



Published for friends and supporters of the Libertarian Party

Liberty Pledge

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 1995

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Libertarians attend 3rd-party conference

Several Libertarian Party members attended a "Third Parties '96" conference held in early June at George Washington University in Washington, DC, with the goal of building bridges with American liberals.

Virginia LP State Chair Rick Sincere and Maryland State Chair Jesse Markowitz were featured speakers at the "National Conference for Political Activists," which drew almost exclusively from the far left wing of American politics, including representatives from the Democratic Socialists of America, the Green Party, and the New Party.

"It was clear from my brief participation that Libertarians need to work harder at finding the rhetoric that appeals to the Left," said Sincere, who participated in a panel discussion entitled Building New Coalitions. "Too much of our literature and training is based on appealing to disaffected Republicans."

Does any new socialist coalition pose a danger to the LP's future success? Not immediately, said Sincere: "One heartening aspect was that it appears that these people are miles behind us in organizing."

Pennsylvania Libertarians help defeat graffiti law

Pennsylvania Libertarians chalked up a victory in May by helping to defeat an anti-graffiti ordinance in the town of Abington "that directly violated the rights of the property owner."

LP activists Ken Krawchuk, Bob Kern, and Brian McHugh testified at a Township Commissioner's hearing against the ordinance, which would have required victims of vandalism to remove graffiti at their own expense within 15 days — or face a \$300 fine.

"McHugh presented a novel alternative to the heavy-handed ordinance — punish the criminal instead of the victim," reported the *Liberty Penn* newsletter. Following the Libertarian testimony, the offensive language from the ordinance was voted down unanimously.

"Libertarians have directly tilted local public policy in the direction of liberty, proving, once again, that you can fight City Hall . . . and win," noted *Liberty Penn*. "The image presented was one of the Libertarian Party as a champion of the victim against an overbearing government."

Media Notes

■ **LP Director of Communications Bill Winter** appeared on C-SPAN on June 4th as a speaker at the annual "Committee of 1776" gun rights rally in Washington, DC.

In his speech, Winter noted that the Libertarian Party is the only "political party that supports your right to keep and bear arms one hundred percent!" He told the enthusiastic crowd, "[I hope] that if you ever get tired of the unending attacks on the Second Amendment by the Democratic Party — and the endless string of broken promises by the Republican Party — you'll consider voting for Libertarian candidates next time you step into the ballot box."

■ **The Libertarian Party** earned more national publicity this month, with appearances in *New York* magazine and *The Hill* newspaper.

The generally positive article in the June 17 issue of *The Hill* — an influential Capitol Hill newspaper — noted: "American voters may not realize it, but much of the recent hostility toward big government is not necessarily Republican or conservative — it's also Libertarian." Quoted in the piece were Moreno Valley Mayor Bonnie Flickinger, Ross City Council member Peter Barry, and Bill Winter.

The June 12 issue of *New York* magazine featured an article entitled "The Rad Right." Written with a liberal sneer, it focused on the rise of the libertarian movement, including the Cato Institute and "libertarian" GOP Congressmen. The LP was casually disparaged for its "wacky consistency," and Republicans condemned for their hypocrisy: "Republicans like the free-economy part. It's the other stuff [social tolerance] that makes them queasy."

■ **The Libertarian Party** is the subject of a chapter in a new book, *Politics At the Margin: Historical Studies of Public Expression Outside the Mainstream*, by Susan Herbst.

The book, published by Cambridge University Press, examines groups who have been "excluded from conventional public discourse and activity."

Herbst takes an objective, almost anthropological, view of Libertarians — for example, entitling one section "Rituals Among Libertarians" — but shows a grudging admiration for the dedication of LP activists. She notes, "In these days of political cynicism and alienation, Libertarians are truly an anomaly: They keep up the struggle despite some serious electoral and 'public relations' setbacks. Libertarians believe in the free market and the protection of civil liberties with an intensity and consistency we rarely see in American politics today."

