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Liberty Pledge

NEWSLETTER

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National LP announces new "welfare" policy package

End welfare as we know it? No — *end welfare.*

That's the basis of a new public policy proposal issued by the Libertarian Party last month. Entitled "Ending the Welfare State," the package puts a Libertarian spin on the current debate about "reforming" welfare, and argues that only private, voluntary charity can solve the problem of poverty in this country.

"For years, people have asked us, 'what about the poor?' And now we have the answer," said LP National Chair Steve Dasbach.

Subtitled "How to Promote Opportunity, Work, and Individual Responsibility," the proposal details the failure of the modern welfare state, critiques Republican and Democratic reforms, and outlines a four-point plan to replace government welfare with private charity and increased economic opportunity.

Dasbach promised that the National LP will use the "Ending the Welfare State" proposals to try to influence the current welfare debate. "We'll be doing our part to spread the word. We'll do a mailing to influential talk show hosts, send information to our state parties, and send details about our plan to Washington's most powerful politicians," he said.

How to annoy a bureaucrat: Pay your taxes in loose change

Want to annoy a bureaucrat? Pay your property tax in quarters.

That's what LP member Katherine Fox Polizzi did in Algonquin, Illinois in early September — much to the dismay of town tax collectors.

Polizzi hauled in five bags of coins weighing more than 140 pounds — containing 9,200 quarters, 60 dimes, 23 nickels, and one penny — to protest another increase in the town's property tax to fund public education.

"I just want government out of our schools," said Polizzi, who sends her two children to private school. "I'm doing everything legally to get my point across."

The protest earned Polizzi coverage in at least three newspapers in her area. But County Treasurer Bill Ward didn't appreciate Polizzi's action, and took the opportunity to lecture her. "I think paying taxes is a privilege and great fun," he explained.

Libertarian News Notes

Number of Libertarians in office reaches 150

The number of Libertarians in office has finally reached the 150 mark, with victories and appointments over the past month in three more states.

In California, LeRoy Nelson was elected to the Manhattan Beach Unified School District Board of Governors, and will take his seat on December 15, 1995. Nelson says he hopes to end the "fiscal irresponsibility" of the board.

In Alaska, Jim Hager, 43, was elected to the Cordova City Council on October 3rd by a vote of 424 to 338. Cordova is a small fishing port (pop. 1,500) south of Valdez.

Also in early October, Libertarian Michael Buoncris-tiano was appointed to the Hoboken City Council's Task Force on Rent Control & Modernization in New Jersey.

Harry Browne wins WWW "straw poll"

Harry Browne, a candidate for the LP's presidential nomination, was the leading vote-getter in an Internet "straw poll" of presidential candidates.

As of September 27th, Browne led Republican Phil Gramm by 251 votes (18% of the total) to 232 votes (16%) in a survey conducted by the Stardot World Wide Web site on the Internet. Rounding out the top five were Republican Alan Keyes (207 votes), Democrat Bill Clinton (170), and author Colin Powell (167).

First CityVote debate canceled

The CityVote debate scorecard: Two cancellations, one confirmation, and one "maybe."

The first CityVote debate (scheduled for October 8th, but moved to October 6th) was canceled after all the major Republican candidates — including Bob Dole, Phil Gramm, and Pat Buchanan — and President Clinton declined to participate, according to Sharon Ayres, Harry Browne's campaign manager. LP presidential contender Harry Browne was scheduled to attend that debate, which would have been broadcast on C-SPAN and PBS.

The second debate, scheduled for October 22, 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm, (Pacific Time) in Spokane, Washington will go on as scheduled, said Ayres — with the sponsors saying "they are going forward with the debate no matter who shows up." C-SPAN is expected to broadcast that debate.

The third debate, scheduled for October 29th in Pasadena, California, has also been canceled. "There is talk of holding another debate on November 5th in Boston, Massachusetts, but it is still unconfirmed," said Ayres.

Viewpoint

Libertarianism gives Gays yet another choice

by Gene A. Cisewski

Forget Gay Republicans and their homophobic cousins on the far right. Depart from Gay Democrats and their dependent friends on the far left. Instead of the left-wingers or the right-wingers, consider a libertarian view — what Rush Limbaugh sarcastically called “up-wingers.”

