

LIBERTY PLEDGE

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newsletter

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Radio talk show host registers Libertarian

A controversial radio talk show host who specializes in “naked radio” has become a registered member of the Libertarian Party

On May 24, Arquimedes Garcia, a host on KSJS Radio (90.5 FM) in San Jose, California, signed a Libertarian voter registration form on the air.

Garcia, who calls himself just “Arquimedes” while hosting his Naked Radio Show, said he was “fed up with the two old political parties and had decided to leave the Democratic Party and register Libertarian,” said longtime LP activist Marvin Rudin, who joined Arquimedes on the show.

“He had me on as an



■ Arquimedes: Fed up.

invited guest representing the LP to hand him a registration form and welcome him into the party,” said Rudin. “I told

him I admired his wisdom

at seeing through the Republicrat’s big government anti-freedom policies and his courage to change in front of his audience.

“He said it was easy — he hadn’t changed his views, but recognized that they were closer to Libertarian than any other party.”

Arquimedes’s show broadcasts every Thursday from 5:00 to 7:00 pm.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE USA

RUSSELL MEANS FOR GOVERNOR

Indian rights activist, actor, and author Russell Means can add another credential to his resume: Candidate for governor of New Mexico.

Means won the unanimous nomination of the state LP on June 9. He will appear on the ballot in 2002.

Means had announced his candidacy on May 28, saying, “In order for my people to be free, Americans have to be free. I want to champion the Libertarian Party as the moving force for freedom.”

A member of the Lakota Nation, Means was the first national director of the American Indian Movement in the 1960s. He rose to prominence during the controversial 1972 Indian take-over at Wounded Knee.

He later sought the LP presidential nomination in 1988, narrowly losing to Texas Congressman Ron Paul.

In 1992, he began a new career in Hollywood, appearing in *The Last of the Mohicans* (1992), *Pocahontas* (1995), and *Natural Born Killers* (1994).



■ Means: Makes run

SAN MATEO LP WINS TAX VOTE

San Mateo (California) Libertarians saved local taxpayers \$223 million by helping to defeat several new spending proposals in a June 5 special election.

“In San Mateo County, David met Goliath, and, for the greater part, David prevailed,” said Christopher Schmidt, vice chair of the San Mateo LP.

Libertarians helped defeat three of five tax and bond measures that would have raised money for schools and libraries — and saddled “residents with millions in new public debt,” he said.

To fight against the proposals, Schmidt wrote the ballot pamphlet arguments against all five measures.

In addition, San Mateo Libertarians purchased ads in county editions of the Independent Newspaper Group to “plant in the readers’ heads the impression that the LPSM is the only countywide organized opposition to higher taxes,” said Schmidt.

“Ultimately, of course, it was the participating voters who defeated the measures — but we articulated the reasons for them to do so,” he said.

Michigan School Board win

A Libertarian Party member has been elected to the school board of Grand Rapids, Michigan — the state’s second largest city.

Jeff Steinport, 21, who chairs the West Michigan LP, was one of eight candidates vying for three seats on the board. He won 13.9% of the 9,400 votes cast in the election on June 11.

“I’m excited to work for the parents of Grand Rapids,”

said Steinport after the results were announced. “I built a lot of bridges in my campaign and it paid off.”

Steinport won, he said, despite being widely known as a Libertarian.

“Most [voters] had heard I was a Libertarian and asked me about it,” he said. “I told them I was, and that it completely gibed with my plans for the district. They didn’t mind at all.”

Right to choose lost to war on 'victimless crime'

The Supreme Court of the United States recently had the opportunity to decide what kind of nation our citizens would live in.

Would it be an America where the police run roughshod over our right to choose in the name of a "War on Victimless Crimes"?

Or, would it be an America where law-abiding people could live where the Bill of Rights protects them and their choices?

On April 25, the answer was loud and clear. Americans learned that they would continue living in a land where they live in fear of police power.

The ruling, handed down in a 5-4 vote, gave police broad authority to arrest and handcuff offenders for minor crimes — "victimless" crimes — punishable by fines.

