

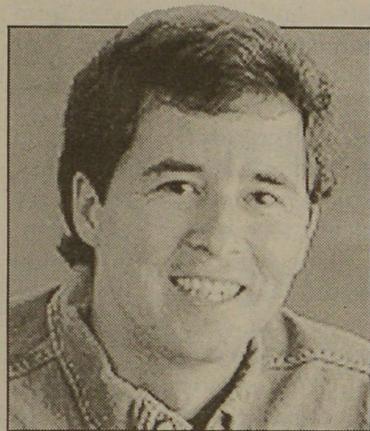
# LIBERTARIAN PARTY LP NEWS

The Party of Principle

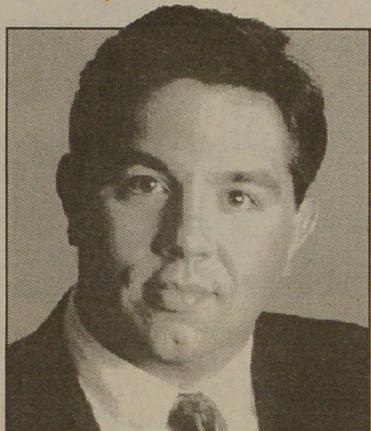


May 1999

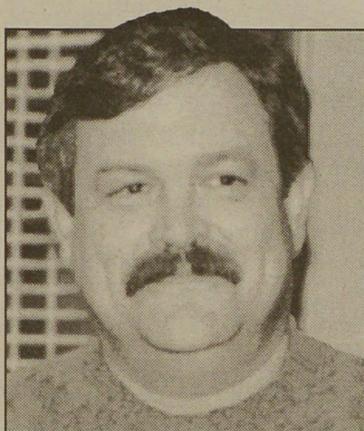
The Official Monthly Newspaper of the Libertarian Party ★ Volume 14 / Issue 5



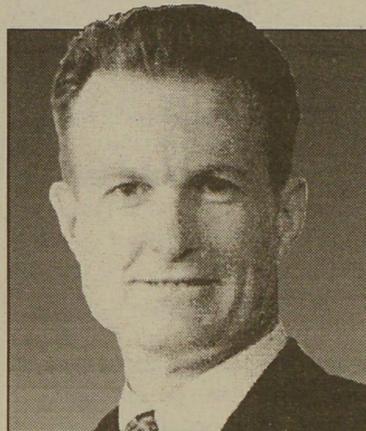
■ Hardy Macia, elected to the Grand Isle Selectboard and as Weigher of the Coal in Vermont.



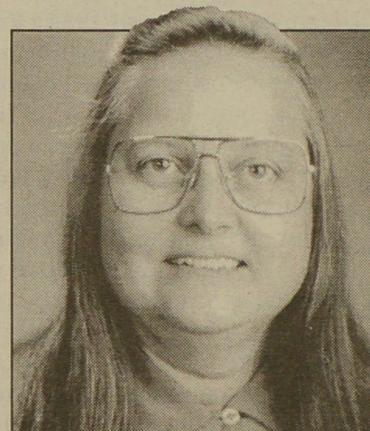
■ Richard Burke, a 59.1% winner in his race for Water District Board in Oregon.



■ Gene Donahue was a Marlborough Budget Committee winner in New Hampshire.



■ Steve Bacon in New Hampshire cruised to victory on the Greenland Budget Committee.



■ Rosalie Babiarz in New Hampshire won re-election as Grafton Town Auditor.

## Twelve Libertarians win in Spring elections

At least 12 Libertarians were elected or re-elected in local elections around the USA in March, giving the Libertarian Party new officeholders on school boards, budget committees, and Water Boards — and even one “Weigher of the Coal.”

In all, four Libertarians were elected and two were re-elected in New Hampshire; three LP members won office in Oregon; and individual Libertarians were

elected in Minnesota, Vermont, and Massachusetts.

The races — most held on March 9 — were all non-partisan.

“Victory by victory, Libertarians are making their presence felt in local elections around the country,” said Ron Crickenberger, LP Political Director. “These victories demonstrate that not only are more Libertarians running for office, more of them are doing what it takes to actually get elected. That’s good

news for the Libertarian Party.”

In Oregon, Richard Burke cruised to victory in his race for Tualatin Valley Water District Board of Commissioners (Position 4). He won 59.1% of the vote in the two-way race, defeating an incumbent.

### Set policy

In his new position, Burke will help set policy for the agency supplying water to 150,000 people in eastern Washington County.

“Now that I am elected, I will work to ensure a plentiful and high-quality water supply through privatization and other libertarian means,” he said.

In the same county, the King family scored two perfect victories in the Beaverton School District: Beth King won 100% of the vote in an unopposed race for Aloha High School Local School

Committee (Position 2), and her husband Robert King, also unopposed, won 100% of the vote for Beaver Acres High School Local School Committee (Position 1).

“As chair of the LP of Washington County (LPWC), let me take a second to crow for my county party,” said Burke. “In municipal elections, candidates from the LPWC are at seven wins, one loss since our resurrection in the summer of 1993.”

Oregon LP State Chair Bruce

Alexander Knight said the state party “didn’t win as many [races] as we hoped, but about as many as we expected” — and acknowledged that he was “pleasantly surprised” at Burke’s upset win over an incumbent.

“Richard ran a very active race for Governor in ’98, getting good press all over Oregon, and I’m sure his name familiarity helped him win the non-partisan position,” he said.

See **LIBERTARIANS WIN** Page 12

## DefendYourPrivacy.com (Phase II) gets launched

Anti-Know Your Customer campaign retooled to support bills to squash bank-spy regulation

The Libertarian Party has launched Phase II of its campaign to kill the Know Your Customer regulation, and has retooled its DefendYourPrivacy.com website to support two bills that would permanently eliminate the controversial bank spying rule.

“We’ve won Round One,” said LP National Director Steve Dasbach, who is coordinating the anti-Know Your Customer (KYC) effort. “But the Know Your

Customer battle isn’t over yet — so we need to keep the pressure on until this anti-privacy measure is dead and buried.”

### Lobbying mode

To accomplish that goal, the DefendYourPrivacy.com site has shifted into lobbying mode to support HR 516 and HR 518, two bills filed by Congressman Ron Paul (R-TX). The bills would prohibit any federal agency from

See **KNOW YOUR CUSTOMER** Page 2

## NEWS ANALYSIS

### The Boomerang Effect

Why many government programs produce the exact opposite of their intended results

By Bill Winter  
LP News Editor

In 1990, Congress passed a law designed to increase unemployment among disabled people.

In 1964, Congress passed a law designating white men as an “oppressed minority” who qualify for preferential government contracts.

And in 1992, Congress passed a law to persuade more illegal immigrants to stay in the United States, instead of returning to Mexico.

Never heard of those laws? Sure you did: The law that forced disabled people into the unemployment lines was the American With Disabilities Act — a law which was supposed to make it easier for handicapped Americans to find work.

The law that made white men an “oppressed minority” was the Civil Rights Act of 1964 — which, we were told, would protect black Americans from discrimination.

And the law that increased illegal immigration was the

See **BOOMERANG EFFECT** Page 10

## INSIDE

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Fred Collins at work: Fortune-tellers and taxi cabs in Berkley

■ PAGE 16  
Y2K: Two views on the coming “crisis”

# NEWSBRIEFS

## Libertarian makes waves in South Africa

A long-time LP activist has "stirred up a hornet's nest in South Africa" with the publication of *Die, the Beloved Country?*, which outlines the authoritarian measures taken by Nelson Mandela's African National Congress government.

"I really touched a nerve among many South Africans who are horrified at how badly the ANC has behaved in power," said Jim Peron, who is perhaps best known as the co-author of *Liberty Reclaimed* with 1984 LP vice-presidential candidate Jim Lewis. "The book is attracting readers who are not libertarians, but who are being exposed to libertarian ideas for the first time."

In a country where a print run of 2,000 is considered a best-seller, the book has an initial print run of 5,000, he noted.

*Die, the Beloved Country?* reveals how the ANC has pursued a consistent policy of "waging war on civil society," said Peron.

"In recent years, the government has taken control of all sports — pushing racial quotas and dismissing merit," he said. "They have forbidden the building of private hospitals while importing 'experts' from Cuba to run the health care system. They have conscripted doctors and are now talking about conscripting all students. [And] they are using government agencies to harass the media for publishing critical articles."

Peron said his new book grew out of an article he wrote, at the suggestion of Barbara Branden, for *Liberty* magazine.

## Ayn Rand film makes Sundance debut

The long-awaited film version of *The Passion of Ayn Rand* has been released, and had its world premier at the Sundance Film Festival in Utah in January 1999.

The debut of the movie, which is based on Barbara Branden's biography of Objectivist novelist Ayn Rand, was a "gala event" that sold out two performances at the 1,800-seat theater, reported the *Freedom Network News*, which is published by the International Society for Individual Liberty.

The film, which had been originally scheduled to be broadcast on the Showtime cable network, "so impressed company executives that cable broadcasts were postponed to make way for entry in the prestigious film festival," the newsletter wrote.

Starring Helen Mirren as Rand, Peter Fonda (as Frank O'Connor), Eric Stolz (as Nathaniel Branden), and Julie Delpy (as Barbara Branden), the film was an accurate portrayal of Rand's life and philosophy, said Barbara Branden afterwards.

"No one is going to walk out of the theater after seeing this movie and not know what Ayn Rand stands for," she said.

According to the *Freedom Network News*, the American broadcast debut of *The Passion of Ayn Rand* was scheduled for March.

## Cable access TV shows are now available

Nevada Libertarian is making available a series of 19 cable access television programs, which cover political issues ranging from the history of the Bill of Rights to public education, and industrial hemp to "Things That Make You Mad."

The show, entitled *Liberty and Justice For All*, has been broadcast by the LP of Washoe County, Nevada for the last 18 months "with excellent viewer response," said LP member Dennis Grover, who hosts the show.

Each show is 59 minutes, with "color bars and one-minute delays making them ready for broadcasting," he said.

"No claim is made in regards to professional talent or production, however, they are not totally amateur and the information presented is valuable and effective in our efforts to educate the masses," said Grover. "There is no copyright and people are encouraged to copy and distribute at will."

Cost: \$12 for a single show; \$30 for three, \$45 for five, and \$8 each for 10 or more shows. (Shipping included.) For a list of shows, or to order, write: Knowfree LLC, 2790 Wrondel Way #41, Reno, Nevada 89502. E-Mail: knowfree@accutek.com.



■ Ayn Rand: Film bio is released

# LP launches Phase II of campaign to stop Know Your Customer rule

Continued from Page 1

implementing any kind of KYC regulation, and would "sunset" the federal banking laws that gave the federal government the power to propose such rules.

This new lobbying campaign is necessary, said Dasbach, because even though the KYC regulation has been withdrawn, most banks are still being pressured to implement it as a "policy" — and there is strong evidence that even the regulation itself may be reintroduced.

"Just because the public is overwhelmingly against this proposal, we can't assume that federal bureaucrats won't try to sneak it through the back door," said Dasbach. "All the evidence suggests that KYC is down, but not out."

On March 23, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation formally withdrew the KYC regulation after receiving 253,000 public comments against it. About 171,000 of those comments — 67% of the total — were generated by the LP's DefendYourPrivacy.com website.

At the time, the FDIC said that "an unprecedented number of comments" made them decide to withdraw the proposal.

### Widespread praise

Following that announcement, the Libertarian Party won widespread praise for its role in the battle against KYC.

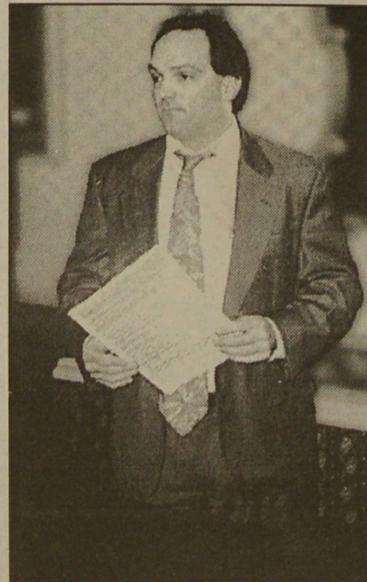
The *New York Times'* online edition noted, "The e-mail and the traffic to the FDIC's Web site was driven through reports on the issue in traditional media and through an online advocacy campaign sponsored by the Libertarian Party." (March 24, 1999)

And the *Indianapolis Star* wrote: "Much of the credit must go to the Libertarians. Of some 253,000 e-mail messages, letters, and faxes to the FDIC, more than 170,000 were . . . generated by the party's DefendYourPrivacy.com Website." (March 22, 1999)

However, even as the pressure against Know Your Customer was mounting — and it became clear that the FDIC would backpedal on the regulation — hints were already being dropped that some kind of KYC policy would be forced on banks.

For example, a study by the American Bankers Association revealed that over 88% of U.S. banks already had some kind of Know Your Customer policy in place.

Even more telling, a federal regulator made a candid confes-



■ LP Press Secretary George Getz gives a report on the Libertarian Party's efforts to fight Know Your Customer at an anti-KYC alliance meeting on March 7. The event—which was also attended by the ACLU, Congressman Ron Paul staffers, and the Community Bankers Association — was sponsored by the Free Congress Foundation, and held at their office in Washington DC.

sion at a banking conference that a new Know Your Customer regulation might be back within six months.

At the Mid-Atlantic Compliance Conference on March 18-19, Federal Reserve System Assistant Director Richard A. Small said, "Is Know Your Customer dead? No, I don't think it is dead. I would like to develop some broad-based guidance, [but] no one is going to let me talk about it for six months."

### A "marketing" issue

Any new KYC regulation would be promoted as "enhanced guidance for reporting suspicious activity," he said, because the failure of the first KYC was "a marketing issue."

For all those reasons, Dasbach said the Libertarian Party cannot end its anti-KYC cam-

campaign — but must shift into legislative lobbying mode.

That's why, he said, in mid-April, the DefendYourPrivacy.com website was restructured to lobby for HR 516 and HR 518.

■ HR 516 ("The Know Your Customer Sunset Act") would prohibit the FDIC, Federal Reserve, and other agencies from implementing any Know Your Customer regulation.

■ HR 518 ("The Bank Secrecy Sunset Act") would scrap the Nixon-era Bank Secrecy Act, which provides the regulatory excuse to monitor individuals' banking habits. The bill would require Congress to either rewrite the law, or devolve regulatory power to the states.

"Our previous campaign against Know Your Customer suppressed the symptoms — the regulation itself," said Dasbach. "These two bills are a legislative vaccination, and will help cure the disease."

### Offers the text

The retooled DefendYourPrivacy.com website offers the text of the two bills, explains their purpose, and allows people to send e-mail lobbying messages to their Representative in the U.S. House and two Senators.

The first goal is to line up more co-sponsors for HR 516 and HR 518, said Dasbach.

As the Congressional session continues, the party will focus on lobbying members of the House committees that will hear testimony about the bills, and then shift into lobbying the entire House to pass the legislation.

But right now, the most urgent need is for party members to log onto the website and use it to send messages to their Congressional representatives, said Dasbach.

"With your help, we can make Phase II of our campaign as successful as Phase I," he said.

To visit the website, go to: [www.DefendYourPrivacy.com](http://www.DefendYourPrivacy.com).

## LPNEWS

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EDITOR:  
Bill Winter

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Karl Hess ♦ 1923-1994

# Two Libertarians' 'animated' work for liberty

Two California Libertarians are taking an unorthodox approach to building the Libertarian Party: They're using their artistic skills to create cartoon advertisements for the LP and its candidates.

Their goal: To craft Libertarian Party TV commercials that "should have the whole country talking like it was the latest *Saturday Night Live* skit."

Doug Scribner and Mark Hilgenberg are the pair of self-described "hip Libertarian producers" from Orange County who say they want to bring Libertarian advertising into the 21st Century — using computerized animation and a message that appeals to young voters.

"We have fun framing the Libertarian message in funny, simple terms people will instantly understand," said Hilgenberg. "Just as the written

word was once the best place for spreading political thought, television has become the new propaganda machine."

