

LIBERTY PLEDGE

newsletter

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‘Flower Child’ wants to ‘strike at the root’ of tyranny Samantha Atkins pools her charitable funds to support liberty through the LP



Samantha Atkins

support to the party makes her the second-highest monthly pledger to the LP, out of the more than 2,100 individuals who pledge money to help the LP spread the message of liberty.

A product of the Vietnam era, Atkins said she came to “an enormous distrust of government” after spending several years as a

“I don’t know if I ever was not a Libertarian,” says Samantha Atkins, a Libertarian from San Jose, California, who recently increased her monthly Liberty Pledge to \$200.

Claiming she is “not a very good political creature” because she lacks the ability to compromise on her core beliefs, Atkins has never run for office with the Libertarian Party, and she admits to not being very involved locally in the party.

But her recent increase in

flower child -- then reading Ayn Rand in her early 20s.

Now she works as a software engineer and finds parallels between technology and political activism; she sees technology as a driving force behind progress, and believes that progress (and freedom) will deteriorate without openness and access to new innovations.

And she sees how the government is turning its attention to the new freedom people have found in the Internet and other computer technology, and how government is now looking for ways to contain, abridge and control this newfound freedom

Atkins’s philanthropy is contingent upon results, she said. Before she’s willing to give money and support to the LP or to any other organization, she has to “believe they will actually make a difference and get to the root of problems -- strike at the root and cause change.”

Before deciding to increase her pledge, she said, “Everything I spent my charitable money on was to support liberty. One day I just decided to pool it and support the organization working at the source of liberty -- the Libertarian Party,” she said.

Atkins said she was surprised to learn that her monthly contribution puts her so high in the pledge rankings.

“I guess it’s cool in a way, but I have no ego about it,” she said. “I wish there were more pledgers so I could be number 1,000!”

Please welcome these 87 new or increased Pledgers!

Jim Allison
Lynn Atherton-
Bloxham
Samantha Atkins
Howard Beatty
Ruth Bennett
Liz Bowles
Jeffrey Bowles
Christine Bregar
Elizabeth Bromley
Daniel Bryce
Jelks Cabaniss, III
Jerry Cameron
Raymond Carr
Larry Christy
Stuart Coffin
Bruce Cohen
Douglas Cole
Linda Comstock
Tom Cox

Andrew Demers
David DePriest
Patrick Dixon
Gary DuVall
Daniel Edmonds
Greg Ewing
Chris Farris
Donny Ferguson
James Fitzgerald
William Gardner
John Gatewood
Robert Geller
Robert Gibson
Glenn Grubb
Marc Guttman
Evan Guttman
Allen Hacker
Kelly Hamel
Erich Hansen
Preston Harris

David Henning
Gregory Hertzsch
Linda Hinkle
Mark Hinkle
Tristan Horn
Melanie Hughes
Kamal Jain
Zachariah Jones
Martin Keller
Shane Killian
Suzanne Kleiman
Brad Klopfenstein
Gerald Kosch
Lance Lambdin
Nathan Lipschultz
Robert Lloyd
Catherine Marshall
Willy Marshall
David Mason
Phyllis McGill

Peter Meister
Mike Meroney
Ron Moore
Keith Murphy
Michael Ney
Sean O’Toole
Michael Pakko
Charlotte Patrick
Robert Place
Michele Poague
Robert Power, III
Jim Raetz
David Rinderknecht
Lawrence Samuels
Lynn Sparrow
Cisse Spragins
James R. Stevenson
Karin Stevenson
Robert Stock
Robert Sullentrup

Brendan Trainor
Scott Urquhart
Alexis Urquhart
Marianne Volpe
Arch Wakefield
Anthony Wall
Kelly Wall
Dale Warren
Christopher Williams
Ron Windeler
Todd Zimmerman
Troy Zinderman

SPECIAL THANKS
to **Marc Montoni** and
Bruce Cohen for
assisting with the pledge
recruitment effort at the
convention!

Badnarik brings Constitution to America

By Anjeanette Damon

Propelled by a fierce devotion to the Constitution and the firm belief that the federal government has grown beyond the bounds set by the founding fathers, Texan Michael Badnarik is running for president on the **Libertarian Party** ticket.

