

# Free NY

WORKING TO ACHIEVE LIBERTY IN OUR LIFETIME



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF NEW YORK

VOL 1 JAN 2004

## THE CIGARETTE WARS HAVE BEGUN: 3 LOSE LIFE IN INCREASING VIOLENCE OVER OUTLAWED CIGARETTE PROFITS

**T**he cigarette wars have by now claimed at least 3 fatal casualties.

In a ruinous effort to protect NYS residents from themselves, New York State has decided to play nanny to 24% of the state's population, those who have decided to smoke tobacco cigarettes, and artfully rationalized a moral stance, i.e., that smoking is bad for you (which American governments are prohibited from putting into law) into a public safety or economic one

(which they are permitted to make laws about).

New York State is thus attempting

the to outlaw the use of tobacco by making it so inconvenient and expensive that, in the legislators myopic view, smokers will capitulate and give up the habit.

As a direct consequence, the inevitable market forces of supply and demand have emerged to compete with the artificially inflated prices, and the entrepreneurial spirit of NY businessmen have now created a thriving black market in untaxed cigarettes, imported from other states (or Native American Reservations) that have refrained from imposing sin taxes upon cigarettes.

And as further consequence of that, so begin the cigarette wars, a Prohibition era style free-for-all, except whereas before it was alcohol, it is now cigarettes.

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## MARIHUANA PLANTS TARGETED BY THE HELLI-COPS, AS NEWSPAPER OF RECORD PLAYS CHEERLEADER

**O**n October 12, 2003, the Times Herald Record of Middletown NY, announced, with a marijuana-leaf front page, its featured two articles by Kristina Wells with photos by Tony Savino.

The first article extolled two NYState helicopter policemen, whose mission it was to spot marijuana gardens. The growers were, in Wells' words, "the bad guys."

The second article was entitled, "Pot A Growing Problem in Mid-Hudson". And indeed it must be a

problem to grow the stuff with our high-flying heroes scanning terrain for the brilliant green of ganja towards which they then call in the Destroyers. When a widely sought commodity is made scarce then the sale price of the little that remains will accordingly rise. Thus NYState law enforcement is actually subsidizing the growers and distributers of marijuana to the millions of Americans who choose to purchase and smoke pot.

As I stared at Savino's photograph of the uniformed pilots at their work, some questions occurred to me: How much does it cost us taxpayers per hour to keep

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**Free NY**

Newsletter  
of the  
New York  
Libertarian  
Party

**Editor:**

Gary Treistman  
garyonthenet@yahoo.com

**Asst Editor**

Thomas Ruks

Vice Chair

trukslp@yahoo.com

Pertinent FreeNY NYLibertarian Party Officers:

John Clifton  
NYLP Chair  
johnclifton@netzero.com

Werner Hetzner  
Treasurer  
whetzner@mac.com

Blay Tarnoff  
Telecommunication Ofc  
LPNY@ebay.com

**To Contact the Editor for  
submission of  
Letters/Comment/Article/  
Notices/Announcements,  
or Advertising Inquiries:**

**Please send to:**  
**FreeNY@hvc.rr.com**

**or to:**

**Editor**  
**Free NY**  
**POB 563**  
**Bearsville, NY 12409**  
**(845) 679-4790**

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The opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the official stance of the NYLP, and are otherwise the authors' responsibility.

**Would you prefer to receive Free NY in electronic format?**

On Dec 4, 2003, the NYLP Committee voted to make all issues of FreeNY available to the public, via the NYLP Website. So if you would prefer to receive it in that form as soon as it is finalized (typically 2 weeks prior to publication), please visit: ny.lp.org/FreeNY. You may also opt out of receiving the hard copy of FreeNY at a link there or by contacting the Editor.

Free NY is currently published 4 times a year. Subscriptions are \$12/Year; To join the LP, and receive this publication free, see Membership Form on Back Page or see the NYLP Website for more information on the NY Libertarian Party: [www.ny.lp.org](http://www.ny.lp.org). © This work is copyrighted 1/2004, none of this copy or content may be redistributed w/o permission.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### FREE FREE NY!

To the Editor:

In the last issue's Letters-to-the-Editor section, in regard to "Rich from Long Island's" letter. If Rich feels that FreeNY should only contain articles about the state party, then I am sure he didn't enjoy reading about the Free State Project or Ronald Reagan in the last issue.

Rich needs to relax a little and be a little less grumpy. There are real problems out there. Having articles about some subject unrelated to New York in FreeNY is not one of them.

I also think it is tasteless and unnecessary to use "Aye yum sofa king we taw did" as an example in the Anguish Languish section of Rational Recreations. Is that really appropriate?

Tony from Long Island

(*Ed. note/response: FYI, in a subsequent email "Rich from Long Island" had expressed his commendation on the Oct 2003 issue.*

*The Anguish Languish tryout example was taken from a common children's written/verbal prank. Perhaps the politically correct version of it should be: "Aye yum sofa king mint leech alleged". Nonetheless, if you solve this month's A.L. challenge before Feburary 2004, we will use another tryout example at your behest.)*

### CAN'T WE JUST ALL GET ALONG?

To FreeNY:

I just want to say that I totally believe in all the libertarian goals, and hope that the Free

State Project really comes into being a real thing in New Hampshire. I really would move there if I thought there was a chance we could make a real difference there in our everyday lives.

But I want to say that although I get FreeNY, I still haven't actually become a member of the Libertarian Party, mostly because I am turned off by all the infighting I see between the members, in the email lists and at the meetings I have been at. Its amazing to me that these people say they have the same desire to see the Libertarian Party get popular and bigger, and yet they seem to delight at cutting each other down.

I don't know why they do it, maybe the same reason that want liberty and freedom makes them so independent and ready to fight, they don't know when to cooperate with each other.

It would be really great if we all realized we are on the same side in this, and really work together, in spirit as well as actually doing things.

SUZANNE C.

### WHAT DO THEY DO, WITHOUT DUES?

Blay Tarnoff suggested in FNY a category of "members" who take the pledge without paying dues, especially suitable for students. He suggested the term "registrants." I think this would be confusing as they can currently register as Libertarians with the BOE. Alternatively, I suggest the term "associate member" which is common with many organizations, whether political, charitable or educational.

Rich Cooper

## Welcoming in the New Year

*With a View towards Membership Outreach*

As a Vice Chair of the Libertarian Party of New York, I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year. In 2004, the LPNY has many challenges to test our party's standing in advance of our next hope to gain official Party status in New York in 2006. (Gladly, we may finally register Libertarian with the Board of Elections in New York.)

My focus will be to act as a membership director. Let me explain my hope for LPNY contacts in every county around the state and my perspective about membership with the Libertarian Party.

First, we are always looking for interested activists around the state. If you would like to work towards organizing Libertarian efforts in your county, please contact Vice-Chair Bonnie Scott, myself, or another member of the LPNY state committee. And, if you are a student, teacher, or employed in education, please contact our Campus Coordinator, Dr. Tom Stevens. We also call for those interested in being a candidate or assisting on a campaign. For membership outreach, other outreach members and I will be talking with interested inquiries and members (old and new) by mail, email and phone calls. If you might be interested in being part of a Welcoming Wagon to talk with interested persons in your county, please contact me: [TRuksLP@yahoo.com](mailto:TRuksLP@yahoo.com),

I encourage membership and participation as means to ends. I encourage first your most local participation and support. Support your local chapters and your local candidates. There are local Libertarian chapters among others from Monroe to Albany to Manhattan and to Suffolk. As our efforts increase, we will someday have Libertarian chapters for each county. In addition,

the Libertarian Party of New York supports local efforts across the state and works to mobilize state campaigns. The LPNY welcomes your support and those who wish to donate may do so online by Click&Pledge. Your membership is with both the LPNY and the national Libertarian Party. The national website and news of national efforts are at [www.LP.org](http://www.LP.org)

The purpose of our Party is to elect Libertarians to office. We support legislation that recognizes and protects individual liberty. We inform voters and enhance a culture that values Liberty. One task of our state party is to be responsive to our members and to our likely voters. We should deserve to see our membership and our support grow. Membership growth is not however an end in itself. To double our membership would only be significant, IF: we increase our freedom, have stronger and wider campaigns, see greater vote totals for freedom issues, influence

and win elections, and build towards effective Party status in New York.

