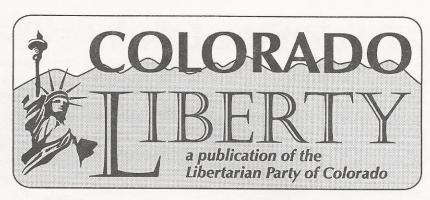
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VOLUME XVII, NUMBER 7

JULY 1996

Browne Nomination Assured

by Ron Bain, Liberty Editor

At press time, delegate counts taken prior to the convening of the Libertarian National Convention in Washington, D.C. on July 3rd indicate that Harry Browne wll become the 1996 Libertarian presidential nominee and that Jo Jorgensen will become his running mate.

Colorado is sending almost its full allotment of 23 delegates, most of them Browne supporters, to the convention. The Colorado delegation is chaired by Congressional candidate Earl Allen. Also expected to receive delegate votes at the convention are presidential contenders Rick Tompkins, Irwin Schiff and Dr. Calvin Ruskaup. Full details of the convention will be provided in the August edition of the *Colorado Liberty*.

Speakers at the convention include former Coloradan Jacob C. Hornberger, founder and president of the Future of Freedom Foundation, as keynote speaker; another former Coloradan and the founder of the Libertarian Party, David Nolan; leading libertarian environmentalist Karl Hess, Jr.; Reason Foundation founder and president Robert Poole; Tonie Nathan, the first woman to receive an electoral vote; and Michigan's highest Libertarian vote getter, Jon Coon.

The convention, scheduled for July 3-7 at the Hyatt Capitol Hill, is being broadcast live on C-SPAN.



Apparent 1996 Libertarian Party Presidential nominee Harry Browne. Photo courtesy of the Browne campaign.

Doug Bruce Runs for State Senate

by Ron Bain, Liberty Editor

Colorado's tax limitation champion, Douglas Bruce, has decided to take on incumbent State Senator Ray Powers for the Republican nomination in Eastern El Paso County's District 10. And he's looking for Libertarian volunteers to walk precincts and get out the anti-tax, pro-liberty vote.

"If it were anybody but Ray Powers, I wouldn't be doing it," Bruce commented in a recent interview. "He's an authoritarian who has been the staunchest fascist in the legislature."

His election to the Colorado Senate would be the "single most notable advance toward the goals the Libertarian Party and I share in common," said Bruce, adding that the constituency he would serve would be "the freedom-loving people of Colorado."

Asked why he didn't change his affiliation and run for office as a Libertarian, Bruce said he wanted a realistic chance of being elected.

"We need to be realistic and settle for a small 'l' libertarian in the state legislature," Bruce said, adding that he was acquainted with State Representative Penn Pfiffner, former LP of Colorado chair, and would be able to work with him as another libertarian Republican. "I'm gonna be more libertarian than the average Libertarian."

see Bruce Runs for State Senate, page 6

From the Editor:

1996 is the year of the third party. Virtually every newspaper, TV news show or radio talk show you see or hear these days mentions one third party candidate or another, and an increasing number of them are mentioning Harry Browne. Although the media haven't yet been convinced that the Libertarians are the ascendant third party, I believe 1996 presents the best opportunity we've had in 15 or 20 years to convince all Americans of that.

Harry Browne is the most charismatic, presentable, credible candidate the Libertarian Party has offered to the voters since Ed Clark, and it's going to be Harry Browne that breaks Clark's old record of just under one million votes and gains us some grudging respect from the media. I'm predicting Browne will get at least 2 million votes in the general ejection, and might—under certain circumstances—reach swing vote status of 5% to 10%.

Now that the convention is over and Browne has been nominated, only a lack of cohesion within the Libertarian Party could possibly derail the Browne campaign from this track it's on. Every Libertarian should become a part of the daily drumbeat of talk show commentary, letters to the editor and paid polling that will result in Browne being included in the presidential debates. Politicians are known for doing desperate things in order to win, and I think Clinton is getting desperate enough to try to steal votes from Dole by letting Browne into the debates.

But some Libertarians have expressed an unwillingness to support Harry Browne, not because he espouses non-libertarian

Colorado Liberty

A publication of the Libertarian Party of Colorado

Sandra Johnson, Chairman and Publisher Ron Bain, Editor

Subscription is included in party membership, which is extended to all those who register to vote as Libertarians, pay membership dues, or both. See the membership form elsewhere in this issue. Paid subscriptions are \$6 per year. Make checks payable and send all correspondence to:

Libertarian Party of Colorado 720 East 18th Avenue, #309 Denver, Colorado 80203

Editorial Policy: This publication serves as an open forum for libertarian news and commentary. All remarks made in open meetings will be considered "on the record." We invite submissions (they cannot be returned) of material to the above address. Content decisions are at the sole discretion of the editor and publisher. Opinions expressed in *Colorado Liberty* are not necessarily the official positions of the Libertarian Party.

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positions but because he holds beliefs that indicate he has exercised his right to make personal choices in his life without trying to force them on others: he would not recommend an abortion to a female member of his family, and he does not keep a gun in his house. He doesn't try to tell others not to do these things—he supports the Second Amendment, personal choice and states' rights.

