians can win!" he said. "We already have the basics. We have the smartest candidates with the best ideas. All we lack is the money that the Democrats and Republicans have."

Cole, who serves as Fundraising Director of the Libertarian Party of Oregon, started LPAC in December 1998.

High school president

He was motivated, he said, by the fact that "many Libertarians still choose to conduct their campaigns like they're running for high school president."

"Why don't [more] Libertarians get elected? It's simple: voters don't think Libertarians can win. And why don't voters think Libertarians can win? Because many Libertarians themselves don't think they can win — and they act like it."

The eventual goal of LPAC,



■ **LPAC's Jerome Cole:** "My group is based on one simple premise: Given the right tools, Libertarians can win!"

he said, is "to help elect Libertarians to state legislatures all over America" by replacing "chewing-gum-and-bailing-wire" Libertarian campaigns with professional, winning Libertarian campaigns."

LPAC will begin "very limited funding" this Fall, and will start "more extensive support" by the Spring of 2000, he said.

LPAC will support candidates based on several criteria:

■ Candidates must be solid Libertarians.

"I make sure that all candidates LPAC supports are true-blue Libertarians," he said. "And,

I screen all prospective candidates so I can be confident they won't embarrass the party."

■ Candidates must run a "professional" campaign.

"Serious candidates for office run serious campaigns," said Cole. "Shoestring campaigns are losing campaigns — and unfortunately I cannot take money away from potential winners to support them."

■ Candidates must be in a winnable race at the local level.

"It's a noble cause — but nearly impossible — to try to unseat the most entrenched Democrat and Republican officeholders," he said. "Therefore, my LPAC gives only to candidates running in wide-open races that can be won."

In addition to funding campaigns, Cole said LPAC will "invest" in targeted candidate recruitment drives and candidate training seminars.

Solid foundation

"LPAC is working to build a solid foundation for Libertarian Party success — even before the campaigns begin," he said. "I'm giving LPAC dollars to worthy, carefully chosen party groups at the grassroots — badly needed seed money for their fundraising and recruitment drives."

LPAC will also send "at least 20 qualified Libertarians" to the

See **LIBERTY PAC** Page 15

LP member gets chance to debate online pharmacies in *USA Today*

A Libertarian Party member got to participate in a debate in *USA Today* about online prescription services, and used the opportunity to argue that it was a "freedom issue."

Bill Stallknecht — a pharmacist and co-owner of The Pill Box Pharmacy and its online service, PillBox.com — was invited to contribute an "Opposing View" essay in the July 29 issue of the 1.6-million circulation national newspaper.

His essay rebutted a *USA Today* editorial, which said the growing phenomenon of online medical sites and prescription drug services left patients "pleased, but at risk."

Stallknecht disagreed, and argued that Internet medical services were the "wave of the future" and would help people.



"Who has control over your health?" he asked. "Is it an all-too-busy medical system with no individual time for patients? Is it a government bureaucracy that is more concerned about statistics than patient needs? Is it a system that is not sensitive about the time constraints of today's America, where a working person cannot afford the luxury of sitting in a doctor's office for several hours?"

In fact, argued Stallknecht, "There is a begging need for a

system of online medical services that meet the requirements of patients who don't require the traditional doctor's office visit to solve their medical needs."

No injuries

Stallknecht also addressed the issue of whether online prescriptions were dangerous: "Is there a clear and present danger? The answer: In the past year, I know of no patient complaints, and I know of no injuries directly related to this practice."

The only people opposed to the idea — besides the editorial board of *USA Today* — are the "regulators and politicians," wrote Stallknecht.

Stallknecht was a Libertarian Party candidate for U.S. House in 1998, running in the 23rd Congressional District in Texas.

Success '99 visits Massachusetts & Minnesota in September

The LP activist training seminars that have been called "better than Christmas morning with a pile of new toys under the tree" will set up shop in Massachusetts and Minnesota during September — giving LP members an opportunity to learn the secrets of successful political activism and campaigning.

During September, weekend-long Success '99 events will be offered in:

■ **Boston, Massachusetts** (September 11-12). Speakers include Jim Lark (Advisor, Liberty Coalition), Bill Winter (LP Communications Director), and Michael Cloud (creator of "The Essence of Political Persuasion").

The seminar will be held at the Hampton Inn Boston/Natick (17 miles from downtown Boston), at Route 9 & Speen Street. For reservations/directions, call (508) 653-5000.

■ **Minneapolis-St. Paul (Prior Lake), Minnesota** (September 18-19). Speakers include Aaron Starr (Libertarian campaign manager), Sharon Harris (President, Advocates for Self-Government), and Steve Dasbach (LP National Director).

The event will be held at the Mystic Lake Casino & Hotel (30 minutes from Minneapolis), at 2400 Mystic Lake Blvd., Prior Lake. For reservations/directions,

call (612) 445-9000.

Success '99 is an intensive, two-day series of workshops that teach the fundamentals of building effective LP organizations, communicating the Libertarian message, and running successful LP campaigns.

Each event consists of 12 hours of workshops, conducted all day Saturday and on Sunday morning. The registration fee for the seminar is \$79, and includes

a Saturday lunch. Participants pay for their own transportation and lodging.

For a complete list of upcoming Success '99 events — or to request more information or register — see the full-page advertisement on page 5 of this issue of LP News. Or call the Balcom Group at (202) 234-3880.

In other Success '99 news, the October 2-3 event in Tucson, Arizona has been postponed.

Libertarian PAC formed

Continued from Page 14

Leadership Institute in Arlington, Virginia for campaign training, if he can raise \$10,000 to pay for it, said Cole.

The seminars will "give Libertarians the nuts-and-bolts skills they need for victory in the political process," he said. "Each weekend program will focus specifically on one aspect of political know-how — skills like how to organize volunteers, how to get positive media coverage, how to raise money, and how to identify supporters and get them to the polls on Election Day."

LPAC is at least the second Libertarian PAC formed in recent years, joining the Washington, DC-based Liberty Council.

Campaign management

Besides his work with LPAC, Cole's political resume includes a volunteer stint at the LP National office, work on the 1998 Illinois ballot challenge, and jobs at the NRA and the Cascade Policy Institute. He also attended the Campaign Management School Leadership Institute and the Fundraising School Leadership Institute, both in Virginia.

He is currently serving as campaign manager for the Beth King for U.S. Congress race in Oregon.

For more information about LPAC, to make a donation, or to apply for campaign funds, write: Libertarian Political Action Committee, 275 NW First Street, Sherwood, OR 97140. Call: (503) 317-0636. Or e-mail Cole at: jeromecole@inetarena.com.

