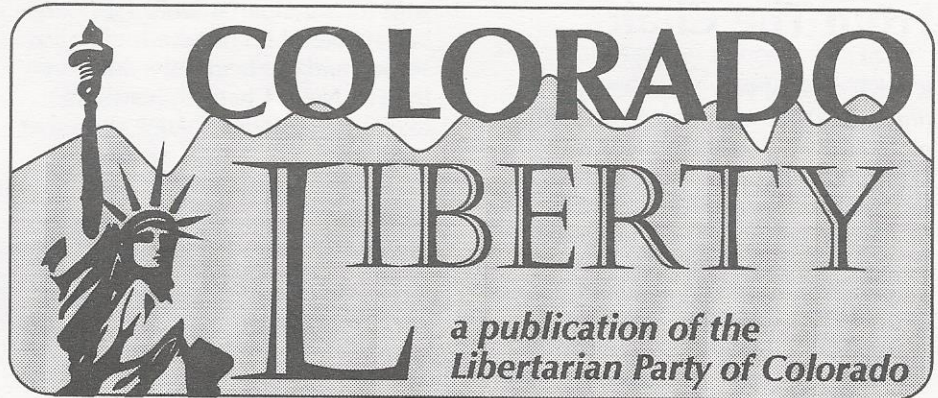


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- Guns for Drug Warriors? (page 10)



Volume XX, Number 2
<http://www.pageplus.com/~lpcolorado/>

March 1999

Jury Duty: A Pleasure and a Right

By Howard Lambert

How would you feel if you were called for jury service? If you are like most Americans, you would try to get out of it and, failing that, you would hope that you wouldn't be chosen. But you are not like most Americans. You are a Libertarian.

I was recently called for jury service to hear a domestic violence and child abuse case. From a drawing, 12 of 16 (including me) made it to the "box" to be asked questions to determine our fitness (bias or lack of it) to be on the actual jury. This process is called *voir dire*. After the questioning, six jurors were selected to stay in the box to hear the case.

It turned out that I was too biased because I volunteered some information about myself. The question was: "Does anyone feel that the legislature has gone too far in passing laws that allow the police to interfere in the life of a family?"

Several prospective jurors were asked directly what they thought and they all said that they thought the legislature was doing just fine. I couldn't sit still, so I raised my hand and blurted out that I thought the legislature had gone too far.

I then heard, "Well, Mr. Lambert, this is your opportunity to enlighten us as to why you feel that way." I said, "I believe that the family is the primary unit in our society and, as such, shouldn't be interfered with unless it is an extreme situation."

As soon as I said that, I realized that I had just kicked myself off the jury. I relaxed and began to enjoy the process. But then I realized that I had missed a great opportunity. The case sounded so interesting that I stayed to hear most of the testimony.

This experience has taught me several things.

1. When you get that computer-generated notice that you are called to be in the jury pool, get on your computer and go to <http://www.fija.org/> and read, understand, and develop the courage to do whatever it takes to get on the jury.
2. Decide how you will answer the questions during *voir dire* that the judge, prosecution and defense have specially designed to keep you from getting into that box.
3. When asked questions in the jury selection process, realize that the questions are phrased to make it easy for you to reveal your bias and that most prospective jurors are truthful and helpful. Your goal, on the other hand, is to appear unbiased and to answer direct questions without "digging a hole for yourself."
4. Don't volunteer anything. That is, answer only when asked directly.
5. If asked directly, don't lie if it can later be proved that you lied.

Example: Are you a member of FIJA?

Answer: Yes.

Example: Do you believe that the legislature has gone too far?

Answer: No.

Even if this is technically a lie, it can't be proved that it is a lie because you can say: "At the moment I was asked this question, I believed the legislature had not gone too far."

Remember that as a citizen you can do more good as a trial juror than in practically any other way. You can be part of the feedback loop of community opinion if the case you hear involves a questionable law or a law that violates your sense of justice or your conscience. When else will your opinion be taken more seriously or have so much impact on the rules we live by?

In America, a defendant is still presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. Keep in mind that "innocent" and "guilty" are moral judgements for you to make, with the facts of the case and the law as your guides. Remember that the juror is the most powerful and important person involved in the case. It is your personal responsibility to use your vote to prevent injustice if it comes down to that.

You are nobody's rubber stamp. You stand to receive the credit or the blame for your decision. You signed on as the "conscience of the community," and while you cannot be punished for doing a poor job, a job well done can be of high personal, social, and political value. You have a lot of power as a juror. Use it wisely.

From The Chair

It's that time of year again: convention time. Conventions are great opportunities to meet and share ideas with like-minded people. There is always a lot of socializing and fun but we do manage to get some work done too! We use these events to help shape the future of the Party and hence the future of America. Your ideas are invaluable to that goal.

This year's convention promises to be even more exciting than last year's. There will be round table discussions with coffee and rolls for those early risers and a fabulous dinner and dance for the late night crowd. Register early and enjoy a Friday night Suite Party featuring comedian Bob Carmelo.

Not enough to make you sign up today? Well, how about exhibit tables, a silent auction, more than 15 different seminars and lectures, and an Awards Luncheon included in the price of your ticket.

