



LIBERTY PLEDGE NEWSLETTER

Published exclusively for members of the Libertarian Party's Monthly Pledge Program

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Ballot Access Efforts Shifting Into High Gear and Bringing Results

The Libertarian Party's Ballot Access Committee hopes to have a good chunk of its job completed by the time delegates name the LP presidential nominee over Labor Day weekend in Chicago, and recent successful efforts give Libertarians good reason for optimism.

In addition to the substantial gains realized from 1990 LP vote totals, an independent's showing in Maine is responsible for the LP being certified as an official party there. The independent, Andrew Adam, received enough votes to qualify for official party status, and by changing his registration to Libertarian—which he did January 18th—his status was transferred to the LP. BAC Chair Bill Redpath and 51-'92 Committee Chair Andre Marrou were on hand for the official change-of-registration.

On the petitioning front, the Alabama LP and Kansas LP have recently completed petition drives. The Kansas drive was funded primarily by the state LP.

Petitioning is now underway in Arizona, while state legislators there consider a bill aimed at cutting the petition requirement from 15,000 to 7,000. Petitioners will collect about 8,000 signatures and then wait for the legislature's vote before continuing. In North Carolina, the 51-'92 organization is conducting a petition drive to place the LP on the ballot.

CORRECTION: Contrary to last month's *Liberty Pledge Newsletter*, pledgers of \$10/month or more will continue to have their memberships automatically renewed.

Libertarians in Forefront of Opposition to Persian Gulf War

The LP is setting up a new "900 Number" for opponents of U.S. involvement in the Persian Gulf. Callers will hear a recorded message stating opposition to the intervention, which will be delivered in their names to their congressmen if they leave their names and addresses. The LP will also send each caller a "Bring U.S. Troops Home" bumper sticker.

"We wanted to encourage people to speak up and be counted on this important issue," National Director Nick Dunbar said. "We hope

people will take advantage of this service who wouldn't take the time to sit down and write their congressman a letter."

College chapters are being urged to get involved in this hot issue. Informational packets were sent to 222 campus contacts regarding their role in establishing strong opposition to reinstating the draft. LP anti-draft activist Paul Jacob recently spoke to over 70 students at one of the smaller campuses of the University of Wisconsin. (See article on page 2.)

LIBERTARIAN PARTY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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University of Wisconsin-
Milwaukee Campus

Tucson, AZ, Citizen, Oct. 6, 1990.

Speaker at UWM calls Selective Service totalitarian

by Theresa Flynn

What would I kill for? Paul Jacobs asked himself this question back in 1980 when he was presented with the requirement to sign up with the Selective Service on his 18th birthday; he chose not to sign the card. He was among about 25 percent of eligible 18-year-old men that year to defy the Selective Service requirement.

Jacobs explained his decision last Thursday night in the east corridor of the Union's second floor. A reserved room proved too small for the gathering of over 50 people.

Jacobs compared the military draft to the Soviet economy. "The government doesn't have any right to take me out of my life and put me into their slot. That's how the Soviets run their economy, and we've seen how well that works."

"What you want to do with your life is important, and it's wrong to tell somebody that what they want to do with their life is wrong. That's slavery," Jacobs said.

Jacobs spent six months in a Federal prison in Arkansas following his 1984 conviction for not registering for the draft; he was one of about a dozen men convicted during the decade for publicly advocating non-compliance with Selective Service requirements. He also fulfilled a

community service requirement. "I had literally dozens of friends who also didn't register; they, however, didn't appear on talk shows on television and radio," said Jacobs.

Jacobs made his decision to publicly resist registration in order to protest what he said was "slavery" by the government. "I did not try to file as a conscientious objector," he said, "because I am not against all wars. I am against the draft."

"I am not a pacifist," Jacobs said. "I believe in a national defense, but it's a slap in the face of young people to believe that they will not come to the defense of their country when it is necessary."

"You have choices to make," he said to the audience. "And there are consequences to these choices. Twenty, 30 years ago people had to make the same decisions."

