

LIBERTY

Published by the Libertarian Party of Colorado

March/April 2001

The next meeting of the board of directors will be held at 7:00 pm on Monday, April 9 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

www.lp.org

Libertarian Sheriff Calls for Simple Rules

140 members of the Pro Second Amendment Committee rose to their feet to applaud "Liberty Bill" Masters, the nation's only Libertarian Sheriff. The San Miguel County lawman addressed the Grand Junction group for its Eleventh Annual Awards Banquet March 10. Masters noted the links between the drug war and gun war and called for simplified laws.

"The palladium of liberty, the shield of liberty, is the Second Amendment," Masters said, quoting a judicial opinion. Yet our civil liberties are interrelated. "Have you taken up your duty, not just to guard the Second Amendment, but are you truly the protector of the beautiful but fragile lady we call Liberty?"

"Masters" continued on page 21

Friedman Speaks at CU

by Ari Armstrong

The Libertarian student group at the University of Colorado at Boulder hosted a March 5 forum with David Friedman, professor of law and economics at Santa Clara, California. Friedman's talk, "Arguments For and Against Government," drew a crowd of around 200 students and area libertarians.

"David Friedman was tremendous," CU student Alex Baia said. "Articulate libertarians like Dr. Friedman are one of the many antidotes that the CU Boulder Campus Libertarians will use to fight outdated statist philosophies with the logic of liberty."

Friedman spoke for about an hour and then answered questions from the audience. Following the talk, the student group hosted a reception, also on campus. Bob Glass of Longmont presented Friedman with a Tyranny Response Team T-shirt during the reception. Participants came from as far away as Colorado Springs.

Tom Parker of the Boulder party said that Friedman "gave a fascinating and

"Friedman" continued on page 9

inside

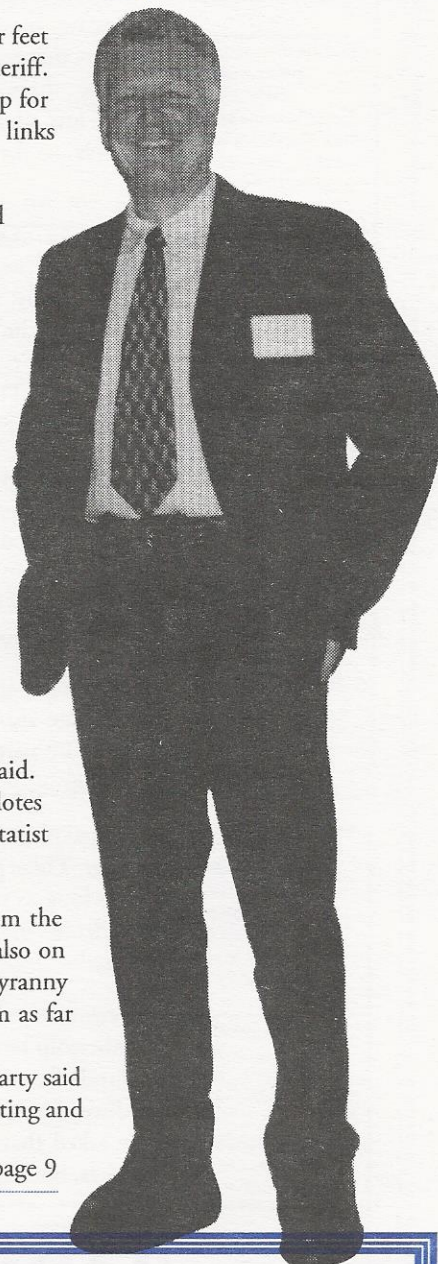
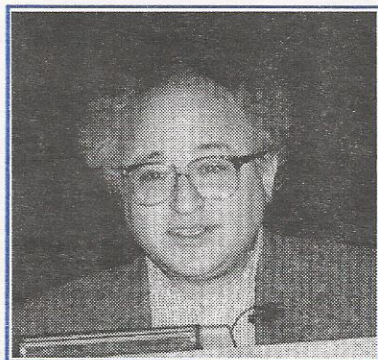
6 Restorative Justice

10 2 Days at the Capitol

12 Republican Rhetoric

14 Future Campaigns

18 Media Workshop



"Liberty Bill" will attend the convention!

Sign up and meet him. The State Libertarian Convention will be held May 18-20. Other speakers will include **Carla Howell**, record-breaking Senate candidate; **Reggie Rivers**, talk radio host; and **Russell Means**, American Indian activist. See pages 4 and 5 for details.

Notes from the Chair

Dear Friends of Liberty,

By the time you read this, I will have spoken at a public forum put on by our Ft. Morgan affiliate and I will have been to Montrose to welcome our newest affiliate. Having just returned from Indy where we had a state chairs meeting, I realize just how great the state of Colorado is doing and these new affiliates prove that.

Other states really do look up to us because of all the things we have been able to accomplish: four new affiliates this year, voter registrations up by over 1,000 this year, three great speakers at the convention, ballot status, lots of press coverage and more. Colorado is certainly on the move.

One concern was brought up at that meeting that I would like to share with you. People don't always understand the Unified Membership Program. Yes, you pay only \$25 and you become a dues paying member of the state party and of the national party. (If you don't sign the pledge you are listed as a "subscriber.") The state receives \$1 per month from this membership.

"Other states really do look up to us because of all the things we have been able to accomplish. Colorado is certainly on the move."

Now one might think if they pledge or donate to national beyond the basic membership rate the state will get half of the money. That is not true. For example, if you donate \$100 per year to national, the state still gets \$12 over the year. If you donate \$500 to \$1,000 to national, the state gets \$48.

Many people give to national thinking they are giving to the state also. The fact is, you have to give directly to the state party if you want more of your money to stay here.

Some people refuse to join National for one reason or another. These people can still donate to the state party and as long as they are registered Libertarian, they are considered members of the Libertarian Party of Colorado.

By contract the national party gets to set the membership rates. If the state party had to rely wholly on funds from national, we could do little more than produce the *Liberty* and pay a few office bills. Many have asked that we share the money with the county affiliates, but right now that is not possible. In fact, the

state depends on additional fund raising to get other projects done.

More projects could be funded if registered Libertarians would also become dues-paying members or donate to the state party. A donation of \$12 covers the costs of a single subscription to the *Liberty* for a year. A pledge of \$10 per month would help hire a part-time staff member. A pledge of \$5 per month would help the state fund county affiliates.

There are over 4,200 registered Libertarians in the state of Colorado. That is an increase of almost 30 percent in the last year alone! However, the number of dues-paying members has remained steady at around 850. Fewer than 25 percent of the Libertarians in this state help fund the party.

We are thrilled that those with financial difficulties still choose to register and vote Libertarian. But is there a way you could afford to donate to the party? Can you give up a movie and popcorn one time to help pay for the *Liberty*? Maybe give up a dinner out so the party can spend the money advocating liberty?

Every month I get a report from Joe Dehn with our monthly membership stats. As of February, Colorado ranked thirteenth in terms of overall membership (with 863) and sixth in terms of membership per population. We have fallen behind since the 90s!

I am giving every Libertarian in this state a challenge. If half of all the registered Libertarians became national dues paying members, we would be second only to California in membership. If only 300 more people become dues paying members, we will be at the top of the chart in density.

My challenge is that by the time the April report rolls around, our state ranks fifth in membership and first in density. Further, by December, our state should rank second in membership.

I will bring the latest figures to the convention. So go out and find those libertarians. I personally will offer a small reward to the person who brings in the most dues paying members by April 29.

BetteRose Smith

LIBERTY

Published monthly by the Libertarian Party of Colorado. Subscription is included in the state party membership, which is extended to all those who register to vote as Libertarians, pay membership dues, or both. Paid subscriptions are \$10 per year. Make checks payable to, and send correspondence regarding subscriptions to: **Libertarian Party of Colorado**, 720 East 18th Avenue #309, Denver, Colorado 80203-1415. Submissions may be sent to ariamstrong@hotmail.com (text-only preferred); photographs to Ari Armstrong, Box 1034, Arvada, CO 80001.

Colophon: Created on a Macintosh Power PC 6500/275 using QUARK XPRESS® 4.0 and Photoshop® 5.0. Output (page proofs) directed to a Hewlett Packard Laser Jet 4mp. Printed by Quality Press.

Means No Stranger to Controversy

3

by Ari Armstrong

Michele Poague was a young girl living in South Dakota when she and her sister saw a police car drive through town. The girls arrived at the court house just as a chair came smashing through the window.

It was 1974. Inside, a fight had erupted between Russell Means' supporters and the police. The skirmish was precipitated by the Indians' refusal to stand as a sign of respect to the judge (see page 318 in Means' autobiography, *Where White Men Fear to Tread*). Means was on trial for the Wounded Knee standoff.

Poague went on to become chair of the Libertarian Party of Colorado and a supporter of Means.

Poague's sister BetteRose Smith serves as current chair. She addressed the recent controversy involving Means' protest of the Columbus Day Parade: "What Russell Means said was that Italians have a right to parade, and he has a right to protest. Never once did he talk about doing anything violent. We're the party that believes in the First Amendment, even if we disagree with what you say. He's taking a libertarian approach."

Some have blasted the American Indian Movement for protesting the parade by blocking the street. However, libertarians point out that the problem is inherent in a system of poorly defined property rights. The roads are "public," aren't they? Then how can some members of the "public" be excluded? Libertarians see the solution to such paradoxes in transferring political property to private individuals and groups.

Criticizing Columbus is not the same thing as criticizing Western society. Means makes clear that he has a problem with Columbus' specific harmful actions, not with Italian culture: "[B]y honoring the first transatlantic slave trader, the city [of Denver] was affirming and supporting genocide...[C]elebrate Leonardo da Vinci or Sophia Loren or Joe DiMaggio—anyone except Columbus" (519).

At first glance, the alliance between Means and the Libertarian party might seem unlikely. He has

criticized American "materialism," he wants "free markets, but not the kind of unbridled free enterprise that leads inevitably to corporate socialism" (480), and he scoffs at "Eurocentric logic" (302).

Misunderstandings arise partly from semantics. While libertarians advocate material progress and increased wealth, they generally join Means in criticizing a crass

or empty materialism disconnected from deeper spiritual values.

Means sees our "country speeding toward right-wing socialism, its corporations in collusion with government to dictate economic policy and protect their own interests by eliminating opportunity" (486). All libertarians blast this sort of "corporate socialism."

