
LIBERTY PLEDGE NEWS

January 1989

Dear Pledgers,

HAPPY NEW YEAR!! The good news is that the Pledge program has grown by 50% in 1988. However, many pledges ended with the year just past, so - although the growth trend continues - there's lots of work ahead of us.

Some specifics: Pledges recieved in December totaled \$7,625. Of that, \$3,262 was derived from credit card pledges, \$1,397 from EFTS (Electronic Funds Transfer System), and \$2,936 (38%) from checks and cash.

Once a supporter signs up for a credit card or EFTS pledge, that donation is automatically processed each month, with minimum fuss to the donor and the staff.

Pledges fulfilled by check or cash, on the other hand, involve not only a monthly chore for the donor but a time-consuming process of daily mail sorts, computer code checks, and computer-generated reminder notices at the office -- cutting into equipment, staff, and volunteer time.

The more pledges recieved in the credit card or EFTS format, the less time and money spent making money -- and the more there is available for other efforts.

It's my goal to see the Pledge program bringing in \$10,000/month by this summer's national convention in Philadelphia, with at least 80% in the credit card or EFTS format.

Please consider "reformatting" your pledge if at all possible.

IN THE NEWS, don't miss this month's clippings:

- * Criticism of the NES; and the OFFICIAL election results;
- * A press profile of new LP Chair Dave Walter, run during his '88 campaign for Auditor General of Pennsylvania;
- * Two topical articles - one on the history of public vs. private education; one reflecting the civil liberties concerns of today's students; and finally, on the back cover,
- * Coverage of a recent Liberty Forum meeting where LP founder Dave Nolan spoke on the health and future of the Party. A thought-provoking and timely article; recommended!

P.S. I read lots of clippings each month, and print the ones I think most informative. What kind of news do you want to see? Let me know!

IN THE NEXT ISSUE, expect to see a survey, and your responses (at least those mailed promptly) in the March issue. Remember, Liberty Pledge News is sent not only to Pledgers, but to the Torch Club, State Chairs, and National Committee members as well, so please do participate and let your opinions be known.

I value your opinions; if you have questions, problems, issues or ideas you want addressed in the survey or otherwise, please write to me: Sharon Freeman, c/o LP National Office, 1528 Pennsylvania Ave., S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003.

If you want to increase you pledge, call 1-800-682-1776.

U.S. ignores minor party vote

Orange County, Calif., Register
Argus Leader/Sioux Falls, S.D.; c. 47,047 (also Duluth, MN. News Tribune & Kenai, AK Peninsula Clarion)

Americans used to laugh at the farcical elections in the Soviet Union, where only one hand-picked candidate, from one ruling party, was on the ballot. And they laughed at the controlled media that were willing handmaidens to selling this imposture to the public.

OTHER VIEWS

Perhaps we should laugh no more. Do you have any idea how many votes Libertarian Party presidential candidate Ron Paul or New Alliance Party candidate Lenore Fulani got nationwide?

Neither do we. Are you just a little surprised that you didn't hear even a murmur about this on election night?

The reason is that an outfit called News Election Service, jointly owned by ABC, CBS, NBC, AP and UPI, provided the data the networks had to work with.

NES decided not only to ignore votes from all but the two major parties, but to massage the figures so that the Republican total added up to 100 percent, a truly Orwellian move.

Are our media so complacent and lazy, so happy to get taxpayer-paid advertising from the major parties, that they consider it their duty to suppress any news of divergence from the ruling hegemony?

A way to improve public schools

By John Chodes
Tribune/Oakland, CA; c. 152,739 (also the New York Times)

Government-funded public education has been a miserable failure. It produces illiterate, spiritless and passive graduates who have neither the motivation nor the skills to find a good job or succeed. As a result, private sector schooling is growing by leaps and bounds. There is even a move toward privatization of the public school system in Massachusetts, where the city of Chelsea is about to give Boston University authority over its public school system.

Unfortunately these efforts are associated with small, localized efforts or elitism and high tuition. There was, however, a private enterprise system which, a little more than a century ago, taught most of New York's children — in fact, millions of the world's poor kids — for a few dollars a year.

This endeavor, known as the Lancaster system, encouraged kids to develop personal initiative and adult responsibilities. They worked at adult jobs in school and got paid for them. They learned to read and write in months instead of years. The Lancaster system was controversial and revolutionary. It may offer a clue to the way out of the mess we are in today.