High school students enter cyberpolitics

By Mary Wade Burnside
STAFF WRITER

ANDREW ATWOOD scans a computer bulletin board he helped set up and finds a message someone sent to him about the Libertarian Party:

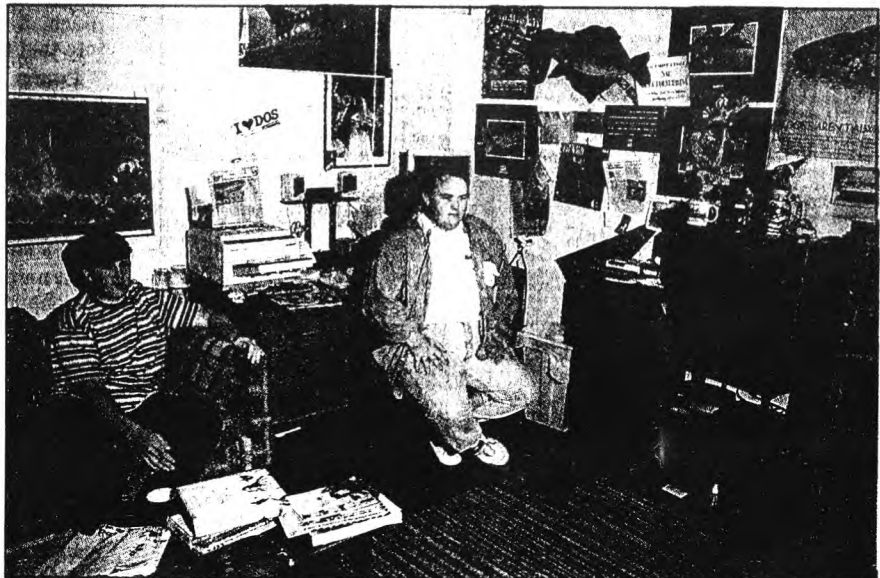
"The Democrats are the party that wants to give money away, welfare, food stamps, and every other kind of program imaginable. So we know where they are coming from. The Republicans' claim to fame is that they aren't Democrats. They are not a party of principle. The Libertarian Party is. The end of the two-party system is near. Am I preaching to the choir?"

Along with his friend and fellow George Washington High School senior, Matthew Fischer, Atwood set up a computer bulletin board two summers ago. Then, when the pair became interested in the Libertarian Party last winter, they expanded their bulletin board. Now it offers information on a party considered to be a refuge for constituents who believe governments should govern less in all aspects — economically and personally.

"There were aspects of both parties that were appealing," Atwood said. "Neither of the major parties were 100 percent of what I felt."

A young male thing?

So far, respondents from as far away as Colorado have expressed interest in the Libertarian messages offered by the bulletin board. John K. Brown, the



Gazette photo by F. BRIAN FERGUSON

Matt Fischer (left) and Andrew Atwood combined their love of computers and admiration for the Libertarian Party when they designated part of their own bulletin board to party talk.

chairman of the state's Libertarian Party, said from 300 to 500 computer aficionados have responded.

Atwood and Fischer are not the only young adults whose interest in computers and the Libertarian Party met in a useful way. A number of computer users, many of them young college-age males, have been discovering the Libertarian Party while cruising the Internet, according to an article in the April 6 issue of Rolling Stone.

The trend has not gone unnoticed by Atwood and Fischer, both of whom have used computers since grade school. "A lot of people who use the Internet have similar philosophies, we're finding," Fischer said.

Those philosophies include Libertarian Party beliefs in favor of abortion rights, free speech and a free-market

See STUDENTS, 2D

Students

Continued from 1D

economy; and against censorship and welfare. Typically, Libertarians also support the legalization of drugs and a reduced military as well.

Respondents to the bulletin board set up by Fischer and Atwood also tend to be male — about 90 percent to 95 percent of the time. "I couldn't tell you why," Fischer said.

