

The *Nixed Report

Issue 05

Unix and Overlooked Pop Culture

August 2013



Featuring a Poem from Tanya Mills (Page 11)

Thoughtful Retrospectives Regarding the Future

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e107: The Website System (P. 3)

Here's a behind the scenes look at The *Nixed Report, starting with the website.

Unix

Distro Journey: PCLinuxOS (P. 4)

PCLinuxOS has the aim of being “radically simple.” In this issue, we see how well this OS accomplishes that goal.



Overlooked Pop Culture

Grrl I Am (P. 11)

Tanya Mills contributes an original poem that calls for acceptance and understanding as opposed to judging others.

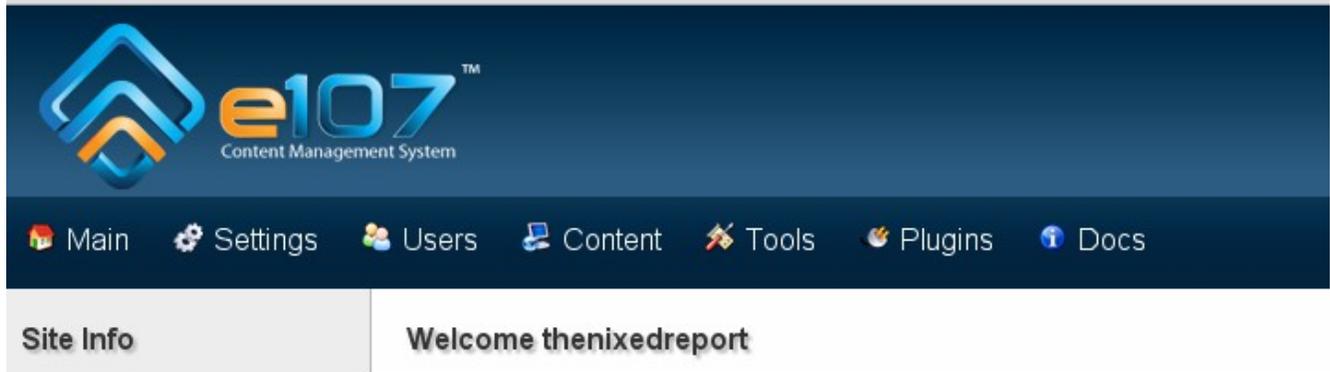
A Political Retrospective (P. 12)

Thomas Holbrook II volunteered at the Missouri Libertarian Party's booth at the state fair this year. He takes readers back to one year prior when he was in a contested primary with Herschel Young.

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e107: The Website System

By Thomas Holbrook II



The website has undergone numerous transformations. At one point, it was strictly HTML thanks to the assistance of KompoZer. Wordpress, Drupal, and e107 have also been used as well. Then I began to ask myself, “What do I want to achieve with this site.” It wasn't simply meant to be a media venue, but a potential community as well, meaning a forum may be necessary.

I also realized and recognized that podcasting was still an excellent way to speak to a given audience. What if users wanted to post lengthy walls of text? The solution was simple; go back to e107. Drupal is powerful, but not needed for the purposes of The *Nixed Report.

The venue looks at Unix and Overlooked Pop Culture. The Unix portion includes Free and Open Source Software. Overlooked Pop Culture includes anything that has a dedicated following but lacks mainstream coverage. Version 1.0.4 of the e107 content management system (CMS) fits both categories as a FOSS project and an underdog as it's not quite as well known as WordPress, Joomla, or Drupal.

WYSIWYG is enabled for easy editing, and security settings are set to where each new user has to be confirmed by a moderator. Any and all spam bots are pruned. The podcast plugin is installed for easy RSS feed generation.

This isn't the only site that has used e107. The Revere Radio Network, where I used to be a radio talk show host, used the system in the past. Sites such as paradism.org currently use e107 to this day.

Do you have pictures of old school computers, electronics, and more that you want to share? Send all pictures in JPG or PNG to thomash@thenixedreport.com with *dot slash submission* in the subject line. Be sure to have a brief description of the photo and where it was taken. You must have the rights to said photo and give The *Nixed Report rights to re-use it. Other than that, you retain the rights to your work.

