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# LIBERTY PLEDGE NEWSLETTER

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## Local Campaigns Build Momentum

The LP has a number of interesting local campaigns developing around the country, and we will try to keep Liberty Pledgers informed of the latest developments.

- **Nancy Lord's race for mayor of Washington, D.C.**, has been a particularly busy one.

In addition to studying for her law school finals in order to receive her J.D. degree Memorial Day weekend, Lord attended an average of one candidates forum or other campaign event every other day during May. At one recent candidates forum, two candidates who had not been invited, a Democrat and an independent, showed up and when

### ***Attention Candidates:***

*We would be happy to spread the word if you will let us know about your campaign successes. Send your campaign notes to Liberty Pledge Editor, c/o LP Headquarters.*

they asked to participate, forum organizers explained that only the major candidates had been invited--and Nancy was one of them.

A long-promised article finally appeared on Nancy on Page One of the "District" section in the *Washington Post*, traditionally a hard media

nut to crack for Libertarians.

During the same week, Nancy also appeared on a popular PBS talk/call-in television show.

Her appearance in Anacostia, one of the poorer sections of town, for the Anacostia Day Parade, brought a very positive

response. People appeared glad to see her and open to what she had to say. Over 2500 pieces of literature were given out by volunteers as they walked the parade route.

- **Nevada Libertarians** plan to nominate candidates this month for each of six seats in the State Assembly which currently have an unopposed Republican incumbent. State LP Chair Dan Becan said they plan to latch onto a very high-profile and popular pro-choice ballot initiative which all six Republicans oppose and which appears to have overwhelming support.

- Petitioners in Northern Virginia collected over 2700 signatures in eight days to place **U.S. Congressional candidate Robert Murphy's** name on the ballot there. Murphy plans an active campaign for the seat, stressing the issues of environmental protection based on property rights, reproductive freedom, ending the War on Drugs, and dramatic cuts in federal spending.

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## Party Headquarters to See Summer Improvements

Assorted improvements are planned for the Libertarian Party Headquarters this summer. Two new interns, Kent Brintnall and Thomas Walls, will be working at the LPHQ, archiving and upgrading the LP computer system to allow easy access to statistical information such as membership renewal rates.

The LP will also be experimenting this summer with direct mail to new lists, including lists from several single-issue organizations.

In addition, LP activist Don Ernsberger will be spending one week each month working out of the HQ this summer, primarily working on Committee Against Drug Violence activities.

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LIBERTARIAN PARTY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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# Young Libertarian's wild idea: Challenge GOP's Louise Miller

By Monte Enbyak  
Journal American Staff Writer

**KIRKLAND** — Jeff Jared is ready to defend himself against those who feel he has no business running for the state Legislature.

Some regard Jared as a little offbeat. Few give the Libertarian disciple much of a chance this fall against veteran incumbent Louise Miller in the Republican-dominated 45th District.

Jared, 26, says he likes the odds. He also likes the opportunity to exercise what some characterize as a gift of glib.

"I feel like I'm a salesman of ideas," says the 1988 Harvard graduate in philosophy, who is single and works nights as a waiter at a downtown Kirkland restaurant.

"My strong point is ideas. I can bring in some new ideas, and change the frame of political debate. Politics needs a return to debate and ideas."

Handsome, articulate, the one-time athlete and student body president at Juanita High has sought his niche in politics ever since he returned two years ago to his hometown from college.

Jared has become a regular at Greater Kirkland Chamber of Commerce meetings, and a prolific writer of letters to newspaper editors.

The only thing holding him back, say some, is his embracing of Libertarian ideals that would radically change this state's governmental framework. Jared says he became interested in the party's anti-big government philosophy in high school, and an ardent defender at Harvard.

Those ideals include:  
■ Legalization of drugs and prostitution. "Our war on vice is undermining our war on crime because the law has bitten off more than it can chew," Jared says. "I think we should quit busting people for marijuana and focus on rapists and polluters."  
■ Parental choice of schools. Jared and other Libertarians propose governments issue vouchers allowing families to send their children to whatever school they wish.