Jacobs talked about some of the options for evading military service, including his resistance by not registering. His prosecution for non-registration was due to his vocal, public stance on the issue, he said. Even though many of the young men in the audience may have registered because of financial aid restrictions and parental pressures, Jacobs said resistance and draft avoidance were still

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The UWM Post

Selective Service Requirement

Jacobs/from page 1

uality—Jacobs said refusing induction to service is an evasion of last resort.

Since Canada and Mexico support the possibility of military action in Saudi Arabia, Americans evading the draft will not be granted refuge across these borders, he said.

A student draft deferment such as the one given in the early years of the Vietnam War will probably not be reinstated, Jacobs said.

"The liberals in Congress are fighting for the draft, claiming that it would make the forces more representative [of the country's racial and economic background]. They're not trying to stop a war from happening. That is insane," he said.

Talk of reinstating the draft is also spurred on by a drop in enlistment, Jacobs said. According to the New York Times, military recruitment is below Pentagon expectation; Jacobs compared this decrease to skyrocketing recruitment after Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941.

"When people are mad they're

willing to get involved, they're willing to defend their freedom, but not when they don't know what the reason is," he said.

An all-volunteer Army serves as a check against fighting a war that doesn't have popular support, Jacobs said. "[Based on registration statistics and opinion polls,] the support's not there. With a draft, you don't have to get support," Jacobs said.

"I'm not saying 18, 20 and 22-year-old men should make decisions of national policy, but if part of that policy is dragging you out of bed to fight and die, you should have some choice," said Jacobs.

He also stressed that people at risk of being drafted should put pressure on politicians who do make up national policy. Jacobs advocated writing letters to the editor of local papers, writing to members of Congress and getting involved with anti-draft organizations.

"We owe a debt to our country, but who is our country? We are," he said.

Jacobs said that the Selective Service and draft laws are the

most totalitarian laws in this country. "Even by telling people how to get out of the draft, even by just counseling that can be prosecuted as aiding and abetting [a criminal]."

Jacobs' speech was sponsored by the Young Libertarian Alliance, a UWM student organization.

Gainesville, FL, Sun
Nov. 5, 1990.

IN THE MARGIN

Representatives from the local Republican, Democratic and Libertarian parties were on hand to woo voters at the Alachua County Fair. The Republicans and Democrats were doing a brisk business passing out free bumper stickers supporting their candidates and policies.

But representatives from the Libertarian Party — a movement known for its strong support of the free market — were charging \$2.50 for their bumper stickers.

"We're capitalists here," explained a party staffer.

Deseret News, (Salt Lake City, UT), Nov. 1, 1990.

Libertarian finds cuts to make if food tax goes

By Matthew Brown
Deseret News staff writer



Bob Waldrop

Waldrop, an avid supporter of the food tax initiative, has pored over the budgets of 15 state

departments to prove state government can slash \$70.99 million in expenditures while raising \$9.86 million through user fees. He claims the reduced spending combined with user fee revenue would more than offset a predicted shortfall caused by dropping tax on food.

In his introductory notes, Waldrop, who is running in the Avenues/Capitol Hill/Central City district, said the tax limitation movement has hurt its case by not suggesting where spending can be reduced. So, he decided to "read every line and every word" of a 16-inch stack of fiscal documents and come up with a "first phase" of suggested budget cuts.

"No more new cars, no more replacing cars when they get 75,000 miles," Waldrop declares, justifying his \$22.47 million cut in general government and capital facilities expenditures. "My per-

sonal car has 122,000 miles and is going strong."

He also suggests state printing move to the state prison and Gov. Norm Bangertor move back to "his nice house in West Valley City" or "pay his own rent to live up town."

The only areas Waldrop left alone were higher education, corrections and transportation. Waldrop suggested less than \$1 million cut from Human Services and the state office and board of education be eliminated.

In his biting and often humorous commentary on each cut, Waldrop's underlying message is that government wastes a lot of money for special interests.

"It is a sad day when the 'General Welfare' becomes an excuse for a 'General Looting' of the wallets of hard working taxpayers," he said.