In this case, a Texas woman, Gail Atwater, was arrested for not wearing her seat belt.

Who really is the victim in violating the seat-belt law? The only possible victim could be the driver, and that is only if the driver were hurt in a collision.

No other person could be affected by the driver's lack of common sense. And it has been proved time and again that no government can legislate common sense.

A law that mandates seat belts be worn not only allows the government to take away our freedom to choose, but creates one more offense for which a police officer can issue a fine.

Instead of protecting victims and supporting individual freedoms, the law punishes freedom of choice and becomes a revenue-generating machine for government.

Are these the kinds of laws our forefathers fought for? These are more like the laws they fought against.

In the Supreme Court case in question, the actual victim was indeed the driver of the car.

She was not victimized by a collision, though. She was victimized through her mistreatment by a police officer. The arresting officer actually was cited by the court to have "exercised extremely poor judgment" in his handling of the situation.

The officer handcuffed Atwater and hauled her off to jail while her two young children looked on.

It was all worth it, though. The city of Lago Vista collected a \$50 fine and in the process, stomped all over Atwater's civil rights.

By passing "victimless crime" legislation, the government has taken away our right to choose and has put a price on our freedom. It has found a way to make money off our personal choices.

If somebody does not want to wear a seat belt, then there should be no law that states they must. Once the government steps in and starts passing these "victimless crime laws" based on common sense (and in many cases, morality) it only gives them more power over our lives.

Just ask Gail Atwater.

Ironically, if Atwater were getting an abortion — where arguably there is a victim — the government would be championing her "right to choose."

But since she decided not to wear a seat belt, she could be handcuffed and hauled away to jail.

If the law is going to be pro-choice on such a sensitive issue like abortion, how can it not be pro-choice about wearing a seat belt?

Only actions that infringe on the rights of others can properly be termed crimes.

Americans must encourage the repeal of all laws that create "crimes" without victims and bring back freedom of choice — on everything!



Guest View



Austin Hough
Austin Hough of Bolingbrook is state chair of the Libertarian Party of Illinois.

Libertarian spoilers

It appears the Libertarian Party is plaguing the Republican Party.

In 1998 and 2000, according to the National Review, a Republican nominee to the Senate lost to a Democrat by less than what the Libertarian candidate received. For example, Thomas Slade Gorton III of Washington lost last year to Maria E. Cantwell by 2,229 votes. In that race, Libertarian candidate Jeff Jared collected 64,734 votes. Most of the Libertarian votes likely would have gone to Gorton.

"Exit polling shows that we take twice as many votes from Republicans as from Democrats," Libertarian Party spokesman George Getz said.

If not for the Libertarians, the GOP could have possibly had a 52-48 lead in the Senate instead of the current 50-50 split. Also, according to Libertarian Party National Director Steve Dasbach, the Libertarian Party cost the GOP two House seats in the 2000 election.

Republicans are running scared. As long as it continues to advocate big government policies, it will continue to see its members turn to the Libertarian Party.

There is a healthy trend in America of third-party candidates challenging the status quo of the current two-party ruling junta. Only through the diversity of opinion offered by all sides can the republican form of government remain strong.

◀ *The Carpentersville/Dundee Daily Herald*, Carpentersville, Illinois, May 4, 2001

▲ *The Clovis News Journal*, Clovis, New Mexico, May 2, 2001

▼ *The Washington Times*, Washington, DC, May 21, 2001

GOP will court its libertarian wing

New group forms amid fears of splitting party strength

By Ralph Z. Hallow
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Influential Republicans are preparing an election game plan to put reliable majorities in Congress.

The trick, they say, is to go back to the limited-government basics of the party's libertarian wing without generating friction with social and religious conservatives.

"Our party's broad center-right coalition includes social conservatives as well as libertarians, so it's doable," Republican strategist Grover Norquist said.

He said that if Republicans had sought to win over even a tiny percentage of the Libertarian Party vote in Nevada and Washington state, it would have a 52-48 Senate majority instead of a 50-50 split.