Such a system, he says, would "break the government's monopoly on public education," encourage competition and innovation, and not limit certain private schools to



Libertarian Jeff Jared hopes there are a lot of voters out there who will respond to his anti-big government message.

only those who can afford them.  
■ Privatization of other government services. Jared supports private industry running jails, mass transit, road construction and postal service, among other things.

"Private enterprise has the incentive to be responsive to consumer needs, and government doesn't. It is inefficient and wasteful," he says.

However, in an about-face from the pro-choice Libertarian platform, Jared says he is opposed to abortion.

Libertarians believe government should step into people's lives in only rare cases, including when a person's life is at stake, Jared says. "I regard an unborn child as a human, so does about 35 percent of the party — but the majority does not," he says.

"I kind of wish this issue would go away, but it won't."  
Of Jared's challenge, Miller, who is pro-choice on abortion and a self-described "progressive Republican" on other issues, says, "You take any challenge out there seriously."

But she questions how much of a threat a young Libertarian with no legislative experience can be to her stronghold in the 45th District. She has been in office for eight years, never garnering less than 59 percent of the vote in four elections.

"I don't think he's interested so much in a political career as he is in expressing his views on government in America through a political campaign," Miller says.

John Carlson, president of the Bellevue-based Washington Institute for Policy Studies, a conservative think tank where Jared recently spent six months as an intern, says a gap exists between Jared's ideals and reality.

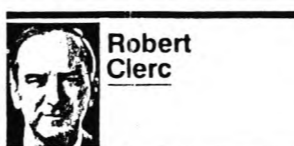
"I told Jeff he had a good educational background that needed to be mixed with 4-5 years of good practical experience before he could blend his theories into political reality," Carlson says.

Jared insists he's serious. He would like to serve two terms in the Legislature, then go to law school, he says.

"I think a lot of people are closet Libertarians — high on personal and economic freedoms," he says. "They don't know that they are, but... Hopefully, I can tap into that constituency."

# Ohio's insistent independent

Jim Berns. Say that name aloud to a group of ordinary Ohio voters and you'll probably draw a lot of blank stares. Ask people to write his name and most would probably spell it B-U-R-N-S. Ask if anyone remembers whether he has run for office in the past and you'll probably get more shrugs than answers.



Nine years later, he's still a candidate. I've come to believe that he is not running for office as much as he is campaigning for his principles and ideas.

Berns stopped into my office not long ago. He was in the Enquirer Building handing out his campaign literature — independents have to do that themselves — and saying hello to the newspaper people he had not seen since his last race. We talked a while, mostly about the extra effort required of an independent to get his name on the ballot.

Ohio has a requirement, you see, that independents and third-party candidates collect a far greater number of valid signatures on their nominating petitions than candidates from the two major parties have to. To be a candidate in the 22nd Ohio House District, for example, Berns must produce 336 signatures. (He submitted 550 to the Hamilton County Board of Elections last Friday.) By comparison, a Democrat or Republican interested in running for the same office would need only 50 valid signatures.

The requirement, of course, was approved by Democrats and Republicans, ostensibly to keep the political process clean and unencumbered by flakes and whackos. But independents certainly don't have that market cornered. And shouldn't the voters be given the chance to decide for themselves? These are the kinds of questions Jim Berns asks himself, and one of the big reasons he hasn't thrown in the towel.

And lately, once the election is over, it's getting harder and harder to tell the members of the mainstream parties apart. There are a lot of people who see Democrats and Republicans as peas in a

## A fair hearing

But this not not about Jim Berns specifically. Or Jim Berns alone. Rather, this is about all the Jim Bernses who run for elective office anywhere in the country — against overwhelming odds. The very least we voters owe them is a fair hearing.

I can't remember when I met Berns, but am sure that I've known him since 1981. I know that because *The Enquirer* library turned up a clip that I wrote about him when he was making his first race for Cincinnati council. He had been politically active the year before in opposing a proposed 1% increase in the county sales tax for transit. (Ken Blackwell, running this year for Congress in the First District, also opposed the tax though for different reasons.) The tax was not successful, but the buses are still running.

