



Published for friends and supporters of the Libertarian Party

Liberty Pledge

► NEWSLETTER

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Rep. Zeliff thanks LP for A-Z efforts

Congressman Bill Zeliff (R-NH) has personally thanked the Libertarian Party for its work in lobbying for the A-Z Spending Cut Plan, agreeing that they are having an impact on the progress of the bill.

Zeliff met with representatives of the Libertarian Party at the National Association of Radio Talk Show Hosts in Santa Monica, California on June 25th. The Congressman, there to promote his bill to the assembled radio talk show hosts, stopped by the LP booth to shake hands and distribute "A-Z" lapel stickers.

LP Director of Communications Bill Winter told Zeliff about the party's nationwide lobbying efforts, and said, "I think we're having an influence."

"You are, you are. Thanks a million — I really appreciate it," Zeliff replied.

Winter thanked Zeliff for sponsoring a bill "that Libertarians could support 100%." But Winter also told Zeliff, "We do support you on this bill, but there are still issues we disagree with you on. That's why we need a Libertarian Party — to keep you guys honest."

Zeliff responded that friends have told him that he's "very Libertartain." He noted a recent National Taxpayer's Union rating which listed him as the number one fiscally frugal Congressman. "I'm a fiscally consertavive, pro-choice Republican," he said. "I could almost be a Libertarian, but I am a Republican."

Ted Nugent endorses LP candidate in Michigan

Rock star Ted Nugent has endorsed Libertarian candidate for U.S. Senate Jon Coons in Michigan.

The flamboyant Nugent — who is also well known for his widely publicized pro-gun, pro-hunting, and pro-meat opinions — will be appearing with Coon at a Second Amendment rally on Sunday, September 25 in Lansing, on the steps of the Capital building.

Nugent recently called people who support gun control "cowards," and said, "If you let anyone in this government tell you what to do, you are a weenie."

Nugent has most recently appeared in the band Damn Yankees, and is best remembered for his hit 1970's albums *Cat Scratch Fever* and *Intensities in Ten Cities*.

News Briefs

Minnesota: LP field organizer Joseph Knight almost got arrested for handing out copies of the Declaration of Independence on the 4th of July.

Knight was at a festival in Moorhead for an LP outreach effort. "A cop with an attitude, obviously trying to impress a bright-eyed, young female trainee, tried hassling me," recounted Knight. "A small crowd gathered and — shades of Abbie Hoffman — I honestly believe I could have precipitated a riot.

"I had enough cash in my pocket to bail out on any misdemeanor he could have arrested me for, and was fully prepared to go to jail this time — the propaganda value of being arrested for distributing the Declaration of Independence on public property on the 4th of July would have been worth it. But the woman cop told him to quit being such a jerk and they went off to harass somebody else."

California: Libertarians in Clear Lake scored a victory against government regulations when they convinced the County Board of Supervisors to remove all prohibitions against signs from the county's zoning code.

The next target of the citizen's committee, which is co-chaired by Libertarian activist Randall Grindle: Working to cut the 600-page county zoning code by 90%.

Media Notes: There's a major article against marijuana prohibition in the August issue of the *Atlantic Monthly* magazine, detailing the harmful effects of prohibition on individuals and society. Most interesting fact: "The first American law pertaining to marijuana, passed in 1619, required every farmer to grow it."

A Gallup poll of American political beliefs — taken in January and published in the July issue of *Campaigns & Elections* magazine — shows that libertarians are the second largest contingent of the American electorate. The survey revealed that 22% of Americans are libertarian, trailing only conservative (30%), and ahead of populist (20%) and liberal (16%).

Georgia: The state Libertarian Party is "beginning to have an impact on Georgia politics," according to a column in *Atlanta Journal Constitution* on June 21, 1994

The column by political analyst Tom Baxter, reviewing recent election law changes forced by the Libertarian Party, said that in light of the impact the "party has been having, it's understandable that the Libertarians are coming to think of themselves as a force to be dealt with."

