

# LIBERTY PLEDGE

## newsletter

Libertarian National Committee, Inc. ♦ 2600 Virginia Ave, NW, Suite 100  
Washington DC 20037 ♦ Phone: (202) 333-0008 ♦ Fax: (202) 333-0072

APRIL 2004

## Ayn Rand, Toastmasters inspire LP 'computer geek'

### DANIEL KARLAN BELIEVES OUTREACH IS A PRIMARY LIBERTARIAN DUTY

When Dan Karlan joined the Libertarian Party in 1975, Gerald Ford was president, Saturday Night Live aired its first episode, and a first-class stamp cost 10 cents.



Daniel Karlan

In 1991, the year Karlan became a Liberty Pledger, President George Bush I went to war against Iraq, "Dances With Wolves" won the Oscar for Best Picture, and stamps had skyrocketed to 25 cents.

A lot of things have changed since 1975 or, for that matter, since 1991. One thing that hasn't changed is Karlan's dedication to the LP and his willingness to support something he believes in.

"Any donation is a measure of the importance of certain beliefs in one's life," says the longtime New Jersey Libertarian. "It's doubly important for Libertarians to give because -- unlike other non-profits and political parties -- the LP is not asking for any government handouts."

More specifically, Karlan notes that he pledges to "express his support for a sufficiently strong national party -- an organization strong enough to reinforce and assist the states, and to promote a national presence for the party."

Karlan's journey into Libertarianism may sound familiar. "It all started with Ayn Rand," he says. "We had an objectivist/libertarian newspaper at MIT, and I became very involved with that."

Shortly after graduating in 1973 with a degree in biology, he formally joined the LP. The self-described "computer geek" has run for office several times, most notably in 1989 when he entered the governor's race.

"I discovered that our adversaries are frequently incompetent and that they have a hard time sticking to their own agenda," he says with a chuckle. He subsequently served as a regional representative on the Libertarian National Committee from 1991 to 1995 and 2000 to 2002 and as an LNC alternate in 1995 and 1996.

Though Karlan has a Randian individualistic streak, he also believes that each LP member has an opportunity, if not an obligation, to help the party in some way.

One way to do that is by reaching out to non-Libertarians, starting with personal acquaintances.

"For most of us, we are the only libertarian our friends, relatives, co-workers and other acquaintances will ever meet and get to know," he says. "We are, in a very important sense, emissaries of the entire libertarian movement. I don't take that responsibility lightly."

One way to be a better emissary, Karlan believes, is to improve one's communication skills, and he encourages all LP members to do that.

"Joining Toastmasters International is one of the most valuable things an individual can do for the LP," he says. "Do it for the party; do it for the movement; do it for yourself," he says. "We must be able to present our ideas to non-Libertarians."

What changes has Karlan witnessed in his nearly three decades of LP activism?

"We seem to be getting more serious about doing politics," he notes. "We are becoming more acceptable and real."

The LP is also becoming more open to other viewpoints, he says. A case in point is the LP's invitation to Carl Pope, executive director of the Sierra Club, to speak at the upcoming convention in Atlanta.

The fact that such a high-profile environmentalist wants to address the event, which Karlan plans to attend, is "an acknowledgement of the merit of Libertarian ideas," he says.

### Special Reception for Torch Club

A special reception to honor Torch Club members will be held in the Presidential Suite of the Marriott Marquis in Atlanta on Friday, May 28 at 5:30pm.

As an added bonus, all Torch Club members who attend the national convention will receive free tickets to the "Red, Rock, and Blues" concert.

A Torch Club member is someone who has donated \$1,000 or more in a calendar year since the last convention or pledges the monthly equivalent of \$83.34 or more.

Not a Torch Club Member? It's not too late to join! Call (202) 333-0008 ext 235 for more information.

# Third parties struggle to make ballot in Texas

By John Williams

Blame it on Ralph Nader, who many worry could be a spoiler in the 2004 presidential race.

Blame it on voter apathy, which is exemplified by low turnouts in the Texas party primaries this spring.

Or blame it on the Democrats and Republicans, who don't like competition.

For whatever reason, three smaller political parties are having a tough time getting enough petition signatures to make sure their candidates are on the November ballot.