Libertarians tend to argue that logic and the principles of science are valid across cultures; one can uphold their legitimacy without falling into strains of European rationalism.

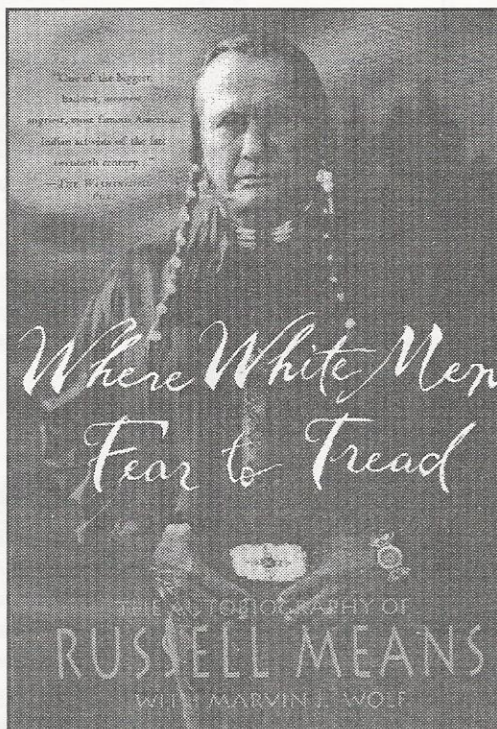
No one doubts Means' authenticity. He describes his 1998 bid to become the

Libertarian candidate for President: "My message was different from [Ron] Paul's because it was sincere, delivered in plain English and without resorting to the euphemisms and false facades of white man's politics, or the dull, dry rhetoric of economics" (485).

Means writes, "What the [Libertarian] party stood for—free-market economics and no government interference in people's lives—sounded just right to me...I was thrilled to learn that it is a party of principle...Libertarians do not compromise. They do not sell out" (482).

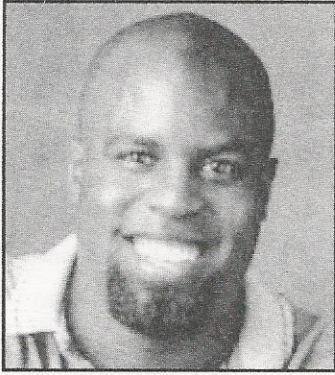
Means supports the right to bear arms, opposes government welfare and political schools, and wants to repeal drug prohibition.

Means will attend Colorado's LP convention in May (see pages 4-5) and may run for President in 2004. Boulder LP member Ron Bain said, "He's got an iron grip of a handshake, I'll tell you that. I'd like to be his Colorado coordinator, that's how much I support him. Anybody with his ability to demand attention and press has got to be good for the party."



"Libertarians do not compromise. They do not sell out."

REGGIE RIVERS



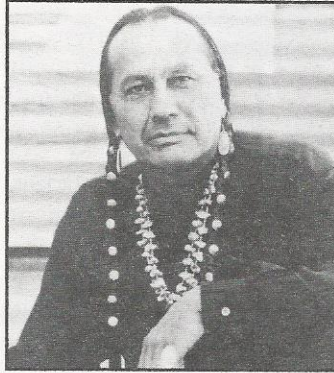
Metro Denver's hottest Libertarian-leaning talk show host will be one of the exciting speakers at the Gala Banquet on Saturday night.

Former running back and special teams player for the Denver Broncos, 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.

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.

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.



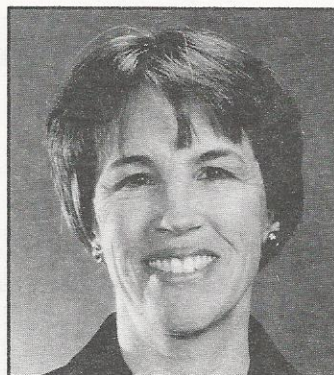
This Year - INTRODUCE A FRIEND TO LIBERTY!

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

CARLA HOWELL

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



EVENTS SCHEDULE

Friday, May 18

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

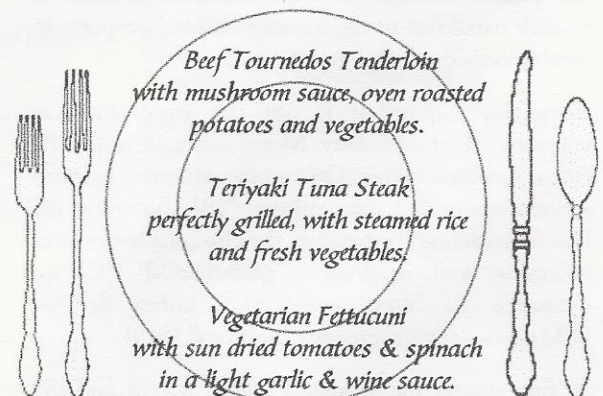
Saturday, May 19

7:30 AM --- <i>Registration</i>	
8:00 AM --- <i>Coffee</i>	<i>Coffee</i>
Philosophy	Activism
9:00 AM --- <i>Seminar</i>	<i>Business</i>
Philosophy	Board Reports
10:00 AM --- <i>Keynote Speaker</i>	
11:00 AM --- <i>Seminar</i>	<i>Business</i>
Philosophy	Bylaws
12:00 PM --- <i>Awards Luncheon</i>	
1:00 PM --- <i>Special Guest</i>	
2:00 PM --- <i>Seminar</i>	<i>Business</i>
Philosophy	Campaigns
3:00 PM --- <i>Seminar</i>	<i>Seminar</i>
Philosophy	Campaigns
4:00 PM --- <i>Seminar</i>	<i>Seminar</i>
Philosophy	Campaigns
6:00 PM --- <i>Cocktail Party</i>	
7:00 PM --- <i>Banquet and Dance</i>	

Sunday, May 20

8:00 AM --- <i>Coffee</i>	<i>Coffee</i>
Philosophy	Campaigns
9:00 AM --- <i>Seminar</i>	<i>Seminar</i>
Philosophy	Activism
10:00 AM --- <i>Seminar</i>	<i>Seminar</i>
Philosophy	Activism
11:00 AM --- <i>Lunch - on your own</i>	
12:00 PM --- <i>Seminar</i>	<i>Seminar</i>
Philosophy	Activism
1:00 PM --- <i>Business- Board Elections</i>	
2:00 PM --- <i>Special Guest</i>	
3:00 PM --- <i>Closing Speaker</i>	
4:00 PM --- <i>New Board Meets</i>	

SATURDAY'S GALA BANQUET & DANCE



The 2001 LIBERTARIAN CONVENTION COMMON GROUND

Party Building
Through Minorities and
Parallel Organizations.

BEST WESTERN EXECUTIVE HOTEL

4411 Peoria Street Denver CO 80239

MAY
18th-19th-20th
2001

Banquet & Dance

Awards Luncheon

Suite Parties

Banquet & Dance

Awards Luncheon

Suite Parties

PJ MOORE

PJ Moore, a nationally touring Headline Comedian, has a strong performance history. He has done voice-over work, a stint as a radio DJ, and has also recorded two full length folk song albums.

PJ Moore's humorous writings have been featured in Playboy Magazine. He has appeared on *Colorado PM* and in *The Denver Post*, as well as many other publications.

BILL GROOM

Bill Groom is an attorney, writer, seminar leader, and executive vice president of Cynergetics Institute, a nonprofit organization that presents personal and organizational development seminars. Cynergetics Institute is also working to establish a restorative justice council to provide financial and educational support for existing and new restorative justice programs.

ADDITIONAL SPEAKERS

Christie Donner - Christie is currently working with women in prison for drug offenses and helps to oversee the welfare of their minor children.

Shariar Ghalam - Shariar grew up in Iran where he was a member of the Armed Forces. At 22, he escaped to America seeking liberty.

Bob Glass - Bob is the owner of Paladin Arms and the publisher of one of Colorado's newest libertarian magazines, *The Partisan*.

Desiree Hickson - Desiree was a candidate for State House in 2000.

Jerry Sonnenberg - Jerry is a current board member of the Colorado Farm Bureau.

Emma Phillips - Emma is the State Coordinator for F.A.M.M. (Families Against Mandatory Minimums). She is also the founder of Friends and Families.

Hotel Reservations for ONLY \$ 69.00 Mention Group # 1776

Room rate includes a complimentary upgrade continental buffet breakfast. 1-800-848-4060 303-373-5730 ext. 645

PRICES ARE FOR REGISTRATIONS RECEIVED BEFORE May 10, 2001

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
E-MAIL ADDRESS _____
PHONE _____

		Door Price
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 DAY WITH BANQUET:	\$129	\$149
<input type="checkbox"/> ADDITIONAL BANQUET:	\$45	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 DAY NO BANQUET:	\$99	\$109
<input type="checkbox"/> BANQUET ONLY:	\$55	\$65
<input type="checkbox"/> BEEF <input type="checkbox"/> SEAFOOD <input type="checkbox"/> VEGETARIAN		

☐ Check ☐ Cash ☐ Money Order

☐ Visa/ Master Card # _____

Make Checks Payable to Bette Rose Smith or Michele Poague

Exp. _____

Signature _____

Mail to: Libertarian Convention 2001

720 East 18 Avenue, #309

Denver, CO 80203

303-837-9393

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

6

Restorative Justice: An Idea Whose Time Has Come

by Bill Groom

Restorative justice is new to most of the world, though it's based on ancient customs of resolving conflicts. It is similar to the Biblical concept of *shalom* where the parties and the community, in the aftermath of any harm done by one to another, sought to make things right—to restore physical well-being, right relationships, and a trusting environment, all without the intervention of government.¹

The Problems of Retribution

Retributive justice considers an offense as a violation of a law. Rather than the person actually harmed by an offense, the state assumes the role of victim. The real victim is involved only as a witness, if at all. The offender is not permitted to meet with the victim and try to make amends. Both the victim and offender are shunted aside and represented by professionals.

Our retributive justice system does not address many of the needs of the victim, offender, and community.

The victim needs to express his (or her) suffering, be compensated for his loss, and know the offender regrets the harmful behavior. The victim also needs to know he is not a bad person because something bad has happened to him.

To learn from his behavior, the offender needs to acknowledge his (or her) responsibility. He needs to feel genuine remorse and to express his regret to the victim. To ever again be a whole human being, he needs to make restitution to the extent possible for the harm he has caused. He may need support to acquire the beliefs, skills, and knowledge required to fulfill his obligations to the victim and the community, and to meet his own needs to achieve a quality life.

