

LIBERTY PLEDGE

newsletter

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MAY 2000

Libertarian gets 'Rising Star' honor

LP Political Director Ron Crickenberger has been named a "Rising Star of Politics" by *Campaigns & Elections* magazine — the first time a Libertarian has received such recognition.

Crickenberger was listed in the May 2000 issue of the magazine, in a special section that honored "important players on the ascendency, people who are making their mark in campaign consulting and management, party organization and issue advocacy."

He was also invited by *Campaigns & Elections* to a gala award reception on May 5 in Washington, DC, where he hobnobbed with members of Congress and



■ Crickenberger: "On the ascendency."

Beltway political journalists. "It is exciting to win this recognition — but this award is as much for our candidates as it is for me," said Crickenberger. "The phenomenal success of the LP would not be possible without each and every one of them."

Crickenberger, who became the LP's first full-time, professional Political Director in 1997, was cited by the magazine for his role in increasing the number of Libertarians holding public

office by 400%.

He was listed in *Campaigns & Elections* along with 59 other "Rising Stars" — all of who were major players in the Republican or Democratic parties, or associated with polling companies, lobbying groups, political consulting companies, or citizen advocacy groups.

As a "Rising Star," Crickenberger joins such political legends as James Carville, Mary Matalin, George Stephanopoulos, and Ralph Reed, all past recipients of the honor.

Campaigns & Elections magazine is a publication on campaign management, and is considered the "bible" of the industry.

New York LP picks candidate to face Hillary

New York Libertarians have nominated an African-American drug counselor to run against Hillary Clinton for U.S. Senate—and he predicts his campaign will make a "difference."

John Clifton was nominated at the state LP convention in Yonkers on April 29, becoming the first African-American to run as a statewide LP candidate in New York.

He decided to run, Clifton said in his acceptance speech, because "an alternative to two power-driven patrons of Big Government needs to be on the ballot."

His campaign will focus on "five freedoms," he said: "Tax freedom, gun freedom, drug freedom, personal freedom, peace and freedom" — and will oppose "Hillary Clinton's Big Sister philosophy and policies."

A Navy veteran, Clifton is a resident of Jamaica, Queens and works as a drug counselor in Bedford-Stuyvesant.

"I've worked on the front lines of the social problems my opponents give speeches about," he said. "I feel I'll make a difference in this election."

LP candidate speaks at AIMM rally

A Libertarian candidate for U.S. Congress spoke at the counter-rally to the Million Mom March in Washington, DC — and told the audience they must fight "any infringement on our Second Amendment rights."

Sharon Wood, who is running for U.S. House in Virginia's First District, addressed several thousand people gathered near the Washington Monument for the Armed Informed

Mothers March on May 14.

In a pointed rebuke to the larger anti-gun rally being held just a few blocks away, Wood, said that the Million Mom March organizers manipulated statistics to make the problem of juvenile gun deaths seem worse than it is.

"The statistics they cite are misleading," she said. "Gun accidents cause far fewer deaths of children than other causes.

"My concern is that any

infringement on our Second Amendment right could lead to further infringement, and that could jeopardize Americans' ability to defend themselves," the former prosecutor said, noting that "not one rape victim whose case I handled had been armed."

After Wood and others spoke, the group marched to the Capitol building to stand up for "the 2.5 million people whose lives are saved by guns every year."

Libertarians endorse Kennedy challenger

By Thomas Grillo
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

NEWTON — Hoping to end Senator Edward M. Kennedy's four-decade long career that began when his brother, John F. Kennedy, was president, the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts endorsed the longshot candidacy of Carla Howell at its convention yesterday.

"If you send Ted Kennedy back to Washington, he'll increase taxes and make government bigger," said Howell. "But if you elect me, I'll go to Capitol Hill with an eraser to repeal, remove, and defund. I'll propose to lower taxes dramatically."

The 44-year-old management consultant and Wayland resident said she would uphold the principles of Libertarianism, pledging to end gun control laws, work to decriminalize drugs and propose to curb funding for all federal departments with the exception of defense and the courts.