Mr. Norquist notes that in Washington state's Senate race last year, Republican incumbent Slade Gorton lost to Democrat challenger Maria Cantwell by only 2,229 votes. Libertarian Jeff Jared gathered 64,734 votes in that race. If Republicans had grabbed only 4 percent of Mr. Jared's vote, Mr. Gorton would be in the Senate.

Two years earlier, Republican John Ensign lost to incumbent Democrat Sen. Harry Reid in Nevada by a merely 428 votes, while Libertarian Michael Cloud took 8,044 votes. If Republicans had appealed directly to conservative-minded voters who went for Mr. Cloud and won just 6 percent of them, the Nevada Senate seat would have gone Republican.

And in New Mexico, Al Gore beat Bush by only 366 votes. "Bush could easily have peeled that many votes from the 2,058 that Libertarian candidate Harry Browne got, if Bush

had only gone after that vote," said state Republican Chairman John Denhahl. "Democrats made the case that a vote for Nader was a vote for Bush, and we could have made the case that a vote for Browne was a vote for Gore."

To avoid such disasters, Republicans are pinning their hopes, in part, on something called the Republican Liberty Caucus.

"The most important thing is to get the libertarian-leaning voter to vote Republican," said Liberty Caucus National Chairman Chuck Muth. "To do that, Republicans can't just say, 'Let's slow the spending growth to just 4 percent, adjusted for inflation [as they did in the federal budget]. Government is already too big and too intrusive.'"

"Since 1995, the Republican Congress has been expanding government, and that is precisely why so many voters who voted for Republicans in 1994 have been staying home or have fled to the third party movement," said Mr. Muth.

One inevitable source of conflict, however, that will pit the Liberty Caucus against many establishment Republicans is that the caucus will recruit, train and support Republican candidates to go up against other Republicans, including incumbents, who don't support cutting government and taxes and maximizing personal freedom.

"It will cause friction with the establishment that always wants to support incumbents like [Vermont Sen. James M.] Jeffords and [Rhode Island Sen. Lincoln] Chafee for not supporting the Bush tax cuts," Mr. Muth said. "Other 'RINOs' [Republicans in name only] and the establishment won't support us on that, but the grass-roots Republicans

will."

The Liberty Caucus, he said, also will "keep an eye on" wavering Republicans like Maine Sen. Olympia Snowe, New Jersey Rep. Marge Roukema and Maryland Rep. Connie Morella. "But we have to be careful not to give away a seat to the Democrats by targeting a Republican."

"Make no mistake," Mr. Muth said. "Grass-roots Republicans are angry as hornets at Jeffords and Chafee right now and have been at other RINOs for five years, such as [Connecticut Republican Rep.] Chris Shays," co-author of the House version of the McCain-Feingold campaign finance regulation bill.

Mr. Norquist said that a caucus goal is to "avoid disasters" like Mr. Gorton's loss inflicted by a Libertarian. "This also happens for House races and for state legislative officers. It's why the Republicans lost control of the Colorado state Senate. So looking for areas of cooperation between libertarian conservatives and Republicans is very important."

Mr. Muth thinks the Republican Party "should be comfortable doing that. Our job as the Liberty Caucus is to return the Republican Party to its limited-government roots."

But is the party itself on board, in spite of the risks?

"I'm a libertarian Republican," said Montana Republican Chairman Matt Denny. "And I don't see much conflict with social and religious conservatives. At bottom, we want the same things. Libertarians believe we don't need a paternalistic government telling us how to run our businesses or raise our children."

Statehouse candidate knows he's a long shot

Libertarian hopeful is on a personal mission

By Chelyen Davis
The News & Advance

William Redpath knows people would think he's nuts if he said he has a shot at winning the November governor's race.

But the Libertarian is running for it anyway, hoping his issues of small government and electoral reform will at least earn some attention.

Redpath, a Northern Virginia financial consultant, is the Libertarian Party's first candidate for statewide office in Virginia.

In fact third-party candidates in Virginia gubernatorial elections have been rare and Redpath is realistic about his chances in a state that isn't usually friendly to minor-party candidates.

