

LIBERTY PLEDGE

newsletter

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Longtime pledger travels from Korea, volunteers at HQ

'Pledging is one way to stay connected,' says George Whitfield

George Whitfield has no problem with long-distance relationships. Long-distance *political* relationships, that is. In October, Whitfield traveled all the way from South Korea – nearly 7,000 miles – to open envelopes at the Libertarian Party's national headquarters in the historic Watergate building.

Actually, the longtime pledger was already in Washington, DC, on business for his executive search firm, but found a few extra days to help out the staff before flying back to Seoul, where he has worked for 18 years.

"I thought that with the election here, there would be a lot of things which needed to be done and I found out that it was true."

Whitfield, a Virginia native, opened incoming mail for the party for two days and found the experience very revealing. He was surprised by the amount of support coming from women, since the party is viewed as being almost exclusively male.

Affiliate services coordinator Sam New said, "We are very thankful for George Whitfield's help. As the election draws closer, our staff has been inundated with phone calls and mail. Mr. Whitfield's volunteer efforts were a tremendous blessing, freeing hours of staff time to focus on pressing issues."

Whitfield attended this year's convention in Atlanta and said that the presidential nomination was particularly exciting. He had donated to all three contenders and was proud to participate as a delegate.

"The delegates to the Democratic and Republican conventions must have felt like mere spectators," he said, whereas the Libertarian delegates were real participants in the selection process.

Whitfield has great confidence in our presidential contender, Michael Badnarik, and says, "The Badnarik campaign is doing a superb job!"

The fact that Whitfield lives abroad is one reason he is a monthly pledger and recently upgraded his support from \$50 to \$60 per month. Living so far away "is frustrating be-

cause many activities that I would like to participate in, such as petition signature gathering or campaigning door to door, are impossible," he says. "Pledging is one way to stay connected."

Whitfield has been involved in the party since its earliest years,

joining in 1979, and that gives him a unique perspective. Like many young Libertarians, Whitfield at first had more enthusiasm than money.

"My early financial contributions were small," he said. "As I watched the party face challenges and opportunities, I realized that for us to deal with these effectively, we needed a stable, dependable base of financial support."

He encourages others to find the right level of support for them.

"All Libertarians have a unique combination of resources and talents, but the critical point is that if we want to effect change and reach our goals we must do it ourselves," he said. "We must work and donate to what we love."

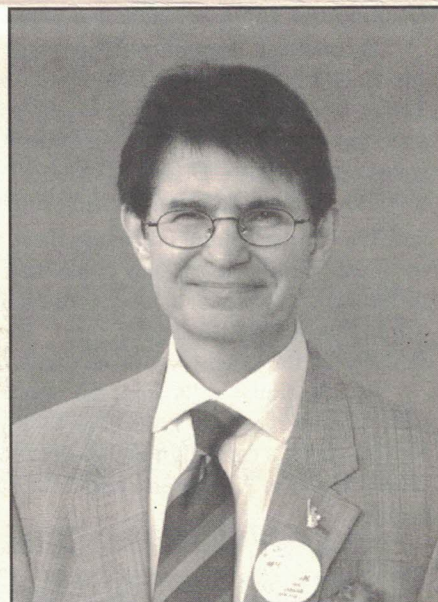
He says every member should feel personally responsible for the success of the movement.

Like many others, Whitfield discovered the LP in college. While attending Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia as a graduate student, Whitfield saw a flyer that said, "Jump on the New Political Bandwagon."

"I was intrigued by its humorous and audacious approach," he said, and having been politically engaged as a Republican volunteer, he decided to check it out. It turned out that the LP was the perfect vehicle for achieving his political goals: peace, prosperity and liberty.

Though he cannot run for office while living in Korea, he keeps in touch with other Libertarians through the Internet. Through the website www.meetup.com, he helped facilitate communication among Libertarians living in Seoul, and hopes to continue using the Internet to increase the Libertarian presence.

Back in Korea, Whitfield is an active supporter of his daughter's international school. He also enjoys listening to an eclectic variety of music, reading, walking, wine, and as evidenced by this article, traveling. George Whitfield is an example of how every Libertarian can make a meaningful contribution — even from half-way around the world.



