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# Liberty Pledge

➤ NEWSLETTER

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## LPNH State Reps file anti-tax bills

*But referendum bill killed by R's & D's*

Libertarian legislators in New Hampshire have filed several bills to repeal, lower, or slow down taxes, which will be considered by the NH House this legislative session. The House reconvened the first week in January.

Libertarian House Leader Don Gorman (L-Deerfield) has filed a bill to abolish the GOP-backed "Business Enterprise Tax," (BET) which imposed taxes on small businesses in the state for the first time last year.

Although the BET is supported by the popular Republican governor, Gorman said the small business community is opposed to the tax, and predicted that "the Governor will have a fight on his hands" when his bill comes up for debate.

If Gorman's bill doesn't pass, Finlay Rothhaus (L-Merrimack) has filed an "insurance" bill to make it harder to increase the BET — a constitutional amendment guaranteeing that a two-thirds vote will be required to raise the BET. "The way it is now, the requirement for two-thirds can be overturned with a simple majority vote," said Rothhaus.

In addition, Gorman has filed a bill which would repeal the state's dividends tax for those aged 62 or over, and Rothhaus has filed a bill to abolish the state's turnpike commission and toll system.

### Shot down

Meanwhile, a constitutional amendment filed by Gorman last year—which would allow citizens to repeal unpopular laws by statewide referendum—resurfaced from committee with an "ought to pass" recommendation, but was shot down by the full House on January 5th.

Republicans and Democrats teamed up to overwhelmingly kill the bill, 296-47. Leading the charge against the bill was powerful Republican legislator Donna Sytek, who warned the bill "will mean any bill is up for grabs. I don't believe in government by referendum. [The public] could repeal the Business Profits Tax and we'll have gaping holes in our budget."

Fighting in a losing effort for the bill was Libertarian Calvin Warburton (L-Raymond), who said, "The people are concerned, and want an opportunity to express themselves." Gorman also argued that the proposed constitutional change was "a bill for all the people, not just for Libertarians."

## Mass. LP blasts "libertarian" Weld for anti-gun legislation

The Libertarian Party of Massachusetts last month blasted allegedly libertarian-leaning Republican governor William Weld for proposing restrictive gun control legislation, accusing him of "betraying" Second Amendment activists.

"Weld had come out against gun control when he was running for governor," said state LP Executive Director, Lee Nason. "But he has betrayed us on a very important issue, renegeing on his campaign promise."

Weld's proposal would limit handgun purchases to one per month, implement a five-day waiting period in Massachusetts, and ban so-called "assault weapons."

Nason predicted dire political consequences for Weld because of his actions: "Many gun enthusiasts will now be abandoning the Republican Party and some of them will join us. At least with a Libertarian candidate, they know that they will not be deceived on the issue of gun control."

Before the gun control flap, Weld, a self-described "libertarian Republican," had been mentioned as a potential LP recruit, and his name had even been unofficially raised as a possible future LP presidential candidate.

## November '93 election tally edges up to 15 victories

The list of Libertarians elected in November 1993 has crept up one more notch, with late-breaking information that Greg Engstrom won a seat on the School Board of Sherrard Community Unit School District #200 in Illinois.

Engstrom, who was sworn into office on November 8th, becomes the 15th Libertarian to gain public office in last year's elections. He came in fourth in a six-way race for four open seats.

Now that he's on the Sherrard school board, Engstrom said he hopes to change some of the "mindlessness" of a state-run school system.

"I see public schools becoming increasingly paternalistic, getting involved in matters and issues that have little to do with learning," he said. "I'm also very concerned about the ever growing number of inefficient, wasteful, and unnecessary laws, policies, and practices of public education. I want to directly challenge such mindlessness."

Engstrom said he will tackle the school's financial "inconsistencies, inefficiencies, and illogic inherent in any state-run system," as well as "mandates, wasteful practices, duplication, procedural red tape, and low accountability."

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Nancy Tucker-Girdler, Rainbow's resident letter-writing Libertarian, is an admitted work in progress. The 27-year-old professional musician says she may run for public office someday, but not before "I have all my political principles straightened out." She readily concedes the influence of the Libertarian philosophy and local Libertarian activists like Dick Rider and Bill Holmes, but during our conversation she revealed the independent streak that distinguishes her sometimes sassy, but always thoughtful, letters to the editor.

