

LIBERTARIAN PARTY NEWS

The Party of Principle®



February 2003

The Official Monthly Newspaper of the Libertarian Party ★ Volume 32 / Issue 2

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■ Gary Nolan, shown here when he was broadcasting on WHEN Radio in Syracuse, New York: "I think I can do a lot for the party. My goal is to be able to communicate [to voters] what Libertarians can do for the country, in such a way that people get interested in the party."

Gary Nolan launches exploratory group for 2004 presidential bid

Gary Nolan, who parlayed a mellifluous speaking voice and strongly held libertarian views into a decade-long career in talk radio, has formed an exploratory committee to seek the Libertarian Party's 2004 presidential nomination.

In preparation for running, Nolan quit his syndicated "Nolan at Night" radio show, and will file papers for his exploratory committee with the Federal Election Commission in January, said campaign manager Steve Dasbach.

If Nolan makes his bid official, as expected, "the campaign will be dedicated to conducting the most successful outreach presidential campaign in LP history on behalf of the entire libertarian movement," said Dasbach, who had previously served as the LP's executive director from 1998 to 2002.

Nolan, 48, said he is running for president because he wants to help build the Libertarian Party.

"I think I can do a lot for the

party," he said. "My goal is to be able to communicate [to voters] what Libertarians can do for the country, in such a way that people get interested in the party and join the party."

Over the next few months, Nolan said he will visit "every state I can get to," and talk to both Libertarians and non-Libertarians via personal appearances and media interviews.

Beyond Libertarians

"I want Libertarians to know what I'm about, but I want to get beyond talking to Libertarians," he said. "My goal is to talk to people who are not libertarians."

Nolan said he expects to make an official announcement that he is running for president by mid-February.

Dasbach said when the campaign gets underway, Nolan hopes to:

■ Capitalize on his media background and contacts to generate appearances on talk radio and national

See **GARY NOLAN** Page 2

National Committee passes 'frugal' \$1.4 million budget

By Bill Winter
LP NEWS EDITOR

The Libertarian National Committee has passed a "frugal" \$1.4 million budget for 2003 that reflects a troubled economy, the dip in party membership, and a "get real" approach to financial forecasting.

The budget, which represents an expected 33% decrease in revenue from 2002, focuses on funding the party's "core" functions rather than building a wish list of goals, said LP National Chair Geoffrey Neale.

"In the past, the budget has been built partially as a statement of goals for that year," he said. "We've rejected that paradigm in favor of a more market-driven approach to special projects. If the membership funds projects, they will happen."

13-3-1 vote

The budget was approved at the LNC's meeting in Washington, DC on December 14-15. It passed on a 13-3 vote, with 1 abstention.

Voting for it were Mark Cenci (Maine), Mike Dixon (Arizona), Lorenzo Gaztanaga (Maryland), Steve Givot (Colorado), Don Gorman (New Hampshire), Ed Hoch (Alaska), Austin Hough (Illinois), Deryl Martin (Tennessee), Mark Nelson (Iowa),

"WHAT WE BUILT IS a budget that makes sure all the essentials are covered, but does not decide how to spend extra income."

—Geoff Neale

Mark Rutherford (Indiana), Bette Rose Ryan (Colorado), George Squyres (Arizona), and Steve Trinward (Tennessee).

Voting against the budget were Joe Dehn (California), Sean Haugh (North Carolina), and R. Lee Wrights (North Carolina).

Ken Bisson (Indiana) abstained.

The budget — which projects \$1,437,640 in revenue and \$1,386,388 in expenses — is based on an awareness that the LP faces some daunting financial challenges in 2003, said Neale.

"We are trying to be cognizant of the fact that we do have a smaller membership, and that the economy is not very good," he said. "Improvements in membership and fundraising

will only make things better."

The budget funds core functions — like affiliate support, LP News, the Liberty Pledge newsletter, rent, inquiry responses, and media relations — out of membership dues payments and pledges, said Neale.

"Core functions are those that will be done, no matter what," he said. "What we built is like a household budget that makes sure all of the essentials are covered, but does not decide how to spend the extra income. That extra will not be spent until we know it's there. Then we can decide how best to use it.

"What we are able to do in 2003 depends on how well we outperform our conservative budget."

Strategic Plan

Special projects that tie into the LP's ongoing Strategic Plan — such as the Drug War Strategy, branding and marketing efforts, and campus outreach — will be funded by direct-mail appeals and major donor contributions, said Neale.

"To a great degree, the ability to implement our Strategic Plan will depend upon the willingness of the members to fund specific projects," he said. "This budget provides the framework for contributors to do so."

The party expects to raise about

See **BUDGET** Page 11

LP ad named year's 'most dramatic'

An advertisement created by the Libertarian Party has been named the "Most Dramatic" political ad of 2002 by *National Journal* magazine.

The 30-second spot, entitled "Why Bob," was broadcast by Libertarian Carole Ann Rand against Republican Bob Barr in the race for U.S. House (District 7) in Georgia.

The advertisement was written, directed, and filmed by LP Political Director Ron Crickenberger, who said it felt "great" to be recognized by the influential magazine for his work.

"It really shows the power of the [medical marijuana] issue," he said. "I felt that once I had seen the ad, we really had something that was

powerful. Although our advertising budget was not great, it was the kind of ad that people remember."

National Journal cited the "Why Bob" ad in a December 20 story on its website, *NationalJournal.com*. The ad was selected from among the 1,868 political ads — which touted or attacked more than 500 U.S. Senate, U.S. House, and gubernatorial campaigns — that aired in 2002.



■ Ron Crickenberger: Powerful.

The magazine also highlighted some of the most controversial and influential political ads of the year, along with the "Most Desperate," the "Oddest," and the "Most Exhibitionist."

Multiple sclerosis

The "Why Bob" ad featured medical marijuana patient Cheryl Miller, who suffers from multiple sclerosis. In the ad, a wan Miller addresses the camera from a hospital bed and says, "Bob Barr thinks I should be in jail for using my medicine. Why would you do that to me, Bob?"

A voiceover then states: "When the drug war turns on our own sick

See **DRAMATIC** Page 2

NEWS BRIEFS

Tenn. Libertarians offer jail contribution

A Tennessee Libertarian dropped a \$100 bill on the table — and challenged politicians and citizens to match the donation to build a new fence for a local prison.

David Hutson, spokesman for the McMinn County LP, made the offer at a meeting of the McMinn County Commission on December 16.

"We have chosen to donate funds for this purpose because we believe that in a free society, the role of government is not to take money from citizens, but to protect our freedoms from those who would infringe upon them," he said.

The donation should be used to fund a new perimeter fence at the county's aging Justice Center, said Hutson — since a legitimate function of government is to protect citizens from crime.

"To securely jail criminals is of the first importance, and we wish to make this belief tangible with this donation," he said.

Hutson also suggested that the McMinn County Sheriff's Department should redirect the money it uses for drunk-driving checkpoints to the construction of the prison fence.

"This would serve to protect honest, law-abiding citizens from being treated as criminals who are guilty unless proven innocent, as is done by conducting random roadblocks," he said.

At the end of his speech, Hutson removed a \$100 bill from his wallet and laid it on the table before the County Commission. However, the county attorney said that while he applauded the generosity, it wouldn't be appropriate for the Commission to accept the donation.

ISIL plans virtual 'World Peace Institute'

The International Society for Individual Liberty (ISIL) has announced plans to start a "de-facto peace institute" over the Internet in early 2003.

The institute will be a clearinghouse for underreported peace news that will be posted on the ISIL website and communicated via e-mail, said ISIL President Vince Miller.

"This new project will bring people together who prefer peaceful resolutions to conflicts," he said. "Many people aren't aware of the positive developments around the world that are taking place to stop the current rampage toward war."

For example, said Miller, a poll in Israel showed that 69% of citizens favor withdrawing troops from the occupied territories — a fact that has been "buried" by the mainstream media in America and Israel.

"Dialogue on Middle East peace plans has already been established between ISIL, some Israeli academics, and libertarians in some Arab countries," said Miller. "This will now be pursued more vigorously."

Miller said the new network might be available online as early as February 2003 [after LP News went to press].

ISIL is a California-based, non-partisan association that is "dedicated to building a free and peaceful world, respect for individual rights and liberties, and an open and competitive economic system."

For more information, visit: www.isil.org.

IJ wins New Jersey asset forfeiture victory

The Institute for Justice has won an influential legal victory by convincing a New Jersey Superior Court judge to declare part of the state's civil asset forfeiture law unconstitutional.

On December 12, Judge Thomas Bowen struck down a provision in the law that allowed police and prosecutor agencies to use seized money and property for law enforcement purposes.

The law improperly gave prosecutors a financial incentive to seize cars, money, buildings, and other property, and violated the due process rights of the property owner, ruled Bowen.

New Jersey police can still seize property, but will need to create a new method of distributing and using seized assets.

"The decision is going to ensure that police and prosecutors make their decisions in the interest of justice and not for the pursuit of property and profit," said Scott Bullock, an attorney for the Institute for Justice (IJ), which had filed the lawsuit.

The case involved a woman whose 1990 Ford Thunderbird was seized in March 1999 by police when they charged her 17-year-old son with selling marijuana. Police said he drove the car to meet buyers.

With IJ's help, she filed suit, charging that police unconstitutionally used seized cash and property to boost their department's budgets. State officials said they will appeal the decision.

Between 1998 and 2000, New Jersey police and prosecutors used \$32 million in seized funds to pay for computers, cars, and fitness machines, according to court records.

IJ is a Washington, DC-based non-profit legal organization that works to "restore constitutional limits on the power of government."



Vince Miller: Clearinghouse.

Gary Nolan forms committee to explore presidential campaign

Continued from Page 1
cable news programs.

■ Recruit campaign organizers in each state to build media lists and develop relationships with local media, recruit volunteers, organize events, and raise money to run local print, radio, and TV ads.

■ Limit overhead and fundraising costs, so more money can be devoted to delivering Nolan's message to the voters.

"The campaign intends to make extensive use of volunteers," said Dasbach.

Nolan brings to his campaign more than a decade's experience as a radio talk show host.

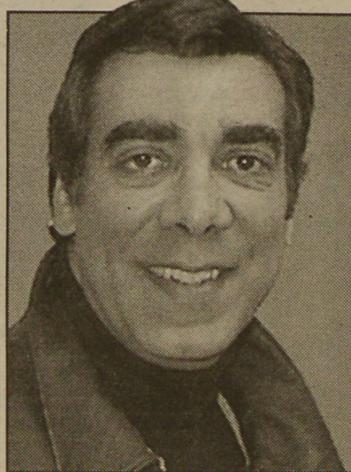
65 affiliates

From 1998 to 2002, he hosted "Nolan at Night" on 65 affiliates around the USA — including such major markets as Florida, Texas, Missouri, Washington, and Virginia. The show was broadcast by the Radio America Network.

From 1994 to 1998, he hosted the "USA Radio Daily" show on the USA Radio Network, and provided political commentary.

Nolan has made over 30 national TV appearances, appearing on ABC World News Tonight, CNN, Fox News, MSNBC, and C-SPAN.

From 1997 to 1999, he was the president of Capitol Watch, which works to defend American taxpayers



Gary Nolan: "Republicans seem as anxious to spend my money as the Democrats."

"from higher taxes and wasteful spending."

A former Republican, Nolan joined the Libertarian Party in January 1999, saying, "Republicans seem as anxious to spend my money as the Democrats. I'm also totally fed up with the GOP's horrible, egregious budget bills."

After his switch, Nolan had dozens of LP guests on his show, including LP Communications Director George Getz, Harry Browne, Ed Thompson, and Mary Ruwart.

He was a speaker at the 2000 and 2002 LP National Conventions.

During his campaign, Nolan will focus on "major issues where the

Democrats and Republicans are moving in the wrong direction," said Dasbach. That includes:

■ **The economy, government spending, and taxation.**

"Gary will propose that federal spending be dramatically reduced so that the combined tax burden from all levels of government does not exceed 25%," said Dasbach.

■ **Civil liberties.**

"The War on Terror is turning into a war on the individual liberties," said Dasbach. "Gary will propose the immediate restoration of our full civil liberties as a key component of enhancing our national security."

■ **Social Security.**

"Politicians are using Enron accounting to hide the true liability of the Social Security system," said Dasbach. "Gary will propose that an individual retirement account be established for every American consisting of their prior Social Security contributions, funded with Treasury bills of appropriate maturities."

Nolan is the second individual to toss his hat into the ring: In June 2002, Pennsylvania Libertarian activist and former chemistry professor Julian Hecklen announced he will seek the LP's presidential nomination.

For more information about Nolan's exploratory committee, visit: www.GaryNolan.com. Or call: (703) 237-3533. Or write: P.O. Box 6308, Falls Church, VA 22040.

National Journal: LP ad was 'most dramatic'

Continued from Page 1

and dying, it's gone too far — and so has Bob Barr."

Crickenberger speculated that the advertisement was so effective because it told the truth.

"This was the most blatantly honest ad [of the year]," he said. "It's telling the truth instead of political pabulum."

The Libertarian Party broadcast the ad about 4,000 times on CNN, TNT, Comedy Central, MSNBC, and other cable networks in the Georgia district.

The ad ran during the Republican

primary, which saw Barr square off against U.S. Rep. John Linder in a restructured district. Linder won with 67% of the vote on August 20.

The LP took aim at Barr as part of its "Incumbent Killer" strategy, which targeted the worst drug warriors in Congress for defeat.

Played a role

After the election, CNN reported that Merle Black, a political science professor at Emory University in Atlanta, said the "Why Bob" ad played a role in the outcome of the election.

A CNN story on August 22 said, "[Black] said Linder likely benefited strongly from Libertarian voters, whose party ran a stinging TV ad ... criticizing Barr for opposing the use of medical marijuana."

The *National Journal* is widely considered one of the nation's most influential political magazines. The *Columbia Journalism Review* said about it: "Congress, the White House, federal agencies, the lobbyists who chase them and the media that cover them — all read the *National Journal*."

Libertarian Party News (ISSN 8755-139X) is the official monthly newspaper of the Libertarian Party® of the United States. Opinions, articles, and advertisements published in this newspaper do not necessarily represent official party positions unless so indicated.

NATIONAL CHAIR:
Geoffrey J. Neale
12903 Grubstake Gulch
Austin, TX 78738
E-mail: chair@LP.org

EDITOR:
Bill Winter

STAFF WRITER:
Jonathan Trager

PUBLISHER:
Libertarian National Committee, Inc.

EDITOR EMERITUS:
Karl Hess ♦ 1923-1994

SEND NEWS, LETTERS, ESSAYS, PHOTOGRAPHS, OR ADVERTISING:
Bill Winter
1640 Worcester Road, #330-D
Framingham, MA 01702
Phone: (508) 820-7340
E-mail: Editor@hq.LP.org

SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:
Libertarian Party
2600 Virginia Avenue, NW, Suite 100
Washington, DC 20037
Or call: (202) 333-0008 x 223

The Mission Statement of the Libertarian Party: "To move public policy in a libertarian direction by building a political party that elects Libertarians to public office."

LP takes steps to deal with budget crunch

The Libertarian Party has cut expenses, laid off staff, and temporarily postponed Unified Membership Program (UMP) payments to state affiliates to try to deal with a serious budget crunch.

According to LP National Chair Geoffrey Neale, the party was about \$180,000 behind on payments to vendors and state parties in mid-January.

However, that figure is down from a deficit of more than \$200,000 in August 2002 — and, if current cost-cutting and fundraising efforts bear fruit, the party could be back in the black by July 2003, said Neale.

"We've managed to bring the numbers down somewhat," he said. "I believe that we have the fiscal capacity to weather this storm, and we've already taken many of the steps to get ourselves out, so long as revenues continue according to historical patterns. Now it will just take time."

The deficit represents about 10% of the party's revenue of \$2.1 million in 2002.

Number of factors

Neale said the budget crunch was caused by a number of factors.

"We can talk about the effect of 9/11 upon our revenues, the general economic downturn, the pinch that just about every non-profit is feeling right now," he said. "All of these factors come into play, and we are feeling their effect."



A statement from LP Chair Geoffrey Neale

"I believe that we have the fiscal capacity to weather this storm, and we've already taken many of the steps to get ourselves out. Now it will just take time.

"Treasurer Deryl Martin and I feel we can be back in the black by around July 1, or shortly thereafter. This is based upon reasonably successful fundraising and the help of our members. We have already instituted enough cuts to get us there, so long as revenues continue according to historical patterns.

"If we outperform in fundraising, or the members send us some extra help, we'll be in the clear even sooner. Then we can get back to growth."

However, a number of questionable decisions by the national LP office and the LNC also played a major role, said Neale.

For example, the LP lost approximately \$30,000 on the 2002 National Convention, hired more staff "while our membership and revenues were declining," and spent about \$80,000 on a "poorly performing direct-mail [membership recruitment package]," said Neale.

"It would be irresponsible to say we on the LNC and in the national office did not play a part in our current situation," he said. "[The party was] spending money like we still had 32,000 members, even though membership had dropped to under 25,000."

Neale said day-to-day operations

of the LP are suffering somewhat because of the cash crunch.

"The ongoing operations of the LP have been hurt by this shortfall; there is no denying that," he said. "It costs us more than just money to try to placate vendors that we owe money to. We've reduced our staff, resulting in less people doing the same amount of things."

The deficit also limits the party's ability to react to political opportunities and start growing again, said Neale.

"Of course, when there's no money in the bank, investing in the future is not a possibility," he said. "We need growth as an organization, but it's difficult to address that when we cannot afford the associated acquisition costs."

To cut costs, the LNC has significantly reduced staff, said Neale.

Over the last few months, Executive Director Steve Dasbach resigned and has not yet been replaced, Development Director Eric Caron was terminated, and development associates Jeremy Keil and Tiffany Stevens-Owens moved on to other jobs and were not replaced. In addition, Staff Writer Jon Trager was laid off in December.

The reductions in staff will save the party about \$28,000 a month, said Neale.

The LNC is also "re-evaluating everything from health insurance to property insurance to 401K plan administration costs to phone services," he said. "Whenever we find a cheaper alternative, we avail ourselves of it."

In addition, Neale and LP Treasurer Deryl Martin made the decision to postpone about \$15,000 in November and December payments to state parties. UMP payments are state parties' shares of joint national/state LP membership dues.

"We decided that we had to defer UMP because the money was just not there to pay really past due vendors, payroll, rent, and UMP. This was indeed a difficult decision to make," said Neale.

Fiduciary responsibility

"I have been communicating directly with the State Chairs regarding this situation. Deferring UMP is not an ideal situation. [But] my responsibility is to the LP as a whole, and as the Chair, I have a fiduciary responsibility to make decisions that I feel are best for the organization."

Neale said he hopes the party can get caught up on UMP payments by June 2003, and, in the meantime, he said he is negotiating with states that are willing to defer part of their UMP payments.

Neale said LP members could help resolve the ongoing emergency by making a small extra donation

"If each member sent in \$6 extra, we'd be back in the black in a month," he noted. "For those that cannot help extricate the LP from this situation, I just ask a little time to get things in order. The proper steps have been initiated. We just need time for the process to bear fruit."

Adam Dick sworn in to Wisc. Board of Elections

Libertarian Adam Dick has been appointed to serve on the state Board of Elections in Wisconsin — making him the only third-party representative on the board.

Dick, 29, was confirmed by Republican Governor Scott McCallum in mid-December, after being nominated by LP State Chair Bob Collison. He took the oath of office in Madison on January 3.

The Libertarian Party was able to select an Elections Board member after LP gubernatorial candidate Ed Thompson won more than 10% of the vote in the 2002 election, qualifying the LP as a "major" party in the state.

The Wisconsin Elections Board is responsible for enforcing state election law and adjudicating election law disputes. Previously, it was comprised of four Democratic appointees and four Republican appointees — making Dick the possible swing vote in narrow decisions.



■ Libertarian Adam Dick takes the oath of office as the newest member of the Wisconsin board of elections. The 29-year-old is the only third party representative on the nine-member board.

Dick, who served as co-manager of the Ed Thompson for governor campaign, said he "felt great" about having been selected.

Seat at the table

"I'm glad that a Libertarian will finally have a seat at the table," he said. "I think with all that is going on in Wisconsin politics right now, this couldn't have happened at a more important time."

Dick said he has set two goals for his two-year tenure on the board.

First, he will be an advocate for the Libertarian Party and other third parties to make sure they are represented fairly in the political arena, he said.