Gay Libertarians stand apart from the two traditional flanks. The mainline, left-wing Gay groups that see government as our mommy don't get it. Got a problem, call a politician. Somebody hurt your feelings? Go tell the police or some commission. These left-wingers don't include Gay Libertarians as part of the rainbow. Gay Libertarians' blend of individual liberty with personal responsibility creates a shade that doesn't fit into their spectrum.

On the right, Gay Republicans just seem to want a place at the right-wing table, and even squishy moderate Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) doesn't want to be seated next to them. Presidential candidate Dole gave them the boot when he returned a campaign contribution from a Gay Republican group. You hear a lot of talk about smaller government coming from the right, but if Virginia Gov. George Allen honestly believes the Jeffersonian admonition for smaller government, he should be leading the charge to repeal sodomy laws in that state.

How can libertarian approaches protect our community, a diverse people that have historically faced hostility? Our heritage of racism gives vivid examples of the vicious impact of discrimination. Add that to today's perverted free market — a marriage of big business and big government that concentrates power unjustly in the hands of special interests — and a sense of victimization is not altogether unreasonable.

So now what? Massachusetts Gov.

William Weld told a meeting of the Human Rights Campaign Fund in Boston that they have to find “some kind of bridge to the Gingrich revolution.” Or else, he said, things will be worse off for Gays and the whole country. Weld called for small-government libertarianism. That's exactly what Gay Libertarians advocate. To see the benefits, we first have to separate government and private policies.

America's tragic record with racial civil rights was *government* policy. In county courthouses, restrooms were segregated on racial lines. On city buses, African Americans were forced to the back. Jim Crow laws subverted economic opportunities for blacks. Chain gangs often served business owners who made corrupt deals with officials. And it was the military that segregated black and white troops under a guise of “unit cohesion.” All this was government policy, not private enterprise.

Gay Libertarians believe the best government is the one that governs least in *all* parts of our lives. One of the few positions shared by most Libertarians and the mainline Gay civil rights movement is the desire to repeal sodomy laws. It is not government's proper role to rule private, consensual, intimate behavior.

In light of today's enforcement tactics, sodomy laws violate a precious element within our Constitution. The equal protection clause is ignored when the only people who suffer persecution for sodomy are same-sex violators. Heterosexuals make up most of the people violating these laws, but they don't get arrested.

On the national policy front, President Bill Clinton's “Don't Ask, Don't Tell” policy against Gays in the military is wrong in Gay Libertarians' eyes. Retaining people for who they are and not how they perform in their jobs goes against true capitalism. Barry Goldwater got to

Gay Libertarians believe the best government is the one that governs least in *all* parts of our lives.

the core of libertarian philosophy. He said that it shouldn't matter if a soldier is straight, but if he can shoot straight. The best military requires objective qualifications, skills, and obedience to orders. And the Tailhook scandal proved that the acts of *individuals* ruin unit cohesion, regardless of sexual orientation.

But take note: The moral underpinning of why the military should not discriminate against Gays is the same one that makes affirmative action quota laws wrong. If one accepts that qualifications and skills should be the basis for military service, laws forcing employers to hire people based on status violate that argument. You cannot have it both ways.

In a true free market, there are ways to deal with the immoral practice of discrimination against classes of people. There's the mass distribution of information and boycotts, of course. But there are even more effective tools.

Nobel economist Milton Friedman laid down a moral code for companies. He said that management has a single obligation to stockholders: earning honest profits. When managers deal with

anything short of how well employees do their jobs, they violate their fiscal responsibility to the shareholders. In a real free market, this would allow shareholders to sue for damages and a correction in the policy.

All over the United States, Gays prove this natural element of the free market. Like ethnic immigrants early in this century, many have naturally segregated in urban areas, providing our own sense of community and our own businesses. The Gay gentrification of urban areas — from Dupont Circle to West Hollywood — shows the power of the free market in our community.

