

# LIBERTY PLEDGE

## newsletter

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## 'I'm a libertarian,' say more prominent people

**S**o: Who's a "libertarian" this month? Here's a quick look at the most recent batch of celebrities or media people who are using the "L-word" to describe themselves, or who have publicly praised the Libertarian Party:

■ **Clint Eastwood** (again): "Dirty Harry" reconfirmed his libertarian leanings in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* (Georgia): "I've never found myself intolerant of anyone. I've always taken the libertarian point of view: Quit messing with everyone. That goes from the government to individuals. Why not just leave everyone alone?" (November 12, 1997.)

■ **Bill Maher**, host of ABC's *Politically Incorrect*, also on November 12th: "Our theme today seems to be just how much the government should stick their nose in what we do," said Maher, while discussing politics with David Boaz of the Cato Institute. "Which is appropriate because David, you're one of our leading libertarians. I count myself as a libertarian, also."

■ **Jeff Katz**, radio talk show host on WRKO Radio (AM-680) in Boston, Massachusetts: "The vast majority of people who are libertarian don't know it. As we approach the next century, we'll see a lot of people whose disgust with government compels them to the Libertarian Party." (November)

■ **David J. Swift**, *Cleveland Plain Dealer*: "As a long-time third-party supporter — Libertarian if you must know — the idea of proportional representation appeals to me. Libertarian philosophy has staying power. To wit: Personal liberty is fraught with personal responsibility; you mind your own business and I'll mind mine." (October 20, 1997)

■ **Rick Elkins**, managing editor of the *Porterville Recorder* (California): "[Libertarians] believe that people should govern themselves and not have government tell them how to live their lives. It's not an easy position to take, but in recent years it has found a niche in America. I believe that if more people would accept the duty to live responsible lives, then this would be a better world." (October 2, 1997)

■ **Mancow Muller**—real name: Eric Muller—a talk show host on Rock 103.5 FM in Chicago, Illinois: "I am libertarian. It's the wave of the future. As we head, headfirst, into a police state, the Libertarians are the answer." (October 31, 1997)

■ **Mary Matalin**, Republican political consultant and radio talk show host: "I'm more libertarian. Since the '92 campaign, I've had a lot of time to study; I've done a lot of reading and visited with a lot of scholars. I'm increasingly libertarian." (*The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, December.)

## Libertarian candidates achieve 'prayer parity' with opponents

**W**ho says Libertarian Party candidates don't have a prayer?

In a special Congressional election in California, Libertarians *do* have a prayer — thanks to the heavenly supplications of the Briggs Memorial Baptist Church in Bethesda, Maryland.

That congregation is praying for all six candidates in a special, open-primary election on January 13th, including two LP candidates — even through one of the Republican candidates urged them, "don't bother with the Libertarians," said Tim Tutt, an associate pastor at the church.

How did Libertarian candidates get included in a weekly plea for divine intervention?

It started earlier in 1997, when about 25 Baptist churches launched a Congressional Prayer Support Ministry. Each church selected one member of Congress to pray for, and began a regular weekly series of carefully "non-political, non-partisan" prayers, said Tutt: Church members pray only that members of Congress have "a sense of wisdom to make good decisions for their constituents."

By almost-random chance, Briggs Memorial Baptist Church selected U.S. Rep. Walter Capps from California's 22nd Congressional District. They prayed for him each week, until he unexpectedly died earlier this year.

So, said Tutt, the church decided to pray for the candidates who were running to fill the vacant seat.

When Tutt contacted one of the GOP candidates — whom he declined to name — he discovered that two Libertarian Party candidates were also in the race.

### "That's not fair."

"Don't bother with the Libertarians," Tutt was urged by the Republican — advice he declined to take, he said, because "I thought, that's not fair. So we threw [the Libertarian candidates] in the mix with everybody else."

Thanks to that non-partisan prayer policy, LP candidates Robert Bakhaus and Todd Rosenberger are now getting the same weekly dose of prayers as their three Republican and one Democratic challengers.

The church will pray for the eventual winner of the special election when he goes to Congress, Tutt said.

LP National Director Ron Crickenberger said the party appreciates the prayers: "Libertarians are winning more and more local races. But at this point, in Congressional races, we still need all the help we can get — Heavenly or otherwise."



LeVar Harris/THE DAILY TARGUM

Rutgers College first-year student Chuck Karczag, founder of the College Libertarians, welcomes political diversity on campus.

## Libertarian group challenges liberal slant on campus

By Brendan Prawdzik

Chuck Karczag dubs Rutgers, the "Moscow on the Raritan."

Yet Karczag, a Rutgers College first-year student, found the Banks to be fertile ground for the genesis of the College Libertarians, a political organization that stands out against Rutgers' liberal backdrop.