By Thomas Holbrook II

The following systems were used to evaluate this distro:

ZaReason Breeze 3110

- 1.6 GHz Intel Atom CPU
- 1 GB RAM
- 320 GB Hard Drive
- DVD-ROM Drive
- Intel GMA 950 Graphics
- Interface: XFCE



Toshiba Satellite L305-S5921

- Dual Core Pentium T3400 (Max Speed: 2.16 GHz)
- 2 GB RAM
- Intel GMA X4500 Graphics (mobile version)
- 120 GB Hard Drive
- DVD burner
- 1280x800 LCD Display
- Multimedia buttons
- Atheros Wireless adapter
- Ethernet controller
- VGA Port
- 3 USB Ports
- Interface: KDE

Acer Aspire One 722 (USB DVD-ROM used for installation)

- Dual-Core AMD C60 (Max Speed: 1.33 GHz)
- AMD Radeon HD 6250 Graphics
- 2 GB RAM
- 320 GB Hard Drive
- Ethernet
- Atheros Wireless Adapter
- LCD with 1366x768 resolution and integrated webcam.
- Interface: KDE

Intel Desktop

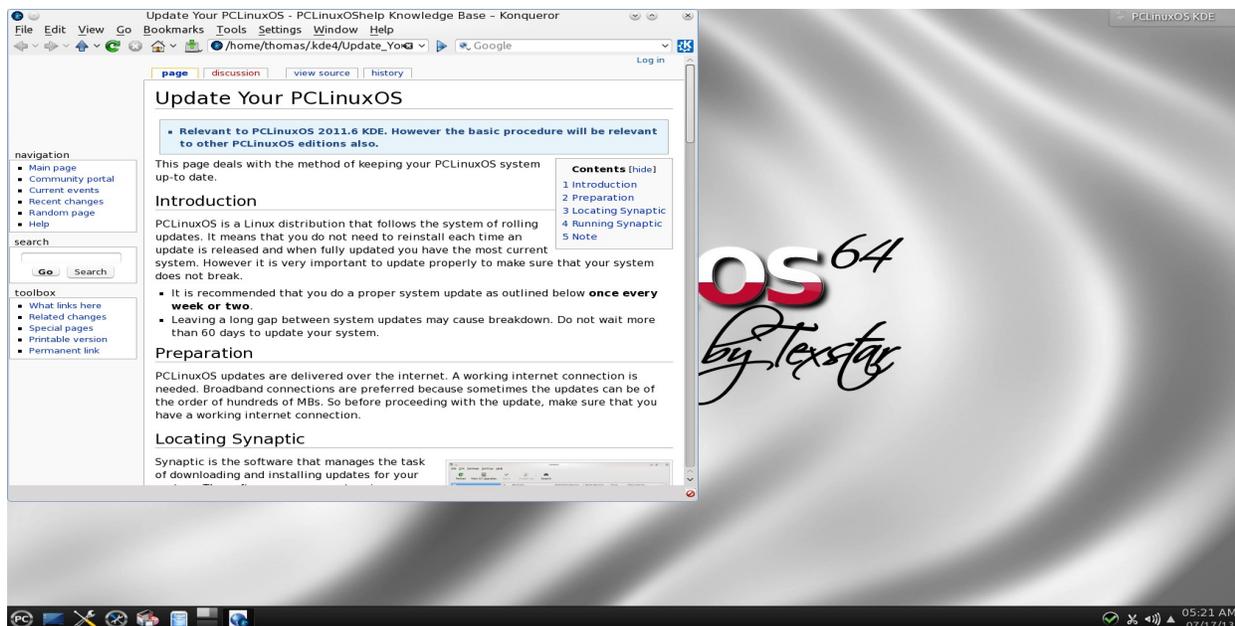
- Intel D946GZIS Motherboard
- Intel Core 2 6300 CPU at 1.83 GHz
- 1 GB DDR-2 PC-5300 RAM
- 80 GB Hard Drive
- DVD/CD-RW Combo Drive
- Intel GMA 3000 Graphics
- Intel Audio
- Ethernet
- Interface: KDE

HP Pavilion Elite 410y

- AMD Phenom II X6 1045T (Max Speed: 3.2 GHz)
- 8 GB RAM
- AMD Radeon HD5570 with 1 GB RAM
- 1 Terabyte Hard Drive
- Ethernet
- Wireless adapter (not used)
- Interface: KDE

Installation

For the first time, there is a 64-bit edition of this distro. The ISO itself was downloaded, burned to the appropriate media, and installed on the HP Desktop. The live system loaded, and I was able to install the system to the hard drive using Draklive.