Second, he wants to make sure that several Republican and Democratic politicians who have recently been indicted for election law violations are held accountable, said Dick.

"A Libertarian on the board will ensure that allegations made against incumbent politicians are not swept

See **ADAM DICK** Page 5

Va. coalition delivers libertarian highway program to governor

Instead of continually imposing higher taxes to build new roads, Virginia should consider "private and market-based solutions" such as toll roads, user fees, and investor-funded highways to solve its transportation crisis.

So said a letter signed by 34 individuals and five organizations — including the Virginia Libertarian Party — that was hand-delivered to Virginia Governor Mark R. Warner on December 23.

"We write to urge you to make a bold break with the past on transportation policy," said the letter.

Range of options

"[Only] the marketplace will provide needed discipline, and contribute to a more cost-effective transportation system — one that will give Virginians a wider range of options — while reducing the need for tax subsidies."

Organizations signing the letter

"THE PEOPLE WHO signed the letter all know that a market-based solution is the cheapest, and most efficient way."

—Brian Babb

included the Hampton Roads Taxpayer Coalition, the Virginia Beach LP, the Citizens Action Coalition, Inc., the Norfolk LP, the Virginia Beach Taxpayer Alliance, the Peninsula Libertarian Club, and the Virginia Conservative Alliance.

The letter was also signed by LP Political Director Ron Crickenberger, See **HIGHWAY** Page 11

POLITICAL NEWS

Supreme Court rejects Browne ballot appeal

The U.S. Supreme Court has refused to hear an appeal from LP presidential candidate Harry Browne, who had sued Arizona for refusing to put his name on the 2000 ballot.

The high court rejected the appeal without comment on December 16. As a result, a law in Arizona that requires independent candidates to file petition signatures five months before the general election will stand.

"I wasn't surprised [at the court's decision]," said Browne. "The Democrats and Republicans have a closed club. We will continue to suffer losses like this until we are big enough that we can't be ignored — at which point the press will begin to put pressure on the Republicans and Democrats to open up the process."

Browne had sought to be placed on the Arizona ballot as an independent candidate in 2000, after a maverick LP faction nominated science fiction author L. Neil Smith as its presidential candidate. Browne appeared on the other 49 state ballots.

Browne submitted 22,000 signatures in Arizona, but missed the June 14 deadline — two months before the "major" parties had to select candidates. Browne filed a lawsuit in August 2000, arguing that the early filing deadline violated his First Amendment rights.

On May 29, 2001, the Arizona Court of Appeals ruled that the state had no compelling interest to set the deadline for candidates so early. That decision was overturned by the Arizona supreme court on May 24, 2002, and Browne appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The case was *Browne vs. [Secretary of State] Bayless* (02-561).



■ **Harry Browne: Lawsuit rejected.**

Alaska Libertarians file contribution lawsuit

The Alaska Libertarian Party has gone to court to try to overturn a regulation that requires parties to divulge their sources of "soft-money" and reveal how they spend those donations.

On January 2, Ken Jacobus, an attorney for the Alaska LP, asked the state Superior Court in Anchorage to impose an injunction to block the measure.

The regulation, which was adopted by the Alaska Public Offices Commission (APOC) in November, violates Constitutional free-speech protections, argued Jacobus, since citizens fearful of political reprisals should have the right to make anonymous contributions.

Also, the APOC did not have the legal authority to impose the regulation, argued Jacobus.

"This is something for the legislature to decide," he said.

The commission had adopted the rule in November on a 4-1 vote, claiming that it would "prevent organized special interests from exerting undue influence over election campaigns and elected officials." It went into effect December 20.

A decision could be issued by Superior Court Judge Mark Rindner as soon as mid-January (after *LP News* went to press).

In April 2001, the Alaska LP had won a lawsuit overturning an Alaska law that put a \$5,000 limit on contributions that individuals can make to political parties.

Cato publishes new Supreme Court book

The Cato Institute has turned its libertarian microscope on the Supreme Court.

In December, the non-partisan, Washington, DC-based think tank released *Cato Supreme Court Review, 2001-2002*, the first of an annual series of books that will review high court decisions "from a classical liberal perspective, specifically looking at the most important and far reaching cases of the year."

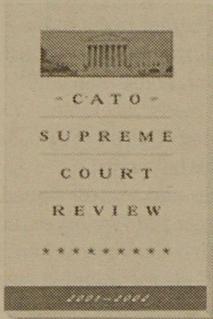
The book features contributions from libertarian legal experts such as Richard A. Epstein, Roger Pilon, Jonathan Turley, James L. Swanson, Stephen P. Halbrook, Robert A. Levy, and Clint Bolick.

The *Cato Supreme Court Review* won early praise:

■ Nadine Strossen, president of the American Civil Liberties Union, said: "All friends of freedom must maintain special vigilance over the Court. This new Cato Supreme Court Review promises invaluable insight and inspiration for that vital task."

■ Charles J. Cooper, former Assistant Attorney General, said: "The Court's vital work will now be rigorously critiqued against basic principles — the enumeration of powers, the Takings and Contract Clauses — that have been out of fashion but were fundamental to the Founders in checking governmental encroachments on individual liberty."

The 270-page paperback book is available for \$15.00. It can be ordered at: www.cato.org.



Michigan LP announces plan to elect State Reps. by 2006

The Libertarian Party of Michigan has set a goal of electing 10 Libertarians to the state House of Representatives in 2006.

The ambitious plan — dubbed "Operation Farm Team" — was announced by State Chair James Hudler at the state LP's annual LibertyFest dinner on November 16, 2002.

"To the best of my knowledge, this is the first time that the LPM has put together a multiyear, multi-election strategy for success," said Hudler.

The four-year plan calls for the state party to encourage local affiliates to run more candidates for non-partisan office in 2003, to hire a field director to help those candidates win and thus build a "Farm Team" of elected officials, and then to run those officeholders for the state legislature in 2006.

Run Farm Team

"We will run the Farm Team for partisan [legislative] offices — and some will get elected," said Hudler. "The goal is to get 10 people elected to the Michigan House of Representatives."

Operation Farm Team is based on two major principles, said Hudler:

■ First, while high-level offices like president and governor are now

"THIS IS THE first time that the Michigan LP has put together a multiyear, multi-election strategy for success."

—James Hudler

beyond the LP's grasp, the party can "marshal the resources" to get people elected to lower-level offices.

"In 2001, we ran five candidates for various city council races around the state," he noted. "Three of those people (60%) were elected, and a fourth came very close. In these smaller offices, Libertarian campaign managers are much more skilled than their competitors."

■ Second, Libertarians who have won low-level offices have a better chance of being elected to higher-level partisan offices than Libertarians with no history of public service.

"Libertarians who are already

serving on city councils and in other elected positions are known in their communities," said Hudler. "Their pictures appear in the media, they regularly meet and greet people in their community, and they become known for their common sense.

"If such Libertarians choose to run for higher office, the voters are inclined to say, 'I know him, he is my city councilman and he is the only one who consistently votes against raising my taxes.' By being in the public light, these officeholders take away the fear that a voter might have in voting for our little-known minor party."

Pool resources

To implement the plan, the state LP will encourage all 19 of its county and regional affiliates to run candidates for local office in 2003 — and to pool their resources behind the best candidate in each area.

To encourage that level of election activity, the party will hire a field director, said Hudler.

"The field director's job will be to work with the affiliates and provide them with training and support," he said. "Then, the field director will work with [affiliate] chairs to help

See **MICHIGAN** Page 5

NJ Libertarian helps beat \$9.8m school vote

A New Jersey LP member helped save Delaware Valley Regional High School District residents \$9.8 million by spearheading opposition to a school spending referendum.

On December 10, the referendum lost by a vote of 2,009-1,856 in the five communities that comprise the school district — Alexandria, Holland, and Kingwood Townships, and the boroughs of Frenchtown and Milford.

Had it passed, the referendum would have authorized tax money for renovations to the existing Delaware Valley Regional High School building and for a 17,000-square-foot addition.

Awareness campaign

The vote was an "important victory" for taxpayers, said Chris Wuestefeld, who coordinated an "aggressive awareness campaign" against the referendum.

"The education establishment, particularly here in New Jersey, believes that education is so important that it trumps all other concerns," he said. "We want a thorough education for our kids, but that doesn't trump everything else. We also need to do it efficiently."

Wuestefeld's anti-tax group mailed a double-sided flyer to all district voters, conducted a letter-to-the-editor writing campaign, and

created a website (<http://necessarypubliceducation.com>) with "complete documentation" against the spending plan.

"The real battle was not over the issues: we had those cornered," said Wuestefeld. "It boiled down to our ability to create awareness and motivation to get to the polls versus the school's ability to mobilize their

boosters, guaranteed 'yes' votes regardless of the facts. In the end, we were able to defeat the referendum by 153 votes."

This wasn't the first time district residents said "no" to higher educational spending: In 2001, voters rejected a \$26.2 million spending plan, and in March 2002 rejected a \$23.4 million spending plan.

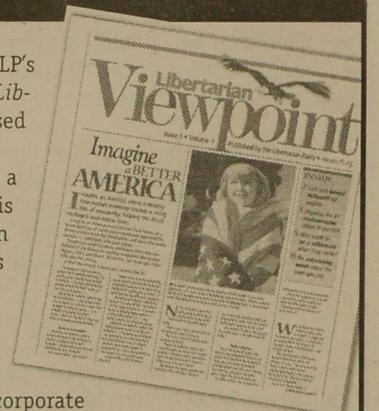
Libertarian Viewpoint enclosed in this issue

A complimentary copy of the LP's new outreach tabloid, the *Libertarian Viewpoint*, is enclosed in this issue of *LP News*.

"We want members to see what a great piece of outreach material this is," said LP Political Director Ron Crickenberger. "I encourage readers to give this copy to a friend, and order more copies to help spread the word about the Libertarian Party."

The 8-page, full-color *Libertarian Viewpoint* features articles on corporate welfare, crime, poverty, foreign policy, and other topical issues.

To order additional copies of the *Libertarian Viewpoint*, see the full-page advertisement on page 13.



TALKING POINTS

Why food is really like heroin, and the longneck legal theory

■ **Troops abroad**

Number of times the United States has deployed troops abroad in its 226-year history: 277

— **HARPERS**, December 2002

■ **Cost of empire**

[In December], President Bush made a big deal about signing a military authorization bill with a \$30 billion increase.

Here we are, 12 years after the collapse of the Soviet Union, and without a credible enemy in sight we are still spending nearly \$400 billion annually on defense.

It is not really the cost of defense, but rather the cost of an empire.

— **CHARLY REESE**

King Features Syndicate, Inc.
December 9, 2002

■ **Wagner's Law**

A 19th century economist named Adolf Wagner formulated a "law" regarding the expansion of government. He argued that as the wealth of society increases, so does the size of government. Wagner did not know why this is the case; he was simply making an observation.

The United States is a perfect example of Wagner's Law. Prior to World War I, government spending as a share of the gross national product was less than 3% almost every year except during wartime.

Since then, spending as a share of national output has risen almost continuously. By the mid-1960s, federal spending consumed 17% of the economy. This year it is 19.5%, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

When one includes state and local governments, government at all levels now accounts for about 31% of national income. In short, almost one out of every three dollars in the U.S. economy is spent by government.

— **BRUCE BARTLETT**

TownHall.com
December 12, 2002

■ **Politicians in action I**

Mike Rucker, running for county commissioner in Tallahassee, Fla., apologized for urinating in a voter's yard in October, attributing it to a prostate problem and not anger that the voter had moments earlier refused to post Rucker's campaign sign.

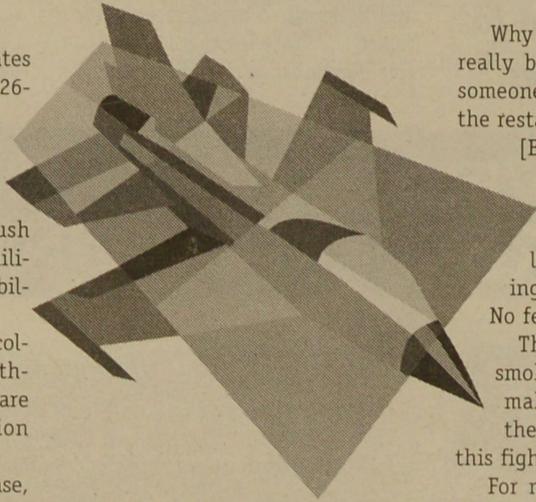
— **NEWS OF THE WEIRD**

December 8, 2002

■ **Politicians in action II**

We often hear about left-wing thugs on college campuses stealing newspapers that print politically incorrect material, but usually the perpetrators are students.

In this case, it's the mayor of Berkeley. *The Daily Californian* reports



**"HERE WE ARE,
12 years after the
collapse of the Soviet
Union, and we are
still spending nearly
\$400 billion annually
on defense."**

— **Charly Reese**

"Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates has admitted responsibility for stealing and trashing about 1,000 copies of *The Daily Californian* that carried the student newspaper's endorsement of his opponent."

The university police recommended the prosecutors charge the mayor with petty theft.

— **JAMES TARANTO**

OpinionJournal.com
December 6, 2002

■ **You're killing me**

It was hard to miss. Just about every news organization in the Western world reported [in December] that french fries can kill you.

American media widely reported the Food and Drug Administration's announcement confirming earlier Swedish findings that acrylamide, which is found in french fries and other fried foods, causes cancer in rodents.

Almost no week goes by without a report on some food or environmental danger that can kill us. It is quite remarkable that any of us are alive given our exposure to secondhand smoke, asbestos, lead in paint, cellular phones and seesaws; our ingesting alcohol, sugar, fat and arsenic-laden water; and our inhaling polluted air.

Why all this fear? Why do people really believe that they will die if someone smokes in another part of the restaurant they're eating in?

[Because] there exists a huge world of health groups employing hundreds of thousands of people whose livelihoods depend on funding from people who are scared. No fears, no funds, no work.

The professionals who fight smoking [for example] not only make a good living doing so, their lives are given purpose by this fight.

For most of those who dedicate their lives to fighting tobacco, that fight takes on religious meaning. For them, fighting Big Tobacco is as important, as meaningful, and as personally sacred as fighting abortion is to Christians who fight abortion.

— **DENNIS PRAGER**

WorldNetDaily.com
December 11, 2002

■ **Food = Heroin**

[The new book] *The Hungry Gene* draws parallels between Big Tobacco and Big Food that are all the more chilling because obesity is expected to overtake tobacco as the number one public health risk factor in the United States within the next decade or two.

[Author Ellen Ruppel] Shell points to evidence that foods high in fat and refined carbohydrates are addictive, highlighting recent findings that mice weaned off a fat- and sugar-rich diet exhibit a state of anxiety similar to that seen in heroin withdrawal.

— **JAN GARDNER**

The Boston Globe
December 30, 2002

■ **Bad vibrations**

In White Oak, Texas, police pulled a woman over for a possible DUI. But they wound up charging her for something much more, um, serious.

Kathy Grubbs was found to have 17 "obscene materials and obscene devices" — in other words, a car full of dildos. She distributes the items and had just returned from showing her wares at a party for adult women.

Texas law says it's illegal to "wholesale promote" obscene devices, so Grubbs now faces two years in prison.

— **CHARLES OLIVER**

Reason.com
December 23, 2002

■ **Spy on all of us**

Among the biggest culprit in this war [on terrorism] is the USA Patriot Act, which Congress passed within weeks of the September 11 attacks. The act gave the federal government

vastly expanded powers to spy on all of us, whether or not we're suspected of any crime.

Simply by claiming that the information they're after might be relevant to a terrorism investigation, a federal agent or local law-enforcement official can get our medical and financial records, find out what books we checked out of the library and peruse our e-mail and student records.

Unlike a regular criminal case, where the government official has to show probable cause that we might have committed or are about to commit a crime, this law permits a wholesale fishing expedition.

The act also expanded the government's power to detain and deport non-U.S. citizens and to hold people whom it suspects of whatever in preventive detention.

Beyond the Patriot Act are a series of edicts issued by the Bush administration that gave the government more control over our lives. By declaring that anybody, even an American citizen, is an enemy combatant, the government may now jail that person indefinitely, without charging him with a crime, letting him see a lawyer or allowing him to come before a judge. Terror suspect Jose Padilla and accused Taliban member Yaser Esam Hamdi are the current poster boys for this policy, but it could be any of us.

We have less freedom and privacy than we had just more than a year ago, without any proof that this has increased our security in any way. The congressional committees that investigated our national intelligence system found that the problem isn't that the government needs more power to collect information about us: It's that it doesn't know how to analyze the information it already has.

— **SHERYL MCCARTHY**

The Miami Herald
December 19, 2002

■ **Bedroom police**

There are some laws that exist only because no one would ever dream of enforcing them.

Anti-sodomy statutes, which for-

bid carnal deeds that have been committed by the overwhelming majority of American adults, are a prime example. Until 1961, every state prohibited sodomy. But most people have lost interest in regulating what others do between the sheets. Today, sodomy laws exist in only 13 states.

No state actually enforces these laws the way other laws are enforced. Why? Because very few Americans see police in the bedroom as a legitimate function of government.

— **STEVE CHAPMAN**

The Baltimore Sun
December 10, 2002

■ **War is expensive**

Although it is difficult to predict how much Americans would pay for a new war with Iraq, one fact seems indisputable: It will be many times more than the cost of the last [Persian Gulf] war.

Informal estimates by congressional staff and Washington think tanks of the costs of an invasion of Iraq and a postwar occupation of the country have been in the range of \$100 billion to \$200 billion.

If the fighting is protracted, and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein blows up his country's oil fields, most economists believe the indirect costs of the war could be much greater, reverberating through the U.S. economy for many years.

— **MICHAEL DOBBS**

The Washington Post
December 1, 2002

■ **Longneck legal theory**

Two Bronx teenagers, one 4 feet 10 and the other 5 feet 6, are suing McDonald's because they weigh 170 pounds and 270 pounds, respectively. The legal theory behind their suit derives from the Garth Brooks lyric: "Longneck bottle, let go of my hand."

— **GEORGE F. WILL**, *Newsweek*

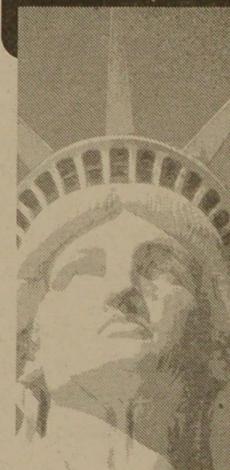
December 23, 2002

■ **Seductive socialism**

Socialism is a wonderful idea. It is only as a reality that it has been disastrous. Among people of every race, color, and creed, all around the

"The greater the obstacle, the more glory in overcoming it."

— **MOLIERE**



No doubt: The powerful Republican and Democratic parties are the great obstacle we face in creating a Constitutional government in America. We all do our part in overcoming that obstacle — as candidates, contributors, and activists. But there may be a tool you haven't considered: Naming the LP in your will or insurance policy. For a private discussion of that option, call LP Treasurer Deryl Martin at (865) 584-5192. Or e-mail: dmartin301@comcast.net

world, socialism has led to hunger in countries that used to have surplus food to export.

Its economic disasters have afflicted virtually every industry. In its Communist version, it killed far more innocent civilians in peacetime than Hitler killed in his death camps during World War II.

Nevertheless, for many of those who deal primarily in ideas, socialism remains an attractive idea — in fact, seductive. Its every failure is explained away as due to the inadequacies of particular leaders.

Human nature has been at the heart of the failures of socialism. Nowhere have people been willing to work as well for the “common good” as they do for their own benefit. Perhaps in some other galaxy there are creatures who would, but the track record of socialism among human beings on earth shows that this is not the place.

Worst of all, the concentration of political power necessary to try to reduce economic inequalities has allowed tyrants like Stalin, Mao, and Pol Pot to impose their notions and caprices on millions of others — draining them economically or slaughtering them en masse or exploiting them sexually.

Mao Zedong, for example, had harems of young girls — and occasionally boys — for his pleasure in various parts of China.

There is no point blaming the tragedies of socialism on the flaws or corruption of particular leaders. Any system which allows some people to exercise unbridled power over other people is an open invitation to abuse, whether that system is called slavery or socialism or something else.

— **THOMAS SOWELL**
The Washington Times
December 11, 2002

■ Drugs and violence

Propaganda [is] an accurate description of the federal government’s anti-drug ads, which is why the Office of National Drug Control Policy feels the need to defend them in nationwide newspaper ads.