Joseph Lancaster was born in the slums of London. He was a natural teacher. In the early 19th century, while in his teens, he was able to teach 1,000 children in an abandoned warehouse — by himself — because he had discovered a radically efficient, cost-cutting idea: "The Monitorial System."

Lancaster let the children teach, and each child teacher became a monitor, with the better ones teaching the slower ones. As the slower students gained speed, however, they too became monitors. There was one monitor for every 10 students. Through this small-group peer interaction, no one had a chance to get bored. Merit badges were awarded for excellence. Like today's Green Stamps, they could be converted into merchandise prizes like pens, wallets, purses and books.

Anyone who could pay four shillings a year was welcome, including girls. No other system had accepted them on an equal curriculum basis with boys. And the subjects were not just the basics, but included algebra, trigonometry and foreign languages.

Not only could the system be run profitably on

His Libertarian vote is not wasted

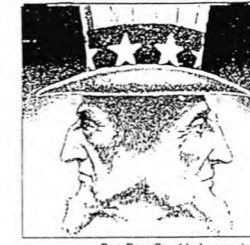
Libertarians ran on issues, not pablum

Candor from Libertarian candidate



Libertarian Party

Vote tally encourages minor parties



Don Rose/Graphic Impressions

Burning Issue on Santa Monica Campus

Students Debate Legalizing Marijuana

By KARL KAHLER, Times Staff Writer

The Los Angeles Times/L.A. CA; c. 1,117,952

About 150 students at Santa Monica College heard four panelists debate a question this week that, while hardly new, doesn't seem to be aging very gracefully: Should marijuana be legalized?

"We have the inherent human right to put into our bodies whatever we want," said Neal Donner, chairman of a local arm of the Libertarian Party of California, who, along with his daughter, SMC student Rebecca Donner, argued in favor of legalization. "It is not the state's responsibility to protect us from our own errors."

Powerful Issue

"Government has the right to protect its citizens," said Beth Wetmore, an SMC student who, along with Sgt. John Miehle of the Santa Monica Police Department, argued against legalization. "The rights of the majority of the people should be paramount."

The student audience, most of them sitting on the grass for the 1-hour outdoor debate, hissed, booed, applauded and turned in questions for the panelists.

"It's an issue that's really powerful with the students on this campus," said Cara Poston, director of activities for the Associated Student Government, which organized

the debate. "We have a lot of students here who use marijuana recreationally, and they wanted to see the issue addressed."

Candidate and Party	Popular Vote	Percent
George Bush, Republican	48,881,011	53.37%
Michael S. Dukakis, Democrat	41,828,350	45.67
Ron Paul, Libertarian	431,499	0.47
Lenora Fulani, New Alliance	218,159	0.24
David Duke, Populist	48,267	0.05
Eugene McCarthy, Consumer	30,510	0.03
James Griffin, American Independent	27,818	0.03
Lyndon LaRouche, National Economic Recovery	25,082	0.03
William Mara, Right to Life	20,497	0.02
Ed Winn, Workers League	18,579	0.02
James Warren, Socialist Workers	13,338	0.01
Herbert Lewin, Peace and Freedom	10,312	0.01
Earl Dodge, Prohibition	7,984	0.01
Larry Holmes, Workers World	7,719	0.01
Willa Kenoyer, Socialist	3,800	0.00
Delmar Dennis, American	3,456	0.00
Jack Herer, Grassroots	1,949	0.00
Louie Youngkite, Independent	372	0.00
John Martin, Third World Assembly	236	0.00
None of these candidates	6,934	0.01

the debate. "We have a lot of students here who use marijuana recreationally, and they wanted to see the issue addressed."

Poston said she conducted a poll asking students to suggest debate topics, and legalization of marijuana was the overwhelming choice.

Miehle, who was greeted with hisses as he stepped to the lectern, contended that marijuana use affects non-users as well as users, and that legalizing it would spread health hazards and cause traffic accidents.

"I've got a right to drive home," Miehle said. "I don't want to have a marijuana smoker driving next to me."

Marijuana has 50% more tar than does tobacco, he said, adding that he would ban cigarettes, too, if he had his way. Smoking marijuana damages the brain, lungs and the male reproductive system, he said, and intensifies the effects of epilepsy and psychosis.

Miehle also warned that making marijuana lawful would encourage the legalization of stronger drugs such as hashish and hashish oil, an idea that several students applauded loudly.

Wetmore said one joint can have the effect of 16 cigarettes because of pot smokers' common habit of

inhaling deeply and holding smoke in the lungs several seconds before exhaling.