The community needs to be a safe and trusting place in which offenders can break free of a life cycle of crime, punishment, and more crime. The community also needs to have all of its members adding value to the community instead of it being diminished by the actions of offenders.

Because these needs are not met by our present justice system, the results are often a frustrating sense that justice has not been done.

Restorative Justice

Restorative justice seeks to balance the needs of all of those affected by a criminal offense. The offense is considered a violation of a relationship, not of a law.

Restorative justice starts with the premise that the offender is not a mistake because he made a mistake. It separates his personhood from his behavior. But it also requires the offender to acknowledge his responsibility for his behavior and be accountable for its results. Since his personhood is not being attacked, it's safe for him to admit his responsibility and feel genuine remorse for his behavior.

If they agree, the victim and offender have the opportunity to meet in a safe setting, along with a trained facilitator, usually a volunteer. If the victim does not want to meet with the offender, a family member or other surrogate may attend the meeting. Family members of the victim and offender and concerned members of the neighborhood and larger community may also participate in the meeting, depending on the circumstances.

Without verbally attacking the offender, restorative justice gives the victim an opportunity to tell of his emotional and physical pain and describe his financial loss. He gets answers to his questions about the offense. The family and community members express their response and thoughts about the incident.

The offender tells his side of the story. He's confronted for any justifying or blaming others for his behavior. Hearing the victim describe his suffering and seeing the harm that was done, gives the offender, perhaps for the first time, an understanding of the pain that resulted from his behavior. The safety of the process and the understanding of the harm he's caused, enable the offender to apologize to the victim and other community participants, and express his sincere regret.

**Meet Bill Groom at the
State Libertarian Convention!**
See pages 4 & 5 for details.

The Agreement

The parties agree on what needs to be done to make the victim and community as whole as possible. A written agreement is signed by all of the parties. It may include restitution, therapy, and other assistance for the victim. Service for the community and a public apology may be added.

The parties agree on what the offender needs to enable him to complete his obligations under the agreement and to be an accepted, productive, and valued member

"Restorative justice requires the offender to acknowledge his responsibility for his behavior and be accountable for its results."

of the community. This may include counseling, skills training, further education, and a good job. They seek ways in the community for these services to be provided. A program staff person verifies that the terms of the agreement are met. If the offender fails to comply, the case may be referred to the traditional criminal justice system.

If the offender is under the jurisdiction of a court, the judge may approve a pre-sentence restorative justice conference and consider the resulting agreement in passing sentence on the offender. Research has shown that in a surprising number of cases, after the victims have heard their offenders' regret and willingness to repair the harm, they no longer demand imprisonment. Often the victim will forgive the offender and ask the court for leniency.



2000 Libertarian Presidential Candidate Harry Browne points to new prison construction in Colorado. Libertarians support alternatives to more prisons.

Even if the offender is sentenced to probation, community corrections, jail, or prison, his behavior during the restorative process and the victim's requests may well persuade the judge to reduce the severity of the sentence. Restorative justice cannot replace retributive justice overnight, if ever. The present system is needed as a backup if the offender does not complete his agreement. If an alleged offender is innocent, refuses to acknowledge his responsibility, or is not willing to try to make things right, our traditional justice system is still needed.

An Alternative is Needed

It's generally considered best if a restorative justice program is administered by a community-based organization, not an existing criminal justice governmental agency. It's difficult to change the principles of any long established institution.

Retributive justice does change criminal behavior—for a while. As long as criminals are locked up, they're not committing any crimes in the community. But behavior is only the tip of the iceberg. Invisible under the surface are the core beliefs that shape values and attitudes, which largely determine behavior. Behavior is visible and measurable and relatively easy to change—for a while. Attitudes and values and especially core beliefs are invisible, immeasurable, and much more difficult to change.

Because retributive justice focuses only on behavior, the rate of repeat offenses remains the same no matter what we try. Prisoner rehabilitation, education, job training, boot camps, longer sentences, more severe conditions—none of these has made any permanent difference. Why? Because all of these efforts target offender behavior. The underlying core beliefs of offenders about who they are and what the world is remain the same. Values remain the same. Attitudes remain the same.

Silently and unseen, 97 out of every 100 prisoners slip back into our communities upon release, less able to make a living honestly than they were before they were locked up. Most of them are more cunning and warped than before. About 60% will soon be caught committing additional crimes—and this doesn't even address the crimes for which these graduates of

"Most [prisoners] are more cunning and warped than before, these graduates of our finest universities of crime."

our finest universities of crime are not caught. But these results of our retributive justice system are neither headlines nor on the six o'clock news. We citizens see and hear the lead horror stories and demand that our correctional system "lock 'em up."

It's time to enlarge the focus of our criminal justice system to include core beliefs, values and attitudes. Restorative justice works both above and below the surface. Because it's voluntary and no one is being made wrong and everyone is trying to meet the needs of all of the affected parties, the process creates a safe place in which attitudes, values, and core beliefs of the players can be examined and balanced. It enables the participants to understand one another at a deep personal level, and most importantly, deepen their understanding of themselves.

"Justice" continued on page 8

Because restorative justice has such a drastically different view of crime and offenders, it requires a drastically different organization to administer it. An effective community-based restorative justice program must have broad and deep community support from all of the major segments. The program needs only a small, well-trained staff with a large group of well-trained volunteer facilitators and conference board members. When starting the first restorative justice program in a community, it's probably best to start with first-time non-violent juvenile offenses. Once a successful record of accomplishment is established, the program can be expanded gradually to include more serious offenses, including those of adults.

Restorative justice is especially applicable for property crimes. But it has been effective even in murder cases. There are a few restorative justice programs in prisons; a group of prisoners listen to the painful stories of crime victims (usually not victims of their crimes, but of similar ones). They begin to understand the suffering their past criminal behavior has caused. Understanding is the first step toward feeling sincere regret.

These are the results of retributive and restorative justice:

The Victim

- Retributive justice ends with a victim who is scarred emotionally, fearful of the future, harmed physically and financially, full of anger and hatred, and has the feeling that justice has not been done.
- Restorative justice ends with a victim who is made as whole as possible. He has told his story, expressed his emotions, and been heard. He is compensated for his financial loss, hears the apology and expression of sincere regret from the offender. He has a voice in what the offender needs to do to make things right for himself and the community. He participates in the decision of what can be done to enable the offender to complete his obligations and build a better life for himself.

The Offender

- Retributive justice ejects the offender from the community of humankind and takes away his freedom for a number of years. He's forced to be an accepted member of a warped and negative society of convicts. He's kept from expanding his marketable skills and knowledge. He's marked as a criminal for life, and released into a society that doesn't want him, won't hire him, and that has changed immensely while he was locked up.
- Restorative justice assures the offender that he is not a defective human being because of his harmful behavior. He is supported in acknowledging his

responsibility and in his efforts to make things right for the victim and the community. By completing his agreement, he's assured that he is an accepted and valued member of the community. He is supported in acquiring the beliefs, skills, and knowledge that will enable him to build a quality life—a life that adds value for others and holds peace and happiness for him.

The Community

- Retributive justice requires that the community bear the expense of apprehending, trying, convicting, and punishing its offenders. It pays for the cost of securing its streets, homes, offices, stores, and other buildings from crime. The total annual cost of crime in America in 1993 was \$674 billion²—about \$10,000 a year for a family of four. It wastes the value of millions of its people whose lives are wasted in the nonproductive sewer of crime. Its people live in fear of crime. They harbor anger and hatred toward offenders and burn with the desire for revenge. They live without lasting peace of mind, without lasting happiness.

- Restorative justice results in a community that is a more trusting and safe place. The cost, suffering, and fear of crime are reduced. The anger, hatred, and the need for revenge is diminished. More of its citizens are adding value for each other. It is a more peaceful, happier place.

In short, retributive justice leaves everyone involved in an offense in some way diminished and less whole than before. Restorative justice can leave everyone involved somehow greater and more whole than before; they can use the offense as a vehicle for their personal growth and peace and happiness.

Notes

1 *Changing Lenses: A New Focus for Crime and Justice*, Howard Zehr

2 U.S. News & World Report, Jan 17, 1994 v116 n2 p40(2)

Bill Groom is Director of Cynergetics Institute, the sponsoring organization for Make It Right, a juvenile restorative justice program for El Paso County. He is a lawyer, writer, and a former 20-year board member of two community corrections facilities in Colorado Springs. As a young lawyer in 1961 he was convicted, along with his first client and four other men, of securities violations and served three years in federal prison. He was reinstated as a Colorado attorney in 1976. Groom can be reached at P.O. Box 6130, Colorado Springs, CO 80934, 719.444.8644, cynerget@aol.com.

This article was first printed in the September/October edition of Prison Policy News, P.O. Box 2143, Colorado Springs, CO 80901, 719.475.8059, info@epimethian.org.

"Restorative justice ends with a victim who is made as whole as possible."

News Updates

Bob Glass' New Radio Show

Tyranny Response Team leader and magazine publisher Bob Glass has signed a six-month contract with 1060 AM radio to host a show on Saturdays from 1-2 pm. Glass also runs Paladin Arms in Longmont. Advertisements are scheduled to air about the state Libertarian convention.

"It's going to be called the Partisan View," Glass said. "It's going to be broadcast simultaneously on 1060 and three other stations around the state. We're going to cover all kinds of freedom topics—the whole libertarian agenda. It's going to be no-holds barred. We'll get people talking about the show."

Tax Protest Planned

Tax day is just around the corner! Last year, Jay Carper and Ari Armstrong handed out literature at a local post office to people who were dropping off their tax payments. What better time to talk to people about the Libertarian alternative? Armstrong donned a Bill Clinton mask. He is encouraging area activists to wear Clinton and Bush masks this April 16 and carry a sign, "Whom Do You Trust?" Other activists can carry signs

saying, "Libertarians Trust YOU to Spend Your Own Money." Those more comfortable with a lower profile role can carry other signs or just hand out flyers.

Activists can meet Carper on Federal or plan to protest at another area post office. Carper may be reached at 303.252.7808.

BetteRose Smith has information about legal issues from the national party. She can be reached at 303.639.5530.

