

LIBERTY

Published by the Libertarian Party of Colorado

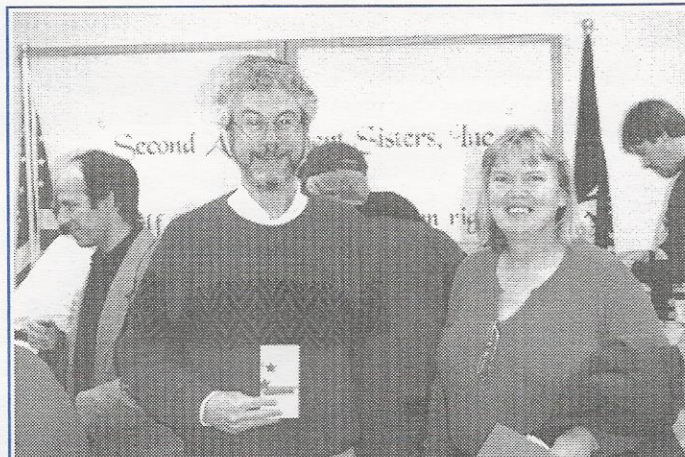
January/February 2001

The next meeting of the board of directors will be held at 7:00 pm on Monday, February 12 at party headquarters, 720 East 18th Avenue in Denver.

Party members are welcome at the meeting. Please call BetteRose for details: 303.639.5530

www.lpcolorado.org
303.837.9393

Libertarians Celebrate Bill of Rights Day



Tom Parker displays his copy of the U.S. Constitution with Lori Van Buren at the Bill of Rights Day celebration in Loveland.

Two elected officials spoke at the event: Tom Bender, newly elected county commissioner; and Sheriff Jim Alderden, who accepted a stack of Constitutions to hand out to those working in his office.

Jesse Schleiger, a high school student, earned a standing ovation when he read his essay defending the Bill of Rights. Len Jackson, a teacher who also spoke, presented Schleiger with a half ounce Gold Eagle, the top prize in the competition sponsored by the TRT. (Oddly, one government school official said the Bill of Rights essay competition was "not appropriate subject matter" for students in his school. Other schools responded enthusiastically.)

Colorado Libertarians attended the December 15 Bill of Rights Day Celebration held in Loveland. Ron Bain and Ari Armstrong of the LP addressed the crowd of about 100. Other participating groups included the Tyranny Response Team and Second Amendment Sisters.

Other speakers included Sue Rehg, Northern Colorado Coordinator of the Second Amendment

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Bain reflected on how the Bill of Rights and other amendments call into question federal drug prohibition laws. Armstrong criticized the trend of reading the Constitution non-literally. Echoing Harry Browne's literalist interpretation, Armstrong said, "Either the Constitution means what it says, or it means nothing at all."

Convention Speakers Announced

Mark your calendars! The State Libertarian Convention will be held May 18-20. Speakers will include **Carla Howell**, record-breaking Senate candidate; **Reggie Rivers**, talk radio host; and **Russell Means**, Native American activist. See pages 4 and 5 for details.

Candidate Training to Focus on Media Relations

Ron Bain, Publicity Director for the Libertarian Party of Boulder County, has announced that he will offer a training class on Media Relations and Candidate Campaigning which will occur in the Denver/Boulder metropolitan area sometime between February 15 and March 15.

"Nothing is more important than getting our message accurately repeated in the media over and over," Bain

said. "This level of accuracy cannot be achieved without preparation, training, and practice."

Libertarians who may be interested in running for office, volunteering for a campaign, or interacting with the media are encouraged to attend. Those who want to add their names to the list should contact Bain at

"Training" continued on page 3

Dear Friends of Liberty,

Sandra Johnson wrote a piece last month about extreme contributors. These are people who go above and beyond the call of duty, who put in countless hours of work, contribute extra money and have done so for many years. The only downside is that extreme contributors enable others to sit back and not take responsibility for getting the freedom they want.

Joe Johnson (not related to Sandra) wrote me a note which said, "Mike Rosen appears, at least on the surface, to be correct. Libertarians all want to live in a free country. The problem is that it seems that most want someone to give it to them for free! When the government rushes in to 'help' us, most libertarians realize this is dangerous and counterproductive. Harry Browne said, 'The government is very good at breaking your legs, giving you crutches and saying, "See, if it weren't for us, you couldn't walk."' How easily we see this in the government. How much more difficult is it to see in our personal lives!"

*"The government
is very good
at breaking
your legs,
giving you
crutches and
saying, 'See,
if it weren't
for us, you
couldn't walk.'"*

Some of you may know that I was a psychology major for a time. While studying the concept of codependency and the more subtle forms of 'abuse,' I suddenly realized how much of that I had heaped onto my brother and sisters. How? By rushing to their aid all the time. By trying to keep them from harm. By helping them whenever I thought they were struggling. What was the harm, the subtle abuse, in that? I was telling them by my actions that I didn't trust them to make their own decisions. I was telling them by my actions that they couldn't handle the situation. I was telling them they just weren't good enough. On top of that, I was not letting them learn from their mistakes. Again, how easy is it to see this when the government provides welfare, housing and medical care; how difficult to see in our personal lives!

About 20 years ago, I read a science fiction story called "Petals of Rose." The story is about three different races: the Lazarines who live 25,000 years, the Humans who live about 120 years, and the Rosans who live about 36 hours. The Lazarines and Humans fought a war which ended with a troubled peace. The story is about a man sent to act as an intermediary between the Lazarines and the Rosans. In the end,

because of his contact with the Rosans, the human realizes that had there been another war between Humans and Lazarines, the Humans would have won. Why? Because each generation brings new ideas and new thoughts to the table. Each generation brings some who look at things just a bit differently; some who see things the older generation never did. It is how new things are discovered. It is how advances are made.

It is because of the ideas stated above that I have decided not to run for another term on the LPCO board. It is time to allow others to stand up on their own; to search out their own path to liberty; to make contributions to the party. It is time to allow others the chance to rise, or fall, to learn from their mistakes and their successes. It is time to let others know that they can be trusted to make decisions. And, it is definitely time to get new generations into the fray. While I am a big believer in the value of "institutional memory"—without it we are bound to make the same mistakes over again—I also realize fresh ideas and approaches are needed to help the party grow and stay strong.

As long as I remain on the board, that prevents another person from becoming active and contributing as a leader. It prevents another person from making decisions with a fresh approach and learning by doing.

Will I go away if I am not on the board? Those of you who know me, know I am a "mother" type from way back. I can't help but get involved. I can't help trying to make everything all better. I will be around for years to come. The hardest part will be to allow others to do for themselves. But hey, I'm working on that!

In Liberty,
BetteRose Smith

P.S. Several months ago I wrote a note about asking "What have I done for Freedom today?" Part of this was picked up by our national paper. For the record, it was Sara Wilson who asks herself that question. She was the person I referred to in my notes. Thank you, Sara, for contributing this thought which has spread so far!

LIBERTY

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SAFE Promotes Dangerous Laws

The anti-gun lobby Sane Alternatives to the Firearms Epidemic wants to force Colorado gun owners to "lock up their safety," as Dudley Brown of Rocky Mountain Gun Owners puts it.

Yale professor John Lott has found that mandatory gun storage laws actually empower criminals:

"Safe-storage rules...seem to cause some real problems. Passage of these laws is significantly related to almost 9 percent more rapes and robberies and 5.6 percent more burglaries. In terms of total crime in 1996, the presence of the law in just...fifteen states was associated with 3,600 more rapes, 22,500 more

robberies, and 64,000 more burglaries." (*More Guns, Less Crime*, 2nd Ed., page 199.)

The oddly named SAFE also wants to prevent lawful adults ages 18-20 from purchasing a firearm for self-defense. Libertarians argue that if 18 year olds are old enough to drive tanks in Kosovo, old enough to get married and have children, and old enough to sign contracts, then they are old enough to defend themselves and their families.

Rocky Mountain Gun Owners is Colorado's largest gun rights organization and can be reached at 303.432.3006 or www.rmgo.org.

"Rights" continued from page 1

Sisters; Bob Glass; and Crystal Albertus. The Northern Colorado Drum and Fife Corps kicked off the event with patriotic music.

The TRT also collected dozens of coats and boxes of food for Disabled American Veterans. Event coordinator Tom Buchanan said he wants an even larger celebration next year.

"Training" continued from page 1

303.443.9179 or rez2word@aol.com.

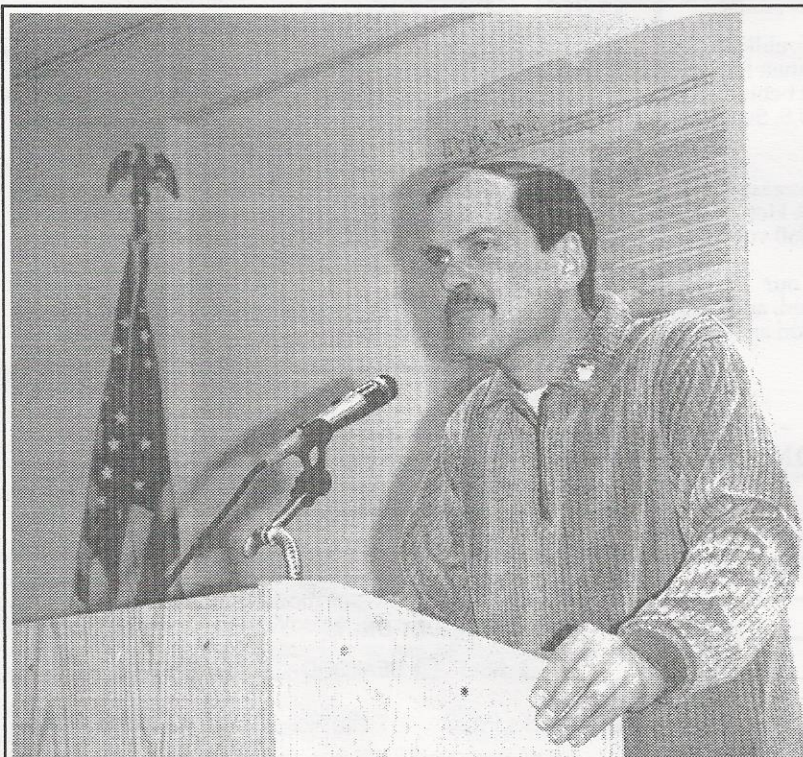
Bain said the press tends to cover charismatic people and controversial issues. He explained, "I once talked to a content editor at KCNC and asked him why the press didn't cover the Libertarians when we actually won or swung races, and he said our candidates were too boring, that they lacked 'charisma.' I'm not sure charisma can be taught, but it can be defined, and once defined, established as a goal."