Badnarik, 49, agrees with the conventional wisdom that says he won't be in the White House next January. But if he runs a strong enough campaign, some political analysts think he may draw votes away from President Bush as independent candidate Ralph Nader is expected to do to presumed Democratic nominee U.S. Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts.

The potential "spoiler effect" Badnarik's candidacy might have is what he hopes will force the national media and political establishment to recognize the Libertarian Party.

"We want to be able to control the swing votes so the Democrats and the Republicans must pay attention to us," he said in a telephone interview with the Reno Gazette-Journal. "I'm trying to let American voters know that there are more choices. I want them to know that the Libertarian Party has this crazy idea that the Constitution means something."

If elected, Badnarik said he would eliminate most federal agencies, starting with the Internal Revenue Service and the Food and Drug Administration, saying they are unconstitutional. It is government agencies such as these, he said, that are driving up consumer prices and taxes and failing where private enterprise would excel.

"It is time for the American people to whittle back the size of government to do only what it was intended to do by the Constitution," he said. "If they were doing only what we the people granted them the authority to do, there would be very little for the federal government to do indeed."

Badnarik, a computer programming consultant and trainer, recently won the Libertarian nomination at his party's convention in Atlanta. He beat out Hollywood movie producer Aaron Russo, whose flamboyant bid for governor in 1998 made him a familiar name in Nevada. Russo lost to Gov. Kenny Guinn in the Republican primary.

In Nevada, the Libertarian Party has 4,973 registered voters, making it the second largest alternative party in the state behind the Independent Americans.

But despite Nevadans' reputation for independence and distrust of the federal government, the party hasn't attracted too many voters in the state, said Eric Herzik, political analyst and professor at the University of Nevada, Reno.

In 2000, Libertarian Party nominee Harry Browne won 3,311 votes in Nevada, garnering only 0.5 percent of the vote.

"The Libertarians have a surface-level appeal in Nevada, given their limited government message," Herzik said. "But I just don't think they are taken that seriously."

Badnarik hopes to change that perception.

"Unfortunately, a large percentage of our population are still unaware that the Libertarian Party exists," he said. "I want

to be able to spread the message successfully enough that everyone in the United States knows that we exist.

"I don't have to make a touchdown this election. I just have to move the ball down the field to make it easier for the next Libertarian candidate to continue the process."

Badnarik's initial motivation to step into politics was the allure of spreading the Libertarian message, he said.

"I was living in California, and the tax burden that I had was exceptionally high. I was distraught that the California Legislature was rapidly passing anti-gun laws, preventing me from protecting myself and my property," he said.

"That frustration dissipated when I became a local candidate here in Texas."

Reno Gazette-Journal, Reno, Nevada -- June 27, 2004

Badnarik's political experience includes two unsuccessful runs for the Texas Legislature. He said he is running for president for a "taller soap box." He wants to visit all 50 states before November, conducting interviews with local media and raising money for television commercials.

"We have a platform based on individual rights and personal responsibility. We believe that you know what is best for your life, rather than the government," he said.

Beyond limiting government intervention in business and fiscal matters, Libertarians advocate ridding government from setting any kind of social agenda.

Badnarik also opposes the federal government's involvement in foreign affairs. He denounces the war in Iraq and would drastically reduce the size of the U.S. military.

"I would bring our troops home from the 135 countries around the world," he said. "It is not fair to the American taxpayer to have to pay for the national defense for the rest of the world."

On the environment, Badnarik supports private ownership of forest land, saying logging companies are careful to preserve the quality and quantity of trees on their land rather than clear-cutting parcels leased from the government.

As a deterrent to air and water pollution, he said, individuals and businesses should have greater power to sue polluters who affect their property.

Badnarik didn't take a position on the nuclear waste dump at Yucca Mountain, saying he isn't familiar with the alternatives.

But after working for several years in the nuclear energy industry as a computer programmer, he said that nuclear power is safe and should be used more. He said the country needs to learn how to reuse nuclear waste instead of store it.