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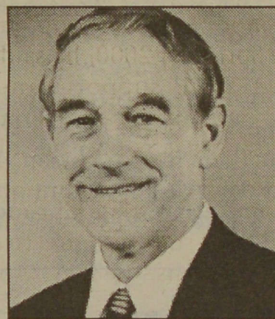
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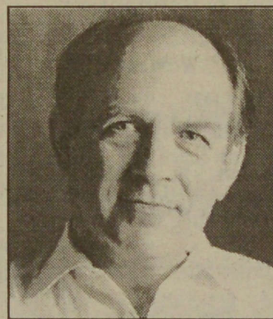
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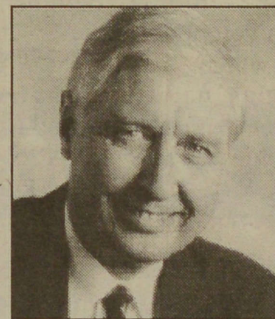
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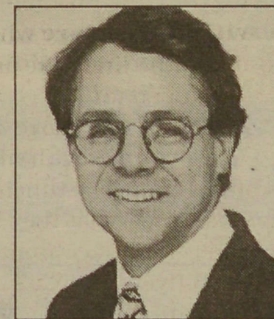
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— JW, Georgia

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— TM, Virginia

"The Super Bowl of my 15 years in the libertarian movement. I am energized!"
— SS, Ohio

"The best of the best!"
— VK, Tennessee

"I have been entertained, enlightened, challenged, intrigued, surprised, provoked, and moved emotionally. Thank you, thank you, thank you!"
— RC, Colorado

THE FORUM

The dangers of the "magic bullet" theory

Have you ever thought: "What would it take for the Libertarian Party to finally succeed?"

If you're like most Libertarians, you've probably formulated your own "magic bullet" theory — the one thing the Libertarian Party should be doing that would result in immediate or near-immediate success.

The assumption behind Libertarian magic bullet theories is that they are simple to execute (hence the moniker "magic bullet"), would produce unprecedented positive results, and have never been considered before or obviously someone in the party would have tested the theory prior to now.

The problem is, *there is no one simple solution to success*. A Libertarian panacea does not exist.

Let me present some of the more popular magic bullet theories and the reasons why these ideas aren't as "magical" as they may appear at first glance:

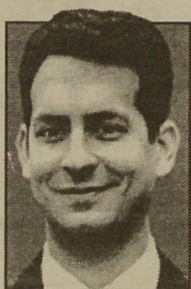
(1) Change the name of the party.

It's true that "Libertarian" is a clumsy word. It's long, it

sounds like "libertine" and "librarian." Perhaps something shorter like the "Liberty Party" would help. That's certainly succinct and defines the party better than "Libertarian," right?

Well, here's part of the problem: If we were to change the party name to the Liberty Party, the new party would have to requalify for ballot status in a number of states, including California, which would mean collecting in excess of 89,000 new registered voters (or almost 900,000 valid signatures from current registered voters) — a daunting task. The new Liberty Party would also have a problem in Vermont, where a party called the Liberty Union Party already exists.

Further, changing names would work to decrease public awareness of the party, as is the case with the U.S. Taxpayers Party. According to *Ballot Access*



By Juan Ros

News, "The U.S. Taxpayers Party was founded in 1990, and almost since its founding, the party has engaged in discussion about whether or not to change its name. Public awareness of the party is probably less than it would be otherwise, because so many state units of the party have different names, including American Independent, American Heritage, Constitutional, Independent American, and American Constitution."

The party would lose the brand name it has spent almost 30 years defining in the political marketplace. The word "libertarian" appears daily in the papers, and voters are learning exactly what a libertarian stands for.

Changing the name of the party would likely work to the party's detriment, not betterment.

(2) Get a celebrity/billionaire to run for president/vice president.

Clint Eastwood for President. Kurt Russell for Vice President. Has a nice ring to it, right?

Well, here's the problem: It isn't easy recruiting celebrities into the party, and it's even harder convincing them to run for President. The staff at the national headquarters and I have both tried with great difficulty to meet with Drew Carey, John Larroquette, and many others.

Celebrities may be philosophically libertarian, they may even be dues-paying members of the party. But when it comes to publicly affiliating with the

party, they shy away — at least for now.

I believe that as our membership continues growing and our political influence becomes more pronounced, celebrities will come "out of the closet" and affirm their libertarianism. Until that day, we can't count on it.

Besides, while a celebrity on

the presidential ticket would have excellent name recognition, would that person be taken seriously as a candidate?

And as for a billionaire, our 1980 vice presidential candidate, David Koch, was certainly wealthy. He poured a great deal of his personal wealth into the campaign. The result? Our highest presidential vote total to date (almost a million votes for the Ed Clark/Koch ticket). So maybe if a wealthy Libertarian decided to run for national office and if that individual were willing to spend a lot of their personal fortune on the campaign, the result would be more votes.

But that's a lot of *ifs*.

(3) Put all the party's resources into . . . [fill in the blank].

This sentence can have many endings: The presidential campaign . . . one "winnable" Congressional race . . . local elections . . . TV ads . . . one small state to win its electoral votes . . .

Well, here's the problem: If the party were to do this, it would presumably have few resources left for anything else. What would it pay its staff with? Or publish LP News with? Or pay for ballot access drives, or member services, or Project Archimedes, or any of the myriad projects and regular expenses the party has committed to?

In addition, the risk is too great and the unanswerable



A lesson from Dad: The importance of selling acceptance

Don't discourage potential voters in the rush to recruit new party members

I never did convert my father to libertarianism. But I learned something far more valuable from him — I never had to.

There are several libertarian positions Dad could never support. But I wasn't recruiting him as a party member; I was recruiting him as a voter. Members need to be converted; voters do not. That seems obvious enough, but we often ignore the difference.

The danger: In our zeal to convert new members, we could discourage likely voters.

Dad knew economic regulation was a failure. He came to accept (with frequent reminders) that social regulation was just as bad. He liked Barry Goldwater, so I modified a Goldwater theme: Any government big enough to ban dirty books is big enough to ban the Bible. Dad didn't live

long enough to see government indeed banning both,

but he grasped the principle: Tolerating dirty books is the price he had to pay, grudgingly, for the limited government he already knew was best.

(Salesmanship 101: You're not there to prove your prospect wrong. You're there to show your prospect is *right*, and that your product will best deliver what he already wants.)

Potential voters

I didn't get Dad's agreement, but I did get his acceptance. There's a major difference between active support for Libertarian positions and passive (even grudging) acceptance. Active supporters are potential mem-

By Mike Hihn

bers and contributors. Passive acceptors are potential voters.

Most folks vote for the lesser of two evils. We complain about that a lot, but vote mostly that way ourselves. Why not accept reality, and declare ourselves (with a wink) as the lesser of three evils.

We shall prevail, not when a majority of voters supports (for example) legalizing drugs and prostitution. We shall prevail when voters accept these notions, even grudgingly, as a price they're willing to pay for whatever they hope to gain in the free society that only we offer.

I call that the social contract version of TANSTAAFL — "There Ain't No Such Thing As A Free Lunch." Liberty does have a price. We pay for it with Tolerance. Live and let live.

Even liberals understand TANSTAAFL. Have you heard this? "Tolerance for others is the price we pay to have our own values respected." That's how lib-

erals condemn a Free Lunch — something for nothing — when defending social tolerance. Let's turn that around. Reframe economic liberty as economic tolerance.