This is the 11th of 12 monthly interviews with writers who contribute to the *Times Advocate* Opinion section. Tucker-Girdler was interviewed by Logan Jenkins, editorial page editor.

**Q:** One of the consistent messages of your letters is that you're a committed Libertarian. How do you develop that political philosophy?

**A:** Well, I guess if we were going to get specific, I'd probably be called a Libertarian Republican because I don't go quite either way. They haven't invented a political party for me. I'm a small "l" libertarian. I'm active in the movement, but I'm new to politics, really. So I'm just kind of exploring it and finding out what makes sense to me. I had not registered to vote until a couple, three years ago. At my church there was someone coming around registering people to vote. I saw all these lists of parties. And I thought, well, how do I know which one I am? And somebody, I didn't know who it was, just said register Libertarian. And I don't think I even voted that year. But when we moved to Rainbow, I got some notices from the Libertarian party, and I started reading the preambles and the text, and I thought this makes sense. Why isn't this country working this way? What's wrong with everybody? I called the local party, then got the newsletter, subscribed to the newsletter, and then went to the first supper clubs before the elections and met Bill Holmes, Dick Rider and a few other people.

**Q:** How do you describe Libertarians?

**A:** Well, they seem to me to be people who are just fed up with politics as usual, and government as usual, and a

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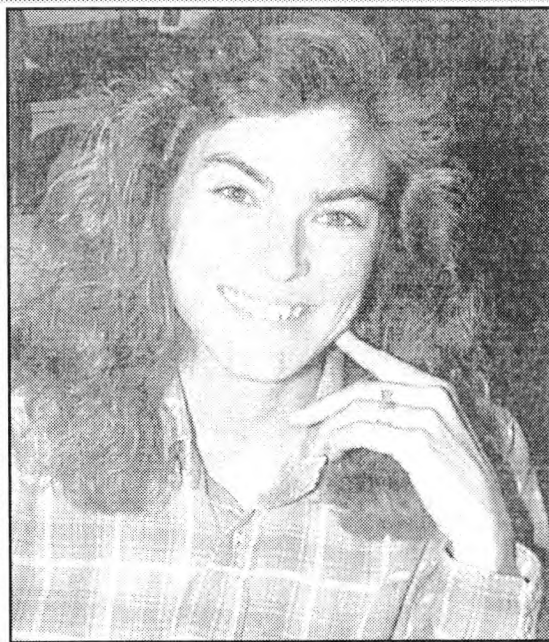


lot of them are ex-Republicans, a few ex-Democrats, and then some people like me who never had anything to do with politics. It's certainly an intelligent group of folks, and a lot of varied interests. One of the descriptions has been "computer jocks" or "nerds." Me, I love gadgets like faxes. My husband got me a fax machine for Christmas a couple of years ago. You've seen the result of that.

**Q:** How many committed Libertarians are there in San Diego County?

**A:** Well, that's a good questions. When I go to the monthly supper club meetings, I would guess there are about 40 or 50 people who show up on a

# LOCAL WRITERS



**NANCY TUCKER-GIRDLER**  
... letters from Rainbow

regular basis. However, I see a lot of names in the paper that I don't see at the meetings. Like Mary Sztarpakiewicz, whose name I can't even pronounce.

**Q:** How much writing do you do? Do you have any other outlets other than the *Times Advocate*?

**A:** Sometimes, if I have a point of view that I think everyone is entitled to, then I fax a copy down to Dick Rider and he'll send several copies to other publications. I was at an orchestra rehearsal last night and the conductor came up to me and said that my letter was on Channel 10. "Which letter?" I asked. He said, "I don't know, but I recognized your name." And someone else called up this morning and said, "Hey, I heard your letter on Channel 10." So I called Dick and I said, "Which one?" He says, "I don't know."

**Q:** Have you done a lot of writing in your life, or is this something you kind of stumbled onto?

**A:** It's something that's been a kind of a secret passion. Now when I was a kid, I was always a whiz at the creative writing sort of thing, and I've been great at bluffing my way through. So as far as when I get into writing letters, I just write whatever comes up. I don't have to do as much editing as I used to. When I first started sending letters in a year or so ago, I went through a lot, changing it and making it understandable and consistent.

**Q:** Did Dick Rider encourage you?

**A:** Yes. And not only Dick. I have seen letter-writing recommended in lots of different groups. The Republican women's group suggests it, as does the Citizens Commission on Human

Rights, and some of the other tax groups, and so it's certainly not just the Libertarians.