Less government is more in Libertarian philosophy

● Speakers at today's convention and forum include Gene Burns, a syndicated talk show host.

By STEVEN G. VEGH
Staff Writer

He's popular nationwide, but Gene Burns says few areas thrill to his daily radio broadcasts the way Maine does. His basic message: "Government is screwing around in our lives and it's got to stop."

"I'm a libertarian who believes in the maximum possible grant of personal freedom, with concomitant individual responsibility," the syndicated talk show host said.

"In places like Maine, where people have a great streak of self-

reliance, those things resonate."

Burns' voice will resonate today at the Maine Liberty Forum, sponsored by the Libertarian Party of Maine. Burns, who is not a party member, is the featured speaker at the forum at Portland's Holiday Inn By The Bay.

The crowd may be small during the party's convention this morning. Mark Cenci, the party's Cumberland County director, said there are 100 to 150 active, dues-paying party members in Maine.

But the 1,000-seat meeting room may fill for the afternoon's speakers with the more numerous "little l's" — folks who are libertarian in philosophy, though not Libertarian in party affiliation.

Such people, who may not even

Please see FORUM, Page 4A



Gene Burns takes a call on his Friday talk show, which was broadcast from WGAN radio in South Portland.

Staff photo by Merry Farnum

FORUM

Continued from Page 1A

call themselves libertarians, are economic conservatives, devotees of laissez-faire, Burns said.

"They frankly don't give a damn what you do as long as it doesn't hurt them," he said.

Libertarians generally want less public spending, less regulation of individuals and less government in general.

But they do see a limited role for government. "Its job is to protect rights, to intervene when people don't protect rights," Cenci said. "That can be anything from a punch in the nose, to pollution, to fraud, or basically acts of force."

Politically active Libertarians

have been in Maine since at least 1980, but the party only had registered, state-recognized status from 1990 to 1992.

Recognition was conferred when an independent gubernatorial candidate, Andrew Adam, took more than 5 percent of the 1990 vote and subsequently aligned himself with the party.

Recognition was removed when the party had too few voters to meet state requirements for fielding candidates.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, most of the forum's afternoon speakers have nothing to do with the Libertarian Party, Cenci said.

Yet the special interests the speakers will raise, such as private property rights and taxpayer rights, are issues libertarians can embrace.

LIBERTY FORUM

The 1994 Maine Liberty Forum is open to the public. A \$5 donation will be requested.

Only party members may participate in the morning convention. Others may observe.

The convention will begin at 8:30 a.m. Speeches will begin at 12:30 p.m. All events are at Portland's Holiday Inn By The Bay, 88 Spring St.

preach about the governmental threat of gun control.

State Rep. John Michael of Auburn withdrew from the Democratic Party this year. He's not a libertarian, either. "I just call myself an independent," he said.

But as executive director of the Congressional Term Limits campaign, he's trying to reduce entrenched politicians by limiting their tenure in office.

"I know (Libertarians) like term limits, most of them, so I like them," Michael said.

Cenci doesn't mind what officials like Michael call themselves; it's what they do that matters.

"Hey, the party may never become anything other than a small, third party, but so long as people in government are proposing libertarian ideas, who cares?" he said.

"I don't know much about Libertarians," said Buzz Barry, a Sportsman's Alliance of Maine official and a Democrat. But Barry said he rarely passes up an opportunity to

▼ *High Point Enterprise*
High Point, North Carolina ★ June 12, 1994

▲ *Portland Press Herald*
Portland, Maine ★ June 4, 1994

Libertarians plow ahead despite court defeats

By Matthew Henry
STAFF WRITER

More than 40 die-hard Libertarians, less than half the usual number, met Saturday in Greensboro for the party's state convention.

The Libertarian Party was taken off the ballot after High Point resident Scott McLaughlin failed to get 10 percent of the vote for governor in 1992.

