

The Liberty Pledge News

December 1988

Dear Pledgers,

Hi - Sharon Freeman here. Remember me? I worked at the national office in Houston from November '85 until December '87, and was involved in the production of 19 issues of Liberty Pledge News before leaving the staff and focusing on my responsibilities as an At-Large member of the National Committee.

I've recently relocated to DC, and now my top priority is to get the Pledge back on schedule ASAP.

As a member of the LNC Finance Committee, I'm not interested in just the newsletter, but the Pledge program as a whole. If you have any advice, comments, complaints, and/or suggestions, please contact me care of the national office.

Enough of that for now. I want to talk about this Pledge issue.

The LP was mentioned in over 1200 newspaper articles in the month of November, and several themes emerged:

1) The Democratic and Republican parties have very little to offer the voters. (We already knew that, but the papers treat it like news.)

2) The media (who own the News Election Service) are involved in the falsification not only of the election process, but the results as well; their role is denounced even by their own editors.

3) Ballot access laws have to be changed before we can seriously challenge the dominant parties on the national level.

4) Meanwhile, we can continue to make real inroads on the local level.

If the rest of the headlines and articles in this month's Pledge make you as mad as they did me, remember, your continued support of the Pledge program allows us to:

* start planning now for '90 and '92 (when we may face a Republican incumbent saddled with an economic crisis and a Democratic party irreconcilably split);

* set aside funds for a professional media campaign and the ongoing court/petition battle for ballot access.

In financial news, figures show that in '88 the LP spent only 20% of the money brought in bringing it in - which works out to a savings of \$20,000 over projected usable income in '88. Accounts payable were down to \$4000 as of December 3, and we could be completely out of debt before the New Year.

On that note, I'll close and wish you all:

Happy holidays.

The Liberty Pledge News is produced monthly for members of the National Libertarian Party's Pledge Program, Independence '88 and the Torch Club. It is also distributed to State Party Chairs and National Committee members in appreciation of their contributions and to make available information on Headquarters activities and Libertarians in the news. Clippings and other items of interest are greatly appreciated.

Libertarian Party Headquarters * 1528 Pennsylvania Ave., SE * Washington, DC 20003

Can we be of help? Want to raise your pledge? Call 1-800-682-1776.



For Libertarian, recognition is elusive

By Thomas Farragher
Mercury News Staff Writer

The final indignity comes Tuesday night — via satellite.

Not only is he about to be drubbed at the polls, but Libertarian Party presidential candidate Ron Paul is going to be snubbed by the real heavyweights of the American political process — network anchors named Rather and Jennings and Brokaw.

Paul, who Friday brought his frugal campaign to Stanford University's Hoover

man from Texas who is spending \$3 million in a campaign dependent largely on the free microphones of radio talk shows from Bangor to Bremerton.

The National Election Service, which compiles election returns for the TV networks and newspaper wire services, has rejected Paul's personal appeal to have his votes included in the national tabulations.

Still, Paul said his campaign is more than an academic exercise or the novel ingredient in a mudslinging race.

Paul, a physician from Lake Jackson, Texas, said he expects Vice President George Bush to be elected Tuesday by a comfortable margin — an achievement that, Paul said, will be just deserts for his fellow Texan.

"He deserves it because the price is going to be paid during his administration for eight years of Reagan administration economic policies," said Paul, who quit the GOP in January 1987. "George Bush is not Ronald Reagan, and it's not just going to

mantle Social Security and legalize drugs — has become the political home to "hippies" and businessmen, and erstwhile followers of two preachers, liberal Democrat Jesse Jackson and conservative Republican Pat Robertson.

"People should be left alone," said Paul, delivering his equivalent of a sound-bite-sized version of his party's philosophy. "... The government should exist for the protection of liberty — making sure that people don't kill each other, or hurt each other or steal from each other."

Although his name won't appear on electronic tote boards that will be flashed around the country on election night, Paul — that once the Libertarians hold the margin of difference between major party candidates, they can no longer be ignored. "We're answering the questions of the day mainly because we're the only ones asking the questions," Paul said.

Ballot includes surprises Libertarian, New Alliance parties

By ROY WOOD
Bristol Press

Voters may not recognize some of the political parties on this year's ballot, let alone some of the candidates representing those parties.

Among the lesser known candidates are Ron Paul, a presidential hopeful running on the Libertarian ticket. Paul's vice presidential pick is Andre Marrou. The Libertarian party, broadly speaking, believes in little government involvement in the affairs of citizens.