We don't need liberals to actively support economic rights. We need only their acceptance of the notion, even if grudgingly — in exchange for a tolerant society that Democrats have failed to deliver.

Not a club

Increasing party memberships is important. But this is a political party, not a club. In our personal activism, membership recruiting must come second to voter recruiting. Can you imagine anyone joining us before they're willing to vote for our candidates? Of course not. Get them as voters and supporters first, then go for the conversion.

In states with partisan registration, registered Libertarians tend to be twenty times greater

than dues-paying members. So for each of our friends who is a potential member, there are at least twenty more who will passively accept our package. Those are averages. You yourself may not know any potential converts. Okay, how many likely passive supporters (that is, likely voters) can you recruit? Only 15? Just 10? One?

Don't give up if your circle of friends and co-workers includes no potential party members. Sell simple acceptance of our total liberty agenda, even if that means positioning us as the lesser of three evils. Your job, and our job, will then be a lot easier during actual campaigns.

And recall what Harry Browne says when someone tells him, "The Libertarian candidate won't win." He simply states, "Then neither will you."

■ **About the author:** Mike Hihn is the past Executive Director of the LP of Washington State.

questions too many. Is any Congressional race "winnable"? (Or any other race for that matter?) What if the Libertarian loses? And what about local elections? Should we forget about partisan office completely? Are TV ads going to have an impact?

Party resources are spread thin enough as they are — pouring all our eggs into one basket is not the most prudent course of action.

(4) Drop our support for one unpopular issue (drugs, immigration). Or, conversely, focus exclusively on the "one" issue (taxes, Social Security).

Here's the problem: Our support for so-called unpopular issues is what makes us unique. Libertarians have a different perspective, an approach to life and government founded on liberty and choice. Do we really want to "water down" our message by sounding like everyone else?

And what about the "one" issue? The problem with that theory is: Who is going to decide what that "one" issue is? Every Libertarian has their own pet issue they consider most important. Finding agreement on what that issue is will be difficult indeed. Furthermore, political trends and voter sentiment change so quickly that the "one" issue could be yesterday's news by the time Libertarians decide what the "one" issue should be.

No secret

The point of all this, as I said at the start, is that there is no one "magic" solution, no secret to Libertarian success.

The Libertarian Party is approaching its 30th birthday. That our membership and voter registration continue to grow at record paces are an indication that political consumers are "purchasing" the Libertarian philosophy in greater numbers. It's a reason for hope and optimism about the LP's future.

Libertarian success can happen slowly or it can happen overnight. With politics, one never knows.

What can you do to bring the Libertarian Party closer to success? Vote Libertarian. Support the Libertarian Party. Become active in your local party. And steer clear of magic bullets.

About the author: Juan Ros is the Executive Director of the Libertarian Party of California.

Victory: The missionary versus the warrior

There are two strategies Libertarians are using in their battle with statism. The first strategy can be called the "missionary position" and the second is the "way of the warrior." Both are necessary — but neither in itself will bring about a Libertarian society.

The "missionary position" states: "The road to defeat is compromise and gradualism. We must be true to our principles and demand a Libertarian society immediately." Missionaries have only two weapons at their disposal: "Friendly persuasion" and "speaking truth to power." Missionaries attempt conversion with their friendly persuasion, but end up only gathering the few true believers. They preach no compromise with evil; those who oppose us must be demons.

Courageous

It is a courageous attack — but in the end it changes nothing except to remind Libertarians of their principles and our ultimate goal and to energize us.

Why will the missionary position fail to establish a Libertarian society?

First, it fails to realize that most people are not pure Liber-

tarians. They may want freedom for themselves, but not necessarily for all their neighbors.

Second, most Americans desire the illusion of security over full individual freedom and personal responsibility. Facing economic, military, or natural calamities, Americans readily turn to the government.

Third, Libertarian principles constitute the "big idea." The "big idea" is novel, powerful, and alien. It takes time for "big ideas" to percolate into the mainstream of thought. It is the warriors that must conduct the battles.

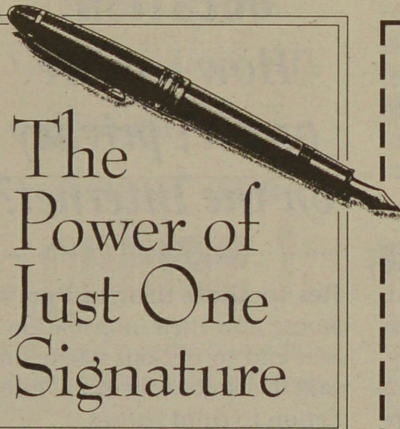
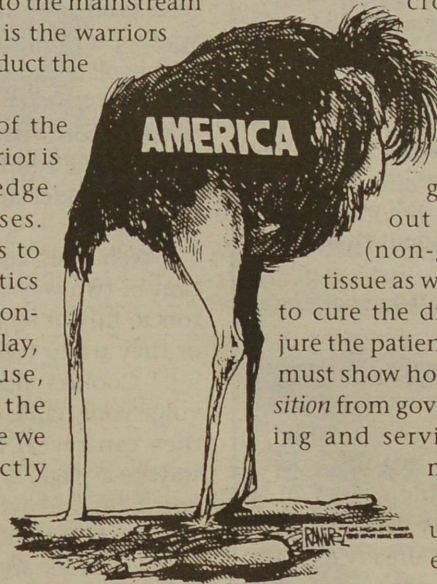
The way of the (political) warrior is to acknowledge our weaknesses. Our strategy is to tailor our tactics to our actual conditions. We delay, harass, confuse, and weaken the enemy because we cannot directly take on a superior force. We look for

weakness in the enemy; we learn the political terrain; we study the population; we tailor our message carefully to bring people to our side. We speak a language they can understand. Libertarians may not be a political majority in our lifetime. Our society may have to "evolve" into Libertarianism.

Far worse

The situation is far worse than most Libertarians admit. Statism has penetrated the social and economic layers of this country like a cancer. Statism has crowded out much of the free market. It is so pervasive that radical surgery could take out the healthy (non-government) tissue as well. The idea is to cure the disease, not injure the patient. Libertarians must show how we will transition from government funding and services to a free market.

Warriors use the soundest tactic ap-



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The Libertarian Party is the party of principle. To publicly affirm what we believe—and to ensure that our party never strays from our principles—we ask our members to proudly sign this statement:

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**"OUR SOCIETY
 may have to
 evolve into
 Libertarianism."**

propriate to actual conditions. It is a more rational method in a world unwilling to accept the complete Libertarian program. We use tactics such as proportional representation, term limits, privatization, and tax-and-spending reductions.

The way of the warrior is to be prepared for opportunities to advance our cause. In politics — as in warfare — perseverance is a virtue and part of the strategy. Future events will provide us the opportunities for success.

In history, those who have fought for liberty were prepared for the events that would lead to victory. The "missionary position" may be our declaration of war, but it is the peaceful "warriors" that will carry the day.

About the author: Paul E. Gagnon is the Chairman of the Fairfax County LP in Virginia.

