



# THE ITHACA LIBERTARIAN

**Volume 1, Issue 2**  
**December 30, 2004**

*"I took Mr. Badnarik's class about two years ago, when he gave it in San Antonio, Texas. I have been a Libertarian for 25+ years, and I thought I knew the U.S. Constitution and how American government works, both the good and the bad. Boy, was I ever wrong! You can throw most of what you learned in school out the window - and your instructor is prepared to prove every word he says. He is also a lively and entertaining teacher. I can't remember when I've had so much fun - or learned so much - in a short 8 hours. The information he offers in this class is the best hope of fixing what is wrong with America" - Kathryn A Graham, Castroville, Texas - Texas Director, Armed Females of America*

## Founding Convention

Since first getting together early this summer, our local Libertarian group has been meeting on a regular basis, with the goal of creating a Libertarian presence in Tompkins County. We've planned several events, including Michael Badnarik's campaign stop in Ithaca. Now we're on our way to becoming an official chapter of the LPNY! Our January meeting will be our first annual Convention. At this time we will elect officers and approve bylaws. Join us on Friday, January 21st at 5:30 at Bool's Flower Shop, 209 N. Aurora St., Ithaca, for the founding of the Ithaca Libertarians. To see the draft of our bylaws, go to the "Files" section of our Yahoo group ([http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ithaca\\_LP/files](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ithaca_LP/files)), and post any comments or suggestions you may have.

## Badnarik Coming Back

We're pleased to announce our intention to bring Michael Badnarik, the 2004 Libertarian Party candidate for President, back to Ithaca to teach his class on the U.S. Constitution. He might also do a book signing for his new book, *Good to be King*, a class promotion, a public lecture or panel, or anything that we can come up with to promote his class, book, our new local Ithaca Libertarian organization and the LP. We hope to make his stay here in Ithaca be an enjoyable and productive stop for us all. We'll be forming a committee to put this whole thing together – join us!

Before we set a date for the class and visit, we'll need to gauge the level of interest because we'll need to sign up 25 or more people in order to bring him here. If you're interested and

would like to commit to his 8 hour Saturday class, please sign up in the Polls section of our Yahoo group ([http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ithaca\\_LP/polls](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ithaca_LP/polls)). If you're not a Yahoo group member, please sign up here. We don't know the date yet, but we're thinking sometime this Spring. As soon as we have 25 people committed, we will book the date. The class cost is \$100 and includes Michael's book, *Good to be King*. If you already have his new book, the class cost is \$85. Planning will continue on our Yahoo email group.

## Upcoming Events

January 21, 2005 – Ithaca Libertarians – founding convention & monthly meeting

February ?, 2005 – Operation Politically Homeless booth – public outreach

February 18, 2005 – Ithaca Libertarians - monthly meeting

March 18, 2005 - Ithaca Libertarians - monthly meeting

April 23, 2005 – NYLP State Convention, Syracuse

July 4, 2005 – Ithaca Libertarian Fourth of July Celebration - Enfield, dates tba

A **regular monthly meeting** of the Ithaca Libertarians is held on the **third Friday of every month, 5:30pm** (new time) at Bool's Flower Shop, 209 N. Aurora St., Ithaca. Please join us in making plans to promote liberty in the Ithaca area!

## THE ITHACA LIBERTARIAN

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Please direct newsletter comments  
and submissions to the Editor.

## Calendar 2005

January 21 – Ithaca Libertarians – founding convention  
February ? – Operation Politically Homeless booth  
February 18 – Ithaca Libertarians - monthly meeting  
March 18 - Ithaca Libertarians - monthly meeting  
April 23 – NYLP State Convention, Syracuse ([www.ny.lp.org](http://www.ny.lp.org))  
July 4 – Ithaca Libertarian 4th of July Celebration - Enfield, dates tba

NYLP calendar with state and local events:

<http://ny.lp.org/.calendar>

## Voting Results

There were 214 votes cast for Michael Badnarik in Tompkins County in 2004. Only 19 voters had registered or done a party change to Libertarian before the October 2004 Board of Elections deadline. There are more registrations pending, but we won't be able to obtain the new list until November of 2005 – the November surprise. Please re-register as a Libertarian today! Just print and send in to the Board of Elections. Be a part of our November surprise celebration! Be counted.

Registration form available at:  
[www.ny.lp.org/enroll](http://www.ny.lp.org/enroll).