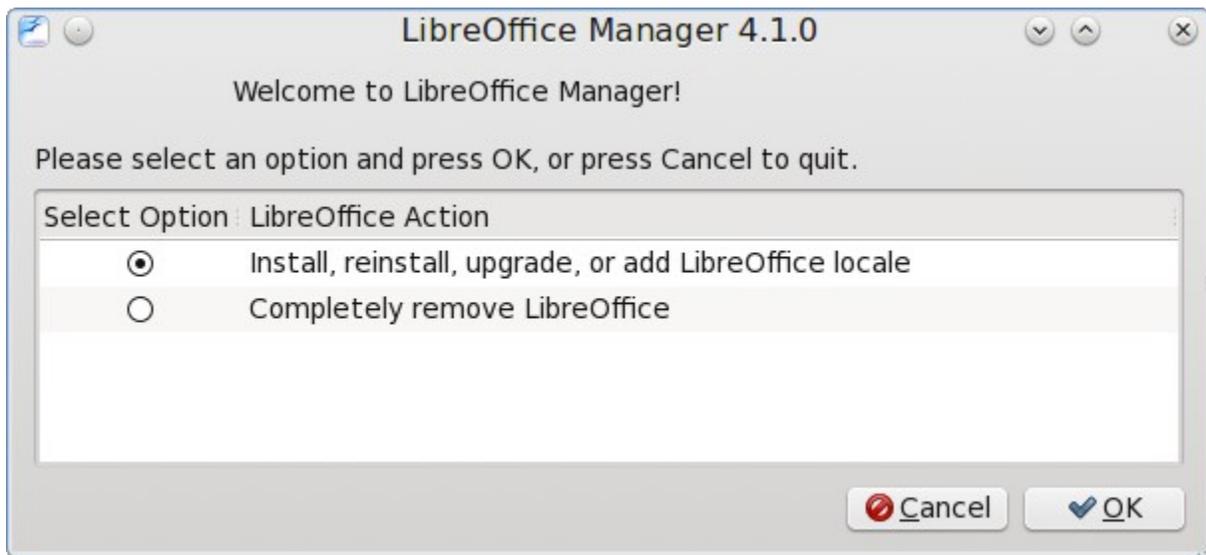
Upon first boot, tips on updating the system appear in a browser window.

For the HP Desktop, the 64-bit Edition was used. For the other systems, the Mini-Me CD image was used. All the systems used KDE as the desktop environment.

Applications

For the 32-bit systems, I was able to use the Synaptic Package Manager to install my own custom mix of applications. I used Clementine for music, Google Chrome for web browsing, Filezilla for FTPing the latest episodes of the podcast to the website, Audacity for audio editing, LibreOffice for office needs, and more.

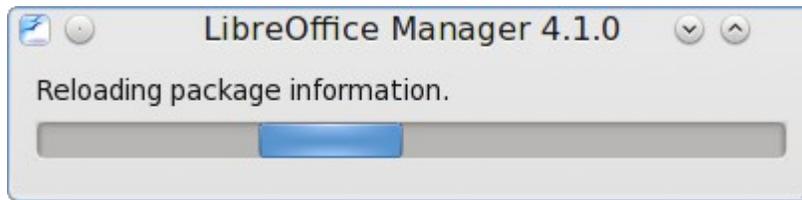
PCLinuxOS has a management utility for LibreOffice. It downloads the latest release and installs it for you.



