

# LIBERTY PLEDGE

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APRIL 2003

## newsletter

### ELECTION WIN IN MICHIGAN ...

## Howrylak re-elected to City Council seat

Michigan Libertarian Martin Howrylak overcame fierce opposition to win a surprisingly easy re-election victory and keep his seat on the Troy city council.

Howrylak, 28, won 5,365 votes to earn another three-year term on the non-partisan council. Two opponents – who made an issue out of Howrylak's Libertarian beliefs – won 3,360 and 3,204 votes. The top two voter-getters were elected.

"If that's not a mandate from the people, I don't know what is," said campaign manager Fred Collins. "Our message was consistent throughout the campaign: Here is what Howrylak has done over the last three years, and here is what he wants to do in the next three. If you agree with these priorities, then vote for him. Obviously the voters agreed."

Early in the campaign, opponent Cristina Pappageorge, who finished third, had castigated Howrylak for his membership in the Libertarian Party.

"The phrase [Pappageorge] used was, 'I encouraged drug use,'" said Howrylak. It sparked workers to get out the vote. A lot of people worked hard and knocked on doors."

"We won big," said Barbara Goushaw, who was on the Howrylak campaign team. "The big government tag-team that tried to shut down Martin Howrylak has been humiliated.

"Despite the fact that this was a non-partisan race, the opposition did their best to smear Martin for his LP membership, attempting to make the LP sound like a bunch of half-crazed drug dealers. But because we had the resources to communicate directly with the voters, we were able to put to rest the silly charges, highlight Martin's record on the council, and communicate his goals for the future."

"The best way to describe [my feelings] is I'm flattered," said Howrylak. The best thing a sitting councilman can experience is re-election. My hard work over the last three years paid off."

Howrylak won a majority of votes in 30 of the city's 31 precincts.

In March and early April, 17 other LP members also won local office in Wisconsin, Illinois, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire.

## Nix liquor board, LP says

Oregon Libertarians are working to privatize the state liquor business – calling the current state-run system "a relic."

State LP Executive Director Richard Burke, testifying before a State House panel on April 2, said the Liquor Control Commission has the conflicting missions of encouraging people not to drink alcohol, while simultaneously trying to maximize liquor revenue.

The agency also operates as a "self-anointed morality commission" that tries to regulate nude dancing in bars, he said. "I would contend that it is the community's business as to the kind of entertainment provided," Burke said. "It is not the Oregon 'Entertainment' Control Commission."

### LIBERTARIAN IN HOLLYWOOD ...

## Star of Mister Sterling a 'hard-core Libertarian'

Veteran character actor and funnyman Dean Cameron has become the latest Hollywood figure to say that he's a libertarian.

Cameron, who has been playing Deputy Press Secretary Derek Lerner on the NBC political drama *Mister Sterling*, told the *Los Angeles Times* that he is a "hard-core Libertarian."

"I'm always surprised that more artists aren't Libertarians," he said. "We are, ultimately, an idealistic group – and the often misguided support of the Democrats or, worse, the Greens is what some might call idiotic. I would never say idiotic, though I guess it's the most accurate term, isn't it?"

Cameron has also put his libertarian beliefs into practice: He is the inventor of the "Bill of Rights, Security Edition" for travelers – the first 10 Amendments to the U.S. Constitution printed on sturdy, playing card-sized pieces of metal. The product is designed to set off the metal detectors in airports – and force airport security to announce: "I'll have to take away your Bill of Rights."

Cameron is perhaps best known for his roles in frothy movie comedies like *Ski School* (1991), *Ski School 2* (1994), and *Summer School* (1987).

## Troy incumbent keeps City Council seat

By John Michalak

A former council veteran and a newcomer teamed up against incumbent Councilman Martin F. Howrylak in Monday's municipal election and ended up battling each other for the second and final spot as Howrylak won decisively.