The struggle with the petition drives comes after low voter support of Green and **Libertarian** candidates in 2002 prevented them from getting automatic placement on the 2004 ballot. Meanwhile, the 5-year-old Texas Reform Party is making its second effort to petition onto the ballot, having failed in 2000.

To get on the ballot without a petition drive, a party must receive at least 2 percent of the vote in the preceding governor's race or 5 percent in another statewide race.

Libertarians have achieved that minimum seven times since 1980. Since at least 1994, the party benefited when Democrats skipped some statewide races, leaving a void on the ballot. That also helped the Greens in 2000 after they first petitioned their way onto the ballot and got a high enough percentage in some races for a guaranteed position in 2002.

But in 2002, Democrats ran a full slate of statewide candidates. Though they lost every race, they absorbed enough voters to prevent the Greens and Libertarians from reaching the threshold.

This year, parties or independent candidates seeking ballot status must collect 64,076 signatures, or 1 percent of all the Texas votes cast in the 2000 presidential election.

The petition process started March 10, the day after the Democratic and Republican primaries. Green and Libertarian party officials say they are behind schedule in getting the required number of signatures, which must be from eligible voters who did not vote in either party's primary last month.

Earl Gerhard, co-chairman of the Harris County Green Party, estimated that his party's volunteers are collecting less than half the signatures they need each day to reach the goal.

"The whole political thing about the third parties being spoilers have caused interest to wane," Gerhard said. "It has taken a little more energy and drive to get going."

"We're young, and we realize we're not going to get people elected," Gerhard said. "But the fact that we're out there, organizing and getting involved means the future will look better."

David DeLamar, chairman of the Texas Libertarian Party, expressed more concern about the ramifications of failing to make the ballot.

"It would mean we would have to start another costly petition drive in 2006, which would be a big setback," DeLamar said.

The Libertarians have been working more than 20 years

to build up their grass-roots party. This year, the party has fielded candidates for 31 of the state's 32 congressional districts. The lone exception is the 14th District held by U.S. Rep. Ron Paul, whom Libertarians consider one of their own and who was the party's nominee for president in 1988.

Reform Party Chairman Charles Foster said there is a lot of sentiment and pressure against the alternative parties from Republicans and Democrats who complain that the smaller parties only spoil their chances of winning.

"Come on," Foster said. "Less than half of the people vote in elections. We're trying to get new people to vote."

(Left) *The Houston Chronicle*, Houston, Texas -- April 4, 2004

(Below) *Associated Press*, Salem, Oregon -- March 17, 2004

## Libertarian says Bradbury not an aggressive auditor

By Brad Cain

SALEM — **Libertarian** Richard Morley began his statewide campaign for secretary of state Wednesday, saying incumbent Democrat Bill Bradbury isn't aggressively searching for waste in his audits of public agencies.

Morley said that, as the state's top auditor, he would pay particular attention to spending on K-12 education and on the Oregon Public Employee Retirement System.

"I will aggressively initiate performance auditing in these and other areas where the bulk of tax dollars are spent, and report clearly and understandably to the people the findings from these audits," he said.

He said Oregon voters, in soundly defeating an \$800 million tax increase on the Feb. 3 ballot, made it clear they want government to reduce its spending and become more efficient.

Morley said Bradbury hasn't been aggressive about rooting out waste in his audits, and hasn't followed up to ensure that audit recommendations are acted on.

Bradbury's campaign manager, Willie Smith, disputed Morley's assertion, saying Bradbury has been an aggressive watchdog over spending by public agencies.

He cited a 2002 audit by the secretary of state's office that found nearly \$800,000 in questionable administrative expenses, including use of first-class airline tickets and expensive hotels for people on Oregon Lottery business.

"The secretary of state's job is to recommend how things can be done to save money, and that's what Bill Bradbury has been doing," Smith said.

# Virginia Libertarian Party holds state convention

By Steve Miller

RICHMOND — The state's **Libertarian Party** heard pitches yesterday from three presidential contenders that included abolishing the Internal Revenue Service, removing gun-control laws and bringing U.S. troops home.