"Yes, it was incredibly discouraging, and it makes me angry that our rights as a political party have been violated," said Candi Copas, a University of North Carolina student, organized the convention.

"The past year has been a hard, frustrating one," McLaughlin said.

"We've been in a twilight zone because of legal battles, problems with fund-raising, and qualified candidates who were denied the opportunity to run."

Still, the state party was voted one of the fastest-growing at last year's national convention.

The Libertarians are appealing the decision. They're upset because they got on the ballot after compiling signatures for 2 percent of the people who voted for governor in 1988. But they were booted off the ballot after McLaughlin received

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— Libertarian Candi Copas

4 percent of the 1992 vote, twice the number required to qualify for ballot space.

"The state can't have two minimum levels," said attorney James Grover, who will represent the party before the federal court of appeals.

"The state says getting petitions of 2 percent stops ballot clutter, then they also say getting 10 percent of the vote stops ballot clutter," he said.

The party is in limbo now until an appeal before the federal circuit court has been decided.

The party is not legally certified anymore, so the registered Libertarians were going to be purged and re-registered as independents. Then attorney Clarke Dummit filed a temporary restraining order against the action in February 1993.

Some counties still let voters register Libertarian, but others don't.

Dummit spent the next year compiling a case. Last February he went before a magistrate at the district court level and won one out of five points.

He lost the crux of the suit, the right to maintain the state Libertarian Party as a certified party.

The point Dummit won was over a five-cent certification fee for each signature on petitions for a political party to be on the ballot. He argued successfully that it was content-based, because there isn't a fee on signatures for other petitions.

Grover said he expects to argue before the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in Virginia in October or November.

At issue are the points Dummit lost, including:

- The right for registered Libertarians to stay registered Libertarians.
- The right to be a certified political party.
- A number of election improprieties stemming from "practiced ignorance, not conspiracy," according to Dummit.

Keynote speaker at the convention was Jeff Emory, chairman of the nation's largest Libertarian party.

"New Hampshire's legislature is very close to the people, so they're not apt to squander peo-



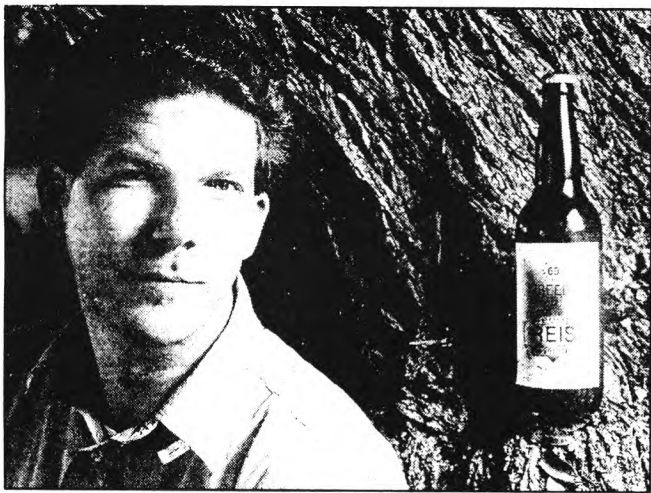
(Staff photo by Joan White)

Jeff Emory, keynote speaker

ple's money," he said.

Emory said Libertarians have a big task, because they're trying to get people to look at government in a new way.

"People have grown up with social security, welfare, a big military, and public schools. Now we're asking them to change, and that's going to take a lot of work."



LEONARD ORTIZThe Orange County Register

TAPPING IN: George Reis, the Libertarian candidate who is attempting to replace Assemblyman Tom Umberg, was largely ignored during primary elections. The Newport Beach photographer will unveil his self-brewed George Reis for Assembly Beer at a reception tonight.

Libertarian hopeful brews up campaign for Assembly seat

POLITICS: The Santa Ana man creates a beer in his honor as he attempts to replace Tom Umberg.