Unlike some Libertarian presidential candidates before him, Browne is not afraid to point out the disastrous consequences of America's War on Drugs. Browne remembers to talk about the LP's platform planks that say "Bring our boys home from everywhere!" and "Throw open the border with Mexico!" which are not mentioned very often by rank-and-file Libertarians. For party members who are gold bugs, property rights advocates and anti-tax activists, Browne's candidacy is a dream come true—because he may actually nudge this entire nation a bit of the way toward liberty.

I fervently hope that the supporters of Rick Tompkins, Irwin Schiff and Dr. Calvin Ruskaup will join the Browne campaign in making 1996 the best year yet for Libertarians.

Ron Bain, Liberty Editor

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25th Annual People's Fair the Best Yet

The Denver People's Fair celebrated its 25th anniversary on June 1st and 2nd, and Denver Libertarians were once more a party of the festivities—one old-time Libertarian said he couldn't remember any other annual fund-raising and outreach event that local Libertarians have been participating in as long.

Bryan Griffin from the Boulder County Libertarian Party, LPC board member Larry Hoffenberg and Denver Libertarian Party Chairman Bert Wiener, and other Libertarians from all over the metropolitan area were heavily involved in establishing and staffing the Libertarian Party booth at this year's People's Fair. The Nolan Chart was set up to survey the opinions of fair-goers, and Wiener said the booth attracted fans and detractors alike.

"The most interesting thing was the steady stream of people who came by just to say 'thanks,' 'great to see you here,' and—in one case—not a single word, just a face full of respect and appreciation, along with a firm handshake," the Denver LP

chairman commented. "But we also had a fair number of adversaries. One of them was actually informed as to what we're about."

An "eye-opening" attribute of the People's Fair was the popularity of the Libertarian booth with members of Generation X, Wiener mentioned.

"Whenever twenty-somethings heard the 10-second summary of the Libertarian philosophy, they agreed with it—sometimes within the first five seconds! At least a dozen times I saw nods of agreement and 'hey, that's me!' expressions on their faces before I finished the first sentence," Wiener reported, adding that he thinks the best strategy to target Generation X is "to emphasize our vision of a nation of free and independent people."

Those who had fun working at the People's Fair this year can double their pleasure by also working the booth at the State Fair set for August in Pueblo. See you there!

Calendar of Events

July		August	
2	Ft. Collins 1st Tue. Breakfast Club, Tony's, 224 South College, 7 a.m. Speaker. Pat Hartman, (970) 224-3116.	4	LP 25th Anniversary Picnic, Eben G. Fine Park, Boulder, 2 p.m. Call Chris Bogart, (303) 449-6327, to help or for more information.
3-7	1996 LP Presidential Nominating Convention, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Washington, DC. Call (215) 545-6994 for information.	6	Ft. Collins 1st Tue. Breakfast Club, Tony's, 224 South College, 7 a.m. Speaker. Pat Hartman, (970) 224-3116.
3 & 17	CSU Campus Libertarians, CSU Student Center. Bruce Lockhart, (970) 223-7504.	6	Denver Activists Meeting, Denny's, Santa Fe & Alameda, 7 p.m. Bert Wiener, (303) 934-3245.
8 & 22	Aurora LP, Shoney's, 13700 E. Mississippi, 7 p.m. Doug Newman, (303) 363-4172.	7	LPC Board of Directors meeting, LPC office, 720 E. 18th, Denver, 7 a.m. Party members are welcome.
9	Denver Activists Meeting, Denny's, Santa Fe & Alameda, 7 p.m. Bert Wiener, (303) 934-3245.	7 & 21	CSU Campus Libertarians, CSU Student Center. Bruce Lockhart, (970) 223-7504.
9	Summit County LP. Call John Sabal at (970) 262-6369 for time and location.	12 & 26	Aurora LP, Shoney's, 13700 E. Mississippi, 7 p.m. Doug Newman, (303) 363-4172.
10	Adams County Libertarians, Coco's at Northglenn Mall, 104th & I-25, 7 p.m. Earl Allen, (303) 254-4978.	13	Summit County LP. Call John Sabal at (970) 262-6369 for time and location.
10 & 24	Routt County Common Sense Club, Overlook Lodge, Steamboat Springs, 7:30 p.m. Robert Jahelka, (970) 879-4127.	14	Adams County Libertarians, Coco's at Northglenn Mall, 104th & I-25, 7 p.m. Earl Allen, (303) 254-4978.
11	Jefferson County LP, Denny's Restaurant, 565 Union Blvd., 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. meeting. Clark Marley, (303) 420-8175.	14 & 28	Routt County Common Sense Club, Overlook Lodge, Steamboat Springs, 7:30 p.m. Robert Jahelka, (970) 879-4127.
15	Candidate filings, Sec'y. of State's office, and cookout, Doug Anderson's residence. Call Doug, (303) 698-2651, for details.	15	Jefferson County LP, Denny's Restaurant, 565 Union Blvd., 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. meeting. Clark Marley, (303) 420-8175.
15	Ft. Collins 3rd Mon. Dinner Club, China Dragon Restaurant, 1401 W. Elizabeth, 7 p.m. Mary Margaret, (970) 484-8184.	8/17-9/3	LPC booth at Colorado State Fair, Pueblo. Call the LPC office at 303-837-9393 or 800-211-5214 to help.
17	San Luis Valley LP meeting, Forbes Park, 6:30 p.m. Call Bob Johnson, (719) 379-2767, for directions.	19	Ft. Collins 3rd Mon. Dinner Club, China Dragon Restaurant, 1401 W. Elizabeth, 7 p.m. Mary Margaret, (970) 484-8184.
17	Boulder LP, Old Train Depot, 30th & Pearl, business meeting & elections at 5 p.m., outreach meeting at 7 p.m. (303) 443-1870.	20	Denver Activists Meeting, Denny's, Santa Fe & Alameda, 7 p.m. Bert Wiener, (303) 934-3245.
20	LPC Board of Directors meeting, 2337 Clarkson, Denver, 10 a.m. Party members are welcome.	21	San Luis Valley LP meeting, Forbes Park, 6:30 p.m. Call Bob Johnson, (719) 379-2767, for directions.
23	Denver Activists Meeting, Denny's, Santa Fe & Alameda, 7 p.m. Bert Wiener, (303) 934-3245.	21	Boulder LP, Old Train Depot, 30th & Pearl, business meeting at 5 p.m., outreach meeting at 7 p.m. (303) 443-1870.
25	Aspen Liberty Coalition, Pitkin County Library, 7 p.m. Tom Peckham, (970) 925-6027.	29	Aspen Liberty Coalition, Pitkin County Library, 7 p.m. Tom Peckham, (970) 925-6027.
26	Cocktail party at David Aitken's, 1240 Ogden, #4, Denver, 7 p.m. Bring beverage and munchies. (303) 831-4334.	30	Cocktail party at David Aitken's, 1240 Ogden, #4, Denver, 7 p.m. Bring beverage and munchies. (303) 831-4334.
	Please mail, fax, or e-mail any additions or corrections to the LPC office For instance, the deadline for the August issue, which will list August as	e. Changes mu nd September o	st be received by the 10th for the following month's issue

