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# LIBERTY PLEDGE NEWSLETTER

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## Bill Winter Hired as Director of Communications

The Libertarian Party has hired Bill Winter to work full-time at the national headquarters as the Director of Communications. Professionally Bill has worked as a "stringer" reporter, a graphic artist, and most recently as an art director.

Many Libertarians will recognize Bill's name because of the spectacular work he did as state chair of New Hampshire. Bill served as chair from 1987 to 1992, a time in which membership in the New Hampshire LP increased twentyfold, over 20 Libertarians were elected to public office at the town level, the party obtained major party status, and four Libertarians were elected to the New Hampshire House.

Bill will be working on both internal communications projects (working with state officers) and external communications tasks (working with media contacts and groups that are working to implement parts of our platform).

### Aiken County Libertarians Challenge Election Results

The Libertarian Party of Aiken County, South Carolina, is challenging the results of Doug Green's election for County Council, which he lost by 5 votes.

A number of registered Libertarian voters were not permitted to cast their ballots for him, even though South Carolina law expressly requires that they be given the opportunity of voting "challenge" ballots pending resolution of their eligibility.

The local LP appealed the election to the county and state election boards, where they lost. They are now gearing up to appeal to the South Carolina Supreme Court. The national party has provided financial support for their effort.

### Stuart Reges Testifies in Favor of Penny Debates Bill

National Director Stuart Reges testified before the House Subcommittee on Elections on June 17th outlining the Libertarian Party's position on the issue of presidential debates.

Reges made it clear that the LP opposes the entire system of public financing of campaigns, but he argued that if the current system is to be retained, then presidential candidates who accept federal money for their campaigns should be required to debate all viable challengers.

Other witnesses argued that this would lead to a "circus" that would resemble "the Gong Show." "Flakes don't get on the ballot in all fifty states," Reges countered, citing statistics provided by ballot access expert Richard Winger, including the fact that only eight candidates in this century have managed to get on all the ballots with electoral votes, two of them Libertarians (Ed Clark in 1980 and Andre Marrou in 1992).

Frank Fahrenkopf of the Commission on Presidential Debates argued that third parties did have the opportunity to get their message out because C-SPAN invited them to a special debate. Subcommittee Chairman Al Swift also pointed out that even members of Congress don't get as much media coverage as they would like.

Reges replied that we are not looking for guaranteed coverage. "The point Mr. Fahrenkopf missed is that Bush and Clinton didn't show up for those debates. If they had shown up, and even if only C-SPAN covered them, at least our members would feel that the candidates who are spending our tax dollars to fund their campaigns had made a reasonable effort to address the issues of concern to us. That's the main point."

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LIBERTARIAN PARTY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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## Libertarian airs his views

By ANN KATE  
Staff Reporter

Rick Draheim, Libertarian candidate for the May 1 Senate race to fill Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen's seat, is running on an anti-government platform with an emphasis on personal freedoms.

Draheim, 35, stopped by The Leader Wednesday to give his views on several issues, including gun control, foreign aid, and legalization of drugs. Although a member of a minor political party, Draheim believes he has at least a realistic chance of winning the election.

"There are no real giants" in the campaign, making it "up for grabs," he said.

The candidate is proposing a balanced budget without an increase in taxes with an eight-step plan. This includes ending subsidization of Japanese and European economic competition, stopping the subsidization of bad banks, ending all foreign aid, repealing the drug prohibition, abolishing the federal departments of Energy and Education, ending subsidization of wealthy farmers, and reforming Social Security.

Draheim paralleled drug prohibition to the days of alcohol prohibition, and said the war on drugs has caused organized crime. The war on drugs hasn't been won for 80 years, he said, and if legalized, the costs of drugs would decrease, cutting down on crime caused by addicts supporting their drug habits.

The candidate said he is against any kind of gun control, including assault rifles, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms should be abolished after its handling of the cult standoff in Waco.

He believes that all military forces should be brought back to America, and only a minimum force kept on hand to protect the country against threats.

The scientific project near Waco that Draheim calls the "super colliding wallet extractor" should not be funded, he said.

Concerning education, the Libertarian candidate believes that there should be more parental choice in schools, and he opposes the proposed state constitutional amendment on school finance, called the Robin Hood plan.

He believes that the government should eventually sell off all government assets, including forest lands, and conservationists should fund parks and conservation areas through private donations.