**Q:** What do you make of the people who write letters to the *Times Advocate*?

**A:** I really enjoy reading the different viewpoints. I had been rather sheltered in my own world, thinking I think this way so everyone must think this way. It's really fun to find out that the whole world doesn't agree with me. It would be a blast for all of us to get together and see if we don't kill each other. I'd love to meet all these people.

**Q:** Are there any of the tenets of Libertarianism with which you disagree?

**A:** I personally believe in a strong national defense. I think the Libertarian idea is not to be the world's policeman. Let's just defend our country from any attack, whatever attack that may be. As far as where I fit in, or don't fit in, I think another issue where I lean away from Libertarians is the abortion thing. I'm a pro-lifer. My personal feeling is that there's a human life that obviously isn't going to have much of a chance to speak for itself; I feel that abortion is murder. That stance doesn't agree with the Libertarian position.

**Q:** How do you feel now that the private school voucher initiative was defeated?

**A:** I don't think it's dead. I sent a few letters in and probably deluged the TA a little bit with the pro-voucher thing. I'm really adamant that that was going to be a good thing.

**Q:** Bill Holmes ran for Congress on the Libertarian ticket. I remember

talking to him afterward and he had mixed feelings about it. Would you ever run for office?

**A:** To be perfectly honest, I've considered it. I don't think I'm ready at this point. It might be something I'd look into about five or 10 years down the road — you know, when I have all my political principles straightened out.

**Q:** What would be major planks on your platform?

**A:** If I were running for Congress today, I wouldn't run on a platform saying I want to legalize this, and that, you know. Like drugs and prostitution. Because the general public isn't really concerned about that right now. But some of the search and seizure laws are really out of this world. I mean, if someone was growing marijuana on an orange grove and I didn't know about it, they could seize the orange grove. Wouldn't be a bloody thing I could do about it. The law has gone overboard. But if drugs were legalized, I would like to think that maybe people wouldn't be so enamored with drug dealing and drug taking.

**Q:** As an artist yourself, how do you feel about government subsidies for art?

**A:** I don't agree with any sort of subsidy. If I decide I want to compose a symphony, but if it's not going to communicate to someone, if no one is willing to go to a concert and pay to hear it, if people don't understand it, what's the use? Art is communication. If it doesn't communicate, it ain't art. Except maybe to the person who wrote it. So I don't agree that I should get a grant to support me while I write this piece that no one is going to enjoy.

**Q:** Have you always been a musician?

**A:** Well, I suppose I've always been musical. My mother is one of the finest coloratura sopranos. She had a chance to sing with the Met, but she chose to have eight kids instead. For which I thank her. My father is retired from the Hanford nuclear project in southeastern corner of Washington. He's probably the only one in the family who didn't do a whole lot of music. He played tuba in school. I play the trumpet, and have a couple of scars to



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prove it. I play in the Palomar orchestra over here and the brass ensemble, and then I do some free-lancing. I'm going to have kind of a busy Christmas season with some of the churches around. I've played in Latin groups, which is probably the most fun music I've ever played. Some jazz, and the big band swing. I had big band for a while when I was up in Orange County. So I really ran the gamut.

**Q:** You're also a motorcycle enthusiast, I understand. Horses?

**A:** When I was a little girl, my dream was to marry a farmer and have a whole bunch of horses. Well, I found the farmer, married him, but we're still working on the horses.

# Libertarians decry loss of Constitutional rights

By Stacey Austin-Kramer

Of the Sun-News

The Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution says that every American has the right to be armed, and the government does not have the right to take this right away, the Dona Ana County Libertarian Party chairman said Saturday night.

"If you go back and look at what the framers of the Constitution meant, it has nothing to do with shooting ducks," said Libertarian Chairman Steve Nelson to a group of about 30 people at the Best Western Mesilla Valley Inn. "The framers meant that everyone has the right to own a gun, not just the National Guard.

The Second Amendment has to do with your civil right to bear arms."

He said that if Americans were armed, the government would not dare to be so tyrannical.

Nelson identified for the group all of the gun control bills pending in Congress, naming the

sponsor and how they are rated by conservative groups.

"American's rights are being eroded and I just wanted to point out what is being done and what we can do," Nelson said.

A petition to place the Libertarian Party on the ballot for upcoming state and local elections was circulated.