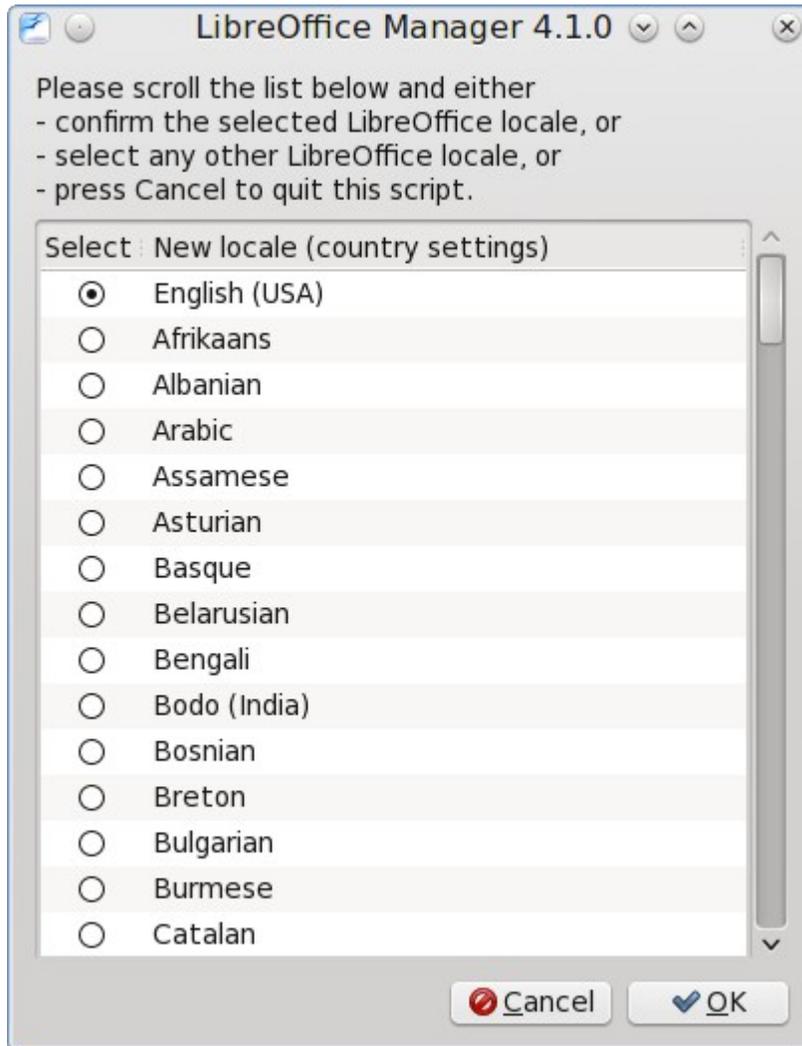
When the management feature is first opened, the user is given the option to install/reinstall/upgrade/add locale or to completely remove the suite from their system.



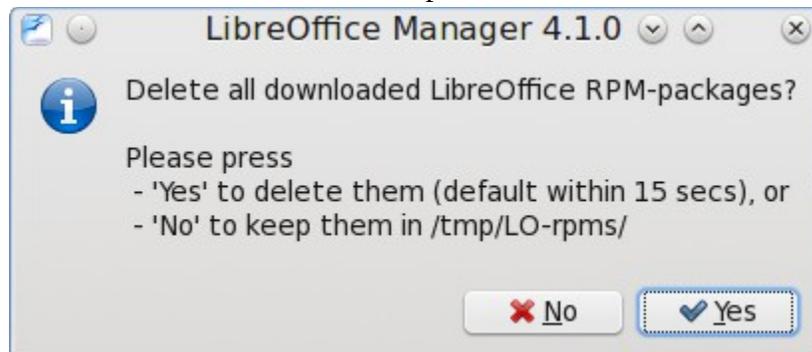
If the utility detects an outdated version, it will ask if the user wishes to update the suite. If the user clicks yes, then the utility will check to see if the system needs to be updated. If so, then the user is informed that they need to use Synaptic to update the system before running it again. Otherwise, the next step occurs.

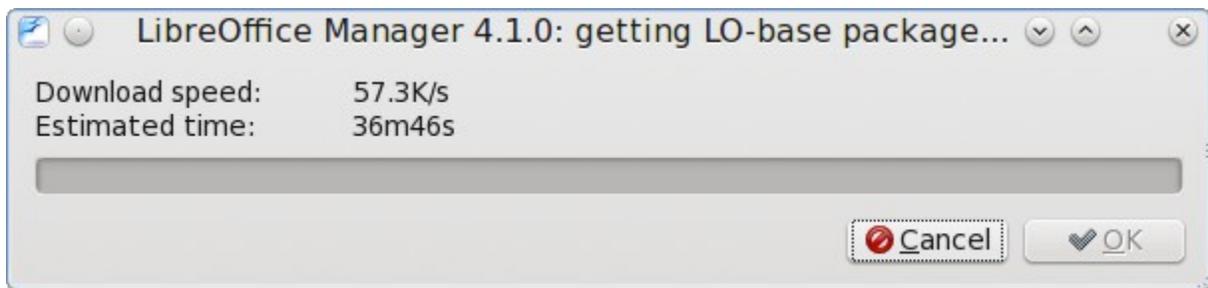


The package information is reloaded before the user is asked to choose their locale.