Their biggest success so far: Writing and animating the "South Park" advertisement for the 1998 Steve Kubby for Governor campaign in California.

During the campaign, the ad created enough of a buzz that it was rebroadcast on the local news in Fresno and Sacramento, and on the Fox Cable News

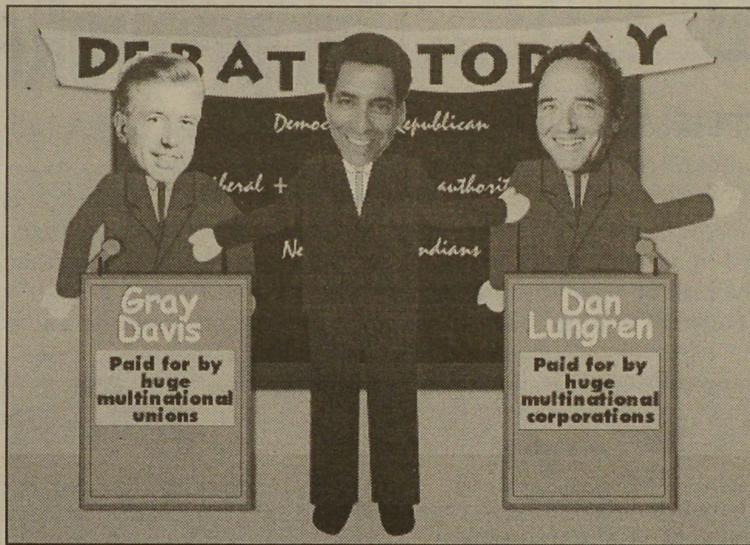
Network's NewsHour.

It won a Pollie Award from the American Association of Political Consultants for the best 60-second political TV ad of the 1997-1998 election cycle.

The commercial was a challenge for Scribner and Hilgenberg because they had to take "on the task of learning a new computer animation program to create" it, said Scribner.

## MARK HILGENBERG:

*"We have fun framing the LP message in funny, simple terms."*



■ The Pollie Award-winning "South Park" spoof ad, featuring 1998 Libertarian Party gubernatorial candidate Steve Kubby (center) in an animated debate with rivals Gray Davis (Democrat) and Dan Lungren (Republican) in California.

The other big challenge: "Coming up with the right mix of humor and politics that could be squeezed into a 60 second commercial," said Hilgenberg. "We're Libertarians. We take 90 seconds just to clear our throats."

The ad that emerged from two months' of work was a cutting-edge spoof of Comedy

Central's foul-mouthed, crudely animated South Park characters.

The ad can be viewed at [www.Kubby.org](http://www.Kubby.org).

After the success of that commercial, the pair of producers-writers-directors are working on another TV commercial that "should have the whole country talking," promised Scribner.

"The ad is a blatant mockery of the 'This is your brain . . . this is heroin' ad by the Partnership for a Drug Free America," said Scribner. "The one where the Gen-X girl smashes the kitchen to pieces."

However, their version mocks not just the drug war, but the whole government-by-force system, he said.

The team is currently working to raise the \$5,000 to \$6,000 needed to produce the ad, which they plan to shoot on film.

## Make it a reality

"We have the script written, the production team in place, and now all we need is the money to help make this a reality," said Scribner. "It will then be made available across the country at a reasonable rate."

To help fund the production of the commercial, send donations to: 321 Avocado #P, Costa Mesa, CA 92967. Checks should be made out to "LRS."

Or, contact Scribner at: [dougscribner@worldnet.att.net](mailto:dougscribner@worldnet.att.net). Contact Hilgenberg at: [hilgi@msn.com](mailto:hilgi@msn.com).

## Fred Collins on the job: Fortune-tellers & taxis

*Outnumbered six to one, he's still made progress*

When Fred Collins was elected to the Berkley City Council in Michigan, he never suspected his first big political struggles would be over fortune-tellers and taxi cabs.

But that's exactly what happened — and Collins' perseverance on those issues resulted in his two biggest accomplishments in office so far.

The result? "Little old ladies" can now get taxis, and fortune-tellers don't have to fear going to jail.

Collins, who won his seat in November 1997, is the one Libertarian on the non-partisan seven-member City Council — which makes his success that much sweeter, he said, even if "each step takes longer than you think it will."

For example, his campaign to repeal the city's antiquated taxi cab regulations took six months, he noted.

The ordinance, in place since 1956, charged taxi cab owners such high fees to operate in Berkley "that the cab companies were not willing to renew their

licenses, and it became a sad joke because the cabs would drop you off in Berkley and then refuse to pick you back up," he said.

As a result, the ordinance "was hurting the people that it was supposed to be protecting, by restricting the market and making it harder for people without cars to get to and from their daily activities" — especially "senior citizens or people with some sort of disability."

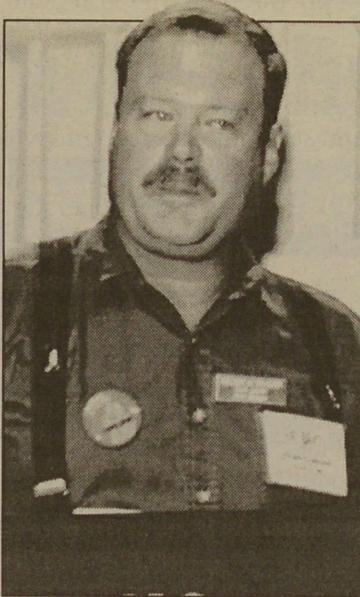
### The run around

For six months, Collins urged his fellow Council members to repeal the ordinance, but "got the run around about 'repealing it is too drastic.'"

So Collins crafted his "Little Old Lady" plan.

"I contacted about five little old ladies and asked them to write me letters about how hard it was to get around because they couldn't get a cab, and they had no other way to get to the stores," he recounted. With those letters, "I picked up two votes on the Council that night."

But that wasn't enough, so he



■ Berkley City Council member Fred Collins, shown here speaking at the 1998 Libertarian National Convention.

waited for his next opportunity.

It came when "we were discussing the Chamber of Commerce's plan to provide cab fare to people too drunk to drive home during the holidays," he said. "And I said, 'Not in Berkley you won't, because you can't get a cab in Berkley.' I picked up two more Council votes that night."

That pushed the pro-repeal caucus up to five, so Collins had his proposal put on the agenda at the next meeting.

"There was an attempt by one member to just rewrite the

See FRED COLLINS Page 17

## The great 'Net debate: Is Dilbert a libertarian?

Is Dilbert a libertarian? Or, more precisely, is Scott Adams, the creator of the popular Dilbert comic strip, a libertarian? Yes, says Adams . . . sorta.

That "official" judgment emerged after an innovative Internet debate over whether the Dilbert comic strip — which focuses on the tribulations of Dilbert, a high-tech office worker and his sardonic pet Dogbert — is libertarian or liberal.

The cyber-dispute took place in the Internet publication SpinTech in March. Facing off were Jeremy Lott (in the libertarian corner) and Christopher Burlingame (for the forces of liberalism).

### Ideological clues

Each attempted to argue that ideological clues in the popular comic strip — which appears daily in over 1,900 newspapers in 57 countries — and in Adams' bestselling books like *The Dilbert Principle* prove the cartoonist supports their own philosophy.

The rules of the debate were simple: Lott and Burlingame each contributed an opening essay, were allowed to ask and re-

**JEREMY LOTT:**  
*Dilbert creator Scott Adams "is a sneaky little weasel."*

spond to three questions from their opponent, and then submitted a closing summation.

Adams promised to declare the winner, based on the persuasiveness of their arguments.

Firing the first salvo, Lott defined a libertarian as "someone who believes in a free economy, a minimal government, and freedom in general." He goes on to say that a libertarian "hates bureaucracy, abhors central planning, thinks technological innovations are valuable . . . and doesn't mind downsizing."

Lott acknowledges that no one had previously considered Adams a libertarian because he is "a sneaky little weasel. First, he

See DILBERT Page 15

# POLITICAL NEWS

## Libertarian TV commercial recognized

First it was a Pollie Award; now it's a coveted spot in *Campaigns & Elections* magazine.

Just two months after the Steve Kubby for Governor's "South Park" spoof was recognized by the American Association of Political Consultants as the best 30-second campaign TV ad of the year, the Libertarian Party's "Promises" advertisement was recognized by the "bible" of the campaign industry.

In its April 1999 issue, *Campaigns & Elections* featured the LP's advertisement in its "Media Mix" section, which highlighted just six of the thousands of political ads which aired during the 1998 election.

*Campaigns & Elections* noted that the LP ad — a 30-second spot produced by LP Political Director Ron Crickenberger — was a "call for an unconventional alternative to the Democrats and Republicans." The ad ran on three national cable TV networks in November 1998: CNN, America's Voice, and CNBC.

The advertisement focused on the broken promises of the older parties, and stated: "So if you're tired of politicians more interested in keeping their jobs than in keeping their promises, make a change. This year, vote Libertarian."

Crickenberger said the publicity in *Campaigns & Elections* was one more sign that the LP is finally competing effectively against the Republicans and Democrats.

"If we want to beat the big boys, we need to be as good at politics as the big boys," he said. "The fact that *Campaigns & Elections* magazine has recognized our 30-second spot as an effective political ad is an important step in the right direction."

## Libertarian places second in online poll

It's still 19 months until the 2000 presidential elections — but at least one potential Libertarian Party candidate has already started showing up in online polls.

On March 10, Harry Browne placed second on a presidential preference poll sponsored by WorldNetDaily.com. The unscientific poll was open to candidates of all parties.

Browne, the LP's 1996 presidential candidate and possible candidate in 2000, got 20.97% of the vote, finishing just behind Republican Alan Keyes, who got 25.23%.

Rounding out the top 10: Pat Buchanan (16.14%); George W. Bush (10.78%); Steve Forbes (5.90%); Elizabeth Dole (5.37%); Howard Phillips (3.63%); Other (3.51%); Gary Bauer (2.85%); and Dan Quayle (2.77%).

If Libertarians were heartened by their strong showing, Democrats have reason to be worried: Al Gore, the self-proclaimed "creator of the Internet," won only 0.41% of the vote.

## Redner wins 25% in City Council race

LP member Joe Redner won 25% of the vote in a race for City Council in Tampa, Florida, but fell short in his bid to unseat the District 3 incumbent.

In the non-partisan election held on March 2, Redner was unable to overcome what reporters called the "taint" of his controversial business — his ownership of several local strip clubs.

Redner ran on a platform of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" — calling for an end of "Big Brother" government regulation of "sex between consenting adults."

On the other hand, his opponent Bob Buckhorn championed laws cracking down on prostitution, massage parlors, and rave clubs. At the polls, opponents of Redner — many of them "older ladies" — tore up his campaign cards, cursed at his supporters, and attempted to "karate kick" one of his volunteers.

After the results were announced, Redner said he ran a poor campaign against a more experienced political pro.

"I really didn't know what I was doing," he acknowledged. "Mr. Buckhorn is an accomplished campaigner who took advantage of my naivete. Next time — if there is a next time — I'll do a little better."

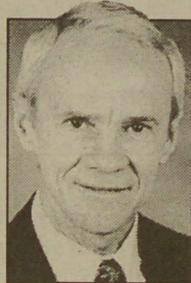


Harry Browne: Places second.

# LP critiques U.S. government's 'unprovoked' war in Yugoslavia

Consistent with its platform, the Libertarian Party spoke out forcefully against the U.S.-led military strike on Yugoslavia in late March, arguing that "this is not our war."

In three press releases and a dozen media interviews, spokespeople for the Libertarian Party voiced opposition to the NATO bombardment, called for immediate U.S. military withdrawal from the region, and said "Not our war." the conflict



David Bergland: "Not our war."

represented a potential Vietnam-style morass for American troops, while making the U.S. less safe.

In a statement released on March 25, the party's national chairman, David Bergland said, "No matter how tragic the civil war in Yugoslavia is, the security of the United States is not at stake. We should not be involved in this conflict."

While acknowledging the horror of the "ethnic cleansing" against ethnic Albanians, Bergland said ending a foreign civil war is no excuse for getting the United States involved in another distant conflict.

### 600 years

"The job of our military is to protect the United States; not play kingmaker or nation-builder to the world," he said. "There is no legitimate reason why we should be involved in military operations in the Balkans — a region notorious for bloody ethnic, religious, and territorial squabbles for over 600 years."

In addition, the military strike is dangerous because it opens the floodgates to unlimited foreign intervention by the U.S. government, he said.

"The Clinton Administration is arguing that we have a moral obligation to stop one particular group of foreigners from killing another group of foreigners. But that argument writes a blank check on our military."

For example, noted Bergland, Kosovo is just one of a dozen internal conflicts raging around the world.

"More than 37,000 Kurds have been killed in Turkey over the past decade in that civil war. Russia just finished a bloody military action against rebels in Chechnya. More than 4,000

## Libertarian groups speak out

The Libertarian Party was not the only libertarian organization to speak out against the U.S. government's attack on Yugoslavia. Here are some other statements by libertarian groups that oppose the war.

There are some occasions when one should not mince words, and the spectacle of U.S.-led air strikes on Serbia is one. Put bluntly, President Clinton's assault on Serbia is a flagrant, shameful act of aggression. U.S. forces are attacking a country that has not attacked the United States, a U.S. ally, or even a neighboring state. That is the very definition of an aggressor.

War against Serbia is unwarranted on strategic, legal, and moral grounds. Serbia is the fourth country Bill Clinton has bombed in the past seven months. That record is one of a trigger-happy administration that is creating an image of America as the planetary bully. Decent Americans need to make a stand when it has reached the point of a full-scale war of aggression against a country that has done us no harm. — TED GALEN CARPENTER, Vice President for Defense & Foreign Policy Studies, Cato Institute

The overriding reason to oppose Mr. Clinton's adventure [in Kosovo] is that the United States was supposed to be a republic. It has acted like an empire for most of this century. By doing so, it has compromised its constitutional system because an activist foreign policy is inconsistent with strictly limited government, personal liberty, and low taxes. We can have liberty or we can have "global responsibilities." We can't have both. — SHELDON RICHMAN, Future of Freedom Foundation

The total of this administration's foreign policy is bombs. It bombs Somalia. It bombs the Sudan and Afghanistan. It bombs Iraq. It bombs Bosnia. And now it bombs Yugoslavia. Destruction is this administration's lifeblood. Perhaps it was inevitable that Clinton would join the company of the warmongers, using his office to inflict unrelenting violence in the power of government. He has no qualms about using the state to muscle people, denying their rights to liberty and property. He's done that every day since he took office, and favors doing ever more.

[At a time like this], how wonderful to hear the words of James Madison: "Of all the enemies to liberty, war is, perhaps, the most to be dreaded, because it comprises and develops the germ of every other. War is the parent of armies; from these proceed debts and taxes; and armies, debts, and taxes are the known instruments for bringing the many under the domination of the few. . . . No nation could preserve its freedom in the midst of continual warfare." — LLEWELLYN H. ROCKWELL, Ludwig von Mises Institute

people have died in the last month in the Sierra Leone civil war," he said.

"Given the endless number of conflicts, where do we stop? Will the United States move into an eternal war footing, fighting a perpetual war for an increasingly elusive peace?"

### Reduced readiness

The attack on Yugoslavia also reduced American military readiness, he noted.

According to Pentagon officials, the air strikes have so depleted the U.S. military arsenal

that the Air Force is planning to borrow spare parts from units in the U.S. to keep the jets flying in Yugoslavia.

"It is irresponsible to launch an unnecessary war overseas while degrading our ability to defend the United States at home," said Bergland.

On the subject of foreign policy, the LP Platform states: "Any U.S. military policy should have the objective of providing security for the lives, liberty and property of the American people in the U.S. against the risk of attack by a foreign power."

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# TALKING POINTS

## Bill Clinton's deadly arms deals & Al Gore's lies about urban sprawl

### ■ Al Gore's Internet

It's a time-honored tradition for presidential hopefuls to claim credit for other people's successes. But Al Gore as the father of the Internet?