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From THE DIRECTOR

The 2000 election: A 3rd-party bonanza

This summer we've seen a flurry of interest in minor political parties, especially at the presidential level.

Senator Bob Smith of New Hampshire announced that he was leaving the Republicans and was considering seeking the presidential nomination of the U.S. Taxpayers, Reform, Constitution, and/or Libertarian Party(s).

Reports from the recent Reform Party convention mentioned potential presidential candidates ranging from Ralph Nader and Lowell Wiecker on the left, to Pat Buchanan and Bob Smith on the right, with Ross Perot and Donald Trump tossed in for seasoning. Talk about a party that doesn't stand for anything!

Even *Newsweek* magazine got into the act, discussing potential presidential nominees for the Libertarian, Green, Reform, U.S. Taxpayers, and Natural Law parties.

Finally, a recent poll indicated that nearly half of all Americans want to have more choices for President than the likely Democrat and Republican nominees.

This heightened interest in minor parties offers challenge and opportunity for the Libertarian Party.

The challenge is obvious. The U.S. Taxpayers Party could have a sitting U.S. Senator as their nominee. Ralph Nader, who is very well known, may again head the Green Party ticket.

The Reform Party has got its hook baited with a \$12.5 million dollar political "welfare check" from the U.S. Treasury. As America's chameleon party, it could nominate practically anyone.

So how does the Party of Principle compete in this new environment? By building on our strengths.

■ Strength #1 Ballot status: We're miles ahead of our competition, and can get candidates on the ballot at all levels. Next year, while everyone else is struggling just to get their presidential candidate on the ballot, we can begin advertising to promote our party and, after July 3rd, our presidential ticket.

■ Strength #2 Libertarian candidates: We run more candidates, at more levels, than all other minor parties combined. In 2000, we intend to field over 2,000 Libertarian candidates, including a majority of U.S. House races. For Americans in search of a credible alternative, we're it.

■ Strength #3 Grassroots organization: As with candidates, we have more local organizations in more states than any other small party. And, every month, more Libertarians get together to form new local organizations.

■ Strength #4 Nearly 40,000 Libertarian members and contributors: Our financial support comes entirely from individuals like you, not from a single wealthy individual, special interest groups, or the U.S. Treasury.

So how do we build on these strengths and take advantage of the opportunities ahead?

First, by recruiting those 2,000 candidates, along with the volunteers and money it takes to run visible campaigns. As an LP candidate, campaign volunteer, and/or donor, your support can help ensure that our message reaches the public.

Second, we have to ensure that there is an active local LP organization in every community in America. If there isn't an active group in your community, please give me a call at (202) 333-0008 and we'll help you get started.

The Libertarian Party can only become what we, its members and contributors, make of it. While other parties wait in vain for a white knight to ride in, Libertarians understand that we make our own destiny. If we want to achieve success, we all have to work together to make it happen.



By Steve Dasbach

LP National Director

Internet privacy: Why no policy is the government's best policy

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

LIBERTARIAN Solutions

By Justin Matlick

In the debate over government's role on the Internet, online privacy is the latest issue to take center stage. Until recently, legislators have taken a hands-off approach, waiting for online businesses to self-regulate and alleviate privacy concerns on their own. But Washington's patience is waning, and the 106th Congress will likely consider an onslaught of regulations.

Web sites collect information in two ways: They ask visitors to fill out registration forms or they try to feed them "cookies." Cookies alone cannot divulge your name or address, but they can reveal how long you stay at a page, which products you like, and which sites you visit. Web sites monitor what attracts visitors and tailor themselves to various interests. If you give it to them, they sometimes sell your name to third parties, often to direct marketers who launch e-mail solicitations, commonly known as "spam."

Children's privacy

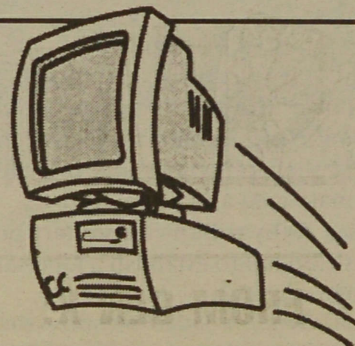
Children's privacy advocates argue that, if left unregulated, Web sites and online marketers will violate children's privacy. Several bills have been proposed that would impose what are commonly referred to as "mandatory opt-in" requirements. Such requirements call for Web sites to obtain an individual's explicit consent before collecting and distributing personal information.

A more effective policy approach would avoid new regulations, relying instead on the market forces that are already driving businesses to regulate themselves. Regulation advocates claim the profit motive contradicts privacy interests, and therefore self-regulation can never work. They're wrong.

The goal of commercial Web sites is to attract customers — and, in some cases, their children. Because discriminating consumers won't patronize sites with policies they feel are unacceptable, sites must respond to their customers' privacy concerns. Otherwise, consumers will

migrate to competing sites with privacy policies that reflect their preferences. Market forces are already working: The Online Privacy Alliance, whose members include Disney, the Direct Marketing Association, and Microsoft announced last year a program to certify and police Web sites that voluntarily comply with a standardized privacy policy.

This policy requires Web



QUESTION:

How can we protect privacy on the Internet?

sites to allow their visitors to choose how their information is used and to opt-out when sites want to distribute personal information to third parties.

It also prohibits sites from collecting a child's address or e-mail address without prior parental consent; guarantees that its members will not allow children under 13 to post their addresses or other personal contact information in public forums; and prohibits sites from using games, prizes, or other activities to entice children into giving away unnecessary information.

New online privacy regulations will not protect children.

But they will impose new costs that harm the Internet. An unregulated, free-market "policy," on the other hand, would accomplish what online privacy regulations cannot. Such a policy would:

■ Allow Internet users to control and protect their information. Internet users already have the power to manage how their information is used and distributed. They can avoid sites that have unsatisfactory or unposted privacy policies, and they can set their browser to reject cookies. If Internet users relinquish information to a site with a posted policy, a contract has been formed. If the site then violates that policy, users can take legal action under existing contract law.

■ Allow parents to protect the privacy of children. Markets are providing parents with mechanisms that regulations would not. Parents already have the means to protect the online privacy of their children. While regulations would not effectively protect children's privacy, they would create a false sense of security among parents.

■ Avoid the costs of regulation while protecting electronic commerce. New online privacy regulations would impose direct costs on online businesses. These costs would limit the growth and variety of online commerce while eroding the entrepreneurial spirit that has been a driving force behind the Internet's growth.

An unregulated, free-market policy can and will accomplish what online privacy regulation would not. Internet users would have the means to protect their privacy, parents could protect their children's information and Web sites would be free to innovate in response to the preferences of their visitors.

Perhaps most important, the mechanisms that have driven the Internet's growth would be unharmed and left in place.

■ Editor's note: Justin Matlick is director of the Center for Freedom in Technology at the Pacific Research Institute for Public Policy, a San Francisco think tank. This article is adapted from *OnLine Privacy: Why New Regulations Fail to Protect Children*, a January 1999 publication of the Pacific Research Institute for Public Policy, and was reprinted in the *Heartland Institute's Intellectual Ammunition*, July/August 1999.