Ladies of Liberty Wanted

BetteRose Smith is pursuing a "Ladies of Liberty" calendar as a party fundraiser. She already has found five volunteers to pose for photographs. Other ladies who are interested should contact Smith at 303.639.5530.

Regional Notes

Libertarians in Nebraska just completed a petition drive to keep the ballot status of 2,000 registered Libertarian voters. Their March 31 convention includes a presentation from The Body Shop on industrial hemp and a video presentation about Ayn Rand.

"Friedman" continued from page 1

intellectual talk on the benefits of free markets, along with many real-life examples. Why is San Jose housing so expensive? 80 percent of the land is off the market. Do tariffs help? They help special interests, but hurt the country. This was a packed-house, first-rate event put on by the CU Libertarian group."

Friedman's central argument was that government is not able to solve "market failures" because of analogous but more pervasive political failures. An example of a market failure is air pollution, when the producer of the pollution doesn't bear the costs of it.

We cannot simply assume that the government system will operate in an ideal way, argued Friedman. Democratic voting is inherently problematic. Because the chance of any particular voter having an affect on the election is so remote, and because the benefits of a wise vote are distributed among the entire population, the vast majority of voters are ill-informed (or "rationally ignorant").

Representative politics tends to degenerate into special interest group warfare, in which highly organized groups lobby to transfer wealth from the vast population to themselves. This skews incentives to

produce and it also wastes resources in lobbying efforts and the resulting bureaucracy. Friedman offered numerous examples of how politicians made a problem worse in attempting to solve it.

On the other hand, entrepreneurs often solve market failures on the free market. For instance, "natural monopolies" such as the telephone line system are overcome with new technology such as cable access and satellite systems. Value is captured from the "public good" of radio broadcasting by packaging it with advertisements.

Even difficult problems like air pollution can be addressed on the market, as Friedman writes in his classic book *The Machinery of Freedom*. For instance, a class action lawsuit is possible in many instances. Others point out that improved technology and voluntary social pressures also contribute to a cleaner environment.

Thus, on balance, Friedman argued, society is better served by relying wholly on market institutions rather than on politicians.

Friedman also made a few comments about the Libertarian Party. In *Machinery*, Friedman writes, "We should regard politics not as a means of gaining power

"Friedman" continued on page 20

"On balance,
Friedman argued,
society is better
served by
relying wholly
on market
institutions."

Two Days at the Capitol

by Ari Armstrong

One day the Democrats won, the other day the Republicans won. Both days the clear loser was Lady Liberty.

I testified in front of the Senate judiciary committee on February 13 and 14. The first day I argued that mandatory gun storage laws are dangerous and a needless infringement of liberty. The next day I argued

State Senator Ken Gordon, sponsor of the bill, chose not to address the points I raised. Gordon was amiable, however, and he offered an amendment to his bill to make it somewhat less onerous.

Another Libertarian told the committee she relied on her gun for self-defense: "I'm not very strong, and I'm not very fast." She continued, "Keep the government out of my bedroom. Do not take away my right to choose—how to defend myself."

Fortunately, even though Judiciary passed the bill on a party-line vote, the senate body rejected the proposal.

The next day, prior to the hearing on Senator Penfield Tate's sentencing reform bill, the committee also heard a bill to further restrict late-term abortions. Democratic Senator Sue Windels argued that the bill would not solve any problem, because late-term abortions are pursued to protect the life of the mother or for other medical reasons. The only impact of the bill would be to increase medical costs and interfere with privacy between doctors and their patients.

I complimented Windels for her astute points, and I asked her why she was unable to follow the same line of reasoning the previous day relative to Gordon's bill. She asked, "You mean the argument that there are extra costs? What are the costs of the storage law?" I replied that the costs are the increased rates of violent crime. To that, Windels replied, "I don't believe that."

Has Windels ever read Lott's work? Has she ever read ANY study on the subject? Apparently it doesn't matter. If Windels chooses not to believe something, then that's good enough for government work.

During discussion of Tate's sentencing reform bill, Windels again regained her ability to think logically and examine evidence, while the Republicans forgot all about their previous opposition to intrusive government.

Although Republican Senator Jim F. Dyer argued eloquently for the privacy rights of gun owners, he apparently has no compunctions about the gestapo tactics of the drug war. He told me after the hearing, "We should put all drug users in prison and leave them there." That's exactly the sentiment expressed by the bigot Rosie O'Donnell, only in reference to "gun users."

Ken Gordon cut a deal with Governor Bill Owens to kill Tate's bill—he was the only Democrat to vote



Ari Armstrong and Debra Collins (Second Amendment Sisters) prepare to testify against the "lock up your safety" bill.

"Keep the government out of my bedroom. Do not take away my right to choose—how to defend myself."

that minimum prison sentences for non-violent drug offenders should be repealed and that alternatives to incarceration should be considered.

The committee voted against the libertarian position on both days. The two votes are representative of why our civil liberties are at risk at the hands of the "Republicrats." Indeed, my experience those two days serves as a microcosm of the American political landscape.

Arnie Grossman of the anti-gun lobby group Sane Alternatives to the Firearms Epidemic, the name of which likens gun ownership to a disease, asked, "Who could speak on behalf of unsafe gun storage?"

Apparently he can, because mandatory gun storage laws are proven to increase every category of violent crime by interfering with the right of self-defense. Yale scholar John Lott found that mandatory gun storage laws fail to reduce unintentional gun deaths yet they increase the rates of murder, rape, assault, and robbery.

Besides, I argued, child abuse is already against the law: CRS 18-6-401(1)(a) states, "A person commits child abuse if such person causes an injury to a child's life or health, or permits a child to be unreasonably placed in a situation that poses a threat of injury to the child's life or health..." Will the mere repetition of law make us safer, I asked? We don't need laws that discriminate against one class of citizen.



Senator Penfield Tate prepares to speak on behalf of his bill to eliminate mandatory minimum prison sentences for drug offenders and study alternatives to prison expansion. His bill was defeated when Democrat Ken Gordon voted with the three Republicans on the committee.

on a legislative committee in Colorado and vote for liberty day in and day out.

Even though my two days at the capitol were often frustrating, they were also encouraging. I met a lot of people who testified on behalf of liberty. My self-conscious goal is to help foster new coalitions between civil libertarians of the left and the right. The era of left-right politics is drawing to a close. The new division lies between those who love liberty and those who love state power.

There are signs of hope. For instance, even though Senator Mark Hillman voted against Tate's bill, he expressed an openness to the ideas of Milton Friedman, the free market economist who favors repealing drug prohibition.

*"Why do both
Republicans and
Democrats
advocate
absurdly
contradictory
platforms?"*

against it. He said he wants to pursue reforms in the future.

Why do both Republicans and Democrats suffer from pathological hysterias and advocate absurdly contradictory platforms? Part of the reason lies in the interest groups of the respective parties. Both parties consist of a disconnected and arbitrary grouping of ideological interests. The Republicans under Nixon, Reagan, and Bush used drug war hysteria to gain power, and recently Democrats tried to use gun war hysteria to gain power.

Thus, both Republicans and Democrats tend to defend civil liberties—when it is expedient for them. And they increase the power of the state at the expense of individual rights when that gets them more power. Power has a strange effect on some people's ability to think rationally. Of course, most successful politicians are people who can stuff the disparate elements of contradictory ideologies into a single package with enough votes to win.

It's always easier to increase the power of the state than it is to increase the power of individuals. Thus, with Democrats warring against civil liberties half the time Republicans warring against them the rest of the time, the only clear winner is the state.

Yet the principles of individual liberty and voluntary social groups are alive and well in Colorado. One of the ways to influence political outcomes is to educate the voting public. Maybe someday a Libertarian will sit

On my way out of the capitol, I met another legislator and asked him about asset forfeiture reform. He said, "Some people claim to be Constitutionalists, but they are selectively so. They can read the Second Amendment, and believe it means what it says, but they can't read the Fourth Amendment."

The struggle to regain and extend our liberties is only beginning. With the resolve of libertarians, Lady Liberty will never again be shut out of a legislative hearing. Her torch will again light the way to a free society.

Vote for the 2001 Friend of Freedom

Every year, the Libertarian Party of Colorado gives its **Friend of Freedom award** to someone working outside the party who advances the cause of liberty. This year, voting is open to the entire state membership (those who are registered Libertarian or who pay dues). To vote, send your selection (and, if you wish, your second and third place choices) to Ari Armstrong, Box 1034, Arvada 80001. Please send \$1 (or more) with your vote to cover the costs of the award (any extra funds will be given to the party). Votes must be received by April 20.

Also, BetteRose Smith is accepting nominations for the **Minutemen awards**, given to Libertarian activists. Describe why you think a person deserves the award. Send your nominations to betterose@aol.com.

Lies, Damn Lies and Republican Rhetoric

by Thomas L. Knapp, February 28, 2001
<http://www.tlknapp.net/ldlarrframes.html>

I tried to come up with an accurate, yet pithy, summation of George W. Bush's speech to a joint session of Congress last night—but it's so much better to let someone speak for himself than to try to put words in his mouth. With that in mind, I think I'll start off with an excerpt from the White House Press Release on the subject:

"[The president's] budget increases spending for Social Security, Medicare and entitlement programs by \$81 billion, and increases discretionary spending by another \$26 billion, a four percent increase that means government spending will grow at more than the rate of inflation."

As late as yesterday, I still had friends telling me that the Republicans were the party of smaller government—the party that would rein in federal spending—that all I had to do was wait and see—that when I opined that the Republicans wouldn't do anything to cut government, I was talking through my hat.

More Social Security. More Medicare. More entitlements. More discretionary spending. Increased government spending, even accounting for inflation. Tucked into subtle phrases in the speech, we find more spending for the failed War on Drugs, more spending for welfare, more spending for, well, pretty much everything.

Is this what my friends mean by "smaller government?" Is this what they expected when they told me last November that they had to vote for George W. Bush because he was the only "smaller government" candidate who had a chance to win?

It's after midnight as I write this—but when I'm done, I think I'll break out the Rolodex, start ringing up my friends, and whisper two words into the phone:

"Harry Browne."

Yes, I know that the Democrats want even more spending and even smaller tax cuts. That's beside the point. The GOP controls the House of Representatives, the Senate, and the presidency. They don't need Democratic support to pass the budget they want. Compromise, at this point, is not a requirement.

Not a single Democratic vote is required to pass the next budget. Therefore, it is reasonable to assume that the president's budget proposal—specifics of which will be released tomorrow—reflects what he wants.