Still not sure? Check out this great line up of speakers. Keynote speaker Barbara Goushaw, who managed Fred Collins' successful run for City Council in Berkley Michigan in 1997 and founded the Libertarian Campaign Managers Association of Michigan. She also taught "Effective Campaigning" workshops nationally, as part of the "Success '97" series. A wonderful speaker, Barbara addressed the full delegation of the Libertarian party at the 1998 National Convention with an inspiring speech called "Handguns are a Girl's Best Friend."

You want more? We also have Dr. Mary Ruwart as our closing speaker. Dr. Ruwart may be best known for her book about political freedom of choice (*Healing Our World: The Other Piece of the Puzzle*: SunStar Press, 1992). A review in *Visions Magazine* claimed that *Healing* might be "the most important book of the decade."

And if that isn't enough, George Getz will be serving on several panels. He has a wealth of knowledge to share as the Libertarian Party's press secretary — he has previous political experience with both the Republicans and Democrats, including a stint as press secretary for a Democratic Congressman and as fund-raiser for the National Republican Senatorial Committee.

As one of the principal spokesper-

sons for the Libertarian Party, George has appeared on hundreds of radio shows, and has been interviewed on the Fox News Channel, NewsTalk television, America's Voice and other networks.

But there's still more. Our banquet speaker is none other than Nathaniel Branden, author and pioneer in the field of Humanity and Self-Esteem. His publications include: *The Art of Living Consciously*; *Judgment Day: My Years with Ayn Rand*; *How Confident People Make Powerful Companies*; *Taking Responsibility*; *Honoring the Self*; and *Breaking Free*.

Won't you join us in realizing our dream for the future?

Michele Bethke, Chair, LPCO

Editorial

Someone once asked the profligate Roman Emperor Caligula how he so easily kept the *hoi polloi* of his vast empire from rebellion and revolution. He answered succinctly: "Bread and circuses."

It was the last Sunday afternoon in January, 1999. The winds were calm, the sky clear, and it was warm. I decided it was time to reacquaint myself with the intricacies of flying a small airplane, so I drove out to Jeffco Airport in Broomfield. I found out that McAir flight school was closing at 3:30pm, so I quickly rented a Cessna 172 before the school closed its doors.

Just before takeoff on runway 29 the federally-employed tower controller advised me that there was another airplane flying practice patterns on a parallel runway and that after takeoff I should continue directly ahead on runway heading until he allowed me to turn south. I took off uneventfully. After a couple of minutes the mountains were getting closer and closer. I keyed the radio and asked the controller if it was OK for me to turn south. There was a pause, and he finally answered with permission to turn. Usually tower controllers talk faster than auctioneers and sometimes answer before you're finished transmitting. Maybe something was distracting him?

As I turned south and looked

under the Cessna's left wing, what appeared to my wondering eye but the drab blotch of nondescript towers and rectangular buildings that make up the Rocky Flats Plutonium Bomb Factory. How much bread was spent on building, maintaining, and now tearing down this worst of all environmental disasters in Colorado? Which congresscritter lobbied porkishly to have this bread-dispensing institution placed just south of the People's Republic of Boulder? Maybe the folks in Boulder were too busy with their socialistic circuses to pay attention to the warmongering going on next door.

As Rocky Flats passed behind me, I looked ahead to Lookout Mountain and speculated on what the Fox TV tower might be broadcasting. Just to check, I turned on the Automatic Direction Finder (a glorified AM radio with DF capability) and tuned it to KOA 850. Something about rodeo horses being attacked by predatory birds blatted scratchily into my headset. I turned the ADF back off.

Pretty soon Interstate 70 appeared off the nose of the plane. I was pleased to see that it was possible for I-70 to be empty on a Sunday afternoon in wintertime (in both directions). A few 18-wheeler trucks appeared to be the only traffic on this normally parking-lotted freeway. Where were the weekend skiers?

By this time, the sun was beginning to head for the brilliantly snow-covered mountaintops. I looked longingly at a pass through the peaks into the high country, but decided that even though I'd only need to climb another couple of thousand feet to get over the pass, it wasn't worth it to be caught in the mountains at night. Trees and rocks are surprisingly invisible in the dark. So I continued south.

Shadows began to lengthen out across the plain as the sun turned from white to yellow. The jagged teeth of Red Rocks poked up from the dark blue shadows, caught the sun's orange rays, and cast their own shadows across a deserted I-470. Red Rocks Amphitheater was empty. No circuses there that day.

Castle Rock just ahead, I decided to turn back north and follow an empty I-25 back to Jeffco. Once again, only a few 18-wheelers trundled along the freeway. As I approached Centennial Airport, I

(continued page 4)

Calendar

March, 1999

- 3/1 - Mon - **Board of Directors** - First Monday - 7:00pm - Party Office, 720 E 18th Ave #309, Denver, Co. All members welcome. Public comment 6:45pm and 9:00pm.
- 3/2 - Tue - **Larimer County Activist breakfast** - First Tuesday - 7am - Joe's Fireside Cafe, 238 S. College Ave., Fort Collins. Contact: Lee Smith (970) 635-0395.
- 3/2 - Tue - **Boulder Activists Lunch** - noon - Turley's - 2350 Arapahoe Ave, call Ken Kirkmeyer, 303-774-0775.
- 3/4 - Thu - **Libertarian Community of Jefferson County** - 1st Thursday - 6:00pm - Tom Goonan's home: 12895 W. 16th Drive, Golden, CO 80401, snack and conversation at 6:00pm, call Tom Goonan, (303) 278-1698
- 3/6 - Sat - **Denver Breakfast Group** - 8:00am - LePeep, Mexico and Colorado Blvd, Denver, call David Aitken, 303-831-4334, e-mail daitken@tde.com.