Libertarian candidate sounds like a president

By JOSEPH GARCIA
Citizen Staff Writer

Richard "Dick" Boddie can do lively impersonations of Ronald Reagan, Lyndon B. Johnson, Jesse Jackson and Jimmy Carter.

The animated speaker hopes some day somebody will copy his vocal characteristics. After all, this one-time-Democrat-one-time-Republican is running for president.

"I just keep on talking and never change," Boddie, a Libertarian, said in an interview, explaining his strategy for winning over votes in the 1992 presidential elec-



Boddie

tion. "Because what we're talking about is based on two basic principles — No. 1, do all you agree to do, and No. 2, do not encroach on other people or other people's property. Those two moral principles are the foundation of Libertarianism."

Boddie, 51, was in Tucson last night speaking to the Pima County Libertarian Party. And although he's African-American and running for president, he wants it made very clear he's not another Jesse Jackson just because he's black.

"Jesse's a joke," Boddie said in an earlier interview. "Jesse is an opportunistic person who showed his hand when he had the opportunity to run for mayor of D.C. and he didn't do it. This guy wants a whole lot of rhetoric with no responsibility. He

doesn't want a call that says, 'Jesse, my garbage wasn't picked up.' He doesn't worry about garbage, he wants to talk all this other stuff out here and make his \$10,000 (to \$30,000 a hit for his speech.)"

Boddie, chief fundraiser for Libertarian David Bergland's 1984 presidential campaign, said the time for Libertarianism is ripe because the United States has gone through its natural cycle — from bondage to spiritual faith, to great courage, to liberty, to abundance, to selfishness, to complacency, to apathy, to dependency, and back to bondage.

"After the tyranny is when the Libertarian ideas are going to take over," Boddie said yesterday.

Boddie said government's original role in American society is soon forgotten.

"We must remember: They (government), should be our servant, not our master," he said. "It is not a government's responsibility to take care of people. It is a government's responsibility to defend their rights when their rights are violated. All other functions are illegitimate."

Boddie, a political science graduate of Bucknell University of Lewisburg, Pa., holds a law degree from Syracuse University, but failed the bar exam 13 times.

"I flunked 13 bar exams," he said. "That's heavy-duty stuff — a wife and three kids and you know you're a good lawyer. So what do you do, go out and blow somebody away? ... Or do you just say, hey, let me just re-evaluate what's going on here. I don't want to be a

BODDIE, continued/6A

Continued from 6A

part of that. These are the same people who are stealing my money as government bureaucrats, passing laws that oppress my freedom."

Boddie has been a cook, a jazz musician, a folk singer, a Boy Scout, a student radical, a banker, a TV personality, a decathlon champion, a salesman and a financial planner.

He's now an adjunct professor of sociology at the University of La Verne in Orange County, Calif., and is president and founder of The Motivators, a professional speakers firm for seminars, workshops, conferences and conventions.

What does that potpourri of life experience say to Boddie?

"Here's a person who ought to be running for president, a guy who has touch with a lot of elements of our society, a lot of strata and social stratifications, a guy who can walk a mile in a lot of different people's shoes," he said.

One of those pairs of shoes was as a "student radical" during the Vietnam War. Boddie said the Syracuse University riot scene featured in the movie "Born on the Fourth of July" was based on a peaceful war protest he organized there in May 1970.

"They didn't give me no credit," Boddie said of the movie based on a paralyzed veteran's life story. "I was there, (veteran) Ron Kovic wasn't. He never set wheelchair on that campus to this day."

Reality versus perception. That's the problem today in trying to "wake up" Americans about the control government has on their lives, Boddie said.

Boddie said many Americans refuse to vote, not out of laziness or apathy, but because they're intelligent enough to know that we live in a two-party system with no difference between Republicans and Democrats.

"They're the same, it's just a different 'W' they deal with," Boddie said of the two major political parties. "Their policy is a 'W,' and they just switch the letter — welfare or warfare, warfare or welfare. And there's no pattern as to who will carry which 'W.' But the point is, it's a two W syndrome."