Thank you for your support of libertarian efforts and of the Libertarian Party. I hope you join the Welcoming Wagon to encourage our membership and our supporters.

Thomas Ruks,  
LPNY Welcoming Wagon  
2706 Avenue 21, Astoria, NY 11105.  
Messages may be left to the LPNY at  
(516) SOS-GOVT.

Happy New Year. Let Freedom Ring.  
Contacts:  
Thomas Ruks, [TruksLP@yahoo.com](mailto:TruksLP@yahoo.com)  
Bonnie Scott, [Rabbit@cownow.com](mailto:Rabbit@cownow.com)  
Dr. Tom Stevens, [Yrspartan@aol.com](mailto:Yrspartan@aol.com)

**They demand obedience.**

**We value choices.**

**What do you have  
when you have no choice?**

**Reclaim your right to choose!**

**Libertarian Party**

[www.ny.lp.org/choice](http://www.ny.lp.org/choice)

# OUR PARTY MATTERS

**CONVENTION NEWS:**  
**NY Libertarian Party**  
**2004:**

At the October 18<sup>th</sup> 2003 LPNY State Committee meeting, in Sloatsburg, NY, Vice Chair Thomas Ruks was appointed Convention Director, in charge of reifying the LPNY State Convention and its particulars.

It was concluded at the meeting that since this was a presidential election year, New York City was the city of choice to hold our State Convention.

Barring any unexpected changes, the LPNY Convention will held on April 24th, 2004 (Saturday), at the Holiday Inn, at Broadway & 32nd Street, in Manhattan, New York City. The hotel is one block from Penn Station/Amtrak and is convenient by subway. Discounts for nearby parking may be available and will be discussed at a later date.

Election of LPNY Committee officers will occur at the business meeting, to which all NY State Libertarian members are invited to attend; LPNY members' attendance at the business meeting session portion of the convention, and the casting of officer election ballots are free and do not entail any convention costs.

Speakers are to

be announced, with Gary Nolan (candidate, 2004 presidential nomination) are planned for early that afternoon. Presentation topics may include: property rights, gun ownership and the Second Amendment, civil liberties, education reform, campaign financing, voter registration, petitioning requirements, and future candidates among others.

A luncheon is expected, and a dinner is planned but not yet confirmed.

In the interim, pre-convention pledges of \$100.00 have been offered by 6 members to date, to the LPNY, on the contingency that a total of 30 pledgers will similarly commit before the convention, and that in result no fund raising efforts will be made at the convention. If you would like to pre-pledge with these conditions, please contact the convention committee via below.

For more information, updates, or suggestions, visit: [www.ny.lp.org](http://www.ny.lp.org).

Or e-mail: [TRuksLP@yahoo.com](mailto:TRuksLP@yahoo.com).

**National Libertarian Party**

Next year's National Convention is expected to be on May 27-31, 2004, at the Marriott Atlanta Marquis Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia, where the LP nominee for President will be selected.

## ACTIVISM SUGGESTIONS

*A Recurring Section, highlighting suggestion(s) made by LP Members as a starting point for NYLP activist projects or activities in the furtherance of LP goals.  
 (Editor kindly requests topic contributions for this section)*

**Suggestion:**

I think the LPNY should organize a 6 week symposium to consolidate and highlight activism goals. Signed-up members would attend the seminar once a week.

There should be a presentation of a top-down hierarchy of raw goals (e.g. Bring money into the state party, bring in new members, cost

effective dissemination of libertarian messages/gov't criticism to the masses) made to attending members with an moving/open mike to accept new and/or modifying suggestions on the topic being overviewed. The sessions should be a healthy cross between a main overall plan and nonjudgmental "any possiblity" brainstorming.

*Suggestion by Gary Treistman*

What about putting together a line of stuff that had a Libertarian bent. Coffee cups, key chains, whatever. Then sell it at flea markets, street fairs, whatever. Make a buck. Be true capitalist pigs The idea here is that Libertarians have an advantage over the R's and D's. We have a distinct philosophy. Promoting that philosophy is like fertilizing ground before planting. Get people thinking. A person wearing a T-Shirt is a free billboard for our philosophy. It doesn't matter why the person's wearing it. <http://www.cafeshops.com/nyliberty>

*(Suggestion by Jeff Bennet)*

**Our Party Matters**

AN OVERVIEW FROM THE NYLP CHAIR,JOHN CLIFTON:**Platform Overhauls & Dents:**

Over the last few months, at both state and national levels, I have found myself writing on attempts to greatly "revise" the LP platform, or else to renounce or reconsider the party's embrace of the non-aggression principle as embodied in the initiation of force pledge.

Without naming names, I am opposed to both ideas, and my comments on it are below. To my mind, both efforts may be well-intentioned by some members in order to clear up some awkward phrases in the platform and pledge, but are ill-advised and will (long term) do nothing but make the party more "acceptable" to the regular public, e.g., if there was something in our national platform that could be easily misinterpreted, or used to make us look bad, we have had 30 years to tweak it, and our critics have had 30 years to find it in previous versions, to hang it over our heads.

The same holds true for the pledge, which has provided a unique unifying concept to unite all party members. It sounds to me like several of us would rather use such projects to back us away from any commitment to, or expression of, radical principle. Do we want to go down the bankrupt road the conservatives and liberals have gone, more focused purging ourselves of principle until we are bland enough to be as "respectable" as the DemoRepubs? The right and the left are dead---these days in Congress, the GOP passes \$400 billion, FDR-level expansions of Medicare, while the Dems can't even bring themselves to openly oppose war, or civil-liberties-crushing extensions of the Patriot Act.

It all starts with backing away from a serious embrace or principle, thereby allowing our own self-image to be shaped by our opponent---the current statist order. As columnist Samuel Francis recently said about the former, "the real targets of the

conservative movement's obsession with turning away and purging anyone who did not fit, were those who were not palatable to the establishment the movement claimed to be 'confronting.' Only if the movement could convince the 'establishment' that its adherents and beliefs were really no threat to the power of the establishment could the 'movement' hope to gain the acceptance and 'respectability' its leader always craved." Again, do we really want to start down this same track? How will we ever change the result, if the LP elects to just follow the existing formula? Anyway:

**The Platform:**

If I may briefly speak to this matter, in my maiden address to fellow LP state chairs, it appears to me that it IS the job of the party to communicate its ideas clearly to others, especially to those populations who are naturally pro-freedom---but the party platform is not the place to do so. The platform is not the first thing Joe Lunchpail thinks about when evaluating ANY political party, so why all this presumption that the language must be revised? The platform is not the face of the party, as far as outsiders are concerned. It is a statement of party beliefs, based on the current consensus of current members, and of importance mainly to people already inside.

What "the face" of the LP is, is embodied in who are candidates are, and how we devote our energies. To the regular guy, we're "that crew of lonely nerds who are consumed over the drug issue;" to the average woman, we're "those people who are going to take away my social safety net, and put more guns on the street." To such people, no amount of rephrasing the tax, drug or gun planks will change the latent, demographic emotional impression.

The regular public usually looks to what the main candidates are promoting, or to the

party's generic messages, to grasp where the group is coming from. THAT is what the LP should be concentrating on, to communicate better to the public. Soundbites, emotions, symbols, themes---not minute intellectual prattle from a general platform document, are what the general public takes in, to form an opinion about the party. Some in the LP seem to want the platform to be an official statement of beliefs, a PR department, "the face" of the party and other things it does not need to be.

