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LIBERTY PLEDGE NEWSLETTER

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Tamara Clark Takes Fight to Legislature

The Nevada legislature convened on January 18th and Tamara Clark had an opportunity to bring her case before a panel of three state senators. Tamara has been challenging the results of the November election where she lost a senate seat by a narrow margin in an election where exit polls strongly predicted her the winner.

Tamara was promised a 4-6 hour session where she and other candidates could present the copious evidence they have collected documenting irregularities and voter fraud (their evidence filled two sixteen-foot tables two-feet high).

Instead of carefully considering the issue, the panel limited the session to just 3 hours and the panelists never looked at one piece of Tamara's evidence. Key election officials were not called to testify, even though the state had paid to have them flown to the capitol expressly for that purpose.

The result was a mixed message from the panel. They concluded that there was insufficient evidence to challenge the election results, meaning Tamara's opponent was officially seated. But in the same breath, they said the evidence warranted a grand jury investigation of election procedures and a retroactive lowering of the ballot status requirement to 1% so that the Libertarian Party of Nevada will gain official ballot status.

Tamara hopes to get good media coverage from the controversy. The entire session was videotaped, including the comments by one senator that he was "too tired" to look at the evidence Tamara had brought with her. Tamara is talking to "60 Minutes" about doing a segment on the controversy.

Tamara is also considering filing a challenge in federal court.

San Diego Tax Invalidated

San Diego County must give back \$380 million because of an illegal sales tax. The California Supreme Court made the ruling over a year ago, and it was upheld last month by the 4th District Court of Appeals.

The original suit was filed by Dick Rider, a long-time Libertarian activist and candidate.

The half-cent sales tax was deemed unconstitutional because it received only 50.8% of the vote instead of the required two-thirds.

County officials have not decided whether to attempt a further appeal.

Washington State Libertarians Challenge Tax-Supported Partisan Caucuses

Richard Shepard, secretary and attorney for the Libertarian Party of Washington, is writing staff leaders of the Washington legislature to complain about publicly-funded partisan activities that place third parties at a disadvantage.

The issue came to light in the wake of an investigation by the Public Disclosure Commission revealing that as many as 30% of legislative workers are employed for partisan activities such as research and advocacy. They work for legislative political organizations known as caucuses that are party-specific.

Shepard argues that either these groups are public agencies, in which case they should be nonpartisan, or they are private agencies, in which case they should be privately funded.

LIBERTARIAN PARTY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Boddie Language

Talking with Libertarian Senate Candidate Richard Boddie

BY STEVE MOSS

Senate candidate Richard Boddie is a master of the sound bite, but after you listen to him a little longer, you begin to sense perhaps there's more to his message than just bites. It's a sense that's hard to shake; you just know that lurking somewhere is a very satisfying meal.

Fifty-three-year-old Boddie (pronounced "body") is the Libertarian candidate for California's two-year U.S. Senate seat, a race that's been dominated in recent months by Democratic nominee Dianne Feinstein and appointed Republican incumbent John Seymour. Lost in the background throughout this "Year of the Woman" has been Boddie, who made a stop in San Luis Obispo last week to spread his Libertarian message.

Voters curious about third-party candidates (and why they think they can possibly win against the entrenched Democrats and Republicans) would find Boddie's Libertarian philosophy both attractive and frustrating—frustrating because so much of it seems sensible, frustrating because so much appears impossible. They'd also find Boddie himself remarkably engaging, charming, humorous, and intelligent.

Richard Boddie is the antithesis of how many of us view third, fourth, or fifth party "fringe" candidates. Handsome and approachable, he seems downright "electable," to use this year's political vernacular—and he's convinced he's got a good shot at winning.

And when he says it, you almost believe him.

"I'm predicting we'll beat Seymour," he proclaims without a trace of wishful thinking or false bravado, "because it's become clear the only difference between Seymour and Feinstein is that Feinstein wears a dress—and Seymour can, too, if he wants to. I mean, it's alright with me."