In particular, the ad defends the proposition that drug users are accessories to “intimidation, bribery, torture and murder.” Drug money, you see, “funds terrible things.”

The problem with blaming drug buyers for violence is that the nexus between drugs and “intimidation, bribery, torture and murder” exists because the government created it. No prohibition, no black market. No black market, no black market violence and corruption.

In this light, drug czar John Walters and other supporters of the status quo bear more responsibility for “terrible things” than the average pot smoker. No wonder they’re so defensive.

— **JACOB SULLUM**
Reason.com
December 9, 2002

■ 100 times zero

George W. Bush is the first president with a master’s in business administration, and somewhere along the line he mastered the art of marketing. Judging from his handling of

national security issues, he could sell MTV to the Amish.

For the last year, the administration has used September 11 as an excuse for going to war against Iraq. But sensible or not, his pitch has worked. An October poll by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press found that 66% of Americans think Saddam Hussein played a role in the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

They believe this in spite of the fact that our intelligence agencies say there was no connection. Kenneth Pollack, a former CIA analyst whose

book, *The Threatening Storm*, makes the case for invading Iraq, is honest enough to state plainly that Saddam Hussein “was not involved in the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.”

We’re going to war regardless. But the administration figures if it offers enough reasons to go after Saddam Hussein, people won’t notice that none of them is convincing. A hundred times zero is zero in math, but in politics, nothing piled on nothing can eventually add up to something.

— **STEVE CHAPMAN**
TownHall.com
December 19, 2002

■ Deadly regulations

Despite more than 200 deaths caused by airbags over the last decade, the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration (NHTSA) continues to demand that automakers develop “smart” airbags. It expects manufacturers to include them in 35% of new cars next summer.

Companies have warned the agency that sensors, which “smart” airbags use to detect small passengers, can be fooled by children buckled in safety seats or adults who shift their weight during a collision. The sensors also don’t function well in

certain bad weather conditions.

In addition, the General Accounting Office warned NHTSA last year that the technology will not be ready by the 2003 deadline.

As Competitive Enterprise Institute General Counsel Sam Kazman has argued in the past: “The basic flaw in the air bag mandate is the notion that it’s government’s business to force us to protect ourselves. But that flaw is an ethical issue, and ethics are largely banished from today’s technocratic regulatory debates.”

— **CEI UPDATE**
November/December 2002

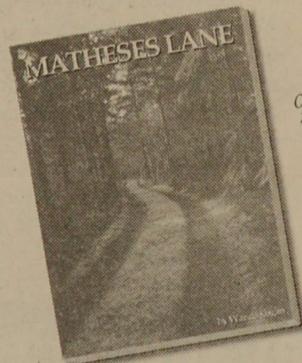
Dear Freethinker

You’ve probably heard people refer to you as “a loner” or “peculiar” just because you spend your free time as you choose — and because you choose to spend your free time with only the few persons you really like.

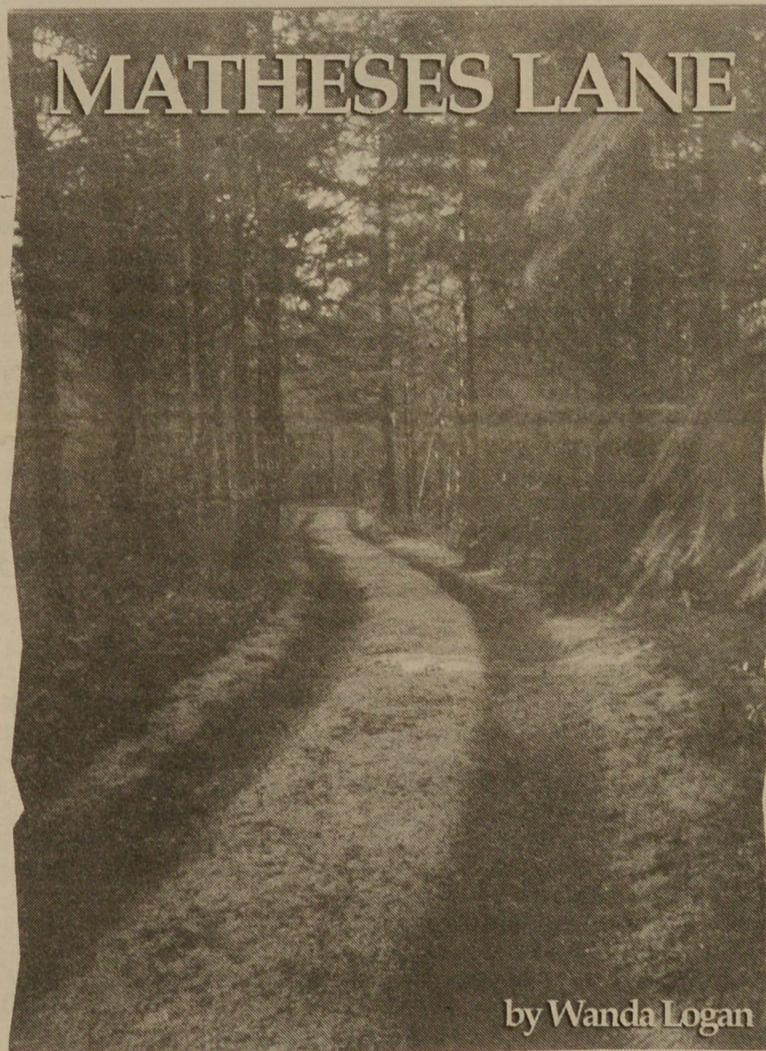
Maybe people have even called you “odd” or “weird” or “crazy” just because you find solitude and your own thoughts to be the best of all companions.

Possibly, during a mellow moment of concern for your fellow man, you have considered the unthinkable: making a public apology for your unique lifestyle.

Then, you’ll undoubtedly welcome a unique book:
MATHESES LANE
penned by Wanda Logan



offered by
The Christopher Publishing House
and bookstores everywhere



Matheses Lane is a fictional work of satire. It is both controversial and revolutionary. It exposes all so-called mental illness as nothing more than a delusive state of consciousness.

It associates the laws of genuine metaphysics with the teachings of original Christianity — the Doctrine which clarified a crucial point: “God gave man a sound mind,” as explained by an Apostle.

Matheses Lane will not leave you where it found you.

AFFILIATE NEWS

Candidate posthumously defeats sign law; Libertarian wins newspaper column contest

■ CALIFORNIA

A conspicuous LP debut on the Healthcare Board

San Mateo Libertarian **Jack Hickey** made his debut on the Sequoia Healthcare District Board in a conspicuous way: He cast the only "no" votes on two major issues and was called "reprehensible" by the board's president.

At his first meeting on December 4, Hickey voted against a \$1.35 million-per-year program for uninsured children and a \$20,000 feasibility study for a Community Wellness Center. The vote was 4-1 on each of the questions.

Hickey, who had won election in November, was immediately criticized by board President Arthur Faro, who said the Libertarian's votes were "reprehensible."

But Hickey, who also serves as the chair of the San Mateo LP, said he opposes spending tax dollars on philanthropic activities. Instead, he suggested voluntary donations to the Sequoia Hospital Foundation.

"I advocate an end to taxpayer asset expenditures for such activities," he said. "And, where legally possible and economically feasible, I advocate termination of current contracts involving such activities."

■ CALIFORNIA

Libertarian inspires bill to grant ferret amnesty

Thanks to a Libertarian, a state legislator has filed a bill to forgive folks who feloniously fancy furry friends.

Translation: State Senator Dede Alpert (D-Coronado) introduced legislation in December that would grant amnesty to owners of ferrets. The bill would legalize the small mammals if they have been neutered, registered, and vaccinated for rabies. Currently, ferrets are illegal in the state, and owners face a \$1,000 fine.

The bill was partially inspired by ferret owner **Pat Wright**, the Libertarian candidate for lieutenant governor in 2002 who focused his campaign on the issue.

In 1993, Wright founded Ferrets Anonymous, an organization that advocates ferret legalization.

"[Ferret owners] know the fear of having their homes violated and their pets destroyed," said Wright.

Alpert acknowledged that the ferret issue isn't "terribly significant" compared to the state's \$21 billion deficit, but said, "It's important to ferret owners, and it's an issue we should have final resolution on."

California and Hawaii are the only two states where ferret ownership is against the law.



There ain't no such thing as a free cookie at Miami University

■ **Brandon Turner**, vice president of the Miami University College Libertarians (MUCL) in Ohio, poses with several dozen cookies and muffins at a bake sale on November 15.

The bake sale, held at the college's Shriver Center, raised money for MUCL activities, such as outreach events. And how did the college Libertarians do in their foray into free-market capitalism?

"The bake sale was a success!" said Turner, as he proudly displayed some of the proceeds of the sale. When not catering to his fellow student's sweet teeth, Turner, a junior, is a political science major.

■ CALIFORNIA

State LP will focus on better marketing in '03

The California Libertarian Party will focus on more effective marketing to build membership in 2003, said LP State Chair **Aaron Starr**.

As a first step, the party will hire a marketing consultant "to improve our message and help us add more members," he said. "We must focus on growing the size of our membership. Growing to the next level is going to require a new level of professionalism."

In addition, the party will assemble a volunteer Sales and Marketing team made up of LP members, said Starr.

Its goal: "To figure out cost-effective methods of growing our ranks," he said.

The state LP will also offer a free communications workshop at its February 15 state convention in Ontario to teach members "how to add more members to our ranks," said Starr.

"The aim is to help [members] become better at establishing rapport with others so that they'll be more likely to hear your ideas, adopt your beliefs and join your party," he said.

■ COLORADO

Colorado Libertarians pan jail bond proposal

El Paso Libertarians have panned a plan by the county commission to build a new jail — just three weeks after local voters rejected the proposal in a referendum.

Although voters bounced the plan to construct the jail by a 2-1 margin in the November election, the five-member county commission has voted to fund it anyway, said LP Media Director **Mike Seebeck**.

The commission plans to finance the jail by forming a corporation to issue new bonds and by cutting funding for local transportation projects, said Seebeck.

The cost to taxpayers is estimated at about \$130 million.

The decision to build the jail despite opposition by the majority of local voters reflects a "complete lack of accountability," said Seebeck.

"The County Commissioners have been out of touch with the voters for a long time," he said.

"The Libertarian Party of El Paso County hopes voters remember this so-called representation in 2004. We know we will."

■ COLORADO

New anti-smoking laws echo the War on Drugs

New laws in Pueblo and Fort Collins that prohibit smoking in public are an escalation of the War on Drugs, the state LP charged.

"Prohibition has taken on a new front," said Colorado LP State Chair **John Berntson**. "It's no longer about marijuana and heroin and cocaine; now it's about Camels and Marlboros. The War on Drugs has been extended into legal [drugs like nicotine]."

In late 2002, Pueblo and Fort Collins joined Louisville, Lafayette, and Montrose and made it illegal to smoke in public — even outdoors.

But banning smoking on streets, in parks, and on sidewalks is foolish, said Berntson, since no one is harmed but the smoker.

"Smokers are being discriminated against, even though they are harming no one else," he said. "While the effects of secondhand smoke are disputable, in an outdoors setting it isn't an issue. [Is] the real reason that some people just don't like smoke? Will the next thing be banning smoking paraphernalia — such as matches, lighters, and ashtrays?"

■ CONNECTICUT

State LP works to change 'minor party' definition

Hoping to make the political process more "inclusive," Libertarians have formed a committee to lobby for a change in the state's definition of a minor party.

Currently, a minor party is one whose statewide candidates received at least 1% of the vote. Once that threshold is reached, a party's candidate for that particular office earns an automatic spot on the ballot in the next election.

The LP wants to change the law so that if a party's candidate earns at least 1%, the party will earn ballot access for its entire slate of candidates, instead of being forced to petition, said LP Secretary **Linda Rasch**.

"We all think that getting 7,500 valid signatures for each state office, as well as more than 1,700 for Congressional offices, is nearly an impossible task," she said.

The LP hopes to find a legislator to sponsor a bill during the 2003 legislative session. A similar bill was introduced in 2001, but failed to come up for a vote.

■ DELAWARE

Libertarians join group to battle smoking ban

The Delaware LP has joined a coalition of groups working to overturn the state's new anti-smoking law.

Libertarians met with other opponents of the ban at the Sheraton Hotel in Wilmington on December 15 to discuss ways to overturn or amend the law when the General Assembly returns in January.

The law banned indoor smoking in bars, restaurants, and commercial businesses as of November 27.

Since that date, bar and restaurant owners said they lost 20% to 50% of their business. One restaurant even dubbed itself a "Smokeeasy" — a private smoking club modeled on the illegal "speakeasy" bars of the Prohibition era.

Instead of passing another law,

Online Resources for LP Members

■ Find contact info for your state Libertarian Party or your State Chair
Visit: www.LP.org
Click on: Organization
Click on: State Parties
Click on: [Your state]

■ Find contact info for the National Committee
Visit: www.LP.org
Click on: Organization
Click on: National Committee
Click on: LNC Directory

■ Renew your membership
Visit: www.LP.org
See: Special Features (left side)
Click on: LP Members

Miss Liberty's Guide to Film and Video

The definitive guide to Libertarian film. A great gift!

Laissez-Faire Books ~ Amazon.com ~ MissLiberty.com

the legislature should have let the free market decide, said **George Smith**, a 2002 candidate for General Assembly (10th District).

"The fact that the legislature has the ability to do pretty much anything it wants doesn't make it right for them to stomp on the property rights of restaurant, casino, hotel, and bar owners," he said. "Let's not have the government take over yet another facet of our daily lives."

■ INDIANA

Holiday tax increase is 'outrageous,' says party

Libertarians rebuked state lawmakers for boosting the sales tax in December, charging that it hurt businesses during the holiday season.

As of December 1, the Indiana sales tax rate was raised from 5% to 6%, forcing many small businesses to make major accounting changes during their busiest time of the year, said LP Executive Director **Brad Klopfenstein**.

"You would think that the state could have waited one more month to make it a little bit easier on Indiana's overburdened small businesses," he said.

Furthermore, instead of hitting businesses with higher sales taxes, politicians should be looking to curtail the state's "outrageous spending" habits, suggested Klopfenstein.

"If politicians really want to know why small town storefronts are vacant and why educated Hoosier professionals are leaving Indiana for other opportunities, the very first place they should look is in Indiana's bloated budget," he said.

■ INDIANA

Libertarian appointed to town planning board

There's a new Libertarian in office in Indiana: **Rex Bell**, who was named to the Hagerstown Planning Commission on December 23.

Bell was appointed by the Wayne County Commission, and will represent the 2-mile area surrounding Hagerstown. His position also entitles him to serve on the town's Board of Zoning Appeals.

"One of our goals for 2002 was to put someone in the county [government] building that understood what 'private property' means," said Bell. "I guess we'll have to settle for the city building."

Bell, who serves as the Chair of the Wayne County LP, is the owner of a construction company. An LP candidate for Wayne County Council in 2002, he won 30% of the vote.

Brad Klopfenstein, Indiana LP executive director, said, "Rex will do a great job in showing the people of Hagerstown that you can have both responsible government and respect for property rights."

Hagerstown (population: 1,768) is about 60 miles east of Indianapolis.

■ INDIANA

'Energize Indiana' will harm small businesses

Libertarians have criticized a new economic plan for the state —



Mourning the Bill of Rights in Nevada

■ (Top) Members of the Nevada County Bill of Rights Defense Committee (NCBORDC) — which was cofounded by local LP member **Lance Brown** — march in support of the Bill of Rights on December 15.

(Bottom) Civil-liberties activist **Miles Everett** conducts a "funeral" for the Bill of Rights at Calanan Park in Nevada City, Nevada.

The events were part of a local campaign to raise awareness about the "grave dangers" to Americans' civil liberties in the wake of the war on terror, said **Brown**, the Chair of the Nevada County LP.

"It went really well, and we had a good turnout in spite of the rain," he said. "Last year, we were hopeful that focusing attention on the Bill and honoring it would be enough to help bring awareness to the threats it faces. This year, the threats are even more serious, and our campaign is getting more serious as a result."

The NCBORDC is a "coalition of local concerned citizens and organizations that are dedicated to creating a Civil Liberties Safe Zone in Nevada County, by acting to safeguard the essential rights of Nevada County citizens," said **Brown**.

Other NCBORDC participants include the Peace Center of Nevada County and the Nevada County Green Party.

dubbed "Energize Indiana" — saying it imposes a greater burden on businesses and will require increased government spending.

"Energize Indiana will fatigue the state's already tired economy," said LP Executive Director **Brad Klopfenstein**. "A more apt name for this small-business-killing program is Eulogize Indiana."

The plan, unveiled by Governor **Frank O'Bannon** and Lieutenant Governor **Joe Kernan** in early December, calls for the state government to "invest" tax money in businesses, dole out additional education funds, and fund new worker-training programs.

But the right way to get Indiana's sluggish economy moving again is to get the government out of the picture, and allow businesses to create jobs and provide products and ser-

vices, said Klopfenstein.

"Only government staying out of business will drive the economy," he said. "Government intervention will slam on the brakes. If enacted, the program stands to hurt Indiana's economy more than it would help."

■ NEW JERSEY

County LP urges end to 'deceitful' pension plan

Sommerset and Middlesex Libertarians are pushing for a change to a pension application that allowed a police officer to deceitfully collect over \$210,000.

On November 27, Libertarians presented a proposal to the Police and Fire Retirement System Board, shortly after New Brunswick police officer **James Consalvo** was granted a

\$37,000-per-year pension.

Consalvo fatally shot an unarmed prostitute in 1996. Although he was cleared of criminal wrongdoing, he was charged with several violations of conduct by police, and resigned.

However, he still qualified for a pension because he retired a day before the departmental hearing on the charges, said local LP Chair **Howard Schoen** — allowing him to respond with a "no" on the pension application when asked whether he was facing disciplinary charges.

Although Consalvo was technically correct in his response, Schoen urged the board to revise the question "so that more reliable information can be gained by the [pension] board in future cases."

■ NORTH CAROLINA

State LP advertises on pro motorcycle racers

The state LP has found a sporty new way to recruit new Libertarians: Sponsoring motorcycle racers.

In late September and October, the Libertarian Party name and logo were affixed to the bikes and helmets of three professional motorcycle racers. The advertisements cost about \$1,000.

The response to the Libertarian label was "absolutely amazing," said **Dave Goree**, who was one of the racers and an LP candidate for a seat on the Asheville city council in 2003.

"I gave at least 100 interested people contact information for the Libertarian Party," he said. "I think this is a great opportunity to recruit new supporters. It's surprising that no one has ever done it before."

The Libertarian-sponsored racers participated in AHRMA races in Alabama and Florida, and then in the WERA National Endurance Championship. The competitions were televised nationally on SPEED TV.

■ NORTH CAROLINA

Libertarian wins contest as newspaper columnist

The *Charlotte Observer* has a new Libertarian columnist.

He's **Danny Brooks**, a member of the Cabarrus County LP, and he will write a monthly column from a "Libertarian perspective." The column will appear the first Thursday of every month.

Brooks, a computer programmer/analyst by trade, was one of eight new columnists selected by editors in the newspaper's eighth annual Columnist Search. Over 250 would-be columnists had entered the contest.

Winning columnists were selected for their "clear writing and fresh ideas," said the newspaper.

Brooks is no stranger to the *Charlotte Observer*: A prolific letter-to-the-editor writer, he noted that had the newspaper "published everything that I've sent [in 2002, it] would have several newspapers worth of columns."

In his new column, Brooks said he will bring "Libertarian logic and good old-fashioned common sense" to local issues.

The *Charlotte Observer* has a daily circulation of about 247,000.

■ SOUTH CAROLINA

After death, Libertarian defeats sign ordinance

Even after death, former Libertarian candidate **Carl Lindenmeyer** is affecting politics in Clemson.

Lindenmeyer, who suffered a fatal heart attack in September 2002, had chided the city government in August over a campaign sign ordinance. At the time, he was running for State House (District 3).

Lindenmeyer charged that the ordinance, which prohibits putting up campaign signs more than 30 days prior to an election, violated his free speech rights. As a result, the Clemson city council voted to suspend enforcement of the provision until after the 2002 election.

In mid-December, the city planning commission approved changes that would permanently end the anti-sign regulation. The proposal will be forwarded to the city council, which is expected to vote on it in January after a public hearing.

Lindenmeyer would have been happy with the posthumous change, said **Peter Newell**, Lindenmeyer's former campaign manager.

"I think that the change is a good change," he said. "It addresses [the] concerns that [Lindenmeyer] had with the ordinance."