Accountability in a Closed Election System

by Dennis Polhill

When was the last time that the Colorado legislature admitted to an error? Being that no one can recall any such admission ever happening before, the vote on May 2, 1996, may have been an historical first. An effort to reverse the last legislative session's action to kill the right of initiative, failed by votes of 39 "yes" to 28 "no", only six short of the two-thirds needed.

SCR-2 passed the Colorado House on April 21, 1995, by a vote of 50 to 15. It will appear on the November 5, 1996, ballot as Referred Measure A. If passed by a simple majority of voters, it would amend the Colorado constitution to repeal simple majority rule on all future constitutional votes by imposing a sixty percent vote hurdle. Colorado would become the first state to repeal majority rule. Because 81% of legislatively referred measures pass, but only 31% of initiated amendments receive voter approval, this infringement upon the constitutionally "reserved powers" of the people is particularly ominous. It would essentially kill citizen initiatives, leaving exclusive power to amend the Colorado constitution at the discretion of the legislature.

Referred Measure A was sold as a reform to the initiative process whereby more initiatives would change statutes and fewer would change the state constitution. Its scope was to create a signature differential, 4% and 6% respectively. Currently each requires 5% of the total votes for the office of the Secretary of State in order to appear on-the ballot. However, in the waning

days of the 1995 legislative session, and under the crush of bills awaiting action, its scope was suddenly and drastically changed and quickly passed. With hundreds of bills to dispose of, neither legislators nor the public had an opportunity to comprehend or to respond. Some suggest that these events were orchestrated for the very purpose of denying public input. The amended Referred Measure A passed the Senate on a 26 to 9 vote within a few days and with 3 days remaining in the session.

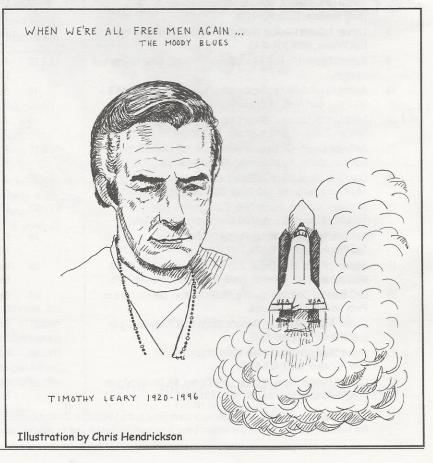
The failed 1996 proposal would have amended Referred Measure A back to its original scope. Twenty-four House members (37%) changed their votes. Referred Measure A would not have passed in 1995 except for the unusual tactics used. Legislators may recognize that their conduct may exact a price in the next election. Questionable tactics were again used in 1996 to delay the vote, and then to insure that the vote failed.

The practice of passing large numbers of bills in the last days of the session is clearly a formula for producing bad laws and should be changed. Perhaps each legislator should be allowed to introduce fewer bills. Perhaps bills passed in the last thirty days should be reaffirmed in the next session. Legislative reform is clearly a greater need than initiative reform. A failed effort to change Referred Measure A gives the legislature the best of both worlds. It will be on the ballot to kill the initiative, and most legislators can claim to have been misled into voting to subvert the Colorado constitution and the rights of the people. The prospect is great that the 1996 vote was motivated by the need for political cover. The 50 House and 26 Senate members who voted for Referred Measure A must be held accountable. To cleanse themselves of their vote, they must insure the defeat of "A" in November.