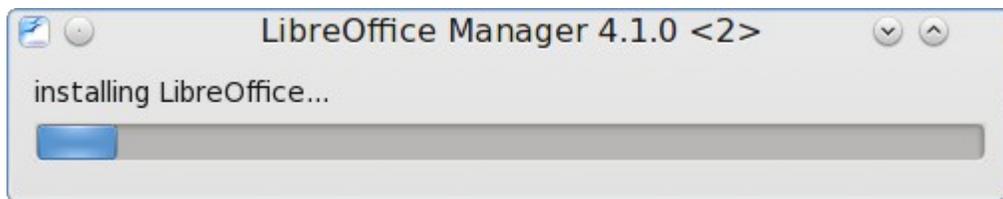
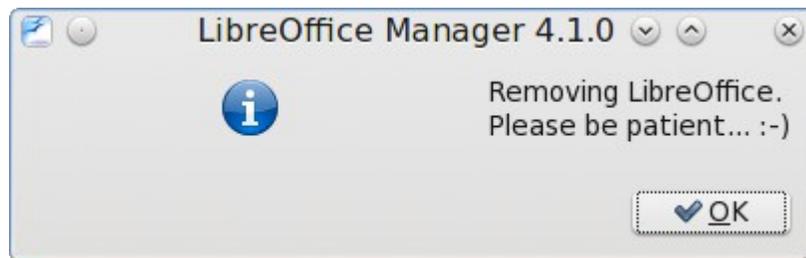


Once the locale is chosen, the user is asked if they want to keep the packages that are downloaded or if they want to delete them in order to save hard drive space.





When the user makes their choice, the packages are downloaded. If an older version is installed, it's removed first.



Once the installation is complete, the user is told how to launch the suite and to enjoy using it.

For those who prefer a more KDE-centric solution, Calligra is also available as well. As for games, the Steam client is also available. It seems more distros are repackaging this popular game distribution system.

The Interface



64-bit Desktop

KDE 4 was used as the interface on all the systems. The 64-bit edition worked quite well, and it's apparent that Texstar and crew had spent quite a bit of time working on it. It's not a pure 64-bit system as it has the 32-bit libraries installed for compatibility. Gtk applications don't always integrate with the system theme either, unlike the 32-bit edition.

On all systems, everything is fast and responsive, even on the ZaReason Breeze 3110.