■ WISCONSIN

Mayor Marty Reynolds resigns after criticism

A tornado that smashed buildings and cars in the town of Ladysmith has claimed another victim: Libertarian Mayor **Marty Reynolds**.

Reynolds resigned his post after getting public criticism for comments he made about how to disperse tornado relief money.

Reynolds, who ran as the LP candidate for lieutenant governor in 2002, stepped down on December 10 after being confronted by angry citizens at a city council meeting.

"It was the ugliest night I ever faced," said Reynolds. "For an hour, I just sat there and took it."

The citizens were upset about remarks Reynolds made to the *Wisconsin State Journal*, in which he suggested giving away the nearly \$400,000 donated to the tornado relief fund to avoid "infighting" amongst town residents.

LP State Chair **Bob Collison** said it is "disappointing that Marty is no longer a Libertarian officeholder, but I understand why he resigned, and I wish him the best."

Reynolds served as Ladysmith mayor from 1986 to 1992, and again from April 2002.

The tornado, which struck on September 2, caused an estimated \$20.8 million in damage in the town.

— THE —
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THE REVIEW

A dose of Equilibrium

■ *Equilibrium*. Directed by Kurt Wimmer. Released by Dimension Films (December 6, 2002). Starring: Christian Bale, Emily Watson, Sean Bean, and Taye Diggs. (Rating: R)

Reviewed by Ari Armstrong
COLORADO FREEDOM REPORT

Forget about *Star Trek* and *Lord of the Rings*. The must-see film is Kurt Wimmer's *Equilibrium*, a dystopian mix of Bradbury, Orwell, and Huxley couched in *Matrix*-like action.

Wimmer, who wrote and directed the movie, gleans the best features of his earlier works, and ably synthesizes them with his original perspectives for a film that speaks to today's world.

Walking into the theater, I was hopeful and skeptical. Hopeful because it seemed like it might be a good anti-authoritarian yarn. Skeptical, because the film is sold as something that extols "feeling." It could have ended up as mushy-headed melodrama.

The story is set in the near future, when the state forcibly drugs the entire (legal) population in order to deaden emotions. But the point is not the simplistic one that we ought to be controlled by our feelings. Romantic philosophy is not the ideal.

Instead, the state controls the population by constantly pumping out propaganda that war and violence can be curbed only by wiping out feelings, along with art and literature.

The primary clash is between individualism and collectivism — the notion that each person is an end to him or herself, and the theory that the individual exists only to further the interests of the state. In *Equilibrium*, the side of "feelings" (the side that promotes painting, music, and literature) is the side of the sovereign individual.

The film clearly suggests that emotions — the ability to "feel" — are what make life worth living; yet they are also the source of violence and war. At some level, this is clearly true. The joy of art, the intensity of romantic love, the pleasures of a touch or the sight of a sunrise, the fascination of a great idea — these are the things we live for. "Crimes of passion" such as murder, domestic violence, and assault generally involve uncontrolled emotions.

In *Equilibrium*, murder and war among the civilian population have been wiped out. Of course, they have been replaced by state-sponsored murder and terror. Thus, the film points out the real purpose of deadening people's emotions is to perpetuate state oppression.

A head "cleric," John Preston, portrayed by an excellent Christian Bale, stops taking his drugs. He begins to experience emotions again. He begins to remember his wife, murdered for "sense" crimes. He begins to regret the fact that he shot his partner through the throat for reading Yeats. He even begins to dream about taking down the repressive regime.

The action sequences are well put together, even if they often seem fantastic. But the action shouldn't be taken too literally. The single rebel against the evil dictator in violent confrontation doesn't happen in real life, but it makes for good metaphor.

On a personal level, *Equilibrium* impacted me more deeply than any other film in recent memory. I have to think back to films like *Blade Runner* and *Ashes and Diamonds* to come up with a movie I connected with on so many levels.

True, there are a few minor plot problems, but any movie that treats ideas and symbols seriously these days is a find, and one that pulls off a serious treatment of life's most fundamental questions in the context of a gripping story is a rare jewel.

Okay, after you go see *Equilibrium* at least once, I suppose you can follow up with the clones and the Hobbits. *Equilibrium* is not the grand, sweeping saga Tolkien's books have become. But it artfully takes up the important task of assuring that art, and the freedom to pursue happiness, will still be revered in 2084.

■ **About the author:** Ari Armstrong is the publisher of the Colorado Freedom Report. An expanded version of this review originally appeared on www.co-freedom.com on December 11, 2002.



On-and-off Pennsylvania status causes LP registrations to drop

The number of registered Libertarians has fallen for the first time in a decade — but the news isn't as bad as it sounds, according to *Ballot Access News* publisher Richard Winger.

From October 2000 to October 2002, the number of registered Libertarian voters in 21 states around the United States fell from 224,713 to 208,456. That's a drop of 7.2%.

But all that shrinkage occurred when the Libertarian Party lost its legal status in Pennsylvania in 2000, which caused about 30,000 registered Libertarians to be dropped from the rolls, said Winger. That year, no state-wide Libertarian candidate won votes equal to 2% of the vote cast for the top vote-getter in the state.

It was the first time since 1988 the LP had lost its recognized status in the state.

However, the LP regained legal status in Pennsylvania in November 2002, when Ken Krawchuk won 1.15% of the vote for governor — so those voters should be reinstated as registered Libertarians, said Winger, one of the nation's leading experts on third parties.

Law is ambiguous

But the problem is that state law is ambiguous about what happens to registered voters if a political party loses, then regains, legal status, said Winger.

"This is the first time in 70 or 80 years that a party vanished, and then came back [in Pennsylvania]," he said. "So who knows [what will hap-

**"THIS IS THE FIRST
time in 80 years that
a party vanished,
and then came back
[in Pennsylvania].**

**So who knows?"
—Richard Winger**

pen]? They've never had to deal with this before."

According to a spokesperson in the state election office, it will be up to each of Pennsylvania's 67 counties to reinstate Libertarian voters in time for local elections in May 2003.

Even with the Pennsylvania-caused registration dip, the Libertarian Party still has considerably more registered voters than it had in 1994, when registration stood at 109,100.

The registered Libertarian voter base is drawn from 21 of the 27 states (including DC) that have partisan registration. Another 24 states do not have partisan registration for any political party.

The actual number of registered Libertarians is almost certainly larger than the 208,456 figure, said Winger, since five jurisdictions — Maine, Kentucky, New Hampshire, the District of Columbia, and West Virginia — allow people to write in "Libertarian" as their registration choice, but do

not collect that data, or have not released registration numbers.

In other registration news, the Green Party has passed the LP in registered voters. According to *Ballot Access News*, the Greens had 274,740 voters in October 2002 — up from only 193,332 two years previously.

Nader's campaign

That growth was fueled in part by the increased number of states where the Greens earned major and minor party status, thanks to Ralph Nader's 2000 presidential campaign.

However, in a head-to-head match-up of the 15 states where both Libertarians and Greens are allowed to register, there are more registered Libertarians in nine of those states.

Meanwhile, other third parties continue to lose voters: The Natural Law Party plunged from 85,853 registered voters in October 1996 to only 47,346 in 2002, while the Reform Party plummeted from 245,831 to only 72,556 during that same time.

Of nationally organized political parties, the LP has the fourth-largest number of registered voters in the party's name.

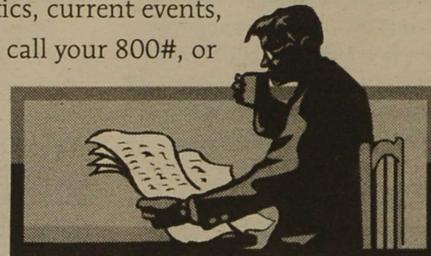
CORRECTIONS

■ In the December issue, Forum essay author Jason C. Miller was identified as Chair of Michigan's District 2 Libertarian Caucus. That organization has dissolved since Miller wrote his essay.

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LNC passes 'frugal' \$1.4 million budget for '03

Continued from Page 1

\$1.2 million from memberships, pledges, and donations in 2003, and another \$176,000 from *LP News* advertising, list rentals, and material sales.

Expected revenue figures for 2003 are based on a projected average membership level of 21,750 and an average per-member donation of \$58, said Neale.

"While we definitely intend to work on turning our membership decline around, we felt it prudent to base our budget upon conservative membership numbers," he said.

The most significant budget expenses for 2003 include:

- \$213,050 for ballot access (ap-

proximately 16% of total expenses). This includes ballot-access drives in Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, West Virginia, Arkansas, and South Dakota. Another \$5,000 is budgeted to pay for candidates' filing fees in California.

- \$325,000 for Unified Membership Plan (UMP) payments to state affiliates (23%).

- \$320,000 for national office staff salaries (23%). This represents a significant drop from 2002, said Neale.

"The largest single reduction in expenses has been in staff," he said.

"We will have to find other ways to fulfill our functions until we have returned the Libertarian Party to a



■ Geoffrey Neale: "This budget reflects my mantra of 'Get Real.'"

cash positive situation."

- \$10,400 for staff training (1%).

- \$64,000 for National Committee expenses (5%).

- \$92,520 for national office rent (7%).

- \$91,000 for national office expenses such as utilities, telephone, postage, printing, and supplies (7%).

- \$66,000 for *LP News* printing and mailing (5%).

- \$23,000 for media relations (2%).

- \$191,400 for direct-mail, pledge, and major donor fundraising costs (14%).

- \$102,225 for membership renewal mailing and processing (7%).

- \$80,000 for candidate support,

including direct funding of winnable races and candidate training seminars (6%).

- \$20,000 for early expenses for the 2004 national convention (2%).

- \$108,574 for printing and distribution of outreach materials (8%).

- \$10,000 for the party's contingency fund (1%).

Team effort

Overall, the budget is a "team effort" that reflects input from the LNC and LP members, said Neale.

"Foremost for me is the desire of the LNC to craft a lean, responsive budget," he said. "More than anything, I feel this budget reflects my campaign mantra of 'Get Real.'"

Virginia LP promotes free-market highways

Continued from Page 3

a resident of Virginia and candidate for U.S. House (District 8) in 2002, Timothy M. Wise (president, Arlington County Taxpayers Association), and James Parmelee (president, Republicans United for Tax Relief).

"The people who signed the letter came from all political persuasions and backgrounds, but they all know that a market-based solution is the cheapest and most efficient way to solve this problem," said Brian Babb, a Norfolk LP activist.

The coalition that drafted the letter came together in December, after Governor Warner challenged citizens to offer an alternate solution to the state's transportation woes.

In November, residents in Northern Virginia had defeated a referendum — on a 63%-37% vote — to raise the sales tax by one cent to pay for road construction projects.

About 30 organizations, including the state LP, had banded together to oppose that tax hike.

Work together

Many of those same groups agreed to continue to work together to "oppose any new taxes, by requiring government to prioritize their spending [and seek] innovative solutions for reducing the citizen's tax burden," said Babb.

The group's first project was to send the letter, written by Richmond attorney Patrick McSweeney, to Governor Warner.

The letter noted that there is a long history of privately and user-fee funded roads, both in the United States and around the world:

- In Virginia, the Dulles Greenway connecting Dulles Airport and Leesburg is an investor-owned road.

- In the UK, the Birmingham North Relief Road, a six-lane, 27-mile long road is currently being built by an Australian-Italian joint venture

"IT WAS REALLY motivating to see such diverse opinions come together, and choose a free-market solution."

—Brian Babb

that raised money in capital markets.

- In Australia, all the major highways built in urban areas in the last 10-15 years have been built and are operated by private enterprise.

- Italy's largest toll-road operator, Autostrade SpA, which manages half the motorways in that nation, is an investor-owned company.

"The existing highway system can be made more efficient by allowing expanded private innovation," said the letter. "Because traditional public transit solutions have proven to be too inflexible to provide a complete solution, such private undertakings are critical to addressing the mobility needs of Virginians."

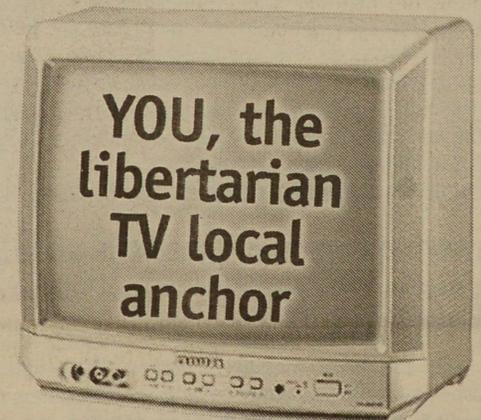
Babb said it was exciting to be involved in a project that brought together so many different groups.

"It was really motivating to see such diverse political opinions come together, and for everyone to choose a free-market solution," he said.

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THE EXPERTS

EDITOR'S NOTE: From time to time, *LP News* prints viewpoints on issues in the news from "The Experts" — public policy professionals who write for libertarian think tanks and educational organizations.

Why the United States should not attack Iraq

For months the Bush administration has been preparing the country for war with Iraq. The administration has argued that only a forcible regime change can neutralize the threat that Saddam Hussein is said to pose.

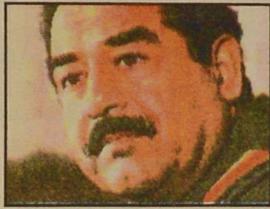
But the assumptions that underlie the administration's policy range from cautiously pessimistic to outright fallacious. First, there is a notion that Hussein is totally irrational and cannot be trusted to act in a predictable manner. [Second], many people have come to believe that war may be the only means of nullifying the threat posed by Iraq's nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons programs.

There are less costly strategies for dealing with Hussein. Hussein, while he may not act morally, is rational in the sense that economists and political scientists use the term. An examination of his past actions indicates that his principal need is to maintain his own physical and political survival. Using that knowledge, Washington can develop a strategy that would allow the United States to deter Hussein from taking actions detrimental to U.S. national security, without engaging him in warfare.

The key to neutralizing the Iraqi threat is to deter Hussein by sending a clear message [that] communicate[s] a willingness to massively retaliate in response to attacks against our homeland.

This is crucially different from President Bush's message. If Hussein believes that his political survival is being threatened, and there is nothing he can do about it, he may respond in a dangerous manner — with weapons of mass destruction.

— IVAN ELAND & BERNARD GOURLEY, Cato Institute, December 29, 2002



Answering common questions about vouchers

Question: *Would education vouchers solve all of America's education problems?*

Answer: No, but we can't "fix" education until we "fix" who makes the decisions about education. The people who make the decisions are those who control the money. Vouchers move us toward marketplace competition. The freedom to enter and exit schools must become a right of education consumers before schools will begin to reform themselves into more effective institutions of learning.

Question: *Don't vouchers mean government control of private schools? Doesn't this mean nobody will really have free-market choices?*

Answer: History does not favor this prediction. Government schools replaced private schools during the nineteenth century by claiming a monopoly on public funding, not by tempting private schools with public funding and then controlling them. The way to restore private schools is to break the government school monopoly on public funding with vouchers.

When the free market has been allowed to operate in other fields, choices spring up. Motivated people in a free society find ways to meet the needs of others — even when that means bucking the status quo. Vouchers will inspire the same variety of options in education.

— LYNN HARSH, *Intellectual Ammunition* (The Heartland Institute), November/December 2002

Unregulated mobs and the Second Amendment

On December 6, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld California's ban on "assault rifles" on the ground that only state organizations, and not private citizens, have the right to keep and bear arms. The Court ruled that the Second Amendment did not apply to "an 'unregulated' mob of armed individuals."

The Second Amendment was written precisely to protect what the court refers to as an "unregulated mob." In the early days of the American Revolution, private individuals defied their lawful government by forming armed, private militias to oppose the king's troops.

The Second Amendment was never about hunting or self-defense; these were merely the added benefits an armed society would enjoy. The Founding Fathers saw an armed people as the surest way of preventing the usurpation of individual rights and the enslavement of free men — by an appeal to arms if necessary.

May the fallen men of that "unregulated mob" of colonial militiamen who died on Lexington Green in the early morning hours of April 19, 1775, rest well in their graves, for the members of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, with their holding, have spit on the Constitution that their countrymen ultimately brought into existence.

— SCOTT MCPHERSON, The Future of Freedom Foundation, December 12, 2002

80-year-old is country's oldest elected Libertarian officeholder

By Jonathan Trager
LP NEWS STAFF WRITER

Eighty-year-old Parke Boneysteele can't stop running — for office, that is.

Boneysteele has been a candidate for a seat on the Central Costa Sanitary District in California since 1966, winning more than a half-dozen terms on the non-partisan body.

And in November 2002, Boneysteele was re-elected to his post, making him the oldest elected Libertarian in America.

"I feel good about being able to serve my community, even if it is only in a small way," he said. "I feel like I am making a positive contribution."

Born in Reno, Nevada and raised in several different cities due to his traveling father, Boneysteele joined the military during World War II and was awarded a Purple Heart.

Prior to being sent off to Germany, where he finished his service with the 13th Armored Division, Boneysteele said he was made to guard Japanese-American families at the Tule Lake Internment Camp in California.

More sensitive

The experience made him more sensitive about the importance of civil rights, said Boneysteele.

"I was very young, and I sat up in a tower with a firearm and looked out over the camp, which was enclosed by a barbed-wire fence," he said. "Seeing individuals locked up like that without any due process of law does help one become a Libertarian."

After he was discharged, Boneysteele went to work for the



■ Central Costa Sanitary District (CA) member Parke Boneysteele: "I feel good about being able to serve my community, even if it is only in a small way. I feel I am making a positive contribution."

California Public Utilities Commission (PUC), where he stayed for over 30 years. His long tenure at the PUC made him knowledgeable about government bureaucracy.

"Serving on the sanitation board is pretty natural for me, given my background," said Boneysteele. "I had learned a lot about local resource management and was able to bring a lot to the table."

Politically, Boneysteele cast his first ballot for a Democrat in 1944, but became a Republican in the

1960s. In the 1990s, he decided to "do the right thing" and joined the Libertarian Party.

Boneysteele does not consider himself a "doctrinaire Libertarian," believing that some of the party's positions — such as its stance on guns and drugs — seems "too radical."

Nevertheless, Boneysteele said the LP represents his views better than either of the two major parties.

"I just cringe"

"I especially like the libertarian belief of staying out of other countries' business," he said. "Whenever I hear people talk about how America has an obligation to lead the world, I just cringe."

As one of the five members of the sanitation board, Boneysteele crafts sewage and water policy for the roughly 500,000 people in the East Bay area.

He and his colleagues have made the agency into one of the best in the country, said Boneysteele.

"We have received a lot of awards from a lot of different associations," he said. "We have very competent people doing good work on the commission."

Boneysteele, who is married and has one grown son, says he wouldn't run for office every four years if he didn't enjoy it.

However, the octogenarian is non-committal about what his political future holds.

"Eventually Father Time gets you, and you can't keep doing what you're doing," he said. "But who knows? I would never want to promise that I'm not going to run for office again."

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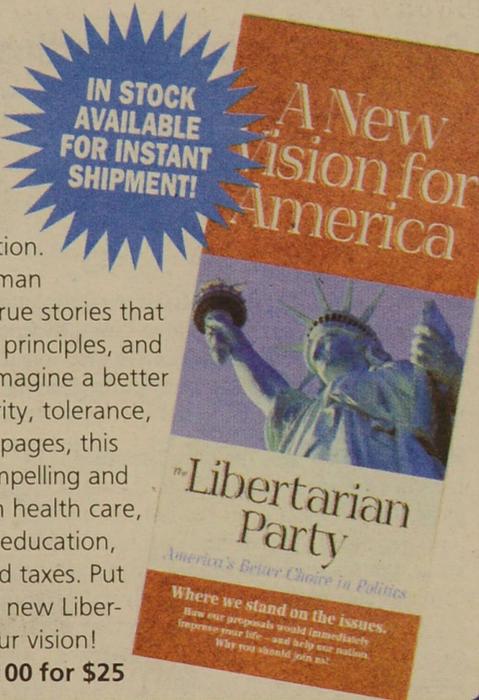
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POLITICS 2003

Ruling cyberspace and setting records

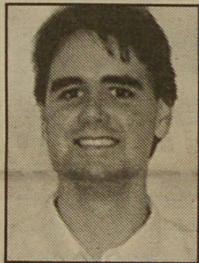
■ In Wisconsin, **Jeremy Keil** has been hired as the new Executive Director for the state LP. In New Mexico, **Ken Sanders** was appointed chairman of the newly formed Roosevelt County LP. In Maryland, **Amy Triplett** was elected president of the Towson College Libertarians (Baltimore). In Washington state, **Candy Gamache** has taken over a Chair of the Okanogan County LP. In Illinois, **Jeff Trigg** has been named interim executive director of the state LP.