Fischer and Atwood also follow along the typical party path in another way. They both plan to study computer science when they enter college next year — Fischer as a major, and Atwood as a minor. Rolling Stone quotes the publisher of Liberty magazine, devoted to Libertarian subjects, as saying one-quarter of Libertarians work in the computer science field.

"It seems like, to be more of an intellectual philosophizer goes

hand and hand with being computer literate," Brown said. "It takes a little bit of expertise for people to be using the Internet."

Plus, as Fischer points out, when you belong to a third party in a system dominated by two major parties, you need all the help you can find getting out your message.

"The Democrats and Republicans are big established parties," Fischer said. "This is one of the ways we can share info."

Statewide profile

Brown said the bulletin board has been helpful to the state party. "We've had a couple people who basically found out about the Libertarian Party that wouldn't have known about it. That's a major positive."

But Brown does not know how helpful the bulletin board will be during the 1996 elections, when the Libertarian Party probably will offer up its current front-runner, Harry Browne, as a presidential candidate.

"To put it in perspective, it is a high school bulletin board," Brown said. "We're a small organization, and it's not running us."

To estimate the size of the state Libertarian Party, Brown said that in the 1992 presidential race, about 1,900 West Virginians voted for the party's presidential candidate, Andre Marrou. "Of course, [Ross] Perot was in there, and he probably captured the lion's share of the third-party vote."

Nationally, officials of the 24-year-old party boast that it includes 100,000 registered voters; 120 members in office, including four Libertarian state representatives in New Hampshire, two mayors in California, and more than 12 city council members in other states. Candidates affiliated with the party won 3.7 million votes in 1992, according to party figures.

Abode of Evil?

Setting up the bulletin board took Atwood and Fischer about one summer a couple years ago.

The two initially bought the software, obtained a dedicated phone line, and named the bulletin board the Abode of Evil, which has now been shortened to AoE in an effort to sound a bit more mature.

"You have to get your own phone," Fischer said. "You can't use your mom's phone. Otherwise, people would call your house at 4 in the morning."

As Fischer and Atwood prepare to graduate from high school and go off to college (Fischer to Missouri and Atwood to Virginia), they know they can keep up the bulletin board from anywhere they go.

In the meantime, they have taken up the latest Libertarian cause, fighting against the Communications Decency Act, which addresses what a computer user can and cannot say in an e-mail message.

"The main purpose of the bulletin board is to promote free speech," Atwood said. "General freedom of expression is the main reason we set out doing this."

▲ *The Charleston Gazette*
Charleston,
West Virginia
May 17, 1995

Libertarian Party Gives Republican Contract With America a B-

The Libertarian Party has issued a grade of B- on the Republican's Contract With America. The Libertarian Party graded 10 major components of the contract.

"Our grading criteria were simple: Did the elements of the contract reduce the size, cost and intrusiveness of government? Did it increase the personal and economic freedom of American citizens?" asks Steve Dasbach, chair of the Libertarian Party, the country's third largest political party. "Overall, the Republicans had a chance to make history, to launch a real revolution, and to live up to their libertarian campaign rhetoric. Unfortunately, they fell somewhat short of that goal," says Dasbach.

On the issue of welfare reform, the Republicans scored a D. Dasbach says, "Another missed opportunity for real reform. It's more talk than action, and simply shifts wasteful welfare programs from the federal level to the state level." On the line-item veto, which allows the president to veto specific items in the federal budget, the Libertarians gave the Republicans an A. On term limitations, the Republicans received no grade.



Steve Dasbach

▲ *The Atlanta Tribune*
Roswell, Georgia
May 15, 1995

► *The Damascus Courier-Gazette*
Damascus, Maryland
May 17, 1995

▼ *The Algonquin Countryside*
Algonquin, Illinois
April 27, 1995

Libertarians close to being added to state's '96 ballots

by Lisa Curtis
Staff Writer

Leaders of Maryland's Libertarian Party hope the winds of voter disenchantment blow their way when the party is added to statewide voter registration forms next month.

"Most people are flabbergasted to find out what we have to do to get on the ticket," said Jesse Markowitz of Montgomery Village, the party's chairman.

