

LIBERTY PLEDGE

newsletter

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THREE MORE ANNOUNCE ...

“I am a Libertarian”

The Internet’s most famous personality, an award-winning mystery writer, and the editor of a computer publication have all announced they are libertarians. In the past month, Matt Drudge, creator of the legendary Drudge Report; Stuart M. Kaminsky, an Edgar Allan Poe Award-winning author; and Peter W. Glaskowsky, editor of the *Microprocessor Report*, have all joined the growing circle of Americans who use the “L-word” to describe themselves.

■ In the August issue of *Playboy* magazine, **Matt Drudge** said he refused to take sides on the liberal/conservative debate over who controls the media.

“I am a **libertarian**, not trusting any of them,” he said.

Creator of the Drudge Report and star of a new Fox News Network program, Drudge has been called “the first Internet star.” Since its modest beginning four years ago, the Drudge Report — his on-line compilation of political scoops, gossip, and quirky news items — has grown into a genuine phenomenon that attracts millions of readers each month.

■ Screenwriter and novelist **Stuart M. Kaminsky** said he joined the Libertarian Party in July because he “could no longer abide the choice of either not voting or of voting for the lesser of two evils” — the Republicans and Democrats.

“After having voted for **Libertarian** presidential candidates in the last two elections, I thought it was certainly time to put my voice where my vote is,” he said.

The author of more than 50 books — including the Porfiry Petrovich Rostnikov series — Kaminsky is currently the president of the Mystery Writers of America. In 1988, he won an Edgar Allan Poe Award for Best Mystery Novel.

■ Editor **Peter N. Glaskowsky** announced in the July 13 issue of the influential *Microprocessor Report* that he is a “card-carrying member” of the Libertarian Party.

In a signed editorial defending Intel Corporation against government charges that it dumped CPU chips in an “uncompetitive” fashion, Glaskowsky wrote: “I’ve been a card-carrying member of the **Libertarian Party** longer than I’ve worked in the computer industry, and I have always been appalled by how eager some companies are to entangle this industry in governmental red tape.”

PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATING CONVENTION ...

2000 LP convention slated for Anaheim

Move over Mickey Mouse: The Libertarians are coming to town. The Libertarian Party’s 2000 presidential nominating convention will be held in Anaheim, California — just two blocks from the Disneyland theme park — the Libertarian National Committee announced this month.

“We are thrilled to be hosting our party’s national convention at the dawn of the new millennium,” said Mark Hinkle, State Chair of the California LP. “We plan to put on quite a show.”

The convention will be held at the Anaheim Marriott from June 30 to July 3, and will draw upwards of 1,500 delegates.

The Anaheim decision represents a minor change in plans for the party, since the 2000 convention had been scheduled for Los Angeles.

But better prices, a more convenient location, and the presence of more entertainment alternatives convinced the Convention Organizing Committee to make the switch.

“Overall, the convention hotel in Anaheim was far better suited to host our convention than either of the Los Angeles hotels under consideration,” said past LP National Chair Steve Dasbach, who helped select the site. “In addition, the hotel offers an outstanding level of service, and the area offers more entertainment options for convention attendees.”

More details about the convention — including prices and speakers — will be announced starting in mid-1999.

QUOTE/UNQUOTE ...

“When we began researching third-party politics, one thing was clear: The Libertarian Party is *the* third party.”
— **BILL DUKANE**, *NewsNet*, June 11, 1998

“Although Libertarians are small in number, they are winning local seats and influencing the national agenda — including the debates on Social Security and IRS reform.”
— **DONALD LAMBRO**, *Insight* magazine, August 17, 1998

Libertarian convert serves as delegate at D.C. convention

Tobyhanna man switched after deciding GOP, Democrats were too much alike

By **PETER BOTHUM**
Pocono Record Writer

TOBYHANNA — It wasn't quite "Mr. Smith Goes To Washington," but when James E. Fleming took a trip to the capital he wasn't without ideals.

Fleming, a recent Republican-turned-Libertarian, served as a delegate for his new party's national convention held July 2 through July 5 in Washington, D.C.

"It was very interesting. I've never been to any kind of political convention before, so I learned a lot," Fleming said. "Nothing else could have lured me to Washington, D.C. on the Fourth of July."

The 58-year-old Tobyhanna resident saw the Libertarian light on July 4, 1996, when C-SPAN's coverage of the national convention seized his attention and kept it for three days straight. Little did Fleming know that two years later, he would be serving as one of a handful of representatives for the state's Libertarian Party.

"I was always really an independent. I was a registered Republican because of the laissez-faire aspect and the economic side of it," Fleming said. "There's virtually no difference between Democrats and Republicans anymore. I officially joined the Libertarian Party because it represents my views more than anything else."

The Libertarian Party was founded in Colorado in 1971 by business executive David Nolan. Pennsylvania has 21,000 registered members, the second-largest count behind California.

