

LIBERTY

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FRUIT PICKERS GARNER PUBLICITY

By Bette Rose Smith

How do you measure success? Would two interviews with leading TV news programs be considered "success"? How about three or four stories on the radio *before* the big day arrived? What if the three major networks sent camera crews to cover a Libertarian event? Or if all of them carried our story as headline news that night?

Thanks to Richard Lamping, Barry Maggert, Harry Talbot and an enthusiastic crew of volunteers, the fruit picking protest was successful once again this year. In fact, it was one of the greatest successes the Libertarian Party of Colorado has ever had. We met all those criteria on the Western Slope last August.

The week before the protest several radio stations were talking about the upcoming event. Our story was heard all over the area, from Aspen to Grand Junction. All the reports were positive. Our protest was taken seriously.

On Friday, the day before the Libertarians showed up, Barry Maggert and I were talking to the TV stations. Barry Maggert was interviewed twice. These were very serious interviews – the reporters questioned Barry on a wide range of topics. I gave one interview myself.

On Saturday all three of the major network affiliates in Grand Junction sent camera crews to film us. They took pictures and interviewed several Libertarians who were busy picking fruit. That evening the protest at Harry Talbot's farm was the top news story on all three stations. And all the coverage was very positive.

How did we achieve this success?

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Jon Berntson and Carol Geltemeyer at the banquet.

BERNTSON HONORED AS LIBERTARIAN OF THE YEAR

By Ron Bain and David Bryant

More than fifty Colorado Libertarians gathered at the Doubletree Hotel in Colorado Springs on Saturday, October 2nd to present the 1999 Ptak Award to John K. Berntson, chairman of the Libertarian Party of El Paso County, and to provide a standing ovation to keynote speaker Vin Suprynowicz, a nationally syndicated libertarian newspaper columnist.

The Ptak Award is named after Judd Ptak of Nederland, who received Colorado's first Libertarian of the Year award last year in recognition of his relentless lobbying efforts which led to less restrictive third party ballot access laws.

Event organizer Carol Geltemeyer told the sold out crowd that Berntson has played a central role in the revitalization and reorganization of the El Paso County affiliate over the past eighteen months. His commitment to the party, in terms of both money and time, serves as an inspiration to others. With his desire and drive pushing them forward, the Libertarians in Colorado Springs and surrounding communities are enlisting dozens of new party members, obtaining increasing amounts of media coverage,

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Notes from the Chair

Dear Friends of Liberty,

Are you ready for Y2K? I know, I know. Haven't we all heard enough already? Tell me you have your computer all checked out. Tell me you have water and food ready to go. Tell me you will be in a safe spot when the lights go out on New Years Eve/Day. Tell me you have even made sure none of your travel plans include the two weeks after December 30th. Tell me all that and you still have not answered my question.

You see, last week I received a call from one of our members. Jim is very active in promoting the Libertarian Party. He was even thinking of running for office. But *he was not Y2K compliant*. His mistake? He has not registered as a Libertarian. The law says, since we are a minor political party, those who run for office under our banner must have been registered as *Libertarians* for at least one year. 1998 was the only exception. The good news is that the office Jim is considering will be up for election again in the year 2002. Not everyone will be so lucky.

It's important that you register as a Libertarian. Not only does this help send a message to elected officials; but someday, if the urge strikes and you decide to run for office as a Libertarian, you won't be left waiting at the station. In other words, you won't have to run as an independent, and you won't have to petition your way onto the ballot.

Most of you are saying, right now, this very minute, "I will never run for office." Most of our candidates never thought they would run for office either, not even our first elected Libertarian in Colorado. Somehow, though, they ended up running and some ended up winning. Just ask Doug Anderson, Barry Maggert, Carol Hill, Wayne White, Warren Kruse or any of our other fine candidates.

This brings to mind two old sayings:

1) Never say never. You just might find a hot issue or race and throw your hat in the ring; or you might find yourself wishing there were a candidate - even a paper candidate - on the ballot; and all of a sudden you're it.

2) Always be prepared. Register as a Libertarian now, check the registration after a couple of months (registrations have been known to change, er, *accidentally*), be ready to run if the chance comes up, and encourage other Libertarians to register as party members too.