George Whitfield

Badnarik considered to be possible election spoiler

By Josh Gerstein

Just as in 2000, a third-party candidate could tip the balance in this year's presidential contest. This time, however, the spoiler may not be Ralph Nader, but a man whose name most voters have never heard.

The presidential nominee of the **Libertarian Party**, Michael Badnarik, is on the ballot in 48 states. Mr. Nader, by contrast, is certain to be on the ballot in only 35 states, though he may pick up a few more by Election Day.

Democratic activists, many still fuming over Mr. Nader's perceived role in Vice President Gore's loss to President Bush four years ago, have brought court challenges to keep Mr. Nader off the ballot in places across the country.

By contrast, Republicans have said and done little about Mr. Badnarik, a 50-year-old computer programmer from Texas. Yet political strategists say he and the little-known Libertarians could affect the outcome in several battleground states crucial to Mr. Bush's re-election.

"The Libertarians are drawing somewhere between 1% and 3% — not big numbers, but in these very close races like the presidential contest, they could well be the margin of difference," a political science professor at the University of Minnesota, Lawrence Jacobs, said. "They pose a genuine threat to be the kingmaker in several swing states."

Most national polls don't ask about Mr. Badnarik, but some state surveys do. Polls done by Rasmussen Reports for Mr. Badnarik's campaign showed him with 5% of the vote in New Mexico in August and with 3% support in Nevada last month.

Newspaper polls haven't shown him doing quite as well. They often peg his support at roughly 1%, but even that number could prove decisive. In 2000, Mr. Gore carried New Mexico by 366 votes, or 0.06%.

Mr. Jacobs, who has studied third-party campaigns, said Mr. Bush's policies appear to have driven some conservative Republicans into the Libertarian camp.

"They see the president as a federalizer. You've got the debt. You've got 'No Child Left Behind.' You've got the new Medicare entitlement. You've got the Patriot Act. And you've got the war," the professor said. "It's a very different approach to government than a small government Barry Goldwater."

Mr. Jacobs said he conducted a survey in June and July in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Iowa to examine support for third-party candidates. It showed that the vast majority of Badnarik voters described themselves as either Republicans or independents.

Mr. Jacobs also said that Libertarian candidates in 2002 appeared to have tipped statewide races against the Republicans in Oregon and South Dakota.

The danger for the GOP, the professor said, is especially great this year in states where Mr. Nader is not on the ballot.

"It creates a drain on Republican voters that the Democrats aren't experiencing," Mr. Jacobs said.

The Bush-Cheney campaign did not respond to a call seeking comment for this story.

The communications director for the Badnarik campaign, Stephen Gordon, said he believes his candidate is drawing votes from both Mr. Bush and the Democratic nominee, Senator Kerry of Massachusetts.

This year, none of the third-party candidates has come even close to the threshold of 15% that the self-styled Commission on Presidential Debates has set for inclusion in the presidential and vice-presidential debates. While Mr. Nader has done little but gripe about the snub this year, the Libertarians have gone to court.

Last Friday, the Arizona Libertarian Party filed suit against Arizona State University, which is the host of the final Bush-Kerry debate, scheduled for October 13. The group is arguing that the school's sponsorship of the debate amounts to an illegal use of state resources to advance the two major political parties.

(Left) *The New York Sun*, New York, New York
— October 5, 2004

(Below) *The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin — September 24, 2004

Thompson still a political presence in Wisconsin

Associated Press

MADISON — Ed Thompson, the **Libertarian Party** candidate who got almost 11% of the vote for governor two years ago, has emerged as a leader of the movement to rewrite the Wisconsin Constitution to control state and local spending.

Thompson said, if his push for spending limits refutes the 14-year legacy of his brother — former Gov. Tommy G. Thompson — so be it. State spending doubled when Tommy Thompson was governor from 1987 through early 2001.

