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October 2005

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Relief for victims of Katrina

North Carolina removes LP ballot access

The North Carolina Board of Elections on Aug. 22 decertified the Libertarian Party — removing the LP from the ballot in all elections in the state. The party has been on the ballot in North Carolina continuously since 1996, despite restrictive ballot access requirements.

The NCLP is seeking an injunction to stay the board's decision, in order to allow current candidates for the Winston-Salem and Charlotte city councils to remain on the ballot, said Thomas Hill, chairman of the state LP.

The party is also gearing up to sue the state — "challenging the entirety of the state's election laws," according to a recent press release.

"Our case is very simple. North Carolina's ballot access restrictions cannot be squared with the North Carolina Constitution, which says that all elections shall be free and that with very few restrictions every voter shall be eligible for election by the people to office," the press release continues.

Party representatives believe they can easily prove that elections in the state are not indeed free, and that many voters are deemed ineligible to hold public office.

Rather than trying to get one bad aspect of the state's ballot access laws stricken, the NCLP leadership decided to ask the court to strike down all of the state's ballot access laws and replace them with something that will give the voters the free and fair elections promised in the state constitution.

The state party is currently raising funds so it can hire a lawyer who has extensive experience with election law in North Carolina.

"We have learned from our own experience and that of others who have sued their states that when it comes to legal help, you get what you pay for," said state LP Executive Director Sean Haugh.

Making the direct hit against See **NORTH CAROLINA** Page 3

By J. Daniel Cloud
LP NEWS EDITOR

On Aug. 29, Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans and other cities along the Gulf Coast, destroying thousands of homes and leading to what is being called the largest evacuation in the United States since the Civil War.

According to news reports, more than 500,000 people were evacuated due to the storm, with many evacuees traveling to Texas and South Carolina, and to the northern parts of Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana. Others made their way to more distant parts of the country to stay with family and friends until they could return home — assuming they still had homes to which they could return.

Soon after the disaster struck, staff members at Libertarian Party headquarters in Washington, D.C., began trying to find some way to contribute in a meaningful way to the hurricane's victims.

First, a list of aid organizations was compiled, including everything from pre-existing relief organizations to a group that was coordinating people with boats who wanted to assist in the rescue effort.

Then Vinson Mouser, chairman of the Louisiana LP, relayed a message from Lee Horne, an LP member in the Bayou District, concerning a group of churches in Franklin, La., that were helping victims of Katrina both at a shelter and in the homes of church members.

Later, LP HQ received more of the story: The volunteers in Franklin were set up so quickly to help

the refugees fleeing New Orleans and other southern cities that they actually sheltered Red Cross relief workers for a day when they got lost on their way to New Orleans.

When the Red Cross workers moved on from Franklin, they told Brad Bullock — pastor of one of the largest churches in the town — that the volunteers there were doing a fantastic job, and that the Red Cross wouldn't even be needed there.

Bullock reported later that the government had noted the quality of the relief effort in Franklin and was trying to take over the shelter — but the townspeople rejected all governmental contributions to their project.

"They resisted because the network of churches didn't require a lot of red tape, so they were better able to get help to people quickly," said

Shane Cory, director of communications for the national LP.

Two weeks later the people of Franklin had still not accepted a dime from the government or the Red Cross for their relief efforts. But that didn't slow down their progress.

As soon as the message about the work being done in Franklin was released on the blog at LP.org, people began offering assistance. Rather than collecting money and goods and serving as a conduit for money going to the relief effort, all the national LP did was tell Libertarians about the need — and assistance poured in.

"We contacted Raymond Harris, the mayor in Franklin, and he personally guaranteed us that all of the money sent would be used for the See **LIBERTARIAN RELIEF** Page 2

Louisiana LP chair joins rescue effort

By J. Daniel Cloud
LP NEWS EDITOR

Vinson Mouser, chairman of the Libertarian Party of Louisiana, lives about an hour and a half from New Orleans, so he was pretty far removed from the immediate damage caused on Aug. 29 and following days by Hurricane Katrina and by the failure of levees surrounding that city.

But Mouser is a volunteer fireman in Bunkie, La., and his fire department was asked to assist in New Orleans rescue efforts.

He volunteered to go, took vacation time from his day job, and the day after the storm hit — Aug. 30 — he headed down to the coast with three other volunteer fireman and about 25 others from Avoyelles Parish, hauling eight boats to assist in the rescue.

"When we got to New Orleans, we were supposed to go to a staging area and wait until we were told where to go," Mouser said. "But there was no one who knew what we were supposed to do. We were told to just go get some rest for the night and be ready to go on Wednesday morning."

Eventually a state trooper came along and directed them to a large parking lot about three miles away from the major storm damage.

"We made dozens of phone calls, trying to find out where we were



■ Brian Naquain, a volunteer fireman from Avoyelles Parish, La., mans the motor on a rescue boat in New Orleans on Aug. 31. The boat is towing a motorless craft which was used to rescue many New Orleans from their flooded homes. (Photo by Louisiana LP Chair Vinson Mouser)

supposed to go, and nobody knew," Mouser said.

While they waited, their landlocked flotilla of eight boats grew to 50, then 100, "and later there were up to about 300 boats waiting in the parking lot, waiting for someone to tell us where to go and what we could do to help," Mouser said. "We kept trying to get in

contact with FEMA, with any other emergency personnel, and we just kept being turned away.

"The only time we saw anyone with FEMA was when a FEMA truck pulled up with six men in it. Each of them had radios, so they could have called and asked somebody where we should go. But they couldn't tell us anything. They just said, 'We're

medical. We can't tell you anything,' then rolled up their windows and drove away. They were no help. It seemed like there was nobody in charge."

On Wednesday morning, the gathered would-be rescuers decided to just put their boats in the water and get to work without wait-

See **VOLUNTEER** Page 4

NEWS BRIEFS

Volunteers sought for 2006 LP convention

National LP Secretary Bob Sullentrup is looking for a few good Libertarians to help him at the 2006 National Convention in Portland, Ore., the weekend before July 4.

"We are looking to reward some reliable, capable members who have earned a chance to help at the National Convention," Sullentrup said. "These should be people recommended by their state chairs who have served their local affiliates well."

Candidates should be generally familiar with the LP's bylaws, convention rules and platform, and should be proficient with Microsoft Word and Excel. In addition, the candidates should have read the Delegation Chair's manual and other convention materials.

Dan Karlan and Stephen Gordon have already signed on to the team. Sullentrup said he is looking for three additional volunteers to help produce, distribute and collect ballots, prepare motions and amendments for display on the overhead, tabulate first and second platform plank ballots, distribute Delegation Chair's manuals and CDs, and collect LNC region formation forms.

"We need to have six people so that the volunteers can alternate and spend some of their convention time with their home delegations," he noted.

To apply for a position, contact Sullentrup at rwsully@charter.net.

NJLP governor candidate may be in debates

Jeff Pawlowski, the New Jersey LP's candidate for governor, has qualified for the gubernatorial debates — but his inclusion in the debate with the Democrat and Republican candidates was still in question as *LP News* went to press.

To qualify for the debates, candidates' committees must have at least \$300,000 in deposits; the LP was the only third party to qualify.

However, the Democrat and Republican candidates apparently pressured the producers of NJN — the New Jersey Network public radio and television — to exclude Pawlowski from the debates. Just two days after he was told by the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission that he was qualified for the public debates, he was informed that he was not going to be invited, after all.

Because the network is publicly funded, it cannot prevent Pawlowski from participating in the debate, his campaign team says.

On Sept. 19, Pawlowski succeeded in obtaining an Order to Show Cause in Middlesex County Superior Court, compelling NJN to appear before the court on Sept. 20. At the hearing, the network was to "show cause" why Pawlowski was going to be excluded from the gubernatorial debate scheduled for later that same day.

"I can understand why the leaders of two corruption-ridden parties wouldn't want to debate an advocate of open government," Pawlowski said — and that gave him even more reason to want to be included.

LP HQ development coordinator resigns

Jessica Neno Wilson, development coordinator for the national Libertarian Party since February 2004, is leaving the LP headquarters office in Washington, D.C.

Wilson said she enjoyed her time working for the LP, both because it gave her a chance to help forward liberty in America and because of the people with whom the experience enabled her to come into contact.

"It's been a joy to work with the team at HQ; there is a high level of camaraderie, we worked really well together, and we managed to have a lot of fun while doing so," she said. "I also enjoyed getting to know the LNC members, the state leaders and the pledgers. I had the chance to meet many people who genuinely care about liberty — which is something I care deeply about, as well."

Wilson also said she appreciated the opportunity she was given to grow professionally.

"One of the things promised to me when I was hired was that I would have the opportunity to learn a lot of different things, and that has definitely been true," she said. "I've learned about politics, about fundraising, about planning events. Because of the multitude of things there are to learn here, it's been a once-in-a-lifetime experience for a recent college graduate."

While working at LP headquarters, Wilson was responsible for the Liberty Pledge Program, managing the direct mail campaigns, hiring part-time employees and interns, managing customer service and database management, along with setting up special events.

Wilson has accepted an offer to run a fundraising program for a major university in South Carolina and will soon be relocating there.



Libertarian hurricane relief

Continued from Page 1

victims," Cory said. "That's something the Red Cross can't do: guarantee that 100 percent of the money donated will go to relief. Over a period of a week, they helped about 3,500 people in Franklin, which is a town of only about 8,500."

At first, it appeared they weren't going to be able to do so: "The parish town council initially voted to set up policemen at the parish borders and just shuttle people through the parish, rather than help anyone," Cory said. "But as all levels of government failed, the citizens (including the mayor, acting as an individual) decided to do what they felt was right, rather than go along with what their local government said to do."

Help from outside

Libertarians from all around the country pitched in to help this community — with help coming from as

far away as California.