- 3/9 - Tue - **Boulder Activists Lunch** - noon - Turley's - 2350 Arapahoe Ave, call Ken Kirkmeyer, 303-774-0775.
- 3/10 - Wed - **Boulder LP Board Meeting** - 2nd Wednesday - 6:30pm - Trillian's, 30th and Arapahoe, call Ken Kirkmeyer, 303-774-0775.
- 3/13 - Sat - **Denver Breakfast Group** - 8:00am - LePeeps, Mexico and Colorado Blvd, Denver, call David Aitken, 303-831-4334, e-mail.
- 3/15 - Mon - **Ft. Collins Activists** - 3rd Monday - 7:00pm - China Dragon, 1401 W. Elizabeth, Fort Collins. Contact Dan Cochran (970) 667-7557.
- 3/16 - Tue - **Boulder Activists Lunch** - noon - Turley's - 2350 Arapahoe Ave, call Ken Kirkmeyer, 303-774-0775.
- 3/20 - Sat - **Denver Breakfast Group** - 8:00am - LePeep, Mexico and Colorado Blvd, Denver, call David Aitken, 303-831-4334, e-mail daitken@tde.com.
- 3/23 - Tue - **Boulder Activists Lunch** - noon - Turley's - 2350 Arapahoe Ave, call Ken Kirkmeyer, 303-774-0775.
- 3/25 - Thu - **Libertarian Party of El Paso County** - Last Thursday - 7:15pm - Bennetts BBQ, 5245 N. Academy, Colorado Springs, Dinner starts at 6:00pm, call John Berntson, 719-532-0118.
- 3/27 - Sat - **Denver Breakfast Group** - 8:00am - LePeep, Mexico and Colorado Blvd, Denver, call David Aitken, 303-831-4334, e-mail daitken@tde.com.

April, 1999

- 4/23-25 - F/Su - **LP of Colorado Annual Convention** - Sheraton Denver West Hotel, 360 Union Blvd, Lakewood, Co. Features Nathaniel Branden and Dr. Mary Ruwart. For more info see ad in the center of this issue.

November, 1999

- 11/13-14 - S/S - **Success 99** - How to run successful campaigns and how to build your local organization. Featuring National Director Steve Dasbach, Political Director Ron Crickenberger, Communications Director Bill Winter. Also Michael Cloud, Barbara Goushaw, and Jim Lark. \$79 per person. Call the Balcom Group at 202-234-3880.

Colorado Liberty

Published monthly by the Libertarian Party of Colorado. Subscription is included in state party membership, which is extended to all those who register to vote as Libertarians, pay membership dues, or both. Paid subscriptions are \$6 per year. Make checks payable and send correspondence regarding subscriptions to:

Libertarian Party of Colorado
720 East 18th Ave. #309
Denver, CO 80203

Michele Bethke Chair and Publisher
W. Earl Allen Editor and Videographer
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Maralyn Mencarini Proofreader

Please send articles for publication to W. Earl Allen, who prefers email, since it keeps him from having to retype everything: wea@allmax.com is his email address. In an emergency you can send articles via U.S. Postal Monopoly Snail Mail to the address mentioned above.

Colophon:

Created on an Apple Macintosh 8600/200 using MacOS 8.5.1, Adobe PageMaker 6.52, Adobe Illustrator 7.01, Adobe Photoshop 4.0.1, Adobe Type Manager Deluxe 4.0, Adobe Type Reunion Deluxe 2.0, Macromedia FreeHand 7.02, Corel Draw 6.02, Apple Video Player 1.7.2, and fonts from Adobe and Bitstream. Videography done on a Sony CCD TR700. Scanning on Umax Astra 1220S. Output on Epson Photo Quality paper by Birmy PowerRIP 4.1 to an Epson Stylus Color 800. Printed by Quality Press.

Editorial

(continued from page 2)

made the required call to the tower controller, requesting permission to pass through his airspace. The controller asked me to "Stand by," and the radio went quiet for a minute or so. Since I was fast approaching the boundary of Centennial's airspace, I called the controller again and asked if he had an answer for me yet. He guiltily came back on and told me that I had permission to pass. Another distracted controller?

After leaving Centennial's airspace I tuned into the tower frequency at the \$6 Billion Large Airport in Western Kansas and heard an all-business female controller directing airliners during their normal Sunday afternoon push. She seemed very focussed and professional, without long pauses after being queried by airline captains. Undistracted?

I-25 passes within a block of Mile High Stadium, so I looked down into a forlorn and empty bowl, scene of many highly emotional circuses over the years. Too bad that Mile High is soon to be abandoned and wrecked to the tune of \$450 million worth of bread ripped from the pockets of the poor and the homeless. Funny thing is, that same bread will be quietly dropped into the capacious pockets of a fur-coated Pat Bowlen, the provider of skybox seating to the politically powerful.