That's what the campaigner-in-chief told CNN's Wolf Blitzer during an interview [on March 9]. Blitzer asked Gore how he was different than other presumptive Democratic challengers, such as Bill Bradley.

Replied Gore: "During my service in the United States Congress, I took the initiative in creating the Internet."

Huh? Preliminary discussions of how the ARPANET [the forerunner to the Internet] would be designed began in 1967, and a request for proposals went out the following year. In 1969, the Defense Department commissioned the ARPANET.

Gore was 21 years old at the time. It would be eight more years before Gore would be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Of course, politicians weren't completely unaware of the Internet. According to one account, when Senator Ted Kennedy learned in 1968 that Massachusetts-based BBN had won the ARPA contract for an "interface message processor," he sent a congratulatory telegram. It thanked the upstanding folks at BBN for their ecumenical spirit in devising an "interfaith message processor."

— **DECLAN MCCULLAGH**

*Wired News*, March 11, 1999

### ■ The real Y2K problem

David Duke wants to run for Congress in the year 2000. They're calling this the GOP's Y2KKK problem.

— **JAY LENO**

*Campaigns & Elections*, April 1999

### ■ Sprawling lies

The basic problem with the anti-sprawl crusade [by Vice President Al Gore and others] is its flawed statistical foundations. Average commute times have remained remarkably constant over the past quarter century, having declined from an average of 22.0 minutes in 1969 to 20.7 minutes in 1995.

EDITED BY  
**Marc Beauchamp**



**THE NET FINANCIAL benefit to this country because of firearms ranges as high as \$38.8 billion.**

[In fact,] U.S. automobile commute times are faster than in more [public] transit-dependent Europe and Japan.

— **WENDELL COX**

Political Economy Research Center's *PERC Reports*, March 1999

### ■ It's the market, stupid

Adjusted for inflation, the hourly wage has fallen nearly 15% since 1973. So what?

The only measure that counts is what we can buy for the time we spend working. A half-gallon of milk cost 10 minutes of labor in 1970; and only 7 minutes in 1997. A gallon of gasoline cost 11 minutes in 1950 and now goes for less than half that. A three-minute coast-to-coast phone call cost an incredible 90 hours of work in 1910; today it costs less than two minutes of work time. Cars at first seem to cost about the same as they did in the 1970s. But they are now far safer, pollute much less and are loaded with standard good-

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ies like stereos that weren't even options in 1970.

If there's something sad about all this, it's that so many Americans are convinced these improvements are the fruits of reinvented government. As Michael Cox and Richard Alm observe in *Myths of Rich and Poor*: It's not government policy that gave us drive-through service, instant mail, [automatic] teller machines, home shopping networks, air-conditioned offices, and much, much more. It wasn't public decree that raised life expectancies by 30 years over the past century, or shortened our workweek by 20 hours.

Over the past 200 years, we've progressed not by the grace of government but by the mechanism of the market.

— **MICHAEL FUMENTO**

*Reason*, April 1999

### ■ Have gun, will sell

Republican prosecutors have spent the better part of the past year obsessively looking for a smoking gun to hold against the president. But they might have dug up more dirt if they had thought a little more literally: Bill Clinton is, after all, the world's biggest arms dealer. From 1993 to 1997, the Pentagon sold \$70.6 billion in weapons to virtually every nation on earth, including governments that have used them against their own people, notably Indonesia, Mexico, and Turkey.

— **MOTHER JONES MAGAZINE**

April 1999

### ■ Abolish the Post Office?

Federal Express president and CEO Frederick Smith jolted everyone at a Congressional subcommittee hearing on postal reform legislation when he suggested Congress seriously consider abolition of the USPS [United States Postal Service] because it "is inexorably losing its status as a provider of last resort. [Such] legislation would permit the USPS to split its products and services into competitive, operated by a private corporation, and noncompetitive."

Smith told the panel that the USPS "must be confined to non-competitive markets and dismantled as these markets shrink. Closing down the USPS . . . is an option that ought to be considered seriously."

— **THE DIRECT NEWSLINE**

March 8, 1999

### ■ The battle against hate

The normally laid-back beaches of Southern California are becoming a hazardous place following a series of "surf rage" attacks. Most of the attacks have been by angry local surfers who fear they are being crowded out in a fast-growing pastime that attracts thousands of converts every year.

[In response], lawmakers are considering adding surf rage to a list of federal hate crimes.

— **JAMES LANGTON**

*London Daily Telegraph*, (England), March 9, 1999

### ■ Medical benefits

A U.S.-commissioned report released [recently] strongly backed the medical use of marijuana, declaring that for some people with serious diseases such as AIDS it may be one of the most effective treatments available.

The report by the Institute of Medicine (IOM) was commissioned by the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

IOM investigators declared that marijuana was not particularly addictive and did not appear to be a "gateway" to the use

of harder drugs such as heroin.

On almost every front the independent medical review of scientific research and patient experience found "substantial consensus" to indicate that, for some people, the potential medical benefits of marijuana outweigh its risks.

Research over the last 16 years has [shown that marijuana] can help to modulate pain, and alleviate other symptoms of serious illness such as anxiety, lack of appetite, and nausea.

— **REUTERS NEWS SERVICE**

March 17, 1999

### ■ Save lives, save money

While gun ban proponents and several big cities continue to push forward with their reckless lawsuits against firearm manufacturers, distributors, and dealers, a recent study by the National Center for Policy Analysis (NCPA) has exposed the suits as being in conflict with their alleged goal — recovering the cost to the cities due to the action of criminals and negligent individuals' misuse of firearms.

NCPA's study indicates that firearms in the hands of law-abiding citizens save far more money in preventing crime and injuries than criminals cost the cities through their misuse of firearms. The net financial benefit to this country because of firearms, according to the study, ranges as high as \$38.8 billion, easily dwarfing the medical and law-enforcement costs incurred because of the actions of armed criminals. A copy of this study can be found on the Internet at [www.ncpa.org](http://www.ncpa.org).

— **NRA-ILA FAX ALERT**

March 26, 1999

### ■ Uncle Sam: Drug Dealer

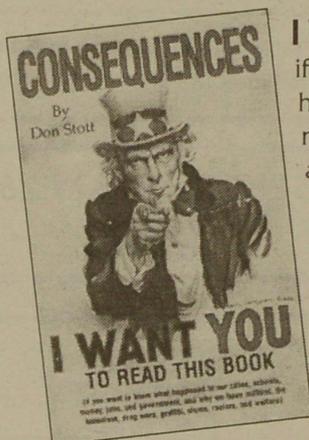
In 1996, it was revealed that, as part of their infiltration of one Latin American drug cartel, federal agents had successfully smuggled millions of dollars' worth of cocaine onto the streets of America's cities. At that level, it's hard to see the difference between successful infiltration and full-scale participation.

So, across the country, undercover DEA agents are staking out undercover FBI agents who are selling drugs to undercover DEA agents who are staking out undercover ATF agents.

— **MARK STEYN**

*The American Spectator*, April 1999

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## Gun Control Would Make Us Less Safe

by Jacob G. Hornberger

Government programs are notorious for achieving results that are the exact opposite of what they intend. If advocates of gun control get their way, there will be no better example of this principle. Gun control would result in a less peaceful, more dangerous society.

There are two major reasons for the right to keep and bear arms: so that citizens can protect themselves from the tyrannical acts of their own government and so that they can protect themselves from violent people. Proponents of gun control suggest that the first justification is baseless, since we live in a democracy. And by disarming everyone, the argument goes, violent crime against innocent people will plummet.

Let's address the second argument first. This argument for gun control is based on two alternative assumptions: either that violent people would obey gun-control laws or that gun-control laws would prevent violent people from acquiring guns.

Is either of these assumptions valid? If a murderer intends to

break a law against murder, why would he have any more respect for a law prohibiting him from possessing a gun? It defies credibility that murderers, rapists, burglars, thieves, and robbers are going to say to themselves: "There's a law against my owning guns and, therefore, I should obey it."

What would happen instead, of course, is that innocent people that is, those who are the intended victims of violent crime would end up complying with the gun-control law. Therefore, they would have been forced to give up the legal means of defending themselves from people who themselves would have no respect for the law.

Would a war against guns really eradicate guns? Well, has the war on drugs eradicated drugs? For a good example of the results of gun control (and the drug war), check out Washington, D.C. And if you think the collateral violence associated with the drug war is bad, imagine what would happen if the stakes were guns rather than drugs.

The right to keep and bear arms actually makes everyone safer, even those who oppose it. If violent people do not know which people are carrying arms and which are not, they are much less likely to take a chance. The reason a mugger on the street feels safer than a burglar of a home is that the mugger knows that he is less likely to encounter an armed defender.

(Why don't gun-control advocates display window signs in their homes announcing "This is a gun-free home"?)

But as important as the right of self-defense is, it isn't the primary reason for unfettered gun ownership. Our Founding Fathers placed the Second Amendment so high up on the Bill of Rights because they understood the vital importance of this restriction on government power. They recognized that the greatest threat to the safety and well-being of the citizenry lies not with some foreign government but rather with one's own government.

Gun-control proponents suggest that that doesn't apply to the United States anymore because we can trust our government officials. After all, we do live in a democracy, they tell us. "We are the government." There's nothing to fear because democratically elected government officials don't do bad things to their citizenry.

But U.S. government officials have done bad things to the American people. They rounded up and incarcerated American citizens of Japanese descent without even the semblance of a trial. They conducted nuclear radiation experiments on unsuspecting American servicemen. They subjected African-American men to bizarre syphilis experiments. They shot and killed an innocent woman and her teenage son at Ruby Ridge, Idaho. They used

military tanks and dangerous, flammable gas on men, women, and children at Waco, Texas. Today, they regularly confiscate assets belonging to innocent people and then deny them the benefits of trial by jury.

And most of these actions have occurred in the absence of a national crisis. Imagine what government officials are capable of in an enormous crisis involving the security of the nation.

How does the Second Amendment protect the American people from the most militarily powerful government in history? It stands as an insurance policy. In a society in which the citizenry are armed, government officials must always consider the risks of armed resistance to massive tyranny. In societies where people are disarmed, government officials know that citizens must willingly obey orders.

The Second Amendment, therefore, accomplishes what gun-control advocates say they wish to achieve: a safer, more peaceful, and more secure society. Gun control, like most other government programs, would end up with a result that is opposite to that which is intended.

*Mr. Hornberger is president of The Future of Freedom Foundation in Fairfax, Va., and the co-editor of The Tyranny of Gun Control.*

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# AFFILIATE NEWS

## Standing up to Jesse Ventura & a billion-dollar treasure hunt

### ■ Arkansas

Politicians are trying to force a "hamburger tax" down the throats of residents of El Dorado County — but Libertarians want to take a bite out of the plan.

In an attempt to promote tourism, county officials want to impose a 2% tax on all restaurant bills, and designate the money for the county's Advertising and Promotion Commission.

But Arkansas LP Vice Chair **Rodney Wimberly** said a voluntary program is better than the so-called "hamburger tax."

On March 23, Wimberly encouraged restaurants and hotels to form associations and designate a percentage of profits to tourism advertising, or suggested that restaurant customers could "round up" their bills to the next dollar to fund tourism.

What about the people who didn't want to pay the extra money? "That's the point — freedom of choice," said Wimberly. "When you have a tax, no one has a choice about paying it."

### ■ Arizona

Libertarians in the city of Chandler are leading a campaign to stop a proposed \$100 million sales tax increase that would fund "an ill-conceived expansion" of the city's transit system.

"No one disputes the need to deal with traffic congestion. Unfortunately, pouring money into a transit expansion is unlikely to provide much relief," said LP member **John Semmens**, who has won five previous battles against higher taxes.

"Chandler's existing bus service is deficit-ridden and terribly inefficient," he noted. "Chandler Transit currently loses over half a million dollars per year" — despite the fact that it handles only 1% of the total share of travel in the metropolitan region.

"In the unlikely event that the proposed expansion was to double transit's share of travel, 98% of the traffic problem would remain untouched," he said.

The vote on the tax increase will be held on May 18.

### ■ California

State LP leadership offered a surprising "congratulations" in March — to a Green Party can-

didate who won a special election to the State Assembly.

"Libertarians have been predicting for some time that voters are becoming increasingly frustrated with the Democrats and Republicans, and [this] election demonstrated exactly that," said State Chair **Mark Hinkle**.

On March 30, Green Party candidate Audie Bock won an unexpected 292-vote victory for the 16th Assembly District seat — an upset that "drives another nail into the two-party coffin," said Hinkle.

"This proves that the right circumstances combined with the right candidate can lead to victory for any third party," he said. "Libertarians congratulate Audie Bock and, as voter frustration with the two major parties continues to worsen, we look forward to joining her in the Legislature very soon."

### ■ California

Are Democrats and Republicans right about anything? Yes, say Libertarians: They're right in insisting that all political parties

should be able to keep non-party members from voting in their primaries.

So Libertarians joined in a tri-partisan criticism of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals' decision on March 4 to uphold California's Open Primary Act, passed by voters in March 1996.

"We Libertarians think it's a bad idea," said **Richard Rider** of the San Diego LP. "It results in tremendous cross-voting where people are elected who aren't favored by the people in that party."

Libertarians had worked with Democrats and Republicans to defeat the measure, arguing also that open primaries "result in all candidates looking alike because everyone votes in everyone else's primaries."

### ■ Hawaii

The state LP has filed an appeal with the Hawaii Office of Elections, seeking to overturn a decision which disqualified it as a recognized political party.

On March 9, Hawaii LP Chairman **Roger Taylor** filed

the appeal, challenging "the office's interpretation of the existing law" which requires a complicated mathematical formula to determine whether a party remains a qualified party.

At the same time, state Libertarians have launched a lobbying campaign in support of House Bill 1469 and Senate Bill 631. The two bills would either simplify the current system, or dramatically reduce ballot access barriers.

The LP of Hawaii is especially supportive of SB 631, said Taylor, since it would "allow parties that continue to run candidates and remain active in Hawaii to retain ballot status," and would reduce the number of signatures required to get on the ballot to 600 from the current 6,000.

If the bill became law, it would also "give us back the liberty to run one or two qualified people for office rather than a slate of token and paper candidates to garner an arbitrary percentage of the vote," he said.

### ■ Illinois

A state Libertarian on the Palatine Zoning Board has helped defeat a proposal mandating that a local restaurant purchase \$10,000 worth of extra security devices.

**Mike Ginsberg**, who is also the Illinois LP State Chair, convinced four of the five ZBA members to reject a proposal to require the restaurant to buy extra security cameras, lighting, and locks — simply because the previous restaurant at that location had been the site of a robbery and multiple murder.

"The marketplace will determine the type of security required at this restaurant," said Ginsberg. "It's up to the restaurant owners to address any consumer perception regarding its security."

Ginsberg said his most persuasive argument was that "this store shouldn't pay the price for the location's past history," and that "it wasn't up to government to set security requirements."

As the only Libertarian on the ZBA, he said "there was principle involved," and although the dollar amount was small, "if you accomplish something like this ten times, it really adds up."

Palatine, a northwest suburb of Chicago, has 50,000 residents.

### ■ Michigan

A state Libertarian is so convinced that people serving on government-mandated jury duty deserve higher compensation that he went to jail rather than serve.

In mid-January, LP member **Marc B. Coleman** was sentenced to 20 days in jail for refusing to report for jury duty.

"I'm standing up for what I believe, and that is fair compensation [for jury duty] that is equal to what a person is currently making," he said.

Coleman, the owner of a fire protection company, said he could not afford to serve on a jury at the \$15-a-day pay scale. Instead, he argued, jurors should be paid the equivalent of what they earn at their jobs.

Coleman said he will now work to change state law regarding juror compensation, and that putting him in jail for his act of civil disobedience was "certainly not fair."

### ■ Minnesota

State Libertarians used their "Tax Cuts NOW!" rally at the state capitol to blast Reform Party governor Jesse Ventura for being a closet Democrat.

"Jesse Ventura is the first Democrat to use libertarian rhetoric to get elected," said LP State Chair **Charles Test**. "He joins a long line of Republicans who campaign on less government [and] less taxes — and then expand state power once elected."