Rebecca Donner said cigarettes kill an estimated 328,000 people a year, but nobody has died from smoking marijuana. "Twenty-two million people in this country are criminals—criminals because they use a drug that has not yet caused a death," she said.

She argued that legalization would mean government regulation, the elimination of the black market, and the defusing of political tensions caused by border drug patrols.

Privacy Question

"Let's just say no to the government invasion of our private lives," Donner said.

"If people who use marijuana commit crimes, then arrest them for those crimes, but not for smoking marijuana, because that is not a crime," Neal Donner said.

"Sooner or later we're going to find ourselves imprisoned if we eat saturated fats, if we eat too much sugar, if we wear our belts too tight. Where does it stop?"

The debate was the first of a series planned by the Associated Student Government to address topics of concern to students.

The Sharon Herald/Sharon PA; c. 24,720



DAVID K. WALTER

RESIDENCE: Warminster. AGE: 44. OCCUPATION: Vice president for finance and administration. TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: I have more than 20 years experience in auditing, accounting, and financial management activities, including management of the audit department of an international manufacturer. I have no political, fraternal, or familial ties to any Pennsylvanian politician, bureaucrat, or commonwealth employee. ANSWER TO QUESTION: Fear of being caught and swift punishment are the most effective deterrents. The auditor general's office needs to be totally independent of the politicians and appointed officials if it is to effectively search out and crush corruption. Unfortunately, the recent history of this office is tainted by scandal. The taxpayers need to elect an independent watchdog, not another auditor general who may ignore the wrongdoing of political cronies in the legislature or departments being audited.

such small tuition payments but four shillings per student was a fraction of what it cost church-run or private schools to operate. Lancaster did it with brilliant economics. The students wrote on slate instead of paper. Paper was expensive, slate indestructible. One book per subject per class was used. Each page was separated and placed on a board suspended overhead. Each group of 10 studied a page as a lesson. Then the groups rotated.

In New York, the story was the same during the first half of the 19th century. Indeed, government officials were amazed that masses of poor children could be taught so well for so little. These bureaucrats believed they could do the same job for the same price. They were wrong.

In 1806, DeWitt Clinton, New York's mayor, moved in by subsidizing the Lancaster system with a minuscule real estate tax. Using this subsidy as a toehold, the city gradually managed, then controlled and then set up a rival system. By 1852, New York City had absorbed the Lancaster schools via the now-famous Board of Education. Taxes rose dramatically and the quality declined as the government monopolized schooling.

In Lancaster's native England, the story was just as sad. The Church of England saw Lancaster as a dangerous radical since he was giving the "unwashed masses" the skills to move upward. It counterattacked with a monitorial system of its own, conceived by the Rev. Andrew Bell. But his way did not teach self-reliance. Nor was it designed to educate or even teach writing or cyphering. It only taught Bible studies.

Backed by massive funding from Parliament, the Church of England destroyed Lancaster by opening schools directly across from his and pirating his students.

There is, of course, no need to return to a system whose economies of scale are as severe as Lancaster's were. But clearly the time has come to once again reverse the cycle. Tax-supported schooling has failed and it is time for another Lancaster to come forward and show what free enterprise can do — again.

John Chodes is the vice chairperson of the Libertarian Party of New York City. This article appeared in The New York Times.

The money woes of a minority party

Orange County Register/Santa Ana, CA; c. 280,000

By Alan W. Bock

Final official results aren't in yet, but realists in the Libertarian Party are now estimating that presidential candidate Ron Paul will have received between 430,000 and 500,000 votes when the dust clears, about one half of one percent nationwide. Although that's more than the 225,000 votes 1984 candidate David Bergland received, it's got to be disappointing to LP activists, who had hoped that by nominating a former GOP congressman with the rudiments of a political organization in place, they would finally break the million mark.

In 1980, LP presidential candidate Ed Clark received 920,000 votes and that remains the high water mark for the modern libertarian venture into elective politics.

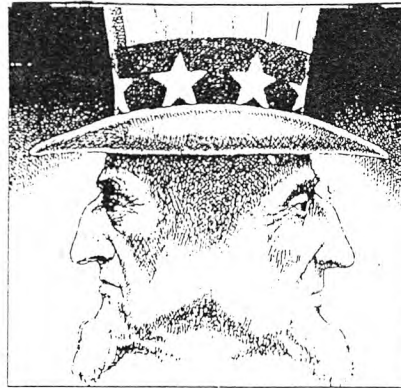
The Libertarian Party was founded in 1971, in the living room of David Nolan, then living in Denver and watching, with Republican friends, President Nixon announce wage and price controls. That's it, they decided. The GOP has utterly abandoned free enterprise and a new party is needed.

