

LIBERTY PLEDGE

newsletter

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ELECTION '98 UPDATE ...

LP candidates are on the ballot in 44 states

The Libertarian Party will be running the nation's largest slate of "alternative party" candidates this November — including 21 candidates for governor, 24 candidates for U.S. Senator, and 166 candidates for U.S. Representative, LP Political Director Ron Crickenberger has announced.

"Once again, the Libertarian Party has confirmed its status as the only real choice in American politics," he said. "Voters in 44 states will find one or more LP candidates on the ballot when they go to vote on Election Day."

In all, LP candidates will be on the ballot before at least 73% of American voters, according to *Ballot Access News*.

By comparison, Ross Perot's sputtering Reform Party placed candidates on the ballot before just 59% of voters.

Even further behind: The U.S. Taxpayers Party (34%), the Natural Law Party (31%), and the Green Party (29%).

"When voters look for a nationally organized, *principled* alternative to the corrupt older parties, they will be able to find it in the Libertarian Party," said Crickenberger.

McWilliams files lawsuit over medical marijuana

Libertarian medical marijuana activist Peter McWilliams has filed a lawsuit to force California Attorney General Dan Lungren to uphold the state's Compassionate Use Act, which legalized the use of medical marijuana.

In the lawsuit, filed in Superior Court on October 7, McWilliams charged that Lungren has failed to vigorously defend the right of Californians to use medical marijuana, and charged that Lungren's dereliction of duty has placed McWilliams' life at risk.

McWilliams, who suffers from AIDS and non-Hodgkins lymphoma, was arrested in July on federal marijuana charges.

"If Lungren had stood up to the federal government rather than encouraging it to arrest the sick of California, my life would not be in danger today," said McWilliams.

FREEDOM TO CHOOSE ...

Party joins in lawsuit to fight Medicare law

The Libertarian Party has joined in a lawsuit to overturn a federal regulation that effectively made it illegal for senior citizens to privately contract with doctors who get Medicare money from the government.

In late September, the party signed onto an amicus curiae in the case of *United Seniors Association v. Donna Shalala*, which was filed in U.S. District Court in Washington, DC.

The lawsuit seeks to overturn Section 4507 of the 1997 Balanced Budget Act, a provision which "effectively forces all elderly Americans into the Medicare system," said Steve Dasbach, LP national director.

"With this lawsuit, we hope to preserve the right of older Americans to contract with the doctor of their choice, outside the Medicare system if they so choose," he said.

Passed with very little fanfare, Section 4507 was an initiative of the Clinton administration, which said the new regulation would help eliminate a "two-tier" medical system, where wealthy seniors could privately contract for care while most others were forced to rely on Medicare.

But Section 4507 quickly turned into a rallying point for Americans opposed to government intrusion into health care.

"The issue is simply this: Senior citizens should have the right to personally pay for a health care service with their own money without first getting permission from the government to do so," said Thomas Schatz, president of Citizens Against Government Waste, which filed the amicus brief.

Dasbach said the Libertarian Party saw the issue as a simple matter of freedom of choice.

"Since most doctors cannot afford to turn away all Medicare patients just to be able to accept a few non-Medicare patients, this effectively forces all elderly Americans into the Medicare system," he said.

"As a political party, we generally don't initiate such lawsuits," he acknowledged. "However, when our participation can significantly increase the chances of success in overturning bad laws at a relatively low cost, we try to take advantage of such opportunities."

Lawmakers Chicken Out Of Caesar Salad Ban

Like any other media outlet, we get a lot of funny press releases. Trouble is, most of them aren't really meant to be funny. But last week we received one that was deliberately comical and, better still, for real. This was sent to us by the Libertarian Party. Following are some excerpts.

California decriminalized the sale of Caesar salad this week.

Selling Caesar salad became a crime last year when California legislators passed a new health law banning the sale of food that used raw eggs as an ingredient. Unexpectedly, the law included Caesar salad, which uses uncooked eggs in its unique dressing.

Restaurant owners and fans of the popular salad were outraged. The outcry convinced state legislators to file a new bill to cancel the criminal status of Caesar salad -- and, presumably, end what might have become a flourishing black market in contraband romaine lettuce, raw eggs, and Parmesan cheese.