More than 100 people gathered for the rally in St. Paul on February 27, where they demanded that Ventura return the state's \$5 billion surplus to taxpayers, as promised.

However, the *Wall Street Journal* noted, "when it comes to paring back government, the muscular Mr. Ventura is looking more like Casper Milquetoast. He has unfurled a budget that leaves more than half of the state's surplus intact."

That "bait & switch technique" has Libertarians irate — and prompted Test to declare: "Next time, don't be fooled. If you really want less government, less taxes, less spending, and more personal responsibility, vote Libertarian."

With Ventura, said Test, "Voters who thought they were getting libertarian-lite, got [Democrat]-lite."

### ■ Nevada

Here's one way to get the federal government out of the medical marijuana debate: Declare it a states' rights issue, said **Chris Azzarro**, State Director of the Nevada LP.

To make that point, the Nevada LP has officially endorsed HR 1782, a bill sponsored by U.S.



LP News photo by Jeff Chase

### Libertarian Party launches Cambridge affiliate

■ Massachusetts LP State Chair Carla Howell congratulates Jason Solinsky, who was elected Chairman of the new Cambridge City LP Committee at their organizing meeting on March 14. "I'm excited about the potential for this group," said Howell. "They are well organized and serious about winning seats on the city council."

# Flick Picks

The Moviegoers' Website  
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Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA), to let states convert marijuana from a Schedule 1 to a Schedule 2 drug so it could be used for medical purposes.

Noting that Nevada voters overwhelmingly approved an amendment to the state constitution last year to legalize medical marijuana, Azzarro said, "This is a common-sense solution. Basic compassion and common sense demand that we allow seriously ill people to use whatever safe medication is most effective to alleviate their suffering."

■ **New Hampshire**

The state legislature's vote on March 4 to impose an income tax drew a blistering rebuke from Libertarians, who denounced the plan as an "arrogant" attempt by Republicans and Democrats to create a "bigger, more powerful, and less constitutional government."

The vote to impose a combined income and statewide property tax of 4% — which was hailed as a "victory" by Democrats and Republicans — was a result of an earlier state Supreme Court order to "equalize" funding for school districts.

"To seek to implement not just one but two first-ever broad-based taxes in New Hampshire is outrageous enough," said LP State Chair **Danielle Donovan**. "But to do so in the name of an entirely disingenuous [state] Supreme Court decision in order to support a failing government-run school system is not only unconscionable — it's downright mean-spirited and arrogant."

■ **New Mexico**

A school district that has been sending students home armed with leaflets full of "pro-tax propaganda" has rejected a request by Libertarians to distribute the opposing view as well.

"We're not surprised that the school board rejected our request; this is how the government works," said **Joseph Knight**, Acting Secretary of the San Juan County LP's central committee.

After learning that pupils in the county's four districts were bringing home pamphlets subtly encouraging a "yes" vote in a special election to impose a tax to fund a juvenile justice center, Libertarians attended a school board meeting on February 7 and demanded equal access.

They pointed out that it would cost them \$3,300 in stamps to mail out what the pro-tax forces were getting done for free, and presented the school board with their own leaflet. But the board rejected their request.

**Ron Barrett**, LP candidate for county committee, said, "I'm disappointed that they are willing to let a particular group use the school for propaganda."

■ **Tennessee**

The Libertarian Party of Tennessee has decided to become more "cool" — it has adopted the Liberty Penguin as its official mascot.

At the party's state convention on March 13, delegates unanimously approved a resolution to make the torch-bearing penguin the party's mascot. The penguin will now appear on party correspondence and will be used for fundraising.

"The Liberty Penguin is an excellent ice-breaker when it comes to telling people about liberty," said state vice chair **William Cole**. "I wear [my Liberty Penguin pin] on my lapel and people are always asking me, 'What is that?' and 'What does it mean?'"

The Liberty Penguin was created five years ago by graphic designer and Tennessee LP mem-

**BILL WILLIS:**  
"Libertarians are tired of people who think they know how to spend our money."

ber Ann Cason as "a friendly way to promote Libertarian ideals." It has also been adopted by Libertarians in Wisconsin, Laramie County (Wyoming), and Harrisonburg (Virginia).

■ **Tennessee**

The Lakeway Area Libertarian Party (LALP) has joined a campaign to stop a highway project in northeast Tennessee — a \$450 million construction project that is opposed by most of the communities in its path.

In early March, LALP chairman **Bill Willis** announced that Libertarians had joined with Citizens for Sensible Roads, the Northeast Tennessee Conservation Roundtable, the Tennessee Christian Coalition, and other groups in an effort to stop the project.

"Less spending [on highways] could result in the lowering of the Tennessee gas tax, which is among the highest in the nation," he said.

Despite a referendum in Greene County last year, where residents voted strongly against the proposed high-traffic corridor, "the project is moving forward," noted Willis.

"This has become a familiar political theme: The wishes of citizens are superseded by our elected officials," he said. "Libertarians are tired of people who think they know how to spend our money better than we do."

■ **Washington**

Washington Libertarians want to send the state government to "Alcoholics Anonymous" — by getting it out of the booze-selling business.

The Washington LP is supporting an initiative that would end the state's monopoly on selling alcohol, and would roll back taxes on hard liquor.

"We don't believe the state should be in the liquor business at all," explained **Ken Houghton**, the finance chairman for the state party. "It is not a legitimate function of government to sell liquor."

Another LP member said it was hypocritical of the state gov-

ernment to maximize liquor profits while trying to combat drunk drivers.

"It's like saying crack cocaine is bad for you, but we'll sell it to you if we can get a cut of the money," said LP activist **Rachel Hawkrigde**.

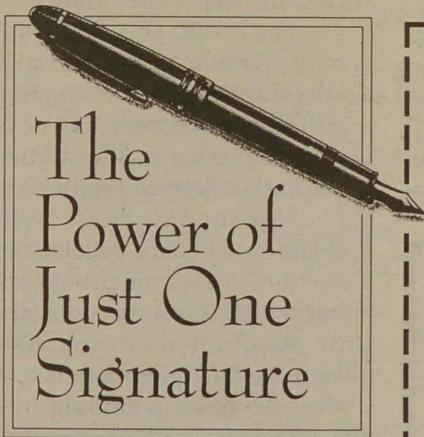
■ **Washington**

It's easy to find a billion dollars, said State Chair **Mary Maas** — just look for useless spending in the state budget. To prove the point, Maas has kicked off a \$1 billion "treasure hunt," with prizes awarded to those who track down the most wasteful programs in the budget.

She devised the contest in January in response to politicians' complaints that an initiative to slash car taxes to \$30 would "cost" the government \$1 billion a year in revenue.

"The Let's Take All The Money That No One's Using And Spend it On Basic Government Services faction has already started hysterical attacks on the initiative," Maas said. "Someone needs to show the voters how much can be cut from the state budget — and that someone should be the Libertarian Party."

The prize for the winner: The Washington state LP should pay their car tax for 10 years, suggested Maas.



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# The Boomerang Effect: Why government programs result in opposite consequences

Continued from Page 1

much-touted "reform" of the Immigration & Naturalization Service — which, it was promised, would reduce the flow of illegal immigrants.

In each case, however, not only did the law fail to implement its stated goal, but actually accomplished the exact *opposite* of what politicians promised.

Oops. How embarrassing.

But how can that be? How can the "good" intentions of the government — ending discrimination, helping the handicapped, and slowing illegal immigration — generate such bad consequences?

## A powerful tool

Harry Browne, in *Why Government Doesn't Work*, provided one answer: "Government is a powerful tool," he wrote. "But it's far easier to put it in motion than to control it. When government is involved, nothing ever seems to work out as intended."

Indeed. It's what Browne calls "The Dictator Syndrome" — the mistaken belief that a law you support will accomplish its intended purpose, as though you were a dictator with unlimited imperial power to simply decree an intended result.

But it doesn't work that way, noted Browne. To pass a law, you



## ACCORDING TO one study, the ADA increased unemployment among disabled Americans.

need allies (each with their own agendas); legislators to write the law (each with their own ideas); bureaucrats to administer it (each with their own goals); and judges to resolve disputes about it (each with their own interpretations).

The end result?

"By the time your program has run this gauntlet, it will be far bigger and far more expensive

than you had imagined," wrote Browne. "And it will have been twisted to satisfy many factions. In fact, your program may end up being the opposite of what you had intended."

Need proof? Here's some examples of what we'll call "The Boomerang Effect" — where a law or program accomplished the exact opposite of what was promised:

■ In 1990, President George Bush signed the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), which was designed to end discrimination against people with physical or mental handicaps.

Nine years later, the results are in: The ADA actually *increased* unemployment among the disabled.

## Scares employers

According to Murray Weidenbaum of the Center for the Study of American Business: "One survey reported that the portion of men with disabilities who are working dropped from 33% in 1991 to 31% in 1995. Some reasons for these disappointing results seem clear.

"The ADA scares some prospective employers away from hiring workers with disabilities. They fear the extended litigation that may arise from the complicated provisions of the ADA . . ."

the Civil Rights Act in an effort to end discrimination against African Americans.

Thirty years later, white Americans were using the law to get preferential treatment from a Small Business Administration (SBA) program that forces government agencies to "set aside" a certain percentage of their contracts for minority-owned businesses.

In *The End of Sanity*, Martin L. Gross wrote: "Arnold O'Donnell, a partner in a small Washington, DC, contracting company, fought the SBA set-aside program for years.

"His argument: The program was unfair and un-American. In Washington, a white man such as himself was an oppressed minority. Why wasn't he in the SBA

And Kathi Wolfe, a visually disabled writer, noted in the *Washington Post*: "I'm concerned that abuse of the [ADA] law is hurting people like me.

"A large number of frivolous complaints brought under the ADA in recent years has contributed to the widespread impression that hiring disabled people is an invitation to trouble."

The bottom line: *More* disabled Americans without jobs, not fewer.

■ In 1964, Congress passed

## The "Boomerang Effect" strikes at the local level

The "Boomerang Effect" of unintended consequences doesn't just apply to the federal government. It also works at the local level. Here are some examples. . .

■ In 1994, Detroit passed a law requiring homeless shelters to get a government license — which would be issued only after the shelters passed strict inspections by eight different city departments. The law, promised politicians, would ensure better and safer living conditions for the homeless.

The result: Out of the 44 shelters operating in 1994, only 25 have applied for a license, reported Wendy Wendland in the *Detroit Free Press*. And most of them will fail the inspections — since repairs required to bring the shelters up to the city's stringent standards could cost the cash-strapped facilities up to \$1 million each.

Asks the *Free Press*: "Will the city issue fines and shut them down? City officials won't say. [But] some homeless shelters in Detroit could be forced to close — putting hundreds of poor people back on the street."

■ In New York City, mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani launched a "war on smut" — using city regulations to close down strip clubs.

The result, wrote Michael Blood of the Associated Press: "A swanky topless club has found an astonishing way to keep its doors open despite Giuliani's clampdown on X-rated cabarets and smut shops: Let children in.

"A sharp lawyer for Ten's World Class Cabaret in Manhattan figured that since the law specifically targets 'adult' establishments, putting out the welcome mat for children would save the club from the padlock.

"State Supreme Court Justice Stephen Crane agreed, saying Ten's 'cannot be defined as an adult eating and drinking establishment if it does not exclude minors.'"

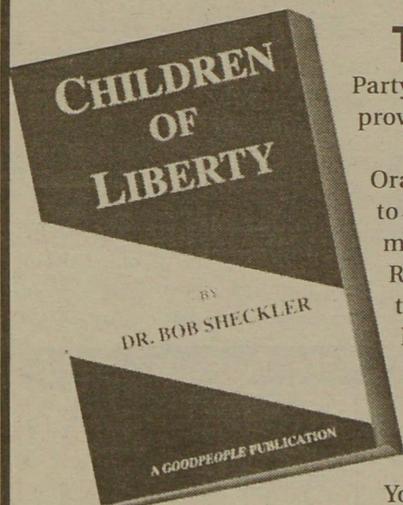
■ In 1988, Seattle, Washington passed a "nuisance abatement law" to make residents safer by allowing the city to condemn property tied to drug activity.

Designed to curb a proliferation of crack houses, it is now being used by the City Attorney Mark Sidran to seize homes from elderly or minority residents whose children or grandchildren — unbeknownst to them — were involved with drugs. One typical target: An 80-year-old amputee grandmother, confined to a wheelchair.

"[These people are] not the sort of person legislators had in mind when they created the law enforcement tool known as drug nuisance abatement in 1988," wrote Michelle Malkin in *Reason* magazine. "Once investigators start digging, it will be hard to ignore the scores of property owners whose rights may have been trampled in Sidran's war on drugs."

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# The 'Boomerang Effect' at work

preference program?

"The SBA laughed at him for years, but he persisted until finally an agency administrative judge agreed with O'Donnell.

"He ruled that in the heavily African-American city of Washington, O'Donnell was in fact 'socially and economically disadvantaged.'"

## Whites-only

But affirmative action for white folks doesn't stop with jobs: It's also being used to justify million-dollar "white-only" scholarships.

In the *Wall Street Journal*, June Kronholz reported that a federal judge mandated that traditionally black universities must "desegregate" by recruiting more white students.

Kronholz wrote: "In an effort to attract more whites to Alabama State and Alabama A&M University, the judge ordered each to spend \$1 million a year in new state funding on scholarships for whites.

"In a state where 'white only' signs hung over public facilities only a few decades ago, a white-only scholarship turns history on its head."

The bottom line: *White* people benefit from laws designed to help blacks.

■ In 1992, Congress passed a series of reforms designed to curb illegal immigration from Mexico. Politicians tripled the INS's budget to \$4 billion and more than doubled the number of Border Patrol agents to 7,000.

The result? Daniel W. Sutherland wrote in *Reason* magazine: "Recent research by Wayne Cornelius and Claudia Smith at the University of California at San Diego suggests that the heightened controls may have simply encouraged illegals to stick around once they get here.

'Short-term shuttle migration' — the academic term for working here illegally for a short period and then returning home — may be giving way to more-permanent illegal immigration."

Now, the number of illegal immigrants in the United States is estimated at 5 million — up from just 3 million in 1986.

The bottom line: *More* illegal immigrants, not less.

## The effect at work

They're all examples of "The Boomerang Effect" at work: Anti-discrimination laws that encourage discrimination. Anti-racism laws that benefit white people. Anti-illegal immigration laws that encourage more illegal immigration.

Is it any wonder Libertarians are so cynical when politicians promise that one *more* law, or one *more* government agency, or one *more* federal mandate will solve some social problem?

As Browne wrote: "You don't control government. And your dreams of what government can achieve are just that — dreams. They bear no resemblance to what government will really do if your program is enacted."

**HARRY BROWNE:**  
"Your program may end up the opposite of what you intended."

Given this track record of failure, what can be done to fix these government programs that produce the exact *opposite* of what was intended?

The Greek philosopher Hippocrates once wrote: "Opposites are cures for opposites."

He's right. And in this case, the opposite of "The Boomerang Effect" is the Libertarian Party, which would stop trying to use the government to do "good" — and, as a result, would stop it from doing so much that is bad.

That would be an "opposite" result we could all live with.

## ■ Sources:

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Michael Blood, *The Associated Press*, November 7, 1998.

Michelle Malkin, *Reason*, March 1999.



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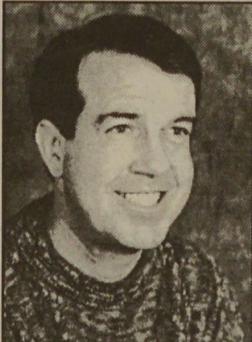
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"The Essence of Political Persuasion" was created by communications expert **Michael Cloud**, professional speech writer and Keynote Speaker at the 1998 Libertarian Party national convention

# LP wins 12 races in Spring elections

Continued from Page 1

The three victories showed "that we can win contested non-partisan races, no matter how large the district," said Knight. "We need to build on that, electing more local officials who will be taken seriously as candidates for future partisan races."