The Libertarians have submitted a petition this says includes the signatures of 13,677 registered voters. State law required 10,000 signatures.

State election officials say it looks as though the Libertarian Party's certification will be verified, and that the state will start printing the new voter registration forms to include the party next month.

The Republican and Democratic parties are automatically certified by the state each year because of each party's well-established voter registration numbers.

The certification means that for the first time in years The Libertarian Party's presidential candidate is guaranteed a spot on next year's statewide ballot.

It also means that Libertarian candidates such as Scott Becker, of Chevy Chase, who ran for a House of Delegates seat in District 18 last year, can attach the Libertarian Party to his name on future ballots.

Because the party was not certified when Becker ran for office last year, his party affiliation was listed only as "other" on the ballot.

But third-party candidates still face more work than their Democratic and Republican party counterparts when running for state office in Maryland, which is considered to have the country's second-toughest ballot access laws.

Maryland law requires that independent and third-party candidates collect signatures from 3 percent of the registered voters in their district before getting on the ballot. The requirement does not apply to



Ron Agnes/GAZETTE

Jesse Markowitz, chairman of the Libertarian Party in Maryland, is hopeful his party's membership will benefit from the new so-called motor voter law, which allows citizens to register to vote when getting a driver's license.

Democrats and Republicans.

Becker collected almost 2,000 signatures before he could enter last year's House of Delegates race.

Markowitz is hopeful his party's membership will benefit from the new so-called motor voter law, which allows citizens to register to vote when getting a driver's license.

Maryland elections officials estimate the new law will increase overall voter registration by 50 percent during the next four years.

"Our voter rolls are increasing dramatically already," said Kurt Florng, a voter registration coordinator for the State Board of Elec-

tions. Markowitz said his party's membership is poised to swell before the 1996 federal elections, given the growing voter pool and a trend in last year's elections to change the status quo.

Markowitz said Libertarians believe the government's primary role is to protect the rights of citizens, he said.

"The Libertarian Party believes in maximizing individual freedoms and individual responsibilities," Markowitz said. "Our core value is that you can do what you want as long as you're not violating the rights of others."

Libertarians learn to laugh at selves

By ROBERT LOERZEL
MANAGING EDITOR

It had to be one of the strangest gigs a stand-up comedian could ever hope to land.

On Saturday night, humorist, stage actor and talk-show host Aaron Freeman told jokes at the Libertarian Party of Illinois' convention at Palatine's Ramada Hotel.

Libertarians believe government should be reduced to a bare minimum, and Freeman thought that might explain why there were only about 50 people in the audience.

"I was shocked there are only 350 real card-carrying Libertarians in Illinois," he said. "The really Libertarian thing to do would be to not join any damn party."

Unlikely as it may seem, the state headquarters of the Libertarian Party is in Inverness, and the party's conventions have been held in Palatine each of the past few years.

Another local connection with the party is Palatine resident Michael Ginsberg, who ran for state comptroller last year on the Libertarian ticket, before making an unsuccessful, nonpartisan bid this spring for the Palatine Village Board.

But Ginsberg was absent from this weekend's convention. He went instead on a mission to Bosnia-Herzegovina, where he and fellow Libertarian Andrew Spiegel were helping Bosnian Serbs to draft a new constitution

“Dan Rostenkowski was the only man trying to do anything positive for the ghost community, a group that has been disrespected despite being the most loyal group of Democratic voters in the city.”

Freeman on Rosty

based on Libertarian principles.

At this year's convention, the party decided to invite some speakers who weren't party members, said Jim Solomon, a Palatine resident who is the Libertarian Party's



Aaron Freeman

recording secretary.

"We chose to have speakers who'd challenge our thinking," Solomon said. "In the past, it was people preaching to the choir."

Saturday night, Freeman poked fun at his audience of third-party members gathered for a \$65-per-plate fundraiser while synthesizer waltz music blared from a party in the next room.