"In almost every case, government makes things worse," she said. "Small government is far better, cheaper, safer, more humane and will allow everyone to be more prosperous."

Howell said she plans to raise \$500,000 for the campaign and has already received more than \$190,000 in donations.

While Kennedy has yet to announce whether he will seek a seventh term, the senator has amassed a campaign fund that exceeds \$2 million. In 1994, Kennedy beat a challenge by millionaire businessman Mitt Romney by a 17-percent

margin.

Elias Israel, chairman of the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts, said Howell may be the only alternative to Kennedy.

"The Republican Party has distanced themselves from Jack E. Robinson and are not looking for a replacement," he said. "Carla may be the only credible candidate against Kennedy."

Robinson has vowed to spend up to \$1 million of his own money in a campaign against Kennedy. But his candidacy has stumbled amid questions about allegations of sexual misconduct, plagiarism, carrying a dangerous weapon and an automobile accident in which he sped away before stopping — prompting Governor Paul Cellucci to withdraw his support.

Last month, Plymouth County District Attorney Michael Sullivan, a Republican, abandoned plans to run against Kennedy. He said he was unwilling to be away from his family and the district attorney's office to campaign full time.

Philip Lawler, a member of the Constitution Party, announced his candidacy late last year.

While Howell has never held elective office, she ran for state auditor against Joseph DeNucci in 1998 and received more than 100,000 votes. Her showing gave the Libertarians major party status.

The Libertarians hope to have 35 candidates for races on Beacon Hill, six state Senate seats and 28 state representative offices as well as a candidate for the fourth congressional district.



GLOBE STAFF PHOTO / PAM BERRY

The Massachusetts Libertarian Party endorsed Carla Howell (center) as its candidate for US Senate yesterday.

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GUN-GRABBING DOCTORS. The Libertarian Party charges a plan by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) to have handguns banned because they are a risk to the safety of children is "malpractice against the Constitution." The AAP wants the federal government to ban handguns, trigger locks and other safety features mandated until the nationwide ban goes into effect and handguns are regulated by the Consumer Products Safety Commission. The AAP effort is misguided on constitutional grounds and on the basis of the facts, said Steve Dasbach, the Libertarian Party's national director. Dasbach points to a University of Chicago study which found concealed carry handgun laws reduced murder rates by 8.5 percent in states that passed such laws.

◀ *The Spotlight*
Washington, DC
May 8, 2000

▼ *The Washington Times*
Washington, DC
May 1, 2000

Toy story

The Libertarian Party says it is "baffled" by a proposal to have the city of Annapolis buy back toy guns.

They don't know whether to "support the program or snicker at it," the group said in a prepared statement.

Last week, Annapolis Alderman Cynthia A. Carter proposed that the city start a program to buy back water pistols, cap guns and other toy weapons to curb "violent behavior" among children. The first-term Democrat argued that children "can't distinguish between a real gun or a play gun" and said she would eventually like to make all toy guns illegal.

This is a real dilemma, said Steve Dasbach, the Libertarians' national director. "Do we praise this politician for going after toy guns instead of constitutionally protected real guns? Or do we point out that buying back toy guns will no more keep our streets safe than buying back non-alcoholic beer will keep Ted Kennedy sober?"

"Or should we just give this politician an award for coming up with the most entertainingly goofy idea of the year?"

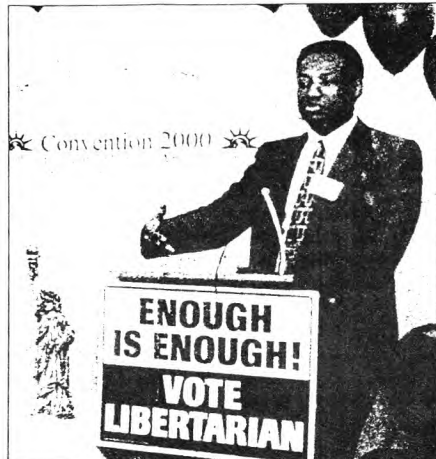
Libertarians pick candidate for Senate

Yonkers — A Brooklyn drug counselor was selected yesterday as the Libertarian Party candidate for the U.S. Senate, becoming the first black candidate ever nominated by the party for statewide office.