I made a couple of circles around Denver's skyscrapers, marvelling all the while at the empty streets, especially those in the LoDo area around Coors Field, which was also empty of any circuses and had lonely-looking snowdrifts piled against its infield walls.

Adjacent to Coors Field, the \$250 Million High Occupancy Vehicle lanes start their meander towards Thornton and Boulder. They were empty of vehicles entirely that evening, high occupancy or otherwise. Why is it that even though they are 33% of the lanes, they only carry about 3% of the traffic during rush hour? Are Coloradoans being persuaded to spend their hard-earned bread on HOV boondoggles because they've been distracted by the circuses played out at Mile High and Coors?

As I neared Jeffco again, the sun was an orange sliver dropping into the dark blue peaks of the Rockies. A pleasant female voice promptly

answered my request to land at an otherwise completely empty airport. As I was taxiing back to the parking spot at McAir, I casually mentioned to the tower controller that, "Things are pretty quiet here tonight." She

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quickly chortled back, "You got that right!"

On my drive home, the orange fullness of the moon peered down over a dark blue skyline ripped by fireworks and pierced by the sound of millions of honking horns. Teenagers were hanging out of car windows, waving and screaming. Where were the seatbelt police? Distracted?

What is it, really, that makes Colorado such a great and wonderful place to live? Is it the collective sports-orgy circuses that wrack the

Front Range with clockwork frequency? Is it the bread doled out from D.C. to the second largest concentration of federal spending outside the Beltway?

After my little air tour of Denver I conclude that neither bread nor circuses make Colorado the best place on earth I've ever lived. Instead, I remember the orange shafts of sunlight painted on Red Rocks, with their blue shadows darting across the plain. I remember the deep blue of the twilight sky with a pumpkin-colored moon floating through it. And I thank heavens (and a few undistracted voters) that it's just Amendment 1 that keeps Republican Governor Bill Owens from growing Colorado government by more than 5% a year.



El Paso County Libertarians On the Move

by John Geltemeyer

Due to a very generous donation by one of El Paso County's new members, we now have the beginnings of a very professional website. You can pull it up at <http://www.LPEP.org> using any web browser.

We'd like everyone to note our monthly meeting. It's held on the last Thursday of every month at 7:15 P.M. in Bennetts BBQ on 5245 N. Academy in Colorado Springs. Dinner starts at 6:00 P.M.

Our snail mail address for the Libertarian Party of El Paso County is now 4614 Austin Bluffs Pkwy 145, Colorado Springs, CO 80918, our E-Mail address has changed to: info@LPEP.org.

"I am not a number," by Claire Wolfe.

(Published and distributed by Loompanics Unlimited, 178 pages, \$16.95)

Reviewed by Bill Fargo

This book's title refers to the 1960s British television series, "The Prisoner," in which the protagonist, secret agent Number Six, battles for his identity in post-resignation detention. Although only 17 episodes were produced, the show still has a loyal following.

Wolfe begins chapter one of this book with her special brand of humor: "In September 1996, the Republican-dominated Congress, writhing with Bill Clinton in a coprological orgy of legislation, let loose its collective sphincter and excreted a stinking heap now known as Public Law 104-208." From there, she proceeds to describe the stealth legislative approach to installing a national ID card system.

Public Law 104-208 began life as HR 3610, "a relatively innocuous Defense Appropriations Act." By the time it emerged from the conference committee, it had grown to over 468,000 words. With an earlier government shutdown in memory, and a re-election campaign looming dead ahead, our congresspersons voted HR 3610 into law by a wide margin, in both houses, having never read it. As Wolfe explains, there "was only one copy of the bill available for each house at the time the vote was taken." Since it was "(r)ushed through the 104th Congress in the heat of the 1996 election season, HR3610 became a piece of classic 'kitchen sink' legislation. Dozens of other bills were tossed into it before it re-emerged from committee."

The legislative laundry list which Wolfe details includes the "Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996," the "Personal Responsibility and Work opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996," the "Kennedy-Kassebaum health care data 'transmission standards,'" and the "Voter Eligibility Verification Act." All these pieces of legislation share two attributes; a requirement for a "Universal Citizen Identification Number—your social security number" and some form of

"biometric data" encoded on a counterfeit-proof card.

Chapter Two, "Life in ID State America," opens with an excerpt from a story from *The Independent* of London, entitled, "Identity card was passport to death."

"When the Hutu militias... began their genocidal massacres of Tutsis in April (1994), they needed only to ask for identity cards to decide who lived and who were chopped or speared to death." An ABC cameraman found a murdered Tutsi's ID card on the floor of a church following the deed. "The blood on the card was still sticky."

Wolfe starts giving solutions in Chapter Three, "The Undocumented Citizen." She asks the question, "When the very system is evil, and you recognize that, how can you live with yourself while you seek favors from it?" (Wolfe's emphasis) She recommends non-cooperation, while realizing that, "Non-cooperation equals hardship." She discusses several options: fake 'real' ID, created by bought bureaucrats; "sovereign citizenship," about which she is "really (Wolfe's emphasis) cynical and negative"; offshore ID documents; and second citizenships.