Don't be left behind in an election year like our friend Jim.

Once again I want to remind everyone that November is the month when National will add up our membership to determine:

1) How many delegates Colorado can send to the National convention. The delegates vote on who our presidential candidate will be. They also vote on bylaws changes and platform changes.

2) If we can appoint a delegate to the platform committee - that's the committee which reviews the platform and makes recommendations to the convention. We must be in the top ten states according to full fledged membership to earn a seat on the platform committee.

If you are not a full fledged member - if you send money but have not signed the pledge - please sign the pledge. If you know of someone who might like to join, please invite them to sign the pledge. Or, give a gift membership, but again ask them to sign the pledge. Only people who have signed the pledge are considered voting members of the National LP.

Finally, there are several thank yous that need to go out. A great big thank you for all the people who helped make the fruit picking protest such a wonderful success. We should be getting the videos from the TV stations soon for all to see, hopefully at the convention. A special thank you to the anonymous donors who gave \$600 to the state party at the Libertarian of the Year award banquet. And a heartfelt thank you to Tom Goonan and Carol Hill for being candidates this November. Both are running for school board in their districts, and both are on the state board! All of these folks are very dedicated, and all the rest of us really appreciate it. Thank you!!

In Liberty,

Bette Rose Smith

LIBERTY

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"It's important that you register as a Libertarian."

Fruit Pickers – from page 1

The story began last year when we organized a protest against the Immigration and Naturalization Service and U.S. Rep Scott McInnis for the very first time. In July of 1998 McInnis told the growers he would help get immigrant workers out to their farms. Then he voted to increase the INS budget so they could open five new offices on the Western Slope.

We discussed the situation at a board meeting. Our candidate, Barry Maggert, was running against Scott McInnis, and this looked like a chance to score some points. Tom Goonan suggested a fruit picking protest. The board contacted the Maggert campaign, and Richard Lamping found Harry Talbot, a farmer who was willing to let us pick apples – apples that would otherwise have rotted on the ground because of Scott McInnis and the INS.

Some 25 Libertarians traveled to the Grand Junction area to participate in last year's protest. We picked apples for eight hours. Our protest made the TV news that evening. We got a few new registered Libertarian voters in the area. The effort paid off.

This year Richard Lamping set the protest in motion. He contacted Mr. Talbot, who again agreed to let us pick fruit – peaches this time. Both the state party and the Maggert campaign sent out press releases which got our message on the radio. Then Richard contacted several TV stations and arranged interviews with two of them. All that groundwork paid off when three camera crews showed up at Harry Talbot's farm on Saturday, August 28.

Increased publicity made this year's protest a success. But it was the hard work of our dedicated volunteers who picked peaches and talked to the reporters that generated the publicity. Without their participation all the groundwork would have been wasted. Many thanks to all who helped – especially to those of you who drove hundreds of miles to get there. And an even bigger "Thank You!" to Michael and Michelle Simpson, who created commemorative T-shirts for the volunteers.

Are you willing to help us pick fruit next year? If so, please call state party headquarters at 303-837-9393. Or send e-mail to Bette Rose: betterose@aol.com.

Berntson – from page 1

and building the power base they need to field several strong Libertarian candidates in next year's electoral races.

As she presented the award Carol said, "In the past year Jon has done numerous interviews on the Chuck Baker show. He has written letters to the editor, and he's been featured in a 5-page story in *The Independent*. He has helped man OPH booths, he has spoken to city council members and county commissioners, and he has fought against ballot measures seeking to raise taxes. You name it, and he's done it!"

After the cheering stopped Suprynowicz, the assistant editorial page editor of the Las Vegas Review-Journal whose column is published in 20 newspapers nationwide, presented a vivid picture of the sad state of liberty in America today. Recalling several poignant vignettes drawn from his recently published book *Send in the Waco Killers*, Vin demonstrated that our freedom is under increasing pressure from government agents who do not care how much damage they inflict on individual Americans. Their mission is to enforce the law, and if a few innocent people are injured or even killed in the process, that's just too bad.

Suprynowicz went on to say he's still optimistic about the future. Let's not worry about the fact that Libertarians don't win many elections right now. Let's focus on preserving the freedoms we do have, and on educating our neighbors.