As a Libertarian, Boddie believes in neither. Defense of the nation will go only as far as U.S. borders, and welfare will be done away with because it is a trap, he said.

"I am black. I grew up poor. The difference is right here," he said, pointing to his head, "not intelligence, but attitude. There will always be poor people, no matter what society it is — if the brothers took over and ran this and there's a few poor white folks out there ... there's always going to be poor people."

OCT 29, 1990

Illinois delegation opposed budget

WASHINGTON (UPI)

Sixteen of the 22 congressmen representing Illinois voted against the federal budget plan now before President Bush while both Illinois senators voted against the package.

Congress, however, approved the historic agreement Saturday to reduce the federal deficit by \$490 billion over the next five years through a mix of tax increases and benefit cuts. President Bush said he will sign the measure.

Despite the Illinois delegation vote, the House approved the bill 228-200 in the early morning hours and the Senate passed the bill 54-45 later in the day and sent it to the White House. Democrats, who crafted most of the legislation, provided the winning margins in both chambers.

Sens. Paul Simon and Alan Dixon also voted against the measure, Simon terming it a "mistake."

Rep. Dan Rostenkowski, D-Ill., chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, called the plan "a responsible and balanced plan of shared sacrifice."

House GOP leader Robert Michel of Illinois added, "We're attempting to turn our backs on instant gratification, the curse of this institution, and subject ourselves to long over-

due discipline."

Many House GOP members opposed the package because of their disdain for higher taxes.

Aside from Michel, only other Republican congressman from Illinois voting in favor of the package was Rep. Edward Madigan. In addition to positive vote from Rostenkowski, other Illinois Democrats joining him were Reps. Richard Durbin, Lane Evans, William Lipinski, Glenn Poshard and Marty Russo. The rest voted against the package while Sidney Yates did not vote.

The Libertarian Party and other anti-tax citizens groups organized the rallies, riding a wave of growing taxpayer opposition to the 1991 budget.

In Chicago, U.S. Rep. Lynn Martin, R-Ill., criticized her House colleagues for their "arrogance" in pushing through tax increases in the new budget.

Jim Tobin, chairman of the Angry Taxpayers Action Committee, was cheered as he read a "Taxpayers' Declaration of Independence" to a crowd of about 100 people in downtown Chicago.

6A THE DETROIT NEWS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1990

'Two party' myth is un-American

In Mark Shields' column of Oct. 26, "GOP bloopers keep Democrats going," he stated: "Because we have only two parties in our country, one party can do well politically by doing next to nothing while the other party is doing harmful things to itself and the nation."

I would like to welcome Mr. Shields back from Mars ... or whatever planet he's been living on. He, like others who have had their heads firmly embedded in the sand, does an injustice to millions of concerned Americans who have rejected the corrupt, status-quo politics of the two older parties and have been seeking a political haven that represents individual liberty, economic freedom, strong moral values and limited government.

Founded in 1970, the Libertarian Party is the third largest and fastest growing political movement in America. The Libertarian Party is the only other party to field presidential candidates in each presidential election since its inception. Libertarians claim the very first electoral college vote in American history to be cast for a woman candidate: vice-

presidential candidate Toni Nathan in the 1972 election.

The myth of a two-party system that Shields perpetuates is dangerous to the economic future of our nation and is doubly dangerous to the constitutional guarantees of individual liberty that have continually been eroded under the power politics of the Republicans and Democrats.

With highly restrictive ballot access laws that the two older parties have passed to protect themselves from competition in the political arena, Libertarians and others must continually struggle to make people aware that voting alternatives do exist.

Shields' perpetuation of the two-party myth is terribly un-American. He should use his influence to inform the American people that the Libertarian Party is alive and well and is scaring the political hell out of the entrenched politicians of the two older parties.