On other issues, Gays seeking a truly just society share more in common with Christian Coalition head Ralph Reed than U.S. Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.). For instance, when one applies the tenet of equal protection for all, one can see why hate crime laws are a bad idea. To enforce laws that make acts of violence against Gays worse than violent acts against somebody else only creates animosity. Whether that person hates you, is mad at a spouse, or steals your grandma's pension check shouldn't matter. The intentional and violent act against another human is enough reason for society to intervene swiftly and severely.

A real free market offers Gays the best opportunity to pursue our own happiness. And it does so without stepping on the equal rights of other people to pursue their own happiness. The problem posed by the left and right wings is that they will step on the folks they oppose to get their way. A little more libertarianism from the left and right would mean a more peaceful world for everybody.

Gene A. Cisewski is chair of the Libertarian Party of Washington and a member of Gays and Lesbians for Individual Liberty (GLIL).

▲ *The Washington Blade*, Washington, DC, September 29, 1995

▼ *The Tempe Daily News Tribune*, Tempe, Arizona, September 15, 1995

Fallon claims cutting-edge choice

By Galina Espinoza
Tribune writer

Gary Fallon is the only Phoenix mayoral candidate who has campaign information posted on his own personalized Internet page.

It is an appropriate distinction. For just as computer pundits are championing the Internet as the social tool of the future, so, too, are Fallon's supporters declaring him to be the kind of mayor cities nationwide will elect during the 21st century.

The appeal of the Internet, experts say, is that the international network of computers allows people to communicate with each other at the touch of a button.

Fallon's appeal, his supporters contend, is that he espouses the forward-thinking Libertarian principles of

individual liberty and personal responsibility. But in order for Fallon to convince Phoenix residents that he is the only choice for cutting-edge voters, he often has to overcome their misconceptions about what it means to be a Libertarian.

“My function is to get government out of your life,” Fallon said. “If you're peaceful and honest, you should be left alone.”

The Phoenix mayoral election on Oct. 3 is supposed to be nonpartisan. But Fallon is running on a slate of Libertarian principles embodied in the document “Phoenix Taxpayers Emancipation.”

Fallon pegs the Phoenix Taxpayers Emancipation as the Libertarian answer to the Republicans' “Contract With America.”

It details the recurring themes of Fallon's campaign — taxes, urban sprawl and crime — by calling for an elimination of the primary city property tax, shifting police officers from desk jobs to street patrols and requiring new

developers to cover all of the costs for the homes they decide to build in the desert, without the taxpayers' help.

Fallon also proposes cutting \$47 million from the city budget, partly by eliminating a number of departments, including the offices of public safety, transportation services and public information, plus the Phoenix Film Office and the Community Relations Office.

With a face that looks as freshly scrubbed as a teenager in a Noxzema commercial, Fallon appears younger than his 35 years, almost like your best friend's kid brother. But it is this clean-cut image, combined with his passion for principles, that Fallon's supporters say will get him elected.

“He's very good in debates because he very passionately and reasonably presents Libertarian principles,” said Ernie Hancock, chairman of the Maricopa County Libertarian Party. “He can change people's minds.”

Gary Fallon

Occupation: Director of technology services at Research Resources

Political experience: Libertarian candidate for

state representative (1992 and 1994), chairman of Maricopa County Libertarian Party (1990-91)

Community: President of North Valley Taxpayers Association; former vice president, Arizona Federation of Taxpayers Association; member of Phoenix Community Services Commission (1990-92)

Family: Married with two children
Top issues: Taxes, urban sprawl, police



Libertarians to challenge anti-drug tax

Lack of results cited

By Tim Todd
The Examiner

Area Libertarians are preparing to launch their own "just say no" campaign.

But the slogan, made popular as a way of urging teens to resist peer pressure to use drugs, will not be a part of a fight against substance abuse. Instead, it may prove to be the battle cry for a group opposing the county's quarter-cent anti-drug sales tax, which goes to voters Nov. 7.

"Are they really keeping criminals off the streets? I haven't seen results," said Jeanne Bojarski, head of the Kansas City area Libertarian Party.

The party will host a meeting at 2 p.m. Sept. 24 at the Westport Library that likely will see a call for war on the sales tax.