In a year that the Libertarian Party has received national exposure, Karczag said the media gave voters the wrong idea.

Although he decided to take action before the elections, media coverage was a significant influence. Many of his goals for the club focus on destroying the stereotypes.

"If Libertarians appear on the radar screen as being anti-every-

thing freaks, that is how they will come off," Karczag said.

Karczag said he plans to hold a drug legalization rally, or an all-out war against the drinking age — two events that would appeal to Rutgers' students while adhering to party philosophy.

He acknowledges that some of the party's ideas, which include extreme government downsizing, deregulation and free-market capitalism, may at first appear frightening.

"Fundamentally, we are a radical movement. You can attach a negative connotation to that, but radical just means getting to the root," said Karczag.

Although Libertarian philos-

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## LIBERTARIAN

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ophy may seem extreme, Republicans and Democrats welcome it on campus, seeing the club as a refreshing and needed addition.

University College senior Christian LeFer, College Republicans President, said, "I'm not afraid to say that I voted for Murray Sabrin."

The policies of Sabrin, the Libertarian candidate for governor, gained the support of many poten-

tial Republican voters, offering a challenge to incumbent Christie Whitman and making for a very tight and dramatic election day.

"It got me into a little trouble, but my moral obligation to the Republican Party is that we remain morally grounded to the things the founding fathers believed in," LeFer said.

"The wonderful thing about Rutgers is that there are so many points of view that even those that fall not under the mainstream can still get consideration," Brian Selander, former president of the

RU Democrats, said. "Any time you get a bunch of people together to discuss issues, it's a real growth experience."

Karczag also embraces political diversity on campus. He said even Socialists, who believe in redistribution and regulation, are welcome.

"I like the Socialists, I really do. Even at Rutgers, they have a small population, but they make a big difference. I believe that Socialists and Libertarians are among the only people willing to take off their gloves and stand on

consistent principle."

Karczag insists Libertarians are not closed-minded intellectuals, but admits they are mistrustful of politicians and a large central government.

"I wouldn't trust Newt Gingrich to make a tuna-fish sandwich," he said, referring to the current Speaker of the House.

Although Republicans share some Libertarian beliefs, Karczag said the Republicans believe in moderate social regulation, while Libertarians believe that morality cannot be legislated.

## Q&A on the News

**Q:** A recent Q&A explained how much money in taxpayer funds from the income tax form checkoff went to presidential candidates Bill Clinton, Bob Dole and Ross Perot in the last election. I had heard that Libertarian candidate Harry Browne also was eligible, but chose not to accept because he considered it a form of welfare. Is that true, or is that just campaign lore?

— James Harris, Rydal

**A:** It's true that Browne didn't receive any federal matching funds. It's also true that he was quoted as calling matching funds "welfare for politicians." But the matter merits explanation, said Bill Winter, spokesman for the Libertarian Party



Browne

at its Washington headquarters. Browne was advised by the Federal Election Commission that he qualified for \$250,000 to \$500,000 in matching funds under its guidelines requiring that certain amounts be raised on his behalf in certain states, Winter said. Browne wanted the FEC to issue a written statement that he qualified, but the FEC wouldn't provide it unless he actually

accepted the money. Browne wanted the FEC statement only to prove to the presidential debate commission that he qualified, Winter said; he never intended to accept the money. But because he wouldn't accept it, the FEC wouldn't issue the letter.

Another reason for not accepting matching funds, Winter said, was that the FEC would require it to be spent in certain ways, and would require that its accounting procedures be followed, subject to penalties and fines.

▲ *The Atlanta Journal*, Atlanta, Georgia (November 21, 1997)

◀ *The Daily Targum*, Rutgers University, New Jersey (November 25, 1997)

# Libertarian: 'We have arrived'

*Sabrin wins less than 5% of vote but had impact on campaign*

## MAINSTREET

By **SUSAN K. LIVIO**  
STATEHOUSE BUREAU

### Libertarian picks penguin representation

**T**HE REPUBLICANS HAVE their elephant, the Democrats their donkey. And graphic artist and photographer **Ann Cason**, a former Sanibel resident, wants the Libertarian Party to adopt a penguin.

Lady Liberty, the Libertarian's official symbol, means New York to most people, Cason said. So she designed a torch-bearing penguin as the official symbol of the Libertarian Party.

Although the penguin hasn't been officially adopted by Libertarians nationally, Wyoming's Laramie County Libertarian Party took the bird under its wing, so to speak,

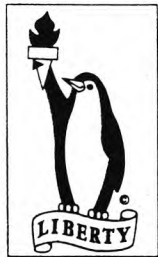
after a run-in with state officials over the party's use of the bucking bronco logo. The dispute — and a picture of Cason's penguin — was reported on page 1 of the state's largest newspaper, the *Casper Star-Tribune*.