Which brings us to the rock upon which the Libertarians have built their party: personal



Photo by Todd Kieffman

Libertarian candidate for U.S. Senate Richard Boddie, in San Luis Obispo last week: "The only difference between Seymour and Feinstein is that Feinstein wears a dress."

freedom. But when it comes to individual liberty, the Libertarians don't mess around—they go all the way, contending that although we don't have the freedom to shout "fire!" in a crowded theater, when we leave after the movie's over, just about everything else is fair game.

Thus they believe there should be no prohibition against drugs and alcohol, no income tax, no government regulations, and no military

draft. In short, they think we should be allowed to do whatever we want so long as it doesn't harm others (including let male Republicans wear dresses), and that the government should stay out of our lives. Individual liberty, economic freedom, and limited government are at the core of Libertarian thought.

Libertarians say this was what the Founding Fathers had in mind when the nation began, and they believe Jefferson, Washington, and Franklin would be appalled at the monster the Federal government has become, with its hands in everyone's pockets and its nose in everyone's business. The moral purpose of government, they feel, is to protect us from domestic and foreign aggressors—and that's just about it.

"Government's only unique quality is force," says Boddie. "Ninety-nine percent of all laws are created to force people to do something, or to keep them from doing it. There are so many restrictions imposed by government today that it's reasonable to ask at what point does the system collapse under too many regulations and too many taxes.

"Libertarians are fiscally responsible, and socially tolerant—and we mean it," says Boddie, who agrees that roughly speaking one could say they have borrowed the conservative Republican concept of a free marketplace and hands-off government, and married it to liberal Democrat ideas of social freedom.

"It is amazing to me how Democrats are so quick to champion individual rights until it comes to the marketplace and government regulation," says Boddie, "and how unable Republicans are at extending the concept of business freedoms to individual behavior."

Although abolishing Federal and state income tax seems an extreme step to most, privatizing all government services—from road building to education to health care—seems even more so. But Boddie and his fellow Libertarians adhere to an all-encompassing, can-do competitive spirit in the belief that it would ultimately bring greater prosperity to everyone.

Born in Elmira, N.Y., Richard Boddie received his law degree at Syracuse University and now lives in Huntington Beach with his wife of 29 years. He's been a motivational speaker, writer, banker, and successful entrepreneur. He says he "discovered" the Libertarian Party in 1983.

"I get very tired of hearing people say they have no choice," he says, a trace of annoyance clouding for a moment his forever-sunny countenance. "They've had a choice for 21 years. You see, there are really only two parties in America right now—the Democrats and Republicans are the same party. Both raise our taxes and steal our freedoms. We are the second party—the party that doesn't worship April 15th."

Founded in Denver, Col., in 1971, Boddie claims the Libertarian Party is now the largest national party behind the Democrats and Republicans, although in California it claims only 0.47 percent of total registered voters at 66,994. This year it's fielding 100 candidates in congressional and local races statewide, including the new 22nd Congressional District that includes SLO County (see page 20). Boddie is quick to remind everyone that you don't have

to be a registered Libertarian to vote for one in the general election.

He also believes the emergence of Ross Perot will help him win the Senate seat on Nov. 3, and aid Libertarians nationally for years to come, simply because Perot has legitimated to many voters the concept of a viable third-party candidate.

"When they go into that voting booth," he says, "the people voting for Perot won't stop thinking 'third party' after they choose him—they'll keep doing it all down the line—and Libertarians will benefit."

Boddie also thinks that being an African-American has helped his candidacy, not hurt it: "A lot of whites have never heard a black man talk about things like I have, so it's helped me a

"The Democrats and Republicans are the same. Both raise our taxes and steal our freedoms. We are the second party—the party that doesn't worship April 15th."

lot. And besides," he confides, "I'll probably get a lot of the white leftist votes out of plain old guilt."

As said earlier, Boddie's mastery of the sound bite is unequalled, not even by Ross Perot.