No other party I know of has imagined it should attach to its platform so much baggage, and so many jobs to do. The wholesale revision of a document that few people outside the party will EVER read--regardless of how interested they may become with the LP---is the latest exercise in the very navel-gazing that perpetuates our insularity. If this or that section of the platform is unclear, or can be misinterpreted, then change this or that section at convention time, as parties are supposed to do. Why are we overhauling the car, over a dent or two? Why has the party committed itself to draining its energies in another cycle of busywork, instead of working on building a more libertarian-friendly society?

### The Pledge:

Just to quickly outline my objections to renouncing the initiation of force pledge.

1. The point of the pledge has been to establish ONE unifying, explicit principle upon which LP members can agree on. It does not, and it never did, intend to resolve disputes among Libertarians about the tactical application of the principle (e.g., tax repeal vs. progressive curtailing). People will continue to often question the "purity" of a given Libertarian's ideas whether a pledge is maintained or not. Removing the pledge does nothing to eliminate the issue of members second-guessing other members' commitment to principle.

2. The pledge has been a popular, clarifying and unifying construct for the party for decades. I would ask pro-renouncers if they are open to replacing it with a different pledge that provides similar unity and agreement among Libertarians. Do they have a better idea?

3. The pledge has given the party a unique selling proposition (USP) stance versus other parties for decades. David Nolan et al specifically formed the party in 1971 out of principled objection to Nixon's wage and price controls, and the war in Vietnam---that is, over foreign and domestic interventionism. The pledge uniquely explains why the LP would object to the offensive recourse taken on both fronts, compared to the mainstream parties. If absent, what in PRINCIPLE will separate the movement from the rhetoric of conservatives on economic and self defense issues, or liberals on civil and personal liberties?

4. It has never been demonstrated that the incremental approach, employed by the right for a generation to contain or reverse the increase in government force, has resulted in reducing statism in any major respect whatsoever. The use of incrementalism by the statist, by contrast, has usually been more style than substance--under the sheep's skin of moderation, the thrust of most "piecemeal" regulatory language has been towards introducing new wholesale, sweeping, permanent claims that "the state has the authority to..."

These authoritarian claims are repeatedly and radically assumed in even the most trivial bits of legislation; thus incremental reform towards smaller government through temporarily embracing force, serves basically to re-inforce the statist principle. Renouncing the ONE principle almost all members agree on, to pursue a tactic that has not been shown to work to our benefit, will not address libertarian reversal of the omnipotent state.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS, PAST AND PRESENT:

### **LIBERTARIANS AGREE WITH NASSAU'S SUOZZI--DUMP LEGISLATORS**

**Our Party Matters**

Westbury, NY 12/1/03: Nassau County's libertarian Party says Nassau County Executive Thomas Suozzi is on the right track when he called for dumping an incumbent Republican Senator and an incumbent Democrat Assembly member in each county, but County Chair Richard Cooper says that does not go far enough. "We need to throw out most legislators and replace them with Libertarians who will champion individual liberty, free markets and personal responsibility in order to promote a society that enjoys more justice, abundance, and peace." Suozzi is upset with unfunded mandates imposed on local governments by the state government. Suozzi's proposal caused a storm amongst legislators and led to the resignation of Nassau County's lobbyist in Albany, Patricia Lynch.

Cooper, a Westbury business executive and ex-State Chair, contends that New York needs Libertarians "to reduce the size, scope and burden of Federal, state and local governments." Cooper cites what he calls "Time\$cam" as one of the abuses Libertarians would stop. "The state has condemned property in midtown Manhattan for the benefit of the New York Times thus harming New York taxpayers, the property-owners and their tenants. We reject this legalized theft. Suozzi's own smoking ban in Nassau would have been opposed by Libertarian legislators. Suozzi is not one to talk about mandates being imposed."

State Chair John Clifton notes that "Libertarians already have won a victory, giving voters the right to register as Libertarians. " Clifton and Cooper don't know how many Libertarians will run for state legislature next year but hope to encourage more campaigns. Cooper challenges the voters to "Free New York from the Empire State, vote Libertarian."

Contact: Richard Cooper

(516) 333-4840x15 (o)

(516) 220-0964 (cell)

email: [lpnnymedia@hotmail.com](mailto:lpnnymedia@hotmail.com)

John Clifton

(718) 276-4630x114

### **LIBERTARIANS "PROTECT HOUSES OF WORSHIP FROM SEIZURE"**

Westbury, NY-12/16/03: As the holiday approach, Nassau County Libertarian Party Chair Richard Cooper says the group calls for protecting the property rights of houses of worship from abuse by changing both Federal and New York laws. He calls for amending New York's eminent domain law to protect churches, synagogues, mosques, and temples from seizure by the state and municipal governments as part of urban renewal schemes.

Federal law should be changed to prohibit use of Federal funds to finance such seizures. Nassau Libertarians fought without success to save a church in New Cassel.

"The Town of North Hempstead condemned St. Luke's Pentecostal Church using the eminent domain law in the name of "community revitalization." Cooper was outraged to read a newspaper report that a Town Zoning Board official said that "We have enough churches here in New Cassel."

Rallying the Libertarians to aid St. Luke's, Cooper says the Libertarians reject eminent domain abuse and "urban renewal" programs as violations of rights and destructive of communities. He charges, "'Instead of protecting the people's right to property, the government is conducting legalized theft."

Responding to threats to houses of worship by eminent domain backed with Federal funds, Congressman Ron Paul (R-TX) sponsored a bill to bar the use of Federal funds in such cases. Congressman Paul learned of the efforts of the Libertarian Party of New York's Nassau County chapter on behalf of the bullied poor church. Although Paul's measure passed in 2000, the bill it was attached to did not. It has not been reintroduced.

In New York, acting on advice of Attorney-General Spitzer, Governor Pataki vetoed an eminent domain reform law which would have required municipalities to notify property owners of the hearings considering eminent domain. The Libertarians have condemned Spitzer and Pataki for this.

## DRUG USE, BERNIE GOETZ AND THE UNABOMBER'S BROTHER AT MANHATTAN LIBERTARIAN CONVENTION

NEW YORK -- (12/15/2003; 1100)(EIS) -- What do you get when you bring together the Subway Vigilante, the Unabomber's brother, and a think-tank scholar who defends illicit drug use? It must be the Manhattan Libertarian Party's annual convention.

The Manhattan Libertarians will hold their annual convention on Saturday, January 10, 2004 at the 1050 Restaurant, 735 Tenth Avenue, at 2 p.m. In addition to electing a new chairman and county committee, the Libertarians will hear from keynote speaker Jacob Sullum, senior editor of Reason Magazine and author of the critically acclaimed book "Saying Yes: In Defense of Drug Use". Other speakers include Bernie Goetz, the notorious "Subway Vigilante," discussing jury nullification; David Kaczynski, the brother of the Unabomber and executive director of New Yorkers Against the Death Penalty; and Tim Bailey from the NYC Bill of Rights Defense Campaign.

The business session of the convention is free. Speakers and sit-down dinner are \$40 in advance, \$50 after January 3. College students are only \$25 in advance, \$30 after January 3.

Members of the media who would like press passes for the convention should contact

Jim Lesczynski, Media Relations Director, at 646-387-7591.

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## MAN WHO CAN TOPPLE BUSH & BIG GOVERNMENT COMES TO NEW YORK CITY. WILL HE BE 2004'S NADER?

Westbury, NY 12/8/03:

Gary Nolan intends to shake up the 2004 presidential election as a Libertarian candidate.