Bain believes Libertarians can earn a lot more press coverage than they get now. "It's all a matter of knowing what to say, when to say it and to whom to say it," he said.

In the first four-hour session, topics of instruction will include: The Nuts and Bolts of Media Relations; How to Deal with Hostile or Unresponsive Reporters; How to Manipulate the Media; How to Write Press Releases and Prepare Press Kits; Controversy and Charisma: What the Press Wants.

A second session to be held at the state convention in April will be scheduled if interest warrants it.

"Passage of storage laws is significantly related to almost 9 percent more rapes and robberies and 5.6 percent more burglaries."



Speaking in Loveland, Ron Bain argues that the Bill of Rights and subsequent Constitutional amendments preclude federal drug prohibition.

The 2001 LIBERTARIAN CONVENTION COMMON GROUND

BEST WESTERN EXECUTIVE HOTEL

4411 Peoria Street Denver CO 80239

Party Building
Through Minorities and
Parallel Organizations.

MAY
18th-19th-20th
2001

Banquet & Dance

Awards Luncheon

Suite Parties

Keynote by

**CARLA
HOWELL**

"Boldness: the Key to Libertarian
Campaign Breakthroughs"

Carla Howell's bold Libertarian
"small government is beautifulSM"
campaign for U.S. Senate in
Massachusetts, set new Libertarian
records. In Massachusetts, there are 470,000 registered Republicans
versus 16,000 registered Libertarians. Yet in a six-way contest for
Ted Kennedy's seat, Howell finished just 1 percentage point behind
the Republican candidate; the most successful Libertarian U.S. Senate
campaign ever.

In addition to the vote total, the Howell campaign helped increase the
number of registered Libertarians from 3,000 to over 16,000. Her
campaign attracted 726 volunteers, 5,106 donors, and 308,860 votes.

Join Carla Howell as she shows us how boldness can make our
Libertarian campaigns bigger, better-funded, better-supported, and
more effective. Bold proposals, bold planning, and bold action are the
keys to freedom.



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Bids are now being
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Board for the 2002 State
Convention Committee.
Please send applications
to the office by April 9,
2001. The selection of
the 2002 convention
committee will be made
at the close of the 2001
State Convention.
Application should
include an estimated
duration of convention
and general location, a
tentative schedule with
possible highlights, and
the names and contact
information for persons
serving as the main
convention committee.
Send applications to:
Libertarian Convention
Selection Committee
720 East 18 Avenue,
#309 Denver, CO 80203

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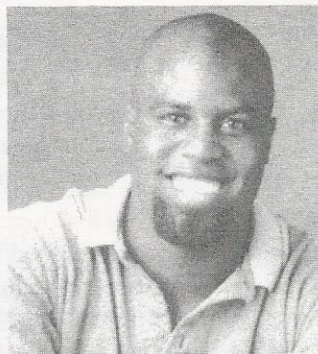
720 East 18 Avenue, #309

Denver, CO 80203

303-837-9393

Remember, there is no charge for attending business meetings or candidate elections.

REGGIE RIVERS



Metro Denver's hottest Libertarian-leaning talk show host will be one of the exciting speakers at the Gala Banquet on Saturday night.

Reggie is a successful journalist, author, media personality and well-known former running back and special teams player for the Denver Broncos. His weekly column is featured in the Denver and the West section of The Denver Post. Reggie is also a columnist for Pro Football Weekly.

Reggie had, for two years, hosted his own show on KOA Radio and is currently hosting a daily, drive-time show on 630 KHOW Radio. He

has appeared as a feature reporter on KUSA-TV9 (NBC), KMGH-TV Channel 7(ABC) and is currently featured on KCNC Channel 4 (CBS) where he is co-host of the "Countdown to Kickoff" Sunday football pregame show. Reggie is also an analyst for ABC Sports college football coverage.

Reggie has been awarded numerous civic awards for his outstanding community service, including "Humanitarian of the Year" in 1997 from the BMH-BJ Congregation, "Honorary member" of the Kiwanis Club of Castle Rock, Lifetime Lusche Fellow of the Rocky Mountain District Kiwanis Foundation, "the Broncos 1992 Community Action Player Award", the "Unsung Hero" Award, in March, 1996, and in October, Reggie was named the "True Value Bronco of the Year."

This Year - INTRODUCE A FRIEND TO LIBERTY!

Additional Banquet ticket only \$40 with each full price 2 day convention ticket. OR 1/2 PRICE for all students and non or *new libertarians with each full price 2 day convention ticket.

*Non-member and not registered Libertarian as of 1/1/01

RUSSELL MEANS

The Libertarian Party of Colorado Convention 2001 is pleased to bring you one of the biggest, baddest, meanest and most famous American Indian activists of the twentieth century.

Russell Means is a world-renowned figure with achievements in many areas. Actor ("Last of the Mohicans," "Natural Born Killers," "Pocahontas"), author (Where White Men Fear To Tread), political activist (founder of AIM, the American Indian Movement; candidate for Libertarian Party presidential nomination in 1988), singer, entrepreneur, and much more.



Russell Means, is without a doubt, the most controversial Indian leader of our time. He has done everything possible to dramatize the American Indian desire for self-determination - from storming Mount Rushmore to leading a seventy-one day take-over of Wounded Knee, South Dakota. Not since war chiefs such as Geronimo or Crazy Horse has an Indian leader so polarized the American public as Russell Means.

In his widely-praised 1997 autobiography, Where White Men Fear To Tread, Means tells the story of his political evolution, including his encounter with libertarian ideas and the Libertarian Party.

An inspirational visionary, Russell Means remains one of the most magnetic voices in America today. Mean's voice resonates with an honesty and conviction that demands respect, a man who must be heard by every caring citizen of the land. Few people will meet this man without feeling profoundly altered by his strength, his integrity and his great desire to bring genuine freedom to all Americans.

EVENTS SCHEDULE

Friday, May 18

7:00 PM ---*Early Registration, Entertainment & Suite Parties*

Saturday, May 19

7:30 AM ---*Registration*

8:00 AM ---*Coffee*

Philosophy

9:00 AM ---*Seminar*

Philosophy

Coffee

Activism

Seminar

Activism

10:00 AM ---*Keynote Speaker
Carla Howell*

11:00 AM ---*Seminar
Philosophy*

*Business
Campaigns*

12:00 PM ---*Awards Luncheon*

1:00 PM ---*Seminar
Philosophy*

*Business
Board Reports*

2:00 PM ---*Seminar
Philosophy*

*Seminar
Campaigns*

3:00 PM ---*Seminar
Philosophy*

*Seminar
Campaigns*

4:00 PM ---*Seminar
Philosophy*

*Seminar
Campaigns*

6:00 PM ---*Cocktail Party*

7:00 PM ---*Banquet and Dance
Reggie Rivers*

Sunday, May 20

8:00 AM ---*Coffee
Philosophy*

*Coffee
Campaigns*

9:00 AM ---*Seminar
Philosophy*

*Seminar
Activism*

10:00 AM ---*Business - Board Elections*

11:00 AM ---*Seminar
Philosophy*

*Business
Bylaw Changes*

12:00 PM ---*Lunch - on your own*

1:00 PM ---*Seminar
Philosophy*

*Seminar
Activism*

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

3:00 PM ---*New Board Meets*

Telling the Truth about Drug Prohibition

by Sheriff Bill Masters

Sheriff Masters gave a condensed version of the following piece as a speech at the National Libertarian Convention, June 30, 2000. His presentation was recorded by C-SPAN and was published in the November and December editions of Liberty Magazine. Masters has served as Sheriff of San Miguel County (Telluride) for 20 years. He first joined the Libertarian Party in 1974, and he now serves as the nation's only Libertarian sheriff and as Colorado's highest-ranking Libertarian official. He can be scheduled for speaking events through the M1 Group at 303.947.9479. His web page is at <http://libertybill.net>.

A few years ago I was invited to attend a meeting of investigators from all over the nation who were working on a serial murder case. We met at the FBI training academy in Quantico, Virginia. Each of the investigators at the meeting was working on a homicide that we all believed might have been committed by the same person, an ex-police officer. The meeting was arranged by the Child Abduction Serial Killer Unit (CASKU) of the FBI.

This unit has been featured in some recent books and movies where hundreds of agents with large computer banks bring up pictures of suspects and track their movements with satellites until they catch the guy in the act of committing one of the gruesome murders. So it was a bit disappointing when I realized that the unit is in fact just a few overworked FBI agents and clerks with their desks piled high with folders full of pictures of mutilated young bodies and the happy young faces in the "before" pictures of missing, tortured, and murdered children.

During the breaks in our meeting I wandered through the building. Hundreds of good looking, bright, enthusiastic young people swarmed the hallways. They were all going through the FBI academy training.

At lunch we would all go up to the large cafeteria in the academy building, once again surrounded by a sea of new recruits. On one occasion I sat with one of the CASKU agents to drink coffee. I commented that maybe when all these new recruits graduated from the academy the CASKU unit might get some more help investigating the crimes that drive fear and despair into

every parent's heart, if their child is missing for even a moment while at the park or shopping mall.

The agent said, "Sheriff, these aren't FBI agents—they are all DEA agents. The Drug Enforcement Administration is using the FBI Academy to train more agents for the drug war."

Through the rest of the day the CASKU agents and I went over homicide cases as pictures of murder victims flashed on a screen. The next day on the plane home I stewed silently and thought: What kind of peace officer, what kind of society would allow a peace officer to use one minute of time, spend one dollar, or use any jail cell for a marijuana smoker, when vicious child murderers are on the loose?

After being a drug warrior for many years—and being good at it—after receiving the DEA's award for outstanding achievements in the field of drug law enforcement, I realized I had failed my community by not carefully analyzing the problem. I had become part of the drug hysteria.

Using what Glenn Fry called the "politics of contraband," I had used the drug war to get re-elected. I played the tough guy, not on the hard ones: the murderers, burglars, thieves, the rapists; no, I

had played that hard guy on the easy ones, the dopers. Busting these people is not rocket science. It's a lot easier than—God forbid—getting stuck with a "who done it" like investigating missing children, burglaries, or murders.