■ In Minnesota, **Charles Aldrich** is running for a special election for State Representative. In Indiana, **Cindy Kirkpatrick** has announced that she will seek the LP nomination for mayor of Indianapolis. In Texas, **Larry Johnson** will compete in a special election for U.S. House (District 19).

■ **Non-profit news:** The **Cato Institute** is the most popular think tank in cyberspace, according to the Alexa rating service, which tracks daily website visits. Over the last few months, the Cato site (www.cato.org) generated more visitors than such stalwarts as the Heritage Foundation, the American Enterprise Institute, or the Brookings Institute. Cato was also named the "Best Advocacy Website" by the Web Marketing Association — "more evidence that while libertarians don't hold sway in Washington, they rule cyberspace," said the *Washington Post*. **Louis James** has been appointed to the Board of Directors for the **International Society for Individual Liberty (ISIL)**. Also, ISIL awarded its annual Freedom Torch Award to **Manuel "Muso" Ayua**, the founder of the free-market Francisco Marroquin University in Guatemala.

■ In Nevada, **Jeffrey A. Katz** was appointed Alternate Member of the Nevada Test Site Citizen Advisory Board. In Washington state, **Kelly Haughton** was elected to the executive committee of the Economic Development Board of Tacoma/Pierce County.

■ In Washington, DC, **Marc Brandl** resigned as Campus Outreach Coordinator for the national LP, effective January 31. "I plan to stay involved in Libertarian Party politics and the libertarian movement," said Brandl. "I'd like to do campaign work and start some pet projects." In Michigan, **Fred Collins**, **Dick** and **Rae Jozwlak**, and **Paul Soyk** were honored with the state LP's Defenders of Liberty awards for 2002. Also in Michigan, Libertarians mourned the death of 2000 Defender of Liberty award winner **Bill Shotey**, 70, who passed away on November 20.



■ **Marc Brandl** Leaving LPHQ.

■ **Final Election 2002 notes:** In Washington state, Skamania County sheriff candidate **Jim Richardson** won 41.21% of the vote — a new state record for a Libertarian candidate in a partisan race. In Vermont, **Clement Gaboriault** was elected as justice of the peace in Bridport, pushing to 43 the number of Libertarians elected on November 5, 2002. According to the gay rights organization, **Human Rights Campaign**, 4.1% of gay and lesbian voters consistently support Libertarian candidates. By contrast, 71% vote Democratic, 19% vote Republican, and 2.7% vote Green. Those numbers come from a November poll conducted by Zogby International. In Oregon, the *Oregonian* paid tribute to Libertarian State House (District 34) candidate **Kevin Schaumleffle** for the best campaign slogan of 2002: "Not a Republican. Not a Democrat. Not even a lawyer!"

■ **Miscellaneous:** The Libertarian Party will be listed on **Pearson Education's** website, as an accompaniment to the publishing company's history and political science textbooks, including *American Government* (O'Connor/Sabato) and *Government in America* (Edwards/Wattenberg). **Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership** is producing a documentary that explores the relationship between genocide and gun control. It will be entitled *Innocents Betrayed*, according to **Jon Osborne**, the author of *Miss Liberty's Guide to Film and Video*.

■ In South Dakota, **William Stone, III** announced he will seek the LP nomination for U.S. Senate in 2004. In Wisconsin, three incumbent Libertarian officials will defend their seats in Spring races: **John Kirchberg** (Calamus Town Board), **Patricia Stanislawski** (Dexter Town Board), and **Bob Bowman** (Cross Plains Village Trustee). Also in Wisconsin, Menasha Town Assessor **Drew Heiden** is running for a seat on the Menasha School Board and **Roy Leyendecker** is seeking a seat on the Brown County Executive Board.

■ **Miscellaneous:** Libertarian National Committee member **Joe Dehn** is compiling a library of Libertarian campaign tools. He's looking for ready-to-use materials, customizable materials, and "good examples" of campaign material such as brochures, signs, posters, radio ads, and speeches. E-mail him at: jwd3@dehnbase.org. Or call: (650) 858-1842.

CAMPAIGN 2003 REPORT

Jim Syler counts on college vote in Carbondale, Ill. city council race

LP candidate focuses on personal freedoms and low-tax message

By **Jonathan Trager**
LP NEWS STAFF WRITER

Jim Syler, 39, is going back to school.

But Syler isn't going to Southern Illinois University (SIU) as a student. He's going to the campus to campaign as a candidate for a seat on the Carbondale city council in April 2003.

With the university's 23,000 students making up slightly more than half of the total population of the town, Syler said courting the student vote in his bid for a seat on the non-partisan council is crucial to getting elected.

"There has been a lot of student animosity toward the local government in recent years," he said. "I'm marketing myself as the candidate who is in tune with the feelings and the desires of the students. I want to improve student/government relations."

Over the years, SIU has earned a reputation as one of the nation's enthusiastic party schools. The school makes *Playboy* magazine's "Top 10 Party Schools in America" list every year, noted Syler.

But recently, he said that local government officials have sought to change the school's fun-loving image by curtailing the freedom of the students.

Undermines trust

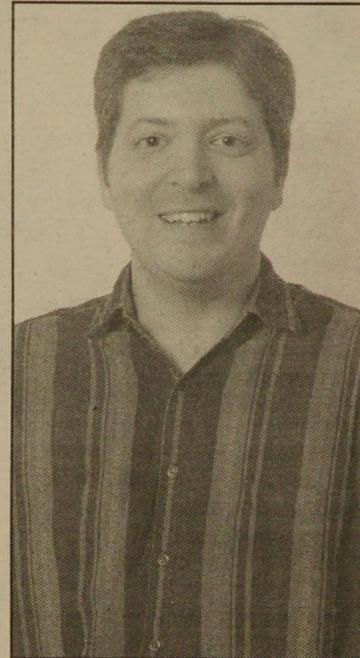
For example, Syler said he wants to repeal an "encroachments ordinance" that targets students who peacefully hang around outside of bars and restaurants. Such selectively enforced laws "weaken the authority of all other laws, and undermine trust in government," said Syler.

"The encroachment ordinance is of dubious Constitutionality and is certainly contrary to American traditions," he said.

Another student issue Syler plans to tackle: Harassment by the local police. But while an idea has been floated to create a "Human Rights Commission" to review such accusations, Syler said adding more layers of government is unnecessary.

"There always needs to be an avenue for citizens to register complaints about their treatment by the police, or any governmental agency, and have serious complaints investigated," he said. "However, I feel that the city council should act in that role."

Syler also said he strongly opposes a proposal to zone high-density student apartments out of a certain area



■ **Jim Syler: "I'm marketing myself as the candidate who is in tune with the feelings of the students. I want to improve student/government relations."**

— an idea supported by local residents who charge that the students are too noisy and dirty.

"Enforcing existing noise and litter laws should be enough to take care of that problem," said Syler. "The government shouldn't use zoning power to force students out of a particular area."

CARBONDALE'S
encroachment law
"is of dubious
Constitutionality
and is contrary to
American traditions."

— **Jim Syler**

In addition to standing up for students' rights, Syler said he wants to eliminate or significantly reduce taxes and regulations on local businesses that destroy jobs.

"It's time the council had a member who was dedicated to speeding up a sluggish economy," he said. "If I'm elected, I will promote job growth by reducing the government burden on Carbondale's small businesses."

To gain a two-year term on the six-member council, Syler is actively seeking endorsements from local organizations and newspapers, including two weeklies and a daily in the area.

"Getting endorsements from local publications is a major part of my campaign strategy," he said. "Some of the local newspapers lean to the left a bit, but I think it's more out of a concern for civil liberty than out of a desire for higher taxes."

Original outreach

The Libertarian has also developed an original outreach idea: A "candidate's views" newsletter. Syler said he plans to approach other candidates about splitting the cost of such a piece, which would present a message of equal length from each candidate and would appear as an insert in local newspapers.

And of course, Syler will put up yard signs, and go door-to-door meeting voters before the primary election on February 25. In that election, the current field of 18 candidates will be whittled down to eight, who will then compete for four open seats on the board.

Although Syler said he is facing some tough competition from a few other "free-thinking, progressive" candidates in the race, he said he is confident that he will triumph in the non-partisan election.

Six years ago, he noted, three pro-student candidates were on the ballot, and the students voted in "unheard-of numbers." All three candidates were eventually elected to the council.

"If the student population can be made interested in the race, they can make or break the elections," said Syler.

"My hope is that my low-tax message will appeal to long-term residents of Carbondale, while my positions on personal freedom and student relations will attract the student vote."

Joined after attacks

Syler joined the LP shortly after the September 11 terrorist attacks, and became Chair of the Southern Illinois Libertarians in October 2002. Professionally, he is a network administrator and website designer who works for the southern Illinoisan newspaper.

For more information, or to make a contribution, e-mail: calion@mac.com. Or write: Jim Syler, 2461 South Illinois Avenue, #92, Carbondale, IL 62903.

THE VOLUNTEER

How to be an effective lobbyist for liberty in your state capitol

You've made the decision to do some lobbying on behalf of liberty at the state capitol. Here are a few tips to make your road a bit smoother....

Before you go to the Capitol

Have a plan that's simple and focused. Pick one bill to follow, or one issue to promote, or one committee that deals with your issue, or one legislator who is working on your issue.

If your state requires lobbyists to register (usually based on hours and money spent in a set period of time), do so, even if you won't meet the minimum amounts. Your name and organization will be listed on a website that is accessed by people constantly. This is free advertising.

Keep in mind the warning by Herr Bismarck about observing sausage-making and lawmaking. What you are about to witness will be difficult for your libertarian eyes and ears. You will need to be well rested, well fed and in good physical and mental condition.

Have the right attitude. Legislators want and need your input on what they are doing. Your job as a Lobbyist for Liberty is to educate, inform and do public relations for freedom and your state party. Do your best to represent them well.

During your time at the Capitol

Wearing corporate garb will serve as "protective camouflage" as you mingle with the politicians, legislative staffers and government bureaucrats. However, don't rush out and spend a lot of money on a new wardrobe. If the choice is between looking good and doing good, select the latter.

Wear a libertarian button or other device that identifies you with the Libertarian Party. This will be seen everywhere you go (elevators, offices, hallways) and will often initiate a conversation.

Be prepared to promote the philosophy of freedom on a moment's notice. This means having a business card, preferably with your photo, and a supply of pamphlets with party contact information on them (name, address, telephone number, website, e-mail).

Always carry copies of the U.S. and your state constitutions as well as current versions of the state and national party platforms for reference when you are in debate mode. Remind legislators that their oath of office has them swear/affirm to support those constitutions.

Make appointments with legislators, starting with the senator and representative from your own district. Get to their office early. Make your

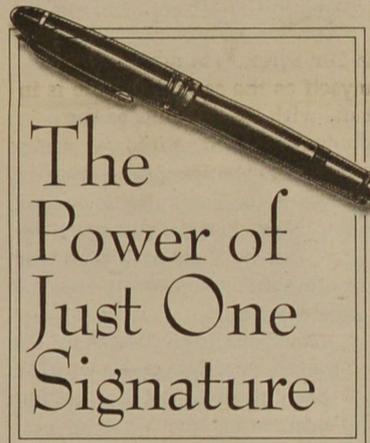
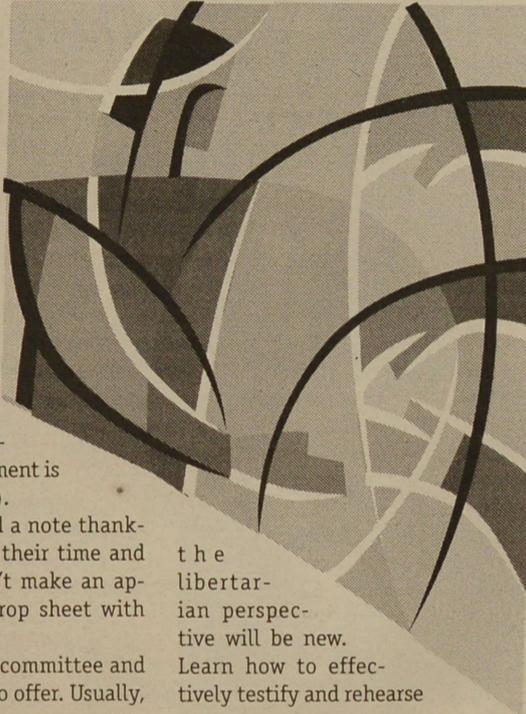
By Edward E. Ness

points regarding the bill or issue concisely using well-reasoned arguments with verifiable facts and sources. Then place a printed version of what you just said in the legislator's hands with added details and contact information. (This document is called a "drop sheet").

The next day, send a note thanking the legislator for their time and attention. If you can't make an appointment, leave a drop sheet with the assistant.

Testify before a committee and have something new to offer. Usually,

the libertarian perspective will be new. Learn how to effectively testify and rehearse



Do you think our government has gotten too big and too powerful? Do you think a maze of bureaucrats and politicians are chipping away at the freedoms Americans used to take for granted? Do you think the Bill of Rights is being silently repealed — one precious freedom at a time?

If so, you can help change that by joining the Libertarian Party! We're the only political party that is fighting — with 100% of our energy — to lower taxes, to reduce the size of government, and to defend the Bill of Rights. With your support — and your proud signature on this membership form — we can work harder than ever to build a powerful political force for freedom.

But we need your help to do it. Join us today!

your presentation so you won't have to simply read it.

Have a handout of your testimony and distribute it after you are finished speaking. Otherwise, the legislators will be "reading ahead" or not listening because they know they can read it later. You want to be able to make eye contact with each of them while you are speaking.

Use magic words often. "Please." "Thank you." Be patient, polite, and understanding. Smile. It doesn't cost anything to be nice, and you will be remembered favorably, which may bring dividends in your efforts later on.

The state capitol is a meeting place for citizens, organizations, lobbyists, and media (print, radio, television). You are on very rich ground in which to sow seeds of liberty. Interact with all these groups as much as possible. Learn from the professional lobbyists. Attend press conferences. Write your own press releases. Get to know the reporters; they may do a story on your activities!

Levels of contact arranged in order of the most effective to the least effective: Personal visit, letter (handwritten is best, never fill-in-the-blank postcards), telephone call, e-mail.

After your time at the Capitol

Share what you've learned for use by future lobbyists.

Write articles for your state party newsletter/website, local newspapers,

and other periodicals. Include photos: Lobbyist for Liberty with the Governor, Lobbyist for Liberty testifying... Write letters to the editor, call talk radio programs, give a report on what you've seen.

Promote what you're doing to get other people involved, even if it's only for a few hours per legislative session. Use video to make a presentation to your party organization or for use on a cable access program.

Write a report on what you've learned and how to do better next time.

You will learn your own methods and techniques to add to the above list. Learn as much as you can as quickly as you can. The more knowledge you have and can apply, the more effective you'll be.

Generate and maintain a sense of humor; sometimes that's all we'll have in the legislative arena. Have some fun!

Above all, remember that these people are public servants; they are working for you, financed by taxpayers. Be polite and respectful, but not overly deferential.

Good luck to you, Lobbyist for Liberty, as you go about the business of promoting freedom!

About the author: Edward E. Ness is a "Lobbyist for Liberty" for the Minnesota LP. An expanded version of this article is available at the Minnesota LP's website: www.lpmn.org.

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THE FORUM

Action against Iraq: Yes or No?

In a dangerous world, we need to rethink non-interventionism

To a great extent, the Libertarian Party advocates a non-interventionist policy in the affairs of other nations. There are a significant number of libertarians who believe that only a direct attack or an imminent attack from a foreign enemy can justify our use of the military to defend our country.

And even under those conditions there are a few libertarians who would object to a military response. They would instead rationalize that it must have been our country's fault in the first place, or that non-violence takes precedence over self-defense.

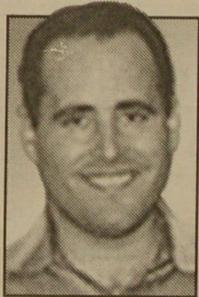
Perhaps it's time to revisit this.

The risk increases

Technology is making weapons of mass destruction both cheaper to produce and easier to transport. As this trend continues, the risk of a country — or its terrorist agents — being able to harm us increases.

Certainly, there is much we can do to decrease the risk of being attacked by other nations.

A non-interventionist policy is less likely to create enemies around the world. Free trade increases the interdependence of one country on the success of another. Nineteenth century French economist Frederic Bastiat once wrote: "When goods don't cross borders, soldiers will."



By Aaron Starr

Eliminating the "war on drugs" will eradicate the huge profits that terrorist groups and terrorist nations reap from the monopolistic prices that "war" creates.

Reducing our nation's tax burden forces other nations to do the same, decreasing their capacity to build weapons of war. And the wealthy society that America creates with a low tax burden causes others to want to emulate our way of life.

Opening up the Arctic to oil drilling will increase the supply of oil and reduce its price, squeezing the budgets of the socialist oil-rich kingdom that fund terrorist groups.

But while decreasing the risk of war and terrorism is possible, eliminating it is not. Utopia, unfortunately, is not an option.

We're already familiar with how many in this country are infected by envy. The envious people amongst us seek to punish or even destroy those who produce the most and reap the rewards of industry. And the politicians these people elect enthusiastically serve their cause.

It's naive to believe that people in other nations do not hold similar views. They blame the West for their own failings and the United States, in particular, for representing the epitome of Western Civilization. Militant Islam preaches hatred and destruction of infidels. And as long as mothers hate us more than they love their own children, some teenagers and young people will strap explosives to their bodies and detonate them to kill the targets of their ire.

In the past we could largely ignore them because our own wealth protected us from any threat they could pose. In the long run, free countries with free economies outgrow socialist tyrannies. But soon weapons of mass destruction will be affordable to tyrants who may think very little of giving these weapons to terrorists who share a common goal and whose actions are not traceable to their nation supporters.

We know that some terrorists are willing to fly a plane into a building. What makes us believe that some wouldn't set off a nuclear device in New York Harbor?

We need a policy that stays true to our principles and yet is workable in today's world.

No longer adequate

Limiting ourselves to absorbing an initial attack before we can take action against another nation is no longer adequate. We need a policy that recognizes our moral right to wage war against any group or nation whose goal is to destroy us or to facilitate our destruction, under circumstances in which we can reasonably conclude that they have or are in the process of acquiring the weapons to achieve that goal.

We cannot assume that non-interventionism is all that's needed to avoid conflict. There are other groups, cultures, and nations that do not share even slightly the Libertarian



There are no legitimate military reasons for the U.S. to attack Iraq

The signals coming out of Washington about the impending war against Iraq are ominous. This is not only because it would be an unprovoked and undeclared war against a nation that has not attacked us, but also because of the new reasons being offered.

The Bush administration tried its best to pin 9/11 and the subsequent anthrax mailings on Iraq. The effort failed dismally. You can be sure that if there had been evidence, we'd have heard about it.

Then the ground shifted to weapons of mass destruction. The scary word "nuclear" has been dropped here and there, but, again, no one has produced any evidence. Likewise for chemical and biological agents.

Where's the proof?

What's my proof for saying this? It's in the newspapers every day — in the words uttered by Bush, Blair, Rumsfeld, Cheney, and Powell. Sometimes they seem to think that no one really listens to what they say.

Well, let's listen. Tony Blair: "We haven't the faintest idea what has been going on in the last four years other than what we know is an attempt to carry on rebuilding weapons. The details of it is something that the Iraqi regime should be forced to disclose." That almost sounds as if Blair is saying something. But look more closely and you'll see he's not.

President Bush, referring to a four-year-old report that Saddam wished to have nuclear missiles: "I do not know what more evidence we need." That moment of candor strikes a resoundingly different chord from the professions of certainty that have poured from the lips of the president and vice president lately.

Richard Haass, State Department director of policy: "We don't know exactly the true dimension of the threat." Could the dimensions be so small that the word "threat" is inapt?

Saddam Hussein is not a nice man, and he may well be working on acquiring such weapons. But no one can say that he has them now.

So the grounds for war are weak. The administration seems to sense that. Besides, it's hard to miss the breaking of ranks. Among the rank-breakers are Brent Scowcroft, national

security adviser to the first President Bush, and Dick Armey, the Republican House majority leader. As a result, we're now hearing a really bad reason to go to war: to protect the president's credibility.