Workers should be allowed to save and invest in productive, individual accounts instead of putting their money into social security, Draheim said, and only those who need Social Security should receive benefits.

In favor of open immigration, the candidate is against welfare programs for immigrants.

The Chicago native majored in economics and political science at the University of Toledo and studied at Hillsdale College in Michigan, which boasts the personal library of Ludwig von Mises, a free-market economist.

# Alamo plays host to Libertarians

By BEVERLY McCUTCHON  
Daily News Staff Writer

Members of the Libertarian Party of New Mexico gathered in Alamogordo Saturday for their annual state convention.

About 50 people from around the state attended the convention, which was going very well, Alamogordo resident and state chairman, Kay Stone, said.

"We have had a good turnout from all over the state," she said.

A variety of speakers was on the party's agenda for the day, including Senate Minority Whip Sen. Billy McKibben, R-Curry, Lea and Roosevelt counties.

McKibben's self-described conservative feelings fit in well with the Libertarian Party's beliefs, Stone said.

"I believe we should let people do everything they can for themselves and let the government stay out of it," McKibben told the audience.

"We have a major enemy in



Sen. Billy McKibben

this country and state that is a threat to individual efforts and to the free enterprise system," McKibben said. "It's not communism, but it's what I like to call a giant tumor growing on the back of free enterprise and it's a thing we call government."

"I think government should

do for people what they absolutely cannot do for themselves," the senator said. "The government has reached its hands into your lives and micro-manages everything."

McKibben said that free enterprise has been the victim of over-regulation by the government.

"If the goal of government has been to impede free enterprise, they could not have done a better job of it," McKibben said, especially in New Mexico.

"God blessed us, with more natural resources than you could hardly catalog," McKibben said. "For a long time, we lived off of the resources."

When the price of oil dropped, New Mexico made the mistake of raising taxes instead of cutting spending, he said.

As a result, McKibben said the state has "a sorry business climate, an unstable tax base and the Legislature makes it worse."

New Mexico's answer is to

squeeze the people, who are among the poorest in the nation, for more taxes, McKibben said.

"And people looking inside the state shudder and say, 'No way,'" McKibben said.

In spite of the gloom, McKibben said he has never been more hopeful that things will change than he is now.

"I hope I don't discourage you," he said. "Two good things did happen during the session."

One was when the health care plan and the gay rights bills were brought up and the residents of New Mexico burned down two phone banks with their objections.

"It was unbelievable and unprecedented, but wonderful," he said.

McKibben hopes to increase public input into the Legislature by installing toll-free numbers and a C-Span type of viewing system.

## Panel Mulls Testimonial Money Issue

**CONCORD** — The issue of whether checks written to legislators for testimonial dinners are the same as financial gifts from supporters is being weighed by the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee.

With testimonial banquets looming for House Speaker Harold Burns, R-Whitefield, and Democratic leader Rick Trombly, D-Boscawen, the question occupied most of the committee's meeting yesterday in the Legislative Office Building.

The committee took the matter under advisement after a wide range of testimony.

The committee has already adopted the guideline that legislators should not accept gifts of more than \$250 from any one individual.

But deputy Democratic leader Raymond Buckley said what constitutes a gift under the committee's guidelines isn't clear.

For instance, he said, what about purchasing testimonial banquet tickets for an entire table, which would cost more than the \$250 guideline?

Buckley said unless there is an answer from the committee, he will not permit block ticket purchases from one contributor exceeding \$250.

Libertarian House member Donald W. Gorman of Deerfield said the committee shouldn't concern itself with how much a gift is, but simply where it came from and how it is used.

Gorman said the committee should narrow its duty to reporting a gift, not restricting it.

"I don't care if you are going to Bermuda, I just want to know it," Gorman said.

It was argued that gifts and testimonial money help defray the costs of running for office and functioning in an unpaid citizen legislature, and that too

many restrictions could discourage some from seeking office.

Rep. George W. Wright, R-Hollis, said the committee should consider reducing its guidelines instead of expanding them.

Noting that gifts and testimonials defray a lot of campaign and personal expenses, former state legislator Jack Sherburne of Deerfield suggested that the Legislature be paid to avoid ethical questions raised by gifts from individuals and political action committees.

Sherburne rejected arguments that unpaid or citizen legislatures function better than professional or paid lawmakers.

"It's a myth that citizen legislators are better than those that are paid to serve," Sherburne said.