Nolan is now living in Orange County and has been thinking rather intensively about the health of the party he helped to start. He shared some of those thoughts with a crowd at Liberty Forum Thursday night. You can judge whether he's a pessimist or a realist.

When he looks at the number of votes received compared to amount of money raised by LP candidates in the 1980s, Nolan finds the cost-per-vote (adjusted for inflation and corrected for special circumstances like perceived closeness of the race) remarkably comparable. Paul raised about \$2.1 million and got about 430,000 votes, or \$4.88 per vote. Clark raised \$3.5 million (much of it from his wealthy running mate, David Koch) and got 920,000 votes. That's \$3.80 per vote, but it would be \$5.59 per vote in 1988 dollars.

So if it costs \$4 to \$5 per libertarian vote, the next LP presidential candidate (if there is to be one) will have to raise \$10 to \$15 million to achieve the statistically significant level of 3 percent. A minor-party candidate needs 3 percent or more to show up on the polls. That's because most national polling samples have a margin of error of 3 percent, and anything less than that doesn't register on their radar screens.

Raising that kind of money won't be easy. Nolan thinks that from about 1963 (after the assassination of President Kennedy) to about 1980,



Don Rose/Graphic Impressions

the United States was in a period of widespread dissatisfaction with government and the ability of the two-party system to cope with the nation's problems. We had the Vietnam war, Watergate, the civil rights revolution, the rise of the women's movement and the tax revolt. The LP, like other minority or dissident groups, benefited from this dissatisfaction and experienced remarkable growth.

Ronald Reagan benefited from the country's mood, too, running on promises to stop government growth and even cut it back. Once in office, however, he nibbled at the margins of government growth and shuffled priorities, but made no significant cutbacks in the size, scope, cost, or intrusiveness of government. That was apparently all most people wanted. Nolan thinks we are now in an era of relative satisfaction — even smugness or complacency — in which most people think the system, while not perfect, works pretty well.

The 1980s have also been an era of decreasing social tolerance for people who are different or eccentric. People who like to smoke marijuana, or tobacco, ride motorcycles without helmets, build patios in their back yards, have babies at home using midwives, drive without seat belts, or hang onto some of the money they've earned, find their neighbors increasingly willing to use the force of law to punish them for their choices.

To compound that situation, there's been a closing of the system. The Republicans, having won seven of the last 10 presidential elections, have a virtual Electoral College "lock" on the office, which should become even tighter after the 1990 Census. The Democrats, due to gerrymandering, the advantages of incumbency, and the fact that people like pork-barrel politics when it means money for their home town, have a virtual lock on Congress.

To Dave Nolan, it's an open question whether the Libertarian Party should run a presidential candidate next time. If it does, he contends, it should be prepared to spend a lot more money — especially on advertising in the national media, early on.

Meantime, ballot access for third parties has become more complicated and expensive. It cost the Ron Paul campaign \$500,000 to \$750,000 just to get the LP on the ballot in 47 states. *

To Dave Nolan, it's an open question whether the Libertarian Party should run a presidential candidate next time. If it does, he contends, it should be prepared to spend a lot more money — especially on advertising in the national media, early on. The national media ignored both the LP and the New Alliance Party this year, but if they're carrying ads from March and April on, they will probably cover the candidate from August and September on.

Advertising may be the only option because our politics these days are so media-driven. People in the print media like to scoff at television's inherent shallowness and taste for 10-second sound bites, but the print media really don't do much better. You may find more details about the horse-race aspects of a campaign in newspapers than on TV, but not much more perspective or in-depth discussion of issues. The three major weekly "news" magazines are increasingly dominated by soft features.

As a possible force in electoral politics, libertarians are caught in a vicious circle. To get money, they need credibility. To get credibility, they need visibility. To get visibility, they need to show up in the polls. To show up in the polls, they need — money.

Will the Libertarian Party run a presidential candidate at all in 1992, or will it transform itself into a different sort of organization? Either way, will it be able to break through the current climate of complacency? Perhaps only a crisis can improve its prospects. Stay tuned.

*Actually paid by LP Ballot Access Fund contributors -- Thanks folks!

Bock is the Register's senior columnist.