The San Diego LP announced on Sept. 15 that they would be sending an SUV filled with needed supplies to Franklin. Members Rob Leslie and Tom Mangum planned to leave on Sept. 20 for Franklin, hauling a trailer if necessary to contain donations that wouldn't fit in the truck. (More on that as details become available.)

One of the thousands of Libertarians who received the e-mail from the national LP — asking that they help Franklin's relief efforts — was Jim McCutcheon of New Bern, N.C.

A registered nurse, McCutcheon said he is "not a card-carrying member," but he has been "touching base with the party for several years, and had signed up to receive e-mail from the party."

He was just getting ready to start a new job, but had a few days off when he read the message.

"So I left on Sept. 9 and went

to Franklin to do what I could to help," McCutcheon said. "I got back home on Sept. 18. The whole experience was very interesting. Franklin is a very small town, but they saw a need and came together to do what they could to help."

And as it turns out, they could do quite a bit.

"When I was there they had about 80 people in the shelter, and had set up about 25 families in permanent housing, providing them with their first month's rent, deposits and utilities," McCutcheon said. "Through donations, they were able to get people set up with food, clothing, furniture and appliances."

In fact, the contributions to Franklin were put to such good use that the shelter closed down on Sept. 16. It was simply no longer needed.

"They worked themselves out of a job," McCutcheon said. "They were a very well organized, wonderfully loving bunch of people. They were really on top of it from the start."

McCutcheon reiterated what LP staff had been told previously: "The closest thing to having government involvement in their relief efforts was that the mayor is a member of one of the churches, and he helped organize some stuff."

"At the same time that everybody else was walking around saying, 'Where's FEMA?', they showed that you don't need government involvement."

Iowa voter registration law challenged by LP

The Iowa Civil Liberties Union — along with the Iowa Libertarian and Green parties — recently filed a lawsuit in federal court, challenging Iowa's practice of preventing voters from registering as members of political parties that are too small to hold primary elections.

Iowa Secretary of State Chester J. Culver and the Iowa Voter Registration Commission are named as defendants.

"This effort was a long time in the making, and is almost solely the work of Rich Moroney, who coordinated all the contacts with the ICLU and the Greens," said LNC Treasurer Mark Nelson, who is also immediate past chairman of the Iowa LP.

"Iowa is one of the very last states where a voter can only register with an officially recognized political party or else as an independent/un-enrolled voter," said Moroney, who is the Iowa LP's deputy chair for advocacy and public policy.

"Where such rules are in place, official parties have the benefits of having their supporters identified

at public expense while smaller, unrecognized parties get no such benefits. We are seeking to overturn this limitation."

Nelson added, "We have been lobbying the state for the past four years to change the laws, and the legislators have been unresponsive. This system of functional lobbying followed by legal action — without heavy reliance on the national LP to do the work — is an example I hope other states will follow."

There is a negative precedent on the Iowa books — a similar Iowa case filed (and lost) in 1990 by the Socialist Party — but Moroney said the facts of this lawsuit are different enough from that case that the Libertarians and Greens may prevail.

"We believe this suit has obvious advantages in that both parties are demonstrably larger and more successful than the Socialists," Moroney explained. Also, "increased computerization and centralization have driven down the administrative costs of tracking multiple party registrations."

Online Resources for LP Members

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

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

■ Renew your membership
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Click on: Membership
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The Mission Statement of the Libertarian Party: "To move public policy in a libertarian direction by building a political party that elects Libertarians to public office."

Changes under consideration by the 2006 Bylaws Committee

■ **Editor's note:** The September 2005 LP News included an article by Geoffrey Neale, chairman of the 2006 Bylaws Committee, about that committee's activities looking forward to the 2006 convention, which will be held the weekend before July 4, 2006, in Portland, Ore.

Neale explained two proposed alterations to the party's bylaws: Eliminating the platform retention voting, and eliminating the Libertarian Party Program. This is the second in a series of proposed changes.

To recap, the members of the 2006 Bylaws Committee have decided to use sentiment polling to rank and filter all proposals for change that come before the committee.

Each member indicates his sentiments for each proposal. The possible sentiments are: strongly opposed, somewhat opposed, neutral, somewhat in favor and strongly in favor. By assigning a numerical value from 1 to 5 for these sentiments, we are able to gauge the degree to which the proposal is supported.

These are the next two proposals that have been given an average sentiment of "somewhat in favor" by members of the Bylaws Committee.

■ Proposal 3: Make the LP treasurer's job description conform to reality.

The definition of treasurer currently in the Bylaws does not take into account that a paid staff might be employed to do much of the routine accounting functions. We propose something along the following lines:

By Dan Karlan

The treasurer is responsible for oversight of all financial functions, including, but not limited to receipts, disbursements, internal and external reporting. The treasurer shall report to the Libertarian National Committee and the convention regarding the financial situation of the party.

■ Proposal 4: Provide alternate pathways to appealing to the LNC's Judicial Committee.

The existing requirement that 5 percent of the membership must agree to bring a matter before the Judicial Committee has all but guaranteed that the Judicial Committee will never be called into action.

In recognition of that apparent irrelevance, we first considered a proposal to eliminate the Judicial

Committee. That proposal didn't fly, but the notion of making it easier to bring a matter before the Judicial Committee had clear, immediate, and substantial support. We are considering providing three alternate routes to bringing a matter before the Judicial Committee: Having it requested by 5 percent of the delegates to the most recent convention, by 10 percent of the state chairs, or by 20 percent of the current LNC.

We actively welcome proposals from the membership at large. We also welcome the feedback of our members. While there are 10 people on this committee, it remains possible that we will not see every advantage or pitfall that the many and various proposals present. So if you have a suggestion, please feel free to share it with us.

In coming months, we'll keep you updated on other proposals.

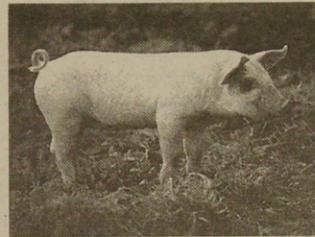
We will be launching a Web site for member review of the proposals on the table, but this site is not yet available. Until it is, please feel free to send your input to Chair Geoffrey Neale at liber8or@austin.rr.com.

■ **About the author:** Dan Karlan of New Jersey is secretary of the 2006 Bylaws Committee.

POLITICS 2005

Pork, the PATRIOT Act, and pricey beer

■ In August, Citizens Against Government Waste tapped Department of Defense acquisitions official Peggy Butler as its Porker of the Month. According to *Government Executive* magazine, Butler



violated a federal law prohibiting government employees from influencing the outcome of legislation by encouraging travel agency officials to lobby against legislation that would reduce funding for the Pentagon's Web-based system for booking travel arrangements.

■ Mike Kaszula of the Montana LP recently ran for mayor of Great Falls, receiving 24.4 percent in a three-way race. Only 15.33 percent of the city's more than 25,000 voters bothered to vote. Kaszula received 1,495 votes. In 2004 he ran for the lieutenant governor's seat. An aviation firm employee, Kaszula had criticized the city's support for a coal-fired power plant, along with other city projects and policies.

■ A federal court recently ordered the FBI to lift a gag order that limits the PATRIOT Act debate. If the judge's ruling is affirmed on appeal, it will allow open discussion of the FBI's demands for library and Internet records. The PATRIOT Act allows the bureau to demand such information, but most people in America aren't aware of the act's implications

■ A federal judge ruled on Sept. 14 that the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance in public schools is unconstitutional — a decision that could bring the issue back in front of the Supreme Court. The case was brought by the same atheist whose previous battle against the words "under God" was thrown out by the justices on procedural grounds. Michael Newdow, a Sacramento resident, said he wants the pledge to be put back as it used to be, when it said "that we are 'one nation, indivisible,' instead of dividing us on a religious basis."



■ WorldNetDaily.com has reported that victims of Hurricane Katrina — who were given \$2,000 debit cards by FEMA and the Red Cross — have been using the money to buy goods that aren't exactly considered "necessities" by many. The Houston Police Department formed a task force to look into possible abuse of the cards, which were distributed to thousands of the refugees to buy food, clothing, toiletries and other necessities. On the first day of their investigation, they found people using the cards at Houston-area strip clubs.

■ In 1990, President Bush the First — along with Congress — raised a host of excise taxes on luxury items like expensive cars, fur coats, jewelry, yachts and beer. Yes, beer is considered a luxury item, even though most beer is purchased by low and mid-income consumers. Taxes make up 44 percent of the retail price of beer. But when the



higher taxes on cars, furs, jewelry and yachts were rolled back, the higher tax on beer was left at its increased amount. U.S. Senator Rick Santorum has introduced legislation to roll back the beer excise tax.

■ In the face of massive shortages in the San Diego retirement fund — which currently has at least a \$1.4 billion unfunded liability — the San Diego City Council voted earlier this week to toss another \$600 million at the problem. Only one of the six council members voted against the "plan." Of course, the only people who sat on the task force that came up with the scheme were city officials — who have a personal financial stake in the issue. The city is also trying to ignore the \$500 million debt they are in because of the health insurance provided at taxpayer expense to retired city workers. As a local newspaper pointed out, it looks like the San Diego council will never learn.

North Carolina LP decertified

Continued from Page 1

the LP even more bitter was the fact that the day the board of elections decertified the party was the very same day the state party surpassed the 13,000-registered-Libertarian-voters mark for the first time.

Denying voters a choice at the polls is the ultimate abuse of power, said Richard Norman, Libertarian candidate for the Winston-Salem City Council. If his candidacy for the

council seat is invalidated, there will be only one name on the ballot in his district this November.

"Americans have long cherished their right to choose their leaders in free and open elections," he continued. "In North Carolina, those in power severely restrict that right — and that's just plain wrong."