The New Alliance Party, generally considered to fall to the left of the Democratic Party on the political spectrum, has a presidential candidate, Lenora Fulani. Fulani's running mate is Joyce Dattner.

In addition, three write-in presidential candidates have reg-

Edward Winn as president with Barry Forster as vice president.

Larry Holmes as president with Gloria LaRiva as vice president.

To become registered as write-in candidates, those seeking the presidency each had to name and get signatures from a vice presidential candidate as well as signatures from eight candidates for elector.

Write-in votes for candidates other than those who are registered with the secretary of the state's office aren't counted.

In the Senate race, Libertarian Howard Avery Grayson Jr. and New Alliance party candidate Melissa M. Fisher have joined Democratic state Attorney General Joe Lieberman in trying to unseat GOP Sen. Lowell Weicker and appear on Bristol Mayor James J. Valeri's

Ballots: Who's Boxed Out?

IF WE HAVE 329 PEOPLE running for President, why aren't they all on the ballot? How can we make an informed choice if we don't know what our choices are?

The most serious problem for minor candidates, says Sharon Snyder, assistant press officer for the Federal Elections Commission, "is ballot access. You might

'Republican' majority reigns

... the "Republican" majority has succeeded in silencing the collective voice of a significant minority — those that do not support them. First, they refused to allow "none of the above" on the ballot. Now, they have enticed the press to further dim the light of contrast by not reporting of any ballots cast in opposition.

The Big Press has been more than happy to play along with Republican hypocrisy; to gladly accept tax-dollar subsidies by running political advertisements, all the while editorially bemoaning the cost of today's political cam-

Third party could improve quality of campaigns

Jackson would force candidates to deal with real problems

Well, it's finally over. The less-than-heartening 1988 presidential campaign is now one for the record books, with George Bush officially the victor. Maybe it should be noted with an asterisk, signifying that the election and campaign by both the Democratic and Republican candidates was one of the most banal and discouraging political charades in recent memory.

It was a campaign marked by the vague political agendas of both candidates; the bloating of events irrelevant to the fate of this country (the Pledge of Allegiance as a campaign issue? Please.); a barrage of often-inaccurate charges and countercharges; the buckling of the media — particularly television — to the simplistic nature of both campaigns; and, as always, the presence of big money to guide the entire campaign.

In short, it was the classic present-day presidential

election that we, the electorate, have become all too familiar with in recent years — the watered-down presentation of two candidates too fearful of voter backlash to seriously address the issues at hand.

Perhaps the apathy of many American citizens toward presidential elections is not entirely incomprehensible.

But short of a miracle, the future is not much brighter for presidential elections. The power-brokers behind the scenes of both major parties are not about to release their control in helping to select "safe" candidates with oversimplified, non-challenging agendas who adhere to the established mainstream. Look at how Jesse Jackson was summarily brushed aside by his fellow Democrats — that is until his fellow party members realized that his help was needed in the final weeks of

Tim Hare

the campaign when Michael Dukakis was obviously lagging in the polls.

What is the answer? It's hard to say. But perhaps one alternative is the establishment of a major third party. That's not an easy task. John Anderson was a legitimate presidential candidate in 1980, but still only garnered about 6½ percent of the vote. Likewise, the Libertarian Party, despite increasing gains in recent years, has only slowly struggled toward mass acceptance.

What is needed is a major third party, led by a charismatic figure, than not only addresses the concerns of a large block of the electorate, but could help shape a

broader, less-deliberate focus for the national election by dealing directly with primary issues, in turn forcing the Democratic and Republican presidential candidates to answer and contemplate crucial issues.

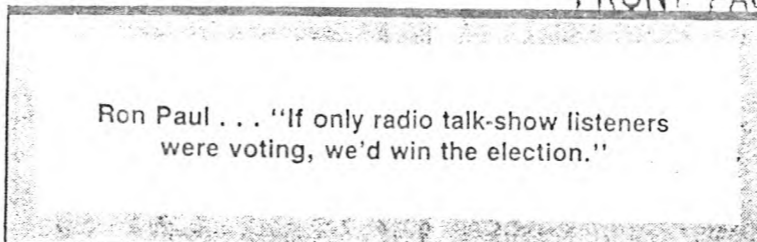
By John P. McAlpin
Staff Writer

It's hard to ride somebody else's coattails when you don't even have a shirt of your own.

That is the problem facing candidates who are not the name-brand Republican or Democratic variety.

Many of those who are running for offices and are affiliated with organizations like the Populist Party of America or the Socialist Workers Party have to fight prejudices and economics in their uphill battles.