*Las Cruces Sun-News, Las Cruces, New Mexico, December 5, 1993*

# Diverse crowd unified on rights

## 100 rally in support of Constitution

By J. Sebastian Sinisi

Denver Post Staff Writer

State Attorney General Gale Norton lent a note of establishment respectability to a decidedly un-establishment Bill of Rights rally yesterday.

The event, sponsored by the Denver Libertarian Party, drew an eclectic turnout of about 100 to the west steps of the state Capitol to hear speakers coming from a rainbow of perspectives.

Norton spoke against what she called the abuses of government seizures of private property without fair compensation, in violation of the Fifth Amendment of the Bill of Rights.

She cited 17th-century philosopher John Locke, whose ideas on property and the role of government and the governed were borrowed by Thomas Jefferson in the Declaration of Independence and by other framers of the U.S. Constitution.

In her remarks, Norton said a series of recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions has created a resurgence of awareness in the often-overlooked area of fair compensation.

"I'm here today to emphasize the importance of the Bill of Rights," she said in a subsequent interview. "Too often, citizens simply aren't informed of what their rights are."

### Mixed bag of issues

Norton was in interesting company yesterday as speakers and listeners ran the gamut from pro-gun advocates and anti-church people to pro-marijuana campaigners and lawyers calling for an end to "no-knock" drug raid abuses.

What united the disparate elements — who showed up in everything from business suits to motorcycle garb — was a belief that personal freedoms spelled out in

the Bill of Rights were being systematically destroyed by an intrusive federal government.

Listeners cheered and jeered speakers lustily and with even-handed fervor.

Mention of gun-control laws — even those attempted by the Denver City Council to control semiautomatic weapons — drew unalloyed derision. But it was not uncommon, during discussions of church and state, to hear simultaneous shouts of "Amen!" and "Bull---!"

While passing out leaflets urging listeners to "stick to your guns," Dan O'Rourke, Colorado coordinator for the John Birch Society, said, "We support the limited government spelled out in the Bill of Rights. Without limited government, we now have the socialism of government involved in housing and education — where it has no business being."

### Little agreement

Speaking at a podium draped with a Revolution-era 13-star American flag, rally organizer Jerry Segal of the Libertarian Party tossed out the understatement of the afternoon: "Not all of the people we've invited to speak are going to agree on every issue."

In an interview, Segal, a writer and historian, said "Our purpose with the rally is to draw attention to the fact that the Bill of Rights is no longer in effect."

"The 'politically correct' movement, Segal added, "is undermining free speech guaranteed in the First Amendment with help from the mainstream media. And, regardless of what you may think of David Koresh, a house of worship in Waco was burned with no charges filed, no due process and flagrant violations of civil rights."

## Political File

**HIGH HOPES:** With both Republican and Democratic Party packs circling each other in search of weaknesses to prepare for next year's elections, the Libertarian Party of Hawaii has hopes it will mean a big payoff at the voting booth.

The Libertarian Party views mainstream-party mudslinging as ridiculous, said Andrew Rothstein, a party board member.

"It's like the pot calling the kettle black between the two of them."

The Libertarian Party will hold a meeting on their political beliefs and positions Thursday at 7 p.m. in Room 304 of the Downtown YWCA.

"Our platform is to have people take responsibility for handling their own problems, not making more government," Rothstein said.

"The Democratic and Republican name-calling may result in more voters who are tired of the same old-party politics and are really ready for change. I think people have been thoroughly disgusted by the behavior of the Legislature and local politicians this year, and it's about time."

*Honolulu Star-Bulletin,*

*Honolulu, Hawaii*

*November 15, 1993*

## HAWAII

**HONOLULU —** Libertarian Party officials say Mayor Frank Fasi can't run for governor on their ticket until he signs a pledge not to use force to achieve his goals. Fasi has hinted he'll either run as a Libertarian or create his own party.

*USA Today,*

*December 14, 1993*

# She dares to be different

Libertarian Luce, the state's newest liquor chief, stands straight and tall for her beliefs

By Deena Peschek  
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

**W**INDHAM — 'Tis the season to be jolly and of good cheer, and if you talk to Miriam Luce, the newest member of the State Liquor Commission, she'll tell you it's also the busiest season of the year for the commission.