Libertarian Online Guide

Libertarian Party:

<http://www.LP.org/>

Libertarian Party News:

<http://www.LP.org/lpn/>



THE MAILBOX

■ Stupid Quotes

I really enjoyed the "Liberty Quotes," [LP News, August 1999] which my wife and I will share with friends. We are looking forward to seeing more examples in the future.

Having just read a book titled, *The 776 Stupidest Things Ever Said*, I think LP News should run a few of those to inform the membership in a slightly different way. Quite a few of the quotes in this book relate to government, taxes, and other subjects of interest to Libertarians.

Here is one quote I just found in our local paper, reporting Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan's opinion of the proposed tax cuts: "We probably would be better off holding off on a tax cut immediately, largely because of the fact that it is apparent that the surpluses are doing a great deal of positive good to the economy." (*Springfield News-Leader*, July 29, 1999).

If Mr. Greenspan believes that the "surplus" money will do more good for the economy in the hands of the government than in the hands of the people, he is playing the game of the tax and spend guys. If it stays in government control, it will be spent on more social engineering.

— **DANE KOPPLER**

Springfield, Missouri

■ Gen X Quotes

As a card-holding member of the Libertarian Party, I was pleased to see "More of Liberty's Best Quotations." These quotes

FROM GEN X:
*"A few quotes
symbolizing my
generation's
disgust and
alienation."*

are a great historical record of people speaking out in liberty's defense.

In that I am in my early twenties and a member of Generation X, I would like to give you a few quotes symbolizing my generation's disgust and alienation from today's "free" society.

■ Zach de la Rocha (singer from Rage Against the Machine): "Yes I know my enemies / they're the teachers who taught me to fight me. / Compromise, conformity, assimilation, submission, ignorance, hypocrisy, brutality, the elite / all of which are American dreams."

■ Tupac Shakur: "You could strive to end poverty / but instead you fight a war on drugs /

so your police got an excuse to bother me."

Hopefully, we Libertarians will take the power back soon. I fear my generation will give up on America soon. Many of us feel there is no hope of living free, and fear the impending doom of a technocracy gone awry.

— **MATT INGRATTA**

Elk Grove Village, Illinois

■ More Quotes

Here are a few "Liberty Quotes" you missed:

■ "I'm not a member of any organized political party. I'm a Democrat." (Will Rogers)

■ "No person is so grand or wise or perfect as to be the master of another person." (Karl Hess)

■ "I think people want peace so much these days, governments better get out of the way and let them have it." (Dwight D. Eisenhower)

■ "When liberty is taken away by force, it can be restored by force. When it is relinquished voluntarily by default, it can never be recovered." (Dorothy Thompson)

— **PHYLLIS AVERY**

Vista, California

■ More Quotes 2

■ "There are more instances of the abridgement of the freedom of the people by the gradual and silent encroachment of those in power, than by violent and sudden usurpation." (James Madison)

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See **THE MAILBOX** Page 20

THE PULSE

Convention request: Star power

Star power: It's what Libertarians want to see at the LP national convention in 2000. At least, that's the most common request in this month's unscientific Pulse survey: Almost half (44.8%) of the people who responded recommended an entertainer — either a movie star, singer, comedian, or magician — be invited to speak at the party's presidential nominating convention, held June 30-July 3, 2000, in Anaheim, California.

Leading the parade of stars was perennial Libertarian favorite Clint Eastwood; the craggy-faced actor garnered 17.2% of the vote. Eastwood would be an ideal speaker, said readers, because he is a self-proclaimed libertarian and because of the "cool one-liners" he could deliver.

Coming in second (with 10.3% of the vote) was a former entertainer: Professional wrestler-turned-Reform Party governor: Jesse Ventura. While he may not be a libertarian, "he acts and speaks like one," said readers. In third place (6.9%) was movie star-turned-NRA spokesman, Charlton Heston, who won praise for his classic movie portrayals and for his support of the Second Amendment.

But LP News readers didn't forget the more serious side of Libertarianism: Votes were also cast for Nobel Prize-winning economist Milton Friedman, author and columnist Thomas Sowell, and Future of Freedom Foundation president Jacob Hornberger, among others.

Here is a representative sample of the responses:

■ Clint Eastwood. Not only one of the great stars of our century, but a veteran, a Libertarian and someone who has not only run for office (Mayor of Carmel, California) but actually won his race.

— **JOHN BIRCH**, Chicago, Illinois

■ Milton Friedman. An articulate, respected, and powerful philosophical ally.

— **STU YOUNG**, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

■ Drew Carey. I think channel surfers would stop to see what was going on if they saw him speaking, and maybe learn a little about the LP.

— **SUE COFFER**, Nashville, Tennessee

■ L. Neil Smith. Smith is an LP member and founder of the Western Libertarian Alliance. His books have introduced libertarian ideas to a broad readership in an entertaining and thought-provoking way.

— **BRUCE ALEXANDER KNIGHT**, Portland, Oregon

■ Charlton Heston. His speech at the Harvard Law School last February was a testament to Libertarian ideals.

— **NORMAN SHAW**, Cranberry Twp., Pennsylvania

■ John Perry Barlow. He is a former lyricist for the Grateful Dead and [co-founded] the Electronic Frontier Foundation, which promotes freedom of expression in digital media. [He] earned the title "The Thomas Jefferson of Cyberspace" by *Yahoo Internet Life Magazine*.

— **DON MENSCHAUSEN**, Hoboken, New Jersey

■ Clint Eastwood. America loves him, the media loves him, but most importantly, Clint loves liberty. Think of all the cool one liners he could throw at 'em.

— **MARK MATHES**, Stuart, Florida

■ Ricky Martin. It would mean tremendous media coverage for the Libertarian Party. Every major network would cover the convention live, and enthusiastic fans would line the streets.

— **STEVE FUJITA**, Long Beach, California

■ Willie Nelson. I would guess that he is very libertarian [and] just about every American likes him.

— **Z. LENO LAWRENCE**, Beaumont, Texas

See **THE PULSE** Page 20

THE PULSE

Continued from Page 19

■ Jacob "Bumper" Hornberger. He is physically and verbally so very dynamic. He is a strong advocate for the downtrodden, and recognizes where our largest voting blocks are: The disenfranchised and the neglected.

— KEVIN HAGAN, Pasadena, Texas

■ Penn Jillette. He's funny, intelligent, opinionated.

— MIKE CHMIELWSKI, Larkspur, California

■ Kurt Russell. A speech by a major star would provide instant appeal and acceptability that the party currently lacks. Russell is articulate, intelligent, and handsome — both a man's man and a lady's man.

— BRIAN MULHOLLAND, El Cajon, California

■ Jesse "The Body" Ventura as the convention speaker. He may not be a registered Libertarian, but he acts and speaks like one.

— THOMAS RODEN, Irvine, California

■ Claire Wolfe. Through her hard-hitting essays, books, and column, Ms. Wolfe would be a "breath of fresh air" to people who aren't familiar with her work.