"We have to compliment California legislators for their rare display of good sense," acknowledged Bill Winter, the Libertarian Party's Director of Communications. "Although we're a bit surprised that they were courageous enough to toss the Caesar salad law entirely." Libertarians had expected politicians to take a more timid, gradual approach, he said, perhaps...

- Implementing a five-day waiting period for Caesar salad, so the government could do a background check for raw-egg allergies.

- Legalizing "medical Caesar salad" — whereby people with vitamin deficiency could get a doctor's permission to buy a small amount of Caesar salad for their own personal use.

- Launching an anti-Caesar salad TV advertising blitz, perhaps with a commercial showing a frying pan, and then showing a frying pan with a raw egg in it. The voice-over could be: "This is your brain. This is your brain on Caesar salad."

- Allowing only adults, 21 and over, the right to buy Caesar salad, on the grounds that it may be a gateway salad to stronger stuff, like macaroni salad or three-bean salad.

But Libertarians say they are delighted with the bold, unexpected victory over the "Just Say No to Caesar Salad" lobby.

"All joking aside, it's a setback for those political eggheads who think they have the right to micro manage every aspect of our lives — down to the type of salad we buy in a restaurant," said Winter. "Hopefully, politicians will learn to just lettuce alone." ■

A Libertarian's High Hurdles

Who said third-party candidates can't raise as much money as major party contenders? That may be true in most places, and in most elections, but not this year and not in Pennsylvania — at least for the moment.

During May and June, Jack Iannantuono's Libertarian campaign for the Senate against incumbent Arlen Specter (R) took in more money than that of Bill Lloyd, the Democrat in the race: Iannantuono raised \$18,815. As of June 30, he had over \$14,500 cash on hand, and no debts. In the same two months, according to a report issued by the Libertarian Party, Lloyd raised \$13,674 and had a paltry \$1,262 cash on hand. Democrat Lloyd also had \$60,500 in debts, including

\$48,500 he had loaned his own campaign.

That may be small potatoes for a statewide campaign in a big state like Pennsylvania, but for the Libertarians it is a hopeful sign.

Major party observers say, however, that none of it matters anyway. Incumbent Specter, they point out, took in

The Libertarians

The Libertarians continue to be a strong presence in talk radio. Party press secretary George Getz attended the recent *TALKERS* magazine forum on "Media & Civility" at the Heritage Foundation and expressed encouragement and optimism about the growing ties between talk radio and libertarianism with both small and large "I"s.

Not only have a number of leading talk show hosts actually come out and declared themselves card carrying members of the Libertarian Party (most recent examples, Art Bell of Premiere Radio Network, Neal Boortz of WSB in Atlanta and David Brudnoy of WBZ in Boston) — but the party has a range of supporters and sympathizers among political generalists and openly Republican partisans in the medium as evidenced by the strong turnout at their recent national meeting here in the nation's capital. Even the party's 1996 presidential candidate, Harry Browne has launched his own national talk show on the Talk America Radio Network.

George Getz can be phoned at 202-333-0008 Ext. 222 and their website is located at www.lp.org.

more than \$685,000 this May and June and now has \$4 million in the bank for what will be an easy re-election in November.

"We've had to spend our money just getting on the ballot," Iannantuono laments. "We needed to get 35,000 signatures to make certain we have at least the required 24,390 valid signatures."

The Libertarian said his first challenge as a Senate candidate was to "hurdle the barriers people like Specter and Lloyd put in our path as they try to protect themselves from competition." And in so doing, he's also learning a lesson or two about the power of incumbency.

◀ *Creative Loafing*, Charlotte, North Carolina, August 8, 1998

▲ (CENTER) *Campaigns & Elections*, Washington DC, September 15, 1998

▲ (RIGHT) *Talkers Magazine*, Longmeadow, Massachusetts, September 15, 1998

METRO & STATE

Libertarians rallying to meet petition challenges

Party's troopers come running to fight battle to stay on ballot

By Cornelia Grumman
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

Like a volunteer soldier, Scott Stevens flew into Chicago from Texas this month to take up the Libertarian cause. And from their perch behind a bank of computer terminals at the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners office, his political compatriots soon were congratulating him for rescuing a few good petition signatures from Republican challenges.