The candidates, though, were hardly of the Kerry or Bush ilk. In fact, their facelessness is the crux of the party's trouble.

Former Hollywood producer Aaron Russo, computer consultant Michael Badnarik and radio talk-show host Gary Nolan touted their platforms to about 70 people at their party's annual convention in hopes of securing a ballot spot. The final candidate will be chosen in May at the party's national convention in Atlanta.

"Most of what our government is doing is unconstitutional," Mr. Badnarik said in opening his presentation. "And most people understand that but don't know what to do about it."

Mr. Nolan promised to abolish the Internal Revenue Service and bring U.S. troops home from all stations abroad, adding that "if you want a smaller government, you really can't vote for George Bush, can you?"

"We need a candidate who is going to get out and spread the word" of the Libertarian Party, he said. The party claims to have around 123,000 registered voters nationwide.

It is Mr. Russo, though, who, if even vaguely, has some star power via his Hollywood career.

The one-time Republican gubernatorial candidate in Nevada was the producer of Bette Midler's "The Rose" in 1979 and the Dan Aykroyd/Eddie Murphy movie "Trading Places" in 1983.

"I watched the shock-and-awe campaign," said Mr. Russo, a Brooklyn, N.Y., native, referring to the White House hype phrase attached to last year's military assault on Iraq. "It was like some movie I could have produced."

He challenged his candidate colleagues to devote 50 percent of their campaign funding to television advertising, a move he said would inevitably give a boost to the public profile of Libertarians.

Mr. Badnarik accepted the challenge, agreeing to the 50 percent, but Mr. Nolan declined.

"What we need, though, is someone, a candidate who can attract national attention, like [Ralph] Nader or [Ross] Perot did," said Kevin Rollins, who puts out the Free Liberal, a bi-monthly newspaper that calls itself an "independent journal of liberal and libertarian thought."

The party claims 603 elected members nationwide, many at the lower levels of city and county government.

In the 2000 presidential election, investment banker Harry Browne represented the party and drew 384,000 votes. In 1996, he earned 485,000 votes.

But Mr. Browne didn't have the name — or face — recognition of the Green Party's Ralph Nader or a Jesse Ventura, the Reform Party candidate who was elected governor of Minnesota in 1998.

So one of the dilemmas discussed here yesterday was the idea of style over substance.

"It is important for us to come across as major league players even if we don't win the pennant," said Robert McBride, who ran unsuccessfully as an independent last year for the Prince William County Board of Supervisors.

The party hopes to continue to draw disaffected Americans into its tent, such as Don Hogan. The 51-year-old businessman turned to the Libertarian Party last June after a lifelong Republican affiliation.

Now, Mr. Hogan is campaigning for a seat in the U.S. Congress from Virginia's 6th District, going up against incumbent Rep. Robert W. Goodlatte, a Republican.

"Even if I lose, I win," said Mr. Hogan. "I am doing something I have always wanted to do, and I am forcing my opponent to deal with things he hasn't wanted to deal with. Specifically, an opponent."

(Left) *The Washington Times*, Washington, D.C.  
-- March 28, 2004

(Below) *Macon Telegraph*, Macon, Georgia --  
March 31, 2004

## Georgia LP gaining strength

By Liz Fabian

More people in the midstate are beginning to take notice of the **Libertarian Party**, says David Corr, chairman of the Bibb County Libertarian Party.

"We're the biggest third party in the nation, and we're growing," Corr said.

More than a dozen people gathered Tuesday night at Texas Cattle Co. in Macon to meet Libertarian presidential candidate Aaron Russo, a Hollywood film producer.

In about two months, Libertarians from all over the country will congregate in Atlanta to select a presidential candidate at the Marriott Marquis, where the Libertarian National Convention will be held May 27-31.

Deborah Mooney, 45, of Macon has been a member of the Libertarian Party for about 15 years.

"I'm excited because more people are learning what the Libertarian Party is all about," Mooney said. "It's not just (legalizing) prostitution and drugs."

The party platform encompassing individual liberty, personal responsibility, smaller government, less taxes and private funding of the arts and education gives voters another choice.

"I think the prospects for the Libertarian Party are better than they've ever been," Corr said.