Berns was talking a straight Libertarian line in those days: Government is too big, too expensive, too intrusive, too wasteful. People would tell him, hey, you've got some salable ideas in what you're saying, but you Libertarians always carry them too far. And anyway, how many mainstream voters are going to feel comfortable voting for a "Libertarian"? You're wasting your time, Jimbo.

But Jim Berns didn't see it that way. He is working on national efforts to get Libertarians on the ballot in every state. Although Libertarian candidates have not yet filed for Nevada offices, Please see PROTEST/2B



James Libertarian Burns, left, and Andre Marrou join other members of the Libertarian Party on Monday for a tax protest in front of the Internal Revenue Service building, 4750 W. Oakley Blvd.

# Libertarians take tax show on the road

□ The party vehemently opposed to income taxes holds a noisy rally outside the new IRS headquarters.

By Jane Ann Morrison  
Review-Journal

The placard bore a simple message: "Honk if you hate taxes." So they honked. And honked.

Then honked some more. For two hours Monday, the stretch of Oakley Boulevard in front of the new Internal Revenue Service building was filled with honking cars and pickets waving signs, wearing masks and dragging plastic balls and chains behind them.

The Libertarian Party of Nevada was holding its annual tax protest demonstration, as usual choosing the deadline for filing tax returns.

However, for the first time, the protest was at the site of the new IRS building at 4750 W. Oakley Blvd.

"We consider the IRS to be robbing us," said Libertarian Paula Miller, a Golden Nugget waitress decked out with flags, a hot pink eye-mask, and a ball and chain.

The ball and chain represented the chains the government has placed on citizens, the mask symbolizes "our fear of the IRS," she said. "They have the power and we have no way of stopping them."

"We're the only party that says we're against the income tax and we're the

only party that wants to reduce waste by the government," said Andre Marrou, the vice presidential candidate from the Libertarian Party who in 1988 got about 432,000 votes nationwide.

Marrou, who for the past 3 1/2 years has lived in Las Vegas, was elected as a Libertarian to the Alaska Legislature in 1985.

But despite the fact Nevada has not elected a Libertarian candidate since the party qualified as a third party in 1987, Marrou said he has no plans to run for office in Nevada.

He is working on national efforts to get Libertarians on the ballot in every state.

Although Libertarian candidates have not yet filed for Nevada offices, Please see PROTEST/2B

From 1B  
Marrou predicted there would be Libertarians running this year for Congress, the Legislature, governor, lieutenant governor and secretary of state. However, he did not reveal the names of their candidates.

But clearly, the Libertarian pickets, which included signs mocking the IRS as the "Internal

Rip-Off Service," struck a sympathetic note with some residents.

One woman heading into the IRS building, pressed a \$10-bill into a picket's hand and said, "Here you go, for signs and stuff."

Paul Fisher, founder of the Fisher Pen Company, who unsuccessfully campaigned for Congress in 1986 on a platform of abolishing all present taxes, attended the protest

and handed out his own anti-tax literature.

Fisher, a Boulder City resident, advocates banning all taxes, increasing net take-home pay by 20-40 percent, then taxing America's assets to pay the government's necessary expenses.

Under his Survival Amendment, people and organizations of modest means would be exempt from all

taxes and others would have their assets taxed at a rate of 2 to 7 percent.

While agents from the IRS criminal investigation division were on hand to survey the protest, IRS spokeswoman Norma Lally said there were no incidents during the picketing between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

# Hayward, CA Sunday Review & Alameda Times Star April 3, 1990.

**Art vs. the Volcano II**  
Wouldn't it be ironic if the removal of Mayor Agnos' Proposition E from the June ballot actually helps him on the matter he cares most about: defeating Proposition F?

The image, true or false, of cutting firefighter pay and using an end to racism as the sweetener could conceivably have generated so much sympathy for the firefighters that not only would Prop E have lost, but Prop F, a concept voters rejected in 1987 on the same featherbedding arguments, would have won.

Now the concept of setting precise numbers of firefighters in the City Charter must stand or fall of its own weight. Furthermore, the debate over these two measures has fully shifted from management to union the political burden of showing that its fire department has exercised itself of racism.