... candidates are messages, hoping to



Ron Paul... "If only radio talk-show listeners were voting, we'd win the election."

Doing a number on third party

By JOE ROSATO
Bee staff writer

A "mathematical trick" was used to ignore the vote percentages received by Libertarian and other third-party candidates in Tuesday's election, according to Marshall Fritz of Fresno.

Levin and Brickley, who carry an incumbent designation on the ballot, are heavily favored to re-

ernment, a libertarian educational organization based in Fresno.

Fritz said the misrepresentation was done by assigning Democratic presidential candidate Michael Dukakis and Republican rival George Bush whatever vote percentage actually was earned by Libertarian and other third-party candidates.

He blamed the News Election Service, the nation's principal vote-reporting organization, which takes

FRONT PAGE STORY

Three people from political parties other than the two largest have filed their intent to run for the lone Senate spot open in this election.

"They (the voters) are looking for an alternative that we have to offer," said Thomas Fiske, a Senate candidate from the Socialist Workers Party.

"The make th the polit of New; the theo enter into

PRESIDENT

WHO?

As any horseplayer will tell you, long shots do come in

More than the presidency is hanging on your vote

By JOANNA FIRESTONE
Gannett News Service

Michigan voters have been romanced by Michael Dukakis and George Bush for three months, but dozens of other candidates are hoping for a nod of approval Tuesday, too.

The 2nd District, which includes Ann Arbor and Jackson, is considered the tightest race. Republican Rep. Carl Pursell of Plymouth is battling state Sen. Lana Pollack, an Ann Arbor Democrat who has pressed a fierce and well-financed campaign against him.

Ignored candidate runs against media

LOS ANGELES (AP) — This was going to be it. Finally, after a year's campaigning, Ron Paul would get noticed.

On his last election stop of 1988 this weekend, the Libertarian candidate for president hoped to meet with ABC News, the Los Angeles Times, the Los Angeles Herald Examiner, the Orange County Register and a local radio station.

But the only journalists to cover Paul's speech in the nation's No. 2 media market were some guy from Canada and a student writer from UCLA's Daily Bruin. The rest, like always, didn't show.

Ignored by newspaper reporters, neglected by television crews and denied a debate platform, the four-term congressman's weaving drive for the White House magnifies the crucial role free media play in the presidential race.

"We don't get the national television news, which is the big thing," Paul said Friday. "So we make a lot of use of radio and we rely on it. We know exactly where all the 50,000-watt radio stations are. And they always welcome us because the other two candidates won't bother doing it.

"We have a joke in the Libertarian party: If only radio talk-show listeners were voting, we'd win the election."

Although Paul may draw 1 million votes Tuesday, chances are the majority of Americans have never heard of him. And the election news service pool will not report third-party presidential vote totals election night, despite Paul's presence on 47 state ballots.

"You know, it could be a close election in California," Paul said. "We might make the difference. Is that not newsworthy?"

"We've been around 17 years and we have 100 people in elected office nationwide," Paul said of his Libertarian party. "We have more candidates running for Congress in Alabama than Republicans. Those kinds of things are deserving of more news attention."

With scant media interest and a campaign budget of only \$2 million, Paul and his staff have been forced to develop alternative means of communication.

Paul has appeared on cable television's C-SPAN, the Cable News Network's "Inside Politics" and the Public Broadcasting Service's "Firing Line" with William Buckley and "The MacNeil-Lehrer NewsHour."

At other times, Paul has staged satellite-delivered "debates" in

which he answers the questions posed to George Bush and Michael Dukakis. He also has sent videocassettes of speeches to supporters.

"Everybody knows that television is the most powerful of all the tools and we have to learn how to use it," Paul said. "If the networks don't accept us, I think we have to figure out innovative ways of using it."

Still, Paul, a 53-year-old physician, remains largely unknown.

Last Friday, William Waller, a security guard at Los Angeles International Airport, spotted four Paul supporters waiting for their candidate in the United Airlines terminal.

"Who are you here for?" Waller asked the group. "Oh," he said. "I've never seen him on the news."

What Paul has seen in his exhaustive campaign (400 cities, 100 colleges) is that the way the media look at it, if you're not in the Democratic or Republican party, you're not in any party at all.

"Everybody is trained and educated in the same two-party political philosophy," Paul said. "And the media responds to power: If you're not gonna win, who are you? I've been covered by as much foreign press as I have here. (The foreign reporters) are much more open to alternative parties."

Especially frustrating for Paul and his entourage is that Libertarian theory — advocating a small, benign federal government — has become increasingly popular. Ronald Reagan, Paul points out, was elected on a strongly Libertarian platform in 1980.