In New Hampshire, getting back in office was a family affair: John Babiarz won re-election to his position as Grafton Cemetery Trustee, and his wife Rosalie Babiarz won re-election to her post as Town Auditor.

## Two-time winner

In Marlborough, LP member Gene Donahue was a two-time winner: He was elected to a three-year term on the town's Budget Committee and also as Treasurer on the town's Recreation Committee.

"After failing two consecutive years in the Selectman's race, I'm very pleased with the outcome [of these races]," he said.

In Wentworth, Steve Davis also scored a pair of victories: He was elected to a two-year term as School District Moderator and also as Town Moderator.

In Greenland, Steve Bacon won a seat on the town's Budget



■ Beth and Robert King pose in front of a bulletin board displaying the mascot of the Beaver Acres High School. Robert King won a seat on that school's Local School Committee, while Beth King won a spot on the Aloha High School Local School Committee (both in Oregon).

Committee in an uncontested race. And in Deerfield, former Libertarian House Leader Don Gorman won election as Trustee of the Trust Fund.

Other NH Libertarians made impressive showings in local races, but fell slightly short of reaching the winner's circle.

In Barnstead, Judy Houle won 45% of the vote in her run for Overseer of Public Welfare,

and Bill Discipio received 44% of the vote for Trustee of the Trust Fund in Hampstead.

New Hampshire LP State Chair Danielle Donovan said she was "generally pleased with the results," since six of the party's 10 candidates won election.

"I am encouraged that New Hampshire has some budding politicians and the future looks bright," she said.

In Minnesota, LP member Felicia O'Brien was elected Township Clerk in Wrenshall with a last-minute write-in campaign, winning the non-partisan office by a 26-6 vote.

"I was surprised," she said about her victory. Her one-year term of office, she said, "[will be] a little [political] experience for me — and I hope a good one."

## Taking advantage

Minnesota LP State Chair Charles Test said the O'Brien victory demonstrated the importance of taking advantage of electoral opportunities.

"It says that if you pay attention and you are willing to run, you can win in small local elections," he said. "It's a good way to get started."

In Vermont, Hardy Macia was elected to the Grand Isle Selectboard in a squeaker — he won his two-way race with 50.6% of the vote.

Macia credited his unexpected win to his campaign for State Senate last year, and said, "Candidates should be encouraged to go after smaller seats after they've put in a lot of effort in the larger seats, so their larger efforts generate some pay-off."

But Macia didn't stop there: He was then appointed by the board as Weigher of the Coal.

"Vermont hasn't used coal in over one-half century, so it is an old position still on the books," he said. "I wanted to be able to tell my grandchildren that I was once the Weigher of Coal."

Later that same month, a Massachusetts LP member also won election to local office.

On March 30, Ben Rivard-Ripoza was elected as a Town Meeting Member in Dartmouth via a write-in campaign.

Rivard-Rapoza won because of his aggressive campaign, said Massachusetts LP activist Jim Sullivan.

"He printed up flyers, distributed them in his district, and folks voted him in," he noted. "He prominently mentioned the LP in his literature."

With his victory, Rivard-Rapoza became the 11th Libertarian in office in the Bay State, up from four just three years ago.

"We're showing some real progress," said Sullivan.

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Region 64 (central Los Angeles) is a subdivision of the California Libertarian Party. It is located strategically in the heart of Los Angeles, and includes the areas or entities of downtown LA, Hollywood, Koreatown, Little Tokyo — plus the *Los Angeles Times*, West Coast CNN, and the University of Southern California, to name only a few.

This area also contains the entertainment industry and historic Hollywood, including: Paramount Pictures, CBS Television City, NBC Television Studios, Fox Television Studios, the Director's Guild, the Screen Actor's Guild, the Sunset Strip, the Hollywood Walk of Fame, and Mann's Chinese Theatre. In other words, much of the movie, television, and music industry is located here.

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## THE HOLLYWOOD STRATEGY

who works in any Hollywood entertainment industry driving by Libertarian Party advertisements on their way to work. Seeing the 800 number every day is going to make a lot of them call. We also plan to place ads in Hollywood insider magazines and other trade publications, as well.

## Setting national trends

More importantly, imagine everyone on the staff of the *LA Times* or any TV news show driving by Libertarian Party advertisements, month after month. This should make them more likely to cover an LP presidential candidate or the LP National Convention next door in Orange County in July 2000. If they cover us here, it will make your local press more likely to cover your local candidates and activities. This is just the beginning of what we are doing — because these are the people we need to sway, because these are the people with the money and influence to set national trends.

Aside from the primary goal of increasing visibility, we are working to increase party registration and membership on both a local and nationwide basis. With Libertarians running and succeeding in aggressive, strong campaigns in all partisan and non-partisan races, we can achieve more influence here — and, thus, nationwide. Lastly, the Democratic National Convention will be held here in Region 64, and this is also in our agenda for making our presence felt.

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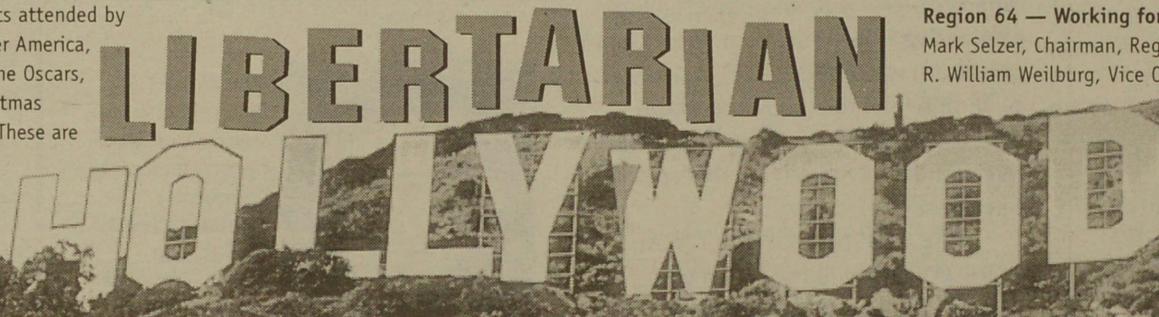
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■ **Don't Blame Me . . . I Voted Libertarian** (Blue & white; LP address and phone # below.)

■ **Vote Libertarian/800-ELECT-US** (Blue & white.)

■ **I'm Pro-Choice on Everything!** (Red, white, & blue.)

■ **Buttons** (**Cost:** \$1 each or 75¢ each for 5 or more)

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- **Ending the Welfare State.** Brochure, 2-color (green & black). The LP's welfare reform plan, promoting opportunity, work, and personal responsibility — instead of failed government programs. ★ **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ Or \$7 for 100
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- **What Happened To Your Family Budget?** Brochure, 2-color (blue & black). Looks at how the government impoverishes Americans by taking more in taxes than most families spend on food, clothing, and shelter (combined). ★ **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ Or \$7 for 100
- **Making Your Neighborhood Safe Again.** Brochure, 2-color (red & black). Explains the LP's five-point crime-control program that protects civil liberties — while providing more resources to fight real criminals. ★ **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ Or \$7 for 100
- **Working to Cut Your Taxes.** Brochure, 2-color (green & black). How the LP would drastically reduce the size and cost of government by privatizing government services, abolishing corporate welfare, and ending income taxes. ★ **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ Or \$7 for 100

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- \_\_\_\_\_ Brochure: "Ending the Welfare State"
- \_\_\_\_\_ Brochure: "Making Neighborhood Safe Again"
- \_\_\_\_\_ Brochure: "Equal Rights/America's Gun Owners"
- \_\_\_\_\_ Brochure: "Working to Cut Your Taxes!"
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# THE ISSUES

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Each month, "The Issues" will highlight several Libertarian Party press releases. To get the complete text of all press releases issued by the LP, send a message to "announce-request@lp.org" with the word "subscribe" in the subject line.

## Credit card machines for beggars plan: A joke?

The mayor of San Francisco is considering a plan to give portable credit card machines to panhandlers so they can accept hand-outs via an ATM or credit card — an idea that's so preposterous it sounds like an April Fool's joke, the Libertarian Party said. But it's not.

"The motto of the San Francisco city government seems to be: American Express — don't leave the homeless without it," said Steve Dasbach, the party's national director.

"It must be an April Fool's Day joke, right? Unfortunately, it's not. The only fools are the politicians who are considering this idea — and the joke will be on the taxpayers who would be forced to pay for it."

In late March, San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown said he is considering a proposal that would give homeless beggars battery-powered machines to allow them to accept donations via Visa, MasterCard, and American Express.

Mayor Brown said he liked the "innovative idea" because it "empowers homeless people to take responsible actions."

But Dasbach countered, "Homelessness is not caused by a lack of credit cards. It's caused by a lack of opportunity that discourages initiative — and by an excess of failed government programs that encourage dependency."

## South Carolina launches "War on Urine"

A proposed law in South Carolina that would make it a crime to buy or sell urine — yes, *urine* — shows just how ridiculous the War on Drugs has become, the LP said.

"Politicians have finally figured out the #1 problem in the country: The, ahem, *yellow* market in illegal urine," said the party's director of communications, Bill Winter.

The bill, introduced by State Senator David Thomas (R-Greenville), makes it a felony punishable by five years in jail to buy or sell human urine "with intent to defraud a drug screening test." Thomas argued that the bill is necessary because "the safety of the public is at stake here."

Winter, however, suggested that "the sanity of the politicians" is at stake here.

"When you think the politicians can't get any more preposterous, they launch a War on Urine," he said. "Foolish proposals like this are making states the lavatories of democracy."

Bathroom humor aside, Winter said the bill demonstrates a serious point: That every government program or law eventually requires *another* program or law to try to make it work.

"But who would have guessed that the War on Drugs would one day lead to the War on Urine?" he asked.

## Libertarians get bad buzz from vibrator law

A judge should strike down an Alabama law that bans the sale of vibrators and other sex toys, the Libertarian Party said — because America doesn't need politicians deciding "which kinds of orgasms are government approved."

"This law is giving us bad vibrations," said Bill Winter. "The government has no business interfering in any private, consensual sexual activity between one person."

What's the buzz here? A court in Alabama is weighing a state law that prohibits the sale of sex toys — and makes the "crime" punishable by a \$10,000 fine and one year in jail.

A lawsuit to overturn it was filed by a group of women, including the owner of an "adult" shop in Huntsville and a "Jane Doe," who said she uses a doctor-recommended vibrator to overcome sexual dysfunction.

Libertarians say their advice to the judge is clear: It's time to give a Big No to politicians who try to regulate the Big O.

"Call off the vibrator police," urged Winter. "If there is any area of life that should be strictly off-limits to politicians, it should be people's bedrooms. Quite simply, there is no excuse for these kinds of invasive, offensive, puritanical laws."

# Success '99 heads to Michigan and California (twice) in May

Seminars set for Detroit, Anaheim, & San Jose

As Success '99 prepares to shift back into high gear with three events in Michigan and California in May, activist "success stories" are already beginning to emerge from the first round of graduates, LP National Director Steve Dasbach announced.

"I expect the Libertarians who attend our Success '99 events in May — or any of the seminars that follow — will gain as much *immediate* value as did the people who attended events in January-March," he said.

South Carolina LP member Bill Woolsey — who attended the March 21-22 Success '99 event in Columbia — said he used his seminar training to give a more effective presentation at a local public hearing on a proposed land use plan in late March.

### "I was ready"

"After my fine training at Success '99, I was ready," said Woolsey, who structured his comments with a "hook" to grab attention, followed by the body of his argument, and then a summary — exactly as he learned in Success '99's "Short Answers to Tough Questions" section.

"Our goal in Success '99 is to give LP activists political skills they can put to use immediately," said Dasbach. "Like Mr. Woolsey, you will be able to walk out of these seminars able to do a better job spreading the Libertarian message."

Success '99 seminars in May include:

■ **May 1-2** at the Ramada Inn, Southfield, Michigan. Presenters include Steve Dasbach (LP National Director), Dr. Mary Ruwart (author of *Healing Our World*), and Michael Cloud (1998 Nevada U.S. Senate candidate).

■ **May 15-16** at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, San Jose, California. Presenters include Dasbach, Ron Crickenberger (LP Political Director), and David Bergland (LP National Chairman).

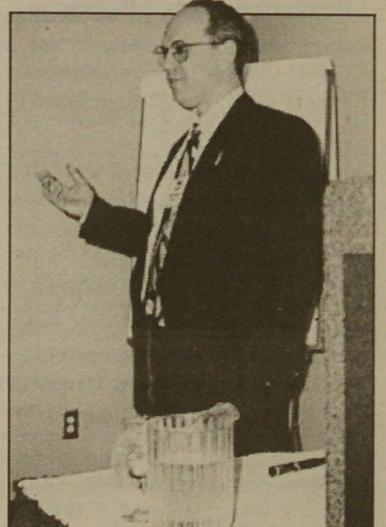
■ **May 22-23** at the Marriott Hotel, Anaheim, California. Presenters include Crickenberger, Bergland, and Bill Winter (LP Director of Communications).

In June, Success '99 events will be conducted in New York (June 5-6), San Antonio, Texas (June 12-13), and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (June 26-27).

Success '99 is an intensive, two-day series of workshops that teaches the basics of building effective LP organizations, communicating LP ideas, and running successful LP campaigns.

Each event consists of 12 hours of workshops, conducted all day Saturday and on Sunday morning. The registration fee for the seminar is \$79, and includes a Saturday lunch.

For a list of upcoming Success '99 events — or to register — see the advertisement on page 5 of this issue of *LP News*.



■ LNC member Ken Bisson gives a talk on temperament types — and how they can influence LP outreach — at the Success '99 in Columbia, South Carolina on March 20, 1999.

From the author of *Healing Our World...*



## Short Answers to the Tough Questions

Inspired by Dr. Ruwart's Internet column at the *Advocates Web Site* ([www.self-gov.org](http://www.self-gov.org))

Score a libertarian victory with the voters, press, friends, and family by explaining how liberty works — in 30 to 60 seconds!

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# Dilbert: Libertarian?

Continued from Page 3

doesn't talk about government. Second, he makes [people] laugh so hard they forget what he just said."

But Adams' libertarianism is obvious, writes Lott, because he "has a low view of human nature, a tolerance for downsizing, a hatred of stupid pointless bureaucracy, and a very good understanding of economics and tradeoffs. He doesn't write about government much, but when he does, he is entirely dismissive.

"This may not add up to party loyalty or even a political philosophy, but it does add up to a point of view. And that view is libertarian."

As evidence, Lott points to one of Adams' books, where the cartoonist rejects the corporate-downsizing-is-evil argument by having Dogbert wonder about the "alternative" to such downsizing.

"Does [the alternative] start with a 'C' and end with the fall of the Iron Curtain?" asks Dogbert.

Lott also lists the "Productivity Thwarting Activities" that Adams mocks in the comic strip: "Mandatory dress code (mimics government). Mandatory safety training (caused by government). Mandatory sexual harassment training (caused by . . .). Mandatory diversity training (caused by . . .)." And so on.

## Not mean enough

When his turn comes, Burlingame fights back valiantly, arguing that Dilbert is actually a "left-wing, pro-labor cartoon." He also rejects Lott's definition of a libertarian, writing: "I have my own definition of a libertarian, which is a person who does not think the Republican Party is mean enough."

He also quotes a Dilbert book, in which Adams wrote that capitalism is "a great subject for humor because it creates losers more often than winners."

Nonsense, counters Lott: "Adams loves capitalism and thus devotes much time and space to criticizing its sillier and more egregious mistakes. He does so not to promote government action, but to correct the sometimes errant system which, again, he loves. He doesn't waste his time on government because,

quite simply, he doesn't want to be bothered with something that doesn't interest him."

Even Adams' criticisms of business, writes Lott, are based on the fact that "it is often too much like government" — proving that he "is a libertarian in any meaningful sense of the word."

After pondering both sides — and "based on the persuasiveness of their arguments and not the truth behind them" —

Adams rendered his verdict: "The winner is: Jeremy Lott."