Here's Boddie on where Libertarians fit in the political landscape: "We're not left, and we're not right. We're forward."

On the love/hate relationship between Americans and entrenched big government: "We're like abused children who love the parents who abuse us."

On big government itself: "It's simple; there are just too many taxes, regulations, and laws—the Unholy Trinity."

On Ross Perot: "He's the man who created paid volunteers."

On personal accomplishment: "If it is to be, it's up to me."

The confidence, energy, and straight talk Boddie exudes almost makes one wish he'd toss the Libertarians and hop on the Democrat or Republican bandwagon so he'd at least have a chance of winning. After all, he seems so hopelessly stuck in third place when candidates of his mettle deserve to be crossing the finish line, not just talking about it.

But that's old-fashioned thinking, Boddie would say. And this, after all, is a new political era, one in dire need of fundamental changes and far-reaching reforms—Libertarian reforms.

"I'm talking about really cleaning house in government," he says. "Republicans won't do it and neither will Democrats. That's why it's time for all of us to show both major political parties that 'party' time is over." Δ

Mother of Marine opposes intervention

By PATRICIA HENNESSY
Gazette Reporter

Barbara Cernak thinks the United States should spend more time worrying about its own starving children and less time in famine-ridden Somalia.

She holds fast to her opinion, even though her son, Cpl. Shawn Cernak, is among the U.S. Marines aiding the Somalians.

"To me it's the same thing as getting your own paycheck and distributing it to four or five other families, and letting your own family starve," said the 46-year-old home health care aide who said she works about 90 hours a week.

"I really don't think we should be over in Somalia right now," the Greenfield resident said. "What about our country?"

While most Americans support the U.S. presence in Somalia, Cernak represents a sizable minority — mostly women and people with low incomes — who oppose the mission.

According to a Gallup Organization poll reported by the Associated Press Monday, 66 percent of 602 adults approved of the U.S. intervention in Somalia. There is a 5 percent margin of error in that poll, which was taken Dec. 3 and 4 for Newsweek magazine.

An earlier poll, taken by AP in mid-November, showed that 45 percent of the 1,004 adults polled were in favor of United Nations intervention in Somalia. Thirty-eight percent opposed intervention.

Reluctance to commit troops to Somalia was highest among women, under the age of 35 and with low incomes, according to the AP survey.

Cernak believes more women are against intervention because they are more family-oriented.

"They're the ones with children — single parents trying to raise their children," Cernak said. "They're worried about their own kids eating."

But others are also against the U.S. mission in Somalia. Members of the local Libertarian Party say they would rather see private organizations and individuals help the starving Somalians.

"We ought to stay out of it, as a nation," said Don Davis, former chairman of the Capital Region chapter of the 21-year-old Libertarian Party. "It's just a mess, a very bad mess."

Libertarians traditionally advocate against intervention, and say the United States should not meddle in the affairs of other countries.

"We feel that a government which governs best governs least," former presidential candidate Andre Marrou said during a stop in Colonie last March. Marrou ran for president on the Libertarian line last month.

Davis, who lives in Charlton, said he fears the U.S. has ulterior motives for being in Somalia — perhaps to establish bases. Other Libertarians agree.

Robert Hills, a former chairman of the Schoharie County Libertarian Party, agrees.

"It just smacks of politics to me," said Hills, a 68-year-old chemical engineer. "I'm against it."

Davis and Hills said they fear American soldiers will be injured by gunfire in Somalia. When that happens, they said, public support for the effort will drastically change.

"I still think people will be coming home in body bags," Hills said.

"We may be getting ourselves involved in something we can't easily get out of," Davis said.

But while the Libertarians were staunchly against the military force used in the Persian Gulf during Operation Desert Storm, Davis said, the effort in Somalia is more difficult to criticize because of the desperate conditions there.

The starvation and famine are much worse than anything in the United States, Davis said.