Nolan, previously a Cleveland-based radio talk show host and businessman, plans to have the same impact in 2004 as Ralph Nader had in 2000. Now, he is making his second campaign foray into New York with a speech before the Manhattan Libertarian Party on Wednesday, Dec. 10th , at 7:

30pm in the Evergreen Restaurant, 10 East 38th Street between Madison and Fifth Avenues in Manhattan. Nolan will be available for interviews in person on December 11th and by phone at other times. Contact Steve Dasbach. New York media will be coordinated for the Gary Nolan campaign by former Libertarian Party of New York State Chair Richard Cooper.

Nolan notes that Republicans who criticized big government spending programs when Bill Clinton was president embraced when put forth by George W. Bush. He contends that under these circumstances "Gridlock is good."

Nolan distinguishes himself from Bush and the Democrats. "I believe that the massive increases in federal spending under a Republican administration and Congress, coupled with unprecedented losses of civil liberties unopposed by Democrats, have created an ideal political environment for the Libertarian Party, and for a Presidential campaign built around restoring small, constitutionally-limited government across the board." Nolan supported the Afghan war to bring the Al Qaeda terrorists to justice, but opposed the policy of pre-emptive war with Iraq.

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## The Libertarian Party of Nassau

will present the following events listed at our meetings, held the third Tuesday of each month, at 8pm in the lower level conference room from 8:00-9:15pm of 230 Hilton Avenue, Hempstead:

January 20th: Dr. James & Mrs. Patricia Perry, parents of libertarian 9-11 NYPD hero John W. Perry, on the Patriot Act and why it is bad. They are board members of the Nassau County Civil Liberties Union. Jim Perry recently retired as a psychologist.

February 17th: Former Judge Ira J. Raab, a Democrat elected to the District Court and later the State Supreme Court with Libertarian endorsement. He resigned recently over questions of his violation of the rules concerning political activity by judges. He will speak about the judiciary system and why judicial candidates should be able to take stands on issues.

**Planned Lecture:  
An Introduction to Libertarianism**

A lecture and exposition will be held at the Pearl River Public Library 80 Franklin Ave. Pearl River, NY, on Monday January 5<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 – 7:45 pm, questions and answers till 8:30 pm.

The lecture (which is not sponsored by the library) will be orated by Jeff Bennet, who is expected to be the 2004 NYS Libertarian Party Candidate for NY Senate, 38<sup>th</sup> District.

A general background of libertarianism with highlights on [1] Taxes, [2] the NYS Smoking Ban, why libertarians oppose it and the libertarian approach to a smoke-free society without trampling anyones right to choose to smoke, [3] Eminent Domain: Is your home really safe?

## **Our Party Matters**

**Libertarian Party of Monroe County Hosts  
Libertarian Potential Nominee for President.**

On November 12, Rochester-area Libertarians met Gary Nolan, who is seeking support for the LP nomination for President.

Mr. Nolan was invited to the area by Adam Chamberlain, a student activist at SUNY Brockport. Thanks to the close ties between the LPMC and Brockport, the date of the trip was quickly communicated to others in town, and soon a second talk was scheduled, this at the University of Rochester, arranged by student activist Eric Miller.

The evening was complemented by a dinner with LPMC members, so everyone had ample opportunity to meet the candidate. A press release drew an in-person interview and story in the local daily paper, plus an event announcement in the alternative weekly. Audiences at the two talks averaged 20 people, and at least three of those are now new members of the LP.

**Libertarian Party of Monroe County  
partakes in Human Rights Day**

On December 9, thanks to an invitation by the local ACLU, the LPMC participated in Human Rights Day with Rochester area progressive

groups, who were united this year in protest of the USA PATRIOT Act.

The events included speeches on the steps of City Hall, a candlelight vigil, a potluck dinner featuring Libertarian Vegetarian Chili, pro-civil rights skits by high school students, and a keynote address by the Deputy Editor of the local daily paper.

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**Manhattan Libertarian Party  
Annual convention**

Featuring keynote speaker Jacob Sullum, senior editor of Reason Magazine and author of "Saying Yes: In Defense of Drug Use". Other speakers include Bernie Goetz on jury nullification, David Kaczynski (brother of the Unabomber) on the death penalty, and Tim Bailey on the NYC Bill of Rights Defense Campaign.

Saturday, January 10, 2:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Speakers and dinner only \$40 in advance; \$50 after January 3.

Students only \$25 in advance; \$30 after January 3

For further information, visit:

[www.manhattanlp.org/events\\_files/MLP-2004-Convention.htm](http://www.manhattanlp.org/events_files/MLP-2004-Convention.htm)

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**Libertarian Jeffrey Bennett Announces  
Intended Candidacy for NYS Senate**

Campaigning on the issues of The NYS Smoking Ban, Eminent Domain, Taxes and the War on Drugs, Mr. Bennet seeks election to provide a voice for liberty in the NYS Legislature.

(See Display announcement)

Contact him by email at: jeffiek@excite.com.

# **Libertarian Membership Form**

Support freedom and the Bill of Rights; help by joining the Libertarian Party.

## **LP News, National Newsletter Subscription (membership optional)**

[ ] Enclosed is \$25. Please sign me up for a one-year subscription to *LP News* (12 monthly issues).

### **Libertarian Party Membership:**

[ ] Yes! Sign me up today as a proud, dues-paying member of the Libertarian Party  
(Includes Subscription to LPNews and FreeNY)

#### **\$25 Basic Member**

+ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for additional support for the Libertarian Party and efforts for liberty.

**The Libertarian Party is the party of principle.** To publicly affirm what we believe – and to ensure that our party never strays from our principles – we ask our members to proudly sign this statement: ?

I do not believe in or advocate the *initiation* of force as a means of achieving political or social goals:

X

SIGNATURE REQUIRED FOR MEMBERSHIP

### **Total payment enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

[ ] Check/money order enclosed. (No corporate checks, please.)

Or: Bill my [ ] Visa [ ] AMEX [ ] MasterCard [ ] Discover

ACCT# \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

X \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE for Credit Card Payment

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## **LIBERTARIAN PARTY**

**2600 Virginia Avenue, NY, Suite 100. Washington DC 20037**

**Phone: 202-333-0008 ⇐ Fax: 202-333-0072 ? [www.LP.org](http://www.LP.org)**



## **Libertarian Party of NY**

### **-- Petition Against the Smoking Ban --**

We the undersigned, whether smokers or nonsmokers, agree with the Libertarian Party that bans on smoking in restaurants and bars should be overturned. Bar and restaurant owners should have the right to decide whether to permit smoking or not on their property. The public has the right to choose whether or not to patronize or work there. The government should not interfere with their choices.

**Please return filled-out petitions to  
Libertarian Party of New York  
Attn: Smoking Ban Petition  
PO Box 728  
Bellport, NY 11713**

See <http://ny.lip.org/issues/cigs.htm> or call (516) 767-4688



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# POLITICS!!

Do you really want a change ??

Are you tired of the old status quo?

You should know by now, American Politics is really just a game of musical chairs, a vote for *Republican* or *Democrat* is really just the same party vote cast - ***Demopublicans!***

They all promise you change, lower taxes, more services, but they never really deliver. That is why you are left with an empty feeling every year after elections, because what they all really want from you is more of the same: **MORE GOVERNMENT!!**

More control over your life, more demands over your pocketbook, your property, and your personal behavior, more regulations and laws micromanaging every facet of your life. They are lawmakers, that's what they do. Even if they can reduce the number of laws, they won't.

The fact is, the Demopublicans, and almost every other political party active in New York State, have a vested interest in keeping you dependent upon them for favors, favors that shouldn't be needed in the first place. Favors that in fact have been artificially created by the way in which government is run today, and the way you have been bullied into thinking is correct.