A million Americans are arrested each year for drug violations. Then 40, 50, who really knows how many billions of dollars a year are spent on fighting the drug war, while the CASKU unit looks for thumb tacks to put up one more missing, smiling face on their wall.

I don't know about medical marijuana; it may just be a ruse to get marijuana legalized. But I do know that if I am ever so unfortunate to catch a disease, I am not going to consult the law books, I am going to consult my doctor and then I will decide—not the Sheriff, not the Chief of Police, not my Congressman, and not the DEA—but I will make the decision what is best for my body. This is a God given right that no one should take away. My body, my decision.



"What kind of peace officer would use one minute of time, spend one dollar, or use any jail cell for a marijuana smoker, when vicious child murderers are on the loose?"

If someone is a doper that is his problem. Get a life, deal with your problem. Some might say to me, "Sheriff, you just don't care about these people anymore." But I do care.

I want people to proudly accept the fact that they alone can change their lives. Our current "bust them and dry them out" policies do little more than enable people to continue their self-destructive life styles. We need to clearly tell and show people through changes in the law that their dependency is not the drug dealer's fault anymore than it is the fault of the bartender, the pharmacist, the tobacco grower, the police officer, the judge, the government, or their mother.

Let's try something new, like telling people to accept responsibility for themselves. Shocking to no one but the current political parties in power, most people will, if given the choice, take care of themselves!

Those of us who are true peacekeepers should be outraged at the racism of the drug war. Blacks make up 13 percent of the population, 35 percent of the drug arrests and 76 percent of the inmates who are in prison for drug offenses. Few white people go to jail for long periods of time for drug offenses, if they get caught at all.

Lets face it—if you are the President's wife and have a drug problem you get a drug rehab clinic named after you. If you are poor, black, or Hispanic you will languish in jail for years. This is an outrage that tarnishes every lawman's badge in this country.

Our current law enforcement tactics for controlling drugs do little more than create job opportunities for new drug dealers every time we arrest an old one. The supply of illegal drugs seems to never end. In fact, during the past 25 years illegal drugs have increased in potency and quantity and the distribution systems have spread from the cities to every town and village in the nation. Our policies have succeeded in making a bunch of punks, who couldn't run a garden hose without instructions, so fantastically wealthy that they now influence politics in America and in foreign nations.

Law enforcement leaders must be truthful with the public and admit that by all measurable criteria the criminal justice system has failed to control the drug supply and will continue to fail in the future.

A few years back I was speaking to a Los Angeles police officer, proudly telling him how we were conducting road blocks on our rural highway in order to stop the crack cocaine from coming from into our county. He just laughed in my face and said, "What are you going to do, Sheriff, build a wall?"

I realize now that our existing situation, as bad as it may be with the crack, meth, heroin, pot, GHB, ecstasy, or whatever, it is not as bad as what I see coming over the horizon tomorrow. Unless policies

change, the future is one filled with designer drugs like the meth that can be made today, at home, from supplies obtained from the local convenience store. These new drugs will be able to be made anywhere by anybody who attended a high school chemistry class. The supply will be endless and the police will be completely overwhelmed, as if we are not already.

Take a walk in my shoes or any lawman's shoes and you would see liberty mostly alive and well, but the corresponding virtue of responsibility is ill and dying.

"We the people" have given up and the government has taken up the responsibility for personal protection, for charity, for health, for children's education, for retirement, for moral guidance, for conservation, for substance addiction, for abusive domestic relationships—to name but a few. Of course government has made a mess of all of them. But what did we expect?

I trust the Nature Conservatory more than I do the Forest Service, I trust my IRA more than I do Social Security, I trust the Salvation Army to give to the truly needy more then I trust the Department of Social Services, and I trust my informed choice over what is right for my children more then I do anyone else's.

We abdicated the responsibility for issues such as drug abuse, spousal abuse, and raising children. We turn these responsibilities ovet to a deliberately Godless government (as it should be), but then we are astonished when government programs can't solve these fundamentally moral and spiritual problems.

Our churches and spiritual advisers have abdicated their responsibilities as much as the rest of the public has. When did you last see your minister walking among the crack users, outside of bars at closing time, in the jails in the morning? They sure can preach to the choir. But they tell me, "Sheriff, you got to stop these drug users." They are calling the wrong guy. We should be calling them.

Today, the criminal justice system no longer supports the concept of enforcing personal responsibility for violent conduct. Instead, it supports the excuse-making industry made up of counselors, drug rehab centers, half-way houses, and the like. Cops know that most criminals blame someone or something else for their own actions: mothers, fathers, wives, girlfriends, the police, drugs and alcohol. Surprisingly, the criminal justice system buys into these excuses and fails to punish people for their criminal behavior.

Let people put whatever they want into their bodies. But demand that any aberrant conduct that hurts or endangers others be judged harshly.

"If you are the President's wife and have a drug problem you get a drug rehab clinic named after you. If you are poor, black, or Hispanic you will languish in jail for years."

Prison Moratorium Coalition Runs Reform Measure

by Christie Donner

Many of us in the community have been observing the tremendous growth in the prison population with great concern. In 1987, Colorado had 4,746 people in state prisons and the annual budget for the Department of Corrections was \$80.4 million. Today, there are over 16,500 in state prisons and the Department of Corrections has requested \$642 million from the state legislature for the upcoming year.

Since 1987, Colorado has spent over \$4.6 billion to operate and build prisons. And there appears to be no end to the growth trend. Projections indicate that by January of 2006, the prison population will be over 23,000. At the current budget growth rate, Colorado will have a \$1 billion prison budget within the next two years.

One of the most significant policies driving prison expansion is the war on drugs. Over the past decade, the number of people sent to prison for drug offenses has increased 476 percent, making it the fastest growing and largest category of felons in prison. Last year, one in three women and one in four men sent to prison were convicted of a drug offense.

In response to this, over 80 diverse organizations and faith communities throughout the state have come

together to form the Prison Moratorium Coalition which is dedicated to halting prison expansion and ending the war on drugs.

One of the incremental steps we are taking this year is to support a bill that will be introduced by Senator Penfield Tate (D-Denver) this legislative session which calls for a two-year halt on any further funding for the construction of new prisons; a repeal of several mandatory minimum sentencing statutes, including those related to drug offenses; a permanent ban on contract prisons and the creation of a one year task force that will evaluate state drug policy.

In order to succeed in ending the war on drugs, we need to let legislators and policy makers know that a broad constituency, across the political spectrum, opposes current drug policy. To do this, we need to continue to build our numbers across many lines, particularly as we look to design more comprehensive political strategies for the future.

If you would like more information about the Prison Moratorium Coalition and how you can get involved, or if you know of an organization that would consider endorsing this effort, please contact Christie Donner, Rocky Mountain Peace & Justice Center, P.O. Box 1156, Boulder, CO 80306, 303.444.6981, or cdonner2@juno.com.

"In order to
succeed in
ending the war
on drugs, we
need to let
legislators and
policy makers
know that a broad
constituency,
across the
political spectrum,
opposes current
drug policy."

Election 2000 Brings Change in Drug Laws

Election 2000: Drug Policy Reform Initiatives (adapted from Drug Policy Institute Newsletter, www.drugpolicy.org)

In the last election, a wide range of drug policy reform issues were voted on in California, Massachusetts, Oregon, Utah, Colorado, Nevada, and Mendocino County, California on issues ranging from treatment vs. jail for drug users, medical use of marijuana, and drug-related asset forfeiture reform. Six out of the seven initiatives were passed in what has proven to be the broadest challenge to the "War on Drugs" to date.

CALIFORNIA— Prop 36 [PASSED 60.8%] Requires treatment, not jail, for drug possession or use. Also provides treatment instead of return to prison for nonviolent parolees who test positive for drug use. State agency projects 36,000 people per year will qualify. Measure appropriates \$120 million per year to pay for treatment. Proponents estimate a net saving of \$150-\$200 million per year to state and counties in reduced incarceration costs.

MASSACHUSETTS— Question 8 [DEFEATED 53%] Expands eligibility for treatment instead of jail to thousands of low-level, non-violent drug offenders,

including some low-level drug sales cases. Pays for treatment by redirecting property and funds confiscated in drug cases away from law enforcement agencies and into a new drug treatment fund.

OREGON— Measure 3 [PASSED 66%] Constitutional amendment barring confiscation of property primarily in drug cases—without conviction for a crime. Property may still be seized and held with probable cause, and may be confiscated if unclaimed. Proceeds of forfeitures to go to new drug treatment fund instead of being used by law enforcement.

UTAH— Initiative B [PASSED 68.9%] Overhauls asset forfeiture statutes, mainly used in drug cases, restoring due process protections for property owners. Requires government to prove by "clear and convincing evidence" that property was involved in a crime. Proceeds go to public education fund instead of being used by law enforcement agencies.

NEVADA— Question 9 [PASSED 67.2%] and
COLORADO— Amendment 20 [PASSED 53%]

"Drug Laws" continued on page 9

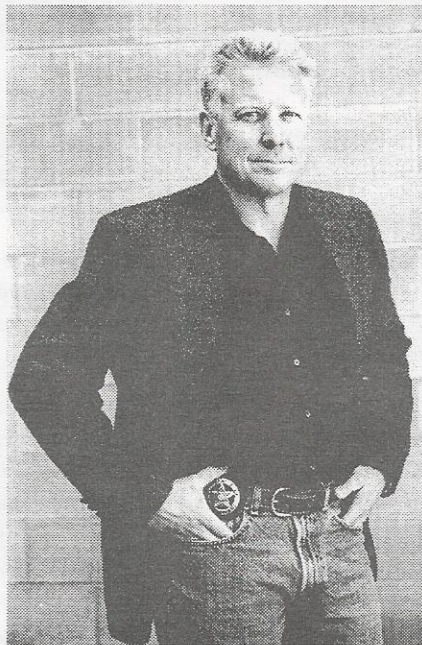
We were remodeling the old jail in Telluride a few years ago. I found a book that had fallen down between some walls. I dusted it off and found that it was the 1908 Session laws of the State Legislature of Colorado. All of the laws of Colorado fit in one volume. Murder, rape, assault, stealing, and trespassing were all against the law in 1908. Although that time was not entirely peaceful, I think research would show an era where people were free to walk most towns and cities without fear.