It's Showtime! Utahn makes cut to 'run' for office

By Vince Horiuchi

Political candidate Richard Mack won't have to eat live maggots, crawl through muddy obstacle courses or starve on a deserted island to win the latest reality TV show contest.

He has to do something worse: shake voters' hands, kiss babies and smile until his face quivers.

Mack, a Provo resident and former Utah gubernatorial candidate for the **Libertarian Party**, has a much bigger platform for his vision of America -- a reality show on the cable channel Showtime.

Mack is one of 12 finalists for a new summer series called "American Candidate," an "unscripted" program premiering Aug. 1 in which a dozen hopefuls compete for a shot at \$200,000 and national air time to run for president of the United States as the "People's Candidate."

In order to participate, Mack had to pull out of the Utah governor race. He faxed his intent to withdraw late last week, said former campaign manager Rob Latham.

"When this opportunity raised its head, I said, 'Man, I better grab it,' " Mack said from his Provo home Tuesday. "For me, to turn down this opportunity . . . would be very foolish."

Mack is a former Arizona county sheriff who says he is now a law-enforcement consultant, author and public speaker on "constitutional issues." During the governor race, he campaigned for less government, more states' rights, repeal of the Patriot Act, dismantling the IRS and the Department of Education and doing away with gun control laws.

Filming began Monday on "American Candidate," on which candidates are given challenges for each week's episode. The contestant who loses is booted off, a la "The Apprentice."

Monday, a mysterious briefcase from the show's producers was left on Mack's doorstep. Inside was his first assignment: stage a political rally, spending only \$100 on publicity. The loser is the candidate who draws the fewest supporters.

Mack's campaign staffers spent \$77 buying poster boards and copying 1,200 fliers at the local Office Max for Tuesday's rally at the Elk's Lodge in Provo.

Mack, 51, applied for the show earlier this year after procrastinating on a brief biography and statement of political goals for the gubernatorial race. Campaign manager Latham coaxed Mack into filling out the application for "American Candidate" so he could take information from it and use it for the governor race.

"I was tricking him into this and, shock and surprise, they picked him to do this show," Latham said.

Three weeks ago, Mack flew to Los Angeles for an arduous audition with the show's producers, which included a 30-page application, background checks, an IQ test (he said he scored an above-average 129) and a 536-question personality test.

"It's a grueling process," he said of the application procedures. "The one for governor was not even close. For that, you pay the \$500, sign your name, and you're in."

A Showtime spokesman wouldn't confirm Mack was a final candidate, saying the names of the final contestants were being kept secret. But Mack's name, picture and biography appeared on the "American Candidate" Web site.

Now, a camera crew of four will follow Mack and his campaign manager for at least 10 hours a day as he begins his quest for the nation's top seat. That's why he hired his wife, Dawn, and not Latham, to be his campaign manager for "American Candidate."

"When they said that the campaign manager has to stay in the same hotel room," Mack said, "that pretty much solidified it for my wife."

(Left) *The Salt Lake City Tribune*, Salt Lake City, Utah -- June 9, 2004

(Below) *The Los Angeles Times*, Los Angeles, California -- June 24, 2004

Candidate reaches out to Muslims

By Alicia Robinson

In a bid to boost Libertarian Party ranks, Judge Jim Gray of Newport Beach visited with the Islamic Society of Corona/Norco at the Embassy Suites hotel in Garden Grove on Sunday.

Gray, the **Libertarian** candidate for U.S. Senate, urged those in attendance to help present a positive image of Muslims by getting involved in the political process.

"They are people — good hearted, family-oriented people," Gray said in a written statement. "And they are being unjustly used as a scapegoat for people who use terror in the name of peace."

The effort to reach out to Muslim voters is part of a larger strategy to add grass roots and minority organizations to the Libertarian Party. Gray will continue those efforts Sunday, when he speaks at the Anaheim Convention Center at an event honoring Indian spiritual leader Pramukh Swami Maharaj.

Gray will face incumbent Democratic Sen. Barbara Boxer and Republican Challenger Bill Jones in the November election.

Third parties could threaten Bush, too

(AP) Moses Murphy was as Republican as they come. The 27-year-old former Marine always voted a straight ticket and his Jeep Cherokee sported three “Bush-Cheney ‘04” bumper stickers.

