Received: from mail.ksinc.net by governor.state.ms.us; Tue, 23 May 2000 10:17:32 -0500 Received: from ken ([63.68.40.131]) by mail.ksinc.net (Post.Office MTA v3.1.2 release (PO205-101c) ID# 0-43610U2500L250S0) with SMTP id AAA180 for <listserv@uspolitics.net>; Tue, 23 May 2000 10:11:53 -0500 Message-ID: <002601bfc4c9\$6806a600\$8328443f@adisfwb.com> From: "Kenneth E. Lamb" <klamb@uspolitics.net> To: "1USPN Web Action Update" <listserv@uspolitics.net> Subject: USPolitics.Net Action Update 05/22/00 Date: Tue, 23 May 2000 10:13:07 -0500 MIME-Version: 1.0 Content-Type: multipart/related; boundary="---=_NextPart_000_0022_01BFC49F.7DE27320"; type="multipart/alternative" This is a multi-part message in MIME format. -----=_NextPart_000_0022_01BFC49F.7DE27320 Content-Type: multipart/alternative; boundary="---=_NextPart_001_0023_01BFC49F.7DE27320" -----=_NextPart_001_0023_01BFC49F.7DE27320 Content-Type: text/plain; charset="iso-8859-1" Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable AOL USERS and those who want the fully web-enabled version of this = newsletter: Please type into AOL keyword box, or address box of your = browser: http://www.uspolitics.net/newsletter/000522/000522.html and = press Enter. Weekly Web Action Update Newsletter By Kenneth E. Lamb = May 22, 2000 Got a lead or news tip? Click here! Copyright 2000 by USPolitics.Net, Inc. "Read by more than 1,450 of America's most influential people!" Click here to join them. _____ This Week's Headlines: 1.. Battle of the Titans: Voter.com vs. Grassroots.com in a death = match. 2.. It's tough being high-profile: Grassroots.com also takes it from = non-profits. 3.. Lazio goes for the throat: In 24-hours, he's on the net and on the = attack. 4.. Did ABC "liberate" Voter.com's logo?: Remarkable; creative minds = think alike.=20 5.. "Quote of the Week": Phil Nobles remarks on candidates who breath = in deeply.=20 6.. How the Win: Free, nationally distributed anthology now available. = 7.. Invited to the Party: It's great being accepted by your peers. Battle of the Titans Take \$50-million, a narrow niche audience, conflicting East = Coast-West Coast cultures and evaporating venture capital. Mix them all = together, and you get Voter.com versus Grassroots.com in an FEC-refereed = death match.

New York Times reporter Rebecca Fairley Raney's article in the May =

18, 2000 CyberTimes section of the NYT web-site exposes all the gory = details of the FEC-centered conflict between the two as Ms. Raney = details the Byzantine politics behind the political web site = controversy.

The left-handed attack comes from Voter.com, which filed a request = for opinion from the FEC. It asks the commission to decide whether or = not free links to political web sites constitute an illegal corporate = contribution.

Ms. Raney quotes Voter.com's Cleta Mitchell, who might be accused of = crying crocodile tears: "We need to know the answers so we don't get any = candidates in trouble."

The bottom line is that despite protestations from Voter.com that it = just wants a clarification of FEC rules on the ability of web sites to = post candidate links without charge, insiders say the real battle is = between the competing business models each is using to make the = speculative venture capital they raised pay off.

Voter.com wants to sell links and turn them into a revenue stream. = Grassroots.com wants to give them away as a marketing tool to capture = eyeballs. If Grassroots.com can continue depriving Voter.com of a = revenue stream, its deeper pockets (reportedly \$30-million in VC money = compared to Voter.com's \$20-million) could allow it to outlast its = competitor.

For Voter.com, the difference in capitalization is a serious = concern. Now that political web sites are maturing, they are moving from = creation to marketing. While Grassroots.com is still depending on free = ink from national circulation news organizations, Voter.com is taking = the advertising route with a buy on MSNBC's avant-garde The News with = Brian Williams. Its spots feature a series of Yes-No checkboxes = backgrounded with stark grayscale photos illustrating various issues.