## Libertarians Take Protest To State

### Challenge To Be Heard Wednesday

By CARL LANGLEY  
Staff Writer

Aiken County Libertarian Party Chairman Tom King said Monday that a protest over the election in Aiken County Council District 3 will be taken to a higher level.

King said the Libertarians served notice that Doug Greene's 628-623 loss to Democratic incumbent LaWana McKenzie will be filed with state Election Commission officials.

A copy of the appeal, signed by King, Greene and registered voter Mary Lou Seymour, was released late Monday.

Gary Baum, executive director of the Election Commission, said the five-member state board will hold the hearing at noon Wednesday at its offices at 2221 Devine Street, Suite 539.

Last Thursday the Aiken County Registrations and Election Commission upheld the April 27 election outcome by a 5-0 vote after hearing testimony for about 90 minutes.

The board ruled that there was insufficient evidence to overturn the election result.

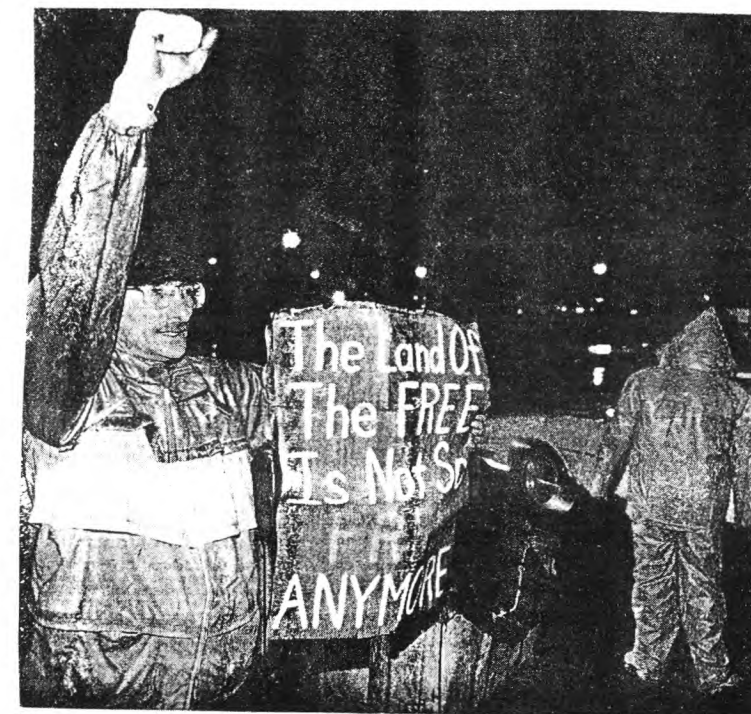
The Libertarians based their protests mainly on what they claimed was county poll managers refusal to allow challenged ballots and improper counting of votes going to Greene.

In the appeal the Libertarians allege that the decision by the county board was "not based on the evidence of record and the facts."

Citing Constitutional protections, the Libertarians said the local board violated the 14th Amendment by upholding what was called a refusal to give qualified voters an opportunity to participate in the election.

During the Aiken hearing, the Libertarians said as many as 17 votes could have been affected by the poll managers and the counting system, enough to turn around the outcome of the election.

"The county board's decision to uphold the election was a slap in the face to all voters in District 3 who were denied their right to vote," said King. "Although the state board is also a political appointee body, we hope they will rectify the situation."



Tax protest

Tom Abbott, a member of the Independent Libertarian Party, had a steady stream of people to protest to outside the Main Post Office on South St. Clair Street yesterday, as postal worker Mike Scott gathered mail from cars in the background. Long lines began to form outside the downtown office about 6 last night. An estimated 25 million Americans still hadn't filed their returns by yesterday, IRS officials said.

# 549 Lawmakers' impasse stalls election reforms

By Ed Vogel

Donrey Capital Bureau

CARSON CITY — An impasse between Democratic and Republican legislators over absentee voting could doom passage of election reform bills awaiting action in the Legislature.

Senate Republicans are poised to pass a bill later this week that would require people who register to vote by mail cast their initial ballots in person.

Senate Bill 250, developed by Secretary of State Cheryl Lau, was drafted to prevent a recurrence of allegations that last November's election was marred by voter registration fraud in Clark County.

Election reform proponents have said that people could register family pets by mail and then request absentee ballots in the pets' names so they could vote.