Talking about U.S. Rep. Mel Reynolds' troubles with the law, Freeman remarked, "He's accused of having sex with an underage girl, which

I know you guys think should be legal. Libertarians — anarchists with credit cards!"

Despite the jab, most of the Libertarians laughed.

Freeman found Democrats and Republicans to be easier targets for most of his jokes.

Freeman defended his

“Jim Edgar is opposed to land-based casinos because — I quote — ‘It might bring corruption to the city of Chicago.’ This is a man with his finger on the pulse of his own hand.”

Freeman on Edgar

"main man, Soul Brother Number 1," Dan Rostenkowski. He said he didn't understand why the government was prosecuting Rosty for having ghosts on his payroll.

"Dan Rostenkowski was

the only man trying to do anything positive for the ghost community, a group that has been disrespected despite being the most loyal group of Democratic voters in the city," Freeman said.

About the governor, he said, "Jim Edgar is opposed to land-based casinos because — I quote — 'It might bring corruption to the city of Chicago.' This is a man with his finger on the pulse of his own hand."

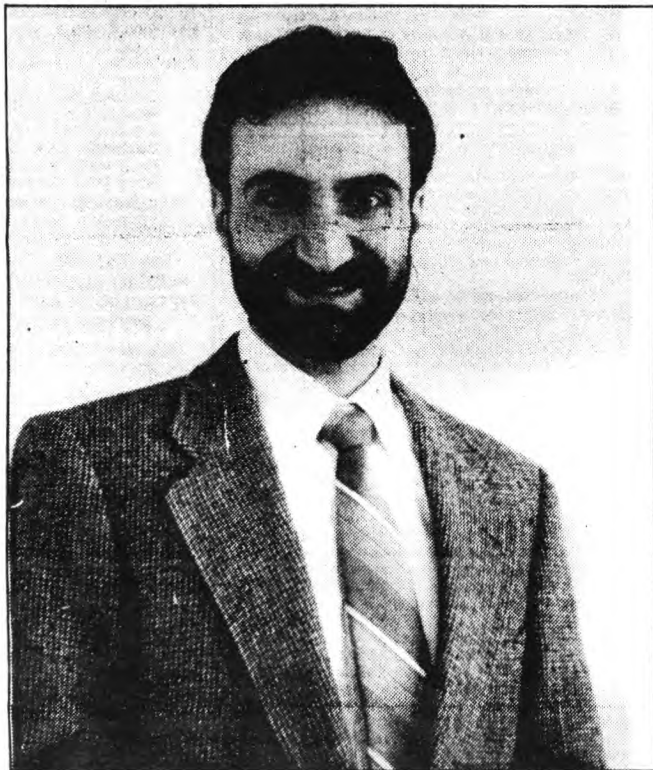
Freeman is the host of "Metropolis," which airs at noon Saturdays on WBEZ-FM, the National Public Radio affiliate he referred to as "Chicago's most pretentious radio station, where we give you all the news that's good enough for us."

Other speakers at the convention included Yuri Maltsev, who was an adviser to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev before he moved to Kenosha, Wis., five years ago.

Maltsev said the history of the Soviet Union shows how destructive governments can become when they interfere too much in citizens' lives.

"The government can destroy everything," he said. "The country which could have been the most prosperous in the world was destroyed by its own government."

Libertarian Candidate For 6th Council District Has Fresh New Ideas



HAROLD KYRIAZI—The Libertarian candidate, Kyriazi is a research scientist at University of Pittsburgh who admits his government reforms are radical.

Harold Kyriazi, 40, of 4245 Bryn Mawr Rd., Schenley Heights, is a research scientist at the University of Pittsburgh Medical School. He is the Libertarian Party candidate.

A 17-year resident of the Hill, Kyriazi is a graduate of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, where he earned a bachelor of arts in chemistry, and the University of Pittsburgh Medical School, where he obtained his doctorate in biochemistry.

