

Let Freedom Ring!

(Continued from page 1) [Electronic Outreach Soars]

39,154,487 (Increase of 631%)

Average hits per day:

September 2002 - 12,688 December 2003 - 47,691 (Increase of 276%)

Unique Visitors:

September 2002 - 135,920 December 2003 - 839,377 (Increase of 518%)

Attempting to harness as much of the power of the Internet as possible, one year ago we created what has turned out to be one of the libertarian movement's most dynamic and popular online publications — our FFF Email Update. Each and every morning six days a week, we carefully select articles, editorials, and editorial cartoons that apply libertarian principles to the burning issues of the day, with the objective of providing

people with the highest-quality libertarian "editorial page" in the world. We not only post it on our website but also send it to our constantly growing list of email subscribers (41% increase in the past year).

Several months ago, we added a special Saturday Biography Bonus to our FFF Email Update, which features biographical sketches of such libertarian luminaries as Ludwig von Mises, Leonard E. Read, Friedrich von Hayek, Murray Rothbard, and Frédéric Bastiat. We also added the FFF Blog, which has enabled us to provide rapid-fire daily capsule commentaries in response to the events of the day.

Most recently, we added a News Section to our FFF Email Update, which provides carefully culled breaking news on such important subjects as the economy, the drug war, law, immigration, and gun control to our subscribers.

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And the articles and commentaries are all there in our website archives — a giant libertarian resource bank for anyone to access anywhere in the world! As you may know, ever since September 11 The Future of Freedom Foundation has taken a leading role in the defense of civil liberties, not only in our publication Freedom Daily but especially in our FFF Email Update. In the early days, we were inundated with hate mail taking us to task for defending the rights of such accused terrorists as Zacarias Moussaoui, Jose Padilla, and Yaser Hamdi. But today, the situation is exactly the opposite: Every week, we receive emails of gratitude and support for our uncompromising stand in favor of civil liberties and constitutional guarantees of due process, because more and more

people are coming to understand that if the feds can grab, incarcerate, and execute anyone they accuse of being a terrorist without due process of law, the exposition of truth and ideas becomes a dead letter.

It was the same prior to the invasion of Iraq. We'd never been so inundated with hate email from people questioning our patriotism. Today, the situation is the exact opposite — virtually all the email we receive expresses gratitude for our speaking the truth about the adverse consequences that such an invasion would produce and has produced.

...

If you would like to support our work with a subscription to Freedom Daily (\$25 per year for print version; \$15 for email version) or a tax-deductible donation to The Future of Freedom Foundation, or both, you can do so online at the "Subscribe and Support" section of our website at <http://www.fff.org/support/index.asp> or by mailing or faxing your support to our offices:

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Letter

(as received by the Editor):

On Page 26 of the Dec LP NEWS there is yet another Help Wanted notice for a new newsletter editor. The search has been going on for some time now.

Our independently minded friends in Arizona have more than a few strong writers in their ranks. Does anyone know if any independently minded person has applied but was never hired?

Page 20 of the Nov LP NEWS has Gary Nolan's article first, and Michael Badnarik's article second.

Page 4 of the Dec LP NEWS has Gary Nolan's article first, and Michael Badnarik's article second. The lead section of Gary Nolan's article is given more print space than the lead section of Michael Badnarik's article. Gary Nolan's article has the golden word "Credibility" as a bolded sub-heading. Michael Badnarik's bolded sub-heading adds to his belittling. If Michael Badnarik's headline is not belittling, the text of the article certainly is (reader's are informed Nolan has won six preference polls while Badnarik has only won one).

Maybe it is unintentional, but the party line is Nolan #1, Badnarik #2. [Editorial Asides: And this ordering was repeated in the January issue. We are advised by sources on the National Committee that the current Editor, who has long asked to be released from his post, will not be continuing after the end of this month.] We need a new editor ASAP.

Jeff Chase

Web Pages:

Worcester wcla.tripod.com

Western Massachusetts pvla.NET

America and the World www.cmlc.org (Now in Spanish)

(Continued from page 1) [**Ziobro Runs for National Convention Delegate**] convention, for whatever reason, can express their choices for nominee. I resent the dismissive attitude that many party leaders have toward those who are only able to vote in the primary.