But not so fast. Adams then noted: "In my view, Mr. Lott won the debate by cleverly creating a definition of libertarianism so inclusive that almost everyone on earth would be a member."

## He doesn't say

So is Adams really a libertarian? In the end, he doesn't say.

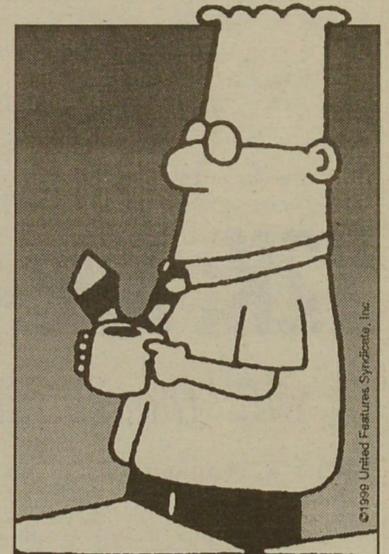
However, he did also write: "The only thing I'm sure of is that my political philosophy doesn't have a label and it's unlikely to attract enough people

to hold a caucus."

But he did dangle some additional clues: "I think most liberals are well-meaning people whose belief in the goodness of human beings causes them to favor policies that would doom the planet to annihilation in the long run. I think most conservatives are mean, selfish, hypocritical people who have annoyingly effective ideas sometimes and nutty ideas other times."

Hmmmm . . . Adams doesn't like liberals or conservatives?

Sounds like a libertarian, doesn't he?



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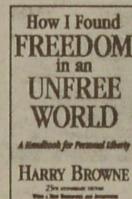
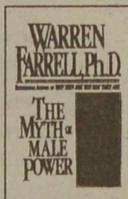
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## TIM SLAGLE'S

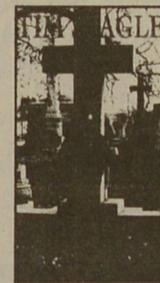
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# THE FORUM

## Y2K: Are the prophets of doom right?

Or will "thoughtful plans" be enough?

The "Millennium Bug," or the Y2K (Year 2000) computer problem, has become a subject of conversation for just about everyone in the U.S., especially Libertarians.

In a nutshell, the problem stems from many computers having been programmed to think that all years are 19-something. This won't be true in just a few short months, and the potential for catastrophic failures of vast computer systems in telephony, electric utilities, government, and business is genuine. In the worst-case scenarios, people are predicting a complete collapse of large businesses and national governments, widespread social unrest, and chaos.

Libertarians were among the first to jump on the "Y2K — The Sky Is Falling" bandwagon. It's easy to understand; Libertarians typically don't think the state can do anything right, so the notion that the federal government might soon be completely paralyzed due to its own incompetence seems quite plausible.

While this might not cause many Libertarians to shed a tear,

some fear that Uncle Sam will resort to martial law. If declared early enough, this could — shudder — keep Slick Willie in office after his second term is over. Less apocalyptic, but perhaps more likely, is the prospect of local governments using Y2K as an excuse to run up debt and taxes, increase police forces, obtain military equipment for "riot control," etc.

### Economic slowdown

It may be that the optimists on the issue are right, and nothing worse is in the offing than a bit of economic slow-down, due to companies having to spend resources on computer repairs instead of production.

But it isn't necessary for Y2K to get as bad as the prophets of doom predict, in order for governments to seize upon it as an excuse. It is enough that people fear the Millennium Bug.

Never has the state found a greater tool for "herding the masses" than widespread fear among the people.

By Don L. Tiggre

This is the greatest danger Y2K poses. Yes, it looks doubtful that all the power companies will be ready. Yes, it looks doubtful that all the government agencies will be ready on time — even the military. Yes, people who work for companies that do not achieve Y2K-compliance in time may be out of a job. Yes, people who bank with non-Y2K-compliant financial institutions may lose access to their money.

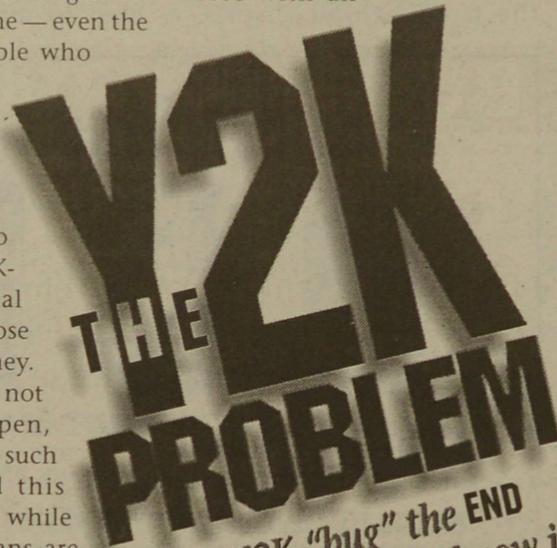
But whether or not these things happen, people are aware of such possibilities, and this frightens them — while the statist politicians are salivating at the chance to whip this fear into a new assault on freedom.

### What can be done?

The first thing Libertarians can do, as much as we enjoy envisioning the downfall of nation-states the globe over, is to stop adding to the fear!

Sure, it's reasonable to counsel people to check and see what their employers, banks, and oth-

ers they depend on are doing to prepare for Y2K. But to stir up fear with stories of coming chaos only plays into the hands of those with an



interest in ruling. If people have the resources, you can even counsel them to stock up on useful commodities with high resale values (for example, the

three Gs: Gold, Guns, Generators), but frightening people into buying emergency equipment they may not use only makes things worse.

Even I, who wrote a novel in which society comes unraveled due to Y2K problems, am quick to point out to people that I don't necessarily believe things will go as depicted in the book.

### No one knows

The truth is that no one knows for certain what will happen. Neither the "end of the world" nor the "nothing is going to happen" extremes can be dismissed completely. However, it is far more likely that whatever happens can be handled successfully by people who make reasonable preparations.

People should be encouraged to make thoughtful plans, not stampeded into unwise decisions that could strengthen the hand of the statists.

Libertarians should remember: The price of freedom is eternal vigilance. We are used to thinking of that vigilance in regard to the actions of those who would rule, but they cannot do so without the sanction of their victims.

We must also be eternally vigilant of ourselves, lest our own actions create the very sanction the politicians crave.

■ **Editor's Note:** Don L. Tiggre is a freelance political analyst and writer whose first novel, *Y2K: The Millennium Bug*, is available at [Amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). For more details, see <http://www.allwest.net/ralston/>.

## Why most Americans will hardly even notice Y2K

There is good news and bad news regarding the Y2K computer problem.

The good news: Civilization isn't going to collapse in the year 2000.

The bad news: I don't know where you can unload all the coins and food storage you've acquired.

Some companies and some government agencies will have problems on January 1, 2000 — when some of their computers think it's January 1, 1900. But most companies will have no major problems, and life will go on largely undisturbed.

### Inconveniences

For most of us, the problems of January 2000 will be smaller than inconveniences we already endure — such as the power failures from government-sheltered electric companies when we need air conditioning in the

summer or heat in the winter.

The Y2K problem has been exaggerated by people who don't understand computers, and by computer experts who don't understand how the free market works.

Many large companies do need to upgrade old computer systems. Changing a computer system is a formidable task. But so is moving into a new factory, changing a product line, or dealing with new regulations. Companies deal with such problems as they arise, and one way or another they usually solve them.

The Y2K problem seemed uniquely dangerous because millions of companies have to deal



By Harry Browne

with it at the same time. Hundreds of thousands of COBOL programmers would have to be found, it was claimed — to examine old programs, change every date, and test the corrections. But, in truth, a widespread problem is easier to handle, because it offers bigger profits to people who can devise solutions.

So now there are products like Revolve, Restore 2000, Milligration, and dozens more — computer programs that go through old programs, fix the date problems, and test the results. These automated solutions eliminate the need for thousands of programmers.

The Internet flourished in a similar, unpredictable way. If in 1994 someone had said there would be millions of World Wide Web sites in 1999, you might have assumed he didn't understand computers. Websites are written in a complicated com-

puter language called HTML. Where are the hundreds of thousands of HTML writers necessary to build millions of sites?

But companies came forward with software programs that enable people to build websites without understanding HTML. Other programs help specialists to produce the more sophisticated, animated, interactive sites. The result is that we do have millions of websites after all.

### Freest in America

Websites abound and Y2K is being handled because the computer industry is the freest in America — providing computers thousands of times faster than those of 1985, while selling at a fraction of 1985 prices.

Of course, if the Justice Department defeats Microsoft in its antitrust lawsuit, we may soon have a Federal Computer Agency that delays new products for

years — until it satisfies itself that the products are safe, effective, and non-monopolistic. Then computers and software will become continually more expensive — just like a hospital stay or health insurance.

On the other hand, suppose the medical industry were as free and innovative as the libertarian world of computers and Internet websites — released from government mandates and red tape. Imagine hospital stays costing, say, \$300 a day, wonder drugs for 50 cents a pill, family health insurance for maybe \$500 a year.

Does that sound too good to be true? Freedom always does.

But somehow — in ways we can never foresee — it always delivers the goods.

■ **Editor's note:** Harry Browne was the 1996 LP presidential candidate. Many of his articles are online at: [www.HarryBrowne2000.org](http://www.HarryBrowne2000.org).

# Fred Collins on the job

Continued from Page 3

existing ordinance, but I held my votes, so he gave up," he said. "Everyone voted with me, so it became a unanimous decision."

Was all that work worth it, just to repeal one small law? You bet, said Collins.

"It was fun to repeal a law, even if it was such a small one," he said. Plus, "Now you can get a cab if you need one."

Flush from his taxi cab vic-

tory, Collins then turned his attention to the city's fortune-teller law, which mandated "that no one may pretend to predict the future for profit unless they are a licensed minister."

### It was silly

For Collins, the law wasn't just unnecessary — it was silly.

"I view fortune-telling as entertainment," he said. "In my opinion, there is no difference in

banning fortune-telling or music concerts; each of us chooses the things that we find entertaining. It is not up to the City Council to tell us which ones are OK and which ones are wrong."

When presented in that light, his fellow Council members agreed — and on April 5 voted to repeal the law.

With several accomplishments under his belt, and with the perspective of 16 months on the Council, how does Collins view his tenure so far?

"It's more interesting than I thought it would be, but it takes

**FRED COLLINS:**  
*"I understand the system, [so] I feel satisfied with my progress."*

more time than I thought it would," he said. "Now that I truly understand the system I feel satisfied with my progress — but

for a while, I felt like I would never get anywhere."

Although he can still become frustrated by the "status-quo" attitudes of the other Council members, Collins said he has established a good working relationship with them.

"It's less confrontational [than expected]; I get along well with most members of the council. I think they always listen to my ideas and give them a fair hearing," he said. "I think that they accept me as a concerned community activist who wants to do the right thing for the city."

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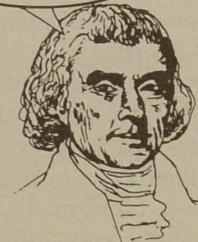
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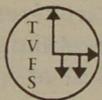
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# From THE EDITOR

## Libertarianism 101 for new LP members

**N**ew Libertarian Party members, by the thousands, everywhere! Members on board for years (count me in that group) wonder about this. Will our party change? Are the new people different from the long-timers? Are they really committed to libertarian principles? Might disaffected Democrats and Republicans take us over and make our party as bad as those they left? Nothing like a little paranoia to generate some productive brainstorming.

To long-time activists, I say: Fear not. Remember that each of us formerly believed much of the nonsense taught in public schools. Then you discovered libertarian ideas — perhaps free market, perhaps civil liberties — or a writer like Ayn Rand. Perhaps you heard a party candidate, like Ed Clark in 1980 or Harry Browne in 1996. So you joined the party.

But, you didn't buy the whole package. You had reservations about some "hard-core" libertarian positions: Ending the drug war, gun rights, immigration, taxes, medical licensing, etc. You spent some time studying these issues, discussing them with other libertarians, uncovering fallacies in statist arguments. (The tough one for me was "free market money." How could anyone but the government establish money?) In the end, we all became more libertarian, not less.

**That process proves the power of libertarianism.** People who join the party become more libertarian. The Party of Principle has not, and will not, become diluted by growing.

But, it's a legitimate concern. We must remain the Libertarian Party, working for everyone's liberty, on every issue, every day.

So, to new members, I say: Take advantage of the wealth of knowledge available in libertarian literature, but even more, from discussions with old-timers who have experience as candidates and party leaders. Their time on the front lines, making the case for liberty, has taught them a lot. Learn from these experts.

**With that in mind, consider the most basic question put to libertarians:** What is libertarianism? Here are four short answers, all different, all true.

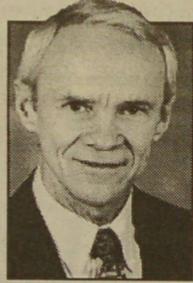
1) Libertarians cherish the American heritage of liberty, personal responsibility, and respect for the rights of others. Those ideas made it possible for Americans to build a society of abundance and opportunity for anyone willing to make the effort. Libertarians recognize the responsibility to preserve this precious heritage for our children and grandchildren.

2) Libertarians believe that you deserve to live a free and independent life. We want a system which encourages all people to choose what they want from life; a system that lets them live, love, work, play, and dream their own way, with whom they wish, accepting whatever consequences come.

3) The libertarian way is a people-centered approach to politics. We believe each individual is unique. We want a system which encourages all of us to discover the best within ourselves. We want a system that allows all of us to realize our full potential; a system that encourages and rewards harmonious relationships among all people.

4) The libertarian way is a logically consistent approach to politics based on the moral principle of self ownership. All libertarian positions on political issues are consistent with the idea that each individual has the right to control his or her own body, action, speech, and property.

For new LP members, consider this "Libertarianism 101" — from an "long-timer" who is delighted to welcome you aboard.



By David Bergland, LP National Chair

# How government licensing laws can protect consumers to death

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



By Mary J. Ruwart, Ph.D.

**H**ow would the consumer be protected without licensing laws? Without the FDA, who will keep greedy corporations from poisoning people for easy profits? Without government-mandated product recalls, who will make corporations repair their defective products? Who will test the water to make sure it is pure?

Do government licensing laws really protect us from unscrupulous business people? Surprisingly, Sidney Carroll and Robert Gaston found that licensing laws actually hurt us. They found that states with the most rigorous licensing laws for electricians, dentists, and optometrists have the greatest incidence of accidental electrocutions, poor dental hygiene, and blindness respectively!

How do licensing laws hurt the very consumers that they were designed to protect? Apparently, as requirements go up, fewer practitioners are able to obtain licenses, so they charge more for their services and make consumers wait for service. More people are tempted to risk their health by making their own electrical repairs, skipping their eye check-ups, and delaying visits to their dentists. Licensing lowers the amount of quality service that is actually delivered — especially to the poor.

If licensing laws hurt more than they help, can the marketplace do better? The answer is a resounding "Yes!" Voluntary certification does what compulsory government licensing can not.

### Not compulsory

Certification is a "Seal of Approval," usually given by a professional association or independent laboratory to qualified products or service providers. The "UL" symbol found on electrical appliances is the certification from Underwriters Laboratories. Unlike licensing, certification is voluntary, not compulsory. Although electronics manufacturers are not required by law to get UL certification, retailers prefer to carry only products that meet the UL standard.

Carroll and Gaston noted

that "certification [voluntary licensing] seems to increase the number of licenses compared to both no licensing and compulsory licensing." By increasing the number of service providers, certification decreases costs and increases the amount of quality service delivered. Certification gives consumers guidelines, but unlike licensing, leaves the final



### QUESTION:

*Without medical licenses and FDA drug testing, how will patients be protected?*

choice in their hands.

This freedom of choice can become critical in life-threatening situations. For example, the FDA currently sets such high standards for approval that the average drug takes 12 years and \$300 million to develop. During that time, terminally ill patients are forbidden, by law, to try new therapies that might be under development. Even if they are lucky enough to be enrolled in a test study, they may get a placebo

## Libertarian Online Guide

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instead of an active drug.