"Good catch!" applauded fellow Libertarian Richard Schwarz of Pennsylvania after Stevens determined through the city's voter registration database that "Brooks C" actually was "C. Jemison Brooks" of Chicago, and therefore a potentially valid signature.

"I see he's a reverend, too, so he's probably not lying," said Stevens, who hasn't even met any of the candidates for whom he is fighting.

Stevens is one of dozens of Libertarians imported from around the country, a sort of political bucket brigade trying to keep its brethren on the ballot in the Nov. 3 election.

This week, state Board of Elections hearing officers are painstakingly counting up the valid signatures. The full board is expected to make a ruling in the next few weeks.

The entire statewide slate of Libertar-

ian candidates could face a wholesale dumping as the number of nominating signatures required to keep it on the ballot is being whittled down by Republican challenges.

The Libertarians submitted nearly 61,000 signatures for the entire ticket, from governor down to treasurer; 25,000 are needed to remain on the ballot. That's because the Libertarians historically have failed to garner 5 percent of the vote in statewide elections. If they had reached that threshold, only 3,000 signatures would have been needed.

Congressional candidates are not affected by the challenge.

But Illinois Republican Party Executive Director Christine Dudley believes most of the Libertarian signatures are invalid or highly suspect, particularly "Marty McFly," "Newt Gingrich" and "Tupac Shakur." In Chicago alone, she said, Republicans have challenged more than 80 percent of the names on the petitions.

"I think they're fraudulent," she said. "This isn't foolin' around stuff. I know some people think there's frivolity in election law, that this is just political posturing, but it's very serious stuff."

Serious, as in whether someone who

signed her first name as "Sweatmeat" could be real. (She is, and lives in Chicago.)

Or arguing over capital "W's."

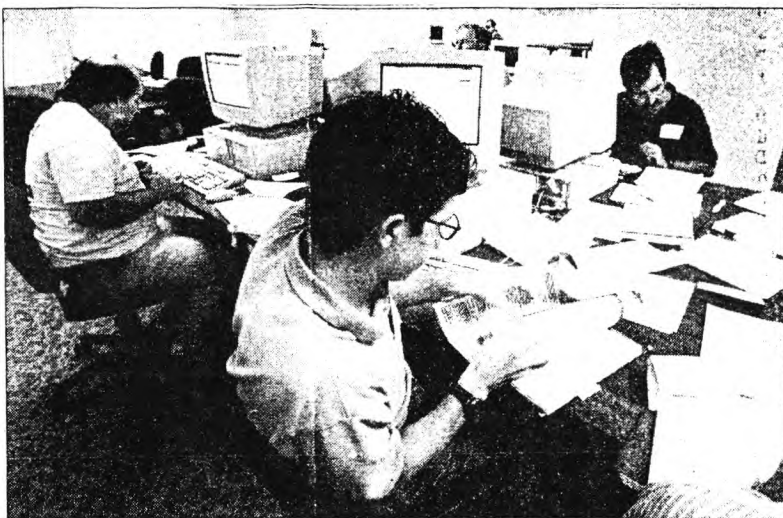
"Is there something going on in Chicago where people start their 'W's' with what looks like a '3' or a 'Z'?" wondered Schwarz, who would like to share a few thoughts with penmanship teachers.

The challenge has created comical scenes at state, county and municipal election offices in Chicago and Springfield, with swarms of Libertarians flown in from as far away as Alabama and California engaging in heated arguments with Republicans over the authenticity of "A's" and the validity of "I's."

Because Libertarian Party ranks within Illinois already are thin at 1,155 members, out-of-staters were brought in to fight the signature challenge so candidates could concentrate their 50 workers and \$250,000 campaign chest on the races.

The dedicated dozens who responded to the call put out over Internet mailing lists and Libertarian Web sites came speaking the language of combat.