Luce, a Windham resident who began the job in September, was Gov. Steve Merrill's

surprise appointment to the commission to fill a vacancy created when Roger Boisvert resigned from the post after being criticized for trying to use his influence to help a liquor broker arrested for drunk driving. Merrill could not appoint a Republican because two already serve on the commission. But rather than appoint a Democrat, he appointed a Libertarian and a woman who had run against him in the governor's race on a platform that

called for the removal of the state from the liquor industry.

"When Gov. Merrill called me, he suggested that I first sit down," Luce remembers of the August phone call she received at her Londonderry Road home. "Then he asked me if I was interested, and then we chatted about what it meant.

"I asked him how he felt about my views and privatization," she added. "He said he'd like me to look into it."

It was an intriguing and challenging opportunity, said the one-time philosophy major from Wellesley College who graduated in 1971, just two

years behind then-campus activist Hillary Rodham Clinton. Luce was being asked to serve on a commission which administered all aspects of an industry she wanted moved from state to private sector control.

She's barely served three months on the commission, and although she is researching the feasibility of such a move, there are no plans at present to make any recommendations in that direction.

"When I said I would look at it with an open mind, I meant it," Luce says quietly.

"I understand the philosophy," LUCE, Page 4

## Luce is at home being different

■ LUCE

Continued from Page 1  
phy of minimal government," she adds, "But I also realize the complexities involved here."

State control over liquor sales "provides substantial revenue for the General Fund, and you cannot take that away without giving due consideration to the impact, financial and political," Luce said.

After graduating from Wellesley and working for several years as a secretary and paralegal at a law firm that now names former presidential candidate Paul Tsongas among its staff, Luce left to earn her graduate degree in business administration from the Amos Tuck School at Dartmouth College. Her work experience includes jobs in sales and marketing companies in Boston, New York and Manchester, and she also ran a consulting business out of her home for six years.

In work on the commission, Luce says, she's discovered mass inefficiencies that can be corrected, and hopes to restructure the bid process so that contracts as small as \$250 do not have to go to the Executive Council for approval.

She's also discovered there are days when her Libertarian and feminist views and values make her work uncomfortable. There was the day, for instance, when she voted in favor of granting a license to Jumping Jack's, a new restaurant opening in Manchester. It was a controversial vote. The neighbors had fought to close a bar at the site named Judy's. A former employee, who had never been indicted or convicted of a crime, was asking that the license be given to her so that she could open a restaurant, and the neighbors were up in arms.

"A lot of people in the neighborhood were under the misconception that it would be better if she not have the license and that it



Miriam Luce shows off a bulletin board with press clippings from her failed gubernatorial bids in which, she says, being a third-party candidate gained her little media respect.

would improve the quality of their lives," Luce said. "It was a hard decision, and I was outvoted, and that was one of the few times we could not reach a consensus." The license was not granted.

Luce says, however, that consensus is generally the rule among the commissioners and that she tries to keep her discontent to herself. Her views are her own responsibility, she says.

Luce, 44, has never been married and lives by herself. She enjoys the independence and personal freedom of being single. It gives her the opportunity to come and go as she pleases without inconveniencing others.

"Independent and private... those are two good words that describe my feelings," she says.

Luce serves as the vice-chair of

the second district of the Libertarian Party of New Hampshire (her sister and brother-in-law serve as co-chairs of the Libertarian Party of Maine). She is also a member of the Term Length Coalition working to set limits on time in political office.

Luce bought her house in Windham in 1979 when she was working in Boston, to avoid paying the Massachusetts income tax. But the Massachusetts native who grew up in Rochester, N. Y., and spent many summers in Maine, genuinely likes New Hampshire.

"Especially in New Hampshire, people live and let live," Luce says.

Luce sews as a hobby. It helps her get clothes to fit more comfortably on her six-foot, one-inch

frame. She also collects thimbles and buttons, many of which she inherited from a favorite aunt and grandmother. But one of her favorite collections is on a bulletin board in her sewing room, where with a sense of humor and pride she displays a collection of newsclips and photos from her campaign for governor last year. Often she was cut out of photos and ignored at debates because she was a third-party candidate and often not taken seriously, especially by the national news media. But she took it all with a grain of salt and kept at her work.

"If you live your life by peer pressure, you could not be a Libertarian," she says of her choices and her views. "You have to be someone who is really comfortable with being different."



Miriam Luce: "If you live your life by peer pressure, you could not be a Libertarian."