The FDA's tardy approval of propranolol, the first beta blocker for heart disease, needlessly killed an estimated 30,000 Americans during the three years it was available in Europe. The FDA probably killed more people, by delaying this single drug, than it saved during its entire existence. Licensing laws are a cure worse than the disease.

Because of FDA "licensing" regulations, black market chemists do a brisk business supplying AIDS and cancer victims with underground versions of new, but unapproved, drugs. Certification is the more compassionate approach and doesn't make criminals of people fighting for their lives.

### An informed choice

Professional pharmaceutical organizations, or even the FDA itself, could certify drugs as "untested," "safe in animal testing," "effective in humans," etc. Consumers, with the help of trusted medical professionals, could make an informed choice that took into account their personal situation.

Indeed, before the FDA became so pervasive, the American Medical Association and Consumers Research tested new drugs themselves and gave good ones their "Seal of Approval." The FDA, on the other hand, does no drug testing at all, but simply mandates that the drug companies do it. Third-party testing by multiple certifying organizations would be much more objective. Greedy corporations intent on defrauding consumers wouldn't be able to falsify data, as they are sometimes accused of doing today.

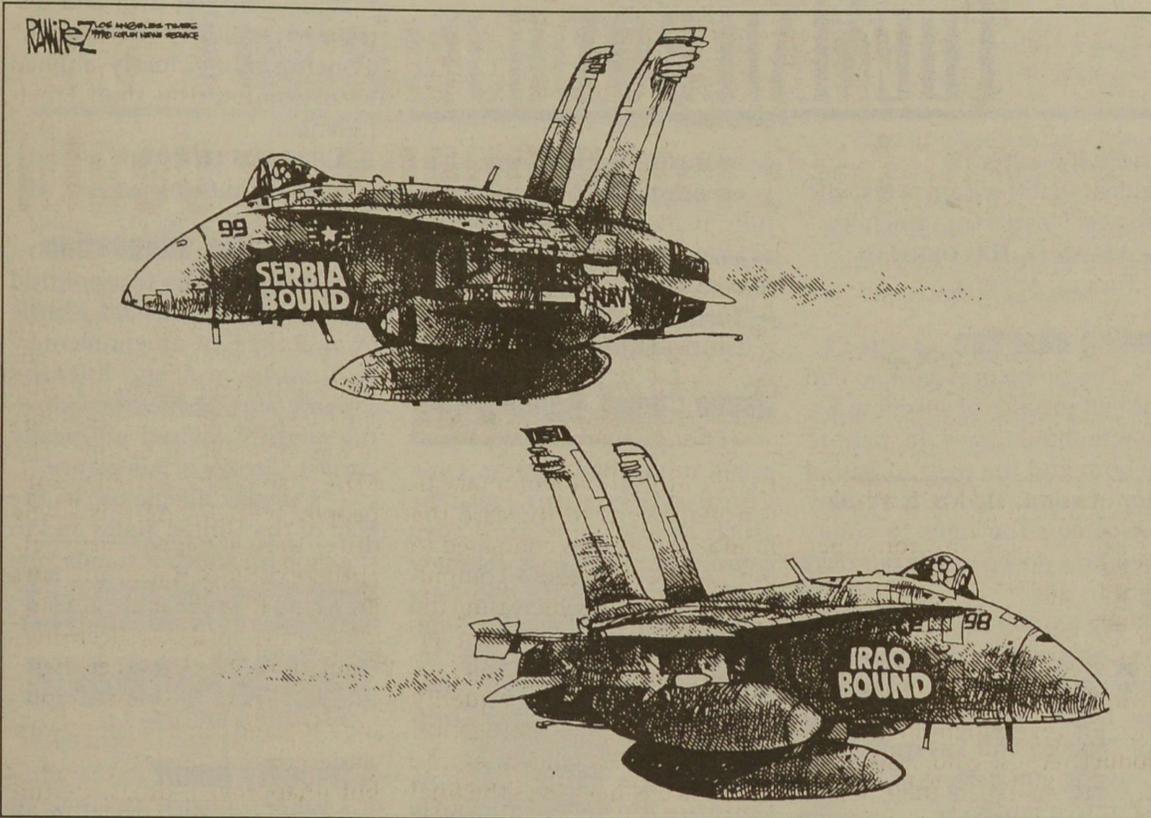
Medications without any certification data at all would likely be shunned by many physicians and patients, effectively putting bogus companies out of business.

### Iron-clad guarantee

Of course, certification is not an iron-clad guarantee. Testing cannot always predict the side effects of drugs nor can it predict every mechanical vulnerability. When defects do become apparent, however, the certification rating of a product is likely to be downgraded.

To prevent losing customers, smart businesses will correct the defect through a recall or other suitable means so that their cer-

See LICENSING LAWS Page 21



## THE MAILBOX

### Waste your vote?

I have often pondered (as did Michael Cloud: "Why Vote Libertarian? The Lottery Lesson," April 1999) as to what is the best way to respond to people who say they don't want to "waste their vote on a Libertarian."

When people tell me that they don't want to waste their vote on a candidate who can't win, I point out that this logic could be used to conclude that a vote for *any* candidate is wasted. Unless the total vote count results in an exact tie, any vote is wasted because it will accomplish nothing. Only if the voting results in a perfect tie would a single vote have any significance, because only then would it be the deciding vote.

I also like to point out to people that a vote for a Libertarian is actually far more significant than a vote for any Republocrat. With Libertarian candidates, *every* vote counts. With Republocrats, a vote is just an insignificant part of a huge pile.

Finally, the goal of voting is not just to get someone elected. A vote for a Libertarian candidate can provide significant benefits even if the candidate is not elected: It helps to get news coverage, it helps convince other people to take a look at the Libertarian Party, and it helps demonstrate to elected Republocrats that there are lots of people who consider their freedom important. When I vote for a Libertarian candidate I like to think I am helping to get a Libertarian

**"A VOTE FOR A Libertarian is more significant than a vote for any Republocrat."**

.....  
elected in the next election.

Finally, I don't care for the "lottery" argument. Even if the risk is small and the potential reward is great, people are better off when they calculate the odds and act on the probabilities, not just the possibilities.

The lottery practically guarantees that a person will lose money, and I would advise people to avoid it. Voting Libertarian however, makes sense no matter how you cut it.

— GARY MULTER  
Boston, Massachusetts

### A catchy gimmick

I just finished reading Michael Cloud's "Lottery Lesson" article [*LP News*, April 1999]. I am so sick of the "wasted

vote" argument that I want to scream, and although Cloud has a catchy gimmick, he missed the main point.

I may be "wasting" my vote when I cast it for a Libertarian candidate, but what's the alternative? When I vote for a Libertarian, at least I'm expressing my dissatisfaction with big government so the other parties can hear me. If I don't vote, I've really wasted my vote. If I vote for a dishonest socialist candidate, I've done something worse than waste my vote: I have supported something bad; I have caused harm.

With those kinds of alternatives, I intend to keep "wasting" my votes on Libertarian candidates whenever possible.

— CASSANDRA D. HOCUTT  
Atlanta, Georgia

### A better answer

Michael Cloud acknowledged that his Lottery Lesson will not convince everyone worried about "throwing his vote away" to vote Libertarian. I think it will convince no one, because there is no similarity between the lottery and an election. We'd better find a better answer than that suggested by Mr. Cloud.

It seems to me that a Libertarian vote could be considered "wasted" only if there is a very close contest between candidates of the two major parties, and the preferred candidate loses. In any event a Libertarian vote is not wasted because it will help make

See THE MAILBOX Page 20

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# THE PULSE

## A few of our favorite things . . .

**W**ho says Libertarians are crass materialists? Not respondents to this month's unscientific Pulse question: An overwhelming percentage (70.8%) gave non-financial reasons why they would prefer to live in a Libertarian society.

That said, the single most popular response to this month's question — what will be the *single* best thing about the coming Libertarian society (however you define it)? — *did* involve money: 14% listed lower taxes or more money in their pocket as the aspect they look forward to most.

Coming in second place with 10.7% was a "lack of fear" or "less paranoia" about what the government might do to you or your family. And in a four-way tie for third place (each with about 7% of the vote) was protection of private property; the "sense" of freedom; more personal responsibility; and more tolerance and harmony.

In all, only 21.4% gave a response that involved money (such as an end to Social Security or a *real* free market); while 70.8% listed a more *intangible* benefit — everything from more justice, to more diversity, to better education. (7.8% gave answers that fell into no particular category.)

Here's a representative sample of the responses:

■ The end of the waste, terror, and destruction born of militarism. When you compare them to the sheer cost in lives, capital, and taxpayers' money that accrues with every Pentagon boondoggle or foreign war, the social programs that many libertarians complain about cost mere pennies.

— KARL A. KRUEGER, Great Barrington, Massachusetts

■ Knowing that I can allocate my resources as I feel most appropriate. It will be a wonderful contrast to the present situation where the government forcibly takes my earnings and decides where it is to be spent.

— RONALD G. BELCHER, High Point, North Carolina

■ No government mandated education/indoctrination system; which by its nature must teach children not to think, not to be independent, not to be self-responsible, not to have self-esteem.

— JACK GARDNER, Austin, Texas

■ The way it would simplify life. You wouldn't have to spend so much time and energy and worry and stress trying to figure out what "They" are going to do next that is going to affect your business and your life. You would be free! You could just live!

— DIANE DESANDERS, New York, New York

■ An America where diversity in religion, social values, lifestyles, and goals is not only tolerated, but welcomed. Conservatives are obsessed with controlling our lives, whereas liberals accept only certain forms of diversity that correspond to their pigeonholing of people into particular groups. Only Libertarians value the freedom that allows people to find their own path in life.

— JIM CHEANEY, Colo, Iowa

■ Total respect for all private property rights, especially that most private of properties — one's own body.

— AUGUST SALEMI, Atascadero, California

■ Being able to sleep securely at night knowing that, as long as I do nothing wrong, the government will work to protect me, my family, and my property.

— CASSANDRA D. HOCUTT, Atlanta, Georgia

■ The sense of freedom. The laws would be simple, clear, sensible, and few. No more would you, as an honest citizen, fear the police because you might be violating some absurd law nobody has ever heard of.

— DAVE ARONSON, Vienna, Virginia

See THE PULSE Page 20

# THE PULSE

Continued from Page 19

■ The automatic assumption of self-responsibility. People won't look to government to care for them in their old age, correct perceived problems with business, protect them from themselves, tell them which drugs they should take. They won't force their morality on neighbors and instead concentrate on living more morally themselves.

— TOM DONNELLY, Monrovia, California

■ People who work could bring home twice as much money (their entire paychecks) and choose for themselves what services to purchase, who to do business with, what to buy, and where to lend their help and support.

— JULIE SHEPPARD, Wichita, Kansas

■ The right to spend our money as we see fit, instead of having a bunch of Washington DC and state capitol jerks deciding for us.

— SALLY EASTMAN, Halfmoon, New York

■ A climate of honesty, of individuals with themselves and others, each developing true free will, therefore, in harmonious concert.

— EDWARD TURNER, Newport Beach, California

■ I will not have to spend so much time, money, and energy fighting to regain our freedom, and I can go back to playing my guitar like I'm supposed to be doing.

— JEFFREY KRANDIN, Delray Beach, Florida

## July Question: Should we change our name?

It's shorter. It's easier to pronounce. The initials won't change. And it won't be confused with the word "libertine." In a nutshell, those are the reasons why some LP activists suggest that the Libertarian Party should be renamed the "Liberty Party."

Ever since the Libertarian Party was formed 1972, some LP members have argued that the word "Libertarian" is too long, too confusing for voters, and too "foreign-sounding." Their solution: Change our name.

Not so fast, say others. "Libertarian" has become a well-known, well-understood, and well-respected word. Besides, the party has built up "brand-name" equity, which would be wasted if we suddenly changed names.

■ **QUESTION:** Should we change our name to the Liberty Party? Why or why not? (Keep answers to 100 words.)

■ **DEADLINE:** June 5, 1999

## June Question: Hulk Hogan for President?

Who is the hottest governor in America? It's got to be Jesse (The Body) Ventura, the libertarian-leaning Reform Party governor of Minnesota, who currently boasts a 72% approval rating.

He's also the prototype of the "non-politician" that voters crave, says *Campaigns & Elections* magazine, noting, "It's amazing there aren't more (like Ventura) out there."

Oh no? Late last year, wrestler Hulk Hogan announced he wanted to run for president. Hogan has a large fan base, has starred in several movies, and a 1998 poll showed him garnering 13% of the vote in a race against George W. Bush and Al Gore. Could Hogan be the LP's Jesse Ventura?

■ **Question:** Should the Libertarian Party approach Hulk Hogan about running for president on the LP ticket in 2000? Why or why not? (Limit answers to 100 words.)

■ **DEADLINE:** May 5, 1999

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# THE MAILBOX

Continued from Page 19

evident that there are many who espouse Libertarian principles.

— **ALLAN D. HALDERMAN**  
Tucson, Arizona

## Ending abortion

The problem is how to end the evil practice of abortion. Everyone should have the right to be born and the right to both a mommy and a daddy. If we deny newcomers the right to come, then how do we justify our own right to stay?

Big Brother solution: Amend the Constitution to give the unborn equal protection under the law. Divert the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms from harassing gun dealers to harassing unwed fathers.

Libertarian solution: Never mind the BATF; in a Libertarian society, it wouldn't exist. Send President [Harry] Browne, [Ron] Paul, or whoever into the pulpit to remind his fellow males to slip on a wedding ring before engaging in sex. Collaborate with religious groups to promote male sexual responsibility.

— **Bob Dostal**  
Iowa City, Iowa

## Irresponsible

I am disappointed that none of the contributions to the April 1999 Pulse mentioned what I regard as the strongest argument against the death penalty, namely that it is irresponsible.

To run any sort of enterprise responsibly, one must provide a mechanism for the speedy rectification of errors. Criminal justice is no more immune from the possibility of human screw-ups than anything else is, and since it depends on determinations of fact, it is open to any sources of possible error in those determinations (ranging from simple gaps in information to willful falsifications) that can yield false conclusions.

Any responsibly organized system of criminal justice must provide mechanisms for compensating defendants for punishments that have been inflicted on them for offenses that they have been wrongly convicted of. While there may be no adequate compensation for, say, 20 years

of wrongful imprisonment, there is no possibility of even a woefully inadequate compensation to a person who is no longer alive to receive it.

— **James D. McCawley**  
Chicago, Illinois

## Jesus Christ, Communist?

Prior to subscribing to your publication, I had never met any Christian-Libertarians. I read the article about "born-again" Greg Cunningham [*LP News*, February 1999] with some surprise. I expected to see letters in The Mailbox questioning this stance. Instead I read four letters [*LP News*, April 1999], all from other Christian-Libertarians!

It always baffles me how Christians can interpret the Bible to say whatever they want it to say. Jesus a Libertarian? I would interpret his words, "You cannot serve both God and money" and

"Sell all that you own and distribute the money to the poor," as being more closely aligned with Communism than Libertarianism.

— **CHARLOTTE POE**  
Somis, California

## Flag-burning suggestion

For those who fear political protest and who would whittle away at the First Amendment by endorsing a "Flag Burning Amendment," I offer the following slightly revised politically correct "Pledge of Allegiance."

"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States and to the mob for which it stands, one slogan about God, indefensible, with paranoia and bumperstickers for all."

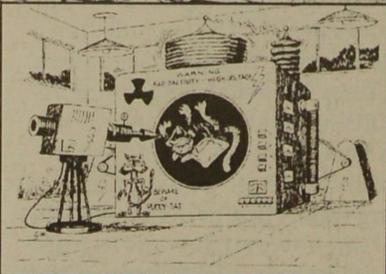
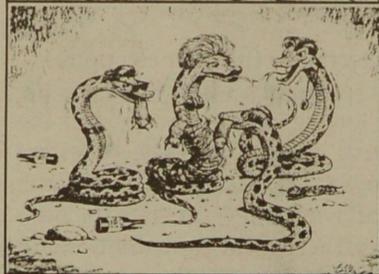
— **DOUGLAS N. MERRITT**  
Atchison, Kansas

## A friendly insult

What is it with declaring all sorts of people as libertarians, or "friends of libertarians?"