Not to worry. The Colorado Legislature has insulated itself from accountability. The election system is noncompetitive. In the 1994 election, only 6 incumbents (9%) were defeated in 65 House races. Only 3 of the 49 (6%) incumbents reelected had to survive primary challenges. None were defeated. Of the 65 races, 54 (83%) won with more than 55% of the vote. Only 11 races (17%) were competitive. The Colorado Senate numbers are similar. Clearly, the fear of losing one's seat in the legislature is less real than rhetorical.

In 1996, once term limits begin to produce a citizen legislature as the founders envisioned, the arrogance of an entrenched political elite class will diminish, and blatant attacks on the most fundamental rights of citizens will diminish. In the meantime, citizens will have to be alert and to work hard to insure that the damage done by the legislature is limited.

Dennis Polhill is a Senior Fellow with the Independence Institute.



To the editor:

Dear Libertarian,

Could any phrase strike more terror in the cobwebbed crania of Colorado politicians, bureaucrats, and liberals than "State Senator Douglas Bruce?" State socialists would *have a cow* (collectively, of course).

Think of the bills that will be nitpicked, amended, or humiliated into oblivion. Think of the public spotlight placed on sleazoid practices. Think of finally having one person in that zoo who is indifferent to getting along, going along, being loved, getting reelected, but solely committed to expanding *your freedom!*

Forget the issues—think of the entertainment value! Who better to slow down the machinery of our authoritarian police state? Who better to needle Roy Boy? Who better to serve as the fount of a realistic libertarian legislative agenda, or as spokesman for the People's Government-In-Exile?

The best way to shake them up is to force them to confront my constitutional amendments, on which they will have to vote, week after week—FIJA, concealed carry permits, vouchers, election reform, judicial recall, tax cuts, privatization, etc., etc.

Instead of "Thank You Doug Bruce" on a bumper sticker, why not put your feet where your mouth is (so to speak) and walk a precinct? I need 70 volunteers to spend 6-8 hours ringing doorbells, leaving flyers, locating supporters, and eating pizza.

Carpool down here to Paradise and make a day of it. The incumbent won't have that kind of people power. We can trigger a political earthquake by sending an honest, freedom-loving, outspoken patriot to the Senate. All it takes is the ability to focus and set priorities, which is what we keep asking government to do.

Come any day up to July 25th. You'll get a precinct sheet and written instructions. I can win in this most ultraconservative district in Colorado. A successful election message of "more freedom, less government" will have statewide impact.

If you absolutely, positively can't come (i.e., you've been diagnosed with 48 hours to live *and* you never liked tax limits anyway), then send a donation. \$200, \$100, \$50, even \$25 adds up. By refusing group donations, I must rely on principled patriots. Think of what Amendment One has saved you so far, then double it.

But I'd rather have your body than your money. The incumbent is bragging he'll spend \$40,000+ to keep his seat (which pays \$17,500). What he doesn't have is dedicated volunteers. We can score a home run in the first round of the information war by getting our campaign material into 95% of Republican households.

Call now. "One day for Doug." I need your help.

Doug Bruce Colorado Springs

To help, contact Taxpayers for Doug Bruce at (719) 550-0010 or P.O. Box 26018, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80936.

A few months back, I spoke with Mr. Larry Hoffenberg on the phone regarding some questions I had about the Libertarian Party. Afterward, he sent me a very informative packet and put me on the mailing list for *Colorado Liberty*. I want to thank him for his assistance.

I quickly learned that the Libertarian Party stands for the principles I most value. Knowing that many other Americans are also committed to the party's core principles has given me great satisfaction and hope. My interest in politics is rekindled, and I hope to serve the party by becoming involved at the local level.

I was ready to become involved with a Colorado group when my husband was accepted to Penn State University, necessitating a move to Pennsylvania in the beginning of May. When registering to vote in our new and temporary home, my husband and I both registered with the Libertarian Party. I will now begin to search for fellow Libertarians in this part of the country.

I just wanted to thank you all for your efforts, and let you know that the party has two new members.

Sincerely, Danielle Young Kocovsky

At the recent Colorado State Convention, one of the attendees who had been planning to attend the National Convention decided to forego that trip and instead donate a significant portion of the money he would have spent attending the convention to a special fund to work towards expanding membership at the state level. This person is to be congratulated for a great idea.

In 1996, Colorado will be sending 23 official delegates to the National Convention plus an unknown number of alternates. Each of these will probably spend in the neighborhood of \$1,000 for travel and expenses. Suppose each of these people decided to skip the convention and donate half of the \$1,000 to the party? We could double the state budget and use the excess to support our candidates in the general election, finance a membership drive or sponsor an outreach program.

Of course a National Convention is necessary, but just suppose that we could attend the convention, participate in the activities, listen to the speeches and join in the debates without actually gathering in one location. The benefits of such an approach are many. The first is that individually we would spend a lot less money and perhaps some of us might pass some of that along to local LP groups. We could have greater participation, since there are many who don't have the time or money to travel to a convention who would be able to participate if they could do so locally.

The technology for such a program is available. The cost should be considerably less. Participation would be greater. Isn't it time to at least consider such an approach?

