

Washington, D.C.: where they took a perfectly good swamp and turned it into a sewer.

-L. Neil Smith



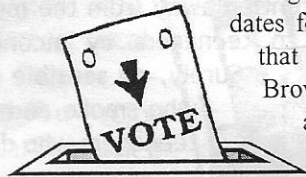
# The Birmingham Libertarian

Volume IV, Issue 10

October, 2000

## Discussion of November Ballot and Videos Scheduled for October 9th Meeting

As you may know, this will be the last meeting before the November 7th elections. We will be meeting for a final countdown to the event by covering the slate of candidates for Alabama, as well as coverage for the dozens of amendments that will appear on the ballot. We will also be showing Harry Browne's video, "The Great Libertarian Offer," and if time permits, an Ayn Rand video classic, "Interview with Mike Wallace."



Our candidates and our supporters have donated a large number of yard signs to be given out, as well. These signs are professionally printed and staked for your yard. Three candidates (Terry Reagin, Dr. Barry McGahan, and Matthew Givens) and an LP sign asking voters to promote our status to a major party in Alabama will be available at no charge. Volunteers will be needed over the next month promoting the various campaigns... your manpower and help is needed!

### The Greater Birmingham Libertarians

David Mitchell, Coordinator  
2330 Highland Avenue  
Birmingham, AL 35205



This is your # of free issues remaining. To renew, please call 328-8683 and leave your name and address! There is no charge! LPA members will automatically renew for 1 year.



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*Handwritten note:* mail NCP

## Why Americans should oppose mandatory high school "drug" tests for cigarettes

WASHINGTON, DC — A decision by an Alabama high school to start doing "drug" tests on student athletes to detect cigarette smoking — a policy other schools around the USA are expected to emulate soon — shows that mandatory drug testing has gotten out of hand, the Libertarian Party says.

"Even if you think teenagers and cigarettes don't mix, subjecting students to mandatory blood tests to discourage smoking is a drastic overreaction to the problem," said the party's national director, Steve Dasbach.

"And given the poor performance of so many students, you can make the case that public schools should be scheduling more tests in math, English, and history — and fewer tests for cigarette smoking."

This semester, Hoover High School in Hoover, Alabama announced it would begin a program of mandatory, random blood tests of the 1,500 students in grades 7 to 12 who participate in school athletic programs. Students can be tested for 11 illegal drugs and alcohol — and also for nicotine from cigarettes and chewing tobacco.

Arguing that nicotine is a "mind-altering" substance, school officials said athletes who test positive will be subject to parental notification, mandatory tobacco education classes, and then suspension from athletic events.

Anti-tobacco advocates predicted the program would quickly spread to other government schools around the country.

Before it does, Americans should consider whether they really want to escalate the federal government's unsuccessful "War on Teenage Smoking" in this fashion, said Dasbach.

"So far, the only result of Washington, DC's decade-long crusade against teenage smoking has been more teenage smoking," he noted. "Between 1991 and 1997, smoking rates among high school students increased by almost one-third, from 27.5% to 36.4%.

"Teenage smoking rates have dipped slightly in the last year, but you can make the case that the more politicians huff and puff about the evils of smoking, the more

they tempt rebellious teenagers to take up the habit. Why should this program be different?"

Mandatory nicotine testing also blurs the distinction between the dangers posed to teenagers by cigarettes versus the dangers from drugs and alcohol, said Dasbach.

"While no one argues that in a perfect world, teenagers wouldn't smoke, the idea that students should be drug-tested for a bad habit that might cause illness or premature death in 50 years is absurd," he said.

"More importantly, nicotine testing also deflects parents' attention away from the more immediate dangers posed to teenagers by alcohol and many illegal drugs.

Surely, no sensible person thinks that teenagers who smoke and drive are as much at risk as teenagers who drink and drive."

Finally, mandatory blood tests for teenagers send a chilling message to young people that they can be tested "like laboratory animals" any time the government wants, said Dasbach.

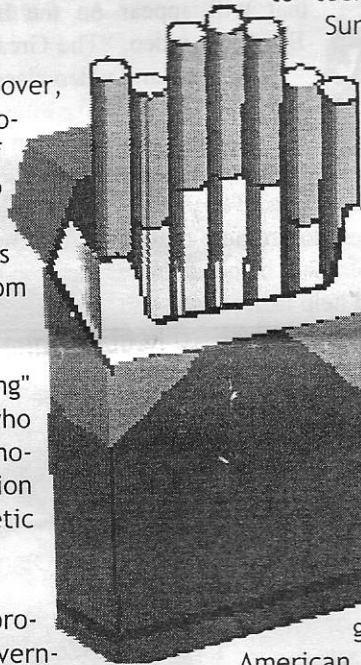
"It would be nice if government schools taught students about the Fourth Amendment — which guarantees the right to be free from unreasonable, warrantless searches — instead of subjecting students to unreasonable, warrantless blood testing," he said. "After all, a government powerful enough to mandate blood tests for nicotine poses a greater danger to the long-term well-being of American teenagers than puffing on a cigarette ever will."

## Number of Libertarians in office passes 300 mark for first time

LP NATIONAL — The number of Libertarians serving in public office around the USA has passed the 300 mark for the first time in party history, LP Political Director Ron Crickenberger has announced.

As of mid-September, the party had 313 members holding office at the state, county, or local level — an increase of almost two dozen officeholders over the past few months.