"I'm very much a long shot," he said during a stop in Lynchburg Friday. "If you say you're not running to win, people think you're not serious. If you say you're running to win, people think you're nuts."

Redpath blames the lack of success for minor party candidates on the voting system. In fact, changing the way Virginians — and the rest of the nation — cast their votes is the top item on his campaign platform.

But political analyst Robert Denton of Virginia Tech said third-party candidates don't fare well because they just don't have the money or the visibility, and because a growing number of voters don't identify themselves with any party, mainstream or otherwise.

The major-party candidates — Democrat Mark Warner and Republicans Mark Earley and John Hager — have other worries on their minds than Redpath.

It's a tight race so far, with Warner in the lead, and the candidates have to win over not only their party

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faithful but the growing number of undecided voters.

"The movement right now is away from partisan politics," Denton said. "The fastest-growing block is those who identify themselves as independent. Independent's a misnomer. What we're identifying is what they call the 'floating voter.'"

Denton said "floating voters" are impacted by short-term issues and change their minds several times before an election.

"They're non-partisan, non-ideological," he said. "It's almost like the last argument they heard is the way they go. So it's hard for a third party, when there's no name recognition."

Libertarian candidates can be further encumbered by a difficulty in defining them. Libertarians want limited government, but sometimes that puts them on the right of issues and sometimes the left.

"Some say a genuine Libertarian is in some ways way liberal and in some ways way conservative," Denton said. "They're almost where the circle meets. They can appeal to a fundamental conservative and the disenfranchised ... and those who are quasi-anti-government. Obviously, without much money, it's a difficult race as a Libertarian."

Minor-party candidates for statewide office don't usually do well in Virginia. But occasionally one has served as a "spoiler" — a third candidate who swings the election by luring votes away from one candidate.

"The one that had the most significant impact was Marshall Coleman running against Chuck Robb," in the 1994 U.S. Senate race, Denton said.

Robb was running against Republican Oliver North. Coleman was a Republican, too, but ran as an independent in that race because a number of Republicans didn't like North. Coleman took enough votes away from North to give Robb the race with 45 percent of the vote.

Redpath said he isn't in this race to be a spoiler. He just wants his ideas to be heard.

"I think the role of third-party candidates is to bring up ideas that are not going to be brought up by the major candidates," he said.

But in a race that's already interesting — Republicans embroiled in an intraparty nomination battle, the budget impasse likely to haunt Republican candidates and the election perhaps viewed as a referendum on the Republican governor's embattled car tax cut — Redpath will have to shout pretty loudly to make himself heard.

Sure, he has opinions on those issues. Car tax? Cut it now. Budget crisis? Slash spending.

But the issue dearest to Redpath's heart — election reform — won't make anyone's blood boil.

He wants to overhaul the state's voting system to give more weight to third party candidates.

"The movement right now is away from partisan politics. The fastest-growing block is those who identify themselves as independent. Independent's a misnomer. What we're identifying is what they call the 'floating voter.'"

Robert Denton Virginia Tech professor

Redpath says the current winner-take-all system isn't fair. He wants a system in which people rank their favorite candidates — first choice, second choice and so on — and then votes get swapped around if their first choice doesn't win.

In such a system, Redpath said, many of Green Party presidential candidate Ralph Nader's votes would have been transferred to Democrat Al Gore last November, which could have changed the outcome of the election.

Redpath said many people don't get involved in politics because they think their votes don't matter, and that changing the voting system would create more interest in politics and therefore more participation.

"We have largely boring, uncompetitive elections," he said. "No wonder people say, 'I'm going to take a pass on that.' There are a lot of people out there who want change ... they don't know what they're looking for, but they're looking for something."

He also wants to see state legislators do a web-cast address to constituents every night, and wants to eliminate state senate districts, having senators instead elected at-large to represent certain philosophies.

He would also cut not just the car tax, but just about every other tax the state levies, except the income tax and sales tax. He would cut state spending, including about \$80 million from commerce and trade.