Agnos has written a powerful ballot argument against Prop F, in

which he does something rare for politicians if they seem heartfelt — that is, based on experience — instead of political. Agnos' switch on the downtown ballpark last year came off as political. It is unclear how this switch on Prop F will cut, but my early guess is that, in the context of his whole argument, it cuts Agnos' way.

Yet one cannot overlook a firefighter advantage in the single biggest difference from 1987: the earthquake. Former Supervisor John Barbagelata writes that, in the Marina, "for over one and a half hours, firefighting and search and rescue operations were hindered by a lack of firefighters."

# Sacrificing personal liberty to fight drugs

Common sense and decency are always the first casualties of moral crusades. Frustrated by the drug menace, decent Americans stand ready to sacrifice any personal liberty politicians pledge to be effective in the anti-drug crusade.

Hints and proposals coming from the Bush administration include: shooting down unarmed private planes suspected of transporting drugs; posting naval blockades; surveillance of bank accounts; performing warrantless searches and seizures; and placing National Guard patrols of our neighborhoods.

Drug Czar William Bennett has weighed in with the idea of suspending habeas corpus and even suggested that beheading drug dealers might be "morally plausible."

Many proposals border on totalitarianism; others must have their origins in the madhouse, such as the proposal that our government annually purchase the entire Colombian coca crop and sink it at sea. Coming in a close second, in terms of lunacy, is the Bush administration proposal to subsidize Colombian non-coca crops — the thought being the peasants might instead export sugar to the United States.



Walter Williams

The effect of either proposal would be to drive up the price of cocaine thus making coca production even more lucrative. On top of that, President Bush's plan to provide U.S. markets for Colombian sugar, would be opposed by the U.S. sugar lobby which seeks to keep foreign sugar out in order to charge us higher prices.

In fact, much of the success of the foreign drug business is attributable to our sugar industry's success in getting Congress to impose sugar tariffs and quotas.

Here are my predictions for the drug war. We are going to get increasingly entangled in the domestic affairs of other nations.

There's going to be increasing cor-

ruption of public officials and legitimate businesses, more innocent bystanders shot in gang wars, continued undermining of respect for law, billions of dollars in property losses, more government intrusions into the lives of law-abiding citizens, and billions upon billions in federal spending on the drug war.

The only clear gainers will be drug leeches — experts, enforcers, researchers, and bureaucrats who use the misfortune of addicts as a means to higher income.

This scenario is easily visualized by watching reruns of "The Untouchables," featuring Robert Stack as G-man Elliot Ness. Every episode of this Prohibition-era serial featured Ness smashing kegs of whiskey and jailing a mob boss.

But sure enough, the next week there'd be more whiskey kegs to smash and more jailed mobsters. The government never won the war against alcohol. They simply drove up its price, lowered its quality, corrupted officials and legitimate businesses, and got innocent bystanders shot in gang crossfire. Our new Eliot Ness, Bennett, faces the same scenario, maybe he'll star in his own series.

I care dearly about what the drug menace is doing to society. But the real question is: How are we going to deal with it in a way that does the least damage to society?

It's a poor bargain to kiss our liberties goodbye in the war on drugs, or to create conditions where druggies, hell-bent on destroying their lives, must destroy innocent lives. It's also a poor bargain to provide conditions for the corruption of public officials.

Much of our drug problem is the result of several decades of official assaults and the undermining of authority and traditional values of the family, church, and schools.

We must put an end to that attack. Moreover, we must consider other solutions, including some form of drug decriminalization. Above all, whenever politicians speak of their war on drugs, we should remember the outcome of their past wars like the wars on poverty, illiteracy, and urban blight.

Years and billions of dollars later, the problems are worse than they were before the declaration of war.

Walter E. Williams is a syndicated columnist and a university professor of economics.

**CitiReport**  
**Bruce Pettit**

## Libertarians Convince Democrats

Little noticed so far, but certain to gain acrimonious attention in the weeks ahead, is Proposition O on the June 5 ballot — a declaration of policy that would have San Francisco, in the name of fighting AIDS, ask the state legislature to eliminate criminal penalties on the use and sale of hypodermic needles.

