

## Hussein's survival mandates misery

As has occurred so many times since the Gulf War cease-fire went into effect, Iraq thumbed its nose last week at U.N. inspectors attempts to gather information on that country's weapons of mass-destruction research, development and stockpiling. This is in direct conflict with the terms of the cease-fire.

And as has occurred just as many times, Iraq backed down when confronted by the very real possibility of renewed action by U.N. forces, most likely in the form of air-strikes launched from U.S. aircraft carriers.

That Saddam Hussein would continue to offer up his people to be sacrificed in the name of pride demonstrates his true lack of concern for their well-being. His rationale, however, is quite clear. Without the threat of renewed military conflict with the West, Hussein would have no cause around which his people might rally, giving them cause to reflect on their domestic situation.

Contrary to what many believe, the Iraqi people are not suffering because of the U.N. imposed sanctions. Rather, they are suffering and dying because their misery and death gives Hussein a powerful public relations weapon in his self-serving crusade against the West. Hussein would like people to believe that the sanctions are responsible for the widespread starvation and sickness that has run rampant through Iraq.

He would have us forget that food, medical supplies and other humanitarian items are exempt from the sanctions. Hussein points out that the sanctions prohibit the sale of Iraq oil, thereby denying his country the much needed cash necessary to purchase food, etc. Yet, Iraq has refused a U.N. proposal that would allow \$1 billion worth of Iraqi oil to be sold, provided the proceeds go directly to providing food, medicine and humanitarian assistance.

With virtually no economy except oil, which can't be sold, and its international assets frozen, Hussein must decide where his priorities lie. He continues to spend money on a military whose only mission is to murder Kurds and other nomadic peoples. When can the people of Iraq expect to get on with their lives? Probably not for some time. Unless Hussein gives up his dream of uniting the Islamic world under his guardianship and realizes that he is the laughing stock of the international community, Iraq will continue to play the role of spoiled child, stubbornly refusing to do as it is told.

And if Hussein's strategy is to wait-out the election, he may be disappointed. Both Clinton and Gore were supporters of the Gulf War and continue to publicly support Bush's handling of the situation.

Some people just never get it.

## LETTERS POLICY

The *Oregon Daily Emerald* will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community.

Letters to the editor must be limited to no more than 250 words, legible, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is submitted.

Commentaries should be between 750 and 1,000 words, legible and signed, and the identification of the writer must be verified upon submission. The *Emerald* reserves the right to edit for grammar, style and length if necessary.

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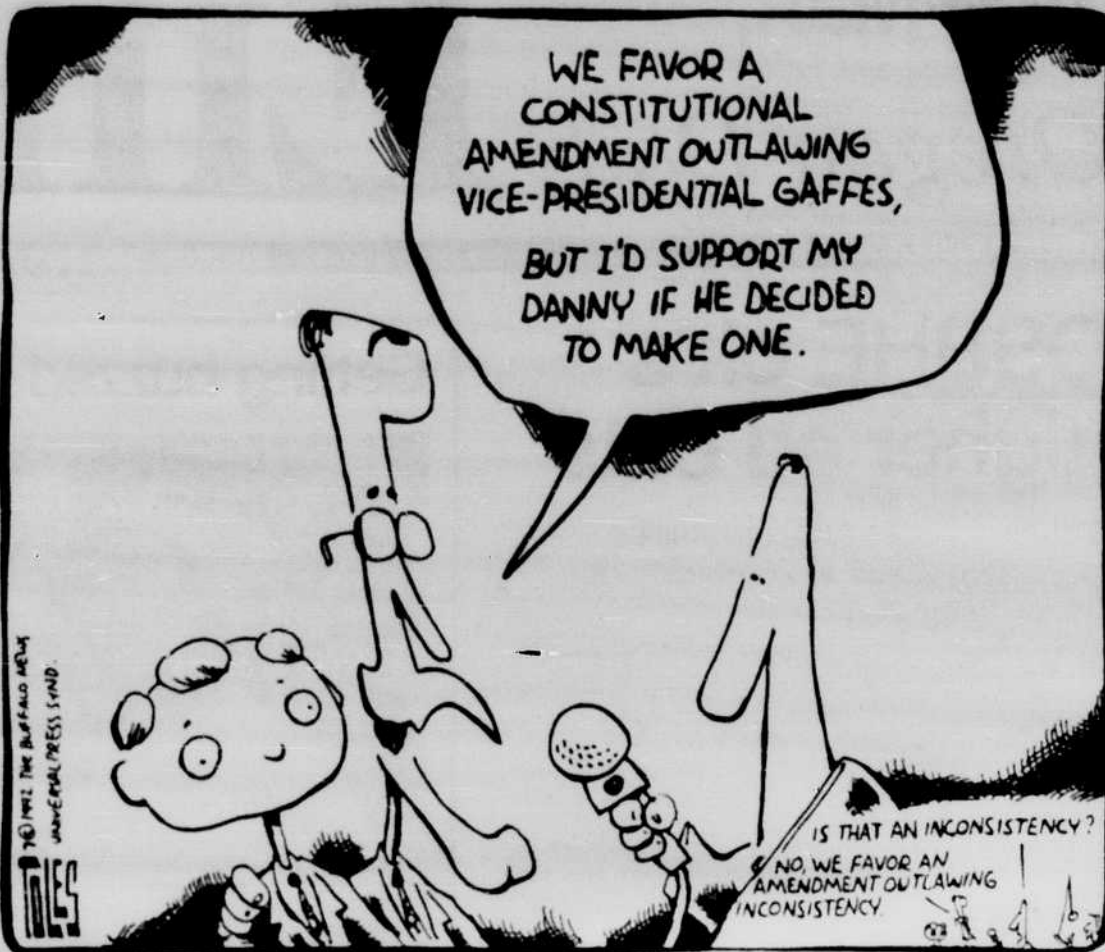
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## COMMENTARY