— JEAN CARBONNEAU, Portland, Maine

■ Chris Matthews [from CNBC's *Hardball*]. He's one of us, but doesn't know it yet.

— SALLY EASTMAN, Halfmoon, New York

EDITOR'S NOTE: All speaker suggestions have been passed on to the Convention organizing committee.

November Question: Flat Tax? Sales Tax?

Libertarians don't like taxes; there's no doubt about that. But while we work to get rid of the tax we all probably dislike the most — the income tax — some Libertarians argue that the party should support "interim" measures. For example, some say the LP should support a national sales tax, which would eliminate the IRS. Others say we should endorse a flat tax, which would make the tax system more "fair" and simple. However, other Libertarians reject those arguments, saying the party should concentrate on lowering or abolishing taxes — not making them flatter, or creating a new federal tax.

■ **QUESTION:** Should the Libertarian Party support a flat tax? And/or should we support a national sales tax? Why or why not? (Please limit answers to 100 words.)

■ **DEADLINE:** October 5, 1999

October Question: One Sentence?

In a way, trying to describe Libertarianism (or the Libertarian Party) is like the old Miller Lite beer commercial, where opposing groups of beer-chuggers shout, "Tastes great!" "Less filling!" It's not that you can't describe it; the challenge is simply trying to narrow it down to one simple, persuasive attribute. Given that problem, what is the best *one-sentence* answer you've come up with to the question: "What is Libertarianism?" (Or: "What is the Libertarian Party?") What do you focus on?

■ **QUESTION:** What is your most *effective* one-sentence definition of Libertarianism or the Libertarian Party? (And why do you think it is so good?) Please limit definitions to 50 words, and total answers to 100 words.

■ **DEADLINE:** September 5, 1999

ENTRY GUIDELINES: Include name and city/state; anonymous answers won't be tallied. Enter just once per month.

■ E-mail: 73163.3063@compuserve.com. (Please include "Pulse" in subject line.)

■ Fax: (202) 333-0072 (Attn: The Pulse).

■ Mail: Libertarian Party, Attn: LP News/The Pulse, 2600 Virginia Avenue, NW, Suite 100, Washington DC 20037

THE MAILBOX

Continued from Page 19

■ "The difference between death and taxes is death doesn't get worse every time Congress meets." (Will Rogers)

— MARK HANLEY
Skamania, Washington

More Quotes 3

■ "The American Constitution was not written to protect criminals; it was written to protect the government from becoming criminals." (Lenny Bruce)

— MILES S. GROSS
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

The real penguin story

David J. Mann inquired about the origins of the penguin as a symbol for liberty and independence [The Mailbox, LP News, August 1999].

"LP" — The Liberty Penguin — was born six years ago, and is fast becoming the *dé-facto* mascot of the Libertarian Party. Three states and numerous local affiliates have already adopted "LP" as their official mascot. The Liberty Penguin is not meant to replace the Statue of Liberty as the official symbol, but to complement her. It is a mascot (like donkeys and elephants). It's designed to be cute and whimsical. It's another way to get the word out. "LP" = Liberty Penguin = Libertarian Party.

The penguin symbolizes cool. Penguins are personable, polite and principled. A penguin at play is a picture of freedom. And, while politics is not particularly pretty, penguins are. Penguins live and flourish on one of the planet's harshest (and least regulated) continents (Antarctica, for those who attended public schools). Last, but not least, penguins are cute. "LP" makes people smile.

Unlike the Statue of Liberty, the Liberty Penguin is a copyrighted design. Only Libertarians can use it.

The Liberty Penguin is not related to the Linux computer penguin. As for those who wonder what a flightless bird from another continent has to do with freedom in the United States, remember, Lady Liberty, a statue, was a gift from France, a socialist nation.

Rather than lobby the national party to adopt "LP" as its official mascot, we've chosen to take the free market approach. And, if sales are any indication of success, it's working. Thousands of Liberty Penguins have been sold to Libertarians in all 50 states, as well as several countries. Liberty is Cool!

How do I know all this? Because I designed "LP" — The Liberty Penguin. If you'd like to find out more, please visit my web site at www.libertypenguin.com.

— ANN CASON
Bean Station, Tennessee

Government religion?

Bob Multer has a good point in his letter "Anti-gun ACLU" [LP News, August 1999]. I think we should scrutinize other organizations that we belong to as well. I am a Methodist in Springfield, Massachusetts. The conference leaders of the Methodist Church (as well as other mainline Protestant Churches) have lobbied for restrictions on firearms; ultimately they would like confiscation. They also lobby for other

laws governing tobacco, gambling, etc. They have been conspicuous by their silence regarding state-supported gambling.

The member churches, as well as the Council of Churches (mostly Protestant with some Catholic and Jewish participation) have become very political in the past several years. Besides lobbying for laws, they supported candidates that favored lifetime appointments for chief of police. In my church, they have even had candidates for mayor speaking from the pulpit. The Catholic Bishop here in Springfield supports suits against gun manufacturers.

The point is, they are no longer simply attempting to convince people to behave in a cer-

More UPCOMING EVENTS

October 8-10, 1999

Florida LP Convention, Sheraton Hotel, West Palm Beach. Speakers include Michael Cloud (1998 Libertarian National Convention Keynote Speaker) and David Bergland (LP National Chair). For information, call Frank Longo: (561) 883-3357. E-mail: FLongo@bellsouth.net.

October 9, 1999

Hawaii LP Convention/Campaign 2000 event, 2500 Pali Highway, Honolulu. Events include: Officer elections, candidate workshops, membership recruiting, and fundraising. For information, contact Roger Taylor (808) 352-5683. E-mail: roget@pixi.com.

October 9-10, 1999

Success '99, Kansas City, Kansas. Speakers include Steve Dabach (LP National Director), Michael Cloud ("The Essence of Political Persuasion"), and Ken Bisson (Advocates for Self-Government). For information, call the Balcom Group: (202) 234-3880.

October 16-17, 1999

Success '99, Biloxi, Mississippi. Speakers include Sharon Harris (Advocates for Self-Government), Ron Crickenberger (LP Political Director), and Jim Lark (Advisor, Liberty Coalition). For information/registration, call the Balcom Group: (202) 234-3880.

October 23, 1999

New Hampshire LP Convention, Holiday Inn, Nashua. Speakers include LP presidential candidates Harry Browne and Larry Hines; Michael Cloud (1998 National LP Convention keynote speaker); and Edmund Contoski (author of *Makers and Takers*). For information, contact Tom Kershaw at (603) 424-0100. E-mail: kersha19@IDT.net.

October 23-24, 1999

Success '99, Nashville, Tennessee. Speakers include Dr. Mary Ruwart (author, *Healing Our World*), Barbara Goushaw (LP campaign manager), and Jim Lark (Advisor, Liberty Coalition). For information/registration, call the Balcom Group: (202) 234-3880.