▶ STATE GOVERNMENT

Libertarian Party threatening PDC with lawsuit

Illegal campaigning: The Libertarian Party wants the Public Disclosure Commission to release its investigation files.

By Bob Partlow

The Libertarian Party is threatening a class action suit against the Legislature to force state lawmakers to pay back money used in any illegal campaign activities.

"The ultimate goal is a refund to the taxpayers of the state of Washington," said

Richard Shepard, a Tacoma attorney who is secretary of the state Libertarian Party. "It's nothing less than theft, is what it is."

The state Public Disclosure Commission uncovered widespread illegal activity by legislative party caucuses in a five-month investigation. The commission has begun secret negotiations with legislators to decide who is punished.

An estimate by The Olympian placed the cost to taxpayers of the illegal campaigning at about \$2.8 million a year.

Shepard first wants the PDC to release all the documents and recorded testimony

of those interrogated. He is using a section of the public disclosure law that allows a "citizen action" lawsuit to be brought.

"They are the Public Disclosure Commission and they should disclose to us, the public, what they learned," Shepard said. Under this action, such disclosure could not occur for 55 days.

PDC Director Graham Johnson and PDC Attorney Chip Holcomb have said the documents and tapes will be made public when the investigation is complete.

"It will give us data upon which to create a class action on behalf of the taxpayers

against the four caucuses," Shepard said.

He decried the fact a group like the Libertarians must abide by rules created by the Legislature to keep third parties from growing. Meanwhile, he said, the two parties that control the Legislature are illegally using public money to ensure they remain in power.

"My tax dollars are being spent against me — to help me lose," Shepard said.

Common Cause, term limits advocates and the Ross Perot supporters are also taking or threatening various actions related to this issue.

The Olympian Olympia WA -- Nov 26 1992
Politicians at it again...

Libertarians Succeed Without Winning Offices

SACRAMENTO—Seldom able to make a credible showing with its candidates, the Libertarian Party remains at the fringe of American politics 20 years after it was founded and ran its first presidential candidate—John Hospers, a USC professor emeritus.

Hospers received a mere 2,648 votes nationally. Two decades later, Libertarian candidate Andre Marrou received 44,449 votes in California, still an anemic 0.4% of the state total. Party registration fares little better, only 71,150 statewide, one-third the size of the American Independent Party.

But the libertarian movement is more than the Libertarian Party. As it pushes its anti-government views, the cause can claim major success in this its platinum anniversary. From early indications, 1994 could be another good one.

Though of no short-term help to their candidates, libertarian activists helped mastermind and finance initiatives to limit congressional terms. By limiting terms, libertarians say they seek to weaken centralized government and make it harder for career politicians to exist. On Nov. 3, congressional term limit measures passed in all 14 states where voters could choose, including

California. In all, yes votes on term limits numbered 21 million—more than President-elect Bill Clinton got in those states.

In 1994, libertarians will be pushing another idea with wide appeal—school vouchers. A review of campaign finance statements at the secretary of state's office shows that many of the people who donated to term limit measures are funding the Parental Choice Initiative, which will be on the June, 1994, ballot.

The 1994 ballot measure would set up a system by which parents could obtain \$2,600 in tax money for tuition at the private schools of their choice. Public schools would continue to exist but would face more competition. Party loyalists see vouchers as a step toward the larger goal—ending compulsory education and government involvement in schools.

The choice initiative had its genesis at the Reason Foundation, a nonprofit libertarian institute in Los Angeles. Libertari-

ans are not the only ones who support it, but they are a "key element of the coalition," said Robert Poole, Reason Foundation director. "It's one of the few areas where libertarians have put forth a potentially winning idea for change."

The school choice campaign is run by Kevin Teasley, former spokesman at the Reason Foundation. Poole said he and Teasley helped persuade Joseph Alibrandi of the Whittaker Corp., in Los Angeles, to become the proponent of the ballot measure. Alibrandi and his company have given \$244,000 to the school measure. Although Alibrandi was not associated with the term limit measures, several other major donors to the school voucher idea were.