Bob Johnson Fort Garland

Bruce Runs for State Senate, continued from page 1

When asked if he would run for governor as a Libertarian in 1998 in a bid to gain semi-permanent ballot access for the party, Bruce replied that he could do more "to help third and fourth parties flourish" as a member of the Colorado General Assembly. But he didn't rule out changing his affiliation someday when the Libertarian Party starts winning elections regularly. In fact, Bruce has already changed affiliations once—26 years ago, he registered as a Democrat.

"In 1970, there was still such a thing as a conservative, law and order Democrat," Bruce commented.

If elected as a Republican, though, Bruce said he would remain a Republican in office and would not "betray" the voters who elected him. There are only 36 Libertarians in District 10, he noted.

Bruce is already spearheading the Petition Rights Amendment (PRA) petition drive, but acknowledged that his newly announced candidacy had derailed the less successful Tax Cut Amendment. The PRA currently has about 50,000 signatures, putting it close to ballot access, while the Tax Cut Amendment only garnered about 20,000 signatures.

Bruce pledged to "spend what is necessary" to make the PRA and his state senate candidacy successful, but said he needed volunteers and donations to support both efforts.

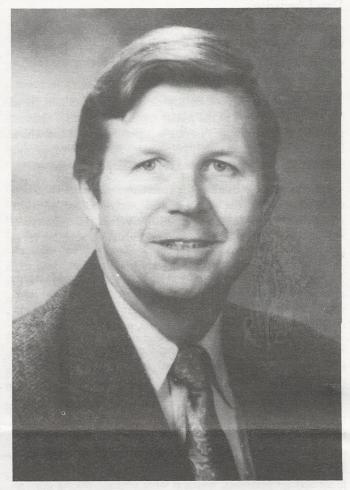
"People should think about how much money they've saved from tax limitation," he reminded Libertarians. Bruce is not taking any kind of collectivist contributions—no money from PACs, corporations, special interest groups. Just individual donations, he said.

Without a Democrat or a full-fledged Libertarian running in District 10—"the most conservative district in the state"—all Bruce has to do is defeat Ray Powers in the primary and he will be a shoe-in for winning the general election.

Bruce petitioned his way onto the ballot with the signatures of 1,747 registered Republicans, but said his campaign was receiving support from Democrats, Libertarians and unaffiliated voters alike.

He'll serve one or two terms, and then hopes to turn the position over to another liberty-leaning citizen activist. Powers, on the other hand, claims to support term limits, but is running for reelection after 18 years in office. Powers is ranked Number Three in the State Senate, and has used that power to systematically wage war against Bruce's successful tax-limitation constitutional amendment as well as petitioning rights, majority rule and limits on government, Bruce asserted.

Once elected to the State Senate, Bruce said he will use that power to enforce the Bruce Amendment and propose many new constitutional amendments: education vouchers combined with a phaseout of property taxes; easier recall of government officials and judges; limiting officeholders' compensation; fully informed juries; limiting the length and frequency of proposed legislation and referral of issues to the voters by the legislature; and, the elimination of the Safety Clause.



Anti-tax crusader and State Senate candidate Douglas Bruce. Photo courtesy of the Bruce campaign.

Although the Denver media can be expected to razz Bruce's candidacy, he said "the Denver media has no influence down here" in Colorado Springs. "The local media love me. But I'm not going up there to be loved, and I'm sure I won't be disappointed."

To volunteer or donate money, contact Taxpayers for Doug Bruce at (719) 550-0010 or P.O. Box 26018, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80936.

The distinctive feature of government is coercion—
the use of force and the threat of force to win obedience.

- Harry Browne, Why Government Doesn't Work

Your Freedom to Read Is Under Attack! Help Us Defend It!

by Jon Ford

"If there is a bedrock principle of the First Amendment, it is that the Government may not prohibit the expression of an idea simply because society finds the idea itself offensive or disagreeable."

- Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan, Jr.

"If the First Amendment means anything, it means that a state has no business telling a man, sitting alone in his own house, what books he may read or what films he may watch. Our whole constitutional heritage rebels at the thought of giving government the power to control men's minds."

- Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall

There's really no need to expound on the importance of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in this newsletter. The very existence of the pages you now hold in your hands and the free access to the words and ideas contained here are only possible because of the First Amendment.

As so eloquently stated by the Supreme Court justices above, the First Amendment prohibits the U.S. government from engaging in the censorship of ideas, even "offensive or disagreeable" ones. But now product-liability lawyers are trying to make an end-run around the Constitution and "de facto" censor ideas that fail their taste test.

They have taken it upon themselves to decide what you should be allowed to read.

As many of you may know, Paladin Press of Boulder, Colorado, is being sued because of the content of one of its books. The book, *Hit Man: A Technical Manual for Independent Contractors*, published in 1983, describes in graphic detail how contract killers ply their trade.

In January 1992, James Perry purchased *Hit Man*. In the summer of 1992, Lawrence Horn allegedly hired Perry. In March 1993. Perry murdered three people. In October 1994, Perry was convicted of murder.

The plaintiff's lawyers are now suing Paladin Press and its publisher, Peder Lund, charging, among other things, conspiracy to commit murder, aiding and abetting the murder, and negligence for making this type of information available to people like you.

Make no mistake about it: if Paladin loses this precedent-setting lawsuit, it will be open season on the types of books that it, Loompanics, Barricade Books, Eden Press, Amok, Delta Press, Lancer Militaria, Intelligence Incorporated, and other non-mainstream publishers produce, distribute, and sell.

