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Message from the Vice Chair

by TJ Campbell

I want to take you back to November of 2000. I am in Douglas, Michigan at the home of my friend Bruce Smith shortly after he and I lost our races for state representative and U.S. Congress (respectively). He had a long talk with me about the state of our Libertarian Party. In fact, that is the last time, unfortunately, that I spoke to him.

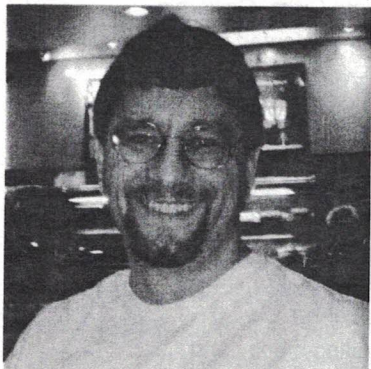
Bruce echoed some of the sentiments that I am about to share with you. He had poured lots of money and time into the LP throughout the 80s and 90s. He didn't have much hope of the LP winning with its current methods. He pointed at the computer on his desk, and said "Tim," (what I used to be called before going by TJ), "this Internet thing, **this** is how the LP will do it." I believe he is right, or at least half right. What the LP does need is a new vision.

Seriously, our party needs a new image, a new plan, new leadership, and we need to get rid of the garbage. Yes, you heard me! The garbage; the L. Neil Smith loving, sci-fi, do nothing, Jacob Hornberger, Lew Rockwell, anarcho capitalist crappers, who have successfully made the LP into a friggin' social and debate club.

This party, **this political party**, is just what it is. We need to run credible candidates who **want** to be leaders or politicians. Hopefully they won't go astray, but some elected Libertarians **will** be corrupted. That's the system, live with it. But we won't be any more free if we keep going down the same road the LP has gone down these last 35 years.

The reason I left in 2002 to go back to the Republican Party was because I believed there had to be a better way. The reason I came back this past summer of 2006, was that the

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Denis Goddard

Fighting for Freedom – and Winning

by Lois Garcia

Denis Goddard is a former Silicon Valley resident who is now Research Director of the New Hampshire Liberty Alliance. During his most recent visit back to the Bay Area, Denis spoke to me about his new life and increased liberty as a resident and freedom activist in New Hampshire. Denis moved his family to NH after his daughter was born. "I am not going to raise my child in any school in any socialist dystopia like California," he says. The San Francisco handgun ban passed in November 2005 (overturned later in 2006) was the final catalyst for the Goddard's move. Denis decided to honor his commitment to libertarian ideals and to the Free State Project by moving to New Hampshire. The Free State Project aims to recruit 20,000 liberty-minded people to move to New Hampshire.

Since the move, Denis and his wife Irena have been motivated to a level of political involvement that they never reached before. Denis says that it is a very natural evolution simply

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Events Calendar

LPSCC

Annual Meeting & Elections

Thursday, January 25, 2007

Dinner/Meeting

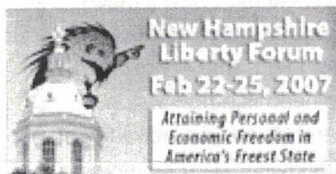
7 pm - 9:30 pm

at Banjara Restaurant

407 Town & Country Village

Sunnyvale, CA 9408

\$25. at the door (dinner)



Jefferson Club presents:

Richard Epstein on
Eminent Domain

Wednesday 17 January
5:30 - 7:00 P.M.

California Mission Room
(formerly Brass Rail)

Benson Memorial Center,
Basement

Santa Clara University

This event is **free** and open
to the public.

Light refreshments will be
served.

For more information:

<http://jeffersonclub.org/eventEntityId=810>

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better way is IN the LP. The better way just doesn't have the voice, the leadership positions, the sheer numbers, as the old way has. The Republican and Democratic parties are too set in their ways to allow dissent amongst the grassroots, so a new way cannot start in those entrenched political machines.

The Libertarian Party has become a lot like those machines. We shouldn't be! We should accept and expect dissent amongst our members. We should learn compromise, instead of litmus testing every new member to see where they stand on "the principles". I completely agree that our party should remain the party of principle. But, let's be pragmatic for a minute. Suppose, for example, we work for a national sales tax over any amount of income tax. To me, this is a worthy and correct use of our time and a first level goal of our Party.