Cason, a one-time photographer and artist for the *Island Reporter* on Sanibel now living in Tennessee, created a penguin pin and started running ads in LP, the Libertarian Party's publication. In October pin sales topped 1,000. Last summer she added koolie cups featuring the party's toll-free number and the slogan, "Libertarians are cool."

"The party needs something fresh and original. We need a mascot people can identify with. Penguins are cute. Who doesn't like penguins?" she reasons.

Cason and husband Steve moved to east Tennessee about three years ago. Cason works as an artist with an advertising agency there.

She hopes the Liberty Penguin eventually will become the party's official symbol. Until then she'll keep marketing them herself by mail order. Anyone interested can call her at (423) 993-3962.



LIBERTY PENGUIN

**LIBERTARIAN** Murray Sabrin lost his long-shot run for governor yesterday, but his near-\$1 million bid for the state's highest office changed New Jersey's political landscape and elevated the politics of anti-government.

The 50-year-old Ramapo College professor and Leonia resident billed himself as an outsider and "common sense" alternative to Republican Gov. Whitman and Democrat James E. McGreevey. But analysts suggest it was his ability to successfully work the system — raising enough money to qualify for state matching funds, and mastering the sound bite in three televised debates — that earned him the recognition.

Sabrin insisted all along he was "in it to win it." In the end, however, he captured less than 5 percent of the vote. And he exasperated the Republican incumbent's campaign with a vituperative late-in-the-race advertising blitz aimed almost exclusively at Whitman, and his aides' tacit acknowledgment that Sabrin's candidacy was, at bottom, an anti-Whitman effort.

Still, as he addressed supporters in Edison Township in a concession speech shortly after 9 last night, Sabrin exclaimed: "We, the Libertarian Party, have arrived in American politics."

"No matter what the final numbers are we have made an enormous impact," he said. "We no longer can be ignored as a fringe movement."

Seton Hall University Associate Professor Joseph Marbach said Sabrin's legacy will be not so much his message, but his fund-raising prowess.



Associated Press

● A smiling Murray Sabrin emerges from voting booth.

"(His candidacy) shows third parties that, in selected races, they can use a national effort to secure public funding," Marbach said. "His money has been raised nationally, and targeted to one state. The message to other third parties is to concentrate your efforts and try to make a big splash."

Between his own fund-raising efforts and the state's matching funds — which provide him with \$2 for every \$1 he raised — the Libertarian amassed a \$700,640 war chest, according to his most recent financial disclosure report filed 11 days ago. And if his Oct. 27 request for matching funds is approved, Sabrin had another \$100,000 to spend in the final week.

He dumped much of it into an angry broadcast campaign against Whitman's plans for a tougher auto

inspection system, her support for affirmative action and her veto of a ban on a late term abortion procedure.

That, paired with his promises to roll back taxes and end most government programs, endeared Sabrin to those who saw state government as an ominous Big Brother in their lives, observers said.

But Rider University political scientist David Rebovich believes Sabrin's own extreme positions may have sunk his chances. "Basically, this election will be decided by citizens who want a governor who is fiscally conservative but is also an activist on quality-of-life issues," Rebovich said. "Sabrin represent a distinct alternative . . . which, on reflection, nearly all New Jersey citizens would find unacceptable."

□ *The Associated Press contributed to this story.*

◀ *The News-Press*  
Fort Meyers, Florida (November 11, 1997)

▲ *The Asbury Park Press*  
Neptune, New Jersey (November 5, 1997)

▶ *The Seattle Times*  
Seattle, Washington (November 17, 1997)

## MONDAY MEMO

● The national **Libertarian Party** came to Microsoft's defense, issuing a press release calling **Bill Gates** "a modern American hero" and decrying the government for having the gall to try to make better economic decisions than computer companies.

**reader response:** 'Soft money is good'  
(*'In my opinion'* column Oct. 20)

# Labeling soft money good/bad misses the crux of the problem

By DAVID L. VESSELL

**R**ichard LaMountain's op-ed piece on soft money is more right than wrong, in the sense that soft money is not a bad thing in and of itself. But what he — and most liberals and conservatives alike — fail to realize is that where campaign money comes from, and what it's used for, is not nearly so important as why it's contributed.

Conventional wisdom seems to believe at the moment that all money in campaigns is bad. The concern is that wealthy power mongers will buy off the whole process, to the detriment of everyone else. Why do they give money to campaigns? The money goes where the power is. LaMountain points out that many contributors to the Democratic Party last year were the recipients of government contracts.

The public questions whether or not soft money is bad, or whether tax-funded campaigns are good. We never seem to ask whether or not the huge concentration of power in Washington, D.C., is good or bad. Most common folk I talk to don't like it, but obviously the people with money — particularly those who stand to gain directly from the government doling money back out — think the concentration of power is pretty groovy.