What I Liked

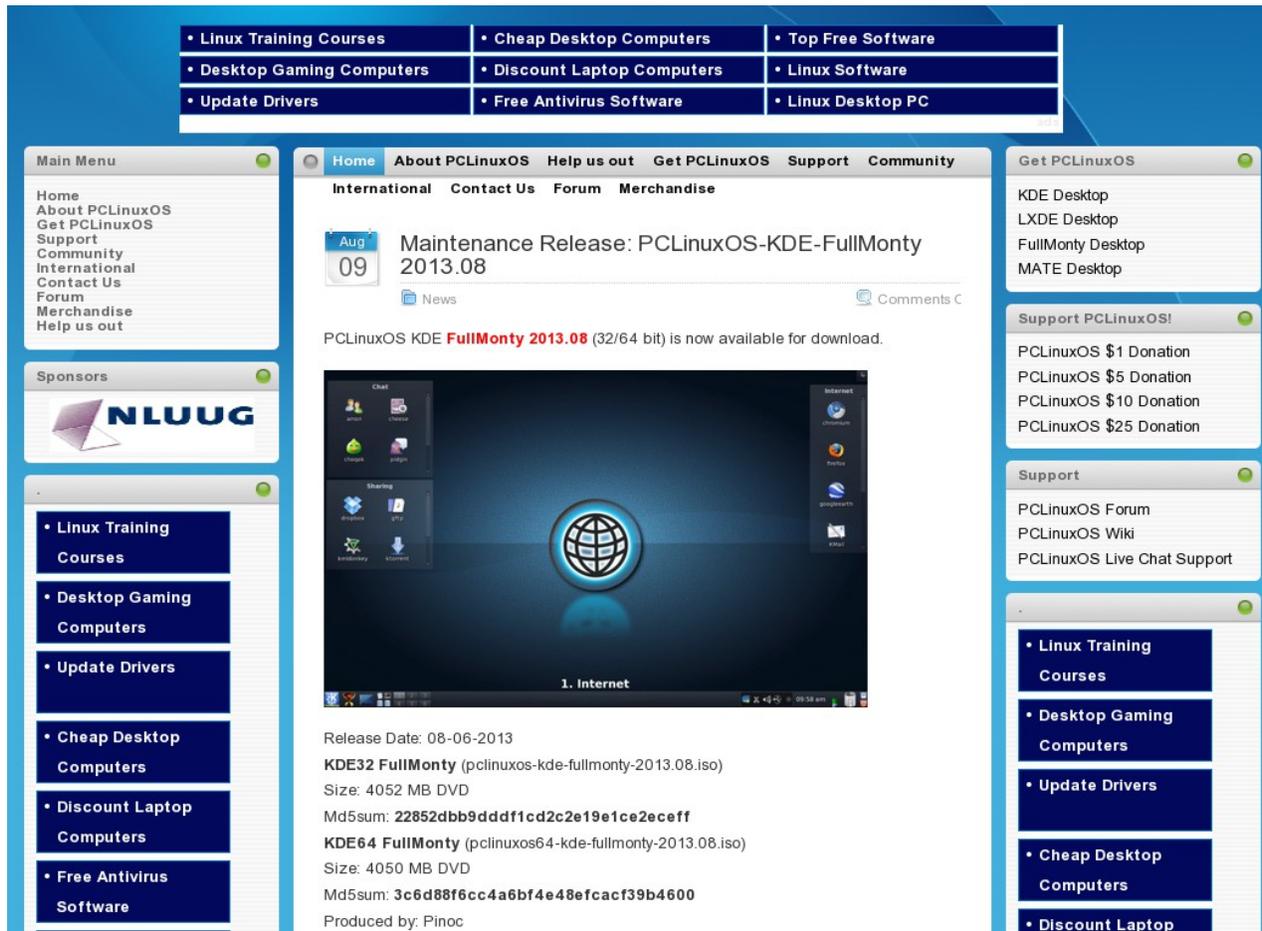
This distro is a rolling release style product. When a new version comes out, one only has to use Synaptic to update the system as opposed to downloading all new CD/DVD images. The LibreOffice Management utility is also very helpful when it comes to keeping the office suite up to date.

The 64-bit edition was very stable and has never crashed. On all systems, a more traditional menu system was used as opposed to the Kickoff Menu. The control center, adopted from Mandriva, is an excellent tool for configuring the entire system, especially when it comes to hardware devices and peripherals. All the systems were able to handle their normal, everyday tasks.

What Could Be Better

The only issue I really have in regards to the OS is with the update notifier. When it prompts the user to update their system in the system tray, they have to open Synaptic, manually reload the package list, and then mark all upgrades before clicking apply. If the notifier can be turned into a full blown update utility so that the user doesn't have to perform all those steps, then keeping the system up to date would be more convenient.

Finally, the amount of ads on their website could use some trimming. Having sponsored search results that are clickable is understandable. After all, advertising can help bring in revenue to fund the project. However, having them at the top, left and right columns is really unnecessary.



Conclusion

PCLinuxOS lives up to the catchphrase, *radically simple*. If KDE is not to the user's tastes, there are other community-based re-spins (XFCE, GNOME, etc). As a rolling release, it's easy to install once and simply update everything in a timely manner.

Those wanting help are able to visit their forums in order to ask a question. Keep in mind that it's important to pay attention and read any threads with anything in the title indicating that it should be read first so the community can help as efficiently as possible.

Websites

<http://www.pclinuxos.com>

Next Stop on the Journey

It seems I'm in a KDE kick as of late, because Netrunner shall be the next stop on this distro-journey!

Grrl I Am

By Tanya Mills



**I am not a grrl because of what I am
Or because of whom I love
I love my short spiky hair
Almost as much as I love my purse –
It carries “everything”**

**I don’t feel burdened
Or confused about my choices,
So why are you?**

**What is wrong with the grrl I am?
There is much more to me
Behind these brown eyes
Or how I sit on the subway
Elbows resting on knees
Defying anyone to label me**

**I am not the grrl I am because of your judgment –
I am the grrl I am in spite of it.**

A Political Retrospective

By Thomas Holbrook II

This year's state fair made national news due to the controversial actions of a rodeo clown. As one person who came by the booth had said, it was the best advertisement that it could have received. Then again, I'm getting ahead of myself.