Libertarians need to understand that the current political atmosphere **requires** compromise. You give a little to get a little. That is how life works, too. Once you convince most of the population that we can cut government even more and thus get rid of this sales tax, then the votes in support come in. Until we re-educate people on why taxes are bad, we need to find the most "libertarian" of taxes. And the most "libertarian" way of dealing with issues. We need to find the leaders and members who agree with my supporters and me and are willing to stand up and take this party away from the "paleo-libertarians". If that means losing 50,000 members right away, so be it, as long as it means gaining **millions** of members who are female, African-American, Asian, young and in other underrepresented demographics. Not only those into sci-fi and wi-fi, comic books and astro-lades (laves whatever...), but also Americans who are into apple pie, baseball, cross-stitch, and Jerry Springer. We need to attract those that watch Desperate Housewives. Maybe, even attract those that have actually never turned on a computer. It's well worth it. Those 50,000 "anarchos" will be back when we start winning. They will be back to claim credit. And we will just keep moving on without them. It's time for a new vision.

Changing leadership: To put this New Way into being, I am going to attend all of our national conventions, starting in 2008 and every 2 years after that. I am going to the state conventions every year. I am going to be loud, passionate, and convicted that this "new way" is the **only** way to build up freedom. I need help doing this and hope many of you who agree with me will join me in electing leaders from our camp that also agree with the new plan. Once we get a change of leadership and a new direction, we need to focus on winning local races. Let's also build up the membership. The Santa Clara, California group is echoing those sentiments as I will explain below.

Winnable elections, membership building, coalitions: Where we do best is at local races, usually non-partisan and with local issues. Our local party in Santa Clara, California helped defeat a property regulation called Measure A this November. We defeated Measure A in June which was a sales tax increase. Our candidate for Mountain View city council, John Inks, finished 4th out of 8, and Mountain View Vice-Mayor Greg Perry worked with the LPSCC against the Measure A defeated in June.

As we build coalitions and win, we are becoming viable in the eyes of the electorate and in the eyes of "the elected" and can increase our membership through the support of many of the volunteers in the coalitions.

I believe we are not ready for partisan races above the county level. We should endorse the (few) suitable Democrats and Republicans (like Ron Paul), or run our LP candidates in the other parties' primary elections. We have to stop wasting money and resources on Congressional and Federal seats, unless we know we can win. Getting 4 to 6 percent after spending hundreds of thousands is ridiculous. Losing **big** to a write-in candidate is equally troublesome. Really, except possibly in NH or VT, we should also stop wasting money on state assembly races. We are just not ready.

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We need to elect city and town council people, county commissioners, county treasurers and clerks, etc. I feel that dog catchers, library boards and school boards are also good strategically. The offices that are easiest to attain would allow libertarian ideals to be used to help voters, because it is the city councils and other boards that actually affect city services. When voters see Libertarian city councilmen saving private property and saving taxpayer's money, they will start to vote Libertarian for state house, senate and governor in later elections. Then, we will be in Washington.

In the meantime, we work with the Liberty Caucus and other pro-liberty groups in the Beltway to see if we can get some better laws, etc. before our members start getting elected nationally. One group doing such work is *DownsizeDC.org*, a special interest group. I would encourage you all to go to their website and join them. Also check out the *Republican Liberty Caucus* in the U.S. House of Representatives. There is also a pro-liberty group working to elect libertarians to office through the major parties.

Finally, we need the philosophical libertarians to leave the party or at least stay out of the way. This party needs to focus on running candidates who **want** political office, not those that are only running because they don't like who is in office. The anarcho-capitalists need to leave. The Libertarian Party is **not**, and never will be, an anarcho-capitalist party. If you want anarchy, go elsewhere. Our party, at least what I want the party to be in the future, believes in government; a **very, very** small government, but certain things just need to stay in government hands.

Once we get rid of everything that is **not** in the US Constitution, we can decide to privatize the Post Office (this **should** be done) and look into private courts and military. I have not yet heard one good argument on how private courts, private police and a private army would work without turning our cities into a bunch of "Mogadishu". But I am willing to learn. For now, we must become part of the machine, so that we can eventually rage against it!