Launching into a parable about the dinosaurs and the mammals, Suprynowicz reminded us that all the mammals really had to do was remain prepared and wait for that big old meteor to hit – and kill off all the dinosaurs. The day is not far off, he suggested, when the statists will learn they've outlived their usefulness, and then the libertarians will take over.

"... our freedom is under increasing pressure from government agents who do not care how much damage they inflict"

A Point to Ponder

Broomfield Libertarian Wright J. Morgan recently wrote to tell us something he heard on Channel 51: "If Benjamin Franklin were alive today, he'd be fined for flying a kite without a license."

To which Mr. Morgan adds, "If Libertarians allow Big Government to smother us with picayune regulations and limitations on our liberties, whom should we blame but ourselves?"

Why I Joined the Libertarian Party

By Shefali O'Hara

I attended my first Libertarian meeting about six months ago. Because I was different from others at the meeting – I guess I fit the profile of a soccer mom sans the children – several people were curious about me. When they asked why I was checking out the Libertarian Party, my response was "Anger!"

While I didn't know very much about the Libertarians yet, I was angry and disgusted with the way the established parties were handling the Clinton scandals. I had spent several months becoming more upset, and complaining about the situation, and then I decided I had no right to complain about the system unless I were doing something to improve it. My first instinct was to become more active in the Republican Party. But the behaviour of the Republican leadership during the Senate impeachment trial left a bad taste in my mouth, so I was ready to consider an alternative.

While never particularly active politically, I had been a Republican since college. I guess I would have called myself a Reagan Republican. Yes, Ronald Reagan wasn't perfect, but I did admire his leadership and optimism, and I was pleased with the tax cuts implemented during his administration, and with the deregulation he supported. But for several years I had been feeling disenchanted with the Republican leadership. George Bush was a big disappointment, and I was appalled by the party leadership's failure to effect real reforms after the "Gingrich revolution" and the Clinton scandals. I also felt uncomfortable with the leadership's clumsy attempts to placate the religious right by changing the Republican platform.

Please note that I AM a Christian, and this is an important part of my life. However, it is also true that one cannot legislate morality. I cannot control the desires of another person's heart, and I cannot instill faith at the point of a sword. The Christian message is one of love, not of aggression, and the mode of conversion is by example and persuasion, not through legislative imperatives. While many of the founding fathers were devout men and some of the 13 colonies passed laws establishing churches, the founders understood the danger of a federally imposed religion. If one state's laws on religion offend a citizen, that

person can move. But if it's federally mandated there is no escape.

So I was feeling increasingly ambivalent about the Republican Party's platform. While I agree with many of their ideas for economic reform, I disagree with their attempts to legislate morality. At first the Libertarians attracted me because they advocate lower taxes. However, as I learned more about libertarianism, I became more and more enthusiastic about its basic tenets and philosophies.

The Libertarian Party is the only one willing to treat Americans like adults. Some adults are not exactly mature, but treating them like children won't help. When issues are viewed from a logical viewpoint and not an emotional one, the Libertarian philosophy is the most coherent. Unfortunately, as Niccolo Machiavelli observed, *"Most people have eyes and can therefore see. However, few people have the ability to reason. Therefore appearances are everything."*

So the two established *Machiavellian* parties appeal to the emotions; and to the extent they emphasize style over substance, they seem to

succeed. The Libertarian Party appeals to the thinking person, so it is less popular. But as more people become angry with the two older parties, as they ask more questions about the established parties' ability to implement true reform, there will be more oppor-

tunities to educate people and help them to reason instead of reacting emotionally.

A few weeks ago I saw such an opportunity. A friend of mine, disturbed by the Columbine killings, said he wants to ban guns. I asked him, "Do you think banning guns will dis-invent them? Do you think banning guns will also ban hatred and the urge to kill?" We started to talk, and he began thinking about the issue instead of reacting emotionally. As the failures of current government policies become more apparent opportunities for such discussions will increase, and many people will be surprised to learn how much of the Libertarian platform they really do support.