John Clifton was nominated on the third ballot at the party's convention, outdistancing three other candidates, said state party chairman Richard Cooper.

Clifton, a Navy veteran, lives in Queens and works as a drug counselor in the Brooklyn neighborhood of Bedford-Stuyvesant.

Clifton was expected to face some stiff competition in this year's race: Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican Rudolph Giuliani.



John Clifton delivers a speech before being selected as the Libertarian Party candidate for the U.S. Senate yesterday in Yonkers, N.Y. He becomes the first black candidate ever nominated by the party for statewide office.

Photo by The Associated Press

▲ *The Boston Globe*
Boston, MA
April 16, 2000

▶ *The Times Herald-Record*
Middletown,
New York,
April 30, 2000

ANOTHER VIEW

People deserve right to choose on gun issue

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution states: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

The Second Amendment reads: "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed."

While most media people are very content in having and defending their own First Amendment rights — their freedom of speech and freedom of the press — they are quite willing and at times eager to throw out the Second Amendment rights of the average person to own arms.

They would also publicly promote and/or defend the very politicians — Democrats or Republicans — these same people, who if given half a chance, would take away the media's rights along with our Second Amendment and all of our small arms without a second thought.

They don't interpret "the people" in the Second Amendment the same way they do in the First, Fourth, Sixth, and Seventh Amendments. That is the all-inclusive meaning of every individual. They insist on using the interpretation that "a well regulated militia" is only to be the state's militia.

They are to my way of thinking, if you will please excuse the pun, shooting themselves in the foot. When the politicians have succeeded in removing all the firearms from all of the people, who will defend the media's rights to freedom of the press? The government-regulated militia?

Or are they intending to defend their rights with knives and baseball bats against machine guns, tear gas, tanks and helicopters, as were used by our government against our own U.S. citizens at Waco, Texas?

Have you ever noticed that the majority of mediums often refer to Libertarians as having a "strict interpretation of the Constitution?" Have you also ever wondered why it doesn't seem to bother those same media people that this would necessarily mean, by default, the Democrats and Republicans have a very loose interpretation of our Constitution?

Or perhaps, they would have no hesitation whatsoever in abolishing it altogether, if given the opportunity! Most voters don't know that only the Libertarian Party is 100% pro-Second Amendment, pro-gun, in its platform.

Like all other issues, Libertarians would prefer to leave it up to the individual, to choose what is best for them! To own or not, and to carry or not!

I like this idea better. It doesn't mean I have to, it leaves me a choice. That is what liberty really means. Freedom is the implementation of that choice.



RICHARD FRIEND
POINT OF VIEW

- ▲ *The Argus*
Fremont, California
April 18, 2000
- ▶ *The Times-Herald*
Port Huron,
Michigan,
March 18, 2000
- ◀ *The San Jose Mercury News*
San Jose, California,
April 17, 2000

Libertarians protest Tax Day, hand out lollipops to 'suckers'

By Christine Shirley
STAFF WRITER

Libertarian party members met last-minute tax filers Monday evening with a question: "Do you feel like a sucker?"

Two local Libertarian candidates and a small crew of volunteers distributed free lollipops to lines of waiting taxpayers at Fremont's main post office as the federal tax deadline approached.

"After paying their taxes, most people do feel like suckers," said Mark Werlwas, one of the protest organizers and Libertarian candidate for the 20th District state Assembly seat.

Local members of the party were joining a Libertarian tradition that occurs each Tax Day at post offices around the country. In the East Bay, protests were planned in Fremont, Concord and Oakland.

Libertarians believe in reducing government size and limiting or eliminating taxes. More than 900 registered Libertarians live in and around Fremont, Werlwas said. Nationwide, the party has 180 members holding public office and Libertarians regularly challenge the larger parties in elections.