Kyriazi tells voters his ideas for government and social reform are radical, and his campaign platform follows the Libertarian philosophy:

"Most of our society's problems are caused by two things—a few bad laws and a lot of very bad taxes," he said.

"We have addicts dying from bad street drugs, street-walking prostitutes spreading AIDS, prostitutes and drug dealers moving into some of our neighborhoods and ruining our quality of life, gang members killing each other over huge profits to be made selling illegal drugs, and scarce police resources being wasted trying to protect some people from themselves.

"Let's get rid of the death and violence by allowing a 'red light district' to develop in a non-residential area, where prostitutes, casino operators and drug dealers can peacefully earn a living indoors, and not bother the rest of us.

"To solve our economic problems, let's move away from taxing productivity and begin taxing only the unimproved value of land. Instead of penalizing people for working here (wage tax), shopping here (parking and sales tax), owning businesses here (business privilege tax) and living here (property tax on homes), we'll be encouraging land speculators to develop the land they're currently keeping idle. This will bring construction, jobs and people."

◀ *New Pittsburgh Courier*

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, May 10, 1995

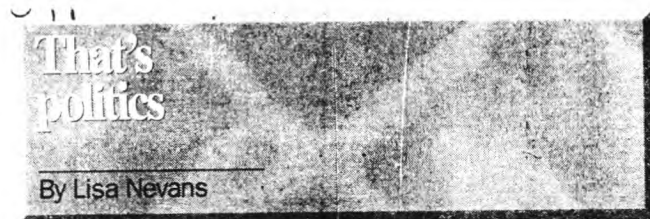
▼ *The Washington Times*

Washington, DC, May 24, 1995

▼ *Rolling Stone* magazine

New York, NY, May 18, 1995

(Letters in response to their article about Libertarianism, "Sidewalks for Sale")



Partying in D.C.

Forget Chicago and San Diego. It seems the District will host a presidential nominating convention in July 1996.

But there won't be elephant or donkey emblems plastered about the city, no Democratic or Republican slogans filling the air. It's the Libertarian Party that's coming to town.

On Monday, the D.C. Board of Elections and Ethics approved the party's application to name its affiliate here the Libertarian Party of the District of Columbia, two weeks after the Maryland affiliate applied to become the third legally recognized party in that state.

Because of growth in the party nationwide — paid membership has jumped 25 percent this year in Maryland and Virginia — Libertarians are moving their national convention to the election year in 1996, the same year as the two major parties, said Gene A. Cisewski, the party's D.C. chairman.

"Because of our growth, we're taking the historical step of operating similar to the two big parties that now control government," Mr. Cisewski said.

CORRESPONDENCE

SIDEWALKSFORSALE

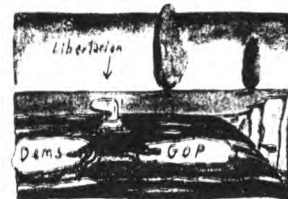
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THE well-written article on libertarianism by Francis Wilkinson ("Sidewalks for Sale," RS 705). It is a relief to know the mainstream is finally learning about an ideology that embraces the best aspects of liberalism and conservatism.

TODD ADAMS
adamst@belmont.edu

SIDEWALKS FOR SALE" MADE SEVERAL snide comments about libertarians looking to "dead white males" or the just "dead and white." There is, however, quite a diversity among libertarians. African-American Richard Boddie and Native American activist Russell Means have sought the Libertarian Party's presidential nomination. And the 1972 Libertarian vice-presidential candidate, Tonie Nathan, became the first woman in U.S. history to receive an electoral vote. Libertarians have been years ahead in practicing inclusive politics.

DENNIS KJELDERGAARD
St. Cloud, Minn.

THE LIBERTARIANS MAY BE CHAMPIONING the only principled vein of thought — deeply rooted in the Constitution — that could serve as a bridge for people of all colors and religions in redressing our grievances, upholding



American principles and, above all, making the state accountable to all of us. The current right vs. left dogmatic war will only lead to even more unbearable living conditions and racial-class strife.

JOSH BREWSTER
Chicago