But Assembly Democrats are preparing to remove the mail-in

requirement once the Senate bill reaches the Assembly, where Democrats hold a 29-13 advantage.

"It seems to me we want to increase voter participation, not decrease it," said Assembly Elections and Procedure Chairwoman Myrna Williams, D-Las Vegas. "I know there have been allegations about voting fraud, but I haven't seen any real problems."

Williams may have her committee vote Thursday on Assembly Bill 145, her election reform plan.

It contains no requirement that people who registered by mail vote in person the first time they go to the polls. Instead, election workers would be required to verify by mail, telephone calls and utility bills whether people who register by mail live at the addresses on their applications.

"I don't care if people are R (Republican) or D (Democrat), we

need to make it easier for them to vote," Williams said.

The partisan conflict could jeopardize any chance of a meaningful election reform package coming out of the Legislature, said Tamara Clark, a Libertarian who lost a Senate race in North Las Vegas last fall.

"The Democrats are going to make a play to kill it," Clark said. "We feel Myrna is going to try to butcher it. The unions are pushing the Democrats not to make any changes."

Clark and Judy DuBois, whose husband, Republican John DuBois, also lost a Senate race last year, have been gathering information that they maintain shows absentee voting fraud could have changed the outcome of several elections.

"I feel the absentee voting and the mail-in regulations benefited the Democrats," Judy DuBois said.

Until recently, DuBois said Las Vegas police investigators did not look at their election information, which she said cost more than \$50,000 to compile.

Clark said, "I can show you incident after incident where people who didn't request absentee ballots went to the polls and were told they requested absentee ballots."

But Williams said the national trend is to make voting easier, not more difficult. In some states, she said, voters can register on the day of the election and cast their ballots in supermarkets.

In contrast, Senate Government Affairs Chairwoman Ann O'Connell, R-Las Vegas, said Republicans during party caucuses have agreed there needs to be an in-person, first-time voting requirement to ensure voting is done by registered voters.

"It is something we believe strongly in," O'Connell said.

## State Rebuffs Libertarians On Election Appeal

By CARL LANGLEY  
Staff Writer

COLUMBIA — The state Election Commission, after 2 1/2 hours of questioning and testimony, voted 3-1 Wednesday to deny an appeal involving the District 3 election for the Aiken County Council.

The commission's action was the second rebuff of protesting Libertarian Party officials, who had hoped to overturn Doug Greene's 628-623 loss to Democratic incumbent LaWana McKenzie.

commissioners Rusty DePass, Phillip Bradley and Deborah Cureton.

During the hearing, Libertarian Chairman Tom King and Greene repeated assertions that the election was tainted because voters were not allowed to cast challenged ballots.

In an appearance before the Aiken County Registrations and Election Commission last week, the Libertarians focused on that claim because of an estimated 14 votes involved.

Garry Baum, press information officer for the commission, said only commissioner Roger Leaks sided with the Libertarians in their bid to win a new election.

Leaks' reasons for supporting the appeal were not given.

Voting to deny the appeal were



GREENE

Libertarian voter and party worker Mary Lou Seymour said the challenged ballots were of sufficient number to turn around the election, and on that basis the county should have ordered a new vote.

The Libertarians also argued that three write-in votes for Greene were not counted in his race. The votes were cast for Greene as chairman of the County

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## Rally to protest tattoo ban

The Libertarian Party of Washington County will rally outside the Eagle's Nest Tattoo Parlor Saturday, to show support for the opening of the controversial business.

"When the Common Council denied the permit to Eagle's Nest, it contradicted the very principles of freedom that this country was founded on," said Kevin Scheunemann, chairman of the Washington County Libertarian Party.

Scheunemann said Libertarians and others supportive of the tattoo parlor will rally outside the business, 1829 N. Main St., 1 to 2 p.m. Saturday, weather permitting.

"The Libertarian Party of Washington County puts its full support behind Mr. Jones and his right to conduct business," Scheunemann said. "He has not hurt anyone; therefore he should be allowed to continue his business."

## ... State

(Continued From Page 1A)

Council, thus could not be tabulated in his District 3 total.

Other charges lodged by the Libertarians included failure to secure ballot boxes, delaying their party's observance of ballot counts and the

appearance of deputy sheriffs at a polling place in Beech Island.

The Aiken County commission voted 5-0 to reject the Libertarian claims after a 90-minute hearing, sending the controversy to the state commission.

The Libertarians next step would be to take the issue to the state Supreme Court.