Bojarski said members of the party and others have seen few results from the tax other than the creation of new agencies that feed off the drug tax. While Prosecutor Claire McCaskill and others point to increased arrest and prosecution numbers since the tax was implemented in 1990, Bojarski dismisses the figures, saying that she has not seen proof the tax is working.

Party: To fight anti-drug tax

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tute of Justice before an election. Some members of a special committee that studied the tax said they also favored waiting on the NIJ study, but were told the study would only talk about ways of improving the tax, not the validity of the tax.

Since it was originally approved for seven years, the tax does not expire until 1997. But county leaders opted for this year's November ballot, noting that ballots in 1996 would be crowded with both state and federal elections. Waiting until next November, they said, also would catch some agencies in the midst of their fiscal years.

Bojarski said the move will only cost taxpayers more money since the county will have to foot the entire election bill. In other election years the cost is shared by entities holding the elections. The same point was made by members of the committee studying the tax when they learned that the election costs were similar regardless of when the election is held.

Bojarski said she is not sure how much opposition there will be to the drug tax. She plans to hold press conferences and will likely organize some print and broadcast promotions urging voters to reject the proposal.

She said the anti-drug tax is an easy way for elected officials to get taxpayer money.

"Of course everyone's against drugs," Bojarski said. "It's more of a scare tactic."

There are plenty of (recovery) programs that don't cost the taxpayers.'

JEANNE BOJARSKI
head of local Libertarian Party

The tax generates about \$15 million for the county annually. The money goes to law enforcement agencies, to hire prosecutors and to community education and treatment programs.

Bojarski said she has not seen any documentation of a drop in crime and treatment programs should be administered without county funding.

"It's my impression drug addicts, like alcohol addicts, are not cured until they make up their minds to be cured," she said. "There are plenty of (recovery) programs that don't cost the taxpayers."

Bojarski said she would also like to see the results of an independent study of the tax being conducted by the National Insti-

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Libertarian Party gathering endorses less government

By CARSON WALKER

Argus Leader Staff
Unlike political conventions that offer a good dose of party rhetoric, the South Dakota Libertarian Party's annual gathering sounded more like a civics lesson in American values.

Libertarians met Saturday in Sioux Falls, but not to tinker with government and draft grand ways to improve it.

Rather, a dozen or so of the 430 registered members quoted Thomas Jefferson and dreamed of how better off the country would be with a smaller Uncle Sam.

"We believe that the best government is that which governs least," said state party president Bob Newland of Rapid City.

"You and I know what's best for our own lives better than anyone else does. And to the extent that government can stay out of our daily lives, we suggest it do so."

Speakers included comedian Tim Slagle, Minnehaha County Commissioner Tom Dempster and Dave Dawson, a Wyoming man who has run twice for Congress as a Libertarian and plans to again

'We believe that the best government is that which governs least.'

— Bob Newland
Libertarian Party
state president

next year.

"We believe in individual freedom and personal responsibility," Dawson told the group.

Dempster, a Republican, said many of his beliefs are Libertarian in nature: a free market is the best way to distribute resources and people who use a service should pay for it, such as a gasoline tax for roads instead of property taxes.

"But I disagree with the Libertarian view that says all laws are bad laws," he said.

Instead of \$100-a-plate dinners, the Libertarians raised money through a raffle and silent auction. A table in one corner of the Radisson Encore Inn room held some of the items: a bottle of Jim

Beam whiskey with a glass set and a Tyrannosaurus rex tooth.

Dr. Dana Windhorst of Sioux Falls was a lifelong member of the Republican Party until he switched to the Libertarians four years ago.

"They say, 'We'll get government off your backs and eliminate government spending,' and they don't do it," he said of Republicans. "The only difference between Republicans and Democrats is what they want to spend someone else's money on."

The Libertarians don't have candidates lined up yet for the 1996 races, but they did pass bylaw changes, including a measure to allow any registered independent voter to take part in their primary.

Newland predicted that with Democratic Rep. Tim Johnson expected to challenge incumbent Republican Sen. Larry Pressler for the Senate, the race will be tight and the Libertarians will be courted.

"I'm confident that one party or both will ask us to drop out of the race and ask: 'What can we do to keep you from running?'"