When I first approached the Libertarian Party I discovered a philosophy that very nearly coincides with my own. While I am not in absolute agreement with the party platform, I do believe this is the party I should be involved with. I believe it is a party that will not reward my involvement with the same sense of betrayal I earned from the Republicans.

MIT Graduate **Shefali O'Hara** is currently designing Flight Equipment for the Space Station and working part time on a novel. She and husband Rick make their home in Arvada.

"... The Libertarian Party is the only one willing to treat Americans like adults."

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HEMP INITIATIVE ROLLS ALONG

An open letter to Libertarians

"Make the most you can of the Indian Hemp seed and sow it everywhere." – George Washington, 1794

Hemp is Revolution. Hemp is the Future. Hemp is the New Paradigm – of renewable and sustainable resources. Imagine a crop more versatile than the soybean, the cotton plant, and the Douglas Fir combined – one which can replace timber, cotton, and petroleum. Industrial hemp is that crop.

Twenty-nine countries have thriving hemp industries. But here in the U.S.A. this benevolent plant is still shackled in bureaucratic red tape. We're not talking about marijuana. "Industrial hemp" or "hemp" is readily distinguished from marijuana. But the DEA refuses to acknowledge the difference, even though the 1937 Marihuana Tax Act and the Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention Act of 1970 do not specifically prohibit the hemp industry. The DEA is acting outside the law when it "regulates" this vital agricultural product.

For 8,000 years hemp has been mankind's most versatile crop, used for textiles, cordage, paper and construction. The initial draft of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were written on hemp paper, and the first American flag was made of hemp cloth! Hemp seed is second only to the soybean in protein content and provides the most complete protein in the vegetable kingdom. Hemp is the source of the world's longest and strongest natural fiber; it's also a more efficient and cleaner source of industrial fiber and pulp for paper than timber is.

A 1916 USDA bulletin reported that an acre of hemp produces four times as much pulp and fiber as an acre of trees. Farmers can grow hemp without pesticides because it grows very quickly. Hemp is good for the environment and its relegalization is in everyone's best interest.

The Colorado Hemp Initiative 1999-2000 #209 ("Licensing of Industrial Hemp Growers") is almost into the petitioning phase. We face the monumental task of gathering 90,000 signatures to put this initiative on the ballot.

Join us! We need your help. We need funding and we need volunteers. If you are interested in being part of this, we can be reached at

Colorado Hemp!

PO Box 1683, Carbondale CO 81623
(970) 928-6664 <cohemp@hotmail.com.>

Sincerely,
Roy Hecker & Mike Chamness

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PARTY MEMBERSHIP AT RECORD HIGH

By David Bryant

Like the energizer bunny, the Libertarian Party just keeps on growing and growing and growing. Let's take a look at the statistics. These figures are drawn from the national party's membership report as of 9/30/1999.

Rank	Total Membership		Libertarian density	
	State	Members	State	Per million
1	CA	6,471	NH	307.2
2	TX	1,630	NV	258.7
3	FL	1,623	VT	230.2
4	PA	1,563	CO	213.3
5	GA	1,550	WA	212.5
6	MI	1,506	AK	205.2
7	WA	1,209	GA	202.8
8	OH	1,156	CA	198.1
9	IL	1,123	OR	177.0
10	NY	1,098	WY	170.5
11	VA	991	NM	167.0
12	MA	863	DC	166.3
13	CO	847	AZ	164.9
14	NJ	840	ME	155.9
15	AZ	770	MI	153.4

A year ago the national party counted 28,795 members, 743 of whom, (or 2.58%), lived in Colorado. Today nationwide membership has swelled to 33,120, with 847 (2.56%) here in the Centennial State. Over the past year national membership has increased 15%, and Colorado's 14%, both to all-time highs. That's good. But it's not good enough.

Colorado ranks 13th in total membership. To overtake New York and move into the top ten we must add 250 members. *We can do it.* We rank 4th in party membership per million of population. We need to add 375 members to get there, but *we could be number one.*

You may be wondering why I'm telling you all this. It's simple. I want to make the party grow. But it just won't happen without your help. Please help.