By **RICKY YOUNG**
The Orange County Register

Libertarian Assembly candidate George Reis is promising great taste, less government.

Reis is holding a reception tonight to start pouring his 22-ounce bottles of self-brewed, self-named George Reis for Assembly Beer.

"A lot of people might have a problem with it," Reis said. "But no one has yet."

Reis, 34, is a Newport Beach Police Department photographer who has lived in Santa Ana for 12 years.

He was largely ignored while Republican and Democratic candidates sought primary nominations. He ran unopposed in Tuesday's Libertarian primary and got 61 votes.

In November, he faces Democrat Mike Metzler and Republican Jim Morrissey. The three are competing to replace Assem-

blyman Tom Umberg, D-Garden Grove.

"I wish we'd thought of that," Umberg said. "We just mail out potholders."

Reis brewed the beer at Hamilton Gregg Brewworks in Hermosa Beach, one of three places in the nation that allow brew-your-own-beer operations.

Reis selected an unoppressive dark beer similar to Newcastle Brown but with a more biting aftertaste. For those with a lighter taste, he brewed a medium beer similar to Samuel Adams. He put his own labels on.

"Our beer tastes better than the ones they're supposed to emulate," Reis said, adding that it's been hard not to drink the beer while awaiting the reception.

Libertarians believe in almost no government at all, and the local party recently gave an award to the Beer Drinkers of America in Costa Mesa for fighting additional sin taxes.

Reis said he came across several regulations on brew-your-own-beer operations, and he said he opposes those.

For one, resale is prohibited. He has to give it away to supporters.

Libertarians contest city's bond election

By **DAVID PITTMAN**
Citizen Political Writer

Libertarian Party officials have filed suit in Pima County Superior Court, seeking to nullify the results of a May 17 city election in which \$265 million in bonds were approved by Tucson voters.

Tucson lawyer Peter G. Schmerl, who filed the suit late last week, said Libertarians are contesting seven bond proposals approved by voters because city officials used "false and misleading statements" in a sample ballot distributed before the election.

Schmerl, who is the chairman of the Pima County Libertarian Party, said yesterday the language in the sample ballot asserted "bonds approved for one particular purpose cannot be sold to finance another purpose." He said that statement is untrue and therefore the election results should be thrown out.

"There is no legal requirement that the city use the money for the stated purposes, which is directly in contradiction to what was included in the sample ballot," said Schmerl. "The city is under no legal obligation, but they claimed that they were."

Schmerl, who filed the suit on behalf of Scott Stewart, a member of the Libertarian Party state committee, said an initial hearing on the matter will be scheduled by next week. The case is before Pima County Superior Court Judge Robert B. Buchanan.

"We have the burden of proof to show these are false and misleading statements and that those statements swayed the election," said Schmerl. "Libertarians question whether all things passed in these bonds are a legitimate function of government. I also question whether our current city leaders will spend the money wisely."

More than 15 percent of registered city voters, 38,608 people, went to the polls, approving seven out of nine bond issues. Bonds for public safety, parks and libraries, Sun Tran maintenance, environmental safety, drainage, streets and water passed. Measures calling for a noise study around Davis-Monthan Air Force Base and improvements to the Tucson Convention Center failed.

This is the second time in recent days that results of an election have been called into question because of alleged false and misleading campaign statements. The state Department of Education nullified a Sierra Vista school district's override election because voters were falsely told their taxes would not increase if the override was approved.

ARIZONA

PHOENIX — The Libertarian Party filed 35,000 petition signatures with the state, double the number needed to qualify the party for the November ballot. The party has 12 candidates in statewide races. ...

