

Libertarians attempt to increase visibility

BY TODD ANDERSON
Senior staff writer

Libertarian candidates for state office may have a long shot at winning the election, but they will stand behind their principles with hopes of increasing voters' awareness of their party, they said.

After submitting the 6,000-signature petition with the secretary of state's office in mid-August that is required to appear on the November ballot, the Libertarian party has nominated a slate of three candidates to run for state-level offices.

Andrew Sullivan, an Omaha tele-marketing trainer, has announced his candidacy for attorney general in the election against the Republican incumbent Don Stenberg and Democratic candidate Pat Knapp of Lincoln.

Loup City resident and farmer Jerry Hickman, whose name will appear on the November ticket, said he will announce his candidacy later this month, and UNL sophomore psychology major Shannon Miller is the party's candidate for secretary of state, running against incumbent Scott Moore and Democratic candidate Ken Bernbeck.

Hickman said he does not have a lot of time or money to dedicate to the race but hopes adding his name to the list of candidates will increase exposure for the Libertarian party.

"We know that we can't win this election with the name recognition that (Rep.) Bill Barrett has," Hickman said.

Nevertheless, he plans to spread his name by speaking in the western half of the state.

Hickman, who has farmed on his father's land in Sherman county for 28 years, said he joined the Libertarian party in 1992 because he agreed with its platform on several issues, especially its stance that government growth should be stopped and cut back.

"I've been unhappy with the continual increase in size and cost of our government for a long time," he said.

Hickman said if he were elected to represent Nebraska's 3rd

Congressional District, he would introduce legislation to eliminate federal agencies such as the Department of Education and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Sullivan also said the government had taken on too much responsibility and said he would advocate turning problems back to the responsible citizens if he were elected attorney general.

Sullivan, who graduated from Creighton University in 1989 with a philosophy degree, said he would focus on defending personal liberties that he said have been violated by the government.

He cited Omaha Mayor Hal Daub's involvement with the purchase of federal helicopters two years ago, which he said were used to monitor speeding, drug trafficking and illegal immigration, as a direct attack on citizens' liberties.

He said his candidacy is the result of his ideology and not built out of understanding of the laws of society, for which a team of lawyers could be assembled, he said.

Miller, Libertarian candidate for secretary of state, did not return phone calls to the Daily Nebraskan.

Andy Miller, Libertarian party chairman, said the party is more concerned with having a third party represented on the ballot than winning the election.

All political parties must win at least 5 percent of total election votes cast to remain on the ballot from year to year.

Miller said spreading recognition of his party is his main short-term goal.

Sullivan said the party is planning a rally in October to send out its message and rally party members.

"People should start opening their minds to another party," Sullivan said. "The Democratic and Republican parties are not interested in real solutions."

Voters can view the Nebraska Libertarian party's official World Wide Web site at <http://www.phonet.com/simon/liberty.html>.

Stenberg to file for reinstatement of 40 sentences

From staff reports

Attorney General Don Stenberg told the media Monday how his office plans to argue for the reinstatement of the original sentences of 40 prisoners convicted of second-degree murder.

Stenberg filed an action with the Nebraska Supreme Court alleging the court acted in violation of the Nebraska Constitution in 1994 when it voted to require malice to be alleged and proven

in second-degree murder cases.

The court overturned its decision last month after 40 convicted murderers had their sentences reduced or dismissed because of the 1994 ruling.

Stenberg said his office was acting out of concern for public safety as prisoners finish their reduced sentences and continue to be released.

"As many as 20 previously convicted second-degree murderers have been released back among the citizens of Nebraska, ... and that number will

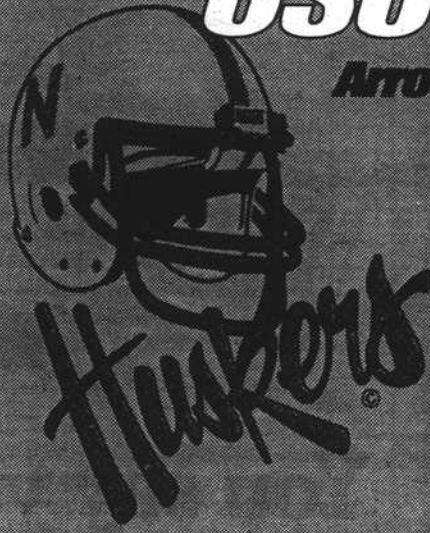
continue to increase as prisoners who subsequently received lesser sentences for their criminal behavior are required to be released," Stenberg said.

Stenberg's office alleged the court acted in a legislative manner that violated the state constitution, which rendered the ruling void.

"The court orders setting aside the original second-degree murder convictions had no legal effect, and, therefore, those original convictions remain in place," Stenberg said.

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Law & Order

Student harassed by man
A man exposed himself to a university student and continued to harass her Friday evening.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln sophomore was walking on a path south of the Walter Scott Engineering building around 8:20 p.m. when the man approached her from behind, University Police Sgt. Mylo Bushing said.

The man grabbed her rear end and then exposed his genitals when she turned around.

He continued to grab at her, trying to pull her close while taunting her repeatedly, Bushing said.

The victim threatened to call police, and the man fled in the direction of Vine Street.

She was able to call university police from an emergency phone.

The man is described as a white male, 5 feet 10 inches tall, 30 years old, with short dark hair. He was wearing a green shirt and dark shorts.

Man dies in car accident

A Lincoln man died in a car accident Sunday, though police suspect a heart attack.

At 10:15 a.m. 61-year-old Sherman Kage was driving northbound on 70th Street when his car struck a curb at Orchard Street, left the road and struck a tree in the yard of 1210 N. 70th St., Lincoln Police Sgt. Ann Heermann said.

Paramedics at the scene found that the wreck likely was caused by a heart attack.

Freshman caught with vodka
One UNL freshman was caught bringing a gallon of vodka into Schramm Hall early Saturday.

Just after 1 a.m. a Community Service Officer saw the 18-year-old student carrying a large brown paper bag into the residence hall, Bushing said.

The CSO found two half-gallon bottles of vodka in the student's bag.

Though the student claimed the alcohol was not his, he was cited for minor in possession of alcohol.

Compiled by senior staff writer Josh Funk

Daily Nebraskan web directory source

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