One is Everett Berg, chairman of another libertarian think tank, the Pacific Research Institute in San Francisco. Berg gave more than \$1,000 to term limit campaigns this year, and \$10,000 to the 1990 measure limiting legislative terms in California. He and his firm, EBCO Enter-

prises of Emeryville, Calif., gave the school choice effort cash and in-kind contributions totaling \$145,000 in 1992.

Another backer of term limits and school choice is David Koch, a billionaire who ran for vice president on the Libertarian ticket in 1980. Koch, a New Yorker, donated \$50,000 to California's school choice measure in May, and is a major donor to the Reason Foundation. He and his older brother, Charles, run Koch Industries, a major oil and gas company in Wichita, Kan.

Both Koch brothers have given big money to the term limit movement, forming Citizens for Congressional Reform, which gave \$280,000 to the 1990 measure that limited terms of California's state legislators.

When Citizens for Congressional Reform folded this year, U.S. Term Limits, a group based in Washington, emerged as the largest single financial supporter of term limits in this election.

It spread \$1.6 million over all 14 states where term limits were before voters, including \$655,000 in California, \$364,000 in Michigan, \$145,000 in Arkansas and \$100,000 in Ohio. U.S. Term Limits President Howard Rich is a New York businessman who, although no longer active in the party, has long been involved in the libertarian movement.

Orange County lawyer Dave Bergland, a party loyalist, received 250,000 votes when he ran for President on the Libertarian ticket in 1984, not much less than the 281,805 Marrou received nationally this time. But what libertarians lack in electoral victories, they make up for in the direct democracy of initiatives.

With a congressional pay raise and corruption in Sacramento fresh in mind, voters backed term limits. With some schools failing and teachers threatening to strike in Los Angeles, the prospects of school choice plans no doubt will improve. Libertarians decided to "strike while the iron is hot," Bergland said. "That's not a dumb thing to do."

Libertarians to meet on Dec. 5

Members of the Libertarian Party in Jefferson County will meet at 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, at the Schnucks Station Restaurant at Jeffco Boulevard and Hwy. 141 in Arnold.

Members will discuss the formal organization of a county Libertarian central committee. Plans will be made then to pick a time and place for future monthly county meetings.

For information, call David Holden at 746-9103.

Courier Journal Festus MO -- Nov 26 1992
Plan an event... and publicize it!

Los Angeles Times Los Angeles CA -- Dec 14 1992

Safety backers continue push

■ From making seat belt violations a primary offense to requiring young bicycle riders to wear helmets, the agenda remains full for advocates of stricter transportation safety measures.

It's just a matter of getting them through the Legislature," Mr. Kilgren said.

Making seat-belt violations as ticketable as speeding is at the head of the department's wish list, he said.

Supporters say such a law will save lives by increasing seat belt usage and will make it easier for police to enforce seat belt laws. Critics contend it could open the door for civil rights abuses.

Howard Simon, a spokesman for the American Civil Liberties Union, warned that motorists pulled over for being unbuckled may also be subject to gratuitous searches through their glove boxes and back seats.

"It increases the legal authority the police have to stop people," he said. "We are committed to protect what little remains of the privacy of the motorist."

But the state department remains committed to furthering seat belt laws, despite new safety technologies such as air bags, said Secretary of State Richard H. Austin.

"Our feeling is the safety belt should be worn at all times whether it is (coupled with) an air bag or not," he said. "If the car rolls over or there is an impact on the side, there is a good possibility the air bag will not inflate."

Mr. Kilgren said bicycle safety laws, such as the helmet bill that passed the House before dying in a Senate committee, may be enacted within the next few years.

Helmet mandates for moped riders may come even sooner.

"They have to mix with cars and trucks," he said. "Mopeds get wiped out in the corners just like motorcycles."

Just the same, some groups continue to grumble despite the promise of greater transportation safety.

Keith Edwards, a spokesman for the Libertarian Party of Michigan, said he's all for seat belts and helmets. It's the laws he can't stand.