How severe are the restrictions?

The board of elections decertified the party because it failed to

obtain the more than 75,000 petition signature needed to stay on the ballot.

In addition to hurting the Libertarian Party, striking the party from the ballot will also hurt county boards of election, which must now mail a notice to each of the 13,000 registered Libertarians, requesting that they complete new voter registration forms to identify themselves as Republican, Democrat or "unaffiliated."

According to the NCLP, many other political organizations — both partisan and nonpartisan — and individuals have volunteered to help the LP in its fight to get back on the ballot and to reform state election law. These groups include Common Cause, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg League of Women Voters, the North Carolina ACLU, state Supreme Court candidate Rachel Hunter and Winston-Salem City Councilman Vernon Robinson.

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THE PROFILE

Nelson DeMille

By Bill Winter

THE ADVOCATES FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT

Nelson DeMille's best-selling thrillers can be complicated. In many of his books — from *The General's Daughter* (1992) to *Night Fall* (2004) — DeMille's gutsy, wisecracking heroes must navigate a perplexing web of deceit, duplicity and danger to uncover the truth.

DeMille's politics, on the other hand, are straightforward. When asked in a Jan. 12, 2000, interview with *Newsday* about his political beliefs, the #1 best-selling author flatly declared that he was a libertarian.

He added, "I think there's a strong libertarian movement toward smaller government."

At first glance, these comments may be surprising, since DeMille's novels are neither overtly political nor explicitly libertarian. But look a little closer. Many of DeMille's books display a libertarian cynicism about politicians and government.



For example, *Night Fall* — inspired by the true story of TWA Flight 800, which exploded off Long Island in 1996 — theorizes that high-level government officials conspired to cover up the true cause of that tragedy. And as critic Supriya Chaudhuri has noted, the protagonists in DeMille's books must frequently deal with "political masters" who are "utterly ruthless, have no respect for human life, and ... are both stupid and devious."

So maybe DeMille's libertarianism isn't unexpected — especially when you find out that the book that most influenced his life is *Atlas Shrugged*.

Talking about Ayn Rand's magnum opus, he told Barnes and Noble: "I read

this book in college, as many of my generation did, and I was surprised to discover that it said things about our world and our society that I thought only I had been thinking about... It was a relief to discover that there was an existing philosophy that spoke to my half-formed beliefs and observations."

He also told Barnes and Noble that among his favorite books are two of the most famous dystopian novels about the dangers of all-powerful governments, *1984* by George Orwell and *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley.

Okay, case closed. But don't expect to ever find DeMille's name on the ballot as a libertarian candidate. To get elected to public office, he told *Newsday*, you have to "compromise yourself" — and writers and actors who get involved in politics tend to "make idiots out of themselves."

Besides, why would DeMille leave his current job? He's one of the country's most popular authors, and his books have sold more than 30 million copies. One of them, *The General's Daughter*, was also made into a successful 1999 movie starring John Travolta.

DeMille, who writes his books on yellow legal pads with a #1 pencil, has also published *By the Rivers of Babylon* (1978), *Mayday*, with Thomas Block (1978), *Cathedral* (1981), *The Talbot Odyssey* (1984), *Word of Honor* (1985), *The Charm School* (1988), *The Gold Coast* (1990), *Spencerville* (1994), *Plum Island* (1997), *The Lion's Game* (2000), and *Up Country* (2002).

Over the years, DeMille has earned critical praise as one of the best thriller writers in America. *The Denver Post* wrote: "In the rarefied world of the intelligent thriller, authors just don't get any better than Nelson DeMille." *The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* called him "a first-rate writer," and the Los Angeles Features Syndicate said DeMille is a "brilliant storyteller."

DeMille served in the U.S. Army from 1966-1969 and saw combat as an infantry platoon leader in Vietnam. After returning, he earned a degree in political science and history and then worked as an insurance fraud investigator.

In the early 1970s, he wrote five police detective novels under the pseudonym Jack Cannon, before starting to publish more ambitious books under his own name in 1978. DeMille is a member of The Authors Guild, the Mystery Writers of America, and American Mensa.

Each month, LP News features a column about celebrities who call themselves libertarian. This article reprinted with permission from the *Advocates for Self-Government*. To read profiles of dozens of libertarian celebrities, visit: www.TheAdvocates.org/celebrities.html.

Volunteer fireman Mouser joins New Orleans flood rescue mission

Continued from Page 1

ing for someone to tell them how they could join a more concerted, planned rescue effort.

"We drove down to the causeway that morning and people just started launching their boats," Mouser said. "We set up our own search grid and started searching. Pretty much immediately we met some major difficulties."

These difficulties included encountering a railroad bridge that was sticking out of the water, too low to pass under with the boats. Mouser and the others in his group ended up getting out of their boats, lifting the craft out of the water and over the bridge, and lowering them back to the flood water.

Most of the boats were flat-bottom craft with outboard motors, well-suited for going over the submerged vehicles and other obstacles they encountered.

"Once we got on the other side of the bridge, we started down toward the Ronald McDonald House," Mouser said. "We had heard there were people trapped there."

"But when we were going down Canal Street, some people came out of a church and said they had 25 people trapped in the church. We were able to get three out immediately, elderly people who could barely walk."

"We ferried them back the way we had come, looking for a way to get across the railroad tracks. We finally found a little piece of high ground where there was a golf cart, got permission to use the cart, and shuttled people down the railroad tracks about two and a half miles to where they'd be safe."

Mouser and the others worked all day rescuing stranded people from their homes, until late in the day when their E-911 dispatchers told them to leave because it was getting too dangerous to be there.

"Throughout the day, many, many people said they certainly wanted to leave, but told us to go pick up others first who needed help worse," Mouser said. "They said to go get other people first, as long as we remembered where they were so we could come back later and get them. Several of them told us, 'If nobody else tells you, thank you from the city of New Orleans.'"

What can people do to help?

"People down there are going to be needing jobs, money to get by

or get started with," Mouser said. "This isn't going to be gone in a month or two. It's going to go on for many months, probably. People can give to charities they trust, or they can try to find individual families or individuals from that region who need help. We're past the time for food and clothes, I think. Probably the best opportunity is to get something started to get direct monetary help to people."

Speaking of Libertarians specifically, Mouser said he knows that several families in New Orleans and the broader Gulf Coast region were displaced, and of several individuals who are missing — or who had not been heard from for at least a week and a half after the storm hit.

These people are going to need help. And as Mouser said, the storm damage — and damage caused when the levees surrounding New Orleans failed — isn't going to go

away in a matter of days, weeks or even months.

"It's just such a terrible disaster, there's no words to describe it," he said. "There are going to be thousands dead. And there's oil and gas all over the place, in addition to all the blood and everything. It's going to take months and months to get everything cleaned up"

Following the destruction, government officials ordered all New Orleans residents to leave the city. While a government edict doesn't sit well with many residents (and with most Libertarians), Mouser said that in this case, leaving the city made sense.

"I understand that people want to protect their property, but there comes a time when you have to protect yourself instead and just pull out," he said. "Anybody that's staying there voluntarily is crazy. That city is a huge toxic mess."

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Ohio election workers indicted in 2004 election case

Two board of elections workers in Cuyahoga County were indicted in late August on charges of misconduct in the 2004 presidential election recount.

According to an Associated Press report, Rosie Grier and Kathleen Dreamer were indicted on six counts each, and the charges carry a maximum prison sentence of 18 months. The charges were filed by the special prosecutor who was appointed in the case.

Grier and Dreamer stand charged with "failure to perform duties imposed upon them by law"; misconduct as board of election employees; intentionally breaking election law; illegally obtaining possession of ballots, ballot boxes or poll books; and unlawfully opening a sealed package containing ballots.

The prosecutor subpoenaed the

pair in August in response to a complaint filed by 2004 Libertarian Party presidential candidate Michael Badnarik and Green Party candidate David Cobb.

Richard Kerger, an attorney in Toledo, Ohio, filed the complaint on behalf of Badnarik and Cobb, accusing elections workers of numerous improprieties during the December 2004 recount.

In a related case, federal district Judge James Carr has set a trial date

concerning the election recount in Ohio — which also stemmed from Badnarik and Cobb's complaint. Other than the fact that both cases came out of the complaint, the case against the Cuyahoga County election workers and the case concerning the Ohio recount in general are unrelated.

According to a report by the U.S. House Judiciary Committee's Democratic staff, many of the "irregularities" in the Ohio recount

were caused by intentional misconduct and illegal behavior, much of it involving Ohio Secretary of State Kenneth Blackwell."

New Mexico Recount

In another related story, the New Mexico Supreme Court recently heard oral arguments in a lawsuit Badnarik and Cobb filed there, also concerning election misconduct.

Attorneys for the two presidential candidates argued that New

Mexico election officials deliberately obstructed justice by telling county boards of elections that they could clear electronic voting machines — while Badnarik and Cobb's demand for a recount of the state's presidential vote was still pending.

They also contend that the state Canvassing Board broke the law by requiring a \$1.4 million security deposit for the recount — when state law doesn't allow requiring a deposit of more than \$1 million.

Indiana LP proposes district map

Republicans in Monroe County, Ind., are pushing for a redistricting of the county council district map, and the county Libertarian Party submitted a map that they think would be simpler and more reasonable than other proposals.

But the LP isn't just patting itself on the back: The local newspaper — the *Bloomington Herald Times* — said in an Aug. 30 editorial that the LP's map "merits serious consideration by the redistricting committee."

The Libertarians managed to come up with a simple plan that divides the county into sensible quadrants, that avoids gerrymandering, that makes each quadrant have similar populations — in short, it's the kind of district map that should be a standard.

Except for a couple of small anomalies, the newspaper reported, "the map makes a lot of sense — more than the one the Democrat-controlled redistricting committee and county commissioners approved in 2001."