I volunteered to man the Missouri Libertarian Party's booth at the 2013 Missouri State Fair. I did so last year as a political candidate. This year, I was simply a volunteer. After running for office twice, I had decided to simply live my life in 2014.

I arrived shortly before 3 PM CST on August 12th and was honored to meet Bill Slantz, the candidate who ran in the special election for Missouri's 8th District for the U.S. House of Representatives.



From left to right: Myself and Bill Slantz.

We had a friendly conversation before I took over the booth. There was plenty of material to hand out. We even had voter registration forms.



It seems that each time the Missouri LP sets up a tent at the state fair, at least one person would walk up with the intent of messing volunteers; a real life trolling if you will. One such person told me that we had a good message, but he really liked The Affordable Care Act.

He indicated that people he knew that were in the medical field were cautiously optimistic. He also said that we would probably had a very long conversation about it, especially if we were attorneys.

I pointed out that doctors have been opting out of accepting any form of insurance only to discover that they were actually able to lower their prices due to the lack of middlemen. The individual in question said that he enjoyed the exchange, but he had to get going.

As Monday progressed, I couldn't help but notice the sign below. The tent was donated by none other than Herschel Young, my primary opponent of 2012.



Is "Libertarians for Good Candidates" a registered PAC?

The sign brought back memories. I was at a candidate forum in Nevada, Missouri, where I met the man for the first time. I could tell right away that he was the type that could take the time and get to know enough about a political platform in order to utilize sound bites in an appropriate manner.

When asked why he ran for office, he claimed it was because Vicky Hartzler had disappointed him. According to him, he worked hard to help her get elected and was disappointed with her performance in Congress. When asked what initiatives he would push forward, he stated that he wouldn't try adding any new laws since there were too many already.

The Libertarian Party itself is a political party that campaigns using the U.S. Constitution. The document does lay out the functions of the Federal Government. Vice Presidential candidate Jim Gray said it best when he told an audience of students and alumni at UCM that the government should be used as a last resort.

My campaign was a simple one that emphasized civil liberties, a subject that seemed to be ignored or not emphasized by candidates from other parties due to the economy.

The most press he got was from The Kansas City Star, a publication that's based outside the district he was running in. I appeared in The Muleskinner, a couple of publications in Columbia, and another paper in Joplin.

When Jim Gray visited UCM, I was even interviewed by an individual from a radio station based in Sedalia. In effect, I had more press than Young. His past record, the fact that Ron Paul Republicans were in contested primaries, and the fact that I had prior experience running for political office were factors in his defeat in August of 2012.



You'd vote for this guy, right?

He talked a big game at the Nevada forum, and even declared the pride he took in this country. He claimed that he had endured an injury while serving in the military and that he hoped he would never have to go on disability. He apparently had a bullet enter one of his legs. It's interesting to note that he was still able to bravely jump off the stage onto the ground at the end of the forum.

I made a deal to support him if he wins if he would support me if I win. His response, "Deal!" He said he didn't have enough money to beat both Vicky Hartzler or Teresa Hensley, but that he could put up fight. "I'm still going to ask for your vote." He said as everyone was leaving from the candidate forum.

Though I had every intention of voting for myself, I couldn't blame the man for trying.

When the primary came in August, I woke up early in the morning to vote for myself. I requested a Libertarian Party ballot at my polling station, and despite Young's attempt to court my vote, I found myself to be more persuasive; I voted for myself.

Despite his attempt to point to old YouTube videos of myself, I managed to defeat him in order to make it onto the November ballot. He messaged my Facebook fan page in all caps.