Pooh-poohing Perot

The Libertarian Party does not get much publicity, so it must have been galling for the group to see all the media hoopla surrounding Ross Perot's third-party announcement.

Steve Dasbach, chairman of the Libertarians, in a press release called Mr. Perot's new group a "fourth party" that is "too vague, too timid and too indebted to the failed older parties to have any lasting impact on American politics."

Mr. Dasbach said his party, unlike Mr. Perot's "phony party," will run candidates at every level and not just for the presidency. And the Libertarians will not endorse candidates from the other parties, as Mr. Perot says his group will do. Finally, the Libertarians charge that Mr. Perot's party has no guiding principles about the proper role of government.

But Mr. Dasbach said the Perot party may accomplish something: "It may help turn attention to the one party that is all the things Mr. Perot's party is not — principled, credible, lasting and running a full slate of candidates in 1996. That one party — America's real third party — is the Libertarian Party."

▲ *The Washington Times*

Washington, DC, October 2, 1995

◀ (Top) *The Examiner*

Independence, Missouri, September 16, 1995

◀ *The Argus Leader*

Sioux Falls, South Dakota, August 27, 1995

▼ *The Commercial Appeal*

Memphis, Tennessee, September 7, 1995

Libertarian Party forms first chapter in Memphis

A few activist members of the national Libertarian Party have formed the Libertarian Party of Memphis, becoming the second locally organized chapter in the state.

Interim chairman John Behnke and secretary Donna Malone said the party would elect officers this month at a general meeting. They said the party hopes to build support for the national organization and to field candidates for city and county elections.

The state party is based in Nashville. The only other local chapter is in Hamilton County, according to Behnke and Malone.

The national party, founded in 1971, seeks to increase individual liberties and reduce government authority. The party is generally liberal on social issues and conservative on economic issues.

For more information, Malone can be reached at 353-1805.



Larry Caruso/Photo Editor

Jon Coon believes enough Downriver voters are dissatisfied with the current two-party system that they will elect Michigan's first Libertarian to state office. Coon is moving to Southgate and plans to challenge Democratic state Rep. Joseph Palamara for the 24th District seat next year.

Taking aim

Libertarian hopeful sets sights on House seat

By Amy Kuras & Denise Jenkin

Staff Writers

SOUTHGATE — A Libertarian candidate riding the wave of government discontent is hoping to convince Downriver voters to discard a Democratic incumbent and put this region in the Michigan history books.

Jon Coon, the unsuccessful 1994 Libertarian candidate for U.S. Senate, announced earlier this year that he is planning a bid for a seat in the House of Representatives from Downriver's 24th District in 1996.

Coon, who hasn't yet formally changed his residence to the district that includes Southgate, Wyandotte and Riverview, said he believes his strident Libertarian beliefs are enough to capture a majority of Downriver votes.

He said he chose that specific district because it is the home of his new wife, Renee Willet, and not to specifically target incumbent state Rep. Joseph Palamara (D-Wyandotte).

He said he has lived in Southgate "off and on" for about six months, and is selling his home in Henderson. Although he will have lived in the district only about a year-and-a-half when the November 1996 election rolls around, he said he believes he will be qualified to represent the district.

DOWNRIVER'S STRONG blue-collar character is comfortable for him, he said. If elected, he would be the first Libertarian to hold state office in Michigan. "It depends on how you see it, if residency is an issue," he said. "It's where your heart is. I grew up blue collar. I identify down here."

Though Downriver characteristically votes Democratic, Coon said his U.S. Senate campaign did quite well locally last year. About 50 percent of those who voted for the Libertarian candidate in 1994 identified themselves as Democrats, he said.

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of pork he could bring back to the 24th district.

The high tax burden also plays a big role in the debate over welfare and community mental health care, he said.

"We live in the kindest, most giving nation on earth. But each year

the taxes go up and the giving goes down."

If people didn't have to spend so much on taxes, they would most likely give to charities or help people in their own neighborhoods, he said.

The theme of personal respon-

sibility carries over to the way Coon would represent the district. If elected, he said he would not abandon his principles to become popular, even among his own constituents. If a majority of his constituents wanted him to vote for something that he disagreed with, he said he

would "listen, first of all.