All maps presented to the redistricting committee — which is controlled 2-1 by Republicans — should be given "the same attention as the map the GOP submits," the *Herald Times* editorial notes.

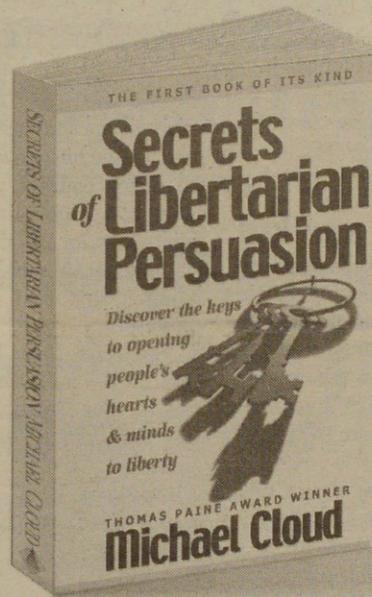
"Frankly, that's the one that will merit the most critical public eye, given that the GOP initiated the process and controls the committee."

As state LP chair Mark Rutherford said, this is just one more example of how the Indiana LP is showing other Hoosiers that its ideas are worthy of consideration.

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TALKING POINTS

Losing confidence, killing dogs, treating colds and helping out

■ Anarchy, it ain't

People have said and written to me that: "See, anarchy can't work because look at what happened in New Orleans when there was no government."

To define anarchy as statist-government failure is ... an obvious distortion of the concept of a free society. [I'd] like to begin by simply pointing out that at least four layers of statist-government agencies still claim jurisdiction over the area known as New Orleans (city, parish, state and federal).

The undeniable fact is that they all four failed to provide the services they had promised to provide when they were justifying the theft of individual resources called taxes.

It boggles the mind how one can

point to obvious failure to live up to political promises as a way to abdicate the responsibility of politicians to live up to those promises.

Of course statist-governments never have and never will provide what they have promised. They simply return promising more and more if only they could have more power and more money. Next time, politicians promise, things will be different, better. Politics is just a show, and the curtain was pulled back in New Orleans.

—MARK DAVIS

www.Strike-the-Root.com
May 13, 2005

products, such as brake fluid and rubbing alcohol, also used in meth production.)

States increasingly penalize



anyone with the sniffles. ... Most extreme are states, like Oklahoma, which have pushed sales behind the pharmacy counter. Buyers are allowed to buy only limited quantities, must show an ID, and sign an official register. In mid-August, Oregon required that cold sufferers get a prescription.

The meth crisis will eventually pass. In the meantime, government should stop treating people with the sniffles as if they were meth abusers.

—DOUG BANDOW
Cato Daily Commentary
September 5, 2005

■ Talking to Bush

You've performed so poor, I'm surprised you haven't given yourself a medal.

You're a catastrophe that walks like a man. On your watch, we've lost almost all of our allies, the surplus, four airliners, two trade centers, a piece of the Pentagon, and the city of New Orleans. Maybe you're just not lucky. I'm not saying you don't love this country, I'm just wondering how much worse it could be if you were on the other side.

So yes, God does speak to you, and what he's saying is, "Take a hint."

—BILL MAHER
Real Time with Bill Maher
September 10, 2005

■ Misused funds

Before Hurricane Katrina breached a levee on the New Orleans Industrial Canal, the Army Corps of Engineers had already launched a \$748 million construction project at that very location. But the project had nothing to do with flood control. The Corps was building a huge new lock for the canal, an effort to accommodate steadily increasing barge traffic.

Except that barge traffic on the

canal has been steadily decreasing.

In Katrina's wake, Louisiana politicians and other critics have complained about paltry funding for the Army Corps in general and Louisiana projects in particular. But over the five years of President Bush's administration, Louisiana has received far more money for Corps civil works projects than any other state, about \$1.9 billion; California was a distant second with less than \$1.4 billion, even though its population is more than seven times as large.

Much of that Louisiana money was spent to try to keep low-lying New Orleans dry. But hundreds of millions of dollars have gone to unrelated water projects demanded by the state's congressional delegation and approved by the Corps, often after economic analyses that turned out to be inaccurate. Despite a series of independent investigations criticizing Army Corps construction projects as wasteful pork-barrel spending, Louisiana's representatives have kept bringing home the bacon.

—MICHAEL GRUNWALD
The Washington Post
September 8, 2005

■ Wanna bet?

Two climate change skeptics who believe the dangers of global warming are overstated have put their money where their mouth is and bet \$10,000 that the planet will cool over the next decade.

The Russian physicists Galina Mashnich and Vladimir Bashkirtsev have agreed the wager with a British climate expert, James Annan.

To decide who wins the bet, the scientists have agreed to compare the average global surface temperature recorded by a U.S. climate centre between 1998 and 2003, with temperatures they will record between 2012 and 2017.

If the temperature drops Dr. Annan will stump up the \$10,000 in 2018. If the Earth continues to warm, the money will go the other way.

—DAVID ADAM
The Guardian
August 19, 2005

■ Hurricane giving

Less than a week after Hurricane Katrina, American giving to help storm victims has surged past the level raised for South Asia tsunami relief in the same period, nearing the \$100 million mark, according to charities and experts. But relief groups and federal officials worked to keep the donations flowing from Americans worried about oil prices and the economy.

President Bush yesterday appointed his father, former president George H.W. Bush, and former president Bill Clinton to spearhead fundraising for hurricane victims, in a reprise of their roles as tsunami money-raisers earlier this year.

The American Red Cross, which has raised three-quarters of the total, planned a national direct-mail

appeal as it welcomed a \$5 million donation from Texas energy baron T. Boone Pickens.

Corporations gave one-third of the total so far: Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the nation's largest retailer, has pledged \$17 million to the relief effort, the largest corporate donation yet, with chief executive H. Lee Scott Jr. delivering the commitment by phone to Clinton, officials said.

—ELIZABETH WILLIAMSON
The Washington Post
September 2, 2005

■ Confidence man

[Former FEMA head] Brown said he was stepping down because he was an ineffective leader who had lost the confidence of the people, to which Bush said, "That's no reason to quit your job."

—JAY LENO
The Tonight Show
September 12, 2005

■ Rising taxes

State tax revenues are climbing much faster than initial estimates in most states, according to a U.S. Census Bureau survey.

Total state tax revenues increased almost three times faster than inflation in the first quarter of 2005.

Based on figures updated July 17, the 50 states received \$154.9 billion in tax revenues from January through March. This compares to \$141.1 billion during the same months in 2004 — an increase of nearly 10 percent.

The census data indicate sales and income taxes are leading the climbs in state revenue. In the first three months of 2005, state governments obtained 33.9 percent of their revenues from state sales taxes and 32.1 percent from state individual income taxes.

—JOHN W. SKORBURG
Budget and Tax News
September 1, 2005

■ Nothing left to cut?

House Majority Leader Tom DeLay (R-TX) today declared "victory" in the battle to eliminate wasteful federal spending. There is simply no fat left to cut from the federal budget, he said.

This comes as quite a surprise to most Americans. With federal spending now topping \$22,000 per household, polls indicate that 71 percent of Americans are more bothered by how their taxes are spent than by the amount of taxes they pay. The average American believes that about half of his or her tax dollars are wasted.

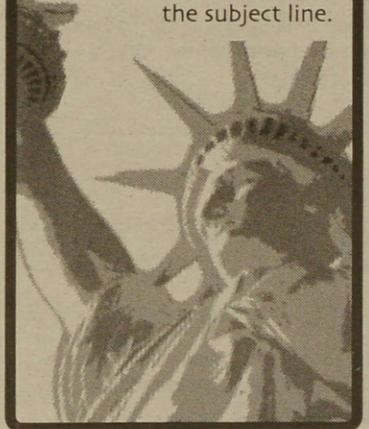
The American people have a point. There is so much fat in government spending — from \$300 million bridges to islands with 50 residents in Alaska to billions of dollars in overpayments by federal departments — that it is hard to know where to begin. Declarations of victory are, to say the least, rather premature.

—BRIAN M. RIEDL
Heritage Foundation Web memo
September 14, 2005

"THE SMALLEST MINORITY ON EARTH IS THE INDIVIDUAL."

— AYN RAND —

Not to argue with Ayn Rand (who would dare to?), but sometimes it seems that the smallest minority on Earth are the Libertarians. There just aren't as many of us as there should be. That's why the support of each individual Libertarian Party member is so crucial for our party to succeed. And Job One (for all of us) is to figure out ways to get more Libertarians. Here's one way you can do your part to help the party grow: Name the party in your will or insurance policy. For a confidential discussion of this option, call National LP Treasurer Mark Nelson at (563) 340-6151. Or e-mail him at: treasurer@lp.org, and include "Planned Giving" in the subject line.



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THE REVIEW

In praise of capitalism

■ *The Capitalist Manifesto: The Historic, Economic and Philosophic Case for Laissez-Faire.* By Andrew Bernstein. Published August 2005 by the University Press of America. Soft cover, 500 pages. \$19.95. Available at www.amazon.com.

Reviewed by **J. Daniel Cloud**
LP NEWS EDITOR

In her *Capitalism: The Unknown Ideal*, Ayn Rand says “capitalism is a social system based on the recognition of individual rights, including property rights, in which all property is privately owned.”

And in his *Capitalist Manifesto*, Andrew Bernstein (an admitted “unabashed hero worshipper”) says that this is a “fundamental point [that] cannot be sufficiently emphasized.” He also says, in his introduction to this new book, that “the moral and philosophical theories presented in this book are grounded fully in the revolutionary intellectual work of Ayn Rand.”