TC Board of Elections:  
<http://www.co.tompkins.ny.us/boe/>

### *Letter to the Editor – Published in the Ithaca Journal December 20, 2004*

Here we are at the end of another year of tax increases in the Ithaca area. More spending and higher taxes - again. Maybe just a small increase in the mortgage tax, maybe another slight increase in the sales tax, or how about a brand new county income tax? We promise it will be small and will only "target" a select group anyway.

New York's combined state and local tax burden is currently the highest in the United States, and has consistently ranked as the very highest. Since 1970, NY has been ranked first, twenty-four times, and second, eleven times. No ranking as third or better since 1970. And, our state tax on gasoline is the highest in the country. Source: [www.taxfoundation.org](http://www.taxfoundation.org)

Are we taxed enough yet? Where are the lawn signs declaring "No New Taxes"? Perhaps it is time for a new taxpayer organization in Tompkins County. In some small cities in the U.S., libertarians and other fed-up taxpayers have organized and passed initiatives which require local governments to limit tax increases to a very low rate of, say 1%. That is of course, unless the voters approve of a greater increase, but they rarely do. Or, we could simply pass an initiative to allow us the choice on our tax bills to opt-out of any increase over 1%. Do you wonder how many of us would check off the "tax me more" box?

Like placing limits on a young child by a busy street, it seems time to limit the growth of local taxes and government with lawful fiscal restraint, for the good of our families and our community.

- Brian L. Sullivan, City of Ithaca

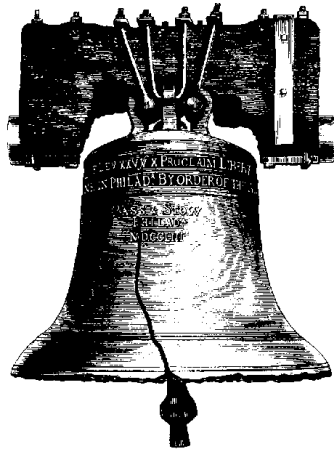
### *Letter to the Editor – Published in the Ithaca Journal December 23, 2004*

#### Free Market?

Once again, the free market successfully secured the product consumers need while an inept government agency mires in bureaucratic inaction. As the Journal reported, a Minneapolis woman successfully secures and administers potentially life-saving and genuine flu vaccine, and "shazam!" promptly has her vaccine impounded and is arrested.

Meanwhile, the FDA still has not acted on desperate requests by state officials to use imported flu vaccine. Let's award the Presidential Medal of Freedom to this enterprising American and add this story to the successive list of failures of our public health agency, the FDA.

Marshall L. Stocker, Town of Ithaca



## FINDING FREEDOM

*By Ellen E. Ricketson*

**F**reedom is lost,  
Hardly anyone notices.  
Fear of terror, obstructs the view.  
Another war sets liberty askew,  
In addition to the other three,  
Empowered by political duopoly.  
Only tolerance fosters understanding,  
Prohibition is a hopeless task,  
And yet I hear no one ask,  
Why is there even more terror, crime and poverty?  
Taking away another's freedom,  
Will never bestow it upon me.  
Ask the mother, who buried her son,  
Conceived just after Viet Nam,  
Coming home in a bag from Iraq or Afghanistan,  
What will ever salve her pain?  
Every one, in a foreign land, slaying and slain,  
Trying to destroy what they fear, not understand,  
In reality, not for freedom, but in vain.  
Libertarian philosophy does say,  
These wars can't be won,  
We must choose another way.  
Not to accept more laws,  
That dissipate freedoms, day by day.

**A**sk not from me, many cry; let government pay,  
In the belief, what government gives is free.  
Who fills its pockets? Is it not you and me?  
With a gun put to our heads, not our gun,  
(That freedom is eroding away),  
We cannot only out of charity give,  
To those in need, as truly we should.  
Freedom has been stolen,  
The poor are not given, but enslaved.  
Let this not still our voices,  
Tunnel our vision, and many choices,  
We wish to live.

**I**hesitate to believe,  
There may not be true freedom,  
Outside our mind.  
So I still must say, I find,  
Is it not in our nature,  
For freedom to strive?  
Why else do we survive?  
And, in the struggle to attain,  
Passion, faith and hope will sustain,  
Love of liberty lifts us up,  
In making choices, right or wrong,  
Rather than wars and strife,  
We must own ourselves,  
Finding freedom is a right of life.