The same mentality that has produced the USA PATRIOT ACT is at work at every level of government, from local politics to national. Whether they get us there slowly or quickly, or hopefully not at all, is the result of who and what you vote for. We still have representational government in this country, but it may not be that way forever. If lawmakers and politicians continue to have their way, soon they will become an entity unto themselves, and they will no longer need your vote to remain in power, and the road to tyranny will be assured.



T h e  
Libertarian Party  
urges you to  
THINK before  
you vote; don't  
vote by inertia  
or familiarity,  
know what you  
want from your  
government and  
your elected offi-  
cials.

If you think  
there are too  
many laws, too  
much control  
over your prop-  
erty, your family,  
and your life, that you can't even breathe without bumping  
into another government regulation, that politicians have  
become evermore unprincipled and really don't have  
YOUR best interests at heart, then think about voting  
Libertarian this year.

The Libertarian Party believes in upholding the  
Constitution the way it was written, the LP believes you  
have the right to your own life, liberty and pursuit of hap-  
piness, which means living your life your way, without  
some bureaucrat telling you how to do so. It means getting  
intrusive government out of our lives, and it means uphold-  
ing the Constitutional guarantees to be just left alone by  
intrusive government.

Last year, the LP has won the right for all New York  
voters to enroll as Libertarians. But remember, you don't  
have to be enrolled Libertarian to vote Libertarian.  
This year vote your conscience, vote for freedom,

**Vote Libertarian.**

**Jeffrey Bennett****Libertarian for NY Senate**

District 38 (Rockland and part of Orange counties)

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness" – Declaration of Independence

These words once began a revolution. They can start another one. In my lifetime. I bring no political expertise, no background of community service, just a burning desire to defend my rights. Like those men, I choose to defend myself by standing up for everyone.

A libertarian by nature, I joined the party in August. I find myself surrounded by knowledge, intelligence and rational thought. I find that refreshing. There's also a sense of futility. I choose to ignore that.

The Libertarian Party is about choices. I choose to believe success is possible.

Volunteers needed. I can't do it alone. Time and knowledge are most important. Volunteer to be part of my campaign committee. It'll be worth it.

**Campaign Issues:**

- Repeal the smoking ban
- Taxes
- Education
- State Mandates
- Full support for entire LP platform

**Trivial boring stuff**

51 years old. Divorced. One son. One grandson. Occupation – electronic engineer.  
Residence – Spring Valley

## **Help Support the New York Libertarian Party**

(Through a special arrangement with Cognigen Worldwide Telecom, there is a way that you can now support the Libertarian Party of New York and save money for yourself. Cognigen will donate a percentage (~6%) of all proceeds obtained from the services offered here that you use to the Libertarian Party of New York.)

### **\*\* Deep Discount Telephone Services \*\***

**If you are paying anything more than 5¢ per minute for long distance phone calls, then you are paying too much, in fact there are discounted rates available from 3.5¢/min.**

**This is your inside Scoop to the best prices on:**

- Telephone Service (Long Distance & Local)
- Calling Cards
- Internet Access Connections
- And much more . . .



You owe it to yourself to check out our Website address, peruse through all the telecomm services products offered, and if you like - sign up!. There is never a hidden long term commitment if you are not totally satisfied (typically one month minimum service term).

**Visit us at:  
<http://LD.NET/?libertarian>**

And know that every phone call you make contributes to the NY Libertarian Party, and its effort in the continuing struggle for freedom.

**NYLP CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER ACTIVITIES**

A SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES, DEVELOPMENTS AND PROGRESSES MADE BY THE NYLP CHAPTERS AND THEIR CONTACTS, AS REPORTED TO FREE NY BY THE CHAPTER'S THEMSELVES. SEE OTHER ACTIVITIES DETAILED IN ANNOUNCEMENTS SECTION THAT ARE TOO VOLUMOUS TO REPRODUCE HERE. IF YOU ARE (OR WILL BE) A LIBERTARIAN AND YOUR PART OF THE STATE IS NOT REPRESENTED YET, CALL (516)SOS-GOVT TO GET HELP TO SET ONE UP.

**Our Party Matters****Capital District**

[1marketsquare.com/CapLP/Main.shtml](http://1marketsquare.com/CapLP/Main.shtml)

Albany and Vicinity

Jeff Russell, JRuss1776@aol.com

518-371-3641

The Capital District Libertarian Party meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Branch Restaurant on Maiden Lane in Albany. Meetings start at 6 PM and usually last about an hour. There are about 50 members of national who live within an hour's drive of Albany. About 10 of them are fairly active, but only 4-5 attend meetings.

**Central New York**

Onondaga, Oswego, Madison, Cortland

Kevin Delaney, kdzrd@aol.com

Marc Romain, romainpcsi@altavista.com

A business meeting will be held from 2-3pm followed by a discussion group from 3-4pm on the second Sunday of every odd month.

**Western New York**

(Includes Allegany, Chautauqua, Wyoming, Cattaraugus Counties)

John Wadsworth jlwads@concentric.net

Buffalo, NY

716-886-1919

There are fairly regular meetings in Buffalo at this point--please contact John Wadsworth in Buffalo if you'd like to get involved.

Please contact him to be put on his email list.

**Hudson Valley**

(Includes Dutchess, Orange, and Ulster Counties)

Don Silberger, DonSilberger@hvc.rr.com

845-255-8819

Peter Carl

845-679-8340

P.O. Box 66, Lake Hill, NY 12448

Gary Treistman, garyonthenet@yahoo.com

845-679-4770

POB 563, Bearsville, NY 12409

Meets "religiously" on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the College Diner in New Paltz, one block east of the thruway exit on route 299. We love good conversation, and discuss/plan activist goals at our meetings.

**Kings County (a.k.a. Brooklyn)**

(We are looking for a volunteer to be a contact)

Meetings are currently combined with the New York county (Manhattan) chapter until a Brooklyn chapter can be formed.

**Livingston County Libertarian Party**

Albert Dedicke

[aadedicke@yahoo.com](mailto:aadedicke@yahoo.com)

Contact Al to get involved in Livingston County: we will need help with the campaign this year.

**Libertarian Party of Monroe County**

[www.RochesterLP.org](http://www.RochesterLP.org)

(includes Genesee, Orleans, Wayne, Livingston, and Ontario counties)

Stephen Healey, easterof1916@runbox.com

585-529-9354

The chapter recently met with Libertarian hopeful nominee Gary Nolan, and participated in the local Human Rights Day. See Announcements Section for details.

The chapter meets on the third Wednesday of each month for strategy sessions. at Harro East, 400 Andrews St.; Call or visit website for further directions.

Doors open at 7 PM. Meeting starts at 7:30, ends before 9.

**New York County (a.k.a. Manhattan)**

[www.manhattanlp.org](http://www.manhattanlp.org)

Gary Snyder, gary@garysnyder.org

Also Contacts at: [info@manhattanlp.org](mailto:info@manhattanlp.org)

Manhattan Libertarian Party

(212) 252-3449

18 Greenwich Avenue  
P.O. Box 127  
New York, NY 10011

The chapter is holding its annual convention on January 10, see Announcement Section for details.

Join the [lpny\\_manhattan@yahoogroups.com](mailto:lpny_manhattan@yahoogroups.com) mailing list to start contributing your ideas about how to make it work. Stop in at our monthly meetings from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month, at Evergreen Restaurant, 10 East 38th Street. The first hour is a business meeting. The second hour is educational/social with dinner and guest speaker.

#### Nassau County Libertarian Party

Vincent O'Neill  
516-676-8029

Meets in the downstairs conference room at 230 Hilton Avenue, Hempstead, at 8:00 PM on the third Tuesday of each month. Also see Announcements for other events.

#### Libertarian Party of Queens County

[www.lpqc.org](http://www.lpqc.org)  
info: (718) 707-1421

Meetings are held on the 2nd Saturday of each month, from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm, at Bohemian Hall, 29-19 24th Avenue, Astoria, Queens (Subway: one block north of the Astoria Boulevard N train station, just west of 31st Street.)