Bernstein has taught at Hunter College, at the New School for Social Research, and at Pace University. He is currently on the faculty of the State University of New York at Purchase and has lectured at many other universities around the country. Even if you never attended any of these colleges and universities, there’s a chance you have encountered his work, if you’re a reader of the lazy sort: He is the author of the Cliff’s Notes for Rand’s *Anthem*, *The Fountainhead* and *Atlas Shrugged*.

If you know of Bernstein’s admiration for Rand’s work, it will come as no surprise to see his references in *The Capitalist Manifesto* to egoism, collectivism, reason and the human mind.

However, while Bernstein does point to Ayn Rand on many occasions throughout this book, he does not rely exclusively — or even heavily — on her work and Objectivist thought in making his arguments that capitalism is the only system of politics and economics that is morally, philosophically and monetarily beneficial for all in a society. He doesn’t need to.

By explaining the history and nature of capitalism (in Part 1), Bernstein shows that capitalism directly led to the technological innovations of the late 19th century — especially in America, but in Britain and other primarily capitalistic nations as well.

In Part 2, Bernstein addresses the philosophic and moral essence of capitalism, providing convincing arguments that capitalism is the only morally defensible economic system.

Part 3 is dedicated almost entirely to refuting claims that capitalism led to slavery and continually leads to war.

And in Part 4, Bernstein writes of the power of capitalism, comparing it side by side with statism. “Capitalism protects the inalienable right of the individual to his own life, and is, therefore, the only moral system,” he says. “By contrast, statism systematically violates the right of an individual to his own life, and is, therefore, immoral. ... There are degrees of statism, to be sure, but the principle remains the same: To the extent a society is statist, to that extent it violates individual rights and subsequently diminishes living standards.”

Throughout, Bernstein’s exposition is clear, his argument is sound, and the writing is straightforward, accessible and free of jargon — thus ensuring that *The Capitalist Manifesto* can be read both by academics (most of whom could certainly benefit from a thorough reading of this book) and by any reasonably intelligent layman.

The only real detraction to the book is that Bernstein seemingly turns a blind eye to the U.S. government’s recent trampling of the historically capitalistic American system. He does point out some dramatic deviations from capitalism in America, namely the New Deal and other pre-World War II programs, but neglects to continue the timeline into the present — missing an opportunity to show just how far down the road to statism the United States has come.

For instance, he points out that “when the government holds the legal right to strip men of their property, it will do so at its whim,” but says merely that this is a lesson learned from 20th century communism. He says that “under a properly capitalistic system, men possess the unimpeachable right to ... create and keep the goods and services upon which their lives depend,” but stops short of explaining that we don’t live in such a “properly capitalistic system.”

Bernstein does, however, point out that statists are creeping into power in the United States, that the growing statism has led to economic crashes in the past, and that “all of the economic ills commonly ascribed to capitalism are caused by its antipode — by statism.”

The Capitalist Manifesto is a manifesto indeed, but it is also a paean to capitalism as a moral force and a tribute to the ingenious giants who used capitalistic freedom both to succeed and to allow others to succeed.

Indiana LP defeats restaurant tax

Libertarians in Fishers, Ind. — a suburb of Indianapolis with a population of over 53,000 — were recently instrumental in defeating a 1 percent food and beverage tax, making Fishers the only city government in Hamilton County, Ind., that failed to enact the tax.

The county government and four other city governments in the county all decided to begin collecting the tax.

Efforts to defeat the restaurant tax were coordinated by Indiana LP Executive Director Brad Klopfenstein and LP Secretary of State candidate Michael Kole, who lives in Fishers.

In a recent appearance before the Republican-controlled Fishers City Council, Klopfenstein stated, “It’s time to stop being tax-and-spend Republicans. We’ll be very eager to run candidates against any council member who votes in favor of the tax.”

In a follow-up presentation two weeks later, Kole spoke in opposition to the tax — explaining that its defeat would give restaurants in Fishers a competitive advantage over restaurants in nearby Marion County, and in other Hamilton County municipalities that have imposed the tax.

As Kole stated, the Fishers City Council should seek to make local businesses more attractive, not less.

Libertarian activism also brought media attention to local restaurants, whose owners were finally interviewed by newspaper reporters about the impact the tax would have on their businesses.

Working in unison, Klopfenstein, Kole and other Libertarians in Hamilton County demonstrated once again that mobilized Libertarian activism can pose a significant threat to the tax-and-spend establishment that has been created and

implemented by Republicans and Democrats.

The Indiana LP continues to be a “friend of small business,” fighting to end high taxes and government regulations that have stifled commercial development.



■ Rachel Stern, one of 18 volunteers who manned the LP of Minnesota’s booth at the 2005 Minnesota State Fair, shows off the party’s World’s Smallest Political Quiz poster. During the fair, thousands of people took the quiz — and more than 60 of them signed up to help the party as volunteers. (Photo by Corey Stern, volunteer chair for the Minnesota LP)

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THE FORUM

Are we witnessing the birth of a new civil rights movement?

Just as Rosa Parks ignited the civil rights movement by refusing to move to the back of a segregated city bus in 1955, a new group of civil rights activists are refusing to let an increasingly intrusive government shove them to the back-burner.

By Lawrence K. Samuels

This mostly libertarian crowd is gearing up to taunt various government agencies into arresting them for things that most people would consider inoffensive.

Take the case of Mike Fisher, 23, of New Hampshire. On April 9 he walked in front of the Manchester office of the state Board of Barbering, Cosmetology and Esthetics and broke a law. His hideous crime? He filed a woman's nails without a gov-

ernment license.

Fisher endured a night in jail and was ordered to conduct himself with "good behavior" for one year. But Fisher has decided to get others to commit more far-reaching acts of civil disobedience — and persuaded Russell Kanning of the Free State Project to refuse to show identification when he takes his next airline flight and to make sure everyone knows about it. Fisher is hoping that other airline patrons will join this peaceful protest.

In Los Angeles, Paul Ireland was arrested at the annual April 15th anti-tax demonstration sponsored by various libertarian organizations. His appalling crime? Ireland refused to disperse when a postal official ordered him to leave the grounds outside the post office.

He and others were told to leave because they needed a permit to protest. Ireland refused to budge,

arguing that he was on public property and "did not need a permit to exercise his rights."

The postal employee demanded that Ireland walk inside the post office so he could be arrested. Again, Ireland refused, but the government official pushed and twisted at his arm until, with TV cameras rolling, he complied. Inside, he was handcuffed and waited an hour for the Los Angeles Police Department to show up.

The police were miffed. They said they had never arrested anyone for such a "crime."

During the 2004 Republican convention in New York City, the Libertarian Party of Manhattan organized an "unauthorized protest" in Central Park. The government required that all demonstrators get permits for rallies and marches, but often refused to grant them. They wanted demonstrators to be con-

tained in "free-speech zones," as had happened at the Democratic convention.

The Libertarians refused to comply. They claimed that the only permit they needed was the First Amendment. One organizer remarked, "If you ask the government for permission to protest, you deserve to be told no." Protestors wore T-shirts that read: "Permits? We don't need no stinking permit!"

Park officials watched the protestors cautiously, but did not expel anyone from the park except for an unauthorized street vendor selling sodas out of a cooler.

Even the Libertarian Party's 2004 presidential candidate, Michael Badnarik, was arrested outside the presidential debate in St. Louis.

Claiming that it was illegal for a debate funded by public money to exclude third-party candidates, Badnarik crossed the police barricades to serve an "Order to Show Cause" to the Commission on Presidential Debates (CPD).

Issued by an Arizona judge, the order sought to remedy the exclusion of other candidates at the third presidential debate in Tempe, Arizona. Earlier that day Libertarians had attempted to serve the same papers at the Washington, D.C., office of the CPD. However, security guards blocked them from entering.

In frustration, Badnarik decided to cross the police line to protest his exclusion from the two-party debate, arguing that his free speech had been violated.

Rosa Parks did not intentionally challenge racism or government-imposed segregation. She was merely too exhausted to move to the back of the bus when more whites stepped inside.

Nonetheless, she sparked a freedom movement that changed America forever. Another such movement is poised to change it again.

■ **About the author:** Lawrence K. Samuels is vice chair of the Libertarian Party of Monterey County, Calif.

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GUEST COMMENTARY

Measuring government's impact on the individual

Governments often require expensive and time-consuming "environmental impact statements" for proposed industrial and commercial projects, claiming that these reports are needed to identify and minimize negative effects of human activity on the environment.

By Charles Barr

I believe the Libertarian Party can take this argument in a different direction — and gain considerable public support — by promoting the adoption of "human impact statements" to identify and minimize negative effects of proposed legislation on people. This seemingly simple reform has the potential to greatly increase transparency within the legislative process and enhance the effectiveness of Libertarian outreach.

Here's how the process might work. Prior to a legislative vote, the sponsor of any new bill or amendment would be required to prepare and release a human impact statement containing the following information:

- Which individuals or groups stand to gain or lose if the bill or amendment is passed;
- The type and extent of such gain or loss;
- What, if any, provisions are included to compensate people who are harmed by the legislation; and
- The names and affiliations of any lobbyists or interest groups who participated in drafting the legislation.

When completed, the proposed legislation and the human impact statement would be posted for at least a week on a government Web site, for public viewing and feedback. Interested individuals and organizations could pay a modest fee to post their own reactions to it.

Following the public comment period, the bill could advance to a legislative vote. Following any amendments, the bill would have to go through the process again. Prior to the legislative vote, each lawmaker would affirm that he or she has read both the bill and its human impact statement.

In promoting human impact statements, Libertarians would likely receive a sympathetic hearing across mainstream America. A campaign to open the legislative process — at all levels of government — to more citizen scrutiny and participation should generate an enthusiastic response, even among people who might disagree with the Libertarian Party in other areas.