James R. Schlesinger, a key advisor in the Defense Department, said recently that "given all we have said as a leading world power about the necessity of regime change in Iraq ... our credibility would be badly damaged if that regime change did not take place."

An even more senior advisor to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, Richard Perle, told the *New York Times*, "The failure to take on Saddam after what the president said would produce such a collapse of confidence in the president that it would set back the war on terrorism."



By Sheldon Richman

So now it's about keeping the president from looking bad. Well maybe Mr. Bush should have thought of that before he took his belligerent tone. We have a Constitution in this country. Mr. Bush took an oath to "preserve, protect, and defend" it, and that means more than ensuring that the National Archives building isn't attacked. He's supposed to also abide by the Constitution.

Paper tiger

I've read the brief Constitution, and I cannot find anything to suggest that a president may go to war on his own decision in order to keep from looking like a blustering paper tiger. Maybe that's where "living Constitution" thinking takes you, but I don't see it.

It is clear that Mr. Bush has no intention of asking Congress for a formal declaration of war. No president has asked for a declaration since FDR and World War II, but that hasn't stopped the United States from getting into several wars since then. To ask for a declaration now would set a precedent, and the last thing the powers that be want is a precedent limiting the unconstitutionally assumed war powers of the presidency.

One thing Mr. Bush has going for

■ **About the author:** Aaron Starr is the State Chair of the California LP. The views in this essay are his personal opinions, and are not an official statement as State Chair.

Dealing with ignorance about Libertarianism

I've often had the chance to discuss my Libertarian beliefs with those who know little or nothing about our party or what we stand for.

People who are ignorant of any cause will seldom give that cause the benefit of doubt. While knowing hardly anything about us, these people have already concluded that we are extremist (left-wing or right-wing) crackpots or anarchists who hate the government and, by extension, the United States of America.

I've also had several people tell me that they believe Lyndon LaRouche is the flag-bearer of our party.

Be patient

How do we respond to this nonsense? My approach is to be patient and not argue too forcefully. I realize that I can't convince a person all at once, but by expressing myself carefully and persuasively, I can perhaps plant a seed for thought in their mind.

I'll pick on a point or two and give

examples of the Libertarian perspective on that topic. If the

person seems to be liberal, I'll use examples like the war on drugs and the abortion issue. If the person seems conservative, then I'll use welfare, gun laws, and high taxes.

I'll look for a few things that the person can agree with me on, but then of course I'll let them know that Libertarians favor smaller government on each and every issue.

Does this mean that we hate the government? No! I feel strongly that any Libertarian who makes such a claim is doing our cause a disservice. In fact, we love our system of government as established by our founding fathers — each and every one of whom was a Libertarian at heart. We love America and we care deeply about the kind of government we have. That's why we strive to make it better.

We are by far the most patriotic party because we are the only party

By Brian Chapman

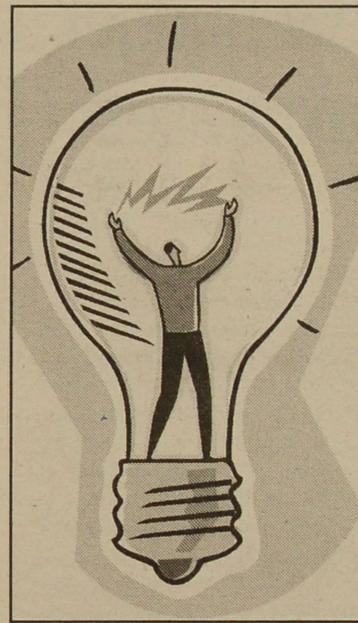
that adheres to the principals set forth in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. We are the people who are not led like sheep by bureaucrats and politicians. We are the people who understand our history and keep to the noble ideals that America was founded upon.

Is being a proud, flag-waving American who adheres to these noble ideas extreme? Does that make us nuts? Hardly. If anything is nutty it's that we've strayed so far from what has made us great and set us apart ... and that we are in danger of straying further.

Just laws

We are neither extreme left nor extreme right. Nor are we anarchists. We believe in the need for just laws, and we obey the laws of our land (even the bad ones). We are middle America, who always has and always will favor small government.

And we are not in any way associated with Lyndon LaRouche or any other crackpot. I have had to set several folks straight on that, including



a man with a master's degree in chemical engineering.

In many cases, the most you can do is gently but firmly dispel these myths that many people still believe, and give them a little basic back-

ground on what we're all about. Never press too hard. After an initial discussion, it's better to let them raise the subject again, if they're so inclined.

Then if they want to know more about us, it is a good idea to give them some introductory reading and let them take the World's Smallest Political Quiz.

In addition to our standard primers (such as *The Libertarian Reader* and *Libertarianism: A Primer* by David Boaz and *Why Government Doesn't Work* and *The Great Libertarian Offer* by Harry Browne), I have found two books by Richard Maybury to be highly informative, *Whatever Happened to Justice?* and *Are You Liberal, Conservative or Confused?* These two books led me and several of my family and friends to discover Libertarianism.

■ **About the author:** Brian Chapman is an LP member in Massachusetts. This essay reprinted from the November/December issue of Massachusetts Liberty.

Farewell thoughts: What I learned at the national office

This is my last issue as the staff writer for *LP News*. I am extremely grateful for having had the opportunity to work for the national Libertarian Party, an organization that strives to create a freer America.

While an employee at the party's headquarters in Washington, DC, I observed things that other Libertarians haven't. As a result, I believe several key changes are necessary to make the party more successful.

Here are my parting suggestions for LP leaders:

■ **Minimize infighting.** In any ideological organization, there's bound to be some discord amongst members. Arguments over strategy. Conflicts of personality. Feelings of disdain for certain other people in the group.

I was prepared for this before I started working at the LP. Nevertheless, I was surprised to discover the amount of petty bickering in the party, and the ease with which some Libertarians ascribe bad motives to other Libertarians with whom they disagree.

One charge that's particularly disturbing is that there is a conflict of interest between the small group of people in the "party hierarchy" and the party's grassroots activists. Most

of those who perpetuate this "us vs. them" mentality appear to be more interested in dividing the party into factions than in creating a unified force for freedom.

I'm not naive enough to believe that infighting within the Libertarian Party will ever disappear. However, I am optimistic that party leaders will be wise enough to ignore (and denounce when appropriate) those Libertarians who seem to prefer fighting other Libertarians instead of Republicans and Democrats.

■ **Recruit quality candidates.** The Libertarian Party currently focuses on recruiting as many candidates for public office as possible — with little concern about how well a particular candidate will represent the organization to the public. This focus of quantity over quality does not serve the party well.

Once, I received a published U.S. House candidate questionnaire from the national LP newspaper clipping service. One of the questions asked whether the federal budget deficit should be reduced by rescinding tax cuts or by cutting spending. The Libertarian in this race said the former (this was not the only time I came across this kind of response).

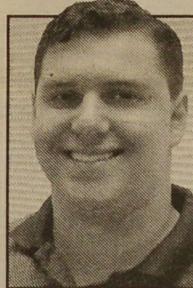
The fact is that this is the Libertarian Party — not the "Anyone Other Than Democrats Or Republicans Party." Its purpose is to run Libertarians for public office — not merely to run candidates who aren't part of the reigning political establishment.

Of course, Libertarians don't agree with each other on every political issue. But endorsing candidates who don't support a sharp reduction in the

size and scope of government makes the party guilty of false advertising — and it blurs any distinction between pro-freedom Libertarians and pro-government Democrats and Republicans.

And the need for quality-control of candidates goes beyond ideology. In some cases, the LP has run candidates for major offices who lack any public communication skills, are bizarre in appearance, or are flat-out insane.

It may be impossible to prevent every bad candidate from running for office as a Libertarian, but it's critical for posts like governor or Con-



By Jonathan Trager

gress. Selling skeptical voters on our unconventional message is tough enough without our top messengers giving people the impression that the LP is a cult of oddballs.

■ **Grow the party.** Many Libertarian candidates running for important offices contact the national headquarters during campaign season to ask for "help" (money). What they don't seem to realize, however, is that the LP is currently unable to make a significant contribution to their campaigns.

The Libertarian Party is the third largest party in America, but it's still tiny compared to our two major competitors. With a total membership of less than 25,000 and annual revenues of just a couple of million dollars, the organization can't afford to pour money into candidates as the Democratic and Republican committees routinely do.

Furthermore, the party has expe-

rienced a shocking amount of attrition over the past couple of years, losing almost one-third of its dues-paying membership. This fact should concern all Libertarians greatly, as members are what keeps the organization alive and functioning.

If Libertarians want our candidates to have the resources that they need to be competitive, there's only one way to make it happen: The Libertarian Party must gain many new party members, donors, and activists. The party must get bigger — a lot bigger.

That's why LP officers — on every level — should focus on growing the party during their terms.

And that's why candidates for high-profile offices such as governor, U.S. Senator, or U.S. President should focus on recruiting new LP supporters during their campaigns. Party growth must be our top priority if Libertarians want to be taken seriously.

If the Libertarian Party takes these steps, I believe it will be much closer to turning the dream of a libertarian America into a reality.

■ **About the author:** Jon Trager was the LP News staff writer at the Libertarian Party's Washington, DC office from March 2001 to December 2002.

No reason to attack Iraq

Continued from Page 16

him is that the public and most members of Congress don't care. (Do they even know that the war power is reserved to Congress?) If they did care, perhaps Mr. Bush would give them the same consideration he gives his friends who run other countries.

But don't worry. Mr. Bush at least thinks he'll owe the American people an explanation for why going to war is necessary. According to the Associated Press, he intends to give them

one — right after he launches the attack.

A society is justified in going to war only when its survival is threatened. That is clearly not the case here. Mr. Bush's coming war is therefore unjustified.

■ **About the author:** Sheldon Richman is senior fellow at the Fairfax, Virginia-based Future of Freedom Foundation, and editor of Ideas on Liberty magazine.

Beginner's Introduction

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— KEN SCHOOLAND

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THE CHAIR

Building a new budget and cutting expenses

Please excuse the football analogy, but the season is over, and it's time to get ready for the next one. Now is the time to check the equipment, examine the playbook, establish the training regimen, and get ready for next season. The 2004 election cycle is just around the corner, and we've got lots to do.

Back in November, the LNC Executive Committee met in Chicago to develop the 2003 budget. Joining me were Vice Chair Ken Bisson, Treasurer Deryl Martin, Secretary Steve Givot, At-Large member Michael Dixon, and Regional Representatives Mark Cenci and Mark Nelson. We decided that now is the time to embark on a different kind of budget.

Prior budgets tended to be quite "hopeful." We would estimate costs for all of the things we wanted to do, and try to determine where we'd get the money to do them. Sometimes the process worked well, and revenues were realized according to plan. Sometimes the process failed miserably, and revenues fell far short of budget.

What we developed was an extremely conservative budget designed to only cover what we considered the "core" functions of the LP. We planned on revenues that we felt we could reasonably support based upon historical performance. We based expenses upon actual levels. We built the budget around membership numbers that continue to decline. We did not count on any major donor giving.

It's not that we wanted to be pessimistic: we wanted a budget with only good surprises. We wanted a budget designed to be met and exceeded. It looks like our revenue estimates for 2002 will be short by in excess of \$1 million. We do *not* want any more underperformances like this.

Additionally, whereas prior budgets were massive in their detail, we decided that in order for the budget to be a valuable management tool, we needed to simplify the metrics, while simultaneously freeing staff to work more flexibly within the constraints of the budget. The new budget is much more simple and transparent than previous budgets. It's designed to succeed.

* * *

We're still in a cash crunch at National, and we're trying to work through it. As of writing this column, we have missed paying UMP money to the states, and may not be able to catch up completely until June or July. We have reduced significant levels of expenses, and are looking for further opportunities.

We have reduced staff through attrition and layoffs. From our historical peak staff cost level of August 2002, we will have realized a net decrease in expenses of over \$28,000 a month by March of 2003. Although many staff members are no longer with us, our leave accrual policies (and the willingness of all departing staff to work with us) result in their leave being paid out in normal pay periods. March will be the first month where all leave for departed employees has been paid in full. At that point, our cash flow will be significantly enhanced, and our situation will start to improve measurably.

* * *

I've spent several weeks working at HQ since becoming Chair. I have become truly amazed at what staff are able to do with such limited resources and tools. I've often thought that we invest too little in the right tools for the jobs we ask our staff to do. I am now beyond convinced of that fact. We simply must give these people the tools to do their job.

We have begun the parallel testing of the implementation of our new accounting system. Once verified and proven, we will switch over completely, and no longer run on an outdated, unsupported software package. Not only is the new accounting system a multiple-user system, where the current one is a single-user system, the cost for purchase of the new system was a fraction of what it would have cost us to upgrade the current system.

Additionally, the new system will allow us to save expenses on other things such as payroll processing. And on top of that, our reporting will be significantly enhanced, allowing the LNC to provide better oversight and management, while freeing many hours of staff time from generating reports.

* * *

I'm sure none of this sounds "sexy," but it's work that needs to be done. Now is the time to prepare for next season. I thank you all for your continued support.



By Geoffrey Neale
LP NATIONAL CHAIR

Why Libertarians can't be afraid to discuss the 'm' word: Morality

EDITOR'S NOTE: How can Libertarianism solve America's problems? Each issue, *LP News* will showcase how "Libertarian Solutions" — or interim steps in a more libertarian direction — can help improve our nation.

Libertarian SOLUTIONS

By Bill Winter
LP NEWS EDITOR

What do Americans want from politicians?

Surprise. They want moral values, says a survey taken before the 2002 elections.

According to a Greenberg, Quinlin, Rosner Research, Inc. poll (July 9-14, 2002), 16% of Americans said "moral values" would be among the most important issues they considered when voting for Congressional candidates.

To put that in context, more Americans say moral values are a defining issue than say taxes are important (12%), or federal spending (9%), or the environment (8%), or crime and illegal drugs (7%).

In a related question, 11% said moral values should be a top priority for Congress and the president.

The poll results are somewhat ambiguous, since they don't make a distinction between Americans who want politicians who are moral (the "impeach-Bill-Clinton" crowd), and those who want politicians to impose morality on others (the "run-Pat-Buchanan-run" crowd).

In fact, Americans probably want a bit of both.

Sex with an intern

Americans look at government, and they see politicians tarred by scandal — from Richard Nixon caught not being a crook with the Watergate burglars to Bill Clinton caught not having sexual relations with "that woman."

And they see a nation beset by social problems — crime, teenage pregnancies, broken homes, intergenerational welfare, school shootings, drug abuse, corporate malfeasance, and "vulgar" pop culture.

What do those problems have in common? They're caused by a breakdown of what many Americans see as traditional moral values: Decency, chastity, honesty, commitment, and hard work. Americans yearn for a simpler, more decent time, when crack was something that happened to your windshield, XXX was a winning strategy in tic-tac-toe, and Eminem was a candy.

So it's not surprising that 11% say moral values should be a "priority" for Congress and the president. It's not surprising that Americans see morality as a political issue.

Despite this, Libertarian candidates have been curiously silent on the subject. As a result, some critics have charged that Libertarians don't care about morality. Or, pointing to Libertarian positions on abortion, pornography, and drugs, they charge that Libertarians are *immoral* libertines.

Joseph Farah, the editor of

the moral dimension so critical to self-government. Too few [Libertarians] comprehend a *laissez faire* society can only be built in a culture of morality, righteousness, and compassion. A libertarian society devoid of God and a biblical world view would quickly deteriorate into chaos and violence."

Farah is wrong; Most Libertarians *do* understand the moral dimension of liberty. They embrace "morality, righteousness, and compassion." And they certainly don't want a nation beset with "chaos and violence."

But Libertarians view morality differently than Farah — and differently than most liberals and conservatives.

Traditional

"Many libertarians are 'socially conservative' in the sense that they believe in traditional moral values like monogamy and two-parent families," noted the libertarian website, Libertarian.org.

"But a libertarian believes that moral values must be freely chosen. If someone else doesn't agree with your morality, you may avoid them, argue with them, or verbally condemn them, but you should not physically control them."

In other words, Libertarians see morality as intensely *personal* — and outside the scope of government. That's one reason why so many Libertarian candidates have been reluctant to talk about morality.

And Libertarians pride themselves on being tolerant, so they are loathe to impose their views of morality on others.

However, since most Americans see morality and government as intertwined, it may be time for Libertarians to end their squeamishness — and start using the "M" word in campaigns.

In fact, it's past time for Libertarians to proudly *extol* the link between morality and freedom. Here are some points they can make:

■ Giving the government the power to impose morality is dangerous.

Getting politicians to impose your vision of morality has a seductive allure — but it is a fool's game, argued 1996 and 2000 LP presidential candidate Harry Browne in *The Great Libertarian Offer*.

"When a politician promises to raise moral standards, it's easy to think he's referring to the moral standards in which you believe," wrote Browne. "You think you've found someone who's going to use the force of government to impose your moral values on others."

"But when government acts, the See **MORALITY** Page 22



"A LIBERTARIAN society devoid of God and a biblical world view would quickly deteriorate into chaos and violence."

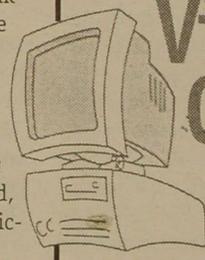
—Joseph Farah

WorldNetDaily, echoed this all-too-common assessment when he wrote on June 18, 2002:

"Libertarians fail to understand

LP News

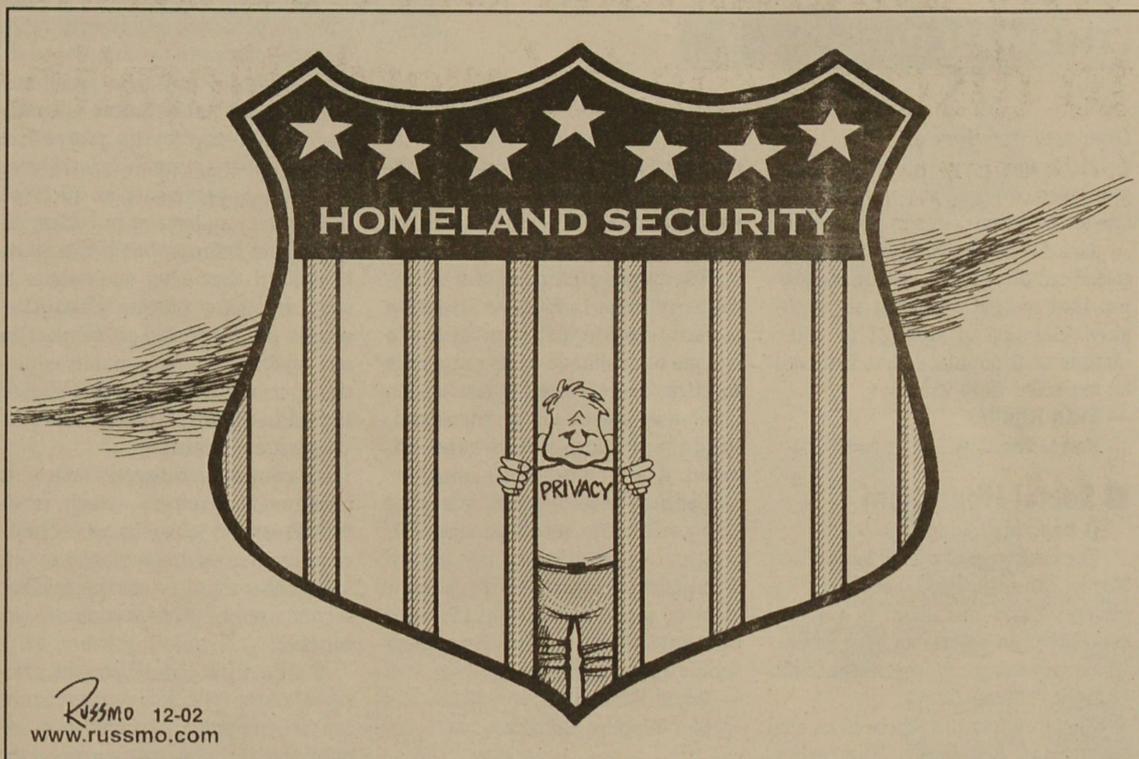
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THE MAILBOX



■ Not titillation

I hardly consider the 2003 NC Ladies of Liberty Calendar to be "sexual titillation." [The MailBox, January 2003]

Has Marcia Slentz-Whalen even taken a look at the whole calendar? Probably not. Perhaps she is just scared by the word "pinup" or she is just intimidated by Rachel Mills' beauty.