Howrylak, 28, is joined on the city council by Jeanne M. Stine, 73, who left the council as a term-limited mayor two years ago. Her running mate, Cristina Pappageorge, 58, finished third and out of the running.

Unofficial results are: Howrylak, 5,365; Stine, 3,360 and Pappageorge, 3,204. A total of 11,929 persons voted, or a little more than 20 percent of the city's 57,000 registered voters.

"The best way to describe (my feelings) is I'm flattered," said Howrylak who won a second three-year council term. "The best thing a sitting councilman can experience is re-election. My hard work over the last three years paid off."

While Howrylak wouldn't say Stine and Pappageorge underestimated him, he did acknowledge statements early in the campaign that he encouraged drug use backfired. Pappageorge criticized Howrylak claiming he is a Libertarian who also ran successfully as a Republican precinct delegate last year.

She said the Libertarian Party favors the decriminalization of certain drugs like marijuana.

"The phrase (Pappageorge) used was I encouraged drug use," Howrylak said. "I've lived in this city a long time. I was a Boy Scout, had paper routes, and a business. I've known a lot of people. I know enough people who knew that was vastly untrue. It sparked workers to get out the vote. A lot of people worked hard and knocked on doors. Everything just came together. I have everyone in city to thank."

Howrylak ended his victory statement on a conciliatory note.

"I've said all along after these three months are over I am ready to work with everyone," he said. "We as leaders have to come together to lead the city of Troy."

Stine said she was surprised by the outcome. "But I shouldn't be," she added. "(Howrylak) had such a great number of people from out-of-town helping him. There were ads put out by people outside of Troy. It's pretty tough to compete to a point of beating a machine like that."

Stine also said she was "very discouraged and disappointed" by Pappageorge's showing. "But when you have five members of the council who worked against two women it tells me I am going to have some challenges," Stine added.

Like Stine, Pappageorge said Howrylak had help from outsiders which she suggested is Libertarian strategy to get party members elected to nationally showcase the party's control over a city with Troy's stature and size.

(Left) *Daily Tribune*, Troy, Michigan  
-- April 8

(Below) *KATU News*, Portland, Oregon,  
-- April 1

## Beaverton tax levy not popular with Libertarians

Beaverton schools are facing a \$30 to \$35 million budget shortfall and they're asking taxpayers to pick up the tab.

Today, the Libertarian Party spoke out against the tax levy.

Beaverton is one of only two metro area schools that has not cut school days this year.

But that could change next year, if the district can't come up with another funding source. Extra curricular activities are on the chopping block next year for Beaverton schools. Cash reserves are tapped out, and the district is facing a more than \$30 million budget.

Is a tax levy the answer?

"I think it's a bad April fools joke not only on the kids but on the Beaverton taxpayers," Tom Love from the Libertarian Party.

The Libertarian Party expressed the first organized opposition to the proposed levy. They believe new taxes for schools are not only unfair but also unnecessary.

"If parents and the taxpayers let the pressure off by giving them more money when they already have more money," said Mitch Shults, of the Libertarian Party.

By the numbers: A \$1.50 for each \$1,000 of assessed value on your home. If you own a \$150-thousand dollar home expect to pay an extra \$225 in taxes a year.

Some said that it's pocket change.

"If we do not invest now in maintaining and continuing high quality education we have in Beaverton, it's going to affect not only Beaverton but the entire state of Oregon," said parent Janet Hogue.

Money raised from the levy would help fund teachers, books, sports, and PE.

Libertarians countered that opinion by saying that the money for a quality education is there, it's just a matter of finding it.

"I think it's clear that there is room for greater efficiency in the Beaverton school district. Where that exactly that is is up to them to determine," said Shults.

"We don't think so in Beaverton schools -- we feel we have managed our money very responsibly," said Maureen Wheeler from Beaverton Schools.

The tax levy is up for a vote on May 20th.