If you're an LP news subscriber who hasn't signed the pledge, please sign the pledge. If you're a registered Libertarian who doesn't pay dues, please pay dues. And no matter who you are, talk to your friends and your neighbors. Tell them about the Libertarian party. Call the office and tell us about someone who wants a free six-month trial subscription to the *Liberty*. Send us \$6 to pay for your own subscription. Give a gift subscription to a friend. Do something. Do anything. *Make your party grow.*

We want to win. But we can't win unless we grow. And we'll win sooner if we grow faster. It's as simple as that.

*"... we
can't win
unless we
grow.
And we'll
win sooner
if we grow
faster."*

BOULDER**MEDICAL MARIJUANA SUPPORTED**

Approximately one dozen Colorado cannabis law reform activists met on the CU campus on Saturday, September 25th to discuss prospects for the legalization of medical marijuana in the year 2000. The conclusion and consensus was that the best bet is to support the controversial medical marijuana initiative already on the ballot for next year's general election.

However poorly written, the AMR/CMR initiative is the first and only pro-cannabis petition to achieve actual ballot status in Colorado in the past 20 years.

CO-HIP leader Laura Kriho agreed to withdraw her industrial hemp/medical marijuana initiative proposal and to support this initiative instead. Jack Woehr, former Democratic candidate for state legislature, and Ron Bain, chairman of the Libertarian Party of Boulder County, agreed to jointly write a letter to Secretary of State Donetta Davidson commending her for correcting the mistake made by the late Victoria Buckley, who failed to approve the AMR/CMR petition for the 1998 ballot.

Ed. note - see the related story on page 5.

LPBC BUILDS NEW E-MAIL LIST

By Tom Parker, LPBC Membership Director
<tparker24@bigfoot.com>

The new LPBC e-mail discussion and announcement list is now in place. This new feature allows us to have e-mail discussions and to get (or make) timely announcements.

It's easy to join the list. Just go to our web page (<http://www.quetzal.com/lpbc>) and click on "subscribe", then send a simple e-mail to <lpbc-subscribe@onelist.com> (the subject and body of your message will be ignored).

After you have subscribed, you will start receiving any new e-mail sent to the list. You can address your own messages to the list by sending to <lpbc@onelist.com>. And you can unsubscribe at any time by sending a message to <lpbc-unsubscribe@onelist.com>.

If you have any questions or comments about our new LPBC e-mail list please contact me. We hope those of you who care about the Libertarian Party of Boulder County will subscribe.

DENVER**BRYANT IN PANEL DISCUSSION**

On Sunday, October 10th, Denver activist David Bryant presented a Libertarian view of politics to some 40 members of the Colorado Humanist Association at the Unitarian Universalist church in Denver. James Joy, former executive director of the ACLU of Colorado, was the proponent for democracy, while David Anderson of Boulder backed socialism in the three-way panel discussion.

Only a few sparks flew during the spirited but civilized exchange. Members of the audience peppered the panelists with pointed questions and everyone agreed it was an evening well spent. A volunteer camera crew videotaped the proceedings - they plan to air an informative program over Denver's community access channel later this fall.

EL PASO COUNTY**NEW MEETING SCHEDULE SET**

The LPEP Executive Committee has begun to gear up for next year's elections. We are currently spending a large proportion of our time and resources preparing for the monthly meetings. Those resources can be better spent on party building and preparing for elections, so we will shift to quarterly meetings after October. The next regular meeting is set for January 27, 2000.

Regular attendees should consider using the 2-3 hours of monthly meeting time as a participant in other party activities. Assisting the party requires no special skills and in some cases won't even require that you leave home.

If you live in El Paso county, tell us what you like to do and what you will not do, then set an absolute limit on the time you can spare. We guarantee you will soon find yourself performing useful work and contributing to the best showing ever for Libertarians in next year's elections. To learn how you can help out, call Ross Glidewell at 719-380-1383, or send e-mail to <glidewell@webaccess.net>.

LPEP TEAMS UP WITH PPFC

Sara Brady's Handgun Control, Inc. came to Colorado Springs on Thursday, October 14 - and the Libertarian Party of El Paso County

was there to greet them, along with members of the Pikes Peak Firearms Coalition. Nearly 800 people showed up to defend their second amendment rights before the City Council, who had invited Dr. Arthur Kellerman to explain why gun ownership is a "public health" issue.