And why not? Look at the money it saves

them. Why go to the hassle of lobbying in 50 state capitols and four territorial capitals, when it's sufficient to go to one central location in order to pull down government loot?

The problem is not soft money, or even hard money. The problem is that there is too much of a concentration of power in Washington, D.C., and it needs to end.

The solution is not to restrict campaign contributions at all. Giving money to candidates and political parties is political expression, protected by the First Amendment. The Libertarian Party's position is to achieve campaign finance reform not by attacking that Constitutional right, but rather by stripping the federal government down to its Constitutional duties, and giving the burden of supporting services not specified in the Constitution back to where they belong, to the states.

A federal government limited in its kingmaking abilities would not be an attractive target for a lobbyist looking for government goodies.

Would the Libertarian Party benefit from such an arrangement? Sure, that's not a secret. The national party brings in the lion's share of donations to the Libertarian cause, and it's a shame not to be able to use any of that money to help fund particularly worthy state or local campaigns. Americans may be clamoring for a viable third party to challenge the Democrats and Republicans, but we cling to ideas that narrow



TIM BRINTON

the choice of political parties rather than widen it.

The problem of campaign finance reform will go away only if the federal government is stripped of unreasonable power. Once that occurs, attempts to corrupt our leaders and representatives would be transparent. If Americans want an honest presidency and Congress, that really is the only viable long-term solution.

*David L. Vessell of Tualatin is the communications director for the Libertarian Party of Oregon.*

- ▲ *The Oregonian*  
Portland, Oregon (October 31, 1997)
- *The Salt Lake Tribune*  
Salt Lake City, Utah (November 9, 1997)
- ▼ *The York Daily Record*  
York, Pennsylvania (November 5, 1997)

## -UTAH QUOTES

*"Libertarians want an election system that allows voters to choose candidates they agree with, rather than encourages them to vote for the lesser of two evils."*

— Jim Dexter, chairman of the Utah Libertarian Party

# Libertarians cheer their losses as their party gains recognition

By ANNA DUBROVSKY  
*Daily Record staff*

It was a remarkable election for York County's Libertarian candidates.

Remarkable because there were 13 of them, more candidates than the party had ever fielded before, according to party officials.

Remarkable because at least one — Chad Lucabaugh who ran uncontested for constable in Coneyago Township — will actually take office.

Remarkable because even those who lost could declare victory. In running, they have drawn attention to the difficulties third party candidates face.

"We're doing things in Pennsylvania that have never been done across the state before," said Michael J. Nixon, Libertarian Party chairman for York County. "We're in gear. This party is very much along a growth path."

Four of the candidates ran for countywide office. They were all losing by large margins late Tuesday night. The others ran for offices at the city mayor, borough, township and school district level.

The push to penetrate local government reflects a new attitude among Libertarians.

Party members used to run not to win, but to draw attention to

particular issues or "make a statement," Nixon said.

"That was the old Libertarian Party," he said. "We're not interested in making a statement. We're interested in getting thoroughly involved in the political process and running for office from the ground up."

For those in contested races, the election was an uphill battle against voters' misperceptions about the party.

"If you don't know, you're afraid," said Jeanne Klinedinst of Shiloh, a registered Libertarian, after exiting a voting booth at the York Newspaper Company. "People are afraid to go out and take a chance with Libertarian candidates."

Richard Mark Wileczek, a candidate for county controller, spent Tuesday — 7 a.m. until closing time — handing out campaign cards at the Shiloh Fire Co., reminding voters to push "12C on the ballot."

"It's a tough row to hoe for me," he said.

He said he hoped his presence at the polls would sway a few voters. But the voters who impressed him most were those who came with their minds made up, carrying a list of candidates they had chosen to support.

"They've researched," he said. "They may be a registered Democrat. They may be a registered Republican. But they've got a list, and you've got to respect that."

Wileczek, 35, said this election was just the beginning for his party.

"We're crawling," he said. "But we'll be walking soon. We have to educate."

Libertarian Michael Baldwin, 25, stationed himself outside his own precinct Tuesday afternoon, at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church on West Market Street in York. He visited other precincts, too, telling voters of his candidacy for recorder of deeds.

When an elderly woman walked toward the door, leaning unsteadily on her cane, Baldwin grinned and handed her a pale yellow brochure.

"Here's a list of your Libertari-

an choices," he told her. "And I hope you'll vote for me, because I have snazzier shoes than the incumbent."

The woman looked down at Baldwin's shiny black-and-white wingtips and laughed before walking inside.

"I'm trying the push-the-party approach," Baldwin said, "because the party has more to offer than I do. It's a team effort to change the system. I can't do it alone."

*Staff writers Mike Argento and Barbara Barrett contributed to this report.*