Today in Colorado we have 33,000 laws and the volumes that hold them stack up about four feet high. Few people have ever read any of the laws and fewer, not even the scholars, could possibly understand all of them. Fewer still feel any kind of safety in them. Since most of the laws and regulations cannot be understood and because of their sheer numbers cannot possibly be enforced, lawlessness is common place and even in vogue.

People tell me: Look at the mess we are in, mobs of men attacking women in broad day light, people caught in the cross fire of drug-dealing gangs, missing and murdered children, insane drivers, and drugs and guns in every government school. Is this what the Libertarians want, they ask?

No, this is not libertarianism. This is our existing society which has been born in the unholy union of failed Republican and Democratic government programs, paid for by the sweat and labor of the American people.

Unlike the others, the Libertarian Party stands for Liberty, Responsibility, and Community. That should be the motto found on the side of every police car in the country.



A recovering drug addict and alcoholic once told me, "If you hang out in a barber shop you are going to get a haircut." That's what I tell the youth of my county, and they get it. They know better than anyone all about drugs, especially the ones like prozac and ritalin given to them by their doctors, schools, and mothers.

Estimates are that 20 percent of our children go to school every day high on legal prescription drugs. The medical drugging of our young people is one of the biggest disgraces in the history of this nation.

Some people are just not meant to sit in a classroom for 16 years. A little more than a hundred years ago the young people were the heroes of the day. They were the cowboys and pony express riders, the young mariners on the ocean and the builders in a land abundant with freedom and opportunity. Today we would drug many of those heroes into conformity.

During my last campaign a number of young people came up to me on the street and said, "You're Sheriff Bill Masters! I just wanted to meet you. I wasn't even going to vote till I heard your message. Its nice to hear someone speak the truth."

It appears to me that today's young people have a strong libertarian streak in them. They don't trust government and believe they don't need government to care for them or direct them. They don't want to work five months a year just to pay taxes and they don't want to be enslaved to pay for the older generation's retirement.

As Libertarians and elected officials, we must listen to the young people in our communities and respect them enough to tell them the truth they seek, for they are the salvation of our party and of our nation.

supply for medical marijuana. Colorado's Amendment 20 leaves the issue open for the state legislature.

MENDOCINO COUNTY- Measure G [PASSED 58.4%]

Allows residents to legally grow up to 25 marijuana plants for personal use. Sale and transportation of marijuana would still be illegal. The measure instructs the district attorney's office to make marijuana law enforcement their lowest priority.

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Two constitutional amendments permit patients to use marijuana upon the recommendation of a physician. Each limits illnesses for which marijuana is a permitted treatment. Each creates a state-run, confidential registry for patients to receive credentials immunizing them from marijuana possession and cultivation laws. Nevada measure directs legislature to create legal

Market Growth: The Libertarian Solution to Community Development

by Ari Armstrong

Competing Visions for Growth

We all want "smart growth" in our communities. But what makes that possible? If politicians and voters uncritically swallow some miracle cure that claims to promote smart growth, we may end up with dumb growth instead.

Even though the list of specific proposals for growth control seems endless, the ideas boil down to two competing visions. The first vision, supported by Al Gore, backers of Colorado's failed Amendment 24, and (to a lesser extent) Governor Bill Owens, is most aptly called "political growth," which means growth controlled by politicians, bureaucrats, and regulations.

The alternative is "market growth," which means growth based on well-established property rights and voluntary social arrangements.

Presumably, we want the system more likely to foster pleasant communities. After all, most Coloradans have similar desires. We want to be able to afford a nice home, often with a comfortable yard, especially if we have children. We want to be able to travel to work quickly, without getting bogged down in heavy traffic. We like to have a nice view and enjoy open spaces, ideally with other friendly people around.

Libertarians believe market growth is the best way to achieve livable communities. Not only does political growth often fail to achieve its goals, but it produces undesired results. This should not come as a surprise: centralized, authoritarian control didn't work very well for the Soviet economy, so why would we expect it to work for smart growth?

Political growth places its trust in government regulators. Market growth trusts people to make their own decisions. Political growth puts people's property under the control of bureaucrats. Market growth respects property rights and agrees with the principle outlined in the Colorado Constitution: "Private property shall not be taken or damaged, for public or private use, without just compensation" (Article II, Section 15). Political growth relies upon centralized control; market growth allows for individual choice and diverse solutions.

The following ten points outline the market growth approach. The first five points describe the sort of market institutions that help people deal with growth. The last five points criticize existing political impediments to smart growth.

Principles of Market Growth

1. Encourage market stewardship of wilderness lands and open spaces.

Some of the most effectively managed wilderness areas in the United States are owned by voluntary (private) groups. Unfortunately, some environmentalists shirk their responsibility of caring for wilderness areas and call on politicians to do the job with "Other People's Money" (OPM). Libertarians believe wilderness lands and open spaces are best protected by voluntary groups. Americans have a long history of charitable giving to worthwhile causes, especially when they're allowed to keep more of the money they earn.

2. Allow people to regulate growth through community covenants and other voluntary arrangements.

When people want to develop a plot of land for their homes, they are able to create a community contract for land management. Any plan the "New Urbanists" can conceive of can be accomplished through such voluntary arrangements. New developments can have mass transit, paths for biking and walking, open spaces, and so on. People are free to create such communities on the free market, but they are not free to force their visions on others who may want a different lifestyle.

3. Restore Common Law protections of private property.

Zoning laws simply aren't necessary to handle conflicting land uses. To take a hypothetical, if someone wanted to start a pig farm right next to a residential home, the homeowner could pursue restraints and restitution through the courts. The home owner has a prior property right which would be infringed by the smells and noises of the pig farm. On the other hand, today in Palisade many fruit farmers are worried that newcomers will restrict their pre-existing farming rights. Common law accomplishes what zoning laws can't: the protection of property rights and a sensible blend of land uses.

4. Look to free market innovations.

Most American roads are controlled by politicians and bureaucrats. It's no wonder, then, that they are inefficient and they sometimes back up in traffic jams. However, numerous market solutions are available, such as High Occupancy Toll lanes and peak-load pricing. Some people already work from home by computer. Better technology has led to better cars and

"Centralized, authoritarian control didn't work very well for the Soviet economy, so why would we expect it to work for smart growth?"

improved air quality. Most people develop social networks much wider than the block they live on, made possible by telephones, cars, and the internet. Improvements in technology are fostered by low taxes and reduced government regulatory burdens.

5. Rely upon persuasion, not force.

Some control freaks in the environmental movement think they should be able to dictate everybody else's lives. They think the suburbs are soulless. They don't like the architecture, they don't like automobiles, and they want to push their own tastes on the rest of us by force of law. But many people enjoy their homes in the suburbs. They like the freedom an automobile gives them. After all, developers build the homes that people want to buy. Why should some people get to tell other people where and how they must live? Unfortunately, some who already live in the suburbs don't want to let others enjoy the same lifestyle. Libertarians rely on persuasion as the fundamental tool of social change. (For instance, a libertarian might distribute copies of *The Fountainhead* in order to encourage people to look to more wholesome forms of architecture.) Advocates of political growth resort to force.

Political Growth Doesn't Work

6. Stop subsidizing urban sprawl.

Gordon and Richardson (cited on page 13) do not see subsidies as playing a major factor in so-called "sprawl." However, the federal highway system provides a subsidy to some commuters. Some infrastructure expenses, such as electricity hook-ups and sewer, are also subsidized. If people want to live in the suburbs, they should have to pay the full expenses of doing so.

7. End tax discrimination and other social engineering schemes.

Sometimes cities tax-discriminate to draw new businesses (new revenue-generators) to the area. This skews the natural growth of communities. Even though the practice is a flagrant violation of property rights, some cities abuse the property condemnation process in order to force small business owners out and make room for larger enterprises. (Again, this increases overall tax revenues for the city.) Such practices are inconsistent with market growth and they should be stopped.

Owens wants to restrict cities' ability to annex new areas, which should help a little.

8. Scale back restrictive zoning laws.

Zoning laws often get in the way of people who want to live in integrated communities. If people want to build their homes in among businesses where they can

walk rather than drive, why should they be stopped? Again, common law will assure that land holders don't substantially interfere with each other. If zoning laws are not repealed altogether, they should at least be scaled down. Unfortunately, Owens' plan would further entrench zoning laws (as well as subsidies for development).

Building restrictions are akin to zoning laws. It's ironic that the environmentalists in Boulder passed restrictive building laws which increased housing prices and led to sprawl and longer commutes.

9. End travel restrictions.

Some laws restrain market solutions to our transportation problems. For example, taxi service is restricted, as are such innovations as "jitney" service, which is basically an expanded, for-profit system of carpooling. Instead of wasting tax dollars on rails that few people use, legislators should free up the market for road travel.

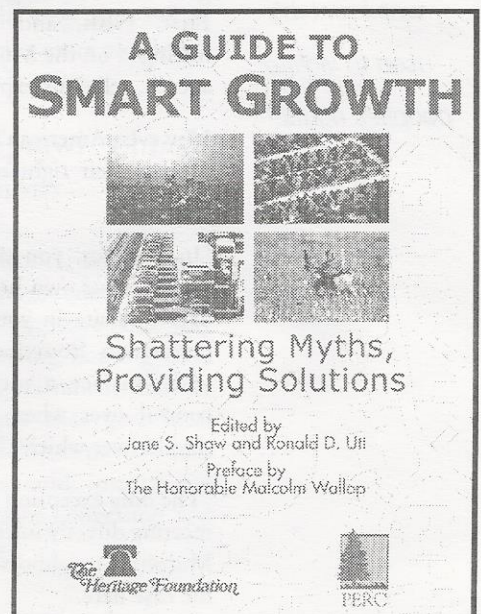
10. Solve the problems of city living.

Let's face it: some people move to the suburbs because city life is often problematic. Crime is higher in cities than in the suburbs, and government schools are often worse than their counterparts in the suburbs. Of course, the problems are diverse and complicated. Libertarians call for lower tax and regulatory burdens, which will increase economic prosperity and opportunity in the cities. Libertarians call for the repeal of drug prohibition, which will reduce gang violence and put street pushers out of business. Libertarians also note that city laws which disarm the citizens give criminals the advantage. If city life were better, fewer people would move to the suburbs.