## Three on ballot for 4<sup>th</sup> District Alderman

By Amy Rinard

OCONOMOWOC – The incumbent and two challengers are on Tuesday's ballot for the city's 4th District aldermanic seat after the Common Council took the unusual move of not holding a primary election in the district.

And after many years of mostly uncontested elections for council seats, two other incumbents – in the 2nd and 3rd districts – also face challengers this year.

In the 4th District, incumbent John Gross is being challenged by Leroy Watson and Dan Raasch.

Watson, 64, a retired U.S. Postal Service worker, has run unsuccessfully four other times for the council and ran for the state Assembly twice. At a recent candidates forum, he said he is a member of the Libertarian Party and believes in small government and lower taxes.

"We need more people to rustle some leaves in this place," he said of his candidacy, noting that he does not like to see incumbents run unopposed.

Asked about the contentious working relationship between aldermen and Mayor Gary Kohlenberg, Watson said he did not approve of Kohlenberg's successful write-in campaign and felt anyone running for office should do it openly by filing nomination papers.

Raasch, 45, a third-grade teacher at the city's Parklawn Elementary School, said a facilitator or a mediator may be needed to restore a level of trust between Kohlenberg and aldermen.

"The mayor and the Common Council must work together," he said, adding that his skills as a problem-solver would serve the council well.

Raasch said that with the likely loss of state shared revenue putting a pinch on the city budget, the council must be more careful about making purchases "to get the most for our dollar."

Gross, 44, a machine adjuster at Western States Envelope Co. in Butler, has been an alderman since 1989.

Gross said he has managed to work in the past with 17 different aldermen and four mayors and will continue to vote his mind and not allow city issues to become personal.

"I take no pleasure in the bickering or squabbling," he said.

He said the city needs to be vigilant about growth and may need to consider a growth-control ordinance, but not a moratorium. Also, Gross said, officials should look for areas of the city where more high-density, affordable housing may be appropriate.

(Left) *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel*,  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin -- March 25

(Below) *Austin Chronicle*, Austin, Texas  
-- March 28

## Race suddenly crowded

By Lauri Apple

At noon last Wednesday, the Place 2 City Council race seemed all tied up for first-term incumbent Raul Alvarez – the only candidate on the ballot.

But by the end of the day two opponents had emerged: longtime East Austin activist Gavino Fernandez and Libertarian Steven Adams.

Alvarez and Fernandez will be vying for the Hispanic seat designated by that unofficial and controversial "gentlemen's agreement" regarding council seats.

Fernandez is a leader of the El Concilio coalition of East Austin neighborhoods. Alvarez is from East Austin and has also been active in the environmental movement that has occasionally clashed with El Concilio on neighborhood matters.

Fernandez was out of town and couldn't be reached for comment. But during last week's citizen communication period at council, Fernandez supporter José Quintero of the Greater East Austin Neighborhood Association provided a few clues as to why the former Holly Neighborhood Planning chair chose to run.

"East Austin needs a council member that answers to the Hispanic community and not the environmental political machine," Quintero told council. "The biggest instigator that comes to our community is the Sierra Club. They appoint the Hispanic they want to run. They are going to vote [Alvarez] into office. Therefore, that's where we are ... still facing the Holly Power Plant closure."

Libertarian but not least, Adams says he chose to run in Place 2 because party brethren had already filed for the other two contested races, Places 5 and 6.

A candidate for justice of the peace in 2002, Adams is a self-employed West Austin resident opposed to subsidies for corporations; a major target is the more than \$2 million in incentives currently under review for the Whole Foods/Borders Books development project at Sixth and Lamar.

He also opposes the city's noise ordinance and Mayor Gus Garcia's proposed ban on smoking in public places.

(Right) *Scranton Times-Tribune*,  
Scranton, Pennsylvania -- April 6

(Below) *Raleigh News & Observer*, Raleigh,  
North Carolina -- March 27

## Libertarians exchange ideas as convention opens

By Lisa Napersky

WILKES-BARRE -- Political ideologies were in no short supply Saturday afternoon as Pennsylvania Libertarians converged on the Ramada Inn in Wilkes-Barre for their state convention.