And it won't end there. Soon, mainstream authors will be sliding down a slippery slope to the self-censorship of descriptive mystery novels, disturbing true-crime accounts, incendiary political tracts, and any printed word or film that could potentially be misconstrued or misused by criminals. The publishing, film, and television industries as we know them will cease to exist.

And the ironic part is that even if book banners succeed in suppressing books such as *Hit Man*—whether by outright govern-

ment censorship or, as in this case, by the threat of a crushing lawsuit—the criminals will still out be there, and so will the information, because knowledge cannot be erased or kept from curious minds.

American book publishers and distributors operate on a simple principle: all ideas have inherent value. No matter what the subject, everyone has the right to find out more about it if he or she so chooses, including subjects that might be considered by some to be dangerous, outrageous. unsavory, or reprehensible.

Some might consider books like *Hit Man* and other titles available in the Paladin catalog to be on the "fringe." Perhaps they are. But if all ideas were safe and mainstream, there would be no need for the First Amendment.

Do some people misuse some types of information? Certainly. But suppressing books isn't the answer. We happen to subscribe to the quaint notion that you punish the people who break the laws and let the rest of us law-abiding citizens decide for ourselves what we read, see, believe, or say.

There is a reason why the First Amendment became the first provision of the Bill of Rights to be ratified. The country's founders believed—as we believe now—that without freedom of expression, all other freedoms would fall.

So why is it important to defend Paladin? Because, to paraphrase one leading First Amendment advocate, if you don't fight these battles on the fringes and frontiers, you will be fighting them on your front porch. Some people think that you have no business reading books such as *Hit Man*. We disagree, and we think you do too.

In these litigious and overregulated times, it is not surprising that a publisher like Paladin Press is being targeted. The plaintiff's lawyers undoubtedly view the extremely heavy financial burden Paladin will have to bear in order to answer their nonsensical allegations as a way to overwhelm a small publishing company. Paladin will fight the good fight on behalf of freedom of speech, but it needs your help. The hard truth is that this sort of fight costs hundreds of thousands of dollars. If you would like to contribute to the Paladin legal defense fund, please send your check or money order to:

Paladin Legal Defense Fund c/o Osgood, Simpson, & Harris, LLC 2336 Canyon Blvd., Suite 200 Boulder, CO 80302

If the product-liability lawyers are allowed to become the thought police, the freedom of every information provider and every American citizen will be at risk. *Don't let this happen*.

Jon Ford is the Editorial Director at Paladin Press and is a member of the Libertarian Party. This article appeared previously in Liberty News, the newsletter of the LP of Boulder County, and, in a different form, in the Loompanics Unlimited catalog.

Affiliate Corner

LPBC to Hold July Elections

The Libertarian Party of Boulder County will hold board elections at its Sunday, July 17 meeting, to be held at the Old Train Depot at 30th and Pearl at 5 p.m.

Chris Bogart is expected to replace Kevin Wilkerson as affiliate chairman (Wilkerson is taking on State Legislator Todd Saliman in District 11 in the general election this year). Larry Gibes has agreed to continue as publisher of the Liberty News, one of the rare affiliate newsletters in Colorado, if his candidacy goes unchallenged. Jim Scowden, of Lafayette, has also agreed to stay on as Treasurer if the membership "is happy with me." Bruce Waters said he could commit to spend only the remainder of calendar year 1996 as the LPBC Secretary, so he is encouraging another member to relieve him of those duties now or in January.

Ron Bain, a new dues-paying member of the LPBC, has agreed to replace Bogart in the position of Publicity Director.

Hill Runs for Lake County Commission

Carol Stuckey Hill, who missed being elected to the Leadville City Council by only 16 votes in Nov., 1995, has announced her candidacy for Lake County Commission in 1996.

Hill was instrumental in defeating Lake County's "de-brucing" proposals in 1995, and has become convinced that she can actually win an election in the mountain county. Last time, only Carol and her husband worked on city council campaign; let's try a fully staffed, organized and funded effort to get Carol elected this time!

DLP Changes Meeting Schedule

The Denver Libertarian Party has canceled its outreach meetings during the summer vacation season, according to Chairman Bert Wiener, but Denver activists will be getting together every two weeks to plan strategy for this election year.

The activist meetings will be held every other Tuesday at the Denny's located at Alameda and Santa Fe, starting at 7 p.m. The first activist meeting was held June 25 and featured a discussion of Richard Combs' candidacy for Congress in District 1, the seat being abandoned by Pat Schroeder.

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The next activist meeting will be held Tuesday, July 9th at 7 p.m. at the Alameda and Santa Fe Denny's. The following meeting will be July 23rd.

All Affiliate Chairs: Take Heed

If you didn't see information about your affiliate in this edition of the Colorado Liberty, that's because you didn't write it up and send it to Editor Ron Bain at 3300 Arapahoe, #215, Boulder, CO 80303 or FAX it to him at (303)443-9179.

It's your responsibility to either provide information about your activities to the state membership, or designate a literate person from your affiliate to do so.

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Government of the Judges, by the Judges and for the Judges

by Shawn Mitchell

Remember the three blind men who examined an elephant? One of them, feeling the trunk, announced that an elephant is slender and muscular, like a snake. The second, bumping up against one of the legs, declared that elephants are like tree trunks. The third, fingering the elephant's ears, observed that elephants are creatures of flight, with large leathery wings. The same three fellows must have had a hand in the judicial system's consideration of Colorado's Amendment 2.