Our choice is between market growth and political growth. If we have more of one, we necessarily get less of the other. The more power politicians and bureaucrats have, the less power individuals have to cooperate voluntarily using market institutions.

Too often, debates about growth merely pit one sort of political growth against another. Yet we needn't settle for any sort of political growth. Instead, we can choose the path of individual property rights, voluntary social arrangements, and pleasant communities. We can choose market growth.

The book below, published by the Heritage Foundation and the Political Economy Research Center this year, can be ordered from Laissez Faire Books at 800.326.0996. It includes chapters on suburbanization, wilderness lands, zoning laws, and traffic. In his introduction, Malcolm Wallop calls it a "cogent examination of the history and consequences of the search for space, air, views, schools, and safety that has resulted in suburbanization."



An Abuse of Zoning Laws

Town tries to 'snob-zone' God by banning prayer meetings in home

WASHINGTON, DC—A town in Connecticut that has banned a family from holding prayer meetings in its home is improperly using zoning laws to squash religious liberty, the Libertarian Party charged last month.

"No American town should be able to snob-zone God out of existence," said the party's national director, Steve Dasbach. "If zoning laws can be used as an excuse to ban organized prayer in a private home, then the First Amendment's protection of religious liberty doesn't, well, have a prayer."

In late November, the New Milford Zoning Commission ordered Robert and Mary Murphy to immediately stop holding weekly prayer meetings and Bible studies in their single-family home.

The Murphys had been conducting the meetings—which were attended by two dozen or fewer people—since 1995. But the Zoning Commission said it had determined that such gatherings were prohibited under the town's zoning laws, and threatened to take legal action against the Murphys if the meetings did not stop.

In December, the American Center for Law and Justice filed a lawsuit against the Milford town government, charging that the action violated the First, Fifth, and Fourteenth Amendments—and infringed on the Murphys' constitutional rights of free speech, religious expression, and freedom of assembly.

However, American families shouldn't need lawsuits to protect their right to pray in their own homes, said Dasbach.

"In America, you should have the absolute right to pray in your own home, and to invite your neighbors over to share in your prayers, without having to get permission from local government bureaucrats," he said. "In fact, a zoning board should have no more control over when and where you pray than they should over which God you pray to."

"The only exception to that rule would be if the prayer meeting directly infringed on the property rights of the Murphys' neighbors—and that does not seem to be the case here."

Unfortunately, the incident in New Milford is just one more example of how local zoning boards try to micromanage people's property, said Dasbach. Some other zoning law outrages over the past few years:

- Highland Park, New Jersey fined a rabbi for having a typewriter in his home. (It violated a ban on home offices.)

- Floosmoor, Illinois banned pickup trucks from private driveways.

- Alexandria, Virginia threatened to condemn 22 homes unless the owners fixed chipped paint on their windowsills and doorframes.

- Coral Gables, Florida mandated Spanish tiles for the roofs of any children's playhouses in families' backyards.

- Laguna Beach, California prohibited a family from moving into their new home because it was painted the wrong shade of white. The city also prosecuted a woman for building a picket fence that was

six inches too high.

In each case, the problem is the same, said Dasbach: Zoning laws gave local government bureaucrats vast power over homes and properties—and that power was inevitably used to violate people's rights.

"The problem is not that zoning boards abuse their power; it's that they have the power to abuse," he said. "As long as these bureaucrats have such power, incidents like the one in New Milford are bound to occur."

What's the solution?

"Take away zoning boards' power to micromanage the use of private property," suggested Dasbach. "That would strip them of their power to violate property rights—and their power to violate people's religious liberty. Then, no American would ever be banned from practicing religion in the privacy of their home, as happened in New Milford."

"The fact is, the power of local zoning bureaucrats should never be stronger than the right of private property, the power of the U.S. Constitution, or the importance of prayer in people's hearts."

More Press Releases from the National Libertarian Party:

**"Libertarian Wins
Supreme Court Case:
On 6-3 Vote, High Court
Strikes Down Drug-
Search Roadblocks"**

**"Hung Jury Ends Kubby
Medical Marijuana Trial"**

See www.lp.org.

*"Zoning laws
gave local
government
bureaucrats
vast power over
homes and
properties—
and that power
was inevitably
used to violate
people's rights."*

Resources on Growth and Suburbanization

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Critiquing Sprawl's Critics

<http://www.cato.org/pubs/pas/pa-365es.html>

by Peter Gordon and Harry W. Richardson

Cato Policy Analysis, January 24, 2000

"The assertions by the critics of urban sprawl do not stand up to scrutiny. Widely available data undermine most of their claims. The charge that urban sprawl fosters inequality, unemployment, and economic blight is disproven by the fact that lack of human capital, not workplace inaccessibility, is the main cause of poverty. Moreover, smart-growth plans exacerbate the problem of workplace inaccessibility by increasing housing costs for the poor, making it difficult for them to locate near areas that are growing economically."

Sprawl for Me, But Not for Thee

<http://www.cato.org/dailys/04-26-00.html>

by Jerry Taylor and Peter VanDoren

April 26, 2000

"Perhaps the oddest political coalition in America today is that of anti-suburban intellectuals and suburban 'slow growth' activists... [W]hy would suburbanites make common cause with those who loathe both their communities and their way of life, who sneer at their tacky, soul-less neighborhoods? Because both factions seek the same goal: the end of migration from the major cities."

Free-Market.Net on Growth

<http://free-market.net/spotlight/sprawl/>
extensive links, introductory essay

"For those of us who want our housing choices and our scenery, there are voluntary alternatives to coercive 'smart growth' plans. The Thoreau Institute has developed a proposal for protecting the countryside through land trusts and scenic easements. Existing subsidies for development would be eliminated, so that people would be free to build on their land as they wished — as long as they shouldered the costs."

The Common Law:

How It Protects the Environment

full text: <http://perc.org/ps13.htm>

summary: <http://perc.org/issdep.htm#law>

by Roger E. Meiners and Bruce Yandle

PERC Policy Series, Issue Number PS-13, May 1998

Jane S. Shaw, Series Editor

"Long before there was an Earth Day, people protected the quality of their air, streams, and land through common-law court cases. This approach was more successful than people usually think and offers an alternative to still more government regulation..."

Highway Policy Encourages Sprawl

<http://www.cato.org/dailys/8-18-98.html>

by Howard P. Wood

August 18, 1998

"Taxpayers... shouldn't have to pick up the tab for other people's preferences for suburban living, yet that has been the effect of the federal interstate highway program since the mid-1950s."

So-Called Smart Growth:

Elitist Assault on the American Dream

<http://i2i.org/SuptDocs/Enviro/SmartGrowth.htm>

by Wendell Cox

No. 6-2000, September 22, 2000

"Portland's urban growth boundary has made its housing affordability the worst in the nation outside California. Limitations on retail construction and competition are likely to increase product cost. The result could be to 'pull up the ladder,' so that low income and minority citizens are less able to enter the mainstream of the U.S. economy."

How "Smart Growth" Intensifies Traffic Congestion and Air Pollution

[http://i2i.org/SuptDocs/Enviro/](http://i2i.org/SuptDocs/Enviro/AirPollutionSmartGrowth.htm)

[AirPollutionSmartGrowth.htm](http://i2i.org/SuptDocs/Enviro/AirPollutionSmartGrowth.htm)

by Wendell Cox

No. 7-2000, September 25, 2000

"The problem of traffic congestion is very simple: it has to do with too many cars in too small a space. It would seem that the best approach to solving the problem would be to take actions to disperse traffic and to make it move faster. But just the opposite strategies have come into vogue. Advocates of so-called 'smart growth' policies believe that traffic congestion and air pollution can be improved by forcing more people and more cars into smaller areas."

Opponents of "Urban Sprawl" Should Use Market-Based Solutions

http://perc.org/lonemtn_comp.htm

"Signed by more than 100 academics, scholars and public policy officials, the [Lone Mountain Compact] argues that it is possible to improve the way communities develop without driving housing costs through the roof, but only if government eschews centralized, one-size-fits-all plans that give local residents little say in the development of their neighborhoods. Communities should instead use market-based solutions to ease traffic congestion and preserve open space, the group says."

"Communities should use market-based solutions to ease traffic congestion and preserve open space."

Press Watch: Libertarians Spread the Word

The Future is Libertarianism

The following letter was published in the Rocky Mountain News on December 12, 2000.

In a Dec. 5 letter, Wendy Darling argued that Americans should choose "liberalism" over "conservatism." Thankfully, those are not our only choices. I believe the future of America is libertarianism, which calls for voluntary social arrangements and universal individual rights.

Both liberals and conservatives are schizophrenic. Though the lines are increasingly blurred as the two parties grow together, liberals tend to be libertarian only on social issues, while conservatives tend to be libertarian only on economic issues.

Liberals don't want to regulate sex in our bedrooms—they just want to regulate how to build the bedroom and what size toilet is in the master bath. They don't want waiting periods for abortion, but they want waiting periods to purchase the tools of self-defense. They complain about corporate welfare and then vote to increase government subsidies.

Conservatives are for tax cuts, but they want to regulate what we can buy with our money. They won't even let cancer and AIDS victims buy the anti-nausea medication marijuana. They claim to be constitutionalists, yet they violate the First Amendment by proposing religious teaching in government schools and they violate the Fourth Amendment by promoting violent assault raids like the one that killed Ismael Mena.

If our only alternatives were liberalism and conservatism, I would be too depressed to get up every morning. Our hopes and dreams for a peaceful, civil society will be realized as the libertarian philosophy gains ground.

Ari Armstrong

Drug War Destroys Rights

The following letter appeared in the Rocky Mountain News on December 13, 2000. The author is a Libertarian.

In his Dec. 3 letter "Marijuana prohibition is a deadly approach," Robert Sharpe clearly detailed what a deadly, rights-robbing charade our elected and appointed officials, in collusion with the anti-drug industry, have created under the guise of the war on drugs.

There's no question that all Americans in one way or another are victims of U.S. drug policy. But drugs bear

little responsibility for this harm. Drugs do not kill the majority of "drug war" casualties. Nor does an innocuous plant destroy almost every vestige of our Constitution.

A policy that was doomed from its inception, drug prohibition, consumes lives wholesale, exactly as it has destroyed, and continues to injure, countless innocent American citizens almost daily. The war on drugs is nothing short of national fratricide, pure and simple.