Health care options, or lack of them, show up in Chapter Four, "The Free American Community." As Wolfe writes, "Listen up and believe this if you don't believe anything else I say. Within ten years of the moment I write this, you will not be able to get care at a hospital or doctor's office unless you present your Card for scanning." (Wolfe's emphasis)

She explores expatriation in "Interlude Two: Maybe it's time to get out", as she considers other countries, "country wannabes", and other planets, or orbital colonies.

I believe the only real weakness in this book exists in Chapter Five, "Communications in the Free Community." Wolfe writes that she is placing into "the BS file for now" a rumor that she has heard that one's "location can be traced through your possession of a cellphone, even when the phone is turned off." The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) recently passed a rule requiring cellular providers to develop the ability to locate cellular phones by the year 2000, so 911 calls can be properly routed. Many pieces of electronic equipment are never really off. For example, your television could not respond to the remote

control's signal if it were truly "off."

Chapter Six, "Travel in the Free Community," contains a lot of useful information long known to those in the 'patriot' community. Freedom to travel will end with the advent of a functional internal passport. Wolfe points out that, "Your drivers' license has become your internal passport — just like they had in the Soviet Empire and Nazi Germany."

In Chapter Seven, "Finance and Trade in the Free Community," Wolfe does a fine job of presenting pros and cons of various options for financial transactions both now and after. Particularly interesting is her advocacy of United States Postal Service money orders.

Chapter Eight, "Medical Care In the Free Community," begins with a revisitation of the future requirement for a card to be scanned before the provision of medical care. It then goes on to consider that health care providers may be among our most stalwart allies against the government's regimentation of medicine. She notes that setting up a medical business outside of government oversight "is a great opportunity."

Wolfe enlarges on Chapter Eight's entrepreneurial bent in Chapter Nine, "Work in the Free Community." Wolfe covers both sides of the fence with her discussion of whether to stay on the government work rolls, or become part of the underground economy, with the predictable lean to the latter. Particularly amusing is the list of "Occupations in which you miiiiight not want to start a career" (Wolfe's emphasis).

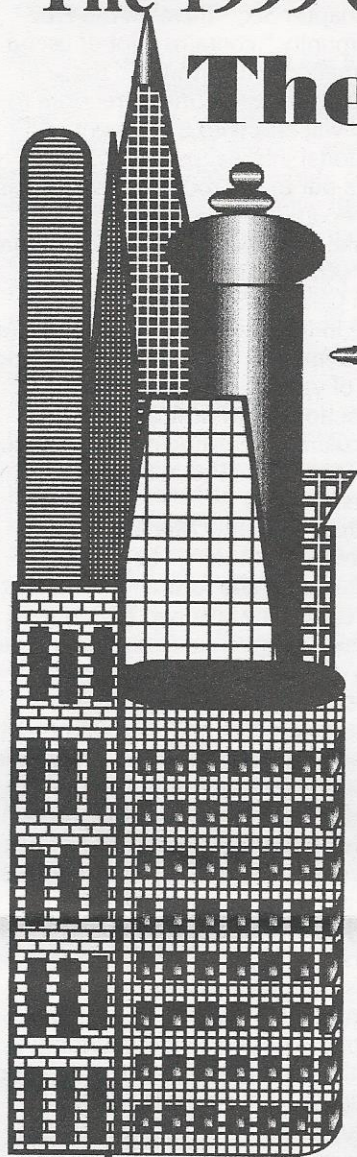
In Chapter Ten, "And A Free World of Other Things," Wolfe recounts one of my all-time favorite stupid politician quotes: That of Chicago Mayor Richard Daley: "The police are not here to create disorder; they're here to preserve disorder." Here Wolfe touches on protection, utilities and local services, and children and education.

In the final chapter, Chapter Eleven, "Free People, Violence and Alternatives," Wolfe deals primarily with how to avoid or deal with worst-case scenarios. She deals with non-violent resistance, and brings out a side of the master of non-violence, Mohandas Gandhi, that most have never seen.

This book is an excellent wake-up call for those who would say, "It can't happen here." It already has.

The 1999 Colorado Libertarian Convention

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Barbara Goushaw

Barbara managed Jon Coon's 1994 race for US Senate, which was credited with "putting the Libertarian Party on

the political map" by the Detroit Free Press, and received the National Party's award for "Most Effective Campaign for US Senate" She also managed Fred Collins Successful run for City Council in Berkley Michigan in 1997.

Barbara trained in Campaign Management at the University of California at Davis in 1995., and founded the Libertarian Campaign Managers Association of



Michigan in 1997. She taught "Effective Campaigning" workshops nationally, as part of the "Success '97 series and fundraising workshops with Michael Cloud in California and Michigan.