A remarkable but little remarked aspect of Amendment 2's judicial journey is that the trial court, the Colorado Supreme Court, and the United States Supreme Court all disagreed with each other about what was wrong with Amendment 2, though they were quite certain of the conclusion that it was unconstitutional. The trial court found hidden meaning in a child custody case in which the U.S. Supreme Court had ruled that Florida could not take a child away from his mother because she chose to live with a black man. The Court extracted from the case the principle that governments cannot carry out the biased views of private citizens. Somehow, that must be what was going on with Amendment 2.

Not quite right, responded the Colorado Supreme Court. Amendment 2 prevented an "independently identifiable group" from trying to pass legislation it found desirable. Thus, decided the court, it impermissibly interfered with the fundamental right of independently identifiable groups to participate equally in the political process. (The court neglected to explain why the opponents of Amendment 2 could not attempt to mount a statewide initiative drive exactly as its supporters had done.)

On further reflection, declared the U.S. Supreme Court, the real problem with Amendment 2 is that it limits the reach of anti-discrimination laws. There can be no good reason for doing something like that except for naked hostility. Therefore, the Amendment violates the Constitution.

If there were a clear constitutional basis to strike the amendment, why would three courts come up with three different and unprecedented theories to do it? The answer is that the judges at each level struggled to come up with a rationale to reach their desired result, without solid legal grounds. In other words, judges negated a democratic vote not because the Constitution said they must, but because they were displeased with what the people had done. The judges simply substituted their intellectual or moral or political judgment for that of the electorate.

The same process was at work in two recent decisions of federal appeals courts finding a constitutional right to assisted suicide. Although most states have had laws against assisted suicides for generations, a handful of higher-thinking federal judges recently unearthed the previously unknown constitutional right that guarantees access to assisted suicide.

On the west coast, a panel of federal judges ruled that individuals have a fundamental liberty interest in making such intimate and personal decisions as when and how to end their

lives. Therefore, any law that impedes the exercise of the right must be struck down as unconstitutional.

On the east coast, another panel of federal judges reached the same result by a different theory. The appeals court there ruled that the New York legislature has no rational basis for allowing some individuals to refuse intrusive medical intervention, such as ventilators or other mechanical devices, but also for prohibiting other individuals from directing their doctors to take affirmative steps to kill them. In other words, according to the court, if you can refuse to be hooked up to a heart-lung machine, then, the Constitution says you must be allowed to demand a lethal injection as well.

The judges simply substituted their intellectual or moral or political judgment for that of the electorate.

It's not clear where they get this stuff. A few years ago, no constitutional law professor could have told you that there was a constitutional right to assisted suicide. Now, that right miraculously has been found in two different places in the Constitution, within a matter of weeks.

The important point here is not whether the judges' policy choices are good or bad. It is that we the people are supposed to be able to decide such things democratically, unless the Constitution clearly forbids the choice. Some judges apparently have decided that the people are not to be trusted with the most profound and divisive issues facing society. Therefore, with or without supporting constitutional authority, they are shoving the people aside and taking hold of the reins. It is not clear whether anything can stop them.

Shawn Mitchell is a Senior Fellow at the Independence Institute.

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random notes

Combs Runs for Congress

Richard Combs, former Denver LP chair and former LPC Publications Director, is running for the 1st District Congressional seat being vacated by the retiring Pat Schroeder. The 1st District encompasses basically all of Denver and very little else. Combs says he is running because "other than the Presidential ticket, I haven't seen a Libertarian candidate for a partisan race in Denver since I moved here in 1983. That's pretty sad for the birthplace of the party."

"Maybe we can't mount a serious challenge here yet," Combs continued, "but we never will if we don't start putting Libertarians on the ballot regularly. We have to get Denver voters used to having three choices instead of two!"

Combs will focus his low-budget campaign on attracting votes away from moderate Republican Joe Rogers. Rogers is particularly vulnerable on the 2nd Amendment, since he supports both the Brady Law and the Feinstein "ugly gun" ban. Combs will also emphasize that the Republicans in Congress are expanding, not shrinking, the federal government, and will echo the Browne theme of "Huge tax cuts now! Huge spending cuts now! A balanced budget now!"

Meet the candidate at the July or August Cocktail Party in Denver (see Calendar of Events). Or call him at (303) 871-8824 to offer your help.

Candidates Must Turn in Petitions by July 15th

Libertarians who are running for Congressional or state legislative positions must turn in completed ballot access petitions to the Secretary of State's office in Denver by July 15th.

LPC Campaigns Chairman Doug Anderson has organized a meeting on the steps of the Secretary of State's office for 3:30 the afternoon of July 15 so that all petitions may be turned in at the same time.

Following a photo opportunity to which the press will be invited, the candidates will reconvene at Anderson's residence for an old-fashioned, fun-raising cookout! Interested candidates and their campaign managers should contact Anderson at (303) 698-2651.

Libertarian candidates running in Colorado's 1996 general election thus far include:

- For Congress, Earl Allen in District 2 and Richard Combs in District 1.
- For State House of Representatives, Chuck Wright in House District 13, Kevin Wilkerson in District 11, Dan Cochran in District 51, and Doug Newman in District 42.
- · David Aitken for RTD Board.
- · Carol Stuckey Hill for Lake County Commissioner.