"I think the media should be more objective," Paul said. "If they were satisfied to report Ronald Reagan's getting government off our back, why don't they point out the fact that the government isn't off our back? And why don't they cover somebody who has an alternative view?"

The news stories that Paul does receive tend to focus on some of the more unconventional Libertarian positions — the abolition of income tax, the legalization of drugs and prostitution — and the small size of Paul's campaign.

Paul remembers the day he spent with a newspaper reporter, whom he refuses to identify. "Ninety-nine percent of everything I said that day had to do with issues," Paul said. "Ninety-nine percent of his article had to deal with what kind of car I was in and what I had for lunch and the fact that I happened to have a hamburger. That kind of junk."

Libertarians take a cue from Garbo, vote to be left alone

BIG WATER, Utah (UPI) — The New York Times endorsed Democrat Michael Dukakis; the Washington Times declared for Republican George Bush; but the Big Water Times is backing Libertarian Ron Paul because it "wants to be left alone."

Publisher Alex Joseph, 52, backed Paul in an editorial in the current edition of his tiny, twice-monthly paper, which has a circulation of 1,800.

Used to bucking the tide, Joseph's nonconformism isn't limited to his presidential preference. In addition to being a newspaper publisher, he is mayor of what is billed as the only Libertarian-controlled town in America. He also has nine wives.

"George Bush is going to take Utah in a cakewalk, and your vote is just not going to matter unless you vote for Paul," the editorial read. "Ron Paul needs to be elected president of the United States in this town."

All five members of the Big Water Town Council and Mayor Joseph are Libertarians — following a mass defection from the Republican Party in 1986.

Big Water residents like the party's philosophy because "they like being left alone and they liked the no property tax mandate coming down from the town council" in 1986, Joseph said.

The tax relief and hands-off style of government has been a boon to the remote southern Utah town of 430, near Lake Powell, said Joseph, an excommunicated Mormon.

End of the line

Republican vice presidential nominee Dan Quayle paid us a visit Friday, stopping for about 15 minutes on the Auburn University campus, long enough to lead a few cheers, long enough, too, to remind us what a frustratingly empty campaign year this has been.

Who can remember a time when the public was so dismayed with the candidates running for the nation's highest elected office. Even newspapers themselves have been turned away. Many papers, including the Washington Post, have decided not to endorse a presidential candidate this year — not that newspaper endorsements are worth anything.

THE TWO CANDIDATES (Are you aware there are others? Ron Paul, the Libertarian, for instance.) are not by the most dynamic leaders we have seen. Indeed, "You're no Jack Kennedy" might be the most memorable line of the entire campaign because surely, like the much-maligned Quayle, neither George Bush nor Michael Dukakis is a Jack Kennedy.

But if that element of charisma is lacking, it would seem likely that the campaign would plunge full steam into the issues. But this is the television age and the candidates have used television like no other campaign before.

This is the year voters came to learn about sound bites, handlers, spin doctors, etc., etc., until we all realized just how programmed and packaged the campaigns were.

Taking a page from Ronald Reagan's book, Bush and Dukakis relied on prepared statements to get their messages to the voters, statements that were designed to fit into a 30-second "sound bite" on the network news. It would be the theme of the day, one impression planted in the minds of the viewers. There would be a different backdrop every

time — one day a flag factory, another the Boston Harbor or a helmeted candidate riding in a tank — until the images, not the message, became most important.

And Bush played the TV game better than Dukakis, attacking the governor relentlessly about his policies as governor of Massachusetts. This forced Dukakis to respond, and quite feebly it turns out, rather than continue with his message-of-the-day campaign.

THE MEDIA, WE are sorry to admit, have not been at their best. People have been polled to death this year, bombarded with meaningless numbers on a daily basis. If polls really meant anything, how come Dukakis had a 17-point lead after the Democratic National Convention? Have that many people really changed their minds since then? We doubt it.

The media have treated the campaign like a horserace rather than a forum for issues. We have seen polls on not just the candidates, but which of the four is most qualified, whether Quayle is fit to be vice president, whether voters would prefer someone else to be running and the best, whether people think there are too many polls.

Although his spirits seem to have been lifted in the days after Dukakis admitted he was a liberal, his message of change remains unfocused or least, unappreciated. He simply has not given enough people enough good reasons to change course. During a time of peace and prosperity people wanted more than competence. Dukakis did not deliver.

So, more than likely, we are left with Bush. His aides have been criticized for being dirty but praised for running a brilliant media campaign. For better or for worse, it seems that is how a president is elected.