#### Suffolk County

Barry Loberfeld, [BLoberfe@suffolk.lib.ny.us](mailto:BLoberfe@suffolk.lib.ny.us)  
516-543-3510  
Contact Barry for meeting times and location.

#### Southern Tier Libertarian Party

(Includes Cortland, Chemung, Broome, Otsego, Schuyler, Tioga, and Tompkins Counties)

Michael Lurie, [mlurie@control.com](mailto:mlurie@control.com)

607-797-7162

William Kone, [\\_WilliamK@excite.com](mailto:_WilliamK@excite.com)

322 Pine Tree, Apt #82

Ithaca, NY 14850

Meetings are 1:00pm to 3:00pm on the second Saturday of the month at the Vestal Public Library.

#### College Chapters and Contacts:

#### **A note from the LPNY College Outreach Coordinator:**

If you work or go to school at a college or university in New York State and would like to be a designated contact for the Libertarian Party, I would appreciate your contacting me at the E-Mail address noted below.

Perhaps you are a professor who would be willing to serve as an Advisor to a College Libertarian chapter. Perhaps you are a student who is interested in leading a Libertarian Freedom Coalition, an alliance of students who agree with us on a broad range of issues.

Perhaps you are someone who would be willing to put up a notice seeking to identify students who would agree to serve as officers of a Libertarian Party organization at your school.

If you can help out in any capacity, please let me know.

Dr. Thomas Robert Stevens  
College Outreach Coordinator  
LPNY  
[YRSPartan@aol.com](mailto:YRSPartan@aol.com)

COLUMBIA COLLEGE LIBERTARIANS

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Will Thomas (President) [[wrt2003@columbia.edu](mailto:wrt2003@columbia.edu)]

Damian Najman (Vice-President):

[ddn2005@columbia.edu](mailto:ddn2005@columbia.edu)

Chris Haynes (Treasurer)

Rob McNamee (Secretary)

Contacts: Damian Najman [[damiannajman@hotmail.com](mailto:damiannajman@hotmail.com)]

Will Thomas: [[libertarians@columbia.edu](mailto:libertarians@columbia.edu)]

COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL LIBERTARIANS

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Contact: Damian Najman [[damiannajman@hotmail.com](mailto:damiannajman@hotmail.com)]

COLLEGE LIBERTARIANS OF CORNELL UNIVERSITY

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

Contact: Curry Taylor [[ctaylo12@twcny.rr.com](mailto:ctaylo12@twcny.rr.com)]

Graduate Student of Condensed Matter Physics

Chapter in the process of obtaining formal recognition from the school; Dr. Jonathan Macey has agreed to be Faculty Advisor.

CUNY HUNTER COLLEGE

Contact: Kimberly D. Bloomston [[iamkimoo@hotmail.com](mailto:iamkimoo@hotmail.com)]

Chapter to be organized there in Spring, 2004

ELMIRA COLLEGE

Contact: Dr. Bryan C. McCannon [[bcmccannon@yahoo.com](mailto:bcmccannon@yahoo.com)]

Assistant Professor of Economics

Has agreed to be our contact and to be Faculty Advisor to any chapter forming at that school.

ITHACA COLLEGE

Contact: Prof. Kim Gregson [[kgregson@ithaca.edu](mailto:kgregson@ithaca.edu)]

Rm 328 Park Hall

Park School of Communications

Ithaca College

Ithaca, NY 14850

607-274-7348

I teach in the Radio-TV department

NEW YORK CITY COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

Contact: Prof. Gary Popkin [[gary.popkin@hotmail.com](mailto:gary.popkin@hotmail.com)]

Professor of Computer Systems Technology

Prof. Popkin has agreed to be our contact and to be Faculty Advisor to a chapter organizing at that school.

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

Contact: Michael Robert Miller [[mikemillernyc@hotmail.com](mailto:mikemillernyc@hotmail.com)]

Senior, Acting major

Graduating May, 2004

ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Contact: Dawn Pepin [[dap6401@rit.edu](mailto:dap6401@rit.edu)]

Dawn Pepin is currently trying to find other interested students in order to organize a chapter at her school.

SUNY BINGHAMTON

Contact: Prof. Charles Goodman [[cgoodman@binghamton.edu](mailto:cgoodman@binghamton.edu)]

Assistant Professor of Philosophy and AAAS  
Binghamton University

Office phone: (607) 777-2610

THE COLLEGE LIBERTARIANS OF BROCKPORT

SUNY BROCKPORT

Contact: Adam Chamberlain [[kangol@novocon.net](mailto:kangol@novocon.net)]

585-395-4665

Junior at SUNY Brockport

THE COLLEGE LIBERTARIANS OF SUNY

FREDONIA

Contact: Aaron Stadler

[[groovefeeling@hotmail.com](mailto:groovefeeling@hotmail.com)]

SUNY NEW PALTZ

Contact: Prof. Don Silberger

[[donsilberger@hvc.rr.com](mailto:donsilberger@hvc.rr.com)]

Associate Professor of Mathematics and the Director of the M.A. Program in Mathematics

FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

Contact: Salvatore "Sam" Russo

[[srusso@fordham.edu](mailto:srusso@fordham.edu)]

Mr. Russo is a student at Fordham School of Law which is located at Fordham University, Lincoln Center Campus

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

Contact: Kimberly Gehl [[kgehl@syr.edu](mailto:kgehl@syr.edu)]

Day Hall Box 158

Mount Olympus Drive

Syracuse, NY 13210

Kimberly Gehl is a Freshman who is currently in the process of organizing a chapter at this school. She would welcome any advice and suggestions you may have to offer.

UR LIBERTARIANSUNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

Contact: Eric Miller [[em003m@mail.rochester.edu](mailto:em003m@mail.rochester.edu)]

Sophomore

Economics Major

CPU Box 276577 River Campus

Rochester, NY 14627

Eric Miller is planning on holding meetings on campus every Wednesday.

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**IN THE TRENCHES:  
RUNNING AS A LIBERTARIAN CANDIDATE IN NEW YORK:  
THE CANDIDATES SPEAK OF THEIR EXPERIENCE**



Jak Jacob Karako  
(212) 314-5640  
[www.ElectJak.org](http://www.ElectJak.org)

As one of the founding members of the Manhattan LP, my belief was that LP can grow faster if we have our presence in the local elections.

Two years ago Manhattan fielded five city council candidates. This year we had three city council candidates. As the only third party consistently presenting its own candidates, we are being noticed both by opponents and the public. Two years ago the reaction on the street was "Liber-what?" now it is "Oh! Libertarians."

They may not know what Libertarian means but at least they heard part of the name. I have already started to get ready for the 2005 city council elections where most of the council persons will be termed-out. I would like to encourage others to become a candidate, it is a rewarding experience. I am confident that our persistency will pay-off.



Dan Finley  
(646) 239-4113  
[dan@danfinley.com](mailto:dan@danfinley.com)

Running for office is time-consuming, frustrating, but ultimately fulfilling.

Most of the fulfillment for me came from watching the election returns come in. A total of 3.1% is not very exciting, objectively, but it meant that 449 individuals took the opportunity to vote for a candidate that they really wanted. It also meant that I was nipping at the heels of the Republican, who managed only about 15% despite significantly more effort and publicity.

Most of my campaigning involved the process of collecting signatures to get my name on the ballot. I used up a good portion of my summertime weekends on the project, but it was a great way to spread the message one-on-one. In the East Village you get all types, and most of them are not libertarians, but I found a few and they were glad to see me.

A lot of the non-libertarians were also fairly open-minded. Many others were not. And one found me and did her best to make my signature-collecting task as difficult as possible. In truth, there is a huge chasm between where most people in New York are out there politically and where we want them to be. We do not even speak the same language or think within the same paradigms. But we were concerned

about the same issues. The budget. Education. Housing.