"It's quite a hit what Goliath is doing to David here, but we all know who won *that* battle in the end," said James Waldron, 67, of Naperville, who has spent the last three weeks arguing over and trying to restore signatures.



Tribune photo by Chuck Berman

A GOP challenge to Libertarian Party petitions has Libertarian supporters scanning the Chicago Board of Elections' voter registration database to validate signatures.

All that arguing has state, city and county bureaucrats doing what they normally don't—working weekends and late into the night to resolve the issue before absentee ballots have to be mailed out.

State Elections Board spokesman Dan White called the Republican challenge

one of the most extensive in statewide election history.

Steve Givot, the Illinois Libertarian Party's treasurer, said the challenge is being mounted on behalf of Secretary of State George Ryan, the GOP gubernatorial candidate.

Libertarian's crime plan: legalize drugs

▲ *The Chicago Tribune*
Chicago, Illinois
September 23, 1998

► *The Oregonian*
Portland, Oregon
September 24, 1998

Richard Burke, the Libertarian candidate for governor, on Wednesday presented his plan for juvenile crime prevention: legalize street drugs.

Coupled with higher regulation of drug use, such an approach would keep many youths from getting involved in crime, Burke said.

"I want to break the black market for drugs," he said, "which I think is the leading cause of juvenile crime."

Burke said he would toughen penalties for providing drugs to minors and would outlaw the use of drugs in public or in the presence of minors.

Libertarians have long advocated legalizing drugs, but Burke's proposal takes the idea a step further by applying it to combating youth crime.

Libertarian's radical ideas get scant notice

FRESNO — In the back booth of a Blackstone Avenue coffee shop, Steve Kubby, Libertarian Party candidate for governor, picked his way carefully through a breakfast of vegetables, hash browns and apple juice — and less carefully through a minefield of political topics.

The death penalty? He's against it. Too many documented mistakes. Gun control? Against that, too. A well-armed nation is the best protection against crime. Three Strikes? "Feel-good legislation . . . terribly misapplied. A guy who steals a pizza ends up being a ward of the state for the rest of his life."

Public schools? Can be fixed only by the "free market." Growth? Not to worry: "As we move from the industrial age to the information age, just as when we moved from the agricultural age to the industrial age, the opportunity to feed, clothe, shelter and provide for people will be greatly expanded."

Farmers? Ought to be growing hemp. The War on Drugs? A failure that "makes millionaires out of thugs." Immigration policy? "Disgraceful. . . . We have more people dying on the California-Mexico border than ever died on the East German border." His solution?

"This is the one that scares people the most."

Scare me.



PETER H. KING California Notebook

"An open border."

□□□

And so it went for almost two hours Tuesday, as the stylishly suited Libertarian ran through his ideas, notions and assorted sound bites. The 51-year-old Kubby is a Lake Tahoe author, businessman and survivor of adrenal cancer. He made his mark in California politics as a leader of the Prop. 215 campaign for medicinal marijuana, a substance which, he volunteers, he has taken for years. Inhales, too.

Kubby readily acknowledged that many of his positions would constitute "political suicide" if expressed by his mainstream opponents, Gray Davis and Dan Lungren. One advantage to being a Third Party candidate is that it means never having to say the same old stuff, to be imprisoned by the same old poll-driven politics.

Conversely, a so-called "fringe" candidate

not deemed ready for prime time debates — or prime time donations — often repeats the lesson of the famous tree that fell in the forest, unheard. It's not easy, breaking through the silence. Kubby told of arriving at a PTA convention in San Diego only to learn that, because the main gubernatorial candidates had canceled, he would not be allowed to address the assembled delegates.

So, Kubby said, he moved outdoors and started giving his speech on the sidewalk, only to be interrupted by police. After a brief showdown, he said, he won over the officer in charge and was allowed to continue. This victory, however, would be diminished by a subsequent newspaper account, which described the incident under the headline: "No Governor Candidates Show for PTA Convention."

Raising for Kubby the question: And so what am I?

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A case can be made, of course, for keeping the focus on candidates with realistic chances of victory: One will be the next governor, so why not aim for the most-informed decision possible? At the same time, though, it invites self-fulfilling prophecy to declare that only candidates who can win will receive coverage — or be allowed to participate in the debates — since only candidates who receive coverage — or participate in debates — can win.