Given the glowing early reviews from the GOP's congressional leadership, it reflects what they want, too.

So, what do the Republicans want? In two words, more government.

Outside of some money for military pay raises and equipment improvements, every one of Bush's spending proposals, as described in the speech, flies in the face of the Constitution and of Republican rhetoric going back to Barry Goldwater's 1964 presidential candidacy—and unless the early trial balloons were false, those military spending proposals aren't an increase, but a reallocation of current military spending levels.

Quoth Bush:

"The highest percentage increase in our budget should go to our children's education. ...during the next 5 years, we triple spending, adding another \$5 billion to help every child in America learn to read. Values are important, so we have tripled funding for character education...[W]e have increased funding to train and recruit teachers."

Try as I might, I can't find the section of the Constitution that enumerates any federal power to provide for education. And unless I've missed something, the 10th Amendment—you know, the one that says the federal government can't do anything that it isn't specifically tasked with doing in the Constitution—doesn't seem to have been repealed.

The Republicans know this, of course. They've been bellyaching for two decades about it, and promising to eliminate the Department of Education and sow salt on the earth where it once stood. This hardly seems an auspicious beginning to that process. Perhaps Bush is hoping that all of the DoE bureaucrats will die of paper cuts incurred while riffling through the fresh stacks of Federal Reserve Notes he's having sent over.

On almost every budget item mentioned in the speech—from education to Social Security and Medicare and beyond—Bush proposes more spending and more federal intervention in areas where the federal government has no business in the first place.

For the first time in nearly half a century, the Republicans control the machinery of government. Their word is law. It's time to follow through on decades of promises to be fulfilled "some day," and last night's speech is a clear indication that they have no intention of doing so. "Some day" is here—and the Republicans are fresh out of excuses.

*"So, what do
the Republicans
want? In two
words, more
government."*

Federal Cash a 'Deal with the Devil'



President George W. Bush's proposal to direct federal funds to faith-based organizations could destroy many of the virtues that make religious groups so successful at fighting poverty, the Libertarian Party warned today.

"Religious groups will be making a deal with the devil if they accept the 30 pieces of silver from the federal government," said Steve Dasbach, the party's national director. "Accepting federal funds will put religious groups at the mercy of government bureaucrats, make them more dependent on government handouts, and politicize what should be very personal religious decisions."

This week, President Bush outlined a controversial plan to enhance the ability of religious groups to help those in need. Under the plan, religious groups would be able to compete for government contracts to fund charitable activities that help the poor, the elderly, and the homeless, provide child care, or assist drug addicts and AIDS patients. Direct government funding of religious groups is a dangerous idea, said Dasbach. Such a program could...

- Make religious groups dependent on the government. For example, Catholic Charities USA, which gets 65% of its \$2.3 billion budget from the federal government, already has a large, professional lobbying staff in Washington, DC working to protect its federal funding.

"Religious groups run a real risk of becoming just another subsidized industry, more concerned about wining and dining their Sugar Daddy Congressmen than feeding and sheltering the poor," said Dasbach.

- Ensnare religious groups in smothering government regulations.

"The danger is that lean, nimble, and effective religious groups will become as slow and inefficient as the government agencies they are trying to replace," said Dasbach. "The poor won't be helped by the bureaucrats from OSHA, EPA, EEOC, HUD, and HHS who swoop in to make sure religious groups conform to all the picayune regulations that are always attached to government money."

- Destroy the moral benefits of charity.

"Private charity works not only because it helps the poor, but because it helps the person providing the charity," said Dasbach. "A voluntary contribution is an expression of the Biblical directive to 'Love thy neighbor as thyself.' Voluntary contributions teach moral lessons, forge bonds, and build communities. Coercive taxation does none of those things."

"And if you don't believe it, just ask yourself: How do you feel after you've written a check to your favorite charity—and how do you feel after you've written a check to the IRS? That's the difference between the compassion of voluntary charity and the coercion of tax-funded government programs."

For all those reasons, Dasbach said, Congress should pass any proposal to make it easier for individuals to donate their own money to religious groups—but reject any proposal to allow government bureaucrats to hand out tax money to those same religious groups.

More National LP releases are available at www.lp.org.

"Voluntary contributions teach moral lessons, forge bonds, and build communities. Coercive taxation does none of those things."

Church Welfare Degrades Act of Charity

by Dave Bishop

As a Libertarian, I find the clamor to "privatize" welfare by putting it in the capable hands of churches just a little amusing. Here we have conservative Republicans wanting to impose sectarian standards on religious institutions that have historically been independent of government control.

Catholic Charities received \$1.3 billion in government funds in 1996, about 64% of its total income. In spite of that, it advertises itself as "the nation's largest, private network of independent social service organizations."

Catholic Charities has actively promoted expanding federal welfare programs. In 1997, it announced a nine-point agenda that included more government

spending on housing programs, Medicaid, legal immigrants, emergency services, food stamps, health care, and people with AIDS. The agenda also opposed tax cuts for middle- and upper-income Americans.

Most likely other religious denominations have similar organizations subsidized by federal money. Such funds can't be used for religious purposes—but lobbying and soft-selling government welfare programs is apparently acceptable.

The question is, should church groups accept government subsidies? Or should they stick to distributing food and clothing that was given to them freely rather than through the force of government taxation?

What would Jesus do?

Looking Ahead to Future Campaigns

by Norman T. Olsen,
Campaigns Director

Based on the overwhelming experience of a single campaign season, I write to suggest how we as a political party should organize ourselves to improve our ability to put Libertarians into public office, elected or appointed.

Each of the areas outlined below requires at least one, perhaps several individuals to get the effort started and keep it going. Obviously, the single individual elected to the position of Campaign Director cannot do it all. Thus, we need other volunteers. Our success in any of these areas will depend upon the level of support provided by volunteers. We will need group leaders to get the process started and keep it rolling.

I see four things that we could and should be doing. These projects don't require large amounts of money, nor do they require political clout or special expertise. Thus, we can do these if we simply decide to do them, if we step up to the plate and start working on them.

1. State Election Group

Being a candidate, even just a line-holder helps the cause significantly. Even though most of our candidates in the 2000 election were line-holders, having 87 candidates was newsworthy and produced several times the media attention we ever had before. In the 2000 election, we did not start recruiting candidates seriously until after the convention, i.e. late May 2000. This not only limited the amount of time available to fill the ballot, it also seriously impaired the ability of candidates to become prepared for being a candidate. (Even line-holders need to be trained to properly respond to questionnaires, interviews, etc.)

Minor party status has made ballot access relatively easy. However, access to the ballot still requires a significant amount of paper work which must be filed in a timely manner. Additional reports need to be filed with the secretary of state, and the County Clerk in the case of a county commissioner race. Over the years, these efforts were largely performed by board members (with the notable exception of Joe Johnson and Elizabeth Bennett in 2000).

We need to establish an organization to accomplish these two tasks. Tom Goonan recruited several Jeffco members to do this for the 2000 election, but I was not able to get this organization working as I did not know what it actually had to do. I hope these individuals will consider another shot at this for the 2002 election cycle, now that someone actually knows what has to be done. We will need to activate this effort now, so we can start recruiting and training candidates in the very near future.

It would also be nice if we could raise some money to be used to establish and staff a Campaign Center for the next election. The Campaign Center would serve as an office for all candidates, take calls, provide information and press kits, schedule interviews, and perform other functions normally performed by a campaign office.

2. Candidate Training Group

We need to train our candidates on how to be effective. A good candidate must...

- Have a press kit
- Be able to give a good interview on the phone
- Be able to give a good interview in person
- Be able to give a good interview in front of a camera
- Know how to answer the question "What's a Libertarian?"
- Be able to generate press attention
- Provide effective responses to questionnaires
- Know how to work a crowd (e.g., a gun show)
- Know how to produce quality mailers

There are individuals who can provide this kind of training. What we need is an organization that can locate and schedule events, organize the curriculum, publicize the events, and generally run the training program in a continuous manner. That is, all of the courses should be given on a continuous basis, not just once every four years.

Every month, there should be an education event somewhere in the state. All members of the party should consider attending these events. All members should be able to "deliver the message" effectively at any time. Learning these skills takes a while. Waiting until you actually become a candidate is too late.

3. Local Election Group

Local municipal elections are occurring all the time. Offices include council-person, mayor, auditor, etc. Our members need to know of these elections before it is too late to start an effective campaign for the positions. Let's face it: success is not likely if you intend to start at the top. We need to put the organization in place that will enable our members to run for, and win, these local elections.

There are 1,699 local districts in the state of Colorado. These range from water districts, park districts, recreation districts, sewer districts, hospital districts, and on and on. Each of these districts has a board of directors and officers. In most cases, the directors (or perhaps the officers) are elected positions. Elections for these positions are held at strange times, often on the first Tuesday in May.

"Future" continued on page 15



Western Slope Libertarians Fight Smoking Ban

15

A group interested in issues of personal freedom and individual responsibility recently formed the Western Slope Libertarian Party (WSLP). The affiliate was certified by the state party in early February and joins other new groups as part of the nation's fastest growing political party.

At their February 27 meeting in Montrose, members elected party officials and established the Committee to Preserve Property Rights (CPPR) to actively oppose the so-called "clean air" ordinance on the City of Montrose's April mail-in ballot, a measure that would force private property owners to adopt anti-smoking rules.

Local Libertarians elected business owners John Duncan (Western Environmental Service Technologies) and Tim Jacobs (Oak Grove Country Store) as co-chairmen and Jojo Ping (Jojo's Windmill Restaurant) as secretary and treasurer.

"I am very pleased to be working with Tim and Jojo on this important undertaking," Duncan said. "It has become clear to me that the parties in power have lost their focus. I was very happy to find the Libertarian Party."

Jacobs is a long time LP member. He echoed Duncan's enthusiasm: "We're looking forward to the challenges ahead, and would welcome the help of other activists in the area."

Ping, whose family helped settle the Western Slope, said, "I am proud to be a member of WSLP, a group which will fight incremental and all-out attacks on our personal freedoms. Our opponents in this 'clean air'

ordinance fight want to keep chipping away at our rights and responsibilities, but we have had enough."

Maintaining freedom and responsibility as realized through private property rights are primary concerns of WSLP, so members also decided upon a campaign to clear the air and defeat the proposed "clean air" ordinance through CPPR. Jacobs said the ordinance is a threat to individual liberty.