Kudos are due to John Berntson, Carol Geltemeyer, and all the other El Paso Libertarians who turned out to distribute LP literature and to speak out against the gun grabbers. And special thanks go to members of the PPFC, for bringing out such a large crowd.

Building coalitions with other groups is one of the best ways to make our party grow. Let's be sure to remind the PPFC about this event and how we helped their cause when our candidates are running for office next year.

JEFFERSON COUNTY

GOONAN IN THE RUNNING

The Libertarian Community of Jefferson County has been busy assisting Tom Goonan in his campaign for a seat on the Jeffco School Board. Tom is putting his best effort into this race, attending community forums at every opportunity and winning several mentions in the local press – but no endorsements yet. He has already distinguished himself as the only true fiscal conservative in the race, and the *Jefferson Sentinel* has started using "Libertarian" as if it were a dirty word.

Send your community news items to the *Colorado Liberty* c/o David Bryant. Or send e-mail to <davidbryant@att.net>. I'll try to fit all the community news that's fit to print into the next edition so long as I receive it by the 15th of the month preceding the month of publication.

ABOUT THIS ISSUE OF THE *LIBERTY*

No doubt you've noticed that this issue of *Colorado Liberty* looks a bit different from the last one. David Bryant produced the page proofs for this issue on an IBM-compatible PC; Dale Monahan had been using a Mac. We tried to reproduce the look and feel of the last issue, but couldn't get it exactly the same.

We're always on the lookout for good material to print. If you have a suggestion for the editors, feel free to make it. This is *your* newsletter – please help us make it as good as it can be, and we'll do our best to get it to you by the first of each month.

LAKE COUNTY

CAROL HILL SEEKS SEAT

Leadville activist Carol Hill is also running for school board this year. She had been planning to run for county commissioner once again, but her neighbors convinced her to run for the school board instead. The general opinion seems to be that Carol knows more about the Leadville schools than the board members do – she attends all the meetings, and often asks questions they can't answer.

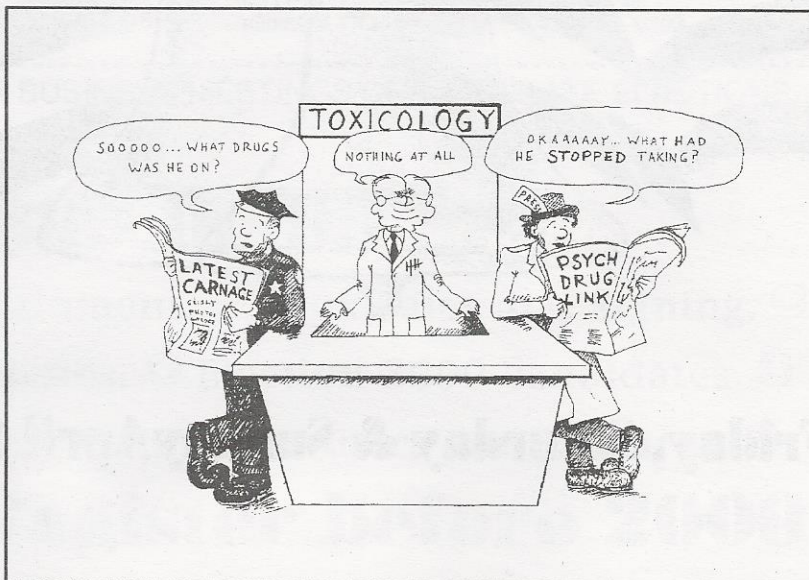
Good work, Carol – and good luck!

SOUTH SIDE

NEW AFFILIATE LAUNCHED

On Saturday, October 2nd, the new South Side affiliate got off the ground with a successful organizational meeting hosted by David Meloney. After a delicious potluck dinner the nine Libertarians present selected Rod Smith (303-770-2368) as their chairperson, and Bennett Rutledge (303-860-1308) as their secretary.

The South Side Libertarian Committee's second meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 1st. Libertarians who live in Englewood, Littleton, or Highlands Ranch and who missed the first couple of meetings are invited to contact Rod or Bennett to learn about future plans for this budding affiliate.