"If I felt I was in error, I would change my opinion," he said. "I'm not the type of person who believes they know everything. But, if I was not convinced, I would stand by my principles. I would explain myself and vote my conscience."

◀ *Wyandotte/Trenton News-Herald*
Wyandotte, Michigan
September 13, 1995

Coon

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Coon received nearly 29,000 votes throughout Wayne County.

MONEY ALSO is a factor in Coon's decision to seek a state representative's seat rather than national office.

"We don't have the money to run for the U.S. Senate," he said. "We learned that last year. We were outspent 50 to 1."

Coon raised almost \$200,000 for that campaign, which resulted in a strong-enough showing for the Libertarians to gain major party status. He ended the campaign with a small debt.

He quit his job in the timber business and devoted himself full time to the 1994 campaign; however, the Libertarian said he has returned to his 12-year-old career in timber.

Still, since his early announcement of his intentions to run, supporters from throughout southeastern Michigan have continued to pledge their dollars, helping him raise \$14,000 already, he said.

"We expect to raise about \$200,000. We expect the Democratic Party to come in with outside money, so we don't think that is unrealistic." "We are watching the Republican Party as well. We would like to see a three-way race."

HE SAID dissatisfaction with an unresponsive two-party system is what led him to become active in politics.

Raised a Democrat, Coon began voting Republican when he started having sharp disagreements with the Democratic Party's principles.

"I believe the Democratic Party has gotten away from its roots," he said. "It used to be the party for the working man. Now it has gotten to the point where the Democratic Party represents everybody who doesn't work."

In 1992, he said he re-examined his alliance with Republicans, and began studying the Libertarian Party instead.

The increasing number of Libertarians and success of Libertarian candidates across the country has caused the mainstream parties to take notice, he said. Currently 144 Libertarians hold elected office across the country.

THE LIBERTARIAN philosophy is based on a premise of personal responsibility, a theme that Coon hammered on again and again. The responsibilities that go along with freedom are being shirked, he said. Coon promises in his campaign platform that he will oppose all tax increases and that he will promote more accountability and less government involvement.

"We have to see some responsibility return to government," he said. "The people are frustrated. They can't get the government to go

where they want it to go."

On issues ranging from welfare reform to education, he said he believes the answer is to take the money, and control, away from the state and put it back into the taxpayers' hands.

"I will vote no on every tax increase," he pledged. "The people of this state are overtaxed. People are coughing up to half their income to the government right now, and they don't even know it."

HE SAID HE will propose removing the roadblocks for more parental involvement in education — particularly home schooling. He also supports dismantling state standards to allow each district to decide what they want to teach.

The argument for standards is that some parents just don't care what their children learn, he said. But allowing greater parental involvement would let the children whose parents don't care about their education to benefit from those who do, he said.

Coon is most strongly identified with efforts against gun control. He sponsors a yearly "Brass Roots" pro-gun rally on the steps of the state Capitol and has allied himself with such pro-gun celebrities as WXYT talk show host Mark Scott and rock star Ted Nugent.

HE ALSO WAS a keynote speaker at a Michigan Militia meeting during the Senate campaign in 1994.

While he is militantly pro-gun, he said he is worried about the way the nation is tearing itself apart over the issue, while no one is doing what is needed to combat crime.

Too much time is being wasted by the police on the drug war and on "generating revenue" with traffic tickets and not enough is being spent tracking down violent offenders, he said.

He also contests the Republican notion that the solution is to build more prisons, and the Democratic ideal that everyone can be rehabilitated if enough money is spent on them.

The solution is to lock up violent criminals rather than keeping non-violent ones in prison for too long.

"We need to put murderers in there and not let them get bumped by some kids who were caught smoking dope," he said.

Government has no obligation to provide things such as welfare or mental health services to their constituents, he said. In Coon's view, it's probably morally wrong to take the money from someone in the form of taxes and give it to someone else.

TO FUND important projects, such as renovating Michigan's deteriorating infrastructure, Coon said legislators should look at eliminating unnecessary programs instead of raising taxes.

The best way would be to take the pork out of the budget, he said.

He said he did not want to be elected or remembered for the amount