November 5-6, 1999

National Conference, Student Leaders in Drug Policy & Justice, George Washington University, Washington, DC. Speakers TBA. With workshops on campus organizing. For information, call Peder Nelson: (202) 293-8590. Visit: www.ssd.org.

THE MAILBOX

tain manner. They are very involved in behind-the-scenes lobbying to get government to coerce us into following their agenda. Their so-called charitable soup kitchens are funded with government grants. When we donate money to these organizations, we pay to lobby against ourselves.

— **ROBERT UNDERWOOD**
Springfield, Massachusetts

Dangerous humor

As a second-year Libertarian Party member, I still eagerly await every issue of *LP News*. It is always chock-full of good, hard-hitting, common sense articles, and pertinent information. However, the essay, "How to deal with an 'obsolete' Amendment" [The Forum, *LP News*, August 1999], by James Bennett, deserves special recognition.

It took a few paragraphs to realize that he was making an attempt at "tongue-in-cheek" humor, but the point was driven home that any infringement upon the Second Amendment is easily applicable to the First Amendment as well. Mr. Bennett did an excellent job of illustrating that we tread upon dangerous ground when we allow government to determine what our "needs" are, or which freedoms should have some "controls" placed upon them.

To the statist and the authoritarians, we Libertarians constitute a threat. When we have a good sense of humor, we are downright dangerous!

— **JEFF H. KLEB, JR.**
Midlothian, Virginia

Libertarian kids

A letter ["Libertarian parenting?"] in the August *LP News* took the position that libertarianism should not apply to parenting, our personal lives, or school discipline. I hope this view represents a small minority of Libertarians.

The writer said she was "horrified" by the results of the libertarian style of dealing with children. My son goes to a Montessori School (which is 100% libertarian in its methods) and the results are the opposite of the horrifying government-

run schools. I also find that the consistent application of libertarian philosophy (similar to the libertarian approach espoused by Frances Kendall in *Super Parents Super Children*) to raising my son is most beneficial for his happiness, self-esteem, independence, and confidence.

— **JON ENGSTROM**
Troy, Ohio

Cleaner speech

Steve Allison is right [The Mailbox, *LP News*, July 1999], we need cleaner speech. Several years ago I was opposed to "public" schools and in favor of "private" schools. Not any more. I am now against compulsory attendance at "government" schools or at schools run by government bureaucrats, and I am in favor of voluntary, consensual, free market, or alternative schools.

We should also avoid saying that "government" does something to us — which suggests

that government is some thing that rules us benevolently. Try to say that government "bureaucrats," "employees," or "politicians," do it to us. We need to remind ourselves that government is composed of a lot of people who are ordinary human beings, at best.

— **EDD DONALDSON**
Pullman, Washington

Clinton's war

The manner in which letter-writer Gaylord Olson strains to defend Clinton's war against Yugoslavia [LP News, July 1999] sug-

gests (unfortunately) that there are loyal supporters of the president among members of the LP. It remains startling, nonetheless, to find people who claim allegiance to libertarian ideals, who logically stray so far from its fundamental principles.

Olson obviously is oblivious to, forgets, or ignores the libertarian principle that the federal government must not randomly engage in wars against minor countries that pose no danger to its internal interests nor safety. Especially wars initiated by dis-

See **THE MAILBOX** Page 22

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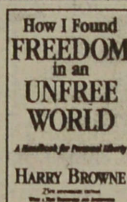
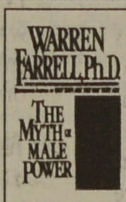
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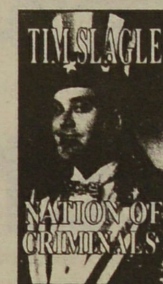
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THE MAILBOX

Continued from Page 21

graced presidents desperate to gain popular opinion. Otherwise, Olson would not propose the absurd notion that modern Yugoslavia has a "propensity for starting world wars," and thus must be destroyed by a hugely expensive air war, mostly paid for by American taxpayers.

Another libertarian principle

Olson avoids thinking about is that the racial makeup of countries must not be a factor in America's decisions to wage war against them. Clinton violated that principle, of course, by going to war in favor of white Kosovars, while blithely bypassing much worse atrocities against peoples in African and Asian countries. Thus, Clinton's eager-

ness to go to war, "to stop ethnic hatred and killing earlier rather than later" (in Olson's view), has a definite racist stain on it.

— PATRICK GROFF

San Diego, California

■ Bolt & Bore Club

I found it interesting and ironic reading, "Swiss: Dull but safe" [Talking Points, *LP News*, July 1999], particularly this quote: "If there is a shooting festival in town, you will find rifles slung on hat racks in restaurants, and you will encounter men and

women, old and young, walking, biking and taking the tram with rifles over their shoulders, to and from the range."

Once upon a time in America it was also like that. I recently served on a planning committee for my 50th high school class reunion. At one of our informal dinner meetings, we were discussing current events and, of course, Littleton, Colorado came up. One of my male classmates chuckled and said, "Remember the Bolt and Bore Club?" Every Tuesday morning I would get my rifle,

slung it over my shoulder, walk to school, put it into my locker until it was time for the club meeting. Can you imagine what would happen today if a kid walked to school with a rifle slung over his shoulder?

That's only 50 years ago, my friends — not exactly the Wild Wild West. I'm not a hunter or sportsman, but my husband was. He taught my son and three of our daughters who were interested to be "responsible" gun handlers. Seven of our 12 grandchildren (male and female) have attended hunter safety courses and are hunters/trap-shooters.

I sympathize with city dwellers who see guns as implements of crime — but how many millions of people live in rural America who regard them, responsibly, as tools for hunting and sports shooting?

And why should we be penalized for the acts of the reckless and those with criminal intent?

— CAROLYN BORRELL

Topton, Pennsylvania

■ Heart, brain, courage

Winston Churchill once said (paraphrasing from my imperfect memory): "If a man is not a liberal when he is young, he has no heart. If he does not become a conservative when he matures, he has no brain."

To this I would add the third of the Wizard of Oz trio: "Having made this journey, the man who does not become a libertarian has no courage."

This man does not have the courage to run his own life (and let others run theirs) without the direction of the government. Following principles of freedom can be a fearsome thing. You must be willing to take responsibility for your own actions, and be willing to let others do the same. Only libertarian principles, consistent within themselves and consistently applied to government, show heart, brain, and courage.

At the end of the day, when the legislation is passed, there is not a dime's worth of difference between the Democrats and Republicans. The government gets bigger and more intrusive. Freedom is slowly and incrementally abolished. It just takes the Republicans a little while longer to get around to it.