The stealth attack on Grassroots.com is alienating political = powerbrokers. A class which itself frequently uses innocent facades to = conceal less-than-innocent ulterior motives, they see Voter.com's = innocent public statements as PR sugar-coating its real agenda.

GOP and Democratic party officials are planning to state their = opposition to the Voter.com move. They contend two opinions issued last = year already settled the question when the FEC said non-partisan sites, = even if commercial in operation, do not violate contribution laws.

Voter.com, trying to get through the front door as another medium = for reaching voters, may find the impact of its attack to be somewhat = "impolitic." As any ad rep will tell you, its tough to sell to people = who are angry with you.

It's tough being high-profile

The problem in having your head above everyone else's is that it = makes you the obvious target.

Such is the case for Grassroots.com, which finds itself pummeled not = only by Voter.com, but by The National Legal and Policy Center (NLPC) = based in McLean, Virginia.

But the non-profit watchdog is living up to its reputation of going = after anyone. It is also chewing on the legs of the staid League of = Women Voters in this case, and another non-profit dissolving into = Grassroots.com, the Democracy Network, as well as The Center for = Governmental Studies. In short, its shotgun complaint filed with the FEC = attacks anyone who ever touched Grassroots.com.

Again, it's all about money. The NLPC contends Grassroots.com should = be charging candidates who link to the site. If it doesn't, NLPC = contends Grassroots.com is making an illegal contribution to the = candidates whose links it posts.

Grassroots.com attorney Trevor Potter, a former chair of the FEC, = disagrees. He, and others who think the NLPC filing is harassing, are = relying on two decisions made last fall in which the FEC ruled = non-partisan sites, commercial or not, can post links freely.

The NLPC retorts that the decision, involving the Democracy Project, = is inapplicable to the Grassroots.com situation because the Project was = a non-profit at the time, but now is in the process of rolling itself =

into Grassroots.com, and is giving up its non-profit status. In = addition, they contend that it doesn't apply because at the time, = Grassroots.com was not selling services to candidates, as it is now.

This action, which preceded the Voter.com attack, is causing = distress among political professionals, who like the idea of free links. = They know the Internet is a valid medium for them, and the fund-raising = effectiveness of the McCain 2000 campaign wasn't lost on them.

The FEC will find itself between a rock and a hard place on this = issue. It cuts immediately to the issue of free speech, and whether or = not Internet sites constitute a form of First Amendment protected = publishing.

Lazio goes for the throat =20

When MSNBC political analyst and Newsweek journalist Howard Fineman = called GOP congressman Rick Lazio "aggressive" following his stand-in = for Rudy Giuliani, it might go down as the understatement of the year. = Host Brian Williams played a June 1999 tape of Rep. Lazio attacking Mrs. = Clinton's candidacy, and one guest commentator remarked "that in just 2 = minutes he made 15 talking points."

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The NY City Hall press corps rushed from Rudy's last press = conference to candidate Lazio's nerve center in Bay Shore on Long Island = - a town so small all the phone numbers are prefixed "666," an = idiosyncrasy some religious fanatics will no doubt note and some astute = PR flack will no doubt go to work changing. The recently expanded = building where his former congressional re-election HQ existed was = immediately geared up for the Senate run and operating by Saturday = afternoon.

It's safe to bet the espresso ran freely at his web developer's = office as well. The job landed on the desk of Donaudy Munch Interactive. = They made the campaign contribution window a fixture when accessing the = home page at www.lazio.com. And web host Long Island Globalink will no = doubt find its servers under severe stress as word gets out about the = site's URL.

The navigation bar takes visitors through the home, issues, news & = pr, campaign kit, volunteer, contribute and contact us options. Only the = campaign kit area is "under construction," but hints that you will be = able to download banners, buttons and for your computer, desktop = wallpaper.

Did ABC "liberate" Voter.com's logo?

This week's PoliticsOnline "Hot Site" is onlinedemocracy.com, which = is described in the review as "a collaborative, non-partisan, political = news and voter outreach website sponsored by ABCNews."