Luzerne County Libertarian Party chairwoman Betsy Summers organized the event, which brought 50 delegates and a variety of exhibitors, including one hawkling snacks made from hemp seeds, to the city.

Barbara Goulart, a delegate from Abington, Montgomery County, said the convention is important because it provides a forum to exchange ideas.

"Not only do we nominate key leaders for the year, but we also have the opportunity to hear interesting speakers and talk about creative ways to reach out to the community," she said.

Mrs. Goulart's husband, Larry, is an inspector of elections in Montgomery County. He joined the Libertarian Party in the 1980s after hearing several speakers and agreeing with their philosophy.

"I think taxes are too high, and I don't agree with censorship or prohibition," he said. "I also believe that the government is not better able to make decisions for its citizens than they could make for themselves."

Ray Masters, who was seen sporting a tricorn hat such as those favored in Revolutionary War days, was selling buttons depicting Thomas Jefferson, Lady Liberty and peace symbols. He founded the Pocono Libertarians in 1991. He agreed that Libertarians, like members of any political party, come from varying backgrounds and often espouse different points of view.

"It's important for us to come together to discuss ideas, even if we disagree," he explained. "We are able to share what's working in our communities with others from around the state – and we have fun doing it."

Saturday's speakers included Marty Thomas-Brumme, who discussed conflict resolution, and Dr. Dean Ahmad, president of Minaret of Freedom Institute, an Islamic think tank in Washington, D.C.

Ms. Summers, who is a member of the Luzerne County Government Study Commission, declined a nomination to serve as chairwoman of the Pennsylvania Libertarian Party.

"I made my commitment to the people of Luzerne County, and we continue to work hard to write a new charter," said Ms. Summers. "I believe that it's possible to have a professional and responsible government in our county."

Founded in 1971, the Libertarian Party is the third largest political party in the country. There are currently 71 elected and appointed Libertarians serving in the state.

## Study: Drivers distracted

By Vicki Hyman, Staff Writer

CHAPEL HILL – Talk on a cell phone while driving, and you may soon be talking to a bumper.

A new study that examined car crashes involving cell phones showed that drivers who talk on the phone are more prone to rear-end collisions than any other type of crash.

Of all crashes involving cell phone users, 45 percent were rear-enders, according to researchers at the UNC Highway Safety Research Center, which released the report Wednesday. Drivers talking on cell phones cause about 1,500 car crashes a year in North Carolina, researchers estimated.

That's less than 1 percent of all car crashes, but it's still too many, said Jane Stutts, associate director for social and behavior research at the UNC center.

"Drivers need to remember that their first responsibility is to pay attention to their driving," she said.

The study, based on a review of state Highway Patrol crash reports, gives new ammunition to supporters of a state ban on cell phone use while driving.

Three legislators co-sponsored a bill, submitted last week, that would prohibit drivers from talking on the cell phone unless they use a hands-free device.

The law would give drivers a 90-day grace period, in which police officers could issue only warnings. After three months, there would be a \$25 fine.

Such bans are often vigorously opposed by the wireless telecommunications industry.

Libertarians also have a problem with them.

"What we would like to see the police go after is dangerous driving regardless of the cause," said Sean Haugh, executive director of the Libertarian Party of North Carolina. "It's not necessarily the case that someone using the cell phone while driving is automatically a dangerous driver."

Other studies have shown that drivers can be distracted by a number of things besides talking on the cell phone, he said. "Are you going to ban people changing their radio stations while driving, people eating or drinking while driving, people disciplining their kids while driving?"

Rep. Paul Luebke, a sponsor of the cell phone ban, agreed that other distractions do exist, but, he said, "There's a lot of evidence in the UNC study that people who use handheld cell phones are preoccupied drivers. But if someone wanted to prohibit parents from strapping their kids into seat belts while driving, I would support that as well."