Prop O is sponsored by the Libertarian Party. To even their own utter amazement, the Libertarians recently won, on a close 12-10 vote, what will surely be their most powerful endorsement — that of the Democratic County

Central Committee.

The Libertarians are contending that the vast bulk of new AIDS cases stems from the sharing of scarce needles. But they are surprised at the main source of their opposition — the black community, which is among the groups with rising AIDS cases.

Fearing that "unlimited and uncontrolled availability" of needles will simply lead to more drug dependence, Health Commissioner Naomí Gray is the leading opponent. There has been no proof that more needles will arrest AIDS.

insisted Gray, who is black, but she is certain that needle legality will "open the floodgates" to crime.

"Addicts will continue to commit crimes to pay for the dope since possession and sale of drugs, such as crack cocaine and heroin, will still be illegal," Gray wrote in a ballot argument that is joined by the Rev. Amos Brown, Supervisor Willie Kennedy, and State Senator Quentin Kopp. "Black communities in San Francisco are under siege from the sale of illegal drugs."

Proponents of Prop O espouse that to be baffled over opposition from that quarter. Libertarian Jim Peron counters, "Most of the IV drug users and their partners who have been infected with AIDS are black or Latino. Most of the babies born with AIDS because of needle sharing by their mothers are also black and Latino."

Nevertheless, Ken Jones, a black staff member of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, is opposing Prop O. "The proponents never approached us," he said.

Arnold Townsend, a black member of the democratic committee, was also opposed, suggesting that potentially more lives will be lost "from encouraging IV drug use" than from AIDS.

But as they often do, former Democratic chair Agar Jaicks and his political ally, Planning Commissioner Sue Bierman, gave arguments that carried the day: "I feel I should vote for it if we save [just] one life," said Jaicks. Bierman added: "I have a right to follow my conscience. If I can save one life, keep one baby from getting sick, I should take that chance. People won't get into dope because they get a free needle."

Whatever it is to be Prop O's fate, it is the type of issue that can have a considerable spillover effect in elections. Some elements of the electorate that ordinarily would not vote in June, but which will be passionately for or against this issue, will turn out because of it alone — and incidentally cast votes on such things as the hot assessor's race and Proposition F.





# Lord Mayor D.C.

BY APHILISA CRAFT FOR THE WASHINGTON POST  
"We intend to make this a very serious campaign," Nancy Lord says. She has nearly \$7,000 in her war chest.

## D.C.'s Political Edge

*Libertarian Wants to Legalize Drugs, Slash Bureaucracy*

By Michael Abramowitz  
Washington Post Staff Writer

**N**ancy Lord wants voters to know that she isn't some wild-eyed radical on the subject of drug legalization, the focus of her long-shot campaign for D.C. mayor.

In a Lord administration, legalization would not and could not occur overnight, given the federal drug laws that apply in the District. "I couldn't instantly license liquor stores to sell cocaine," she said.

But Lord, 38, makes it clear that there would be substantial changes in law enforcement tactics should she become the city's highest-ranking elected official: There would be no more undercover purchases of cocaine from suspects,

no more street sweeps to nab alleged drug dealers.

In general, stopping drug trafficking would become a much lower priority for a police department reporting to Lord. At the same time, she predicts, the city would see a major decline in the number of murders and drug-driven violence.

"When the dealers see that they will be left alone unless they commit a violent act, it would change the incentives," Lord said. "I would change the focus of law enforcement. I really think that stepped-up law enforcement has caused the violence."

"Carefully controlled and regulated legalization of drugs" is only one of the provocative ideas

See LORD, Page 3, Col. 3

## Libertarian Campaign

LORD, From Page 1

being promoted by Lord, a physician who is carrying the banner of the Libertarian Party in her first stab at electoral politics.

Lord pledges to slash the 48,000-member District bureaucracy by 10 percent, move public assistance recipients off the government welfare rolls within two years and cut dozens of "nonsensical" regulations that she says strangle small businesses.