I found that talking to people about the issues dominating political discourse in the city's media generally convinced them to take me more seriously. I avoided basing my campaign on important, but auxiliary, issues, like the smoking ban or the cabaret laws. New York has, of course, a maze of regulations for everything, and probably the most frustrating part of running for office here is dealing with all of the bureaucratic filing requirements. I went to at least five different city offices to file various documents. Each time, the only thing keeping a smile on my face was the thought that I would close the damn place if I could. In all, the process is a total pain, but it is totally worthwhile. I hope, in the future, that the party can find candidates for every race, and that those candidates will address the major issues of the day head on.



Gary Treistman  
(845) 679-4770  
[garyonthenet@yahoo.com](mailto:garyonthenet@yahoo.com)  
POB 563  
Bearsville, NY 12409

Overall I found the experience both tedious and rewarding.

I ran for the first time against a 12 year incumbent for Town Justice. I didn't quite expect to win, but my plan was to get people to think about what were they doing when they voted, that they shouldn't just vote with inertia, but to ask whether they were getting what they wanted out of their government and elected officials. The campaigning provided me with an opportunity to disseminate libertarian views and principles to the people directly. Additionally, I felt that campaigning for judge in my town would actually lend a little name recognition for myself, for the next campaign, for my local business, and just socially in the town.

Most of the people I came into contact with had never heard of Libertarianism, some thought it to be a form of Liberal.

But when there was recognition, the response was never apathetic, it was either a knowing smile and a handshake with comments like "I think what you guys are trying to do is great", or it was a sneer with a statement like "Oh I don't want anything to do with the libertarians, you're all extreme nuts who are trying to overthrow the government". A few, after some introductory conversation, told me straight out "But I like government programs for the poor", and would not discuss further.

During the campaign I got a call from a lady asking me what I meant by "Try[ing] to stem the tide of socialism in our country", which was a campaign point I ran under. I told her that I did not believe in the government taking my/our money and spending it in ways that in no way benefited me/us. She asked me "But what about homeless people?", and I told her that I felt I should have a choice as to whether I want my money to pay for their room and board, and that already many private charities support the homeless. She seemed to take in this information and agree with me in principle, she thought it might be a bit insensitive but liked my adherence to principle and would vote for me.

Despite the enervating work of collecting almost 200 signatures, in the hot sun and in the rain, despite the way I had to experience people treating me like I was a panhandler trying to get some spare change, and despite that I sometimes just didn't always feel like smiling or engaging people with enthusiasm, I still found the new role I was playing to be interesting and fun; talking with people about politics and the inequities of our government was encouraging.

I won about 5% of the vote, but for the first time against a 12 year incumbent, I think it was not bad.

*(Editor's Note: The other candidates that ran under the Libertarian ticket this year did not send a reply to FNY's query.)*

**MARIHUANA PLANTS TARGETED BY THE HELLI-COPS - CONT'D FROM PAGE 1**

those minions of morality tooling around over the countryside in search of sinful plants? When was the last time that I, a taxpayer, was asked how much I wish to support the sixty-six-year-old War on Marijuana? In this democracy of ours, is there to be NO opportunity EVER for the public to witness open debate on this issue, and for the public to express its honest opinions on the marijuana question?

The zombie mind assumes that if an enacted law bans something then the prohibited something must be evil. But every week vicious and stupid laws are passed with alacrity. As I recall, masturbation was a criminal act many places in these United States until very recently. I would be unsurprised to learn that laws against masturbation remain on the books in backwards jurisdictions to this day. How many wicked people survive among us by the reckoning of such law makers and law enforcers? Of course, eyes that are sharp enough to ``spot just one marijuana plant'', amid a vast benign vegetable vista, might be sharp enough also to spot nasty behavior in the bedrooms of taxpayers' houses over which they whirlybird at taxpayer expense. How long must this continue?

The Marihuana [sic] ``Tax'' Act of 1937 was a fraud, a boondoggle, from the start. A tribe of federal cops,

thrust out of business when the people decided in 1933 that the nightmare of Prohibition -- constitutionally valid prohibition -- had to end, found themselves among the unemployed.

Quick! said their lobbyist, Harry Anslinger. Let's creat another demon substance. Let's vilify an herb, so that there will be no dearth of ``drug criminals'' to hassle, arrest, rob via fines and confiscations, and throw into our hungry dungeons!

Are there not enough murderers, rapists, assailants, robbers, burglars, embezzlers, polluters, corrupt politicians and CEOs to occupy the attention of law enforcement? Should we be forced endure the persecution of harmless citizens as well?

One would hope that a witty scribe like reporter Kristina Wells might have spared a sentence to suggest that she was capable of personal introspections on this quandary. At least give lip service to a balanced coverage.

She didn't write an article, she wrote an editorial. Instead of an unbiased report, she joyfully urges our Gestapo to just "Go Get 'Em Boys!!"

Goebbel's would be proud.

(Article by Don Silberger)

**Articles & Editorials**

## **THE DANGERS OF GROUPTHINK**

What do the CIA, the FBI, Enron, the Catholic Church and the dot-com boosters have in common?

No, this is not a prelude to a wacky conspiracy theory. However, the almost daily revelations of wrongdoing and blunders by those who should know better offer strangely compelling evidence of a growing epidemic of "groupthink."

The term "groupthink" was coined by psychology professor Irving Janis in his 1972 book, "Victims of Groupthink." In this work and others, Janis explored why decision-making by groups so frequently produces catastrophic results. Janis' new word and the ideas behind it entered the vocabulary of organization and management specialists.

In the midst of our present re-examination of what the government knew about terrorists before Sept. 11, or in hindsight contemplation of what happened to Enron, the Catholic Church and scores of dot-com companies, it certainly appears that groupthink is spreading like kudzu throughout our institutions.

Groupthink, according to Janis, refers to the

pressures within a group to maintain solidarity and unanimity even in the face of discordant information or more reasonable decision-making alternatives. The pressures for unanimity and being a "team player" lead to irrationality, carelessness, a distorted view of the situation and ultimately to poor or even ruinous decisions. Groupthink is accompanied by a feeling of group invulnerability and omniscience and an illusion of moral superiority, leading members of the group to believe that their cause is just, right, moral and therefore unassailable.

Victims of groupthink stereotype and simplify their opponents, critics or enemies, thus underestimating them. They also put pressure on group dissenters to "get with the program," and they tend to self-censor information, overemphasizing "good" or reinforcing information, and discounting the importance of "bad" or contrary evidence.

Ronald Sims, a professor of business management at William and Mary College in Virginia, has made the connection between groupthink and unethical

behavior, such as at Enron and some of the dot-com companies that went bust. Sims wrote a decade ago that "policy and decision-making groups can become so cohesive that strong-willed executives are able to gain unanimous support for poor decisions . . . As a result, no attempt is made to question the ethics of the group's behavior." Sims wrote that "arrogance, overcommitment and loyalty" in a highly cohesive group can override the ethical interests of the organization and the judgment of the individual.

Sound familiar?

Why are we now seeing an epidemic of groupthink, a phenomenon of group psychology that was described 30 years ago? There are several possible reasons for the spread of groupthink in our society now. One is a recent mania in business management for "teamwork" and "team spirit," without sufficient caution about the vulnerabilities of group cohesiveness. In Silicon Valley, during the dot-com boom, executives and recruiters used the Orwellian phrase "total commitment" to describe what employees owed their companies.

Cynics developed their own term for an obsession with a company's goals -- they called it "drinking the Kool-Aid," a morbid reference to the poisoned drink that killed more than 900 members of the People's Temple cult in their mass murder and suicide in 1978.