We surrender our rights, lives, and tax dollars at an increasingly alarming rate. Whether it's the words that are censored from our conversations and communications; the firearm restrictions purportedly implemented to stop warring, black market drug gangs from murdering each other; the urine samples many are required to provide for the most preposterous of reasons; the property seized with no charges levied; the searches allowed on the flimsiest of evidence; the trillion or so dollars spent on this bureaucratic catastrophe; or the innocent Americans mistakenly gunned down by government agents in search of contraband, the war on drugs threatens the very foundations of our republic and our culture.

How and when it ends is entirely our decision. But one thing is overwhelmingly clear: We must end it before it ends us.

Mike Plylar

Government Created Crisis

The following letter was published in the Rocky Mountain News on January 1.

One of the first things people learn in economics is that when the free market is left alone, producers compete among themselves by catering to the consumer with variety, abundance, service and low cost. And the consumers will reward and punish the best and worst producers by spending or withholding their dollars. When the free market is interfered with, inefficiencies and lost opportunities for both consumers and producers are created.

This concept is basic, yet the American people continually try to cheat the market without consequence. Today, special interest groups (both consumers and producers) aggressively use the powers of government while trying to get something for nothing.

In the current California electricity debacle the government has granted monopoly rights to certain

"The future of America is libertarianism, which calls for voluntary social arrangements and universal individual rights."

An Activist Democrat Congratulates the LP

15

Congratulations on continued improvement in Libertarian electoral returns in the recent election. The Libertarians and the Greens are doing a great deal to add dynamism to the American electoral system. No longer can the two parties hold us captive to "no other choice."

Now we have genuine alternatives which, even if they do not often result in non-mainstream candidates being elected, at least make enough of a statistical dent to alert the political caste, the media and the general public to our agenda of rolling back the tyranny of the national security state.

In this regard, of course, we who seek to allow more voices to be heard in American elections must give due credit to Mr. Nader, whose splash-in-the-pan

candidacy dragged off enough Left votes to cost Mr. Gore the presidential election.

The Libertarian Party, however, after some years of ideological wrangling, seems to have reached a consensus which promises not just an occasional flash, but a steady climb towards respectability and electability in this first decade of the 21st century.

I wish you success in promoting liberty and freedom from senseless and counterproductive government interference in our personal lives, success both now and in the future.

Faternally,
Jack J. Woehr
Registered Democrat

"Press" continued from page 14

power companies; government has granted price controls to consumers; government has guaranteed profits to producers; government has prevented increased local production to "benefit" consumers; government has forced producers to buy out-of-state electricity to meet increased demand; and government has instituted price caps to "protect" consumers.

So here we are. Government, with the best of intentions, created this crisis at our request.

When consumers can obtain a product cheaply they will consume lots of it. When businesses are guaranteed a profit, they have no incentive to improve. The libertarian answer is to stop the "Hatfields and McCoys" from using the power of government in their eternal feud.

When the government stops interfering in the free market for the benefit of someone, it benefits everyone.

Mark Holden

Don't Vote for Mediocrity

J.N. Walker published the following letter in the Rocky Mountain News on December 6.

...I've noted the continued lament over the fact that we had only two choices, neither much different from the other...My question is: Why did most people vote for these two if no one liked them?...What about Ralph Nader...or Harry Browne, the Libertarian candidate, who proposed real reform in the government?

...We were told by the media and major parties that a vote for anyone besides Gore or Bush would be

"throwing our vote away." In my opinion, voting for someone you don't really want is throwing away a vote...If you vote for mediocrity, you get mediocrity...Vote for someone you really want, and hopefully we will someday put a true leader in office.

Bill of Rights Day

Sara Cooke wrote an article about the Bill of Rights Day celebration that took place in Loveland on December 15. Cooke's article appeared in the *Loveland Reporter Herald* on December 16 and in the *Longmont Times Call* on December 19.

A variety of groups attended the meeting, including the Tyranny Response Team, Second Amendment Sisters, and the Libertarian Party. Ron Bain and Ari Armstrong of the LP spoke at the event, and a few of Bain's comments were included in Cooke's article:

"The 209-year-old Bill of Rights can't fend for itself, area political activists said Friday night. 'These words are not going to jump off the paper and protect themselves,' said Bob Glass of Longmont, a member of the Colorado Chapter of the Tyranny Response Team. 'That's our job.'

"Ron Bain, a local libertarian, said he felt the government was using the war on drugs to 'shred the Bill of Rights' through illegal searches and workplace drug testing. 'If you want to retain what is in your body and retain your body's property, that's your right,' he said.

"As a vegetarian who has never owned a gun, Bain admitted he didn't come to such gatherings often. 'I still feel you have the right to hunt, own guns and eat meat,' he said."

"The Libertarian Party promises not just an occasional flash, but a steady climb towards respectability and electability in this first decade of the 21st century."

Six Characteristics of a True Republic

by David Bryant

(1) A true republic is a form of representative government in which governmental power is strictly circumscribed so that it does not trespass on the natural rights of persons within its jurisdiction.

A true republic, then, can never devolve into a tyranny of the majority, for the rights of the individual are inviolable.

In theory, at least, American governments still honor this ideal. For example, the third section of Colorado's Bill of Rights says that

All persons have certain natural, essential and inalienable rights, among which may be reckoned the right of enjoying and defending their lives and liberties; of acquiring, possessing, and protecting property; and of seeking and obtaining their safety and happiness.

But what has become of this concept in actual practice? Peaceful drug users who have never harmed a soul and who are simply seeking their own happiness are imprisoned for "the good of society." Honest merchants who have never cheated a single customer are hunted down and driven out of business for failing to comply with any one of a host of bothersome regulations, or for lack of a license. "Asset forfeiture" laws are used to deprive innocent people of their lawful property—and the victims of those seizures have no real chance to protect their property from the government's agents who, ironically, have sworn to protect the very same individual rights they so blithely and routinely disregard.

(2) In a true republic, power is not concentrated in a few hands, but is distributed into several departments, each of which acts as a check upon the others. We have all heard of the doctrine of separation of powers, and the system of checks and balances. Indeed, the Colorado constitution contains an explicit provision, Article 3, which says

The powers of the government of this state are divided into three distinct departments, —the legislative, executive, and judicial; and no person or collection of persons charged with the exercise of powers properly belonging to one of these departments shall exercise any power properly belonging to either of the others, except as in this constitution expressly directed or permitted.

So in theory, at least, the power of making the laws is strictly separated from the power of enforcing them; and neither the legislature nor the executive may interpret the laws for the people, nor may they

adjudicate disputes. Similarly, the officers of the judicial department may not make laws, nor enforce them, but must limit their activity to the actual trial of cases.

But what has happened in practice? The legislature has delegated its law-making authority to several executive agencies as, for example, the Division of Insurance, which issues regulations purporting to have the force of law. And this was not done "as in this constitution expressly directed"—it was done with a simple legislative enactment. Similarly, several executive agencies have established their own rules of adjudication, thus usurping the authority lawfully reserved to the judiciary. Twenty-five years ago, when I first moved to Colorado, these kangaroo courts were usually called "hearings," and the people presiding over them were known as "hearing officers." Today the same people are called "administrative law judges," and the rooms in which the hearings are held are called "administrative courts."

Even the judicial department has assumed unlawful legislative powers. While there is a specific grant of rule-making authority to the supreme court of Colorado (constitution, Article 6, Section 21), such authority is restricted to "administration of all courts," and to "practice and procedure in civil and criminal cases." But in Colorado, the judiciary has defined an offense ("contempt") for which a punishment is prescribed, and against which the right of trial by jury may not be asserted—all in direct violation of Colorado's fundamental law.

Indeed, the petit jury—which is, or ought to be, the most important check upon the power of Colorado government—has been attacked by the judges (in collusion with the district attorneys) and has now been so completely undermined that criminal defendants rarely obtain the "trial by jury" to which they are entitled. Yes, there are twelve persons in the jury box. Yes, they weigh the evidence and return a "verdict." But are they really a jury? No—because the judicial department has prescribed procedures to keep independent thinkers off the panel, and routinely forces prospective jurors to take an oath which prevents them from serving in their proper capacity: as a final check on the government's power to mete out punishment.

(3) A true republic is a government of laws, and not of men. We've all heard this old saw, which is directly tied to the concept of equal protection. Once again, in theory, this restriction is still in place, for the Colorado constitution (Bill of Rights, Section 6) declares that

*"All persons
have certain
natural,
essential and
inalienable
rights."*

Courts of justice shall be open to every person, and a speedy remedy afforded for every injury to person, property, or character; and right and justice... administered without sale, denial or delay.

And once again, in practice, everyone can see how empty this promise really is. Think about the tragic death of Ismael Mena. Armed with a warrant (obtained unlawfully) and dozens of firearms, officers from the Denver police department broke into Sr. Mena's residence. When he attempted to defend himself (his "natural, essential and inalienable right"), they pumped his body full of bullets. What happened to the government agents who murdered Ismael Mena? All but one of them were totally exonerated. And Joseph Bini, the only one to face a criminal charge, eventually pled guilty to a single misdemeanor count of filing a false report.

Is this the Liberty and Justice for All we learned about in school? If you and a gang of your buddies had burst into Mena's bedroom with guns blazing, would you expect to get off on a misdemeanor charge? Why should police officers face lesser penalties than anyone else would when they violate the law?

(4) A true republic is instituted for the benefit of every peaceful person, and does not provide benefits to the members of a special class at the expense of everyone else. This vital principle is enshrined in the very first section of Colorado's Bill of Rights, which reads

All political power is vested in and derived from the people; all government, of right, originates from the people, is founded on their will only, and is instituted for the good of the whole.

Obviously, government must pursue the end for which it was instituted, and it should pursue no other ends. In Colorado, the constitution says that government is instituted for the good of the whole. Knowing, as we do, that values are subjective, it is apparent that legislation which advances the interests of some persons at the expense of others cannot reliably advance the good of the whole. Who among us can declare the proper balance between one man's loss and another's gain?

In theory, then, this important restraint upon the exercise of governmental power is firmly in place. But everyone knows that modern government is, in practice, a war among special interests. Lobbyists pursue the members of the general assembly even when the legislature is not in session. Why would they expend great sums of money to alter the course of legislation unless there were some gain in it for them?