▲ *Mesa Tribune*
Mesa, Arizona
June 13, 1994

◀ *USA Today*
June 29, 1994

▲ *The Orange County Register*
Santa Ana, California ★ June 11, 1994

METRO IN BRIEF

Drug-test decision expected next week

A ruling is expected by early next week on a suit by three Libertarian candidates for state office asking U.S. District Judge Orinda Evans to declare unconstitutional a state law requiring political candidates to take drug tests before running for office. "I can't imagine Thomas Jefferson and George Washington [taking a drug test] because the king told them to," Walker Chandler, of Zebulon, a candidate for lieutenant governor, said Friday before the hearing on the suit. The other candidates challenging the law are Sharon T. Harris of Marietta, who is running for agriculture commissioner, and James D. Walker of Buford, who is running for the 85th District House seat. Chandler said the state law, which took effect in July 1990, violates the constitutional right to privacy. State officials argued privacy rights are diminished when a person seeks public office. If the court rules against them, the plaintiffs said they would take the drug tests in order to get on the ballot by the June 26 deadline.

▲ *Atlanta Constitution*
Atlanta, Georgia ★ June 18, 1994

Set fair election rules for independent candidates

THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A NEW FOE to make allies out of old enemies. Georgia Democrats and Republicans are doing their best to bar infidels from taking seats in the Statehouse and Congress.

State election laws — written, of course, by the powers that be — make political life tough for third-party candidates running for non-statewide posts. Independents must collect signatures from 5 percent of qualified voters before they can be on a ballot. The Georgia Libertarian Party is suing state election officials to revise the restriction. We support their quest.

The law on statewide elections does not require independents to go through the petition process if they received more than 1 percent of the vote. The Libertarians have met that threshold. Having proved its legitimacy, the Libertarian Party should be given equal ballot access for non-statewide races.

Protecting the people is a basic role of government. This seems more a case of protecting political turf. Allow voters to decide who they want in office. It's pitiful that state Democrats and Republicans have so little confidence in the electorate and in themselves.

▲ *Atlanta Journal*
Atlanta, Georgia ★ June 14, 1994

Libertarians see this year as the best chance to win

By **Kris M. Tanahara**
Advertiser Staff Writer

The Libertarian Party of Hawaii is hoping an unusually heavy election-year exodus from the Legislature will open doors for Libertarian candidates.

"This is the year that we're going to put a Libertarian in office in the state of Hawaii," Mike Rosell told about 30 people who gathered yesterday at the Ala Wai Golf Course clubhouse for the party's 1994 convention.

Party chairman Ken Schoolland said he's hoping that the spate of county and state seats being vacated by incumbents — perhaps as many as two dozen — will

help the party put a member in office in Hawaii for the first time.

"Going up against an incumbent is virtually impossible," he said.

Schoolland said the party's strongest contender is Andrew Rothstein, a real estate appraiser who will be vying for the seat vacated by Honolulu City Council Chairman Gary Gill. Gill has said he will run for mayor if the office is vacated by a bid by Frank Fasi for governor.

"He's one of the best we've had in a long time," Schoolland said of Rothstein. "We've shifted our attention to target a seat that is a winnable seat."

Libertarians generally hold to a less-government philosophy, including broad personal freedoms such as the right to use drugs, elimination of many taxes, and a non-interventionist stance in foreign affairs.



ALAN W. BOCK

Libertarian would be happy to spoil Pete Wilson's plans

According to a *Los Angeles Times* exit poll on primary day, both Pete Wilson and Kathleen Brown enter the campaign for the November election with some important negatives.

Ron Unz took about 34 percent of the Republican vote statewide (in Orange County he pulled 42 percent), suggesting serious disaffection with Wilson among conservative Republicans, traditionally the GOP's shoe-leather foot soldiers.

Kathleen Brown, however, may have to cope with even more serious discontent within her party. Voters interviewed picked crime and immigration as their top two issues of concern, and Brown's positions and attitudes make her vulnerable. She appeals more strongly to people who view education and the California economy as the election's top issues, but a smaller percentage of those polled consider these the most important issues in the campaign.