"I think the government has gone overboard," he said. "If people don't want to use safety devices, they shouldn't be forced to do those things. It's just none of the government's business."

Libertarians detail viewpoints on TV

By Andrea Rose
Courier Times Correspondent
LOWER BUCKS

Sick and tired of paying taxes? Want to limit the government that you feel seems to have invaded all aspects of your life? Tired of the drug war?

The Bucks County Libertarian Committee will address those questions and others in a series of half-hour television programs to begin broadcasting this week on Suburban Cable's Channel 8.

The series is entitled "Real Choices: Death, Taxes and the World Explained." The first episode will air Thursday, Dec. 10 at 7 p.m. and again on Friday, Dec. 11 at 1 p.m.

Dr. Brian Kominsky, the Libertarian candidate for county commissioner in 1991, will host the program. Kominsky will interview Libertarians on taxation, gun control, the education system, ending the drug war by legalizing drugs, and other topics.

This week, Jorge Amador, who edits an independent Libertarian magazine called The Pragmatist, will talk about his family's experiences living under a socialist regime in Cuba.

The Buckingham resident left Cuba as a child but still has relatives living there under Castro's dictatorship, said Andrew Barniskis, chairman of the Bucks County Libertarian Committee, during a phone interview Friday.

"The Libertarian perspective is limited government. It is very much 180-degrees away from the socialist viewpoint, it

concentrates on individual rights and individual responsibilities," said Barniskis.

The first few episodes will be devoted to Libertarian personalities, but viewers will be invited to comment and possibly appear on future shows to express their opinions.

"We really think that public debates (are) one of the best ways to give people a flavor of the different perspectives. We are hoping people will indeed want to engage in debate — if not debate, certainly discussion," said Barniskis.

The Libertarian Committee was formed in 1971 by a small group of people in Colorado with a different political philosophy. In 1972, the national committee ran its first presidential and vice presidential candidates against Richard Nixon. They received one electoral vote.

The Bucks County chapter was formed in early 1991 and, shortly after, obtained minor-party status in the county. It has 300 registered voters, and about 10 percent are active, Barniskis said.

The state party will receive minor-party status after all the votes in last month's elections are certified, said Barniskis.

Minor-party status guarantees the committee a line on the ballot under the Democratic and Republican rows, allows the committee to appoint someone to run during a special election, and requires that the party's name be printed on voter registration forms.

The Courier Times was unsuccessful in its attempts to contact Kominsky.

Bucks County Courier-Times Levittown PA -- Dec 7 1992

Monroe Evening News Monroe MI -- Dec 15 1992
Eternal Vigilance is the only way to counter those who just do not take 'no' for an answer!

By ANDY HALLDORSON
Capital News Service

LANSING — Whether it's about cars, motorcycles, four-wheelers or simple bicycles, safety advocates are promising not to yield in their quest for stricter, fine-enforced transportation laws.

But as regulatory books continue to thicken, government encroachment is approaching the bounds of reasonableness, critics say.

In recent years, laws mandating seat belts, child safety seats and helmets for motorcyclists and recreational vehicle drivers have swept Michigan.

But the Department of State, a primary backer of those laws, isn't stopping there, said David Kilgren, director of the department's legislative division.

The drive is on to make seat belt violations a "primary offense," as well as mandating helmets for all moped riders and young bicyclists, he said.

Consider the possibilities:

- A \$100 fine for allowing a child less than 4 years old to ride a bicycle or be a passenger without an approved helmet, costing about \$30.

- Being pulled over and ticketed a minimum of \$40 for not wearing a seat belt, or for not having a front seat or minor passenger without a seat belt. (Under current law, police can fine unbuckled motorists only if they are stopped for another reason).
- Fines for driving a moped without a helmet.

All of the above were State Department-supported bills proposed in the outgoing Legislature. None was passed, but supporters said they will work to re-introduce the bills next year. "We definitely support them,