Amazingly enough, the single largest group of lobbyists in Colorado today represents the various counties, municipalities, school districts, and special districts into which state government is subdivided. In other words, the most influential special interests in the state are public entities which use the tax money they collect *directly* to entreat state government for even more money which they hope will be passed through to them *indirectly*. A more egregious violation of this fundamental principle underlying true republican government can scarcely be imagined!

(5) In a truly republican society, there is no professional class of political persons. Elected officials should be drawn from the ranks of the common people, they should serve their country for a limited period of time, and then they should return to private life. A few appointed officials (eg, judges) might indeed enjoy a lifetime tenure, but even these few would, ideally, choose to resign after some reasonable interval of time. In this way the persons making and administering the laws would be continuously exposed to the direct effects those laws were having on society at large, and the laws themselves would tend to redound to "the good of the whole."

In practice, of course, there is a great chasm between the professional politicians and career bureaucrats and the rest of the population. The pros have their own special (and publicly funded) retirement plans and medical insurance—everyone else gets social security and medicare. They get free gasoline, chauffeurs, and generous expense allowances—we get to pay more taxes.

The recent movement toward term limits has cut into the tenure of particular politicians in particular offices. But as the game of house-to-senate musical chairs was played out in Colorado this year, it became obvious that longevity in some public office or another is still possible. Many of the term-limited reps ("Republicans," of course) sought and obtained positions in Bill Owens' executive department. And tenure in the civil service is still a very desirable thing—in the eyes of those who hold it.

The fears of the anti-federalists—that a privileged class might one day arise to rule over the common people in a monarchical manner while retaining the republican forms—have in large measure materialized. In less than a month George the Third will ascend to the Presidency, and a magnificent pageant of imperial pomp and circumstance will mark that regal occasion. Very few Americans will view the spectacle with clear unblinking eyes and see how deep a wound is thus inflicted on our longsuffering republic.

"Armed with a warrant (obtained unlawfully) and dozens of firearms, officers from the Denver police department broke into Sr. Mena's residence and pumped his body full of bullets."

(6) In a true republic, the citizens themselves are virtuous, and the government must be good, for the people will not allow it to degenerate. This concept of "republican virtue" is not easily explained to many modern observers, for virtue itself has become unpopular. Perhaps a few examples of things the framers and their contemporaries talked about will serve to illustrate this point.

Writing in Philadelphia in October, 1787, Samuel Bryan, a Pennsylvania anti-federalist who styled himself "Centinel," made these remarks:

A republican, or free government, can only exist where the body of the people are virtuous, and where property is pretty equally divided; in such a government the people are the sovereign and their sense or opinion is the criterion of every public measure; for when this ceases to be the case, the nature of the government is changed, and an aristocracy, monarchy, or despotism will rise on its ruin.

*"A republican, or
free government,
can only exist
where the body
of the people
are virtuous."*

And in The Federalist #57, James Madison offered this advice:

[W]hat is to restrain the House of Representatives from making legal discriminations in favor of themselves and a particular class of the society? I answer ... the vigilant and manly spirit which actuates the people of America—a spirit which nourishes freedom, and in return is nourished by it.

If this spirit shall ever be so far debased as to tolerate a law not obligatory on the legislature, as well as on the people, the people will be prepared to tolerate anything but liberty.

A great American city bears the name of a hero, widely regarded as a model of this "republican virtue" when the Constitution was first written. Most people probably think that Cincinatti, Ohio is an Indian name. It is not. That city is named after Cincinattus, a Roman farmer who, the story goes, left his horse and plow at home and assumed dictatorial powers when an internal cabal threatened the continued existence of the ancient Roman republic. Within thirty days he dispatched Rome's enemies, restored the Senate to its proper position of authority, and resigned his office to become a farmer once again.

For many years after the Revolution the Order of the Cincinatti, a club composed of men who served as officers under George Washington during the war, was a respected American institution. Its members thought of themselves as having been cast in the mold

of Cincinattus. When danger threatened, they left their farms to become soldiers and, when the danger was past, they laid down their arms and returned to a bucolic existence once again. A remnant of that semi-secret society still exists today. But very few Americans remember the story of Cincinattus, or the "republican virtue" that was the hallmark of his brief but brilliant public career.

That the words "republic" and "virtue" are no longer closely associated in the popular imagination is the saddest commentary on our country's history one could possibly imagine. Yes, there are still plenty of people who realize that prosperity and happiness are each individual's private responsibility. But in actual practice far, far too many Americans are willing and even eager to look at the government as some sort of glorified candy factory. Like children, we look to Uncle Sam as the source of all good things, and call upon the government to solve our purely personal problems.

Libertarian Pamphlet Project

by Scott Williams

What do you do for a living? Libertarians are the real party of workers. We value our participation in the free market, and know firsthand how government interference can cause problems in our workplaces. And we can anticipate how our particular working environment could be better in a Libertarian society.

If, in addition to the skills it takes to do that job, you have a knack for writing, then think about writing an essay aimed at members of your profession outlining how regulation and taxation interfere with productivity, and how things could be better if our philosophy were widely adopted.

I'd like to take these essays and make them into trifold pamphlet format, for distribution where members of that profession congregate, and for LP outreach activities. If you're interested, contact Scott Williams at 3540 Osage St., Denver, CO 80211-3060.

Email Announcement List

The most efficient way for the Party to alert you about breaking news and activist events is by email. If you wish to join the announcement list, please send an email to davidbryant@worldnet.att.net. Rest assured that the announcement list will be used sparingly.

Advertisement: ATTENTION MUSICIANS

Libertarians, anarchists, or those just plain fed up with government wanted to start an ensemble to promote freedom through gospel music. Singers, composers, conductors, and blues-rock musicians welcome. Please e-mail traevoli@usa.net if interested.

Gale Norton Picked for Secretary of Interior

19

Former Colorado Attorney General Gale Norton was selected as Secretary of Interior by George W. Bush. Norton was a member of the Libertarian Party of Colorado in the late 1970s—she even wrote an article for the Volume 1, Number 5 edition of the *Colorado Liberty* (December 1979 / January 1980). Norton knew LP founder David Nolan when he lived in the area.

In the mid-1990s, Norton attended a few sessions of the Austrian Economics Study Group, a reading club that focuses on the works of such free market economists as Ludwig von Mises. Around this time, she addressed the Business Ethics Forum on the subject of asset forfeiture. More recently, Norton served on the Board of Directors of the Independence Institute, a market-oriented think tank in Golden.

Norton's appointment has raised mixed feelings among Libertarians. According to a January 2 article in the *Christian Science Monitor*, "The Interior Department is responsible for 436 million acres of America's public lands—nearly 20 percent of all the land surface in the US. This includes about a third of the natural gas, a third of the coal, and a quarter of the oil consumed by Americans."

During his run for President, Libertarian candidate Harry Browne ran on a platform that included selling off all national land holdings in order to pay off Social Security obligations, thus freeing Americans from the burden of that system. Certainly as a Bush appointee Norton will pursue a much more conservative course.

"Of course we want the federal government to handle public property in a responsible manner," said Bette Rose Smith, current Chair of the Libertarian Party of Colorado. "But doesn't Ms. Norton see a problem with the fact that the government owns this much land?"

Libertarians and other Constitutional literalists argue the U.S. Constitution allows Congress to establish post offices and post roads and to erect "Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards and other needful Buildings." Nowhere is Congress empowered to exercise control over such huge portions of the American landscape.

"We hope Ms. Norton will start the long-overdue process of returning these lands to the people," said Smith. "Proceeds from the land auctions could go towards paying down the debt or for buying annuities for retirees, allowing them to leave the unreliable Social Security system."

Smith continued, "If she is really worried about land being used in an environmentally responsible way, putting land back in the hands of private citizens is the

best way to accomplish this. Owners protect land much better than federal administrators."

Still, many Libertarians see Norton's appointment as a positive step. In his address at last November's Libertarian election night party in Denver, W. Earl Allen suggested that one way Libertarians can achieve progress is by influencing the two major parties.

Norton's appointment demonstrates that the Libertarian Party—and the much broader libertarian movement—does impact the political landscape, even if libertarians view the changes as painfully slow and the results as discouragingly diluted.

Independence Institute News Release

Former Colorado Attorney General Gale Norton, who serves the Independence Institute currently as a member of the Board of Trustees and who previously held the post of Senior Fellow with the Institute, was named Secretary of Interior Thursday by President-Elect George W. Bush.

During her tenure on the Independence Institute's Board of Trustees, Ms. Norton has helped guide policy decision-making regarding important administrative matters affecting the Institute. She served the Institute as a Senior Fellow between 1988 and 1991.

"We're very proud of the great job she has done as part of the Independence Institute. She has really helped steer us to success," stated I.I. President Jon Caldara, who recruited Ms. Norton to the Colorado think tank's Board of Trustees in January 1999, when her eight-year term as Colorado Attorney General ended. "Her free market perspective and respect for property rights will make her a great steward of the nation's public lands."

"Gale has shown a unique ability to bring together a diverse group of people without losing her principles," Caldara added. "If her leadership at the Independence Institute is any indication, America can expect an effective, straightforward and honest Department of Interior."

A nationally recognized public policy leader, Ms. Norton has served as Chair of the Environment Committee for the National Association of Attorneys General, was appointed by President George H. Bush to the Western Water Policy Commission, and gained her initial experience in the Department of the Interior as an Associate Solicitor overseeing endangered species and public lands issues for the National Park Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service. She also worked as Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Agriculture.

*"Nowhere
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portions of
the American
landscape."*

Cryptonomicon a Libertarian Winner

by Ari Armstrong

So is a beard a vestige of the male-dominated patriarchal society, or is it just something guys wear at random until it gets too hot for them? Randy Waterhouse doesn't really care: he's too busy stringing cables across the ocean floor to create an Asian data haven—and the attendant private currency—secure from government's prying eyes. That, and trying to figure out America Shaftoe, a diver who finds a sunken WWII submarine off the coast of the Philippines.

Randy is the grandson of Lawrence Pritchard Waterhouse, a trumpet player working for the Army (and the Navy) during the War who builds a prototypical digital computer out of organ pipes to break enemy code. America is the granddaughter of Bobby Shaftoe, a Marine who at one point gives a shell-shocked interview to some lackey lieutenant named Ronald Reagan.