One volunteer, Werlwas's daughter Natalie, 21, wore a plastic trash can and a sign reading: "I

threw my money away. I should have voted Libertarian." Volunteers also handed out party literature with the lollipops, including fliers headlined, "You were robbed!"

"If somebody's taking your money and they're threatening you with force, essentially that's the definition of robbery," Werlwas said. "What we're encouraging is modifying the tax system so people can choose if they'll pay."

Fremont's post office wasn't the only site for escalated activity and tasty treats Monday.

Rather than receiving a protest, Union City's post office hosted Tax Day festivities.

KFRC and KOHL radio stations broadcast live from that bustling scene during peak postal hours. Several restaurants, including Chili's and Dominoes, gave away free food samples in the post office. Krispy Kreme doughnut certificates were given out to some lucky taxpayers.

While Union City tax filers received those unconditional goodies, visitors to Fremont's post office still faced a question for their lollipops. So did the taxpayers have to admit to feeling suckered by the government in order to get their sweet reward?

"We give them the lollipop, anyway," Werlwas said. "They deserve it for all they've been through."

When drug war targets Kool-Aid, it's gone too far

It starts with Kool-Aid. Before you know it, kids are hooked on Ovaltine.

The War on Kool-Aid has come to O.T. Bonner Middle School in Danville, Virginia. The school suspended eight students for one week for sniffing Kool-Aid powder.

The students were charged with "possession of contraband" because they were "using Kool-Aid in a way that imitated the use of illegal drugs," school officials explained. They could have been suspended for a year on the charge of "using a look-alike drug."

Of course, the brightly colored powder isn't illegal, nor does it look like any illegal drug known to this editorial board.

"This is your brain; this is a public school bureaucrat's brain on Kool-Aid," snorted Steve Dashbach, national director of the Libertarian Party, which publicized the incident.

Courtesy of the Libertarians, there are other examples of zero tolerance run amuck:

■ Two kindergartners playing at a New Jersey school pointed their fingers at classmates and made shooting noises. Bang-bang. You're suspended for three days.

The parents are considering a lawsuit to clear the tykes' "permanent record" of the offense lest they later be branded as violence-prone.

■ A Maryland school suspended a 9-year-old for violating the school's no-gun policy. He'd drawn a picture of a gun on a piece of paper.

■ A seventh-grader in Kansas got a three-day suspension for violating the rule against "racially divisive" material. He drew a picture of a Confederate flag.

Whatever happened to *talk*ing to children?

Zero tolerance, zero sense.

Editorial
The opinion of the Mercury News

Wood nominated to run on Libertarian ticket

By Rita Copeland
Staff Reporter

The Libertarian Party held a caucus in Yorktown, March 25 and nominated Sharon Wood as their candidate for the First Congressional District House seat. If elected, Wood will replace retiring incumbent, Herb Bateman.

Born in Washington, D.C., Wood, 48, joined the Libertarian Party in April 1999. Wood notes she is "working for less government and more freedom."

Among platform issues, Wood wants to put an end to the "insane war on drugs." Wood states, "Now even without a constitutional amendment, we have decided to ban other substances in the same way

we banned alcohol, and with the same results. We now have drive by shootings and organized crime. We are reliving the same history we lived in the 1920's and early 30's.

Wood adds, "As a former prosecutor, I am in favor of putting those people behind bars that hurt or injure us by force or theft. But for those people who commit what we now classify as crimes that do not hurt anyone else but themselves, we are wasting a lot of resources that could be used for more serious crimes. So not only are we eroding our civil liberties, it's a wasteful process and certainly not a successful process."

Among other issues, Wood wants to repeal the income tax amendment. "I firmly believe if our government

was performing solely constitutional functions, then we could survive without a federal income tax." Wood also wants to work toward privatizing Social Security and Medicare.

New in the realm of politics, Wood has 16 years of experience in law. From 1993 to 1997, Wood served as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Florida where she worked in the criminal division, appearing mainly before the appellate court. Wood served as an Assistant State Attorney in Martin and St. Lucie Counties, Florida from 1986 to 1992, and in Palm Beach County, Florida from 1981 to 1986.

