

# Libertarian nominee 'the antidote'?

By Wayne Paul  
staff writer

Andre Marrou sympathizes with those disgusted by this year's major party presidential candidates. Some 20 years ago, he felt the same way. That's why he joined the Libertarian Party.

Now his party's presidential nominee, Marrou calls himself the antidote.

"It's easy to see why people are fed up," he said. "Republican or Democrat, the candidates are still

talking about the same old things — more government and more taxes." In town for a recent state party convention, Marrou is crisscrossing the country in his bid to call attention to Libertarian candidates and issues.

Thus far, it hasn't been easy. Ironies aren't easily lost on the former Alaska state legislator, either.

"LOOK AT David Duke. Here's a guy who was elected to the same job I held," Marrou said. "Here's a guy who is a former Nazi, a former Ku

Klux Klanman, and he gets page after page of coverage. Now, look at me, I'm a nice guy and I can hardly get any."

Marrou, 53, is given to dry — and sometimes not-so-dry — humor. As a state legislator, he reportedly displayed two pins, an American flag and the Hell's Angels logo, on his lapel — making a point about individual freedom to regulation-happy colleagues.

These days he sports a conservatively cut dark blue suit, without any pins. But Marrou is keeping his wit and wits about him during the campaign.

His assessment of the major party hopefuls:

• On George Bush — "We call him King George. The man is an aristocrat. I mean, here's a guy that was confounded by a bar code."

• On Jerry Brown — "He's no alternative. When he was governor (of California) he increased taxes and state spending. What kind of alternative is that?" Brown's controversial 13 percent flat tax is "more of the same" to Marrou, who would abolish the federal income tax altogether. (For more on the Libertarian party platform, see related story.)

• On Bill Clinton — "He's smart. After all the man's a Rhodes Scholar. But he's probably too slick for his own good."

• On Patrick Buchanan — "He's xenophobic, homophobic and anti-Semitic. He's not welcome by us."

Also unwelcome is rumored third-party challenger H. Ross Perot. "Too far right," says Marrou, who nonetheless fears Perot's entry would cost him votes.

Marrou's Alaska license plate and no-tax, low-government platform might give rise to images of a "Northern Exposure" backwoodsman, but his background gives lie to any such notions.

A Massachusetts Institute of Technology graduate and commercial real estate broker, Marrou earned respect as one of his state's most eloquent legislators during his 1985-87 stint in the Alaska House.

IF NO backwoodsman, Marrou nonetheless sees himself as a trail-blazer.

Aiming for 1-5 percent of the popular vote this time around, Marrou envisions himself blazing the trail toward eventual Libertarian victory sometime in the next century.

But whether that trail passes through Michigan, at least this year, is unlikely.

Libertarians stand squarely for free trade — "We're the original free traders." — at a time when U.S. automakers and suppliers are closing Michigan plants.

Despite being on the ballot since 1972, Libertarians have yet to muster 1 percent of the national vote. Four years ago, when Marrou was the vice presidential nominee, Libertarian ticket drew 432,111 votes.

## Here's Libertarian platform on economic, social issues:

Ask most candidates where they stand on the issues and they'll give you the runaround. Ask Libertarian Party presidential nominee Andre Marrou and he'll give you a business card.

Here, in a nutshell, are the 10 commandments of Libertarianism.

• Abolish the federal income tax and disband the Internal Revenue Service.

• Expand free enterprise and end business regulation.

• Protect gun ownership rights.

• Limit Congressional terms.

• Put an end to foreign aid.

• Withdraw U.S. troops from foreign soil.


• End tax-financed subsidies.

• Let the federal bureaucracy shrink through attrition.

• Privatize education and welfare.

• Enact the "fully informed jury amendment," let jurors use their conscience, their opinion of the law in question and their view of the defendant's motives in deciding the case.

At the same time, Libertarians are also pro-choice and would legalize RU-486, the so-called "morning after" birth control pill.



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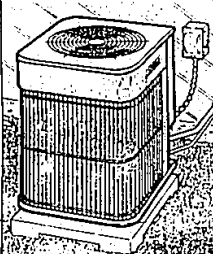
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