For a time, Lawrence and Bobby work together on a project known as Detachment 2702, the purpose of which Bobby Shaftoe doesn't have a clue. (Detachment 2702 used to be Detachment 2701, but Lawrence thought Alan Turing's title—the product of two primes—would be too obvious to their German friend working the other side.) In his spare time, Bobby writes haiku. (*The modern world's hell on haiku writers: 'Electrical generator' is, what, eight syllables? You couldn't even fit that onto the second line!*)

Randy's business partner, Avi, is (understandably) obsessed with preventing another holocaust. Goto Dengo knows something about government-sponsored murder; he witnessed it many times, including at the top-secret engineering project he worked on while in the Japanese military. What does this have to do with cryptography and Greek mythology? Just ask the computer geek with the assault rifle.

Neal Stephenson has written a heavy libertarian novel that is coincidentally a New York Times bestseller. And by "heavy" I mean really, really big: 910 large pages (plus an appendix that describes how to send encrypted messages with a deck of cards).

But that space is well used. Stephenson is a wonderful writer. His characters are perhaps the most detailed and vivid in all of libertarian literature. His sense of humor is wry and fertile; I was regularly having to explain scenes to my wife after breaking into spontaneous laughter. Stephenson has already cracked the tech world: when I mentioned the novel to a Libertarian who works in computers I saw by chance in a restaurant, he said he'd already lent his copy out

to a friend. He too commented on the lush writing style; the scene he noted was when Goto Dengo was on a Japanese ship bombed by the Americans. Because the (burning) oil was thick on the water, this stuck to the clothes and created an unexpected buoyancy, which made swimming to safety a difficult task.

Indeed, if I had one soft criticism of the book, it would be that Stephenson gets so caught up in the description and background of a particular scene that he sometimes seems reluctant to get back around to the plot. But this is easy to forgive, as the page-to-page writing is so intrinsically interesting. Had I been the editor, I don't think I would have had the heart to cut anything out. Some of Stephenson's plot features are a little coincidental, but this is well-hidden by the rich writing and subtle convergence of story lines. I'm willing to accept the coincidence as the fee for the inter-generation familial relationships.

Perhaps the easiest character to love is Bobby Shaftoe. To put it mildly, Bobby is rough around the edges. His religious incantations, well, might make some of our friends in Colorado Springs faint. The only thing the soldier is more loyal to than his country is his girlfriend and her family in the Philippines. Stephenson's sense of humor shines through Bobby, the tough son of a gun who swears profusely, develops a morphine habit, picks barroom fights, and slithers through the jungle to slap ominous bumper stickers on the trucks of Japanese convoys. Yet Bobby is at the same time Stephenson's most politically incorrect and sympathetic character, a guy with a heart of gold.

Stephenson is not an overtly libertarian writer; the libertarian themes in the book don't cohere until most of the way through it. (I bought the book by chance based on the provocative cover and the numerous reprinted quotes of praise.) Yet it's obvious that Stephenson is familiar with at least some of the basic libertarian literature on money, technology, and the right to bear arms. Stephenson is deeply philosophical and he shares with Objectivists a skepticism of post-modernism and a nostalgia for Greek intellectual life. While obviously the book's appeal extends far beyond libertarian circles, libertarians should feel perfectly at home in Stephenson's world. At least the novel proves the theory of Libertarian Vice-Chair Dan Fylstra and Colorado activist W. Earl Allen that there's a natural alliance between libertarians and computer techies.

You won't realize the significance of the following line until you read it in the context of the novel: "Then, on impulse, he dives in there after it." That's what I recommend you do relative to the story in this compelling novel.

"What does
preventing
another holocaust
have to do with
cryptography
and Greek
mythology?
Just ask the
computer
geek with the
assault rifle."

How to Write Letters to the Editor

21

If you publish three letters in main-stream newspapers this year that contain the word "libertarian," you will become a "Light of Liberty" winner. (See www.TheAdvocates.org for more information.) More important, you will help to educate the public about libertarian ideas. As the first edition of the *Libertarian Communicator* points out, "A single letter can take a hard-hitting, positive libertarian message to thousands or hundreds of thousands of people."

To write a successful letter, one likely to be published and one that will get people interested in the libertarian point of view, you need to keep several points in mind.

- **Look for a news hook.** If you respond to a story, column, or letter in a particular paper, you are more likely to be published. You are not likely to be published if you write about an untimely topic. You should send your letter to ONE paper only. Some editors may get snippy if they run your letter and then find the same letter in another paper.

- **State your main point at the beginning of your letter.** It's a good idea to use the word "libertarian" early on, to link your ideas to a broader political philosophy. Here's a good example of a successful lead paragraph for a letter: "John Doe's column from January 2 argues that the state legislature should regulate hair braiding. However, as a libertarian, I believe politicians should leave hair braiding to the self-regulation of the free market."

- **Be civil!** Some people already think libertarians are strange; this is your chance to prove to them that we're sensible and caring. For example, do NOT write: "John Doe's fascist proposal to regulate hair braiding demonstrates he is unworthy of living in civil society. Perhaps Doe would like to move to Communist China to get his hair done." DO write: "John Doe's proposal is well-intentioned, but it's unnecessary and it will waste tax dollars and unfairly restrict the market." You should generally avoid sarcasm.

- **Be concise.** If you start to ramble, the paper is not likely to print your letter, and readers are not likely to get through it. Keep your letter to the absolute minimum length required to make your point. Most papers publish maximum length guidelines, which you should follow. You should generally stick to a single issue. If you don't have a lot of experience writing, you'll probably want to let someone else edit your letter.

- **Pick your opportunities carefully.** If you start to send in letters every other day, the editors will simply ignore you. Watch for your opportunities and pick a topic that matches your interests. Don't limit yourself

to the major newspapers, which receive tons of mail. Often a smaller publication will be more likely to print your letter.

- **Let us know when you are published!** The *Colorado Liberty* will reprint your letter. In addition, Colorado libertarians should strive to earn the "Light of Liberty" award to show other states we're active. So get to writing!

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already think

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is your chance

to prove to

them that

we're sensible

and caring."

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LIBERTY CALENDAR

January • February 2001

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
January	1 Boulder , noon. Call Lori VanBuren: 303.823.9695 Southside , 7pm. Call Bennett Rutledge: 303.740.8690	2 Fort Collins Breakfast, 7 am at Joe's Fireside Cafe, 238 S College Ave. Call Lee Smith: 970.635.0395	3 Colorado Springs Friends of Liberty, 7 pm. 719.596.6799 Broomfield 7pm. Call Wright Morgan: 303.465.9676	4 Jefferson County 6 pm. social, 7 pm. business. 12895 W. 16th. Dr. in Golden. Call Tom Goonan: 303.202.9069	5	6 Denver Breakfast LePeep's, 8 am. 303.831.4334 Fort Morgan In the Mood Coffee House at 2:00 pm. 970.542.9115
7	8 Boulder , noon. Call Lori VanBuren: 303.823.9695	9	10 Colorado Springs Friends of Liberty, 7 pm. 719.596.6799	11 Boulder LPBC Board Meeting, 6:30 pm. La Estrellita in Boulder. Call Lori VanBuren: 303.823.9695	12	13 Denver Breakfast LePeep's, 8 am. 303.831.4334 Adams County , 9 am Denny's, 303.252.7808 Fort Morgan , 2:00 pm. In the Mood Coffee House 970.542.9115
14	15 Boulder , noon. Call Lori VanBuren: 303.823.9695 Fort Collins , 7pm. Call Dan Cochran 970.667.7557	16	17 Colorado Springs Friends of Liberty, 7 pm. 719.596.6799 Routt County , 7pm. Call: 970.870.8104	18	19	20 Denver Breakfast LePeep's, 8 am. 303.831.4334 Fort Morgan In the Mood Coffee House at 2:00 pm. 970.542.9115
21	22 Boulder Luncheon, noon. Call Lori VanBuren: 303.823.9695	23	24 Colorado Springs Friends of Liberty, 7pm. Call Carol Geltemeyer: 719.596.6799 Routt County , 7pm. Call: 970.870.8104	25	26	27 Denver Breakfast LePeep's, 8 am 303.831.4334 Adams County , 9 am Denny's, 303.252.7808 Fort Morgan , 2:00 pm. In the Mood Coffee House 970.542.9115
28	29 Boulder Luncheon, noon. Call Lori VanBuren: 303.823.9695	30	31 Colorado Springs Friends of Liberty, 7pm. Call Carol Geltemeyer: 719.596.6799	The State Libertarian Party Convention will be held May 18-20. See pages 4 and 5 for details.		

			February	1 Jefferson County 6 pm. social, 7 pm. business. 12895 W. 16th. Dr. in Golden. Call Tom Goonan: 303.202.9069	2	3 Denver Breakfast LePeep's, 8 am. 303.831.4334 Fort Morgan In the Mood Coffee House at 2:00 pm. 970.542.9115
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☐ Start or ☐ Renew Your LP Membership Today!

Use this form to begin or extend your unified (national and state) LP membership. Send it to:
Libertarian Party, Watergate Office Building, 2600 Virginia Ave. NW, Suite 100, Washington, DC 20037

Name: _____ Employer: _____
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The Federal Election Commission requires political committees to report the name, mailing address, occupation, and name of employer of each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year. The IRS requires us to print "contributions are not tax-deductible" on all fund-raising appeals. Although we'd like to tell you this is a government mandated notice, the FEC and IRS also say we're not allowed to tell you that!

Check one:

- ☐ \$1000 or ☐ \$100/month Life Benefactor
☐ \$500 or ☐ \$50/month Patron
☐ \$250 or ☐ \$25/month Sponsor
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☐ I want to join the LPUS monthly pledge program in the amount indicated to the left. I will receive the Liberty Pledge News each month.

- ☐ Send a reminder notice each month,
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☐ I have enclosed a Check/Money Order or ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard Expiration Date ____ / ____ / ____

Account # _____ Signature _____

(National party members please sign below)

I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals.

Signature: _____ Date ____ / ____ / ____

What does the above pledge mean? We ask our members to disavow the initiation of force. This does not mean that you cannot defend yourself; you do have a right to defend your life, liberty, and property. It means that you cannot use the coercive power of government to forcibly achieve your personal, ethical, or religious goals. This commitment helps us maintain our principles and provides us with a measuring stick to determine if we have strayed from our common goal: a society where all relationships among persons are based on voluntary cooperation.

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

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