Barbara was appointed to the Libertarian Party National Committee in 1997 and addressed the full delegation of the Libertarian party at the 1998 National Convention topic "Handguns are a Girls Best Friend"

Friday April 23

8:00 PM ---**Early Registration & Suite Parties** -
Comedian, Bob Carmelo

Saturday April 24

8:00 AM ---**Registration and Welcome**

8:00 AM ---**Coffee Klatches**

9:00 AM ---**Seminars** - CHOICE OF 2

10:00 AM ---**Keynote Speaker**
Barbara Goushaw

11:00 AM ---**Seminars** - CHOICE OF 2

12:00 PM ---**Awards Luncheon**

1 - 5:30 PM- **Seminars** - CHOICE OF 8

6:00 PM ---**Cocktail Party**

7:00 PM ---**Banquet**

Featuring **Nathaniel Branden**

Sunday April 25

8:00 AM ---**Coffee Klatches**

9:00 AM ---**Seminar**

---**Board Reports**

10:00 AM ---**Seminar**

---**Board Elections**

11:00 AM ---**Lunch** - on your own

12:00 PM ---**Seminar**

---**Business Meeting**

1:00 PM ---**Seminars** - CHOICE OF 2

2:00 PM ---**Closing Speaker**

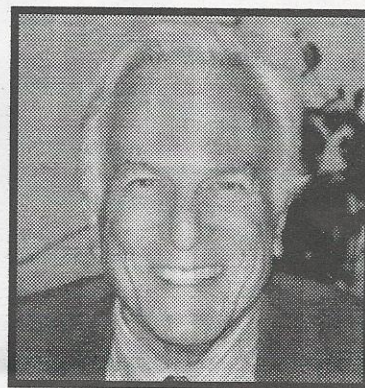
Dr. Mary Ruwart

*Enjoy coffee and rolls
for our round table
discussions on issues
like; Victimless Crime,
New Members, and
Libertarian Philosophy*

Nathaniel Branden

Nathaniel Branden, Saturday's Gala Banquet Speaker. His publications include; "The Art of Living Consciously", "Judgment Day: My Years with Ayn Rand", "How Confident People Make Powerful Companies", "Taking Responsibility", "Honoring the Self", "Breaking Free", "The Disowned Self", and "Who Is Ayn Rand". He has been translated into 14 languages and there are more than 3 million copies of his books in print.

The name Nathaniel Brandon has become synonymous with "the psychology of self-esteem," a field he began pioneering over thirty years ago. He has done more, perhaps, than any other theorist to awaken America's consciousness to the importance of self-esteem to human well-being.



Dr. Mary Ruwart

Dr. Ruwart currently serves on the Board of Directors for the International Society for Individual Liberty

and Fully Informed Jury Amendment Association. Her column, "Short Answers to the Tough Questions" is a popular feature of the Advocates for Self-Government Home Page.

She may be best know for book about political freedom of choice "Healing Our World: The Other Piece of the Puzzle". A review in *Visions Magazine* claimed that Healing might be "the most important book of the decade."

Dr. Ruwart became a libertarian activist in 1982 and was a member of the Platform committee in 1983. She became an overnight sensation by running for President of the United States. Dr. Ruwart also run for more than 10 different offices including; State Board of Education, County Commission, State Representative, and Vice-President.



Special Room Rate! ONLY \$79 if you make your RESERVATIONS BEFORE APRIL 1

Getting Appointed: A How-To

By Mark Tuniewicz. All Rights Reserved.

As Libertarians, we all tend to have strongly-held opinions. Here is one of mine: **Every Libertarian Party member should hold some public office, no matter how small.**

Why? Our growing list of officeholders is one of the key reasons we are garnering more legitimacy and attention as a political party. If just 10 percent of our membership held office, we'd enjoy the substantial prestige associated with having 3,000-plus officeholders, compared to about 250 today. I share the growing belief that this is something we should accomplish quickly, through member appointments to local boards and commissions — the "farm team" for future election campaigns.

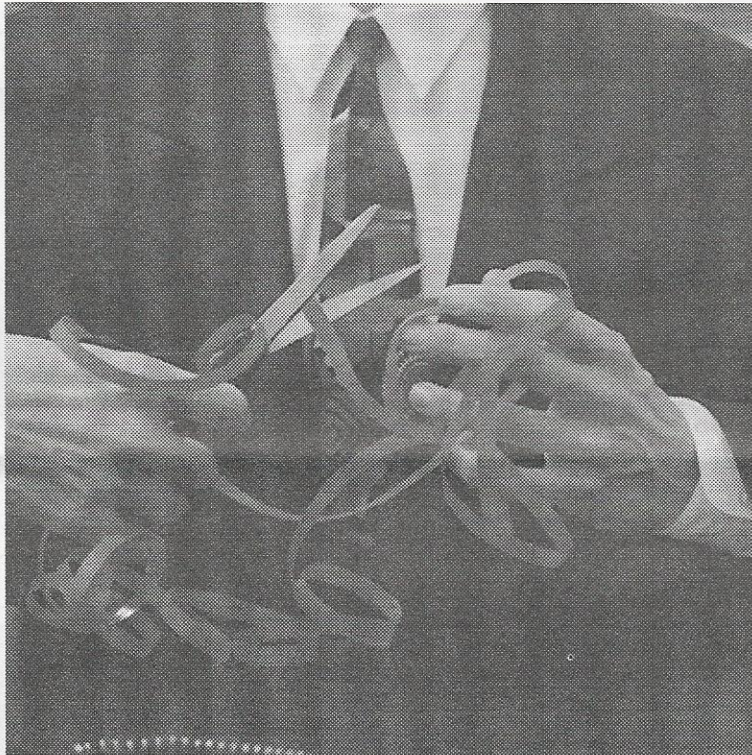
Why serve on a local board? If you're like most of our members, you've never held any type of public office before. Getting appointed allows you to gain this valuable experience, without the expense, organization, and time demands associated with running a full-blown campaign. These types of positions generally involve just a few hours per month, and give you the opportunity to actually have an impact on the body on which you serve.