# Libertarians offer real third party

By Tonie Nathan

One hears a lot of talk about third party candidates recently, but Ross Perot's retirement from the Presidential race makes an important point — there is only one real third party in this nation and that is the Libertarian Party. The LP is the only genuine alternative for voters fed up with the machinations and corruption of the other two parties. Let me explain why.

Historically, third parties arise for three reasons — because of the attraction of a powerful candidate, a powerful issue, or a powerful ideology. Examples of candidate oriented parties (similar to Perot's group) are those of Teddy Roosevelt's Bull Moose Party, George Wallace's Independent Party and John Anderson's American Party. When the candidates stopped running, the parties withered away.

Examples of issue-oriented parties are the Prohibition Party and the Peace and Freedom Party. When prohibition was repealed and the Vietnam War ended, the parties disappeared.

Examples of ideological parties are the American Communist party, the Green Party and the Libertarian Party. Through the years, the ideas disseminated by such parties are either partially accepted or repudiated. Marxist economic ideas have greatly influenced the political scene in this country, (while) at the same (time) those ideas are being repudiated in other countries, just as environmental ideas are influential throughout the world.

Libertarian ideas are also influential throughout the world. (Candidates for President of Peru and Poland — Mario Vargas Llosa and Stanislaw Tyminski — were Libertarians.) Two Libertarian ideas that have had a political impact worldwide are privatization (a word coined by a Libertarian) and burden sharing, and end to the

American taxpayer defense subsidy of such rich countries as Japan and Germany.

The Libertarian Party was organized in 1972 to offer an alternative to the failed policies of both the Republicans and Democrats. Its ideology was built around the Jeffersonian ideas of limited government. ("That government is best which governs least.") It has been on the ballot in every state in the nation and more than 200 Libertarians have held public office. It has fielded six different sets of Presidential candidates — all well-qualified to hold office. In 1988, the LP presidential ticket won more votes than ALL THE OTHER MINOR PARTIES COMBINED!

In 1988, the LP Presidential candidate was a four-term former Congressman who had the foresight to resign from the Republican Party because he believed the party system was corrupt and ineffective. In 1990, the LP ran 314 Libertarians on 43.4 percent of the ballots nationwide who won an average 7 percent of the votes cast.

This year the LP Presidential ticket is former Alaska state legislator, Andre Marrou, and physician-lawyer, Nancy Lord, MD, a former candidate for Washington D.C. mayor. They are running on a platform calling for repealing the personal income tax (36 percent of the federal revenue), abolishing the IRS, reducing regulatory agencies by attrition, limiting Congressional terms, stimulating job opportunities, privatizing education, charitizing welfare and allowing choice in all matters.

Recently, Marrou came in first in Dixville Notch, New Hampshire, the first precinct in the nation to hold a Presidential primary. He beat George Bush by two votes because the voters of that town had a chance to hear what Marrou and Lord had to say and they preferred the Libertarian ideas

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to those of the other candidates. In New Hampshire, two Republican state legislators switched to the Libertarian Party, a foreboding of things to come. When politicians and voters get fed up, they discover there is only one place to go — the Libertarian Party, the party of principle and inheritor of Jeffersonian ideas.

In contrast to any other party in the nation, this year the LP will be running 600 candidates for state and local offices. Every candidate has signed a written pledge not to advocate a tax increase or violation of citizens' "inalienable rights." The LP expects to have more Congressional candidates running than any other minor party in U.S. history. Now that is a REAL third party — not a one-shot publicity stunt! It offers the public the only real alternative to establishment politics. Perot and Brown supporters ought to take note.

*Tonie Nathan is the first woman in U.S. history to win an electoral college vote and is the former Libertarian Party national director of media relations.*