"They're actually using general fund money to promote golf in Virginia," Redpath said. "That's not a function of government, to be a cheerleader for business." He would also stop using state money to subsidize higher education, saying the state just shouldn't be the one paying for people to go to college.

Redpath isn't on the ballot yet — Virginia law requires him to get 10,000 signatures on a petition, 400 from each congressional district. He estimates he's halfway there. The deadline is June 12.

"It's tough" getting signatures, he said. "Is it certain I'm going to be on the ballot? No. Is it likely? Yes."

Legalizing marijuana is perhaps the issue the

Libertarian Party is best known for. Redpath agrees with that, and says government shouldn't be involved in every aspect of people's lives.

His slogan is "Anything that's peaceful" — meaning that if it's peaceful, there shouldn't be a law regulating it.

"All government action inherently involves the use of force," Redpath said. "The American people are unable or unwilling to distinguish between that which is good and that which is just."

He said people assume government works for the good, and that belief gives government "license to get into every nook and cranny of life."

While Redpath's chances of winning are minimal, a tight gubernatorial race between the major candidates could conceivably set Redpath up as a spoiler. If the two major-party candidates are running neck-and-neck, even two or three percent of the vote can make a difference.

"In such a scenario, the winner is going to have to appeal beyond party lines. The challenge for both parties is to nominate someone whom the party regulars can like but also can be broad enough to appeal to these non-partisans," Denton said. "Historically that's been very difficult."

He said both parties had such a strong litmus test to win the nomination — Republicans had to be conservative, Democrats liberal — that by the time they'd won over their own party, they'd alienated swing voters.

Denton said that may not be the case this year, at least for Democrats.

Right now, polls show Warner ahead of his Republican opponents.

"Warner right now is the best-positioned," Denton said. You can call him tall, you can call him handsome, you can call him rich, but you can't call him liberal. So he's positioned himself well to appeal to the undecided in that regard."

And the Republicans may suffer some from the conservative views of their candidates.

"There's going to be a danger for Mark Earley because he (in earlier races) had strong religious ties and support to the Christian conservatives," Denton said. "He certainly will not compromise his views on that. Interestingly enough, John Hager is the one who has to go out of his way to appeal to the core constituency of his party. He's not conservative enough."

Republicans will choose between Earley and Hager at a convention on June 1 and 2. Denton predicted Earley will walk away the winner.

And Redpath? Right now he just hopes he's on the ballot.

► On the Net, check out the Web site for the national Libertarian Party at <http://www.LP.org>. The Virginia party's Web site is at <http://www.lpvva.com>.

Libertarian to run for state House

Libertarians used tax day as the platform to launch their first candidate for political office in 2002.

Robin Palachuk announced Monday he will run for the state House of Representatives seat in the 4th Legislative District. The position is held by Rep. Larry Crouse, who was re-elected last November.

Palachuk, 40, acknowledged it was very early to make an an-

nouncement for the 2002 race.

"This way I will have extra time to compete successfully. I'll need the extra time," he said in a speech outside the post office in Liberty Lake.

Palachuk has a bachelor's degree in business administration and works as a systems support analyst for Safeco in Liberty Lake. He lives in Veradale with his wife Marie and two teenage children.

▲ *The News & Advance*,
Lynchburg, Virginia, April 22, 2001

◀ *The Spokesman-Review*,
Spokane, Washington, April 17, 2001

'The other' Thompson tests gubernatorial waters

By RALPH ANSAMI
Globe News Editor

When he was governor of Wisconsin, Tommy Thompson often referred to Hurley as his "second home" in numerous visits here.

Tomah Mayor Ed Thompson, the ex-Governor's brother, may not become that familiar with our area, but he did give approval Wednesday in Hurley for a group to form an exploratory committee to look into the possibility of him running for governor in 2002.

Ed Thompson, a Libertarian, has not made a commitment to run for governor, but said Wednesday, "I would like to see a third party (in the race.)"

The Friends for Ed Thompson committee named Milwaukee-based entrepreneur and former radio talk show host Sue Fisher as spokesperson.