Human impact statements would strike at the heart of the monopoly that the two major parties currently enjoy in setting legislative agendas. Such statements would make the damaging effects of big-gov-

ernment legislative proposals more obvious, and they would also make the parties proposing such legislation more visible. This heightened transparency would discourage the introduction and passage of much of the "special interest" and "hidden agenda" legislation that currently thrives in an atmosphere of secrecy and public inattention.

Human impact statements would allow the Libertarian Party to become a much more visible policy participant. Using the public feed-

back feature, we would have the opportunity to present our views on proposed legislation to a wide audience, unfiltered by the media.

Human impact statements would also make it easier for Libertarians to reach out to people and groups facing harm from big-government legislation. We could spend less time and effort pointing out the negative effects of such legislative proposals; the human impact statements would do it for us.

Making human impact state-

ments easily available on the Internet would greatly improve the quality of policy debates. Voters would have ready access to all sides of each issue. The media could use the statements and public comments as additional news resources, potentially making their reporting more balanced. The public feedback section would enable legislators to gauge the public response to, and potential shortcomings of, the laws that they propose.

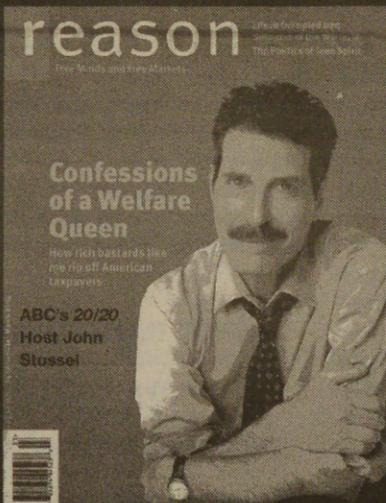
In summary, human impact

statements have the potential to greatly enhance transparency, accountability and public participation in the legislative process. And once implemented, they will enable the LP to promote the benefits of freedom to a much wider audience.

■ **About the author:** Charles Barr is the author of two successful Libertarian sample ballot arguments. He is currently enrolled in the Ph.D. program in environmental science at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

"I believe the very heart and soul of conservatism is libertarianism."

— Ronald Reagan



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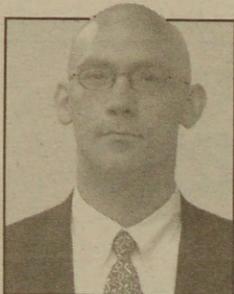
THE EDITOR

Make your ideas public

Working for the Libertarian Party, I sometimes wonder how it happens that most Americans have no idea what the LP stands for, that hardly anyone notices when Libertarians run for office, and that newspapers so rarely report on Libertarian issues.

Those of us who are heavily enmeshed in LP issues can forget that many people in this country don't share our opinions or philosophy on governmental issues. And even if they do, they frequently don't know that what they think is, in fact, libertarian in nature.

I'll never forget being approached in a coffee shop in Tennessee by a Libertarian who handed me a copy of the World's Smallest Political Quiz and asked me to take a look at it when I had time. I did so and



By J. Daniel Cloud

LP NEWS EDITOR

found that the LP represents almost exactly what I already believed. Up until that point, I had just told people that I fell to the left of The Left and to the right of The Right.

What still bothers me is that until this representative of the Hamilton County LP approached me at my favorite coffee shop, I was almost entirely unaware of the Libertarian Party, and there's no excuse for that. At that point, I was about 26 years old. I had been through four years of college, studying journalism. I had worked at a newspaper in middle Tennessee for two years. And in that time, no one had ever spoken to me about libertarianism.

In my opinion, college campuses are a natural fit for libertarianism. Many college kids are looking for something to believe in. When I was in college, I even joined the College Republicans. That ended when I went to my first meeting and discovered the other members were mostly ill-informed adherents to a philosophy they hadn't even bothered to consider seriously.

Had someone approached me at that point, it would have been obvious to me that I was already thinking like a libertarian. My college papers bear witness to that fact. But it was years later before I even heard the word "libertarian."

Even after I knew what to call myself politically, I rarely heard of other Libertarians. Not everyone spends massive amounts of time on the Internet, surfing from site to site to engage others in political discussions, and I am one of the many who don't. I didn't then, and I don't now — primarily because I've seen how much time other people waste in argument.

After my introduction to libertarianism and the LP, I worked for more than a year at an arts and entertainment newspaper, covering politics and a host of other topics and also serving as managing editor. In that time, no one from the Libertarian Party contacted the newspaper, either in a personal visit or via a letter to the editor.

From there, I went to a newspaper in North Georgia where I covered local government, among other things. Not once in the three years I was at that paper did I hear from anyone representing the Libertarian Party or knowledgeably espousing libertarian ideals and pointing out that the LP stands for freedom and small government.

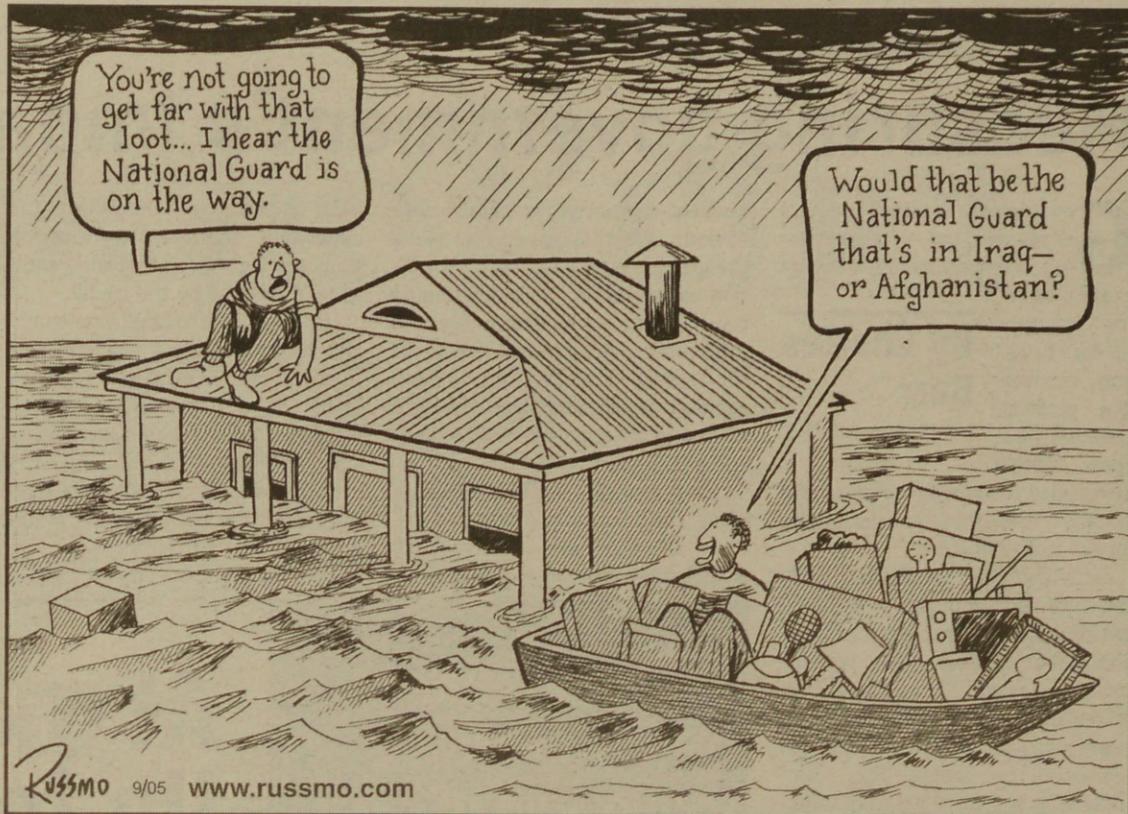
And that is, simply put, unconscionable. I was a libertarian. The executive editor of the paper is still a libertarian. One of the other reporters for the newspaper was (and remains) a contributor to *Reason* magazine. The paper's staff was very much open to libertarian thought and input, but either there were no active libertarians in the two-county region we covered, or they just didn't bother contacting the local newspaper.

How does this happen?

I know there are many Libertarians across the nation writing frequent letters to the editor of their local newspaper. The Advocates for Self Government annually recognize many of the people who do so, through their "Lights of Liberty" awards.

But from my years of experience at newspapers, I believe there are many communities around the nation where the newspapers simply haven't been contacted by their local libertarians. With that in mind, I'd like to encourage each of you to get in touch with the newspapers where you live. If you're running for office or trying to change laws, don't just send a press release to the newspaper office. Stop by the office. Call first and make an appointment, then go meet the people who write about politics in your town.

And if you're not running for office or working on legislation or ordinances, write letters to the editor addressing issues that come up in the paper. If you want libertarian ideas to gain traction, get the word out. If newspapers don't print stories that reflect your ideals, make sure their oversight isn't your own fault.



THE MAILBOX

Gas prices

I am aghast to hear Libertarians calling for government to do something about gas prices! Weren't you listening at all those Libertarian seminars and meetings? I just paid \$3.19 a gallon to tank up. Didn't like it a bit, but I celebrate the good fortune of whoever made the killing. You can bet I'm going to restrict my driving in future.

If the government is going to control gas prices, I wonder if they can do something about rib eye steaks? Also, my favorite single malt Scotch has gone from \$34 a bottle to \$47. I'd sure like them to fix that. We Libertarians have to stick to our carefully thought-out positions, even in the face of adversity.

—ARCE WAKEFIELD
Tega Cay, South Carolina

Fair Tax

Unfortunately, Ken Evans takes a rather narrow view of the "Fair Tax" proposal (**MailBox**, September 2005 *LP News*). I would urge all Libertarians to consider it very seriously and broadly. Why? Because for no other reason than it abolishes the IRS and all federal taxes at every level.