Wood graduated from Nova Law School in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, with a J.D. in 1982. She received her bachelor of arts from Florida



Sharon Wood

Atlantic University in Boca Raton in 1978.

Woods resides in Hampton with her husband, John Cadrin. They enjoy music, art, theater, lectures, visiting historical sites and museums, and target shooting.

▲ *The Journal*, King George, Virginia, April 5, 2000

▼ *The Bangor Daily News*, Bangor, Maine, April 6, 2000

Libertarianism is the great leap of faith

Thinking about voting for Harry Browne, the Libertarian Party presidential candidate, is like standing atop a 130-foot cliff overlooking Acapulco Bay, wondering what it would be like to dive into the ocean. Intellectually, you know it can be done. The Acapulco cliff divers are a world-renowned tourist attraction. But could you, Joe Average nonathlete, conquer the fear of height and rocks below, and time the crashing surf to plunge like a graceful arrow into the ocean?



JOHN S. DAY

Slim chance.

In fact, those are the odds that Browne, who will address the Maine Libertarian Party Convention in Portland today, gives himself of winning the White House this year. The only third-party presidential candidate listed on the ballot in all 50 states in 1996, Browne polled just under a half million votes, which puts his party in third place behind the Greens and Ross Perot's Reform Party in the triad of American independent party movements. That said, this year's campaign is not necessarily about winning.

While Al Gore and George Bush debate rearranging the pillows on the sofa of American big government, Browne espouses an agenda that would toss most of the living room furniture out the

window. On his first day in the White House, the Libertarian front-runner said in a telephone interview on Thursday he would release from prison every non-violent drug offender — there are about a million — and immediately move to legalize marijuana, cocaine, heroin and the other contraband drugs. He would just as speedily seek repeal of the income tax and abolish all federal programs except those tied to the nation's defense and foreign policy. Ditto for gun control laws and campaign finance rules. And then, Browne said, he would abolish Social Security and federal health programs like Medicare and Medicaid, the sacred cows of U.S. politics.

"I am running for president because the federal government has stuck its nose into virtually every area of your life, with no constitutional authority," Browne declared on Feb. 14, when he announced his candidacy.

Make no mistake, Libertarian-

ism is your classic leap of faith. It is a dogma, however, that is spreading rapidly over the Internet. In many Web polls, Browne runs up there with the big dogs. The big obstacle, Browne said, is catching the attention of the millions of voters disenchanted with the major parties and get them to think past the blunt impact of the Libertarian agenda. That will take several million dollars for national television ads, which the party didn't have in 1996 but hopes to raise by this fall.

In a nutshell, Browne says a true constitutional federal government focused on just defense and foreign policy could be run on \$100 billion annually, compared with the current \$1.8 trillion federal budget. If the unneeded \$1.79 trillion were diverted back to the populace, there would be no need for an income tax or most other levies. Families could take that money to buy health insurance, send their kids to the best schools and otherwise improve their lives.

Browne, a best-selling author on finance, says Social Security is a Ponzi scheme, which will go broke in about 30 years without huge tax increases or benefit cuts. Browne would sell off federal assets like western public lands and the petroleum reserve, which he said are estimated in the \$50 trillion range. He'd take \$12 trillion of that amount to buy

annuities to continue benefits for current Social Security recipients. The rest of the money would be used to pay down the national debt. New workers would be steered into private 401(k)-type investment programs, which generate far greater returns than Social Security. Better yet, these retirement nest eggs could be passed on from generation to generation, unlike Social Security.

Obviously, these are bold ideas. Unless he and the other third-party candidates are let into the presidential debates, Browne concedes there's little chance to reach enough voters in this year's election cycle to dent the two-party system and its "same old, same old" tinkering with big government programs.

"I'd hope to see Libertarian congressional candidates elected in the year 2002, and maybe a serious shot at the presidency in 2004," said Browne, who figures a 3 percent to 5 percent showing in November sets his party on that glide path.

There is reason for optimism locally. Maine's Libertarian Party hopes to field 15 to 20 legislative candidates this year, up from four two years ago and just one in 1996.

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