"Our citizens need to speak up once more," he said. "Don't be fooled: the next time it will be *your* rights as a property owner on the line. Your vote counts."

Duncan added: "The 'clean air' ordinance obviously has nothing to do with clean air. It is obvious to me the so-called clean air ordinance is another assault on property rights."

So do Libertarians think persons who react negatively to tobacco smoke should simply stay at home? Aren't their rights important, too?

"The rights of non-smokers are no more and no less important than anyone else's," Jacobs said. "They, like all of us, have the right to shop, eat, and drink where they're most comfortable. Conversely, the business owner has the right to cater to that portion of the market he finds most profitable for his particular enterprise. Some businesses cater to non-smokers, others cater to a larger segment of our population."

Those interested in more information may contact Tim Jacobs at 970.249.6242 or John Duncan at 970.249.9523.

"Non-smokers have the right to shop, eat, and drink where they're most comfortable."

"Future" continued from page 14

We need to have an organization that researches the list of local districts, finds out which are having an election in the next six months, which positions are up for election, and notify our members of these positions.

Finally, there are many positions in local government to which individuals are appointed. Like being an LPCO board member, often simply volunteering to serve is sufficient to be appointed. The group working on local elections will need to do the research to find out what positions are available and notify our membership about them.

4. Organizations Campaign Group

Just as candidates need to campaign among their constituents, the party needs to campaign among other organizations. For example, the LPCO should have an

annual reception for sympathetic organizations such as Gun Owners of America. We should send trained candidates to the meetings of outside groups. We should write articles for their newsletters.

In short, as an organization, the LPCO needs to look at the state election as a campaign among sympathetic organizations. We need a group who will do this, every month, every year.

So, the call goes out for volunteers. To start, we need four group leaders. At least 16 volunteers to help the group leaders would be a good starting point. If we do not get started soon, maybe, just maybe, one of the above tasks will get done by the next election. I suggest that we can do better than that. What do you think?

Norm can be contacted at 303.252.9090 or norm@mentorsoftwareinc.com.



The Futility of Campaign Finance Restrictions

By Ari Armstrong

It's a classic case of the cure being worse than the disease, like the doctors of old who would leech the blood out of their patients. No member of the general public wants to see moneyed interests buying special favors from government officials. However, moves to restrict campaign financing don't solve the problem: they make the problem worse.

Colorado's recent experiences prove the point. After the courts threw out a 1996 initiative limiting campaign finance, state legislators passed their own limits on political donations. What happened? In the 2000 elections, Democratic Senator Mike Feeley created a number of front groups to siphon money from millionaire Jared Polis into tight senate races. (Polis also spent large sums of money to win a spot on the State Board of Education.) Feeley's move is largely responsible for tipping the senate to the Democrats for the first time in many years.

Now State Rep. Dan Grossman wants to close the "loophole" that allows multiple donations to a political party like the ones Polis made. However, the only effect of the new law would be to create additional "loopholes."

Another increasingly popular way to circumvent campaign finance restrictions is to create nonprofit "educational" groups. By law, such groups may not endorse particular candidates. They may, however, provide "information" about candidates. Information along the lines of, "We're not telling you whom to vote for, but Candidate X is a lying jerk who wants to drug your son, rape your daughter, ruin your schools and let criminals rule the world." (Such language is barely an exaggeration of what actually went out in

the 2000 elections.) So let's close the "education group loophole" as well!

But hold on to those leeches, just for a moment. The first item of the Bill of Rights enshrines into law a fundamental principle of civil liberties: "Congress shall make no law... abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." The Fourteenth Amendment further guarantees these rights.

It is impossible to restrict the spending of those nasty "special interests" without infringing the rights of free speech. Besides, one person's nasty special interest group is another person's champion of good government. Thus we witness the spectacle of many who support campaign finance restrictions cheering on the Democrats' senate victories.

True, some individuals and corporations invest money in political campaigns in order to reap specific paybacks, such as subsidies or protectionism. But other funds are spent by groups that genuinely care about the issues. If someone strongly favors or disfavors abortion, for instance, that person has every right spend money advocating that issue.

If anything, campaign restrictions further entrench the current political powers. Large, well-funded organizations like the Democratic and Republican parties are adept at threading money through the inevitable "loopholes." The grassroots activists and the minor parties, meanwhile, lack the legal expertise to circumvent the law, and they run the greatest risk of unintentionally violating the complicated provisions.

The only ultimate solution to the campaign finance problem would be to absolutely prevent political speech, except by the official campaigns. For example, newspapers regularly endorse particular candidates. If campaign restriction laws are pushed far enough, interest groups will create their own newspapers for political advocacy. Another "loophole."

The alternative is to repeal existing campaign restriction laws. At least then donations would usually be direct and easily observed. Such an approach relies on voters to see through high-expense campaigns and vote on the issues.

That doesn't mean the problems of campaign finance are beyond fixing. Usually, those who advocate campaign restriction laws also support a big government. Those of a more libertarian bent envision government as a "night watchman" to protect person and property. They point out that, if the levers of power didn't control so much of our lives, there wouldn't be the incentive to buy access to those levers. Perhaps reducing the size and scope of government activity would naturally limit the problems of money in politics.

The supporters of campaign finance restrictions rightly diagnose the disease: special interests buy undue power. But if they proceed with their cure, they will find they've drained away the lifeblood of our constitutional republic: free speech.

Ari Armstrong edits co-freedom.com and is publications director for the Libertarian Party of Colorado.

Press Watch: Libertarians Spread the Word

17

Please send your press watch notes to ari@oneimage.com.

LPEP on the Radio

LPEP Outreach Director Ross Glidewell was recently a guest on Chuck Baker's On the Carpet radio show. Baker recently started a Friday free-for-all format.

Ross did a fantastic job describing the LP's position on separating school and state while also showing that vouchers are problematic because government strings will always be attached.

Real School Choice

The following letter was published February 27 in the Colorado Springs Gazette.

Richard Mills hit the nail precisely on the head when he wrote that "the debate over school vouchers is less about children and more about money and control" ("Why should choice be limited to the rich?" Letters, Feb. 23).

Another argument can be made regarding the teachers' unions. As teachers leave low-paying, government schools and go to work for higher-paying privately funded schools, the unions will lose sway over those teachers as well as their union contributions.

Today, school choice means that middle- and low-income parents are forced to make drastic financial changes in order to afford to send their children to private or charter schools. The same is true for homeschooling parents like myself. I gave up my day job so that I could educate my son at home.

Meanwhile, my tax dollars are supporting the education of the kids next door. I believe that there is a place for public access to education. As a home educator and a Libertarian, I do not believe that tax-funded vouchers are the answer. But I do believe that government, state and federal, should get out of the business of education.

Desiree Hackett Hickson

Summit Nets News Article

"Minor parties pool ideas, not ideology, at first summit," noted a January 14 article by Michele Ames in the *Rocky Mountain News*.

Ames quoted LP state chair BetteRose Smith, "We're here to band together and pool our resources toward our common goals."

The article also quoted Victor Good of the Reform Party, who was instrumental in organizing the January

13 meeting. The Green and Natural Law parties also attended.

There Ought to be a Freedom

The following letter was published in the Lakewood Sentinel on February 1.

Today many voices fashionably blame deregulation for higher energy prices. Politicians have sold this lemon over and over until dutiful taxpayers regurgitate it in their sleep.

But what politicians get away with calling "deregulation" is any baby step taken back from the goal of total central committee control. Nearly every industry has become clogged by costly mandates entailing ridiculous paperwork serving nothing but pulp recycling. Such wishful, superfluous legislating always churns up unintended, destructive consequences which themselves become political fodder for not less, but more government control!

This vicious circle has unbalanced all natural workings of the economy until there is no longer any free market to scapegoat. From now on, instead of positing for every problem's solution, "There ought to be a law," we will rightly reason first: "There ought to be a freedom."

Gregg Miller,
2000 Colorado HD 29 Libertarian Candidate

Libertarian BBQs B.Q.

B.Q.'s national conservative radio talkshow comes to the Denver area weekdays on AM 710. On January 31 she discussed John Ashcroft's nomination.

Colorado Libertarian Gregg Miller called into the show and commented, "B.Q., as a Libertarian, I think that the Republicans and Democrats try to out-moralize each other, but neither one has a leg to stand on. It's just political business as usual... They have their minor differences, but they won't really be dealing with any of the important issues for our country..."

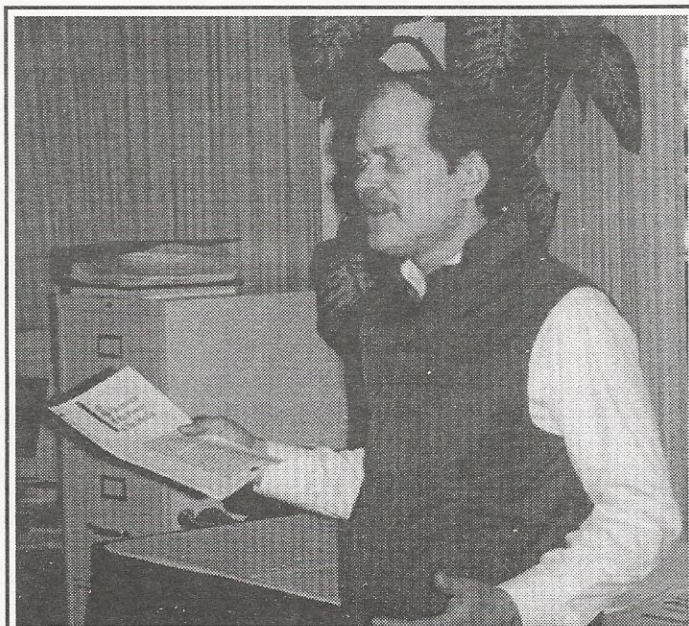
B.Q. disagreed and challenged Miller: "So what have you done? Are you doing anything to make the world a better place?"

Miller replied, "Well, I ran for House District 29, here in Arvada, Colorado; I've talked to thousands of people in my district... I got the same percentage as Nader did nationally. I also write letters, I call talk shows, and..."

With that, B.Q. said, "Well, OK, let's go to the next caller."

"From now on,
instead of
positing for
every problem's
solution, 'There
ought to be a
law,' we will
rightly reason first:
'There ought to
be a freedom.'"