Determining what appointed offices are available in your town is simple. One phone call to your city clerk's office gets you specific information about which boards have vacancies, or when openings are scheduled to occur.

Be sure to ask how many members the board is allowed to have, since many commissions allow for an unlimited number of "alternate" members, who often become full members at the next vacancy. Find out who makes the appointments (e.g. mayor, city council, board of select-

men) and when the board meets.

What type of board should you serve on? That depends on your own area of interest and expertise. Are you a local business owner? Try the economic development commission, or a similar entity in your town. Enjoy the outdoors? Your conservation commission makes regular site visits to environmentally sensitive areas. Those with experience in real estate development often are appointed to local planning or zoning boards — though these tend to be the offices with the



fewest vacancies.

Start by attending meetings of the board which interests you the most and introduce yourself to its chair. I recommend you clothe yourself in business attire and radiate a friendly attitude.

Seeking out an appointment is a simple process. Write a brief letter to the appointing party expressing an interest in service. Mention several boards which currently have vacancies and ask to be appointed. Give your education, professional background, related experience, and any other information which reinforces your qualifications and interests. Your letter should be kept to one page. **Often, the best time to write is**

immediately after local elections.

Wait about a month. If you haven't heard anything, contact the city clerk's office again, **pleasantly** following-up on the status of your letter. Often, the appointing body will copy your letter to the chairs of the commissions you've mentioned in your letter. You can now follow-up with them directly, expressing your interest in a more personal way.

Generally, you'll be asked to attend a meeting and meet the other board members. In the case of my own appointed office, they asked if I had any specific experience with conservation issues. Though I did not, I expressed a strong interest in learning more about what the commission did, and pointed to a recent event (the private purchase and protection of a large tract of old-growth forest) as something that had spurred my interest in serving on the commission.

Once you're appointed, **remember** — you're the new kid on the block. Spend most of your time learning about what the board does, become familiar with the corresponding local ordinances, listening and observing.

After a year of service, you'll be ready to move things in a more Libertarian direction.

Service on these panels is simple, gratifying, and the best way to begin building your political resume.

I challenge my fellow Libertarians to stand up for liberty by getting appointed locally — and do it *now!* If every party member tries this over the next few months, I guarantee we'll have more than 1,000 officeholders by the end of 1999.

Libertarian Party National Treasurer Mark Tuniewicz ended his three-year appointment as a New Hampshire Conservation Commissioner in 1997. He recently volunteered to become a member of his town's Finance Committee.

Open Letter to Ron Tupa

Here in Colorado we have an otherwise intelligent state legislator named Ron Tupa who is trying to pass legislation to get GHB criminalized, claiming that it's a danger to women in the community.

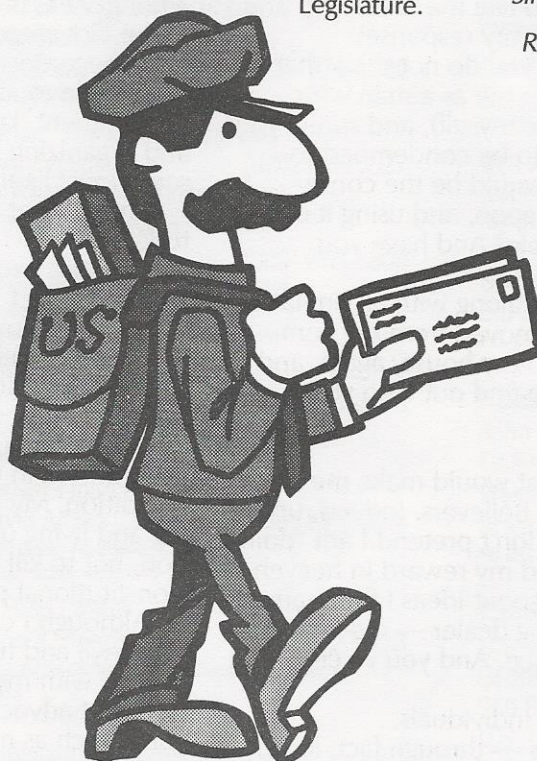
I've been wondering why Tupa doesn't try to outlaw some things that are definitely more involved in date rape than GHB:

- Like alcohol. Throughout history, I don't think any drug has ever been used more for purposes of date rape than alcohol. Oh, excuse me, I momentarily forgot: this nation nearly came to civil war over the prohibition of alcohol, and now we have a constitutional amendment that guarantees citizens the right to consume alcohol (and, as far as I am concerned, any other intoxicating substance).
- Or maybe cars. Local police can provide statistics on what percentage of date rape occurs in cars. Of course, if Tupa tried to outlaw cars (which, incidentally, kill people daily and pollute our air while making modern life possible), he would legitimately be considered crazy and dictatorial. But Tupa thinks marijuana and GHB (which kill no one, pollute nothing, and promote healthful living while making modern life bearable) should be illegal.
- Or, how about beds, mattresses, futons and couches? Surely no date rape would occur if Tupa would just outlaw these accessories to rape.
- Or, let's get to the root cause of the matter, and rally for Tupa to outlaw penises. He could set the precedent with a public self-castration. We certainly wouldn't have this date rape problem if men didn't have penises.