But two months ago as the Boardsman, Ohio, resident was surfing the Internet, he came across the Web site for the Constitution Party, a small, conservative group still struggling to be on the ballot in every state.

Off came the Bush paraphernalia and now Murphy’s Jeep is plastered with stickers for Michael Peroutka, the Constitution Party’s little-known presidential nominee.

Media attention has focused on Ralph Nader as a potential spoiler to presumptive Democratic nominee John Kerry, but President Bush could face a similar threat from third party candidates on the right.

The Constitution and **Libertarian** parties believe they could siphon away enough disenchanted conservatives to tip a close election.

The party occupying the White House is typically more prone to disgruntled ideologues bolting for a third party, said Lawrence Jacobs, director of the 2004 Elections Project for the Humphrey Institute at the University of Minnesota.

And hardline conservatives have no shortage of gripes with the president they helped elect. Topping the list is the dramatic increase in federal spending, especially the \$500 billion new Medicare entitlement for prescription drugs Bush pushed through Congress, said Paul Weyrich, head of the Free Congress Foundation and a leading conservative activist.

Weyrich said grassroots conservatives “have a real problem with this administration’s out of control spending.”

But it is unclear whether this grumbling on the right will translate into votes for the Libertarian or Constitution party nominees.

In 2000, the Libertarian nominee received only about 385,000 votes or 0.36 percent, and conservative commentator Pat Buchanan won about 450,000 or 0.42 percent. By contrast, Nader, running from the left, took almost 3 million votes or 2.74 percent and possibly swung the election to Bush with a strong Florida showing.

However, even a handful of defections in key states could tip the balance. For Bush to have a hope of winning, Rothenberg said, his support among Republicans cannot dip much below 90 percent.

Unlike Nader, who was on 43 state ballots in 2000 as the Green Party nominee and is struggling to match that this year, the Libertarian nominee is typically on the ballot in all 50 states, Jacobs said.

Libertarians have already proven they can decide the outcome of close elections. In the 2002 South Dakota Senate race, the Republican challenger lost by about 500 votes, with the Libertarian candidate receiving more than 3,000.

That same year, Libertarian candidates in the Wisconsin and Oregon gubernatorial races received 11 and 5 percent respectively, far exceeding the Democrat’s margin of victory.

Bush lost both Oregon and Wisconsin by less than a percentage point in 2000, and both will be in play this year.

Swing states like New Hampshire and Nevada may also be fertile ground for Libertarians, Jacobs said.

But the Libertarian and Constitution party platforms could be an obstacle in peeling away conservative votes from Bush.

Both parties sound familiar conservative themes of slashing government and lowering taxes, but they also advocate the immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq, and the Libertarians are socially liberal, supporting abortion rights and drug legalization.

But if his candidacy does siphon away enough conservatives from Bush to put Kerry in the White House, Libertarian presidential nominee Michael Badnarik says that is fine with him. There is little difference between the major parties, he said, and playing the spoiler in a presidential election would greatly enhance Libertarians’ national profile.

(Left) *MSNBC.Com*, Washington DC -- June 21, 2004

(Below) *The Indianapolis Star*, Indianapolis, Indiana -- June 30, 2004

Candidate’s son at top of U.S. ticket

Libertarian presidential candidate Michael Badnarik was in Indianapolis on Tuesday to tout another candidate -- his mom.

Elaine Badnarik, a 70-year-old former executive secretary, is running for lieutenant governor with the Libertarian candidate for governor, Kenn Gividen.

It is, Libertarians believe, a national first to have a mother and son on the same ballot.

Michael Badnarik, a Hammond native who lives in Austin, Texas, was nominated by the Libertarian Party to be its presidential candidate at a national convention May 30.

His mom’s nominating speech went over so well, he said, that the party sought her out to be Gividen’s running mate.

Elaine Badnarik said she’ll be fighting for lower property taxes if elected. Her Lake County neighborhood is full of homes for sale because seniors can no longer afford their taxes.

“I will protect my home like a female grizzly will protect her den,” she said.