Of course, primary voters in the smallest-turnout primary in recent memory are a smaller, less representative sample of the total electorate than those who will turn out for the general election in November. And if some conservative Republicans who voted for Unz remain disgruntled in the fall, they might not vote at all.

Richard Rider is trying to win some of them over to his campaign. The San Diego anti-tax activist is the Libertarian Party candidate for governor, and he has set an unusual goal for his campaign. His main goal is not just to get as many votes and as much visibility as possible. As he said when I talked to him by phone on election night, his major goal in running is to beat Pete Wilson.

Does that mean a small-government, anti-tax libertarian would rather see Kathleen Brown in office than Pete Wilson? Rider says he's no fan of Kathleen, but that's exactly what he means.

"The only candidate who could get a tax increase passed next year is Pete Wilson," he says. He explains that it takes a 2/3 vote in the legislature to get a tax increase passed, and Republicans now make up about 40 percent of both houses. If a Gov. Kathleen Brown

▲ *Orange County Register*
Santa Ana, California
June 12, 1994

◀ *Honolulu Advertiser*
Honolulu, Hawaii
May 15, 1994

pushes for a tax increase, that 40 percent will be almost completely united against her and able to stop one.

If Pete Wilson is re-elected and (however "reluctantly, and only after soul-searching and a hard-nosed look at budget figures") backs a tax increase, he'll spend his political capital to get Republican votes and have a pretty good chance of successfully passing a tax increase.

"Of course, if I'm elected, I'll only be proposing tax decreases," Rider says with a smile.)

While Rider plans to work hard to become a factor in the race, he has few illusions about being the decisive factor. "Pete Wilson's No. 1 opponent in this race is Pete Wilson," he comments. Calling Wilson a "stealth Democrat — he's only a Republican every four years, when elections roll around," Rider claims the incumbent won't be able to run away from his record of tax increases and faith in big government, no matter how much he tries to steer the discussion to immigrants and the death penalty.

Rider likes to remind conservatives that Gov. Wilson, around the time of the 1991 tax increase, dismissed conservatives as "f...ing irrelevant." But he also reminds them that as long as conservatives hold their noses and vote for candidates like Wilson, his assessment of them will be accurate.

Dick Rider made an unprecedented overture to Unz voters during the primary campaign. About a week before the election, he announced his endorsement of Unz in the Republican primary, even vowing that if Unz got the GOP nomination, he wouldn't run against him on the Libertarian line. He met with Ron Unz on several occasions, and declares himself genuinely impressed by the computer entrepreneur who came out of nowhere to make the GOP primary interesting. He claims the Unz television ads, "any of which I'd have been proud to have my

name at the bottom of," will help him in the general election, whether that was Unz's intention or not.

Rider has a credibility factor few Libertarian candidates have had. He filed a lawsuit against a local tax increase effort in San Diego County a couple of years ago and won. That saved San Diego County taxpayers more than \$1 billion, and the precedent it established has probably saved taxpayers statewide some \$8 billion since 1992. "That's billion, with a B," he emphasizes. "I've saved California taxpayers more money than anybody since Howard Jarvis and Paul Gann." Rider has also quit his job and plans to campaign full-time between now and November. Most LP candidates have to work for a living and have been constrained to treat electioneering as something of a hobby.

Since 1978, the year of Proposition 13, when Ed Clark got about 5 percent of the vote for governor, statewide Libertarian candidates have generally pulled token vote counts of 1 to 2 percent. With his focus on beating Wilson and his determination to create alliances with disaffected Republicans, gun-owners, tax activists, and others, Richard Rider hopes to do much better. He hopes to be the spoiler, the decisive factor in what is shaping up as a close race between major-party candidates with significant vulnerabilities.

The odds are probably against him, although it would be fascinating to see how voters respond if he is included in any candidate debates. But if he can pull it off, he could make the campaign very interesting.