Come on, Ron. You, of all people, should be immune to Drug War hyperbole; you've passed intelligent, fair-minded legislation before. Why pick on a natural substance that health experts in Europe for decades have known was beneficial when used properly? You're just trying to make points with conservative and liberal Democrats alike as well as Republi-

cans in an attempt to set yourself up for a run at national office.

It's time to withdraw this onerous bill from the Colorado Legislature.



Find another, more legitimate tar baby on which to whet your political aspirations.

Sincerely,

Ron Bain

Newsletter Editor Libertarian
Party of Boulder County (303)
443-9179 rez2word@aol.com

Join Our Hot List!

A new hotlist has been set up. Since the previous list was not recoverable, we request that you go to our website at <http://www.pageplus.com/~lpcolorado> and sign up again. We regret any inconvenience this may cause.

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Guns for the Drug Warriors?

by Peter McWilliams

I have received several messages like the following, and I thought I would circulate widely my response:

"I am curious — and I hope you do not think that this is disrespectful. You do not strike me as a man who believes in god (I am an agnostic myself), and surely your cause is just. Since you appear to be condemned to death in the near future, what would be the consequences of your acquiring a weapon, and using it on some of these overzealous people? And have you thought of this?"

[NOTE TO DEA: This e-mail, along with all similar e-mails, have been completely removed from my computer, so please don't come into my house, again, and take my computer, again, just to find out who your enemies may be.]

My response:

Yes, I am an agnostic, but that would make me no more violence-prone than True Believers. Indeed, unlike, say, abortion-clinic bombers, I don't pretend I am "doing God's work" and that I will "find my reward in heaven."

Besides, to "off" those who spout ideas I find harmful is very much like arresting a drug dealer — a dozen more are waiting to take his place. And you've created a martyr for an evil cause.

My enemy is ignorance, not individuals.

It is winning the war of ideas — through fact, logic, persuasion, and, yes, humor — that brings about lasting change.

What we are facing today in America is not an evil dictator, like Hitler, who is the head of a snake, and once removed the snake will perish, but overgrown bureaucracies, like the Drug War, which are more like anthills. No matter how many individual ants you kill one at a time, the colony goes on.

Any idiot with a gun can kill. It takes clever perseverance to make lasting change.

Socrates, Jesus, and Martin Luther King did more for their causes by dying for them than by killing for them. Not that I'm looking to be a martyr. Not that the Drug War *needs* another martyr. But the Drug War certainly doesn't need a lone gunman, either.

I am not a pacifist, however. If someone were physically coming at me with violence in his heart, I would have no trouble shooting his balls off. But the people who are coming at me now do so under the rule of law, and that means the law must be changed, not that those who follow the law (or even make the law or endorse an unjust law) must be "eliminated."

If there is anything I believe in, it is that we have the right to do with our own person and property whatever we choose, as long as we do not encroach upon the equal rights of others to do whatever they choose with their person or property. This, I believe, is the true definition of "rule of law," the agreement by which we can live in a society that rises above the law of the jungle.

This is heart of the Declaration of Independence:

"WE hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men

are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness — That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness."

This is what is laid out in the Preamble to the Constitution. In my view, this country is founded on that.

"We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

As has been proven time and again, to "alter" the government in this country does not take violence, but education. My job is to get the country back into believing and living under the "supreme law" of the Constitution, not to kill those who, while living under the same Constitutional protections, are leading the country astray.

Although I consider William J. Bennett to be the single most evil and hypocritical person in this country, I will defend with my life his right to be wrong. As long as he does not advocate picking up guns and killing the "pagans" such as myself, he can dance naked in front of me on a rifle range and I will not lift my gun. Besides, I'd much rather see him live to watch his ideas wither and go out of fashion.

"I would give the devil himself benefit of law for mine own safety sake," Robert Bolt had Thomas More say in "A Man for All Seasons." I believe this to be true.

The Drug War is intellectually bankrupt, and the Internet is getting the truth to millions more than ever before. The Drug War propaganda machine, which can afford to spend billions controlling information, now has thousands of new enemies online, hosting web sites for \$14.95 a month, emanating the truth 24 hours a day.

150 years ago John Stuart Mill, in "On Liberty," I think, talked about the "collision" of ideas in a free marketplace of ideas, and from the light of that collision, the truth is there for all to see. I believe in this process. I believe it is happening. I believe change is happening at exponential rates. Murder drags the level of that discussion down to primordial levels and degrades those who take part in it. Even most of those who are antiabortion are repulsed by the abortion clinic bomb that permanently mangled the nurse and killed a doctor.

I support the high road of truth, facts, debate, and education, even if I'm not along to walk that road much longer, and even if lies, deception, repression, and ignorance are the direct cause of my death.

Peter McWilliams is a writer living in California whose death is being hastened by the DEA's prohibiting him from using California-legal medicinal marijuana to combat the nausea of AIDS. (See his essay at <http://www.marijuanamagazine.com/toc/whatcanido.htm>)

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