First to go would be the regulations and the police squad that monitor street vendors. "No wonder people are not working, they put up so many barriers," she said.

While the other, more prominent mayoral candidates don't seem to regard Lord as much of a threat, Lord said she is in the race to win. She said she has raised nearly \$7,000, and hopes to raise \$100,000.

"We intend to make this a very serious campaign," she said. "It will be a three-way race in the fall between myself, [Republican] Maurice Turner and whoever wins the Democratic primary."

But Lord faces daunting obstacles. According to the D.C. Board of Elections and Ethics, only 23 Libertarians were registered to vote in the District as of February, and the party has fielded only one candidate in a city-wide local election—Dennis Sobin, the sex entrepreneur who ran for an at-large council seat in 1988.

Nick Dunbar, national director of the Libertarian Party, acknowledged that the local party "has been inac-

tive for a while," but said Lord "has basically gotten the local party interested and moving again."

"The District is probably one of the most socialized areas in the country, so it is probably the last place where Libertarian ideas will take hold," he said.

Lord, who grew up in Silver Spring, attended the University of Maryland as both an undergraduate and a medical student. She did her residency at Washington Hospital Center before moving to Chicago. There she worked for Abbot Laboratories, a major pharmaceutical company, where she wrote new drug applications for federal regulators. In recent years, she has run her own medical-legal consulting business in Washington, while also attending Georgetown University Law Center.

Her political associations include a potpourri of organizations, from the Drug Policy Foundation and the National Abortion Rights Action League to the National Rifle Association.

Lord said she has "always been a Libertarian in my belief," but said her experience as a small-business owner—and the unemployment insurance and withholding taxes she had to pay—cemented her distrust of government regulation.

Her experience on the campaign trail has been mixed. She sometimes has received polite applause, but on other occasions—such as when she proposed cutting 5,000 city employees at the Shiloh Family Life Center—she has received a chillier reception. While other candidates, such as Democrat Sharon Pratt Dixon, have called for cutting the bureaucracy, none has embraced Lord's interest in drug legalization.

But Lord remains undaunted. "People are clapping for me. I'm reaching people," she said. "I'm getting calls when I make speeches. It is very encouraging."

Columbus, OH Dispatch  
April 22, 1990.

## Libertarian has a plan to make party stronger

By Steve Wright  
Dispatch Staff Reporter

The Libertarian Party will grow stronger in the 1990s if the organization becomes more businesslike and concentrates more on individual issues than on national elections, said Don Ernsberger, chairman of the Student Outreach Committee of the Libertarian Party.

Ernsberger spoke yesterday at the Libertarian Party of Ohio 1990 State Convention in the Radisson Hotel, 4900 Sinclair Rd.

If the party is operated like a business, it will serve people more efficiently, and that will strengthen the party, Ernsberger said.

"Running candidates for office is the bottom line that this party is about, but we need to address the individual issues — at the federal, state and local levels," he said.

"Here in Ohio, you have issues like the sheriff's raids on the X-rated bookstores in Columbus, the raid on the Mapplethorpe exhibit in Cincinnati, and other issues that the party should get involved in."

Ernsberger, an Ohio native living in Warminster, Pa., said the old way of the party was to "get behind a candidate for president, work 23 or 24 hours a day on getting the

Libertarian candidate elected, then crash when we didn't have a Libertarian in the White House."

Ernsberger, co-founder of the Society for Individual Liberty and its director from 1969-1988, said the Libertarian Party must focus on individual victories.

"When you read how the census was such a flop, you should have smiled to yourself because the Libertarian Party was at the forefront of the opposition to the census," he said. "We can't take responsibility for its failure, but we know that many, many Americans agreed with us that the government had no business asking us to give them all this statistical information about what we own, where we live, what we make."

Ernsberger said Libertarians need to make more people aware of where the party stands on issues.

"The Libertarian Party is the vanguard of the movement that says the war on drugs is a catastrophe: that it has clogged the courts, wasted money and caused more crime," he said.

"When people begin to realize that legalization may be the solution to ending drug violence, they will learn that the Libertarian Party has been in the forefront of that effort."