What cannot be questioned is that Third Party candidates can make spritely copy. They tend to be anchored in deeply cherished ideas — in Kubby's case, the Libertarian philosophy that less government is better government. And often their opinions are delivered free of the professional varnish of campaign consultants. Here was Kubby, for example, on the enforcement of highway speed limits:

"Citizens have to face every day this gauntlet of Highway Patrol, who cut in and out of traffic like sharks, looking for the weakest in the herd, pulling them over and collecting taxes. It is literally highway robbery."

Now it is not necessary to agree with candidate Kubby on this or any other points in order to concede that, in a famine of fresh political thought, he does provide at least something to chew on: "Put me on a TV show or a debate with the big money candidates," he growled, "and you are going to get a real show. . . . I'll hammer those guys." For the moment, however, it was time for the Kubby campaign simply to roll on elsewhere.

The busboy had come to clean the table.

PETER H. KING's column will appear Wednesdays and Sundays in *The Bee*. Write him at P.O. Box 15779, Sacramento, 95852, or call (916) 321-1892. e-mail: pking@mclclatcity.com

Libertarian wants to abolish drug laws

■ Candidate for U.S. Senate says he is pro-choice in everything from abortion to ownership of guns.

ALBANY BUREAU

JOHN FRITZE

ALBANY — The Libertarian Party candidate running against incumbent U.S. Sen. Alfonse D'Amato said yesterday that he favored abolishing federal income taxes and repealing all drug laws.

William McMillen, 55, said he would also get rid of the U.S. Department of Education and the Environmental Protection Agency, in order to cut government down to

size and give control to individual citizens, he said.

"I'm hungry for someone to speak out consistently in support of what I believe to be the rights of all citizens of this nation and the world," McMillen, an Albany County resident, said at a press conference.

An active member of the Libertarian Party for 19 years, McMillen isn't new to politics. He was the party's candidate for comptroller in 1982, but lost to Republican Edward

Regan. In 1986, he tried to run for Congress but failed to get enough signatures. He ran for U.S. Senate in 1988, losing to Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan.

McMillen will face Republican Alfonse D'Amato, Democrat Charles Schumer and a number of other third-party candidates.

Claiming to be "pro-choice on everything," McMillen said individuals — not the government — should be allowed to decide whether or not to have abortions, own guns or use drugs.

"I support the repeal of all laws prohibiting the sale, possession, manufacture and the use of drugs,"

McMillen said in a prepared statement. "Only when a person on drugs commits a real crime should they become the focus of law enforcement."

McMillen also said the federal tax code unfairly takes money away from individuals.

He would move to repeal the federal income tax and abolish the Internal Revenue Service if elected to the Senate, he said.

McMillen is employed as a controller by Shako Inc., a Latham-based industrial distributor, but has also run his own accounting firm and taught as an adjunct at Albany-area colleges. □

Libertarian gubernatorial candidate in New York calls for restoration of lower drinking age

Christopher Garvey, the Libertarian Party candidate for Governor of New York, calls for "burying the ghost of alcohol Prohibition" by restoring the 18-year-old drinking age.

Garvey, a patent attorney from Roslyn, NY, says it is absurd that 18 year olds can serve in the military but aren't old enough to buy a beer while home on leave.

Garvey also wants to abolish the state liquor authority and end the licensing of establishments to sell

alcohol. "We believe that everybody has the right to sell alcohol and should not have to beg permission from bureaucrats to practice free enterprise," he said. "No bar, bodega, deli, nightclub, liquor store grocery or restaurant should ever have to pay a licensing fee again. Let us bury the ghost of Prohibition and exorcise the specter of neo-prohibitionism."

Garvey said that a foundation of Libertarianism is the desire to repeal as may laws as possible.

▲ (TOP) *Sacramento Bee*
Sacramento, California, September 9, 1998

▲ (CENTER) *The Rochester Democrat & Chronicle*
Rochester, New York, September 22, 1998

◀ *Modern Brewery Age*
Norwalk, Connecticut, September 28, 1998