Bain Preps LPers on Media Relations



Ron Bain discusses media relations March 11.

"Those who write letters should do so with a gentle sense of humor, in a way that's not mean-spirited or sarcastic."

"Media is the avenue we need to pursue to gain success," Ron Bain told a group of about a dozen Libertarian activists March 11. Bain works for the Independence Institute and serves as publicity director for the Boulder LP.

Bain told the group it is both possible and desirable to "get our message out such that it is true and accurate." He handed out resources and discussed strategies for doing just that.

Bain first described what interests the media. "They're very much interested in personality," he said. Reporters are interested in conflict and visually interesting scenes. For example, Jon Caldara earned press last year by burning real money on the steps of the capitol to protest a tax initiative.

In general, the media is looking for unusual "man bites dog" stories, issues that affect a lot of people, and hot gossip subjects. Props, costumes, and skits can be effective tools in earning media coverage.

Bain said good press releases are an essential element of any successful campaign. A good press release seeks to inform the media of an event, not persuade. It will let the reporter know why an

event would be interesting as news. The actual events should generally be scheduled on weekdays in the morning in order to help reporters meet deadlines. Releases should be sent out two weeks prior to an event, then one week, then followed up by e-mails or phone calls.

Another essential component of a good campaign is a media kit, which should be sent to all area media outlets at least 30-45 days prior to the election. A good media kit includes a business card, a pamphlet, two black and white photographs, issue papers, and all press coverage.

Of course, candidates must become proficient at speaking with the press. They should practice short, pithy lines. They should take pains to avoid embarrassing photographs and assume they're always "on record."

Candidates should generally avoid writing letters to the editor—they should leave campaign staff to do that. Those who write letters should do so "with a gentle sense of humor," in a way that's not mean-spirited or sarcastic.

Bain is working on a media guide for candidates and he will offer another training class at the state convention.

**Meet Ron Bain at the
State Libertarian Convention!**
See pages 4 & 5 for details.



A group of Libertarian activists discuss ways to handle the press more effectively in a political campaign.

Letters to the Editor

19

Libertarian Acts as Town Trustee

My name is Jake L. Harris, and I serve as a town trustee in Collbran. It is a non-partisan position but I do occasionally help people to see the light. I do have a basic membership to the LP but when finances allow I will become a lifer. Thank you for establishing a party in which my beliefs can be reflected.

Sincerely,
Jake Harris

Politicians Held to Low Standards

Dear Editor,

Could naturalized citizens be more qualified to serve in office than our current politicians? Immigrants can't have a criminal record. They must be of upstanding moral character and display an understanding of U.S. history and the founding documents of our system of government.

Politicians may have a criminal record, character is not an issue, and it does not matter whether they have even heard of the Constitution or can define a representative republic! Perhaps we should have immigrants and politicians trade places. What would we do with all the politicians denied citizenship?

David La Deau
Buena Vista

The Editor Responds:

I share your dim view of modern politicians. Most would agree that those convicted of a serious crime against person or property usually should be excluded from holding office; however, those found "guilty" of victimless crimes or of practicing self-defense should not be so barred. As for those politicians who would fail citizenship tests, any other country that wants them should be welcome to them.

Think Globally, Run Locally

To all Libertarian Party Members,

I must complement those who have tried and failed in their attempts to win public office. I implore them to try again—I lost twice before running for an unopposed seat on the Leadville city council.

Until we get Libertarians elected or appointed to offices in city or town councils, county commissions, township boards of supervisors, planning and zoning

boards, and maybe even state legislatures...we will not have ground to stand on in presenting ourselves to the public as credible and experienced alternatives to Democrats, Republicans, or even non-partisan regulators and code makers.

Rant and protest as much as you like from outside, but where you can really get things accomplished on a broad level is from within city councils and boards of county commissioners, etc.

Need I say a bird in our hands is worth two or twenty in the bush?

Sincerely,
Joe Swyers

The Libertarian View of Education

Dear Editor,

It Seems to me that the current education debate in D.C. is flawed. I have not seen anything in the Constitution that mandates the Federal Government to oversee the education of our children. I also do not see where the Federal Government can blackmail the states into this policy by withholding tax dollars.

I feel that education issues are better addressed at the community and state level. How dare the Feds from 2000 miles away tell me how to raise and educate my child. The Bush administration needs to be carefully watched.

I was wondering what side the Libertarian Party is on in this matter.

Thank you,
Peter C. Sauer
Montrose

The Editor Responds:

The Libertarian Party agrees that the federal government should have no role in education. The federal government is limited to a few specific powers according to the Constitution, and today it has far outstepped its bounds.

Libertarians go even further to say that government per se has no proper role in education. No, I don't want politicians and bureaucrats in Washington, D.C. to decide how my children are educated. But neither do I want politicians and bureaucrats in Denver to do so. Libertarians advocate the complete separation of school and state. Short of that, let's at least get the feds out of it.

"I have not seen anything in the Constitution that mandates the Federal Government to oversee the education of our children."

"The public school system has failed because it is a system of socialist education." —Jacob G. Hornberger

but as a means of spreading ideas." He said the LP can be a useful tool in that regard. Whereas some commentators in *Liberty Magazine* such as editor R.W. Bradford have recently suggested libertarians form a multi-partisan political interest group, Friedman reaffirmed the value in pursuing a variety of approaches concurrently.

Friedman's other books include *Law's Order: What Economics Has to Do with Law and Why it Matters* and *Hidden Order: The Economics of Everyday Life*. Friedman's web page is at www.daviddfriedman.com. The page includes sections of *Machinery*, an entire economics textbook, and papers on a variety of subjects from the history of Iceland to obstetrics to John Lott's work in *More Guns, Less Crime*.



David Friedman meets with CU's Campus Libertarians. L-r Alex Baia, Flux Neo, Heather Demarest, Brian Schwartz, Friedman, and Matt Zenthoefer.

Analysis

While all libertarians agree with Friedman on most issues, many see his more radical formulations as problematic. At his talk, Friedman suggested that if one believes in the efficacy of the market order, one should think about extending those principles even to law and defense. Friedman is a self-described "anarcho-capitalist" who wants to do away with "government" all together.

Part of the debate revolves around semantics. Whereas Friedman describes his market system of legal services as an absence of government, other commentators such as Albert Jay Nock differentiate between the "government" and the "state," with the former referring to an institution that limits its activities to

defending property rights. By extending Nock's analysis, some have referred to Friedman's system as "market government" or at least "governance," even though no monopoly is involved.

As his basis of evaluation, Friedman relies upon the notion of economic efficiency, which describes the fulfillment of subjective preferences. Basically, Friedman argues that people would get more of what they want in a consistent market system. But this formulation gives rise to two problems.

First, most people who support a strong state aren't concerned with subjective values, but rather with objective ones. In other words, some people want to enforce their values regardless of whether other people approve of them. Libertarians regularly respond that politicians are more subject to "moral failure" than are individuals interacting in a voluntary system.

Second, as the Austrian economists argue, subjective values cannot be measured or aggregated. For instance, Hans Hermann Hoppe argues that the state could never be considered "efficient," because some people find the very existence of the state disvaluable. The same argument, though, can be applied to the market. If lots of people value the use of force and monopoly privileges, then the market cannot be considered "efficient."

At some point, then, libertarians must turn to arguments over objective values. Libertarians like Ayn Rand argue that material progress is objectively valuable for human life, and a market system works best for producing goods and services. (Rand is a libertarian by most definitions even if not by her own.) In addition, Leonard Reed argues that people can be spiritually fulfilled only through voluntary interactions, not by the use of force.

Friedman could easily modify his standard of economic efficiency to conform to certain objective constraints. Then, the debate becomes one over purely market institutions as opposed to a minimal state. Rand argues that the minimal state is a necessary prerequisite for the market, whereas Friedman (and others like Murray Rothbard) argues that law and defense agencies can arise on the market absent a central monopoly. This is largely a question of history.

One thing is for certain: all libertarians agree that the modern American state is much too powerful and it spends way too many resources. A minimal state along the lines of what's defined in the U.S. Constitution is relatively ideal. As Harry Browne argued, let's first repeal the income tax and then argue about whether other types of taxes should be repealed. To do otherwise is a bit like arguing over what size swimming pool we want, when we're dying of thirst in the desert. Let's first work on getting that cool drink of water.

Quality Press

Books
Books
Books

Perfect Bound, 3 Ring,
Saddle Stitched Manuals
1,000 to 20,000

Web Printing

8.5x11 & 11x17
Many papers to
choose from

3964 South Mariposa
Englewood

303-761-2160

"Masters" continued from page 1

The annual banquet raises funds for the group and recognizes winners of a student essay contest. Board member Linn Armstrong, who served as MC during the evening, also recognized members of the Committee for their work in firearms safety classes. The group offers two NRA-affiliated classes each month. Since 1993 the group has trained around 3,000 gun owners. Armstrong noted that such training is crucial for "winning the hearts and minds" of the public.

Meet Linn Armstrong at the State Libertarian Convention!

See pages 4 & 5 for details.

Masters noted Jefferson's advice to "let your gun be the constant companion of your walks." Young goat herder Zeke Hernandez took Jefferson's advice to heart and carried along a .22 rifle, a gift from his grandfather, on his family's ranch in Texas. Unfortunately, United States military agents mistook Zeke for a drug runner and shot and killed him.

"We are in a war, a war on drugs. And during a time of war, innocent people get in the way sometimes," Masters said. "People's rights have to be placed on the back burner."

Masters argued that just laws are those which "protect lives and property." Masters predicted a government that fights a war on people who possess a plant like marijuana will tend to target other classes of non-violent persons. "The peaceful, law-abiding, American gun owner is next," he warned.

The key to good government is to maintain and enforce a few crucial laws, Masters suggested. Whereas Colorado legislation used to fit in a single volume, it now "takes twelve volumes, and I don't think any of us feel any safer."

Moses brought four words about theft down from Mount Sinai, "Though shalt not steal." That principle, noted Masters, "is now Colorado Revised Statutes 18-4-401 through 18-4-416. It is over 24,000 words long, and if you really don't want to be a victim of theft you still need a car alarm, house alarm, 25 keys and a digital credit card."

Masters argued for a consistent advocacy of civil liberties. "Liberty is a harsh mistress. You cannot pick and choose what you like and dislike about her. Liberty will not change her principles for you. She will stand fast and demand total acceptance."