The March issue of *LP News* has a picture of Camille Paglia as

## Jurassic Horde Whisperer of Madness County



This new novel by Titus Stauffer is a wacky tale of lawyersaurs, Quart Low Trackers, Ale Run Hubba-Bubba and His Church of Omnology, Panderwood, and officials at THEMNOTUS and NADGRAB run amuck. A tale so utterly bizarre as to defy all rationality. A tale beyond belief. But then we get to the annotated end portion of the book and we see that *Jurassic Horde Whisperer of Madness County* is based on **FACTS** - facts too irrational, crazy and destructive to be pure fiction. Church, State, Media, and Hollyweird have provided all the madness spoofed here. Fun, yes, but also a disturbing warning about how destructive irrationality runs rampant in our modern, supposedly enlightened scientific age.

Other works by Titus Stauffer: *Bats in the Belfry*, *By Design* is a near-future hard science fiction novel about a U.S. weapons designer who regrets helping a freedom fearing government.

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# THE MAILBOX

one of the "Friends of Liberty." In a recent column in *Salon*, she said, "I'm looking [forward] to the 2000 campaign, where I'm enthusiastically supporting U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein for vice president on the Democratic ticket." How can a person who supports Feinstein ever be considered a "friend of liberty?"

Also the Advocates for Self-Government has Geraldo Rivera

listed as "Friends of Libertarianism." Rivera is no libertarian, no matter what he says.

While it is nice to see a list of celebrities who are libertarians or who share many of our common beliefs, I think it is a mistake and an insult to real libertarians to claim as one of us those who are working against us.

— **J. B. PRUITT, JR.**  
Tallahassee, Florida

■ **Editor's note:** As the "Friends of Liberty" feature noted, the only criteria for inclusion was that the individuals had described themselves as "libertarian," or voiced support for libertarian concepts. As the feature further noted, inclusion did not imply endorsement of the LP or all the party's positions.

### Carlin and Miller?

In the March issue of *LP News*, you list well-known celebrities who have expressed Libertarian views. I don't know what is involved in getting well-

known people to express sympathy for our views, but it might be worth our efforts to try to contact comedian George Carlin and also Dennis Miller. I've seen their satirical material on HBO, and they are both pretty close to our views on many topics.

More well-known personalities can only help us!

— **MARK RICHARDS**  
West Milford, New Jersey

### The LP's purpose

There are frequent items in the *LP News*, often provided by party officials, that imply that

the primary purpose of the Libertarian Party is to win elections. The most glaring are the Mailbox letters which advocate choosing candidates based on popularity with the general public.

I suggest that the primary purpose of the party, and the strongest attraction for the core membership, is to fight for policies that promote individual sovereignty and free-market economics. The party and the libertarian movement in general have already been influential in this regard — affecting debates and

See **THE MAILBOX** Page 22

## Licensing laws and protection

Continued from Page 18

tification stays high. Businesses that won't stand by their products will most likely go under, as consumers protect themselves by turning to reputable "brand name" manufacturers instead. Since certification increases the number of service providers, consumers would have more choices than ever.

Certification promotes consumer confidence and encourages expansion. Bottled water, for example, successfully competes with the tap water supplied by many local municipalities. Many consumers are dissatisfied with the taste of water that they get from public utilities or object to the health hazards of added chlorine or fluoride. Vendors obtain third-party inspections to certify that their bottled product is superior to tap water or that supplied by the competition. Reports are usually available on request so that consumers can comparison shop.

If we woke up tomorrow to find ourselves in a libertarian world, we'd find a great deal of consumer protection already in place via voluntary certification.

Of course, if we wake up tomorrow to the status quo, we need to be very wary of compulsory government licensing. If we're not careful, Big Brother will protect us to death!

### References:

\* Sidney L. Carroll & Robert J. Gaston. "Occupational Restrictions and the Quality of Service Received: Some Evidence." *Southern Economic Journal* 47: 959-976, 1981.

\* Mary J. Ruwart, "Protecting Ourselves to Death," *Healing Our World: The Other Piece of the Puzzle* (Kalamazoo, MI: SunStar Press, 1993), pp. 85-96.



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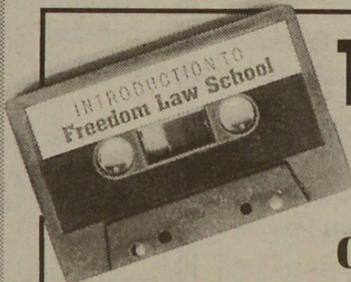
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## More UPCOMING EVENTS

### ■ May 22, 1999

**Alaska LP Convention**, Sheraton Hotel, Anchorage. Speakers TBA. For information, contact: warmgun@sinbad.net.

### ■ May 22, 1999

**Utah LP Convention**, Fairfield Inn, Salt Lake City. Speakers include Mark Skousen (Editor-in-Chief, *Forecasts & Strategies*) and Bob Lee (radio talk show host). For information, call: (801) 963-1028.

### ■ May 22-23, 1999

**Success '99** Libertarian Leadership Training Seminar, Marriott Hotel, Anaheim, California. Speakers include Ron Crickenberger (LP Political Director), David Bergland (LP National Chairman), and Bill Winter (LP Director of Communications). For information or to register, call the Balcom Group at (202) 234-3880.

### ■ May 28-31, 1999

**Libertarian Victory 2000**, Aston Waikiki Sunset Hotel, Honolulu, Hawaii. Political activism training seminar. Speakers include Harry Browne (1996 Libertarian Party presidential candidate); Don Gorman (former N.H. state legislator); R.W. Bradford (publisher of *Liberty* magazine); David Kamioner (political consultant); Gene Cisewski (Liberty Council); Tim Slagle (libertarian comedian); Bonnie Flickinger (Moreno Valley City Council, California); Brian Thomas (radio talk show host); and Barbara Goushaw (campaign manager). For information, write: Liberty Council, P.O. Box 12075, Washington DC 20005. Website: www.libertycouncil.org.

### ■ June 5, 1999

**Kentucky LP Convention**, Executive Inn (East), Louisville. Speakers include Michael Cloud (creator of "The Essence of Political Persuasion"), Mary Ruwart (author of *Healing Our World*), Ken Bisson (LNC member), and Dan Smith (LP Affiliate Services Manager). For information, call Sherry Clark at (502) 635-1153. E-mail: holidays@frontiernet.net.

### ■ June 5, 1999

**New Mexico LP Convention**, Shady Brook Inn, Taos. Speakers include James Lark III (LNC member and Liberty Coalition advisor). For information, call Ron Bjornstad at (505) 891-4541. E-mail: tintoys@RT66.com.

### ■ June 5-6, 1999

**Success '99** Libertarian Leadership Training Seminar, New York City, New York. Speakers include Ron Crickenberger (LP Political Director), Sharon Harris (Advocates for Self-Government), and Bill Winter (LP Director of Communications). For information, call the Balcom Group at (202) 234-3880.

### ■ June 12, 1999

**Nevada LP Convention**, Best Western Mardi Gras Hotel, Las Vegas. Speakers include Vin Suprynowicz (syndicated columnist) and Nancy (Lord) Johnson (1992 VP candidate). For information: (702) 260-8328. E-mail: caazzaro@aol.com.

### ■ June 12-13, 1999

**Washington LP Convention**, Doubletree Hotel Bellevue & Best Western Bellevue Inn, Bellevue. Speakers include Michelle Malkin (*Seattle Times* columnist), Peter Weissbach (talk radio host), Mary Ruwart (author of *Healing Our World*), and Juan Ros (California LP Executive Director). For information, call Carol Miller at (206) 781-5661. E-mail: director@lpws.org.

### ■ June 12-13, 1999

**Success '99** Libertarian Leadership Training Seminar, San Antonio, Texas. Speakers include Jim Lark (Libertarian National Committee member and Liberty Coalition advisor), Dr. Mary Ruwart (author of *Healing Our World*), and Barbara Goushaw (Libertarian campaign manager). For information or to register, call the Balcom Group at (202) 234-3880.

## THE MAILBOX

Continued from Page 21

voting in Washington and bringing these issues to the attention of the public.

The party has been effective because it has gained respect in advocating the principles embodied in the Constitution — honoring natural rights theory.

Winning elections is a worthy goal if won by selling the principles of the party. But what good is winning if the candidates are not grounded in libertarian theory, if the voters are not truly mandating the principles? What good have Republicans done when they won?

Affecting political policy is more important than winning elections — both for sustained membership growth and for our lives.

— **JACK GARDNER**  
Austin, Texas

### A "name" candidate

I have been a member of the Libertarian Party since 1980. I want to add my voice to the idea that we need a "name" for our presidential candidate. This would help assure getting our person and ideas into the presidential debates.

I think this is doable — especially noting that there are a number of celebrities who are libertarians (you showed them in a recent *LP News*). Harry Browne would make an excellent VP candidate then.

— **RICH WEINSTEIN**  
Boynton Beach, Florida

### Fundamental principles

In the March issue of *LP News*, it was disturbing to read the "Friends of Liberty" section.

I have been an LP member for more than 10 years and I am seeing a disturbing trend.

It seems clear that as the LP becomes more mainstream it has attracted the attention of various well known personages. These people may indeed have some Libertarian inklings while some are undoubtedly repeating some quasi Libertarian phrases; others may be deliberate frauds. Behind these people are their devotees and therein lies danger. The vast majority of this latter group naturally has absolutely no concept of Libertarian ideology.

The point is that we should be focusing on the fundamental Libertarian principles. The principles that bind us as Libertarians. If we pervert our principles for the sake of notoriety, merely to bring more people into the tent then we will be irrelevant and unnecessary.

Take a look at Republicans to

see where this strategy leads; they are drifting, leaderless, and clueless.

— **JOSEPH A. CUSANO**  
Staten Island, New York

### Better LP renewals

Each year most of us get the LP membership renewal notices, finally fill out the form, and send in our \$25 membership. But this is costly to the party, wastes our time, and increases the chances of a lapse or break in membership. Each time we pay, the records of the national, state, and local party have to be correctly updated, and each time an error can occur.

Given the low cost, consider paying multiple years of membership at a time. Everybody saves. You don't get costly and annoying dunning letters, administrative time is reduced, and errors are avoided. If you can,

pay by check rather than by charge card as we lose several percent for handling costs of a charge card transaction.

In addition, it's time we started putting extra bucks in the envelope. After all, the \$25 doesn't do much more than cover the costs of the various publications we receive as members. Given that the dues have actually *dropped* [in many states, under the Unified Membership Program], we should dig into our pockets to put more money in the pot.

Of course, if you have it, pay the \$1,000 lifetime membership, and forget this renewal nuisance altogether!

Perhaps the ideal arrangement is to pledge a monthly contribution, which gives the party a steady, predictable cash flow and can also count as membership dues. Freedom ain't cheap, so do what you can to arm our Libertarian warriors with the resources to carry on the fight.

— **RICHARD RIDER**  
San Diego, California

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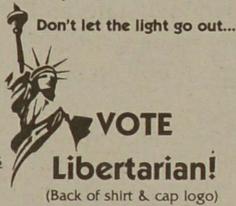
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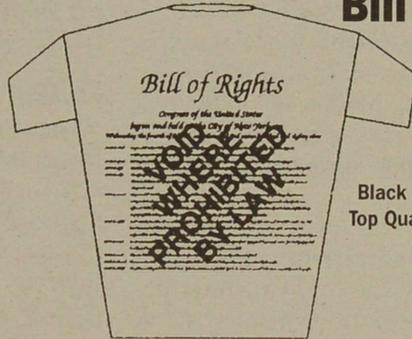
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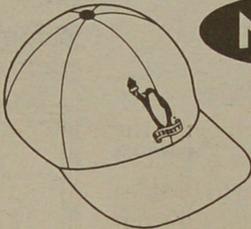
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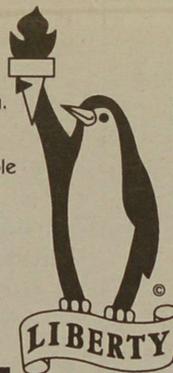
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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## ■ April 30-May 2, 1999

**Michigan LP Convention**, Ramada Inn, Southfield. Speakers include Bill Ballenger (Editor, *Inside Michigan Politics*). Held in conjunction with **Success '99** Libertarian leadership training seminar, featuring Steve Dasbach (LP National Director), Dr. Mary Ruwart (author of *Healing Our World*), and Michael Cloud (1998 candidate for U.S. Senate in Nevada). For information, contact Pam Collins: (248) 542-6885. E-mail: HRHCollins@aol.com.

## ■ May 1, 1999

**Iowa LP Convention**, Ft. Des Moines Hotel, Des Moines. Speakers include Steve Givot (LNC member) and Bob Smith (Membership Chair, LP of Minnesota). For information, call Mark Nelson: (319) 344-0013. E-mail: DMNmkval@aol.com.

## ■ May 1-2, 1999

**Indiana LP Convention**, Adam's Mark Hotel, Indianapolis. Speakers include Doug Friedline (Jesse Ventura's campaign manager), Dr. Eric Schansberg (author of *Poor Policy: How Government Harms the Poor*), Brian Howey (*Howey Political Report* editor and *Nuvo Newsweekly* columnist), and Kyle Hannon (owner of Filibuster Press). For information, call: (800) 388-1776. E-mail: lpinhq@lp.in.org.

## ■ May 4, 1999

**Rhode Island LP Convention**, Bickford's Restaurant, Warwick. Speakers include Vin Suprynowicz (syndicated columnist). For information, call: (401) 353-9243. E-mail: mjr@conan.ids.net.

## ■ May 12-15, 1999

**Drug Policy Foundation's 12th International Conference on Drug Policy Reform**, Bethesda, Maryland. For information, call (202) 537-5005. E-mail: conferences@dpf.org.

## ■ May 14-16, 1999

**Kansas LP & Missouri LP Convention**, Embassy Suites Plaza Hotel, Kansas City, Kansas. Speakers include Steve Kubby (1988 LPCA gubernatorial candidate), Dan Smith (LP Affiliate Services Manager), Vin Suprynowicz (syndicated columnist), Bob Corkins (Kansas Public Policy Institute), and Tim Slagle (comedian). For information, call in-state: Missouri (877) VOTE-4-US, or Kansas (800) 335-1776. Website: www.geocities.com/~molp/convflyer.pdf.

## ■ May 15-16, 1999

**Ohio LP Convention**, Findlay Inn & Conference Center, Findlay. Speakers include James Bovard (author of *Lost Rights*), Jacob Hornberger (Future of Freedom Foundation), Gene Cisewski (Liberty Council), Jim Lark (college organizing expert), William Redpath, and Richard Boddie. For information, call Ralph Mullinger at (419) 425-2702. E-mail: rmullinger@yahoo.com.

## ■ May 15-16, 1999

**Success '99**, Crowne Plaza Hotel, San Jose, California. Speakers include Steve Dasbach (LP National Director), Ron Crickenberger (LP Political Director), and David Bergland (LP National Chairman). For information, call the Balcom Group: (202) 234-3880.

■ For additional Upcoming Events, see page 22.

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# INSIDE

■ **PAGE 1** LP members win 12 victories in local Spring elections

■ **PAGE 3** The "Is Dilbert a Libertarian?" debate. (& Scott Adams' answer)

■ **PAGE 4** The LP speaks out against war in Yugoslavia



# FIRST WORD

"[The] hundreds of thousands of votes cast around the country for Libertarian candidates and sympathizers made 1998 a benchmark year for the party. Libertarian ideas were hot sellers on Election Day."

— *The News & Record*, (Greensboro, NC), November 16, 1998

"The main goal of the Libertarian Party is to downsize the government to the point our forefathers had in mind when they drafted the Constitution."

— *The Patriot Papers* (Phoenix, Arizona), October 1998

"Democrats have forgotten their founder [Thomas] Jefferson's admonition that government is best when it governs least. Libertarians would revive that principle."

— *The Daily Reporter* (Martinsville, IN), November 5, 1998