She is a former Republican state assembly candidate.

Also on the exploratory team are William A. Pangman, who chaired Alan Keyes' presidential

campaign in Wisconsin; Dane County Libertarian activists Tom Ender and Julie Cordry, and Baraboo businessman Tom Keister, active in the Wisconsin Tavern League.

Libertarian Party state chair Bob Collison attended the Wednesday meeting of the committee at the Anton-Walsh bed and breakfast inn in Hurley, operated by innkeeper Gene Cisewski, a Libertarian.

Ed Thompson said he also has plans for running for re-election as mayor in Tomah, and a news release said while he gave the OK to form the exploratory committee, he will not be a part of its work at this time.

"These folks made a good case and can be very persuasive, so I've given them my OK to form a committee and report back to me what kind of support there is among the Wisconsin people," he said.

Thompson was quick to point out that, unlike his brother, who

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he called a "died in the wool Republican," he's no "career politician."

A tavern operator, Ed Thompson's only experience in politics was with the Tavern League until his establishment was busted for paying off money on video poker machines in 1997.

As Thompson tells it, Attorney General James Doyle orchestrated the raid that netted a priest named Father Dan who had won \$5 at the tavern and boasted how much he had taken home from the machines the day before.

Video poker games are prevalent in taverns throughout the state, Thompson noted, and he claims the raid was, "Because of Tommy and me."

Thompson was slated for trial for operating an illegal video poker machine and he, faced eight years in prison and a \$60,000 fine, but he said Monroe County court officials couldn't find enough people to sit on the jury.

He eventually ended up paying \$800 and serving two years probation.

"I just got my machines back," he said Wednesday.

Thompson won the mayor's race in Tomah, a city of about 8,500, against a two-term incumbent in a non-partisan election.

The man who looks strikingly similar to his brother is proud of his "Ask the Mayors Show" and said the biggest controversy in his city is a battle with the Environmental Protection Agency over a landfill.

Thompson agrees with the Libertarian view that the war on drugs is being lost nationwide.

"I don't condone the use of drugs, but Prohibition didn't work in the 1920s and it's not working now."

Drug dealing leads to all sorts of crime and that sends more people to an already overcrowded prison system, he said, noting he worked for four and a half years in a federal prison.

Referring to drug dealing, he said, "We've got to take the money out of that poison."

Collison said he's enthused with the prospects of an Ed Thompson candidacy.

You've paid your taxes, so enjoy Taste of Marietta

If you're feeling a sigh of relief today, it must be because it's the day after "tax freedom day."

Every penny you earn 'til the end of the year would be theoretically yours if you had given every penny until April 27 to the government to pay state, local and federal taxes, according to a press release by the Libertarian Party of Georgia.

Feel better?

Neither do I.

"Americans work longer to pay for government than they do for food, clothing and shelter combined," said the party's statement, an annual, upbeat reminder of how big "big government" is getting.

Of the 118 days of work required by Cobb residents to pay for government, 84 went for federal taxes and 34 for state and local taxes.

I haven't got my calculator handy, so I'll just rhetorically ask how many hours or days had to be worked [or will have to be worked] to pay for gas taxes, FiberNet losses, the city conference center, the deficit in the school's budget deficit and that spiffy new high school.

Just wondering.

With all that newly freed cash you've got now, maybe you can head over to the Marietta Square today and try out the Taste of Marietta.

Entry to it and the car show are free, but each food booth with tasty morsels will require a few liberated greenbacks.



David Elmore

BUSINESS EDITOR

◀ *The Daily Globe*, Ironwood, Michigan, May 10, 2001

▲ *The Marietta Daily Journal*, Marietta, Georgia, April 29, 2001

▼ *The News Tribune*, Tacoma, Washington, May 6, 2001

LOOSE TALK

"We've elected many comedians as mayor of New York. Why not finally have a professional?"

— **Richard Cooper**, *Libertarian Party* chairman, speaking about *Kenny Kramer*, the real-life inspiration for a "Seinfeld" character and the *Libertarian Party* nominee for mayor.