I would prefer that the party held the primary as a mail-in election conducted solely by the party. This would enable the party: 1) to save the taxpayers the cost of the primary, 2) to verify the validity of party registered voters, and 3) to control the conduct of the primary. Unfortunately, it appears that current state law does not permit this option. This is something that I believe we should work to do in the future.

As for myself, I intend to cast a write-in vote for Gene Burns for President in the primary. I have always been disappointed that Mr. Burns has declined to run for any party nomination since his abortive campaign for the Presidential nomination of 1984. I understand that he will probably reject any offer to run as our nominee in this, or any other, year; nevertheless, I shall vote for him as the best possible candidate that we could run for President in 2004. If any of you think likewise, I urge you to do the same. Perhaps, if enough of us do so, we can persuade Mr. Burns to put his name in nomination as a "favorite son" candidate. Also, if the notion of Gene Burns as a "favorite son" candidate spreads in Massachusetts prior to the primary, it could boost registration, and turn-out in our primary, and increase the visibility of the state party.
Yours for liberty, -Walter Ziobro

(Continued from page 1) [**Put The Elephant to Sleep**]

What of the Republicans? It is not that we hate the elephant. In Massachusetts, the elephant is a family pet, old, tired, and sick, no longer able to perform its family responsibilities. It lies by the fire, too weak to rise, needing a family member to feed and clean it while it suffers. While there are a range of opinions on how to treat a family pet in its dying days, the Republican elephant deserves to be put mercifully to sleep, and its pro-liberty members brought into a pro-liberty party.

The time has come to put the elephant out of its misery. The Republican Party controls but 2 of 40 Senate seats, barely two dozen State Representative seats, not a single seat on the Executive Council, and not a single Federal office. It controls a single statewide constitutional office of any meaning, but only because the Democratic Party ran extremely weak candidates last time. To allow the great beast to slumber a little deeper, it is primarily necessary to run plausible candidates in those six State Senate and two dozen State Representative districts, perhaps skipping a few seats where incumbents will change parties in our directions at an opportune moment, as well as in those other legislative seats in which are Republican Party

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might plausibly challenge. Our candidates then need to emphasize issues that divide the Republican Party internally. With their vote split, the Republicans can be reduced to a half-dozen seats in the Great and General Court, at which point their last traces of credibility will vanish.

In the Federal level, life is even simpler. The Massachusetts Congressional delegation is composed entirely of Democrats. At the Federal level, the Massachusetts Libertarian Party is therefore ready to proceed to the next phase, by running serious candidates for Federal office: Senate and House. There is no need to displace congressional Republicans, because such persons do not exist. Instead, the Massachusetts Libertarian party only needs to find plausible candidates for Federal office and sell them to the electorate.

Any Republican attempt to re-enter the state's Federal delegation runs into the fundamental difficulty that core Republicans stands: neoconservative perpetual war, criminalization of abortion, defense welfare, Internet censorship, farm and industrial welfare, labor- and gay-bashing, and green-bashing are not very saleable to the people on Massachusetts. Curiously, it just so happens that these are issues on which Republicans and Libertarians do not agree. The other hand, Libertarian stands in favor of low taxes, small government, the whole Bill of Rights, the Right to Keep and Bear arms, and free-trade, and against government regulation, affirmative action, the war on drugs, Democratic-Republican perpetual war, and government intrusion into private lives make it very easy for Libertarian candidate to distinguish herself or himself from any Democratic or Reform candidate in the race.

Some will argue that the Republican Party restrains the Democrats from unwise deeds. However, when Bill Weld appeared to have a veto-sustaining majority in one house of the state legislature, he did nothing with it, preferring to cut deals with the other party. Now the Republicans can't sustain a Governor's veto in either house of the state legislature. Can you tell the difference? In fact, in 1996 the Republicans scarcely ran candidates for more than a third of the 200 seats. There are six Republicans in the State Senate, and those 6 Republicans are purely decorative.