I consider the calendar to be tasteful and informative. Our calendar provides a powerful image of women and also explores the inner beauty of each. The theme is based on 40's era pinup, and nothing in the calendar is any more revealing than a department store underwear ad. Sherry Hill's pose as "Rosie the Riveter" is hardly offensive.

The calendar informs by sharing quotes, Libertarian ideas, and important liberty-themed dates.

We received attention from local newspapers all across the country, from local and national TV networks. Rachel Mills was on *Crossfire* and *The O'Reilly Factor*. She held her own, and was a great speaker for liberty. Rachel has received a lot of fan mail, and many people have joined the LP because of the calendar.

Calendar model Renee Montague won her election for Chatham County, North Carolina Soil and Water District Supervisor.

As a candidate, I received 21% of the votes — a record for a Libertarian in Guilford County, NC. I was also endorsed by *The Rhinoceros Times* and the Piedmont Quality of Life Coalition.

I do not consider the calendar "unprincipled." We shed light on Libertarian issues and offered something

extra to our donors. Contrary to Mrs. Slentz-Whalen's belief, it took brains to come up with the idea.

Rachel still has calendars for sale, at <http://rachelmills.com/> The calendars are now at a discount of 19% (\$16.20) in honor of the vote total that she received. If you don't have Internet access, you can send a personal check to: Elect Rachel, 1413 Ed Cook Road, Durham, NC 27703.

— JENNIFER SCHULZ MEDLOCK
High Point, North Carolina

**THE LADIES OF
Liberty calendar was
a great idea. If
Hugh Hefner can
make millions with
scantly clad women,
why not the LP?**

■ Not libertine

I don't believe Frank Orland's hypothesis that people will regard the Ladies of Liberty calendar as "libertine" [The MailBox, December 2002]. Compared even to upscale magazines like *Playboy*, the Ladies of Liberty calendar is rather modest. Only the most prudish blue-hairs could call this thing obscene.

I think it was a great fund-raising idea. If Hugh Hefner can make millions with pictures of scantily clad women, why not the LP? Considering

how small the army of liberty is, we need every dollar we can scrape up. I especially like the idea of getting funding from non-libertarians.

And as far as the Gentlemen of Liberty are concerned, go for that one too. And the same goes for any other promotional gimmicks. Don't forget eBay as an outlet for sales.

— JOHN MARTIN
Wetumpka, Alabama

■ Vermont gun laws

Jonathan Trager's "Libertarian Solutions" [December 2002] on America's crime problem had incorrect information regarding Vermont's firearm carry laws.

Mr. Trager is incorrect in stating Vermont has a law, "which directs local government officials to issue concealed-carry permits to almost every adult applicant." Vermont does not have a carry permit requirement. Every adult not prohibited by federal law from possessing a firearm may carry a loaded firearm either openly or concealed in Vermont.

Vermont does have a fish and game law limiting this right to handguns, no loaded shotguns or rifles, in motor vehicles on public roadways. This is to discourage road hunting and not limit the right to self-defense, hence it is a state fish and game law: 10 V.S.A. Section 4705(b).

Vermont has a state pre-emption, 24 V.S.A. Section 2295, a law that bars county and municipal governments from regulating the carry, sale, transfer, or possession of firearms. This serves as a bar such government entities from attempting to create their own carry licensing requirements.

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THE PULSE

Luddites & ecology nuts

Maybe it's genetic.
Maybe it's Libertarians' pro-science perspective.
Maybe it's just philosophical consistency.
Whatever the reason, *LP News* readers are opposed to opposing genetically modified (GM) food.

Make that *vociferously* opposed: A few readers were so offended we even asked the question that they threatened to quit the party. (Relax, guys. It's just a question.)

In response to this month's unscientific Pulse question — "Should the Libertarian Party make opposition to bioengineered food a part of the LP Platform?" — a whopping 85.2% said the LP (and the government) should leave genetically modified food alone. Science, farmers, and customers can decide what to grow and eat, they opined.

Many readers were scornful of efforts to regulate bioengineered food, calling supporters of such legislation Luddites, scientific illiterates, and ecology nuts.

Only 7.4% supported Iowa LP gubernatorial candidate Clyde Cleveland, who campaigned against bioengineered food in 2002. Those readers argued that genetically modified crops *do* pose a danger to others, so the government should regulate them.

Another 7.4% gave ambiguous or conditional answers.

Here is a cross-pollinated sample of the responses:

■ The LP should not take a position against bioengineered food because there is no hard evidence that such food will be dangerous, or unusually prone to pest attack. There is only the anguished dread of something new, a form of Luddism, which I am certain is not supposed to be a part of the LP.

— JOEL M. KAUFFMAN, Wayne, Pennsylvania

■ What in the blazes does bioengineered food have to do with liberty or government? The question suggests that the LP is being hijacked! No, the LP should not take a stand on bioengineered foods!

— WALTER NICHOLS, Orem, Utah

■ The question of whether to grow or consume bioengineered foods is an individual decision. No one should have the right to take away the decision of the individual in this matter. This stand is the essence of libertarianism. The Libertarian Party should stay out of it.

— PETER F. WELLS, Rindge, New Hampshire

■ The farming of bioengineered foods affronts the property rights of agricultural land owners. Once a bioengineered plant is introduced into the environment, its genes cannot be called back. Farmers have no choice in whether these genes get into their crops, since they can spread by wind, water, soil, insects, viri, and bacteria. In Mexico, Canada, and the U.S., unwilling growers of crops with these rogue genes have faced litigation in the name of intellectual property infringement. For platform consistency in regards to property rights, the Libertarian Party must oppose bioengineered foods.

— ELI MOORE, Medford, Massachusetts

■ It should be left to science to determine if bioengineered food is safe or harmful, not politics. Don't we believe that people are capable of making their own decisions? If someone doesn't think bioengineered food is safe, they shouldn't buy it. Isn't free-market capitalism one of the strongest components of our Platform? Let people vote with their dollars.

— KRISTIAN RICHARD JUNGEN, West Allis, Wisconsin

■ Libertarians should support private, commercial efforts to market genetically modified (GM) food. I'm embarrassed to learn a Libertarian actually campaigned against it. Label the food at market so everyone can make informed choices — do you want genetically modified food that yields more per acre, has higher nutritional value, and is more resistant to drought and disease, or do you prefer conventional stuff that costs more, keeps more acreage from going fallow back to forest, and has been proven insufficient to keep Africa from the grip of pandemic starvation?

— ANTHONY TRAURING, Decatur, Georgia

■ Bioengineered food? Libertarian principles? Point of contact? No point of contact; therefore no Libertarian position. Get real: the market resolves such issues.

— JONATHAN BLACK, King of Prussia, Pennsylvania

■ We have been using bioengineered foods for thousands of years. To stop now because of lack of understanding of what bioengineered means would be to embrace stupidity. Humanity needs the food that bioengineering gives us to avoid starving more people. If we stopped

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THE PULSE

Continued from Page 19

using technology with known dangers we would all be walking to work, paddling our boats across the ocean, and shouting to each other for communications. We would not have computers, televisions, alternating electric current or any number of other things.

— DAVID P. ZIMMERMAN, Columbus, Ohio

■ They are both right. There has already been a problem with bio-engineered crops cross pollinating with other crops. The potential risk is real. On the other side, our world population is growing at an alarming rate. The need for better quantity food production will become absolute. Conclusion: Neither the potentiality catastrophic results nor the science can be ignored.

— BILL BATTLE, Ann Arbor Michigan

■ As always, we should approach this issue on the side of freedom: people should have the choice to determine whether or not to allow bioengineered foods into their bodies. I do support private initiatives to label bioengineered foods, but only because I want to be an informed consumer.

— GENE TROSPER, Wildomar, California

■ Never mind that bioengineered food has never been proven to cause any adverse effects. Libertarians have always promoted freedom to indulge in activities proven to be harmful, such as drug use, firearm possession, or driving without seatbelts as long as that freedom is restricted by the equal freedom of others. Freedom is the issue.

— FRITZ GROSZKRUGER, Dumont, Iowa

■ If I read one more asinine anti-technology, anti-mind-of-man question like this, there will be one less dues-paying member of the Libertarian Party.

— SCOTT A. MCLENNAN, Minneapolis, Minnesota

April Question: Target one race?

It's a suggestion that comes up after almost every election — especially when the LP didn't win any significant offices (as in 2002). The suggestion is simple: The party should pour all its resources into one important race, and win it. Typically, the argument goes, the LP dissipates its resources in dozens of races around the USA, and loses most of them. A better strategy, say these folks, would be for Libertarians to decide which one race (or small handful of races) is potentially winnable, and direct their contributions to just that one race. It should be a major race, they say: U.S. House or governor. With a coordinated national effort, they say, the LP could elect a Congressman or governor. Others disagree, saying that cantankerous Libertarians wouldn't be able to select just one race to focus on, or that LP members prefer to support mostly local elections. And, they say, even contributions from around the USA wouldn't be enough to guarantee a win for Congress or for governor in a typical state. Who's right?

■ **QUESTION:** Should the Libertarian Party put all its resources into winning one important race in 2004? If so, what kind of race? And why? (Please keep answers to 100 words or less.)

■ **DEADLINE:** March 8, 2003

March Question: Tough Issues?

The LP is resolutely non-interventionist, right? Not necessarily, if January's Pulse column is any indication. While unscientific, it revealed that up to 45.5% of LP News readers would support a pre-emptive military strike on Iraq. Furthermore, the tone of their responses indicated they're somewhat irritated that other Libertarians seem to take an opposite position. That raises the question: How should the LP stake out an "official" position on controversial issues like a war on Iraq? Should the Libertarian National Committee decide via formal resolution? (After all, they are the elected representatives of the membership at large.) Should such issues be put to a ballot of all dues-paying LP members? Should delegates at a National Convention decide (even though such events happen only once every two years?) Is there a better way? Or, should the party refrain from taking a position on such issues because they are simply too divisive?

■ **QUESTION:** How should the Libertarian Party decide its "official" positions on tough, potentially controversial issues like a war on Iraq? (Please keep answers to 100 words or less.)

■ **DEADLINE:** February 8, 2003

ENTRY GUIDELINES: Include your name and your city/state; anonymous answers won't be tallied. Enter just once per month.

■ **E-mail:** Editor@hq.LP.org. (Put "Pulse" in subject line.)

■ **Fax:** (202) 333-0072 (Attn: The Pulse).

■ **Mail:** Bill Winter, Attn: LP News/The Pulse, 1640 Worcester Road, #330-D, Framingham, MA 01702

THE MAILBOX

Continued from Page 19

Mr. Trager is correct in that Vermont also continuously enjoys one of the lowest crime rates in the nation.

As a former Burlington police officer I can offer a well-reasoned opinion that violent criminals are probably reluctant to attempt to make victims of a populace that can well be expected to be armed.

— EVAN HUGHES
Barre, Vermont

■ Social liberalism

It happened again.

The back page of the LP News [First Word, January 2003] evoked the phrase "social liberalism" in a quote describing the libertarian perspective.

Since when is conserving the Bill of Rights "liberal?"

In my estimation, there is an authoritarian left and a libertarian right. Therefore, the so-called conservatives (Bill O'Reilly, Jerry Falwell) are actually liberal on social issues. What?! Alan Keyes a compromising moderate? That's the way I see it.

Meanwhile, the Ralph Nader types fall squarely on the right of the spectrum when it comes to social issues, albeit for the wrong reasons.

Am I missing something?

— KENN GVIDEN
Columbus, Indiana

■ **Editor's note:** The "social liberalism" comment was made by the Boston Herald.

■ Green wisdom

Your article about the Maine Green [candidate] was incredible [From the Editor, January 2003]. The fact that such an article has to be written shows our complete ineptitude.

Don't get me wrong — I don't disagree with anything you wrote. It just amazes me that we feel a need to inform our members that open seats are easier to win; that candidates who actually campaign fare better than those who sit home, maintain a website, and send a few letters to the editor; that candidates who are involved with their communities will bring support into a campaign.

The sad thing is that a good portion of our members would probably not agree with some of these basic political truisms, or perhaps just not understand the fundamental nature of the points.

And "basic" doesn't even cover it — I mean, we're not talking about Politics 101, we're talking about Politics Pre-School.

— PAUL MILLER
Hannibal, Missouri

■ Good work

Just wanted to let you know that I thought your analysis was dead on in your "Are we smart enough to learn from the Greens?" piece.

Keep up the good work.
— HUNTER PUTNAM
Arab, Alabama

■ Changing the GOP

Geoffrey Neale [From the Chair, December 2002] infers that there are

some libertarians who are trying to change the Republican Party. He maintains that libertarians, through the LP, should try to challenge it, not change it. This is incorrect.

The primary purpose of a political party is not to focus its attention toward another party in order to change or challenge it; its purpose is to attract votes. The LP hasn't been doing a very good job in this regard. Until the LP becomes more voter-oriented, it will have no influence.

Geoffrey Neale also maintains that LP members are revolutionaries. In politics, a revolutionary is a person who wishes to overthrow the government by force. Is this what LP members want? If not, then LP members should not use this term.

— DAVID HOSCHEIDT
Bloomington, Illinois

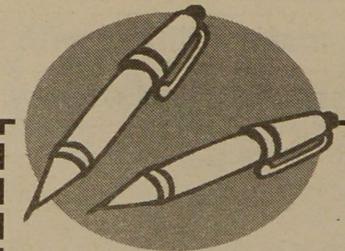
■ **Editor's note:** The Random House College Dictionary also defines "revolutionary" as: "Productive of or furthering radical change: a revolutionary discovery." Mr. Neale was not advocating the overthrow of the government by force.

THE PRIMARY
.....
purpose of a
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political party is not
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to focus attention
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toward another
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party; its purpose
.....
is to attract votes.

■ Wealth tax: Yes

Kudos to Carl Milsted, Jr. for recognizing the logical defensibility of wealth taxes, difficult though they would be to implement and enforce ["Three Kinds of Freedom," The Forum, January 2003].

Indeed, the property tax, ostentatiously



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Fax: (202) 333-0072-

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Mail: Bill Winter, Attn: LP News,
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sibly proportional to property value, is a type of wealth tax familiar to all. Analogous to insurance premiums, the more one stands to lose, the more one should pay for its protection, whether at the state or federal level.

Sadly, governments at all levels have gone way beyond providing security and defense; but it can be rationalized that even one's share of costs for many of the "charitable" causes we are forced to support by our governments (e.g., public education, personal welfare, farm subsidies) should be in proportion to one's total personal wealth.

Of course, fees directly related to government services — such as vehicle fuel taxes to pay for public highways or charges proportioned to metered water usage — are nearly ideal, second only to privatization of such services.

I still think the LP should place repeal of the 16th Amendment at the top of its agenda, thereby to eliminate the IRS and halt entirely the direct taxation of individuals and corporations by the federal government.

States should be responsible for collecting and paying any taxes needed to supplement the federal government, apportioned according to their respective populations as the founders intended; and state governments should be free to collect taxes from citizens or organizations under their jurisdiction by whatever means they choose (other than those prohibited by the Constitution, of course).

Other considerations aside, I would prefer replacing wealth transfer taxes — such as those on incomes (including inheritances) and retail sales — with taxes on total personal wealth, but only if administered fairly and efficiently. Unfortunately, in a nation of freeloaders, it is difficult to achieve fairness and efficiency.

— MICHAEL J. GONSIOR
Cody, Wyoming

■ Wealth tax: No

Carl Milsted, Jr. advocates taxes on "wealth," rather than incomes, on the grounds that they "hit only those who are already wealthy."

In common with so many writers, Milsted does less than justice to the Framers of the Constitution: the Congress is authorized to lay and collect only taxes that are apportioned to the populations of the States, i.e. taxes that are equal, per capita, in every State.

Such taxes, obviously do not shut the economy down, but demand that citizens make good use of their property, keep their [horseless] carriages rolling: there would be no difficulty in affording an adequate Army, Navy, Marine Corps.

Milsted is highly confusing on the subject of equality: they are equal among whom there are no classes, anyone (who accepts the responsibilities of citizenship) may rise to the head of the social order or fall to the foot.

If equality were to prevail — instead of the rich being taxed more severely than the poor — gifted men like Henry Ford and Bill Gates would

See THE MAILBOX Page 21

THE MAILBOX

Continued from Page 20

become relatively very well off, and be able to finance the exploration of the Moon and the decoding of the human genome — there would be no pretext for the taxpayers doing any such things.

— **BRIAN W. FIRTH**
Bronxville, New York

■ Poor headline

I don't think I'm nitpicking when I say that having *LP News* hang a "Close the Borders" headline above my little letter is contrary to the content of the letter [The MailBox, December 2002]. It's like jumping to a conclusion that constipation is the only possible option to diarrhea.

An immigrant entry fee program is the centerpiece of an achievable, electable policy that would save lives, stimulate the economy, cut crime, free up the courts, help the poor, pay off the debt, stop domestic resentment, increase trade and immigration of productive persons and help elect those caring, thoughtful Libertarians.

A million paying immigrants would help pay off the debt with an entry fee a bit larger than what they are paying the Coyotes now.

Poor but responsible workers should be able to find financing. Deadbeats, thieves, welfare moochers and drug addicts would not.

Enact this policy and the death toll of *hopeful Mexican men, women, and children* crawling across the desert or roasting to death in rail cars will immediately stop.

Good neighbors, heads held high, taking a plane, helping us pay the bills.

— **DAVID SCHAFFNER**
Lockport, Illinois

■ Editor's note: The "Close the Borders" headline did not do justice to the point of Mr. Schaffner's letter. *LP News* regrets the error.

■ Purity, pragmatism

It seems to me that LP members can be (very) loosely boxed under two different labels.

One is the activist who believes that we must be more practical in order to gain members and effectiveness. The other is the idealist who argues that we must keep our principles pure in order to stay true to ourselves and what we stand for.

The activists seem to have experience "doing something" in the public arena. Perhaps they have become pragmatic because of their experience or perhaps they are active because they are pragmatic.

The idealists seem to be less active, but more vocal and articulate in their espousal of libertarian puri-

ties. What the two groups seem to have in common is their generally low opinion of each other's approach.

As unique individuals, we all have myriad goals for our lives. But banded together as members of this particular organization, I believe that our agreed upon and committed to common goal is to elect libertarians to office.

Notice this contains two simultaneous goals 1) to elect people to office and 2) these people must be libertarians. Doing this requires a balance of both practical action and philosophical consistency.

Bridging gaps, forging alliances, spreading the message, and being the moral compass are all sub-strategies to the overall goal. We need to get down to the business of getting real libertarians really elected and argue less about which arm of the strategy is more important.

Whether you are an activist or an idealist ask yourself, "Am I currently helping or hurting the movement?" Activism is needed, but not that which opposes our philosophy. Idealism is needed, but not that which impedes our activism or exasperates our activists. We can see it. It is within reach. We need both hands to grasp it.

— **ANDREW SWEENEY**
Greenville, South Carolina

■ Freesponsibility

I have never favored a change in the party's name, as "Libertarian" is a reasonably well-understood label, giving us — and others — brand recognition. For instance, the Cato Institute has dropped their campaign to popularize the label, "market liberal," and has returned to calling themselves libertarians.

But since it seems to be a topic up for discussion, I have come up with one idea for a name that I'd consider going along with.

Because Libertarians are for both freedom and personal responsibility, we could call ourselves the "Freesponsibility Party."

Freedom to succeed. Responsibility for one's actions, and for one's family's health, education, and welfare. Give up personal responsibility, and you've given up freedom. Freedom and responsibility are inseparable. Freesponsibility.