Masters' web page is at libertybill.net.

21

*"Liberty is a harsh
mistress. You
cannot pick and
choose what you
like and dislike
about her. Liberty
will not change
her principles for
you. She will
stand fast and
demand total
acceptance."*

Contacts—The Libertarian Party of Colorado

Please send updates and corrections to Ari Armstrong at ariamstrong@hotmail.com or 303.412.8356. For information on how to start a local affiliate or campus organization, contact Brian Rachocki at rachocki@earthlink.net or 303.814.0272.

National

National Libertarian Party

2600 Virginia Ave. NW #100
Washington DC 20037
202.333.0008
<http://www.lp.org>
New members: 1.800.353.2887

National Chair

Jim Lark
P.O. Box 274, Free Union, VA 22940
804.973.5958 • jwlark@virginia.edu

Libertarian National Committee Rep.

Ed Hoch
907.479.4593 • edsway@sprynet.com

Colorado

Libertarian Party of Colorado

720 E. 18th Ave. #309
Denver, CO 80203-1415
303.837.9393 • <http://www.lpcolorado.org>

State Chair

BetteRose Smith
P.O. Box 460202, Glendale, CO 80246
303.639.5530 • betterose@aol.com

Treasurer

Johanna Fallis
6773 Welch Court, Arvada, CO 80004
303.456.9750 • Cell: 303.912.2155
jfallis@ix.netcom.com

Campaigns Director

Norman T. Olsen
301 Malley Drive #46
Northglenn, CO 80233-2028
303.252.9090 • norm@mentorsoftwareinc.com

Public Information

John K. Berntson
242 D. West Rockrimmon Blvd.
Colorado Springs, CO 80919
719.532.0118 • jkbcolosp@aol.com

Publications

Ari Armstrong
P.O. Box 1034, Arvada, CO 80001
303.412.8356 or 8366
ariamstrong@hotmail.com

Information Director

David Bryant
520 S. Corona St., Denver, CO 80209
303.744.6577 • davidbryant@worldnet.att.net

Outreach

Brian Rachocki
98 Cherry Street, Castlerock, CO
303.814.0272 • rachocki@earthlink.net

Local

Adams County

Jay Carper
10701 Pecos #2112, Northglenn CO 80234
303.252.7808 • Fax: 925.201.2112 x1029
jaycarper@zdnetwork.com
<http://www.egroups.com/group/adamscolp>

Aspen Liberty Coalition

Tom Peckham
P.O. Box 9766, Aspen, CO 81612
970.925.6027

Boulder County

Lori VanBuren
P.O. Box 108, Lyons CO 80540
303.823.9695 • LyonsLori@juno.com
<http://www.lpboulder.com>

Broomfield Libertarians

Wright Morgan
P.O. Box 131, Broomfield, CO 80038
303.465.9676

Chaffee and Lake Counties

Carol Hill
424 E. 11th, Leadville, CO 80461
719.486.2866 • Fax: 719.486.2866
chill@amigo.net

Clear Creek County

Bob Harvey
P.O. Box 876, Georgetown, CO 80444
303.569.3456

Douglas County

John W. Wright
4372 E. Andover Ave., Castle Rock, CO 80104
john.wright1@usa.net • www.freedouglas.org

El Paso County

Carol Geltemeyer
4164 Austin Bluffs Parkway 145
Colorado Springs, CO 80918
719.596.6799 • info@lpep.org
<http://www.lpep.org>

Greeley / Weld

Lester W. Edgett
1402 Pleasant Acres Dr., Evans, CO 80620
970.351.6527 • leswe@aol.com

Gunnison Area

Michael Simpson
5688 City Rd. 730, Gunnison, CO 81230
Work: 970.641.3112 • Home: 970.641.6664

Jackson County

Kathy Romack
P.O. Box 415, Walden, CO 80480
970.723.4016

Jefferson County

Slim Sulyma
11578 W. Arizona Ave., Lakewood, CO 80232
303.985.8085 • islmsulyma@att.net
<http://www.lpcolorado.org/jeffco>

Larimer County

Dan Cochran
970.667.7557 • dlc137@aol.com

Limon Area

Gene Leverett
P.O. Box 388, Limon, CO 80828
719.775.9773

Morgan County

Michael T. McKinzie
813 State St., Fort Morgan, CO 80701
970.542.9115 • liberty80701@yahoo.com

Northeastern Colorado

Trent & Gwen Eichhorn
106 Heather St., Sterling, CO 80751
970.522.0328

Park County

Chris Shepard
P.O. Box 1187, Bailey, CO 80421
303.838.0925 • maverick@mastermind.net
<http://maverick.mastermind.net/LP>

Routt County

Robert Jahelka
P.O. Box 881987, Steamboat Springs, CO 80488
970.879.4127

San Luis Valley

Robert Johnson
HCR 68 Box 51, Ft Garland, CO 81133
719.379.2767 • sdj@amigo.net

San Miguel County

Bill Masters
P.O. Box 747, Telluride, CO 81435
970.728.4249 • wsmasters@yahoo.com

Southside: Englewood, Littleton, Highlands Ranch

Bennett Rutledge
6710 S. Glencoe St. #111, Littleton, CO 80122
303.860.1308
<http://msnhomepages.talkcity.com/CapitolDr/acb9955/index.html>

Southwestern Colorado

Bill Zimsky
P.O. Box 3005, Durango, CO 81302
970.385.5107 • Fax: 970.385.5226

Summit County

John Sabal
P.O. Box 958, Frisco, CO 80443
970.262.6369

Western Colorado

Brent Shroyer
P.O. Box 292, Rangely, CO 81648
970.675.2337

Campus

Auraria Campus

April Anne Chase
303.355.8057 • aachase@uswest.net

CU Campus Libertarians

Alex Baia
303.786.3268 • Alex.Baia@Colorado.Edu

Fruita High School

Ty Bailey
970.242.4024

LIBERTY CALENDAR

April • May 2001

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 April	2 Boulder , noon. Call Lori VanBuren: 303.823.9695 Southside , 7pm. Call Bennett Rutledge: 303.740.8690	3 Fort Collins Breakfast, 7 am at Joe's Fireside Cafe, 238 S College Ave. Call Lee Smith: 970.635.0395	4 Colorado Springs Friends of Liberty, 7 pm. 719.596.6799 Broomfield 7pm. Call Wright Morgan: 303.465.9676 Douglas County 7 pm, 303.688.8624	5 Jefferson County 6 pm, 12895 West Arizona Ave. Call Slim Sulyma: 303.985.8085 Douglas County 7 pm, 800 Perry St. Call John Wright: 303.688.8624	6	7 Denver Breakfast LePeep's, 8 am. 303.831.4334 Fort Morgan In the Mood Coffee House at 2:00 pm. 970.542.9115
8	9 Boulder , noon. Call Lori VanBuren: 303.823.9695	10	11 Colorado Springs Friends of Liberty, 7 pm. 719.596.6799 Douglas County 7 pm, Call John Wright: 303.688.8624	12 Boulder LPBC Board Meeting, 6:30 pm. La Estrellita in Boulder. Call Lori VanBuren: 303.823.9695	13	14 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
15	16 Boulder , noon. Call Lori VanBuren: 303.823.9695 Fort Collins , 7pm. Call Dan Cochran 970.667.7557	17	18 Colorado Springs Friends of Liberty, 7 pm. 719.596.6799 Routt County , 7pm. Call: 970.870.8104 Douglas County 7 pm, 303.688.8624	19	20 Star Fest contact Ralph Shnevlar at ralphs@dos32.com.	21 Denver Breakfast LePeep's, 8 am. 303.831.4334 Fort Morgan In the Mood Coffee House at 2:00 pm. 970.542.9115
22	23 Boulder Luncheon, noon. Call Lori VanBuren: 303.823.9695	24	25 Colorado Springs Friends of Liberty, 7pm. Call Carol Geltemeyer: 719.596.6799 Douglas County 7 pm, Call John Wright: 303.688.8624	26	27	28 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
29	30 Boulder Luncheon, noon. Call Lori VanBuren: 303.823.9695	Future Dates on the Liberty Calendar: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The State Libertarian Party Convention will be held May 18-20. See pages 4 and 5 for details. 				

	May					
		1 Fort Collins Breakfast, 7 am at Joe's Fireside Cafe, 238 S College Ave. Call Lee Smith: 970.635.0395	2 Colorado Springs Friends of Liberty, 7 pm. 719.596.6799 Broomfield , 7pm. Call: 970.870.8104 Douglas County 7 pm, 303.688.8624	3 Jefferson County 6 pm, 12895 West Arizona Ave. Call Slim Sulyma: 303.985.8085 Douglas County 7 pm, 800 Perry St. Call John Wright: 303.688.8624	4	5 Denver Breakfast LePeep's, 8 am. 303.831.4334 Fort Morgan In the Mood Coffee House at 2:00 pm. 970.542.9115
6	7 Boulder , noon. Call Lori VanBuren: 303.823.9695 Southside , 7pm. Call Bennett Rutledge: 303.740.8690	8	9 Colorado Springs Friends of Liberty, 7 pm. 719.596.6799 Douglas County 7 pm, Call John Wright: 303.688.8624	10 Boulder LPBC Board Meeting, 6:30 pm. TBA in Longmont. Call Lori VanBuren: 303.823.9695	11	12 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
13	14 Boulder , noon. Call Lori VanBuren: 303.823.9695	15	16 Colorado Springs Friends of Liberty, 7 pm. 719.596.6799 Routt County , 7pm. Call: 970.870.8104 Douglas County 7 pm, 303.688.8624	17	18	19 State Convention See pages 4-5 for details.

www.lpcolorado.org
Phone: 303.837.9393
www.lp.org (national)

State Chair
BetteRose Smith

Publications Director
Ari Armstrong

Assistant Editor
David Bryant

Graphic Design
Jennifer Armstrong

*Non-members may
subscribe to Colorado
Liberty by sending \$10
to the address below!*

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

Address Service Requested

☐ 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: _____

Address: _____ Occupation: _____

City, State, ZIP _____ E-mail: _____

Phone: (Day) _____ (Eve) _____

LP Member # _____ (Renewals only- see your mailing label)

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
☐ \$100 or ☐ \$10/month Sustaining
☐ \$25 Subscribing

- ☐ 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,
☐ Charge my credit card

☐ 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.

**Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #675
DENVER, CO 80203**