— GEORGE HOERMAN

Corning, Iowa

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BY JOSEPH BANISTER

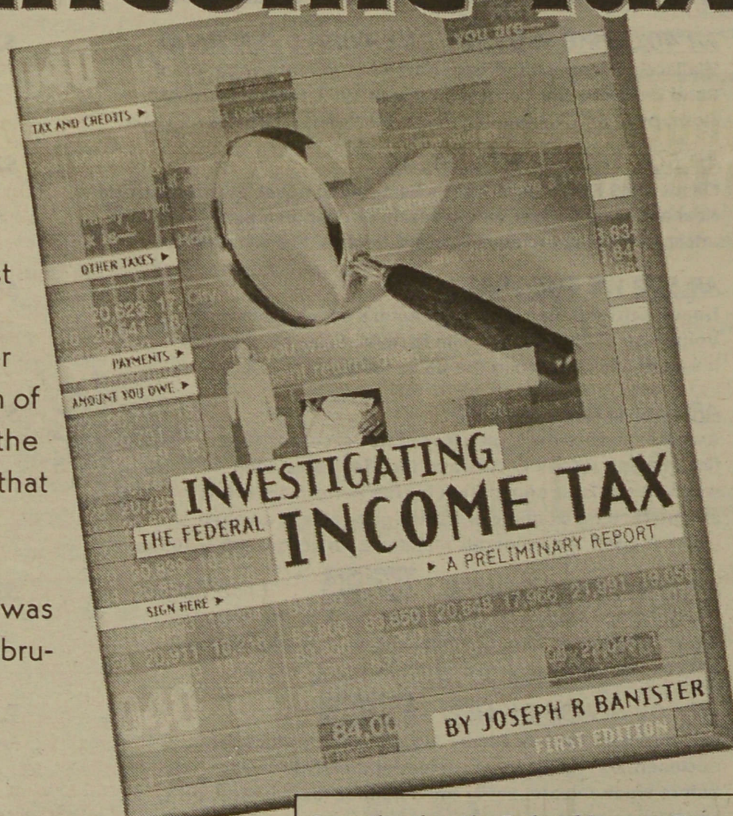
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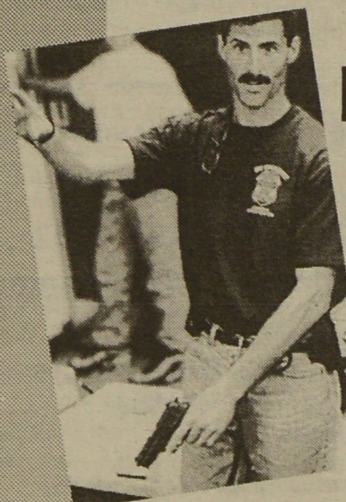
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PHOTO: Joseph Banister when he was an IRS/CID Special Agent. (Photo by Clayton Stalter)

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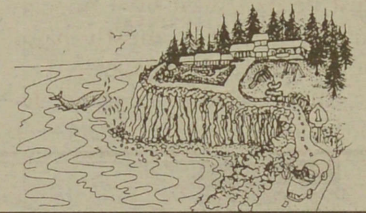
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Thomas Jefferson

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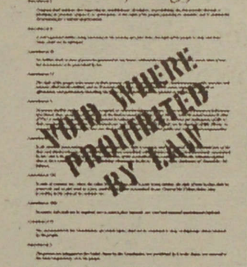
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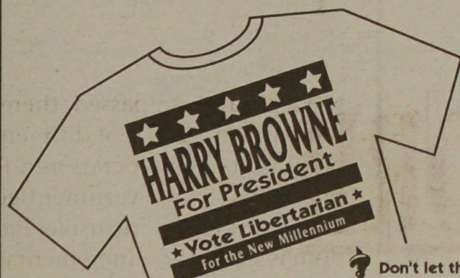


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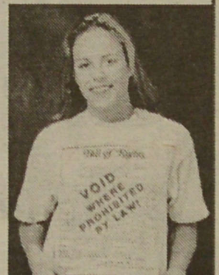
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UPCOMING EVENTS

■ September 11-12, 1999

Success '99 Libertarian Leadership Seminar, Boston, Massachusetts. Speakers include Bill Winter (LP Director of Communications), Jim Lark (Advisor, Liberty Coalition), and Michael Cloud (1998 U.S. Senate candidate, Nevada). For information or to register, call the Balcom Group at (202) 234-3880.

■ September 17-19, 1999

1999 Gun Rights Policy Conference, Airport Renaissance Hotel, St. Louis, Missouri. Sponsored by The Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep & Bear Arms, and the Second Amendment Foundation. Speakers include Congressman Bob Barr (R-GA), Alan Gottlieb, and Massad Ayoob. For information: (425) 454-4911. Or visit: www.saf.org or www.ccrkba.com.

■ September 18, 1999

Campaign Workshop, Augusta Hotel, Augusta, Maine. Hosted by former Libertarian N.H. State Rep. Don Gorman. Topics include: Grassroots campaigning; prioritizing resources; identifying issues; responding to the press. For information, call Chris Ziagos at (207) 775-3607. E-mail: cziafos@omnisystem.com. Write: P.O. Box 5225, Portland, ME 04101.

■ September 18-19, 1999

Success '99 Libertarian Leadership Seminar, Mystic Lake Casino & Hotel, Prior Lake (just outside Minneapolis), Minnesota. Speakers include Steve Dasbach (LP National Director), Sharon Harris (President, Advocates for Self-Government), and

Aaron Starr (Libertarian campaign manager). For information or to register, call the Balcom Group at (202) 234-3880.

■ September 24-26, 1999

Advocates for Self-Government's 15th Anniversary Celebration, Atlanta, Georgia. Speakers include Congressman Ron Paul, Charles Murray (author of *What It Means to Be a Libertarian*), Harry Browne (1996 LP Presidential candidate), Michael Cloud (creator of the "Essence of Political Persuasion"), Karl Hess Jr. (libertarian environmentalist), Walter Block (author of *Defending the Undefendable*). For information, call (800) 932-1776. E-mail: advocates@self-gov.org. Website: www.self-gov.org.

■ October 2, 1999

Connecticut LP Convention, Old State House, Hartford. Speakers include Neil Randall (Libertarian State Rep., Vermont), Ray Dunaway (radio talk show host), Carla Howell (U.S. Senate candidate, MA), and Michael Cloud (1998 National LP Convention keynote speaker). For information, call Carl Richardson at: (860) 388-0181. E-mail: kingcarl@snet.net. Or write: LP of Connecticut, 75 Coulter Street, Old Saybrook CT 06475.

■ October 6, 1999

The Heartland Institute's 15th Anniversary Benefit, Palmer House Hilton Hotel, Chicago, Illinois. Speakers include syndicated columnist Walter Williams and libertarian comedian Tim Slagle. For information/reservations, call (312) 377-4000.

■ For additional Upcoming Events, see page 20

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Republican tax cut plan

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tax-funded baseball stadium



FIRSTWORD

"The [Libertarian Party] is a political party gaining momentum. It seeks reform, not power." — *The Sentinel-Tribune*, Bowling Green, Ohio, May 17, 1999

"Observing the way Republicans sway back and forth in the slightest political breeze, it is increasingly clear that America has only one political party — the big tent party of Republican-Democrats." — Joseph Farah, *WorldNetDaily*, May 20, 1999

"[The Libertarian Party] follows the credo that non-intrusive government is best. I am predicting big things for the Libertarians this year." — Kyle Hannon, *The Elkhart Truth*, Indiana, May 16, 1999