There's still time to become a candidate! Start getting those signatures!

State Sen. Duke to Address ISIL Convention

Charles Duke—Republican state senator from Colorado and Senate candidate, Freeman negotiator and author of the 10th Amendment Sovereignty Resolution—and former Libertarian presidential candidate Russell Means will be among the featured speakers at the Canadian summit planned in August by the International Society of Individual Liberty.

Participants from Russia, Yugoslavia, Somalia, Europe, Canada, the U.S. and other parts of the world are expected for this conference of the world's leading experts on the devolution of power and alternative constitutional models. On this latter subject, South African Nobel Peace Prize Nominees Frances Kendall and Leon Louw will be talking about the Swiss canton model of government.

The conference will be held in Whistler, British Columbia on Aug. 19-24. For more information, contact Kurt Pokrandt at (415) 864-0952.

\$500 Donated for Membership Expansion

Colorado Libertarian Gary Sandritter stunned everyone who attended the state Libertarian convention in April by donating a \$500 check for the purpose of expanding the state party's membership. An extra special KUDO to Gary—now is there anybody who wants to match his donation in full or in part?

RTD candidate David Aitken offered kudos this month to several people who helped his campaign: Curtis Johnson and Jim Misa, who obtained petition signatures for Aitken, and Debra Horn for making campaign telephone calls.

Debra also deserves kudos from the staff of the *Colorado Liberty* for coordinating the first class mailing of the newsletter in June.

Kudos also to two Libertarians who had letters to the editor published in metropolitan newspapers during June: LPC Chair Sandra Johnson's letter appeared in the *Rocky Mountain News*; and Boulderite Chuck Wright scored three times with the same letter supporting Harry Browne's candidacy, in the *Rocky Mountain News*, the *Colorado Daily* and the *Boulder Daily Camera*.

Come to our 25th Anniversary Picnic August 4th!

Whether you're new to the Libertarian Party of Colorado or a long-time member, bring yourself, your relatives and friends to a special picnic in Boulder on Sunday, August 4th. We're commemorating the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Libertarian Party right here in Colorado!

Come to Eben G. Fine Park in Boulder at 2 p.m. that Sunday (the park is at the westernmost cul-de-sac on Arapahoe) and bring the type of food and drink you prefer. This event is being organized by Chris Bogart—kudos to him too. For more information or to offer your help, call Chris at (303) 449-6327. We need volunteers to help set up, to bring staples (such as ice, charcoal, paper plates and napkins), and to help contact "old-timer" Libertarians who should be part of this special anniversary celebration.

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Libertarian Party of Colorado

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Western Colorado Libertarians Brent Shroyer 970-675-2337 PO Box 292, Rangely CO 81648

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Doug Turner (303) 278-3027 1460 Kendrick St., Golden CO 80401

UCCS Campus Libertarians

Robert Cramer (719) 637-8078

University of Southern Colorado Libertarians

Ed Trivett (719) 545-1913 207 Bonnymede, Pueblo CO 81001

If your area (or campus) doesn't have a local contact and you'd consider being one, please contact Affiliates Director Deb Bishop. Note that a local area can be anything that makes sense. It does not have to be a county.

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The Libertarian Party is currently collecting signatures to get a number of candidates on the ballot this November. We need a limited number of paid petitioners.

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Only a few workers are needed, and the petioning deadline (July 16th) is fast approaching, so don't delay!

If interested, e-mail kbw@indra.com or call (303) 443-6707.

Kevin Wilkerson Chair, LP of Boulder County

☐ Start or ☐ Renew Your LP Membership Today! Check the address label below for your current status and expiration date. If your name and address are correct on the label, you need not enter them. Just send this entire page (or a photocopy) to our return address, shown below. Or fax your credit card order to 303-741-8688. Name: Employer: Occupation: Address: City, State, ZIP ___ __ E-mail address: __ ___ (Eve)__ Phone: (Day) Government-mandated notice: 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. Check one: \$30 Basic Membership. Includes Colorado Liberty, LP News, bumpersticker, and membership card. 56 Colorado Liberty subscription only. No membership benefits. I'm not a joiner, but keep me informed. □ IN ADDITION TO or □ INSTEAD OF a combined state & national membership, I want to provide ongoing support for the LP of Colorado with a monthly pledge in the amount of: \$10 □ \$25 □ \$50 Pledgers of \$10/mo. or more receive a free subscription to Reason magazine, a \$26 value. Pledgers of \$50/mo. or more also receive Why Government Doesn't Work by Harry Browne, a \$24.95 value, PLUS a Libertarian Party T-shirt, a \$12 value. Circle shirt size: M L XL ☐ Charge my credit card each month (number below). ☐ My first check is enclosed; send me a reminder each month. ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa Expiration Date Account # _ Note: All dues-paying Colorado memberships include a Subscribing membership in the national Libertarian Party (LPUS). If you do not sign the membership pledge below, LPUS will treat your membership dues as a contribution. Please call for information about our Life Benefactor program. 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 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. Calendar of Events is on page 3

Your Colorado Liberty is mailed First Class if you are a dues-paying member or subscriber.

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