#### Cigarette Wars Cont'd From Page # 1

The NYS Libertarian Party predicted an illegal market would spring up, just like an illegal market has sprung up in response to every prohibition in history, with the same lucrative profits and power to criminals and the same deaths and injuries to citizens and police officers. Undoubtedly, if we slapped a \$7 dollar tax on a gallon of milk, people would be dying in street battles over milk.

Now cast into the roles of criminals, such businessmen do not have the courts available to settle disputes, since any agreement/contract made in violation of law is null and void under common and statutory law. Thus these new entrepreneurs can only settle disputes with fists, knives and guns; they are now furthermore encouraged into the criminal paradigm that since no applicable laws exist for them (for good or bad), they are free to stamp out their competition not just by better marketing and prices, but also with guns and fists.

One teenage victim, Cody Knox, was buried

Another possible reason for rampant groupthink is our growing economic inequality and what might be called "success stress." Middle-class people today have far higher expectations for their standard of living than in previous generations, and being ejected from a group bears far more severe economic consequences than it once did. The pervasiveness of groupthink clearly suggests that group identity is rising in personal significance, over individual identity.

Janis offered a set of recommendations for leaders

to help head off groupthink, and most of these are now standard lessons in teaching managerial and policy-making skills. But they are hardly ever observed in real practice. His most demanding requirement, that leaders welcome dissent and reward mavericks

and whistle-blowers, is precisely what our leaders can't seem to do.

Until we figure out how to manage groupthink, we're bound to see even grand institutions stumble and fall into humiliation and disgrace.

*Article Printed herein by Permission by Prof. Gary Chapman.*

*Chapman is director of The 21st Century Project at the LBJ School and can be contacted at :*

*gary.chapman@mail.utexas.edu.*

yesterday, two weeks after he was chased by two fellow bootleggers and fatally stabbed because he was undercutting cigarette prices by a buck, stealing his rivals' business.

Another entrepreneur Shirwin Henry, 23, tried to take a legitimate approach to the banned cigarette trade by placing ads in Brooklyn community papers advertising his delivery service. Henry bought cigarettes legally on an Indian reservation in Mastic, L.I. but then sold them for a profit using a toll-free number to sell their wares.

However, on Nov. 17, Henry's body was found on an East New York rooftop where he had gone to deliver a carton of cigarettes to a tenant at 185 Wortman Ave. in Brooklyn, NY. He had been shot once in the head.

NYC investigators also are looking at a third cigarette-related slaying, in Bedford-Stuyvesant on Aug. 16. Angel Aponte, 17, was suspected of robbing a cigarette dealer days before he was found shot dead at 544 Throop Ave.

Such profiteering and violence is only made

possible when the government believes it can usurp by edict an economic law of supply and demand, a more fundamental law that will always supercede any government edict, and exiles businessmen from the normal legal system, forcing them into an anarchy of their own.

Whereas once a street savvy state, with a live and let live approach, the increasing socialist mentality of New York State will only reap what it sows.

Now already a state with some of the highest taxes in America, its hand in perpetually in our wallets. NYS is further following the in-your-face this-is-how-you-should-live wherewithal of Californian society, where social engineering and personal conduct laws presume to know what's best for you, whether you agree with them or not.

Instead of recognizing itself as a servant of the people and responding to their needs from below, as it should in a representational system of law, government has taken on a commanding life of its own proposing to

rule from above. A position that can and will only lead to tyranny and/or revolt.

Such conflict and misery can all be avoided by simply letting the people choose their own personal ways of living.

People will always find the path of least resistance to achieve their needs and goals.

Telling people how they should conduct their own affairs, and artificially inflating prices (or criminalizing) societally unpopular commodities, will always encourage, by definition, criminality.

As all Libertarians know, the solution is simple: Government has no place micromanaging peoples' lives and it shouldn't presume to dictate personal conduct. Government should just let people be, to live their own lives, and go about their peaceable business.

If we only had that, THEN we'd all be free.

(Article by Gary Treistman)

## RATIONAL RECREATION

### ANGUISH LANGUISH

The object of the Anguish Languish challenge is to read the seemingly nonsensical stream-of-consciousness poem written below, and decipher the underlying quotation, saying or exposition that it actually represents. The rules by which it is correlates to the underlying message, are that the words you read in the poem are phonetically similar in enunciation to the original message, although not always exactly so.

For example, as a simple start:

"Gamma Way", when stated aloud, actually sounds like "Get out of my way", or:  
"Needles Toes Hay", translates to "Needless to say"

Now lets try a slightly more complicated one for you to solve on your own:

"Aye yum sofa king we taw did."  
(Didja get it? Do you think its true?)

And now here's the real heavy duty challenge:

§

**Throw out hysteria hits spin thin action off the hose hook it fact it, then deference  
off thaw sue shut half no one butter, thus isle lent soft devoids off jest ice won it  
mutt turd must hat hazmat tit pause able four volt toot try ohm if.**

§

(Hint: This is a Statement made by a prominent North African Leader)

**Last Issue's Challenge was not won; the answer's text of which was:**

"The privacy and dignity of our citizens [are] being whittled away by sometimes imperceptible steps. Taken individually, each step may be of little consequence. But when viewed as a whole, there begins to emerge a society quite unlike any we have seen - a society in which government may intrude into the secret regions of a [person's] life." WILLIAM O.  
DOUGLAS, S.Ct. Justice

(Send all comments and/or solutions to FreeNY@hvc.rr.com, or by mail at the Editor's contact address; there is a \$10 prize for the first correct answer before February 28, 2003, email or postmark date. The previous issue's winner is not eligible for prizes in this issue's Challenge.)

## Einsteinian Quackery?

**LPNY is looking for people to get things done. Interested?**  
**| Yes! I want to get things done and make things happen in the following area(s): |**

**| \_\_\_\_\_ Be a LP candidate for elected office in my area.**

**| \_\_\_\_\_ Work in behalf of a LP candidate for elected office in my area.**

**| \_\_\_\_\_ Work on an LPNY Committee project or task.**

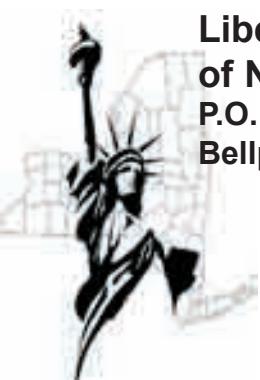
**| \_\_\_\_\_ Collect petition signatures to get LP candidates onto the ballot.**

**| \_\_\_\_\_ Contribute money to pay for other people to collect petition signatures.**

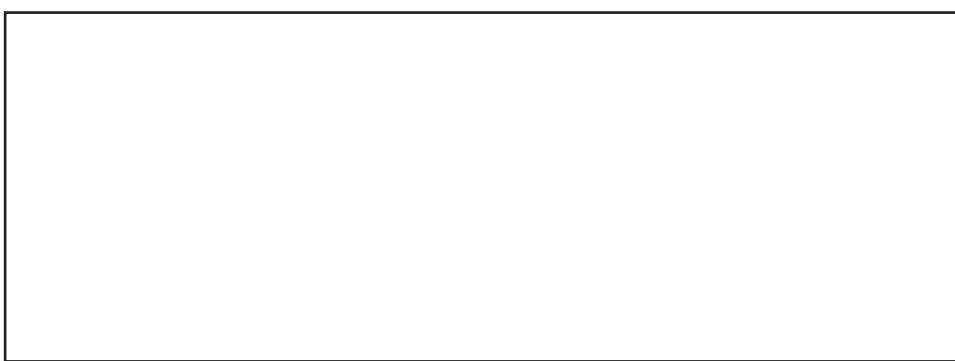
**| \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_**

**| \_\_\_\_\_ Here are some skills or areas of interest I want to tell you about.**

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of New York  
P.O. Box 728  
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