We need to keep talking about the Fair Tax, and try to get that passed, although with Democrats in control it won't come to a vote for a while. We need to push Instant Run-off Voting (IRV), and utilize IRV into our state and national board election processes to show how easily it can work. IRV can end the "spoiler" and "lesser of two evil" arguments that hold Libertarians voters back. We also need to help *DownsizeDC.org's* "Read the Bills Act" and work on defeating every aspect of the Patriot Act!

Let's not be afraid to form coalitions, both with other parties and within the LP. Smither tried with the Republicans. We were part of Chuck Reed, a fiscally responsible Democrat, vs Cindy Chavez, a fiscally irresponsible Democrat. Chavez had Bill Clinton doing radio ads for her and still lost the mayoral race. Chuck Reed is **not** a libertarian, but he is better than Chavez. And Tom McClintock is **not** libertarian, but is better than some of the alternatives and he won Lt. Governor in California. We need to learn to work with government politicians. Principles are great and we need to stick to them when we can, but until we convince the voting public to support those principles, we won't get them to vote for small government to the extent that Libertarians want.

I still believe the trend of voters is for less government. The mandate for Democrats today is **not** for national healthcare or any of that other socialist garbage, although Pelosi and Co. will believe otherwise. This past election was, and **is**, a vote against war, against spying on citizens, and against governmental arrogance - things that **we as Libertarians** are also against. The problem is, most of the voting public believed their only choice for change was to vote Democrat. We have to re-educate and motivate constantly, and stop the endless infighting within our party. We will never solve anything and help this country if we keep arguing amongst ourselves and litmus testing someone's purity to be in this party. Just because I support unemployment compensation, or because I support a (reformed) friend of the court, or because I support a sales tax over a privacy-trashing income tax, doesn't make me any less (or more) libertarian than Hayek or Browne or Ron Paul. We all have the same goal in sight. It's getting to the goal that we need to stop fighting about.

I need help to change this party, so that we can change this nation. I believe in small government, but I believe in government all the same. If you don't believe in government anymore, I don't believe the Libertarian Party or any other political party is for you. You should fight your battle against government elsewhere!

The Libertarian Party has a decision to make. After 35 years of doing nothing more than winning a handful of state assembly seats, we can either build the party up through this new vision, or keep losing election after election without a blip on the radar screens of the average voter, the press, or established government institutions.

Thank you for your time in reading this.

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Fighting for Freedom – and Winning

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from being surrounded by so many other liberty activists. One of Denis' many projects is the website Free State Blogs, a source of freedom-oriented news and online community.

LPSCC members know well the battle over eminent domain in California. New Hampshire ratified its state constitution in November, with over 85% of the vote, to clearly prohibit the use of eminent domain for private property takings.

New Hampshire voters rejected a smoking ban similar to the one we have in California which prohibits a business owner from deciding the smoking policy in his or her own establishment. Denis, who has never smoked a cigarette in his life, was one of 12 people – all nonsmokers - who lobbied furiously against the proposed smoking ban.

The measure passed the House by a mere 17 votes. "It was expected to be a landslide, but instead it was a squeaker," Denis said with a gleam in his eye. The bill could still be killed on the Senate floor. Denis and the rest of "the angry 12" called every one of 400 New Hampshire State Representatives to protest the ban, and won.

A state with no income tax, no sales tax and no capital gains tax is alien to us in California (we at least beat the Measure A 1/4 cent sales tax hike last year). As Denis puts it, "the armed gang of thugs called the government" still

collects taxes, but the state does not. A member of the New Hampshire House of Representatives receives a token yearly salary of \$100, compared to the \$165,200 yearly salary paid to California senators as of 2006.

New Hampshire's attitude toward gun ownership is expressed clearly in Article 2a of their State Constitution: "All persons have the right to keep and bear arms in defense of themselves, their families, their property and the state."

Denis urges anyone who is curious about New Hampshire to attend the **New Hampshire Liberty Forum** this February 22-25 in Concord, NH. The forum promises an illustrious set of speakers and the company of freedom lovers from all over the states. If you miss the Liberty Forum, try the **Porcupine Freedom Festival** this summer, affectionately known as PorcFest, June 18-24 at the Gunstock Campground in Gilford, NH.

Online Information

NH Liberty Alliance <http://nhliberty.org>

Free State Blogs <http://freestateblogs.net/>

FSP <http://www.freestateproject.org/>

NH Government <http://www.nh.gov/>

Gun Carry Laws <http://www.packing.org>

Live Free Or Die.

- New Hampshire State Motto

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