Conversation started August 8, 2012



Herschel Young

2:09am

YOU HAVE NO CHANCE IN HELL OF WINNING AND I HAVE NO IDEA HOW YOU BEAT ME IF YOU DID IT AT ALL IN NOV YOU WILL GET NO EXTRA VOTES THAN NORMAL AND YOU HAVE NO HEART TOO FIGHT FOR THE PARTY OR YOUR SELF!!! CAN NOT BELIEVE ANYONE THAT LOOKED AT YOUR VIDEOS WOULD EVEN CONSIDER YOU FOR ANYTHING! YOU AND WHO EVER ATTACKED ME IN THE LIBERTARIAN NEWSLETTER AND I DIDN'T RIP YOU APART LIKE I SHOULD HAVE CAUSE I FELT SORRY FOR YOU! I WILL NEVER TAKE IT EASY ON ANYONE AGAIN I HAVE NEVER LOST TO A MORE UNWORTHY OPPONENT !!!!!!! GET OFF YOUR BUT AND WORK!

At that point, I made the decision not to enlist his assistance. I remember the stories about him winning the office of Cass County Commissioner, beating the Democrat incumbent. The county prosecutor sued to get him kicked out of office due to a felony conviction from 1995. Despite the argument that the legislation barring all prior felons from running for state office being a retroactive law, and thereby violating the U.S. Constitution, the Missouri Supreme Court upheld the ruling.

In other words, he screwed up a court case.

This didn't stop him from running for U.S. Congress, and he initially filed as a Democrat. Teresa Hensley, his potential primary opponent turned out to be the very same Cass County Prosecutor who sued to have him removed from office. Seeing as how neither the Republicans nor the Constitution Party wanted him, he approached the Libertarian Party.

August 8, 2012



Herschel Young

1:47pm

I PROMISED TO HELP YOU AND I WILL IF YOU HELP YOUR SELF !
HOW MUCH MONEY DO YOU HAVE TO FIGHT WITH AND WHAT IS
YOUR PLAN OF ATTACK TO GET TO WASHINGTON DC ???

IF YOU HAVE NEITHER STEP DOWN SO I CAN FIGHT FOR THE
OFFICE AND OUR PARTY!



Herschel Young

1:27am

SO YOUR NOT GOING TO TALK TO ME , SO I'LL TAKE IT I MUST
OF HIT IT RIGHT ON THE NOSE YOU DON'T HAVE A PLAN OR ANY
MONEY AT ALL TO FIGHT FOR THE OFFICE!

IF YOU DIDN'T WANT IT WHY WOULD YOU EVEN RUN AS SOME
ONES PUPPET! IF YOU DON'T FIGHT FOR OFFICE THAT IS SAME
AS NOT SUPPORTING THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY ! GET OUT AND
FIGHT FOR THE PARTY AND THE OFFICE WE THE PEOPLE
DESERVE BETTER THAN THIS!!! YOU THINK IT'S FUNNY THAT
YOU SET BACK AND THE REPUBLICAINS GOT YOU ELECTED
CAUSE THEY WASN'T WORRIED ABOUT YOU!

YOU ARE A DISGRACE TO THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY AND TO THE
PEOPLE OF THE 4th DISTRICT I'M A VOTER IN THE 4th DISTRICT
AND I'M ASHAMED THAT YOU ARE THE BEST CANDIDATE THAT
THE PEOPLE THOUGHT COULD UNSEAT VICKY HARTZLER ! YOU
HAVE NO RESPECT FOR THE CITIZENS AND NEVER HAVE BY YOUR
ACTTIONS!

GOD HELP US IF WE DON'T START SENDING FIGHTERS TO D.C.

I PRAY GOD BLESSES YOU AND FOR GIVES YOU FOR YOUR SINS
AGAINST THE PEOPLE!

LET ME KNOW IF YOU ARE GOING TO WORK FOR THE CITIZENS
SOME TIME SOON!

I would manage to earn over 10,000 votes, which isn't bad for an individual who works graveyard shift in retail. This year, I chose to be a volunteer, and I have no intention of running for office in 2014.

I arrived early on Tuesday so I could enjoy the fair. Bill Wayne (pictured below) was manning the booth so that Bill Boone could have some lunch. Wayne normally opens early in the morning so that the tent can be set up by the time other volunteers arrive.



Boone himself was a very pleasant fellow to talk to, and I hope to meet him again sometime in the future. He acquired a new cell phone holder to protect his current phone from accidental dropping and the various elements that electronics may encounter from time to time.



Bill Boone

Throughout both days, I waved every time a tractor train full of people came by. I also noticed that more people are becoming disillusioned with the two party system. One person even updated their voter registration. 2014 should prove to be an interesting year. If Herschel Young wants to run, more power to him.