Richard Whitelock
Past Chair
Libertarian Party
of Michigan
10N1A

Two-party gatecrashers

Editor's note: A former vice president of the now-defunct Gainesville Gas will speak about the forced sale in 1989 of the company to Gainesville Regional Utilities at Grace Knight Hall in the County Administration Building. Mitchell Prugh will speak about the "winners and the losers" of the buyout. The speech is Tuesday Nov. 27, 7:30 p.m. and is sponsored by the new Libertarian Party of Alachua County.

By Tim J. Hill

The table occupied by the Libertarian Party at the Alachua County Fair was nondescript compared to their neon-bedecked neighbors, the Florida Lottery, and the Republican Party down the row, whose booth was decorated with ribbons, political posters and a five-foot cartoon elephant. The table run by the newly-formed Alachua County party featured literature, hand-drawn signs and bumperstickers on sale for a donation. The only icon in sight was the Statue of Liberty.

In between renditions of "We're in the Money" by the Florida Lottery dixieland band, you could have spoken to party members about platform issues such as relaxing ballot-access laws, passing laws to ensure "fully-informed juries," privatization of government services and generally establishing laissez-faire capitalism. And for many people who stopped by on their way to the wild rides outside the convention hall, talk centered on why the Libertarians, and third parties in general, are nearly unheard of in Florida.

"The ballot-access laws in Florida are some of the toughest in the country," said Mike Fender, a UF law student and local party organizer. In order for Libertarians to get on the ballot, he said, canvassers have to collect signatures from about five percent of the state's 6.8 million registered voters—340,000 people in all. And they have to have a candidate as well.

Ronald Reagan, who helped increase the size of the federal government, ironically was elected for his Libertarian ideal of reducing the national bureaucracy. Yet the party has gained little headway into mainstream politics. Ron Paul has run for president on the Libertarian ticket since the party was formed in 1971, and Libertarians here and there have managed to get elected. But no major movement has coalesced.

In Florida the party has had little success, and members blame the ballot laws. To get onto the ballot for the U.S. House of Representatives, for example, a candidate for a third party in Florida (not an independent) would need about 170,000 signatures. In Louisiana the candidate would only need 107,000 signatures, and in Mississippi zero.

"The president is talking about how good it is to have multi-party systems is Eastern Europe. We hardly have a multi-party system here, do we?" Fender said. A woman who stopped at the table to offer a cynical remark about the elections agreed, and was about to sign her name to a mailing list when her husband ushered her away.

About 70 other people, however, did sign their names to a mailing list last month at the Legalize Hemp Rally at the downtown courthouse, where Fender and other party leaders called for the legalization and mass cultivation of hemp—the marijuana plant.

Libertarians generally believe in the rights of the individual in the face of ever-expanding government. Libertarian, or classical liberal, precepts were the political philosophies of the country's Founding Fathers. Most of them believed in an unrestricted, or laissez-faire, marketplace, an

open forum for artistic, religious and political expression, and the right to trial by jury. The Libertarian Party, which was founded on those and other ideals written into the Bill of Rights, has extended their political platform even further. They support the decriminalization—or re-legalization—of illegal drugs and the shifting of welfare programs from the public to private sector, as well as privatization of most government services and the eventual elimination of the federal income tax. They more or less seek to undo the evolution toward socialism the federal government has been undergoing since the early 20th century.

Notoriety, and maybe acceptance later on—these are the current goals of the Libertarian Party of Alachua County.

The group was brought together in August by Fender, and all of them meet at one time or another at the Philosophy Bookstore. Behind the local party

against the grain niarg eht tsniaga

and offering moral support is the bookstore's owner, Jon Asfour, "the longest-tenured Libertarian around," according to member Fred Kirchoff, 73, a self-employed burglar alarm installer and long-time area resident. (Asfour was out of town while this article was being written, and could not be reached.)

The current party line-up, according to Fender, is the third attempt to form an Alachua County Libertarian group. Fender, once a member of a campus Republican group until he quit when the president was impeached for being gay, and then a member of the College Libertarians until he moved to Orlando, got on the phone this time because he

thought the timing was right. The Libertarians have registered with the county Supervisor of Elections.