"I'm not here to defend Tommy," Thompson said at a Capitol news conference called this week by legislators and a new political action committee, Citizens for Responsible Government Network. "We have to put a lid on this out-of-control government spending, or we're all down the river." Thompson is the owner of a restaurant in Tomah.

Chris Kliemet, spokesman for the Citizens for Responsible Government Network, said his group wants a three-year freeze on property taxes until the constitution can be amended.

MTV asks Badnarik how liberty appeals to youth

By Peter Olasky

It's easy to run for president when you have Air Force One at your beck and call, a gaggle of journalists recording your every word, and more than \$200 million in the campaign chest. But try driving a Kia for 25,000 miles and sleeping in the spare bedrooms of your supporters while spreading the gospel of individual liberty and limited government.

Welcome to the life of **Libertarian Party** presidential candidate Michael Badnarik.

A dark-horse candidate even in his own party, Badnarik, a 50-year-old computer consultant, spent 15 months crisscrossing the country in his car while campaigning for the nomination. After a surprising victory at the party convention in May, Badnarik can now afford to fly (commercial), but it's still tough going given that, according to him, "Eighty percent of the population has never heard of the Libertarian Party, and the 20 percent who have have flagrant misconceptions."

Libertarians, like Badnarik, believe the proper function of the federal government is limited to national defense, coining money and not much else. No more Department of Education or Internal Revenue Service (Badnarik has not filed a tax return in several years). They believe the war in Iraq was a mistake, as is the Patriot Act, the United Nations, and talk of renewing the draft.

Slashing government, Badnarik believes, gives power back to individuals to do what they want with themselves and their property. Badnarik opposes laws restricting abortion, drug use or gun ownership and is especially fervent in his support of gay marriage. "Do you want the government telling you who you can room with? Do you want the government to say, 'Oh, I'm sorry, she's too pretty for you, she's too intelligent for you — you've got to live with this heavy-set girl who's got a great personality?'" Do you want the government manipulating your life? Of course not. Then stay out of everyone else's life!"

This message should resonate with young voters, according to Badnarik, because "young people are libertarians by nature." "Why would anyone move away from home ... move out of [the] opulence [of their parent's home] and into a crammed studio apartment ... just above poverty level, when you have mom or dad who love you?" Badnarik asks. "The answer is liberty. We move away from home so we can make our own decisions."

So why haven't young people rallied around the Badnarik candidacy? Although he's on 48 ballots (more than any other third-party candidate) Badnarik's support is registering at just 1 percent in the polls (if the pollster even mentions him). "These are young people," Badnarik explains. "They are more interested in the opposite sex than they are in politics. We're driving cars, playing sports, exercising all of that freedom and liberty that we have. We aren't aware of how much liberty the government is trying to take."

(Left) *MTV.com News*, New York, New York — September 28, 2004

(Below) *August Free Press*, August, Georgia — September 23, 2004

Press treats presidential campaign very well

By Chris Graham

One thing that has surprised **Libertarian Party** presidential candidate Michael Badnarik to date: the positive coverage from the news media for his campaign.

"I've been very pleased with the attention that the campaign has been getting so far," Badnarik told *The Augusta Free Press*.

"I would say that the media coverage has been very favorable to the campaign, which has been most interesting, because the tendency in the past was to treat the Libertarian Party as being more on the fringes of the political spectrum, an oddity, if you will.

"That has changed this year, for some reason," Badnarik said. "The questions that are being asked of me are the kinds of questions that one would expect a candidate to be fielding, about the issues."

One result of the favorable attention has been a bit of a spike in the polls.

The early numbers had the party and Badnarik barely registering nationally. Over the past couple of months, though, the campaign has seen some successes in locations like New Mexico, where internal polling suggests that Badnarik has the support of 5 percent of the electorate, with another 5 percent leaning toward pulling the lever for him.

Just who those voters might be — and what impact that might have on the final outcome of the 2004 presidential election — remains to be seen.

"I don't know how they see themselves fitting into this," James Madison University political-science professor Bob Roberts told the *AFP*.

"It would seem that the argument could be made that they would draw votes from Republican voters and from Democratic voters. They would seem to appeal more to Republican-leaning individuals because of their stance on the tax issue. Their appeal to Democratic voters would come because the positions of the two parties on many social issues are very similar."