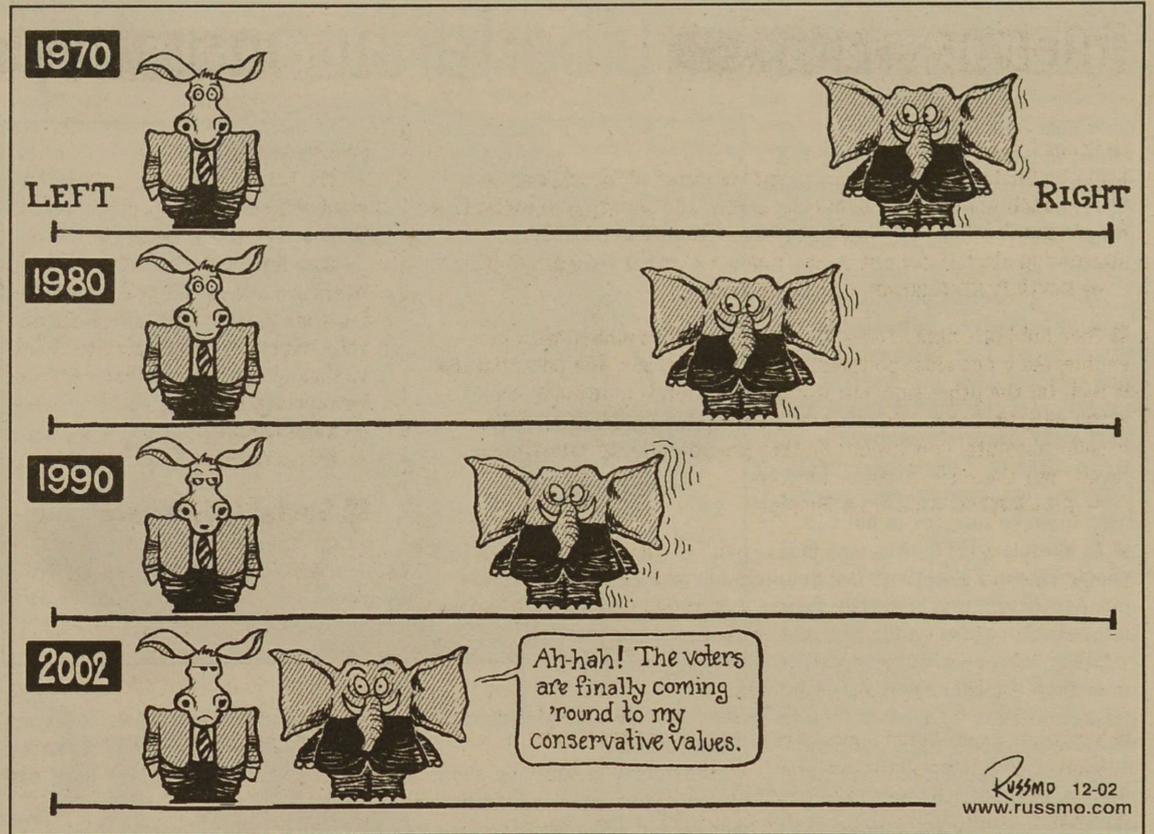
I believe we should (and would!) debate this seriously before changing. But so far, except for "The Freesponsibility Party," I don't see any suggested name changes that express our reason for being (in a way that ordinary people can understand) better than Libertarian.

— **DAN LITWIN**
San Diego, California

■ Who cost whom?

[*LP News*, January 2002, "Pundits say Libertarian candidates cost Republican Party three high-level offices."]]

It depends on who's posing the question. Is the glass of water half empty, or half full? The pundits should be asking, "Did the GOP cost



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Libertarians seats"?

The liberals cried in November 2000 that Ralphie Nader cost them votes, and Nader rightfully replied that the liberals cost him votes. So it's all about who spins the question.

I applaud Mr. Muth for exercising his First Amendment rights, reverting to the liberals' ineffective strategy of name calling, and would ask him to send me the names of "conservative" members of Congress.

As [LP Communications Director] George Getz pointed out, Republican candidates on the campaign trail talk the talk about lower taxes, smaller government, and letting us keep more of our own money. But when it comes to acting on their phony rhetoric, they just stick taxpayers with subsidizing all the non-constitutional political schemes, designed to keep themselves entrenched in office.

If Republicans in Congress took their oath of office seriously, and conducted government business as prescribed in the Constitution, there'd be no need for the Libertarian Party.

— **HARRY THOMPSON**
Tucson, Arizona

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■ Travel freedom

I just read a couple of interesting letters in the December *LP News* in response to November's coverage of John Gilmore's lawsuit over the government's ID requirements for airline travel. Being a Libertarian who works in the airline industry, I can't resist the temptation to comment.

I won't argue the merits of putting that particular piece on the front page. However, I do submit that the lawsuit has some degree of validity and should be important to Libertarians. One of the writers seemed to be confused about who is requiring the ID. The fact is, the airlines are required by the government to either positively ID each traveler or subject them to additional search.

The problems with that policy are many. First, it is impractical to get a written copy of the regulations, even as an industry insider. I have, so far, not been able to extract such information from any of the other airlines that I regularly travel on. Hence, Gilmore's argument that we're now subject to secret law is valid.

Second, all government-imposed airline security violates the Fourth Amendment, and he argues the First Amendment. I agree. As a practical matter, the current security scheme is absurdly expensive and ineffective. As it stands right now, two of the most important threats to aviation security are still not being addressed. If airlines were held responsible for their own security, they might be inclined to address these issues.

As it is, the airlines are getting a handout of your tax dollars because the government violated the Constitution and proceeded to uncouple the freedom and responsibility of security from the airlines. Talk about screwed up!

John's lawsuit is one tiny step in undoing the monumental damage that government has done to the airline industry, and security in specific. It is about restoring the right to travel and travel anonymously. It is about restoring one portion of the right to

be secure in our persons and possessions. It is about addressing real security, not phony security. It is about liberty.

Though John may not succeed, partly because of the particulars of his case, the cause of liberty in the airline industry should at least have enough Libertarian support that we don't attack him.

— **VARRIN SWEARINGEN**
Fresno, California

■ Higher primates

Re: "Monkeying with our money," [The Issues, December 2002]. I think we just might owe these higher primates some debt of gratitude that would give them 24 million dollars out of a multiple trillion dollar federal budget. I would allow my dog a good life and retirement as well as a great amount of leeway and dignity simply for his loyalty.

I would certainly allow a higher primate a bit more than euthanasia or life in a small cage in exchange for being subjected to injection with HIV virus (and worse) in an attempt to save our collective human butt. These are not lab rats.

And yes, I know the government shouldn't have been involved in this in the first place. But they were. In for a penny, in for a pound. Like veterans in an unjust war, they shouldn't just be cut loose.

I hope you think harder the next time you try to point out government waste. I can think of worse transgressions to get upset over.

— **MARY PACINDA**
New Carlisle, Ohio

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The politics of Libertarian morality

Continued from Page 18

values imposed won't be yours and they won't be mine. Moral values will be set by whoever has the most political power — people like Teddy Kennedy or Newt Gingrich.

That's a sobering point. Consider: If conservatives control the levers of power, we face censorship, new laws against gays and lesbians, an escalation of the War on Drugs, and mandatory prayer in schools — all in the name of "Christian" morality. Conservatives want to use government to make sure you're not bad.

If liberals gain power, we face mandatory racial sensitivity training, greater redistribution of wealth, more anti-hate crime laws (read: "thought crimes"), and more affirmative action programs — all in the name of "compassionate" morality. Liberals want to use government to make you good.

The moral agendas of liberals and conservatives are quite different. But they have one thing in common: They both know what's best for you.

In his 1996 book, *Moral Politics*, George Lakoff wrote that conservatives hold a "Strict Father Model" view of government. Liberals, he writes, have a "Nurturant Parent Model."

But in both models, government is the parent. You are the child.

That could be why Rev. Robert A. Sirico of the Acton Institute wrote that Americans make a serious mistake when they "suppose that virtue is something that can be enacted by politicians and implemented by bureaucrats."

Sirico is right. When government dictates morality, your morality is at the mercy of whatever amoral gang is in power that day.

■ There is a profound difference between individual morality and politicians who use the power of government to do "moral" things.

Former LP Executive Director Steve Dasbach touched on this in a 1997 press release commemorating the death of Mother Teresa.

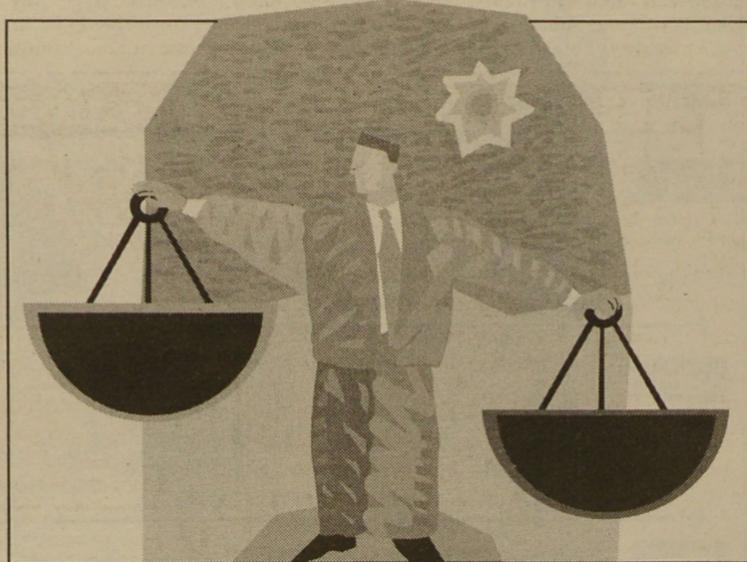
"The life of Mother Teresa was a rebuke to everything politicians stand for," he said. "Mother Teresa reached into our hearts — while politicians reach into our wallets."

The difference is even more clear, said Dasbach, when you compare the typical politician to the Nobel Peace Prize-winning nun.

"Mother Teresa kissed the hands of dying lepers, she slept on a thin mattress, and she picked maggots from the wounds of Calcutta's homeless," he said. "By contrast, politicians make speeches in the air-conditioned luxury of the Capitol Building, they attend \$5,000-a-plate dinners, and they spend other people's money on political causes that will get them re-elected.

Maybe, speculated Dasbach, "that's why politicians are held in such contempt, while Mother Teresa was revered by millions of people."

And maybe that's why Jimmy Carter gained far more respect when he wielded a hammer for Habitat for Humanity than when he wielded the



gavel of power as president of the United States.

Individual morality is about investing *your* time, spending *your* money, and demonstrating *your* values. Government "morality" is about casting a vote, spending other people's money, and posing for a photo-op. It's not the same.

■ Government programs subvert morality — usually by undermining personal responsibility.

In his 1996 essay, "The Rise of Government and the Decline of Morality," James A. Dorn of the Cato Institute argued that government has "weakened the nation's moral fabric."

The most obvious signs of that decay, he wrote, "are the prevalence of out-of-wedlock births, the breakup of families, the amorality of public education, and the eruption of criminal activity. But there are other signs as well: the decline in civility [and] the lack of integrity in both public and private life.

**"WE NEED TO DO
only one thing to
induce people to act
more responsibly:
Set them free."
—Harry Browne**

"One cannot blame government for all of society's ills, but there is no doubt that legislation over the past 50 years has had a negative impact on virtue. Individuals lose their moral bearing when they become dependent on welfare, when they are rewarded for having children out of wedlock, and when they are not held accountable for their actions."

In the past, when government was much smaller, "family and social bonds were strong, and civil society flourished in numerous fraternal and religious organizations," wrote Dorn.

Today, after the government has spent over \$5 billion on welfare programs, "Self-reliance has given way

to dependence and a loss of respect for persons and property," he wrote. "Virtue and civil society have suffered."

What's the solution?

"If we want to help the disadvantaged, we do not do so by making poverty pay, by restricting markets, by prohibiting school choice, by discouraging thrift, or by sending the message that the principal function of government is to take care of us," wrote Dorn. "Rather, we do so by eliminating social engineering and welfare, by cultivating free markets, and by returning to our moral heritage."

■ Ultimately, liberty and self-responsibility are the only way to promote a truly moral nation.

Laws can't make people moral.

"In the arena of peaceful behavior, morality and compassion mean nothing when they are the product of force," argued Jacob G. Hornberger of the Future of Freedom Foundation. "They are meaningful only in the context of voluntary, willing choices of individuals."

Exactly, agreed Browne. "Only free people have an incentive to be virtuous," he wrote. "Only people who bear the consequences of their own acts will care about those consequences."

"A free society rewards virtue and punishes irresponsibility. Government does just the opposite. We need to do only one thing to induce people to act more responsibly: Set them free."

According to the polls, Americans want politicians to do something about morality. Libertarians can respond with a simple equation: Freedom plus self-responsibility equals morality.

It's not a perfect formula. Some people will always make immoral decisions. The free market will still produce products that some find offensive. And Republican and Democratic politicians will continue to wallow in scandal.

But without freedom, there will never be morality.

Civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

Similarly, government force cannot drive out immorality; only freedom and self-responsibility can.

UPCOMING

■ April 4-6, 2003



Colorado LP Convention, Ramada Inn, Colorado Springs. Speakers include Ed Thompson (2002 Wisconsin LP gubernatorial candidate), Vin Suprynowicz (columnist, *Las Vegas Review-Journal*), and Dr. Robert Zubrin, (author, *The Case for Mars*). For information, e-mail: lpco2003@psisys.net. Or call: (719) 310-9444. Or visit: www.co-freedom.com/2002/12/lp03.htm

■ April 4 - 7, 2003

Pennsylvania LP Convention, Ramada Plaza Hotel, Wilkes Barre. Speakers include Marty Thomas-Brumme (Rose Center on Conflict Resolution and Restorative Justice), and Dr. Imad-ad-Dean Ahmad (Minaret of Freedom Institute). For information, call Betsy Summers: (570) 822-9194. Or e-mail: summers@usnetway.com.

■ April 5, 2003

Michigan LP Convention, Eagle Crest Conference Center & Resort, Ypsilanti. Speakers include Rob Kampia (executive director, Marijuana Policy Project). For information, e-mail Emily Salvette at: salvette@ameritech.net. Or call: (734) 668-2607. Or visit: www.mi.lp.org,

■ April 12, 2003

Massachusetts LP Convention, Sheraton Tara Hotel, Framingham. Speakers include Bill Winter (former LP director of communications). For information, e-mail: conv03@lpma.org. Or visit: www.lpma.org.

■ April 24-27, 2003

"Toward a Free and Virtuous Society" Student Conference, Lake Bluff, Illinois. Sponsored by the Acton Institute. An "introduction to the principles of liberty" for students of religion, theology, philosophy, and related fields. For information, call: (616) 454-3080. Or visit: www.acton.org.

■ April 25-27, 2003

Indiana LP Convention, Michigan City. Exact location and speakers TBA. For more information, visit: www.lpin.org.

■ April 25-27, 2003

North Carolina LP Convention, University Place Hilton, Charlotte. Speakers TBA. For information, call Elizabeth Vance: (336) 854-1950. E-mail: elizabethvance@inf.net.

■ April 26, 2003

Washington state LP Convention, University Plaza Hotel, Seattle. Speakers TBA. For information, call Brien Bartels at: (206) 329-5669. Or e-mail: director@LPWS.org.

■ May 9-11, 2003

Ohio LP Convention, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dayton. Speakers include Neal Boortz (syndicated radio talk show host). For information, call Mary Pacinda: (937) 845-9980. Or e-mail: pacimj@aol.com. Or visit: www.lpo.org/LP02003Convention.htm.



■ July 7-11, 2003

International Society for Individual Liberty (ISIL) World Conference, Vilnius, Lithuania. Speakers TBA. For information, visit: www.isil.org.

■ August 2-8, 2003

Cato University Summer Seminar, Rancho Bernardo Inn, San Diego, California. Sponsored by the Cato Institute. Speakers TBA. For information, visit: www.cato-university.org. Or call: (202) 789-5229.

■ August 3-9, 2003



Mises University, Mises Institute, Auburn, Alabama. Courses, seminars, and reading groups on the Austrian School of economics. Speakers include: Walter Block (author, *Defending the Undefendable*), David Gordon (*Mises Review*), and Richard Vedder (Ohio University). For information, e-mail: pat@mises.org.

■ August 21-24, 2003

"Toward a Free and Virtuous Society" Student Conference, West Cornwall, Connecticut. Sponsored by the Acton Institute. An "introduction to the principles of liberty" for students of religion. For information, call: (616) 454-3080. Or visit: www.acton.org.

■ October 16-19, 2003

"Toward a Free and Virtuous Society" Student Conference, Dawsonville, Georgia. Sponsored by the Acton Institute. An "introduction to the principles of liberty" for students of religion. For information, call: (616) 454-3080. Or visit: www.acton.org.

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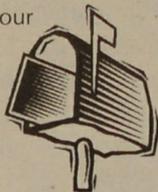
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LP NEWS EDITOR

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January 31-February 2, 2003

Florida LP Convention, Sheraton Hotel Orlando North, Maitland.

Speakers include Dr. Randall Holcombe (Libertarian economic advisor to Governor Jeb Bush). For information, visit: www.lpf.org. Or call (800) 478-0555.

February 4, 2003

Patrick Henry Supper Club, China Buffet Restaurant, Richmond, Virginia. Speaker is Steve Simpson (Institute for Justice). For information, e-mail L.T. Harris at: leonard@richmondliberty.org.

February 8-9, 2003

Counterattack 2003: Gun rights activist training conference, Crowne Plaza Hotel, North Dallas, Texas. Speakers include Clayton E. Cramer (historian who debunked *Arming America*) and Suzanna Hupp (Texas State Representative). For information, call: (214) 707-1004. Or visit: www.northbridgetraining.com/counterattack2003.

February 15-17, 2003

California LP Convention, Ontario Marriott, Ontario. Speakers include James P. Gray (Orange County Superior Court judge), Jonathan Coupal (president, Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association), Karl Manheim (Professor, Loyola Law School), Ted Gunderson (former FBI Agent), Dr. Gordon LaBedz (Surfriders Foundation), and Dr. David Schrader (Marketing Sciences Institute). For information, e-mail: convention@ca.lp.org. Or visit: www.ca.lp.org/conv/2003/.

February 22, 2003

Oklahoma LP Convention, Oklahoma City Holiday Inn, Oklahoma City. Speakers include Dr. Mary Ruwart (author, *Healing Our World*) and Evalena Herrian (Sooner State Petition). For information, visit: www.oklp.org. Or e-mail: RogueOkie@aol.com.

February 23-25, 2003

Preserving the American Dream: A Conference for Supporters of Mobility and Homeownership, Wyndham City Center Hotel, Washington,

DC. Sponsored by the Heartland Institute, the Heritage Foundation, the Thoreau Institute, and others. Speakers include Sam Staley (Buckeye Institute), Wendell Cox (public-purpose.com), and Steve Hayward (American Enterprise Institute). For information, write: Thoreau Institute, P.O. Box 1590, Bandon, OR 97411. Or visit: www.ti.org/amdram.html.

February 28-March 2, 2003

Illinois LP Convention, Four Points Sheraton Hotel, Oak Brook. Speakers TBA. For information, visit: www.il.LP.org.

March 1, 2003

New Jersey LP Convention, Trenton Marriott Hotel, Trenton. Speakers include Jack A. Cole (executive director, Law Enforcement Against Prohibition). For information, e-mail Robert Jacobs at: robertlj@yahoo.com.

March 1, 2003

Iowa LP Convention, Hotel Fort Des Moines, Des Moines. Speakers include Bill Masters (sheriff, San Miguel County, Colorado). For information, visit: www.lpia.org.

March 4, 2003

Patrick Henry Supper Club, China Buffet Restaurant, Richmond, Virginia. Speaker is John Berthoud (president, National Taxpayers Union). For information, e-mail L.T. Harris at: leonard@richmondliberty.org.

March 13-16, 2003

Reason Weekend 2003, Hotel Del Coronado in San Diego, California. Reason's annual event for major supporters. Speakers include Virginia Postrel (Author, *The Future and Its Enemies*) and Penn Jillette (magician). For information, call Donald Heath: (310) 391-2245.

March 20-23, 2003

"Toward a Free and Virtuous Society" Student Conference, Paradise, Texas. Sponsored by the Acton Institute. Introduction to the "principles of liberty" for students. For information, call: (616) 454-3080.

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FIRST WORD

"You may like some of their stands, adamantly disagree with others. But you have to hand it to the Libertarians, they are consistent. You can rely on Libertarians to scream, 'Hands off!' The glue that binds them together is a belief that government is best that governs the very, very least. It's refreshing to hear about personal responsibility and limited government from at least one quarter." — *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* (Little Rock), October 19, 2002

"Libertarians must be considered a minor party. But it is a minor party on the move. At least they aren't bland and they aren't afraid to speak their mind. They deserve a listen."

— RICK HOLMES, *Metrowest Daily News* (Massachusetts), October 20, 2002

"The Libertarian platform is so unabashedly pro-technology and pro-privacy that its candidates ... deserve a serious look because of their positions, not their effect as spoilers. The platform calls for repealing the pro-surveillance USA Patriot Act, removing 'all trade barriers,' and says the Internet and computer networks deserve the 'full freedom' of the First Amendment."

— DECLAN MCCULLAGH, *ZDNet.com*, November 11, 2002