Ray Masters, a member of the Pocono Libertarians — founded in 1991 — and secretary of the Monroe County Libertarian Committee, said the party's growth in the state has been centered around Philadelphia. But in the county, the number of registered Libertarians has jumped from 17 in 1991 to 350 in 1998, he said.

Masters cited zoning restrictions and the Open Space issue as two major concerns of the party. But there's a reason why the party didn't voice its opinion on the Monroe 2020 task force.

"People ask us, 'Why didn't you take a position on the Monroe 2020 thing?'" Masters said. "No matter what we did, they were going to steamroll through with it anyway. On a general basis, we're against planning and zoning."

Fleming said the highlights of the convention included the election of a new national party chairman, David Bergland, and a slew of speakers, including Future of Freedom Foundation President Jacob Hornberger and author Peter McWilliams. McWilliams, who penned "Ain't Nobody's Business If You Do," is a California-based writer who has AIDS and campaigns for the use of medicinal marijuana.

Fleming said McWilliams' fight is central to the idea of Libertarianism.

"Eisenhower said you cannot legislate morality," Fleming said. "A person's body is his own, and what he ingests is his own business."

Pocono Libertarians meet every month at the Tannersville Inn. Their next meeting is slated for July 21.

Libertarian advocates firearms to empower women

The Associated Press

NACOGDOCHES — A pistol-packing Libertarian from Michigan said yesterday that women should empower — and protect — themselves.

Barbara Goushaw began her speech to the closing session of the Texas Libertarian convention by moving a step stool up to the lectern to reach the microphone and be seen by audience members in the back of the room.

"You've just seen the empowering of a woman," she said. "With a little help from my friends at the Handy Dandy step stool factory, I'm as tall as any man in this room. I just needed the right tool."

Then she pulled her handgun from under the podium and showed it to the audience.

"And with a little help from my friends at Smith & Wesson, I can protect myself from any man in this room," she said.

Libertarian ideals center on the concept of personal responsibility.

Referring to her stool, Goushaw said, "I could either find the tool I needed or wait around for the government to make me taller. It's the same thing with self-protection. I'm not going to wait around for the government to protect me."

The ability to be able to defend one's self is the "most basic issue," she said.

"The point is, the predator preys on the helpless. That helpless person may be your daughter going off to college, or to a White House internship," she said jokingly, "or your wife or your mother. If you care about those people, you should know handguns are a girl's best friend."

◀ *The Pocono Record*
Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, July 7, 1998

▲ *The Fort Worth Star-Telegram*
Fort Worth, Texas, June 15, 1998

Libertarian Leader Wants Greater Piece of Political Pie for His Party

BY MICHAEL VIGH

THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

The 1996 Libertarian Party presidential candidate said he would not commit to run for the same office in 2000 unless the party elevates itself to national prominence by the next election.

Harry Browne admitted that goal is not going to be easy to achieve without a large dose of salesmanship about the party to the American people.

"People do not respond to preaching or debate," he said. "We have to show them how much their life will improve in a Libertarian nation."

Browne made his remarks to about 50 Libertarian Party members at the Doubletree Hotel in downtown Salt Lake City.

In Browne's mind, the nation will improve first and foremost with the abolition of income taxes.

"We need to ask people if they are willing to give up their favorite federal program if they never had to pay income taxes again," he said. "I bet most people would say yes."

Among other issues, he added that the party advocates ending the "war on drugs," eliminating property taxes and making sure

that law-abiding citizens have access to firearms.

Browne said he would not run for president in 2000 unless the party was considered major, with at least 200,000 members nationally. He admits that's a lofty goal considering there are only 30,000 members.

But with an aggressive mailing campaign and other membership drives, Browne said he believes it can happen. Without that many people — and their accompanying donations — Libertarian candidates will continue to be largely anonymous.

"Our candidate has to be so well-known that he is showing up in polls, so that the media will follow us," he said.

That was a problem in the 1996 election. A poll the next year showed that only 4 percent of Americans knew the Libertarian candidate was Browne.

The party was able to raise \$3 million for the 1996 presidential election. Even though that is a lot for a third party, it is a paltry sum with which to challenge the well-funded Democrat and Republican candidates.

Browne said he is realistic about the low chances for a Libertarian candidate to win the presidency in 2000, but if the candidate could receive 10 to 15 per-

cent of the popular vote, "we could change this country forever," he said.

"That way the Libertarian Party would have to be consulted on every issue, because we would have the margin of victory between Republicans and Democrats," he said.



Harry Browne

Breathless promises

"If he's not ashamed to lie to his wife and his daughter about presidential fornication, why would he be ashamed to lie to the American public about federal legislation?" asks Ron Crickenberger, the Libertarian Party's national director.

"Now that Clinton has admitted he's a liar, why would anyone believe his breathless promises about health care, cigarette legislation, Internet censorship, the Brady bill, saving Social Security, global warming, troops in Bosnia — or the hundreds of other policy proposals he's made since becoming president?" Mr. Crickenberger said.