The question is simple. Are there enough pro-liberty candidates in Massachusetts who are willing to **Stand Up for Liberty!** and run in the necessary seats?

I remind you, though, of one basic principle. Libertarians and many others piously profess not to believe in a free lunch. When it comes to the ballot box, though, these pious professions sink to inaudibility. All too many Libertarians believe that there is a free lunch at the ballot box. All too many Libertarians believe that they need to do nothing but show up and vote on election day, and that magically there will be Libertarian candidates on the ballot, awaiting their votes.

Well, there are no truly free lunches. In particular, there are no free lunches at the ballot box! If you want candidates for whom you can vote, you have the responsibility of going out

Activism Opportunity!

[And you could do the same in your state. Instead of lamenting that our press coverage is not always good, that our candidates are sometimes ignored, why not create contribute to an honest press?]

This is the URL to the NH Independent News - originally started by former State Rep Ron Dupuis and others in Derry, the focus has been mostly issues local to Derry and East Derry. Ron recently moved to the seacoast area and resigned his seat, and seems to be successfully expanding the nh-inews to be more of a statewide resource to provide balance and more complete information for local low-tax, low-regulation 'libertarian/Republican' types.

<http://www.nh-inews.org/>

He's seeking 'correspondents' from throughout the state, so that eventually every city/town can have its own 'local edition'. I'd encourage as many Porcupines as possible to subscribe, use it to get more familiar with NH politics, and for those living in and/or soon moving to the Free State please spread the word and help build up the base of correspondents.

Why would I think you're welcome to subscribe and participate? Last night I went to a Derry Taxpayer's group meeting, and the FSP was mentioned - Sandy Hopfgarten, longtime Derry activist and wife of Paul Hopfgarten (Derry Town Councilor), said she had heard most of the Porcupines are planning to move in 'up North'. She was actually disappointed, saying she hoped 'a few of those libertarian types would move to Derry as well.'

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(Continued from page 3) [Put The Elephant to Sleep!]

and doing the work needed to put them in place, so that come November you can vote for them.

Public Reaction to this column:

One of the Western Massachusetts Republican Webpage keepers found this article, and wrote his members "I suggest everyone read this [the above] page and see what the Libertarians are planning to do in Mass in 98..." He supplied the URL. A second Republican wrote " 'RIGHT', and it is so important we should read it here, so you don't have to "Link" anywhere". He then reposted the entire column.

2004 is perhaps a trifle optimistic for successfully effectuating the full proposal, in my humble opinion.

And a Republican correspondent advises us: Unfortunately or otherwise, depending on your point of view, the elephant is no longer sleeping. The governor has targeted state house races for his special attention and support and town committee are getting very active in supporting candidates. Since this is a special election, it stands alone as one for which he will throw his support. There is, in fact, an R running for the Wayland State Senate seat, to be vacated by Cheryl Jacques, and he is out and about. Good luck.

Improving the State Party

Last month I proposed what the LPMA should be doing. This month I explain **how**. The electronic supplement to Libertarian Strategy Gazette includes Draft LPMA Bylaws .

Bylaws cannot give us a strong state party, but they can keep us from getting one. The current Bylaws have been in use for some years. The obvious consequences of their structure are apparent. When your organizational structure is substantially authoritarian, so power ends up in the hands of the State Chair, and the State Chair is busy with legitimate personal matters, the ship sudden stops. The Bylaws are a legacy of an unfortunate period now completely ended. Indeed, at the last National Committee meeting it was reported that the chief driving force behind the current Bylaws has completely left the Party.

The largest single change is length. The proposed Bylaws are for shorter than the old Bylaws. The most important proposed change is in list of officers and 'standing committees'. The new list of officers focuses on people doing actual work for the party. Standing committees become working groups, with membership open to whatever libertarians are actually willing to do work.

The second proposed change is in orientation. There must still be a Chair. The Chair is the person who chairs meetings and is visible to the press, not the Libertarian Lord Leader. If you want things done, you have working groups on local organizing, electioneering, other political action, outreach, fundraising, and other activities that actually have political consequences.

Finally, there is openness. Minutes will appear on web pages, like in most other states.