Only one problem: Has anyone at ABC bothered to catch the Voter.com = logo and compare it to the artwork at the "Hot Site?" Who, if anyone = owns it?

Check it out for yourself by visiting both sites.

"Quote of the Week"

Leading off the Campaigns & Elections Training Seminar in = Washington, D.C. June 5 -7 was Washington powerhouse Phil Nobles. When = asked by a participant in his session to defend his assertion that web = sites are important to campaigns, and his citation of almost-made-it = McCain 2000's site as one of the best, Mr. Nobles replied with our Quote = of the Week: "Doesn't matter how great your web site is, if you suck, = you still suck."

Internet campaign guide now available

How to Win Your Next Campaign on the Internet is a free, nationally = distributed anthology prepared in collaboration with the Democracy = Online Project at The George Washington University's Graduate School of = Political Management, The Brookings Institution and American = University's Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies.

Multiple copies may be ordered from USPN by calling Tami Oglesby, = Marketing Director, toll-free at 1.888.508.USPN (8776). USPN is making = the guide free to all political parties for distribution to their = candidates, to political professionals for their clients, to candidates = directly and to journalists and scholars as a reference tool.

USPolitics.Net gaining national, international recognition with major = parties

The Democratic National Committee has invited USPolitics.Net (USPN) = to attend its Year 2000 Nominating Convention in Los Angeles and offered = it 5 rooms in the Florida delegation area. This is the fifth significant = initiative by a major party to incorporate USPN into their activities = since the company launched its web site May 2, 2000.

This convention invitation comes on the heels of requests by the = chairman of the New York Republican State Executive Committee, the = Illinois Republican State Executive Committee, the Hawaii Democratic = State Executive Committee and the Florida Republican State Executive = Committee for the first nationally distributed guide to online = campaigning published by USPN, How to Win Your Next Campaign on the = Internet. The guide is an anthology prepared in collaboration with The = Brookings Institution, the Democracy Online Project at The George = Washington University's Graduate School of Political Management and = American University's Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies.

USPN recently mailed out samples of the guide to 178 state executive = committees for the Democratic, Republican, Reform and Libertarian = parties, 186 Washington-based advocacy organizations and 1,224 = accredited members of the Washington press corps. Interest is running = internationally as well, with requests from Canada, Venezuela, Mexico = and India.

In addition to the specific party requests, USPN recently mailed = more than 9,300 of the guides to candidates and officeholders across the = country. It plans to distribute an additional 13,000 at the 2000 Texas = Republican Convention in June.

USPN is a closely held corporation that hosts the information site = www.uspolitics.net, designed for journalists, scholars and voters who = want to research issues by linking directly to source sites utilizing = the exclusive USPN Browser Mode (TM) of Internet data retrieval. It also = hosts America's first community-based e-commerce site, The CyberMall, on = the USPN site.

USPN's Weekly Web Action Update is a free publication. You were added to = our list because of your position in the journalism, scholarship or = political communities. If you do not want to continue to receive this = publication (which will only get better with time as our sources grow . = . . so why not give it a month or two?) please e-mail = klamb@uspolitics.net. If you like it, please e-mail this newsletter to = friends, associates and colleagues, who can sign-up for their own at = http://www.uspolitics.net