Consider: No more federal withholdings from our pay checks. No more IRS snoops. Elimination of all corporate taxes and costs for compliance. There will be no benefit to put assets in foreign banks for tax shelters. It makes the underground economy rise to the surface. Frees up time and money wasted in the billions of dollars just filling out IRS forms. Most importantly, it will cause the repeal of the 16th Amendment and the federal intrusion into our lives that amendment permits.

Like Evans, I don't like the sales tax, but that is an entirely differ-

ent issue. The percentage of sales tax will become far more vulnerable to citizen action once the Fair Tax proposal is enacted. It is easy for the average individual to calculate and protest a simple sales tax paid out of pocket rather than to tackle the incredibly complex and massive IRS tax code.

I think this is the best opportunity yet for the Libertarian Party to have traction and a powerful im-

**ONLY CANDIDATES
who have sufficient
volunteers, an ample
treasury and a devoted
campaign manager can
claim to have a chance
of winning.**

pact. No, it is not pure, but if one has a firm objective for something we have always wanted — abolition of the 16th Amendment — necessary strategy and tactics permits significant flexibility in action to accomplish the demands of the objective.

I recommend every Libertarian go to www.FairTax.org and consider it very thoughtfully.

—BRUCE A. DANIEL
Vernal, Utah

Winning candidates?

The only candidates running on our ticket for any office who should claim to have a chance of winning are those who:

- 1 — Have a campaign treasury

of \$1 (or more) for every registered voter; and

2 — Have a campaign manager who can devote at least 20 hours per week to the campaign; and

3 — Have a fundraiser, a press liaison, and someone to garner and track speaking engagements; and

4 — Have enough volunteers that a plurality, if not all, eligible voters will receive a visit from someone who can explain why voting for a third party is not illegal, immoral and fattening; why the nominee has a legitimate chance of winning; and the benefits that would result from the candidate winning or at least obtaining a good showing.

No other candidates should claim to have a chance to win.

Remember, most Americans have been indoctrinated since first grade, if not birth, to be leery of third parties. Many enter the voting birth to use their "single shot" vote for either the Ds or the Rs, and go home. And the media won't grant alternative candidates coverage if those candidates have little funding.

Those problems can be overcome, but only with time, money, elbow grease and shoe-leather.

If your campaign doesn't have enough of those commodities, do not claim you have a realistic chance of winning. Those claims result in misallocation of resources during the campaign, and disappointment (including dropouts) afterwards.

—JEFF DAIELL
Houston, Texas

New Orleans flood

Who is to blame for the New Orleans disaster? Government levees and welfare.

The Army Corps of Engineers negligently maintained the levees that hadn't been modified since



THE MAILBOX

1965. It wasn't Katrina's wind that destroyed New Orleans; it was the government-run levees breaking. This is a man-made failure of socialized infrastructure, not a natural disaster.

Better to put infrastructure like roads, bridges and levees in private hands. Only in the private sector, which has to listen to risk-averse insurance companies, can there be a match between risk and responsibility. FEMA and the city of New Orleans' bureaucrats have no incentive to be safe or quick reacting because they make no profit or loss.

The chaos in New Orleans was caused by public management of infrastructure and the welfare state, not Katrina.

—JEFF E. JARED
Kirkland, Washington

■ Pledge program

The Libertarian Party National Committee recently approved the zero-dues program, which will give people free membership in the party. Free members will get membership cards and a welcome pack. But the veteran and current members are not left out.

The Liberty Pledge Program is a monthly pledge program, which you can join by pledging to donate at least \$10 per month.

I think the new zero dues program is great, and I encourage all other members of the LP to join Liberty Pledge Membership. It is 1,000 times better than receiving yearly dues membership renewal notices and worrying about yearly dues being increased.

—JOSH ONDICH
Buford, Georgia

■ Wal-Mart

I found the article by Robert Weissberg ("Wal-Mart: Free to Com-

pete," September 2005 *LP News*) to be quite upsetting.

I won't proceed to debate the pros and cons of Wal-Mart or stores like them here. You either love big box stores or you detest them, and there is no right or wrong answer. I have already decided for myself that Wal-Mart and other such stores are directly and primarily responsible for the wholesale destruction of individual liberty, land owner rights and free speech.

If I wanted to be a member of an organization that advocates for the "rights" of the biggest corporations in the land, I would have joined the GOP. That's what they exist to do. Let's keep the LP about protecting small business owners and the rights of individuals and leave protecting the big guys to their armies of lobbyists.

—KEITH W. KIMMEL
Columbus, Ohio

[Editor's note: *The LP does stand for protecting the rights of small business owners. However, the intent is to protect them from government — not from other merchants.*]

■ Wal-Mart (again)

Wal-Mart stores are filthy, disorganized and full of low-quality merchandise. No one should even shop there, much less write an article defending such an establishment.

Have we lost the human element? If I'm buying a drill, I would rather buy it at a local hardware store, where I can talk with employees about what kind of drill I need. Wal-Mart cannot give such service. As consumers, do we no longer care about quality and good service?

Low prices come with a price much more difficult to bear. Stop at your local coffee shop, grocery store, hardware store, copy center,

or florist and see how good it feels to do business with someone who wants to earn your business and who truly values you as a customer.

—STEVE BAIER
Norwalk, Iowa

[Editor's note: *As noted, every individual has the right to choose whether to buy their goods at a low-priced store that is also low on service, or at a higher-priced store with increased human contact. But those for whom low prices are a prime concern should not lose access to what they value most — any more than more service-minded shoppers should.*]

■ Fair Tax (again)

I think opposition to the Fair Tax legislation shows a misunderstanding of the intended goal.

I believe that the legislation as written is probably unconstitutional. That said, would we not all agree that the current system is also unconstitutional? Maybe he should read the Fair Tax book recently written by Neal Boortz and Congressman Linder for additional education on the subject.

I submit that it would be the inclusion of all of our citizens and foreign in this tax would be the first step in limiting and shrinking the size of government.

When are Libertarians going to stop complaining about the way things are in our government and start developing the solutions to them? I am personally embarrassed that we in the Libertarian party didn't come up with this idea first!

—STEVE BREAULT
Lawrenceville, Georgia

■ Freedom of worship

The people who originally settled North America came to places like Virginia for economic opportunity. Only later did religious minorities arrive. These people came to prac-

tice their own brand of Christianity, escaping the imperial and civil wars of religion in 17th century Europe.

The hand of the English king could reach across the ocean, but the despot's grip held less firm.

As a result, new societies developed and created rugged individuals — hard-working and independent-minded men who thought for themselves (and their women and children). A mix of religious immigrants and economic opportunists, people cooperated with each other in order to survive.

After independence and centuries of continued immigration, America can only survive united by allowing the freedom of worship.

An individual's privately held feelings on the topics of God, spirituality and religion should not determine his or her fitness for political office. Qualifications of wisdom, honesty, record and ability should be enough in choosing fit public servants.

Without unity, America will divide and fall prey to radicals and fanatics and foreign masters. We cannot lose what made us strong — a free society of free minds.

—TIMOTHY J. KRENZ
Osceola, Wisconsin

■ Supply and demand

I hear my students grouse about gas prices each day as they swirl into class swilling gulps of good-ol'-earth-juice (bottled water) that cost \$1.00 a pint or \$8.00 a gallon.

I think the old saying about building a better mousetrap is fitting; it is pressure like this that fosters inspiration in the market.

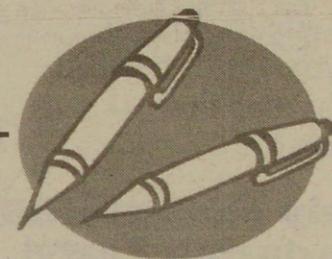
Case in point: If it weren't for Pennsylvania Oil there would be no whales. In the late 19th century, as the number and size of whales dwindled, the supply of whale-oil-based lubricants and fuel for lanterns plummeted and prices went through the roof.

Enter the scene: coal distillates, paraffin and Pennzoil. Neat, huh?

—TIMOTHY MOULTRIE
Lexington, South Carolina

■ Fair Tax not fair

The "Fair Tax" is not fair at all.



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(Attn: *LP News*)

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2600 Virginia Ave., NW, Suite 100
Washington, DC 20037

There are millions of people in this country for whom a "super" sales tax would essentially be a tax on "return of capital."

Those of us who are no longer employed and who are living off our saved capital (all income taxes previously paid) and on Social Security (all funded by tax-paid dollars) would be forced to take a huge hit.

Let's re-think this.
—WILLIAM A. SAMUEL
Oceanside, California

■ For the last time ...

I am writing in response to comments made about the Fair Tax. This is in my opinion the most libertarian piece of legislation to go before Congress in a long while.

A libertarian talk show host and Republican congressman have come up with an ingenious plan to allow every American to be taxed only on what they spend, and a rebate is given back to every individual for the amount they spent on the basic necessities of life.

This means every single person will receive 100 percent of his or her paycheck; it means Americans will no longer have the IRS breaking down the door; it means that each individual will be able to see how much he pays in taxes with each item he buys.

This is one platform that all libertarians should stand behind if they want to become a popular party, for what part of government do more Americans hate than the IRS?

I urge all Libertarians to go out and buy the Fair Tax book if they want to really understand the legislation.

—MATTHEW R. GARDNER
Gainesville, Florida

■ Zero Dues

The Zero Dues Proposal is about a lot more than free dues.

It includes a codified agreement between the national LP and the state affiliates whereby, in exchange for certain benefits from national, the affiliates would agree to meet certain obligations to national.

Among them are maintaining a "common purpose" with national, supporting the national platform, and assuming responsibility for the behavior of their members and candidates.

During the 1920s, the Communist Central Committee operated in much the same way, demanding total adherence and loyalty to the party line by the party membership.

Under the Zero Dues Proposal, will the national LP begin suing state affiliates if their "obligations" to the national LP are not met?