# Marriage debate puts GOP gays on the spot

By Laura Kurtzman and Kate Folmar

SAN JOSE, Calif. -- President Bush's support for a federal constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage has put his gay supporters to the test and jeopardized the million votes he got from them in 2000.

Log Cabin Republicans, a gay group that backed Bush in 2000, has been airing a television ad against the amendment in seven swing states and California.

That advertising campaign is being helped along with \$100,000 from Michael Huffington, the former Republican congressman who was once married to columnist Arianna Huffington but is now outspoken about being bisexual. Huffington said he has supported every Republican presidential nominee since Nixon, but he is not sure who he will vote for in November.

Other gay Republicans said Bush's support for the amendment left them in a quandary. Paul Lynd, a San Francisco lawyer and president of the San Francisco chapter of the Log Cabin Republicans, said he was considering a vote for the **Libertarian** candidate instead of Bush.

"I was very, very disturbed by Bush's support of the federal marriage amendment," Lynd said. "He almost seems to be running on this issue."

The Bush campaign says its tent is big enough to contain the gay marriage dispute.

"We respect different views within the Republican Party," said Bush campaign spokeswoman Tracey Schmitt. "And we are confident that Republicans will unite behind President Bush in November."

Huffington, who lives in Los Angeles but comes from the president's home state of Texas, says he may give more money to the ad campaign and speak out on the issue.

"I don't believe in my heart that George Bush and Laura Bush are in favor of it, but I do believe they've been given some bad political advice by Karl Rove, who I've known since he and I worked on the former president's campaign in 1980," Huffington said, referring to Bush's chief political adviser. "Karl is a political animal and he thinks he can win votes on this, and that's the only reason it's being done."

The ad has been airing for about two weeks in states where Bush and his Democratic rival, Sen. John Kerry, are battling for votes. It uses the words of Vice President Dick Cheney, whose daughter is a lesbian, saying that the question of gay marriage should be left to the states.

"I don't think there should necessarily be a federal policy in this area," Cheney says in footage taken from a 2000 vice presidential debate.

"We agree," the ad ends. "Don't amend the Constitution."

David Rappel, who owns a travel agency in Los Angeles and is a member of the Log Cabin Republicans, said he would continue to support the president because of his economic policies.

But several other gay Republicans said they were unsure whether they'd vote for Bush, although none said they were

considering a vote for Kerry, who also opposes gay marriage.

"I kind of thought it was a personal slight," said Shane Connolly, the Republican who is running for the 13th state Senate district in San Jose. "To throw something into the mix that divides even Republicans didn't seem like a good move politically."

The Log Cabin Republicans endorse only GOP candidates, so the group would not endorse Kerry, said spokesman Mark Mead. But it could express its displeasure by declining to endorse a presidential candidate at the GOP national convention in New York.

The group raised \$500,000 for the president in the last election. But this year, it is focusing instead on the ad campaign, for which it hopes to raise at least \$1 million.

(Left) *The Houston Chronicle*, Houston, Texas -- March 27, 2004

(Below) *The Daily Sentinel*, Grand Junction, Colorado -- March 31, 2004

## Colorado state house candidate seeks Libertarian nod

By Mike McKibbin

GLENWOOD SPRINGS — A longtime Colorado Division of Wildlife researcher wants the **Libertarian Party** nomination to run for Colorado House District 61 in the November general election.

Dale Reed, 67, of No Name, a small community just west of Glenwood Springs, is the third candidate to announce for the seat now held by state Rep. Gregg Rippey, one of several potential Republican candidates for Congress.

"I've been concerned for some time on a number of issues," Reed said.

I thought I'd better try to enter some debate into the mix. I've worked at the local, state and federal levels, and I've seen so much of our tax money frittered away. We've got to do better than what we're doing."

He does not think the Republican or Democratic parties have adequately addressed problems regarding Social Security, the war on drugs, health care, education and foreign policy, among others.

"The Democrats want more government, the Republicans talk about wanting less government, but they never do it," Reed said.

Reed taught biology for six years and worked for more than 30 years for the DOW.

"The state level is where I have my greatest experience and think I could do the most good," he said.