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 In addition to the specific party requests, = USPN=20 recently mailed more than 9,300 of the guides to candidates and = officeholders=20 across the country. It plans to distribute an additional 13,000 at the = 2000=20 Texas Republican Convention in June.
 USPN is a = closely=20 held corporation that hosts the information site <A=20 href=3D"http://www.uspolitics.net">www.uspolitics.net, designed for=20 journalists, scholars and voters who want to research issues by linking = directly=20 to source sites utilizing the exclusive USPN Browser Mode (TM) of = Internet data=20 retrieval. It also hosts America's first community-based e-commerce = site,=20 The CyberMall, on the USPN site.
</DIV> <DIV align=3Dleft> <HR> </DIV> <DIV align=3Dleft> </DIV> <DIV align=3Dleft>USPN's Weekly Web Action Update is a = free=20 publication. You were added to our list because of your position in the=20 journalism, scholarship or political communities. If you do not = want to=20 continue to receive this publication (which will only get better with = time as=20 our sources grow . . . so why not give it a month or two?) please e-mail = <FONT=20 size=3D2>klamb@uspolitics.net. If you like it, = please=20 e-mail this newsletter to friends, associates and colleagues, who can = sign-up=20 for their own at <A=20 href=3D"http://www.uspolitics.net">http://www.uspolitics.net</= DIV> <DIV align=3Dleft> </DIV></BODY></HTML> -----=_NextPart_001_0023_01BFC49F.7DE27320-------=_NextPart_000_0022_01BFC49F.7DE27320 Content-Type: image/jpeg; name="true 2 color logo.JPG" Content-Transfer-Encoding: base64 Content-ID: <002101bfc4c9\$66a7b240\$8328443f@adisfwb.com> /9j/4AAQSkZJRgABAQEASABIAAD/2wBDABALDA4MChAODQ4SERATGCgaGBYWGDEjJR0oOjM9PDkz ODdASFxOQERXRTc4UG1RV19iZ2hnPk1xeXBkeFx1Z2P/2wBDARESEhqVGC8aGi9jQjhCY2NjY2Nj AhEBAxEB/8QAHwAAAQUBAQEBAQEAAAAAAAAAAAAECAwQFBqcICQoL/8QAtRAAAqEDAwIEAwUFBAQA AAF9AQIDAAQRBRIhMUEGE1FhByJxFDKBkaEII0KxwRVS0fAkM2JyggkKFhcYGRolJicoKSo0NTY3 ODk6Q0RFRkdISUpTVFVWV1hZWmNkZWZnaGlqc3R1dnd4eXqDhIWGh4iJipKTlJWWl5iZmqKjpKWm p6ipqrKztLW2t7i5usLDxMXGx8jJytLT1NXW19jZ2uHi4+Tl5ufo6erx8vP09fb3+Pn6/8QAHwEA AWEBAQEBAQEBAQAAAAAAAAAAAAABCAWQFBqcICQoL/8QAtREAAqECBAQDBAcFBAQAAQJ3AAECAxEEBSEx BhJBUQdhcRMiMoEIFEKRobHBCSMzUvAVYnLRChYkNOEl8RcYGRomJygpKjU2Nzg5OkNERUZHSElK U1RVVldYWVpjZGVmZ2hpanN0dXZ3eHl6qoOEhYaHiImKkpOUlZaXmJmaoqOkpaanqKmqsrO0tba3 uLm6wsPExcbHyMnK0tPU1dbX2Nna4uPk5ebn6Onq8vP09fb3+Pn6/9oADAMBAAIRAxEAPwD0Ciii gAooooaKKKKACiiigAoorF8R69Fo1rhdr3Ug/dxnt/tH2/nTjFydkJuxqC5ia6a2VwZVUOyjsD0z U1cH4dvbm30nVtVysty8iKDLkgnPfH+9T/8AhLdY/wCeNj/3y/8A8VTqKMJcrZrSo1aseaEW0dzR XDf8JbrH/PGx/wC+X/8AiqP+Et1j/njY/wDfL/8AxVRzQ/mRr9UxH8jO5orhv+Et1j/njY/98v8A /FUf8JbrH/PGx/75f/4qjmh/Mg+qYj+Rnc0Vw3/CW6x/zxsf++X/APiqP+Et1j/njY/98v8A/FUc 0P5kH1TEfyM7miuG/wCEt1j/AJ42P/fL/wDxVH/CW6x/zxsf++X/APiqOaH8yD6piP5GdzRXDf8A CW6x/wA8bH/vl/8A4qj/AIS3WP8AnjY/98v/APFUc0P5kH1TEfyM7miuG/4S3WP+eNj/AN8v/wDF Uf8ACW6x/wA8bH/vl/8A4qjmh/Mq+qYj+Rnc0Vw3/CW6x/zxsf8Avl//AIqj/hLdY/542P8A3y//

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