In the meantime, members will casually hammer out their agreements and differences in what member Kirchoff calls the distinctive individualistic style of Libertarians. Kirchoff, in turn, is called by compatriot Clark Hodge a "Libertarian crank."

"We all have our differing beliefs, different reasons for being in the party," said John Schueller, a professor in UF mechanical engineering and secretary of the party. He said the core group of 12 don't agree entirely about all local issues, but a general consensus exists. Like his compatriots around town and through time, Schueller wants a government that governs least. For example, he thinks the county airport serves as a model for how the rest of the county government should operate: farm out as many services to private industry as possible.

One issue the local group firmly stands behind is seeing that Bill Hatfield—the owner of Novel Ideas who is being prosecuted for "distributing harmful material to a minor" in the form of a revealing comic book—does not go to jail. They have started a legal defense fund to help offset the cost of a lawyer.

Many of the members the local party belong to the state or national Libertarian parties. A national party issue is presently the "Fully-Informed Jury Act," an attempt to get courts to follow the English common-law practice of allowing juries to not only judge the guilt or innocence of an accused person but to decide whether the law itself is just.

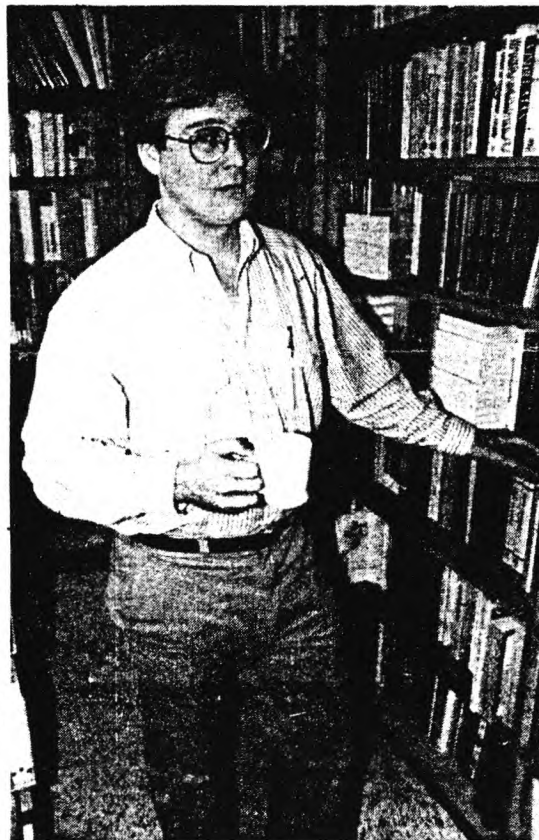
While popular issues abound in the party's platform, the goal of the Libertarian party and its members—from local to national level—is to get voters to question the basic processes of elections and campaigning. Third parties have not been contenders in American politics since the early 20th

century, when the Populists emerged from the heartland to represent farmer interests in Washington. They faded away, but their spirit remains. Ann Richards' victory in Texas, for example, has been called a populist victory.

But in Florida, Libertarian candidates have rarely been elected to any office. Alan Sawyer has run for Gainesville city commission several times but lost. Allison DeFoor, Gov. Bob Martinez' running mate in the recent election, was elected to sheriff of Monroe County as a Libertarian. Elsewhere in the state, Libertarian candidates have fought uphill to get on a ballot but are usually subsumed by the two major parties. Marlon Migala successfully challenged the state's ballot access laws when Rep. Claude Pepper of Miami died. The special election after his death discriminated against minor parties by requiring difficult hurdles. Last year, the U.S. District Court in Gainesville agreed: Florida statutes for minor party access to special elections violates the state constitution.

Kirchoff wants less government in his life. "And we want to get voters thinking about basic philosophy. Too many people when they go to the polls, they think about just issues or the style of the candidate," Kirchoff said.

And Schueller, recalling general dissatisfaction with the trend of American politics to exclude more people than it includes, and the tendency of local politics to become bloated with bureaucracy, says: "I'm not proposing a Utopia, I just want something that will work."



mike fender