◀ *The Salt Lake Tribune*
Salt Lake City, Utah, July 28, 1998

▲ *The Washington Times*
Washington, DC, August 19, 1998

▼ *The Meadville Tribune*, Meadville, Pennsylvania, July 22, 1998

Libertarian candidate for governor visits

By JANE SMITH
TRIBUNE

Why did Ken Krawchuk of Abington Township, near Philadelphia, decide to seek the office of governor of Pennsylvania?

"Crime, cronyism and the Constitution," he says. Flanked by about 20 supporters, Krawchuk spoke about his candidacy Tuesday at the Crawford County Courthouse.

Citing a statistic that 95 percent of crimes are committed by 5 percent of the criminals who have been released from prison on parole "over and over again," Krawchuk said as governor he would immediately stop parole for all who commit violent crimes.

Turning to cronyism, Krawchuk said when the federal government closed the Philadelphia shipyards, Gov. Tom Ridge gave unfair tax breaks to companies to entice



KRAWCHUK

companies from foreign countries to come to the state.

In addition, he said, Ridge is proposing a tax on commerce conducted on the Internet, predicting if that happens "it will be the death of the Internet."

Citing the Libertarian Party's strong belief in upholding the Constitution, Krawchuk said government

is ignoring the rights guaranteed under the Constitution.

For example, he said the governor signed a bill giving state legislators an illegal pay increase. Krawchuk said the Constitution prohibits elected officials from receiving a salary and mileage and "no other compensation

whatsoever." Instead, he said, the legislators received a "non-reportable expense account," which he said is a pay increase.

He also took issue with Ridge's vote as a congressman, which took away the people's "right to bear arms" in self-defense.

"These are the three large issues," he said.

Addressing other issues, Krawchuk pledged as governor he would work toward privatization of schools. A survey he did several years ago when he ran for state representative showed private schools were spending from \$2,000 to \$4,000 to a high of \$9,000 per student in an exclusive private school in his area.

Libertarian Candidate Wants To Downsize Government

By S. JEANNE PHARR
News Staff Writer

It is a common belief that a vote for an independent candidate is a vote that is wasted.

But that doesn't appear to be the case with Libertarian candidate for governor Jack Cashin, who made an impressive showing in the 1996 senatorial race.

"People are starting to listen," he said this week. "We are starting to appeal to indignant and disenfranchised voters."

In 1996, Cashin received 4 percent of the vote, the highest ever recorded for the party in a statewide election. He contends that the reason for the excellent showing is that Libertarians are starting to get their message across.

That message is based on the Libertarian mission to downsize the government.

If elected governor, Cashin says he would immediately begin to streamline the state government by mandating that all agencies reduce their budgets by 10 percent within 30 days.

"I would then require them to cut their budgets by another 10 percent," said Cashin, explaining that he would set up a reward system for the people who accomplish their mission. "If they know they will get a bonus for creating efficiencies, people will work harder at it," he said.

Even if he's not elected governor, Cashin would like to have a good enough showing in the election to induce the elected state officials to create an "Efficient Government Commission."

"This commission would have broad powers to investigate and eliminate any arm of the government which no longer has any validity," said Cashin, who would like to be appointed chairman of the commission so that he could oversee the actual downsizing.

"The government that governs best governs least," he said, quoting Thomas Jefferson. "Less government and less taxation, that's what the Libertarian Party was founded on. And if Americans like having a mountain of taxes heaped on them, then they should vote for a Republican or



S. Jeanne Pharr/The Brunswick News

LIBERTARIAN CANDIDATE — Jack Cashin is traveling the state of Georgia spreading the Libertarian message that proclaims less government and lower taxes. The gubernatorial candidate was in Glynn County earlier this week urging Georgians not to "waste" their votes on Democrats and Republicans.

Democrat."

Democratic and Republican politicians spend 30 percent of their time enacting laws that will appease those who contributed funds and they spend the other 70 percent looking for someone to contribute those funds, said Cashin, who insists he is not a politician.

"I want to be a citizen legislator, someone who can make decisions without being beholden to those who lined my pockets. I want to make judgments like a statesman for the good of the whole, not based on the narrow interests of people who want something from you," he said.

"I don't want to be a politician, concerned only about retaining power and perpetuating myself."

Cashin needs 10 to 15 percent of the vote this fall in order to put him into a negotiating position with both major parties.

"That way I could work within the government to reduce bureaus and

agencies that are no longer valid and have no reason for being," he explained. "There is excessive duplication and there is a lot of fat that needs to be trimmed from every form of government to make it run more efficiently. I want to bring reason and common sense to a confused governmental landscape."

Cashin believes he can accomplish this goal, and others as well.

He wants law enforcement to rigorously fight violent crime. He wants to legalize medical marijuana for Georgians with serious illnesses. He wants to veto bills that threaten Georgians' right to keep and bear arms.

He wants to eliminate property taxes for senior citizens. But mostly, he wants to privatize governmental services and do away with Georgia's income tax.

▲ *The Brunswick News*
Brunswick, Georgia, July 11, 1998