(Continued on page 3)



300 OFFICEHOLDERS (Continued from page 2)

The surge in officeholders came from several special elections, from a spate of local appointments, and from officeholders discovered by the California LP's "Operation Breakthrough," said Crickenberger.

"This new record is a tribute to the hard work of Libertarians around the country," he said. "Libertarians are building stronger local parties that serve as launching pads for successful candidates; they are running better, more professional campaigns; and they are getting more active in local politics. You add all these factors together and you have a sure-fire recipe for a new record in Libertarian officeholders!"

The number of LP members in office represents a 312% increase since mid-1993, when only 76 Libertarians were serving in elected or appointed office. The party now has officeholders in 39 states — another record, said Crickenberger.

The Libertarian who "officially" put the party over the 300 mark was John Rogers, who was elected to the city council in Adamsville, Alabama, on August 22.

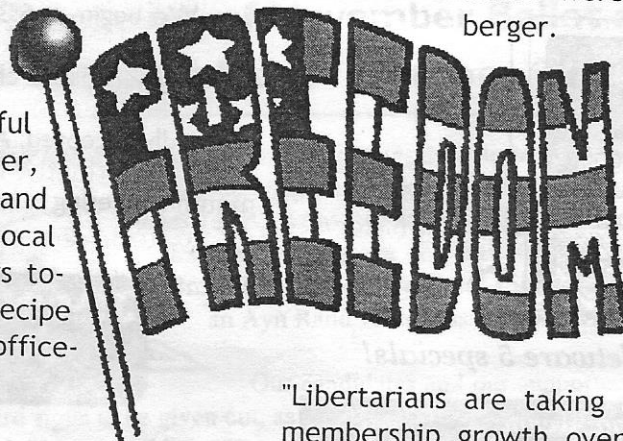
"Thank you, John Rogers, for becoming part of the next American revolution!" said Mike Rster, administrator of the Alabama LP. "This is how we are going to make a difference. Not by endless philosophy, but by busting our butts [in elections]."

Over the last few months, other Libertarians who have joined the ranks of officeholders include:

- Steven Epstein, appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals in Georgetown, Massachusetts.
- Bill Utterback, elected to a one-year term as marshall in Bulverde, Texas.
- Tony Federici, appointed to the Community Dispute Resolution Committee in Vernon Township, New Jersey.

- Scott Lieberman, appointed to the San Jose Advisory Commission on Rents in California.
- Willy Star Marshall, appointed to the Planning & Zoning Commission in Big Water, Utah.

Of the 313 officeholders, about 170 were elected and the remainder were appointed, said Crickenberger.



By comparison, the Reform Party has seven elected officeholders, the Green Party has 72, the Constitution Party has one, and the Natural Law Party has zero.

"Libertarians are taking advantage of the party's membership growth over the past several years, which is giving us more candidates, resources, and volunteers to help with campaigns," said Crickenberger. "As the party continues to grow, I expect us to keep setting new records for electoral success — and to pull even farther ahead of those other parties."

#### How to Contact Us

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*Web Pages:* [www.al.lp.org](http://www.al.lp.org) (Alabama)  
[www.lp.org](http://www.lp.org) (National)

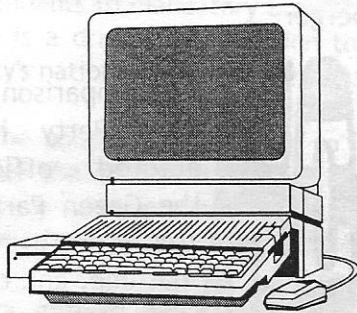
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*Regional Chair:* David Mitchell  
[dmitchell@melior.org](mailto:dmitchell@melior.org)

*Local Meetings, 2nd Monday of the month:*  
Jim 'N Nick's Bar-B-Q  
220 Oxmoor Road  
Just off I-65  
942-3336

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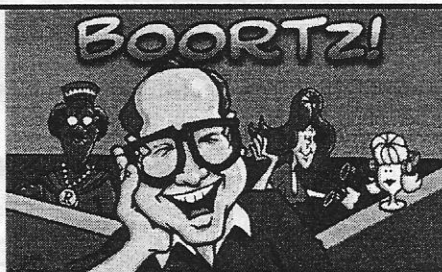
## LIB – ART

**As We Approach Singularity...  
Mike Rster – artist  
595-1679**

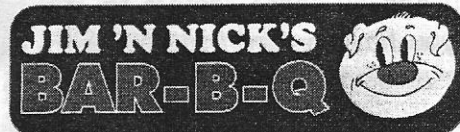
**Call for a private viewing of fine art at your home.**

Tune in to hear **Neal Boortz** on WAPI — 1070 on your AM dial. Neal's show runs Monday through Friday from 11:00am—1pm. Hear a diehard Libertarian's perspective on the day's news and events along with not so subtle commentary. Get your daily dose of a "Rude Awakening...." and visit:

[www.boortz.com](http://www.boortz.com)



The Greater Birmingham Libertarian Supper Club is open to everyone. We discuss issues of the day, politics, taxes, and personal freedom. Meetings are held the second Monday of the month unless there is a holiday, when meetings are moved to the third Monday. We begin at 6:30 (dinner 6:45) unless otherwise noted. There is no charge to attend and contributions are gladly accepted. And of course, bring a friend. This month's meeting is being held at::



**Jim 'N Nick's Bar-B-Q**

**220 Oxmoor Road**

**Just off I-65**

**942-3336**

**November's meeting on the 13th!**

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