—PATRICIA MICHEL
Sumner, Washington

[Editor's note: *Within the zero dues proposal, the LNC instructed itself to present a new affiliate agreement for the November meeting. The agreement will cover at least eight areas, from ballot access to LP News. One of the areas to be addressed is an adherence to a common purpose. Any speculation beyond that is just that ... speculation.*]

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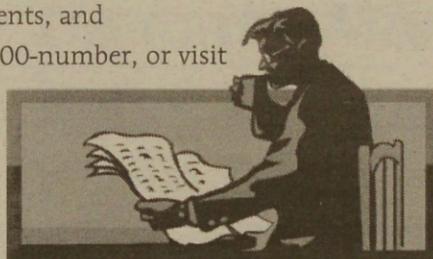
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Adding insult to injury: They're disarming the innocent in New Orleans

By J. Daniel Cloud
LP NEWS EDITOR

Bumper sticker wisdom, like literary cliché, often becomes overused because it is true.

Case in point: "If guns are outlawed, only outlaws will have guns."

Yes, it's a cliché. But it's also very true, if simplistic. And it's a two-pronged statement. When guns are outlawed, the pre-existing outlaws won't give up their guns, and all those who had been law-abiding gun owners are immediately transformed into outlaws — assuming they don't relinquish their weapons.

Currently, this is true nowhere more than in New Orleans, Louisiana.

As if the atrocities committed upon that dingy city by Hurricane Katrina, government officials at all levels, and its own haywire citizens running amok following the hurricane weren't enough, the local police superintendent has now announced that no civilians in New Orleans will be allowed to carry firearms of any kind.

The only apparent exceptions to the official order are security guards who have been hired to protect busi-

nesses and other private property; a police spokesman said he is aware of the private guards but that the police have no plans to confiscate their weapons.

So apparently the only citizens who have the "right" to protect their own property with firepower are those who are financially flush enough to hire other people to wield the guns for them.

To a governmental mind, this policy must make sense: "People are committing crimes with guns, so we need to confiscate all the guns. Only by taking people's guns away will we be able to control gun crime."

What they ignore, of course, is the fact that those bent on committing crimes with guns are not likely to voluntarily quit carrying their firearms.

Every heinous act that can be committed with a firearm or other weapon is already against the law: Get caught for killing someone with a gun and you go on trial for murder; rob a con-

venience store while wielding a gun and you can be prosecuted for armed robbery; and the list could go on.

It would make much more sense

if the New Orleans police — and all other law enforcement organizations — would concentrate on fighting existing crimes, enforcing the existing laws rather than creating new ones by outlawing gun possession.

In disarming people who have committed no crime — and who own their firearms legally — the police are creating new enemies and robbing themselves of valuable allies in the struggle against mayhem in New Orleans.

As a press release from the Gun Owners of America noted, there have been many reports of gun owners defending themselves against armed intruders and looters — many of whom were released from local prisons by so-called public servants.

Using their constitutional right to own and bear arms, these people protected themselves rather than relying on a police force that was in disarray.

And how are they thanked by bureaucrats in

the city of New Orleans? They find themselves vilified by a police state intent on criminalizing those who defend themselves.

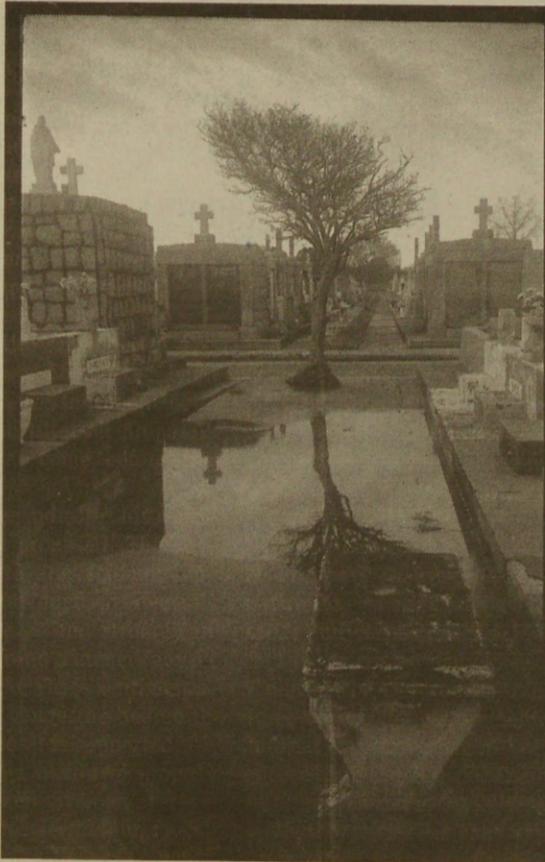
The police in New Orleans (as in many other American cities) have proven that they aren't capable of protecting the citizenry — witness reports of murder, rape and various other violent crimes in the Superdome, which was set aside as an official safe area — and they now want to ensure that the citizens aren't able to defend themselves.

New Orleans' law-abiding citizens have suffered enough. They've been hit by mighty winds, by flooding caused when ill-maintained government-funded levees broke, by opportunistic looters who roam the streets looking for unprotected homes, and by a government that has turned away assistance from many sources.

That's not enough for the police: They want to strip Second Amendment rights from the city, to disarm the citizens and ensure that New Orleansians aren't able to hold onto what little they still own.

And that's an outrage.

■ This column first appeared on www.LP.org as an "Outrage of the Week" feature.



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x *Steve Spill*

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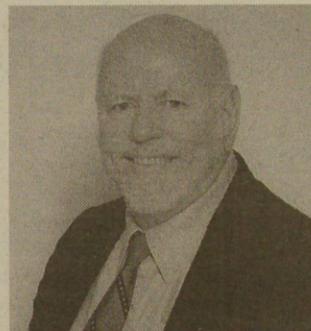
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- ◆ *Weekly LP Updates*
- ◆ *The Outrage of the Week*
- ◆ *Blog Debate on the Fair Tax*
- ◆ *Up to the Moment News of Libertarian Relief for Hurricane Katrina victims*

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UPCOMING

September 29-October 1, 2005

State Policy Network 13th Annual Meeting, at the Mills House Hotel, Charleston, S.C. Focusing on current policy issues including health care policy reform, education reform and a fiscal policy forum. For information, go to www.spn.org; e-mail info@spn.org; or call (510) 965-9700.

October 4, 2005

The John Locke Foundation Headliner Luncheon, at the Brownstone Holiday Inn, Raleigh, NC, featuring former Georgia congressman Bob Barr, speaking about the PATRIOT Act, privacy, security and the Constitution. For more information, call (919) 828-3876 or go to www.johnlocke.org.

October 13-16, 2005

3rd Party National Conference, Merrimack and Manchester, NH. To include panel discussions with candidates, historians and the media. In addition to the Libertarian Party, participation is expected from the American Patriot, Constitution, Corrective Action, Green, Mountain, Reform, U.S. Marijuana, and U.S. Parliament parties. For more information, go to www.3pnc.org.



■ Downs

October 14-16, 2005

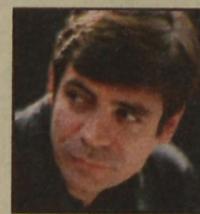
The Advocates for Self-Government's 20th Anniversary Celebration, at the Renaissance Atlanta Airport Hotel, Atlanta, Ga. Speakers to include Hugh Downs, Robert Ringer, Harry Browne, David Bergland, Dr. Mary Ruwart and Ron Bailey. For information, call (800) 932-1776; e-mail anniversary@TheAdvocates.org; or write to 213 South Erwin St., Cartersville GA 30120.

October 18, 2005

Connecticut LP Annual Convention, 7 p.m., at Andover Pizza, on Rt. 6 in Andover. For more information, call (806) 585-5857; e-mail liberty@lpct.org; or visit www.lpct.org.

November 4-6, 2005

Reason's Dynamic Cities Conference, at the Mirage, in Las Vegas, Nev. Speakers to include Drew Carey, Reason magazine editor-in-chief Nick Gillespie, Reason Foundation founder Bob Poole, columnist Jacob Sullum and others. For more information or to register, go to www.reason.org/vegas.



■ Gillespie



■ Browne

November 11-13, 2005

Illinois LP Nominating Convention, in downtown Springfield, Ill., at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel and Conference Center. Live entertainment, workshops and candidate forums. Speakers to include Dr. Mary Ruwart, Harry Browne, Debbie Hopper and Raymond R. Carr. For more information, contact Jeff Trigg at (800) 735-1776, e-mail director@lpillinois.org, or go to www.lpillinois.org.

November 12-13, 2005

Libertarian National Committee meeting, Embassy Suites in Baltimore, Md. For more information, contact your LNC representative.

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FIRST WORD



"Democrats and some Republicans are making clear they hope to use the hurricane as a rationale for refusing to extend the tax cuts enacted in 2002-03 and even launching a new poverty program in the guise of hurricane relief.

"But if there is a message in Hurricane Katrina, it's not that taxes are too low. Indeed, federal tax revenue is \$225 billion higher than a year ago — and up more than 50 percent in the last decade. Federal spending has been rising fast, too: It's back up to about 19.5 percent of gross domestic product, almost exactly the average of the postwar era.

"If anything, the response to Katrina helps make the libertarian case. ... When the partisan hysteria abates a bit, what we are likely to find is that government at all levels failed to perform effectively. Would that be a big surprise?

"I disagree with hard-core libertarians on several issues. But they are right to remind us that government failure is no accident. Political incentives tend to make for a lot of misguided decisions, based more on who has the votes than on who really needs the money.

"[C]itizens shouldn't delude themselves that higher taxes and bigger government will make them much safer in the long run."

—THOMAS BRAY, *Detroit News*, Sept. 11, 2005