That could mean something in a state like New Mexico, which has been a Badnarik campaign target — and which was won in 2000 by Al Gore by a 366-vote margin over George W. Bush.

Michael Badnarik, in his own libertarian words

Arizona Republic Editorial Board

Editor's note: Michael Badnarik, the **Libertarian Party's** nominee for president, met recently with The Republic's Editorial Board. Following are excerpts from that conversation:

What are the key planks of your platform?

Overall, we want to do Bill of Rights enforcement. The Bill of Rights is not negotiable. You can't pick the amendments that you like and ignore the others.

But for this particular campaign we're attempting to differentiate ourselves from both the Democrats and the Republicans by focusing first of all on the war in Iraq. George Bush wants to continue this war. John Kerry wants to send 40,000 new troops. I agree with more than 50 percent of the people in the United States that it was a mistake to go; it compounds our mistake to stay there, and as a Libertarian president I would bring our sons and daughters home as safely and as quickly as possible.

The third thing we're focusing on is the same thing that the Libertarian Party has talked about for 33 years and that's government spending. The government spends \$700 billion . . . above the budget.

The Libertarian Party recognizes that many of our federal departments are unconstitutional, and the decisions should be made at the state or individual level. We're very strong on the 10th Amendment, which says that powers not granted to the United States by the Constitution are reserved to the states, respectively, or to the people.

So, you would cut taxes and services that the federal government provides?

Yes. Basically, there would be a lot of services that we would not provide. Welfare is theft. If you come into my house and take \$100 for your health care, that's theft. If you have the government come into my house and take that \$100 for you, that's government authorized theft.

What are your thoughts on immigration reform?

Immigration is really two questions. We understand that there are a lot of people who come across the border to do a lot of work that is necessary for Arizona's economy. If it were even possible to put up a wall and stop people from coming, and to exclude everybody who hadn't gotten the right paperwork, Arizona's economy would fail. There's a large section of the fence that is literally down because the politicians know they need to let those people come.

The first part of that answer is that we need to reduce the paperwork and make it easier for people to come here who want to work hard, spend money and be productive citizens. . .

But there are other groups who come across the border who don't have hard work and spending money in mind. I'm told they are killing Arizona citizens. People in Arizona have a right to protect themselves against that. We need to make sure the Second Amendment is in full force.

We need to lower the barriers that prevent people from getting in legally so they don't have to cross the border illegally, and we need to take significant action to prevent people from coming here and damaging property and injuring our citizens.

(Left) *Arizona Republic*, Phoenix, Arizona – October 4, 2004

(Below) *Evansville Courier and Press*, Evansville, Indiana – October 5, 2004

LP Governor candidate debates in a three-way race

By Jennifer Whitson

INDIANAPOLIS – The three men who are battling to become Indiana's next governor faced the state's future – about 300 middle and high school students.

In an Indianapolis debate Monday, Democrat Joe Kernan, Republican Mitch Daniels and **Libertarian** Kenn Gividen took part in the Indiana Kids Election, a program where students practice registering and voting.

A group of Perry Heights Middle School eighth-graders prepared debate questions and were part of the audience for the event, which appeared on public television.

Three local students were slotted to ask questions, but only Ariel Atwood got hers in before time ran out. Atwood asked the candidates if Election Day should be moved to the weekend to help boost voter turnout. And while all three candidates underlined the importance of voting in their one-minute responses, none answered her question directly.

"I don't know if they didn't understand me or what," Atwood said afterward.

Joe Price and Sierra Newhouse also were slated to ask questions, but the candidates ran out of time. Price was going to ask each about their plans to get the Evansville-to-Indianapolis leg of Interstate 69 built. Newhouse wanted to ask the candidates about extending a ban on smoking in public places.

In the forum, each candidate stuck to themes they emphasized in the formal debate last week. Daniels talked about Indiana's woes and emphasized the need for change; Kernan voiced his optimism and the necessity for leaders to be positive while Gividen stressed eliminating property taxes.