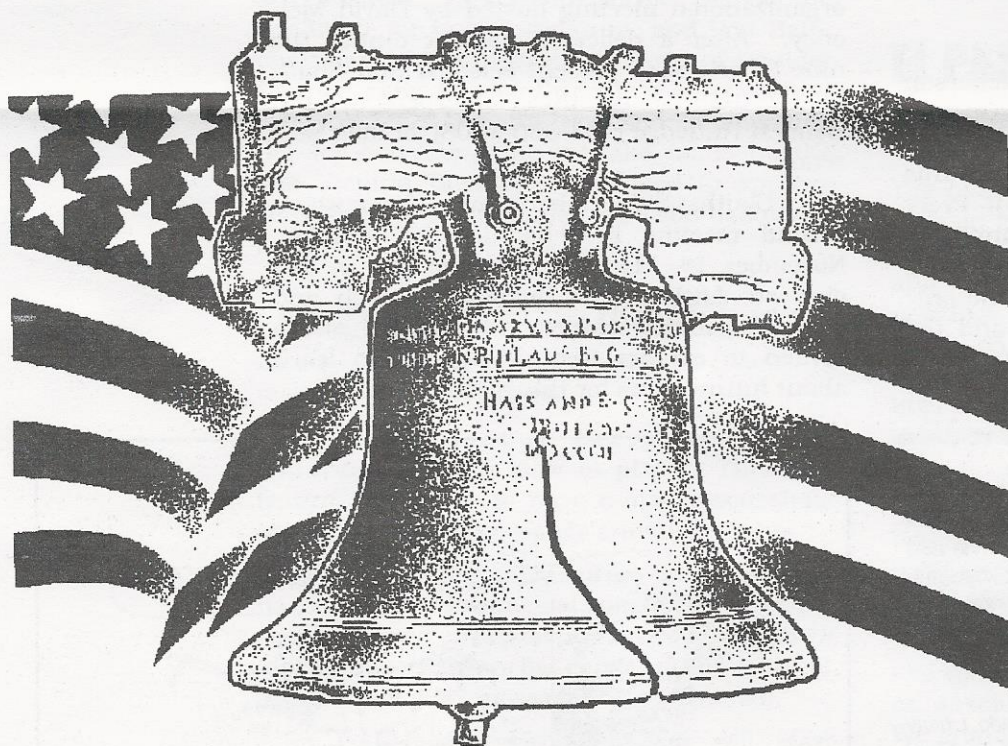
Editorial cartoon by Chris

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They Never Learn!

by David Segal

Last summer in Illinois, a flipped-out neo-Nazi loser named Benjamin Smith tried his pathetic best to kill defenseless Americans (two in fact) by taking dozens of shots at Jews coming out of a synagogue, Koreans coming out of a church, and Blacks who were simply walking the streets. A month later in California, a flipped-out neo-Nazi loser named Buford Furrow tried his pathetic best to kill defenseless Americans (one in fact) by machine-gunning children at a Jewish community center and by cold-bloodedly murdering a Filipino postal worker with a pistol at point-blank range.

Here we go again.

Our philanderer-in-chief, Bill Clinton, and his legal lackey, Attorney General Janet Reno, responded by demanding that legal access to firearms by the intended victims of such neo-Nazi scum be further curtailed and restricted. Specifically, Reno is calling for the registration of all firearms and the licensing of all handguns, a position enthusiastically endorsed by Clinton, who probably ordered Reno to take it.

Eventually, say the victim disarmers, the only way to be truly safe is to "get the guns off the streets", which appears to be Clintonese for confiscating the very firearms that all Americans have an inalienable and constitutionally protected right to keep and to bear.

All this is truly frightening, not merely because it is insane ("Nazis are attacking Jews, so let's disarm the Jews!"), but also because it is so familiar. Clinton's approach is identical with the policy of Germany's Weimar Republic just before Hitler came to power.

After Germany's defeat in World War I, the leaders of the democratic Weimar Republic correctly feared that right- and left-wing extremists would try to overthrow the government, and ordered that all firearms in civilian hands (enormous quantities of state-of-the-art weapons were readily available at the time) be immediately surrendered. Needless to say, these governmental efforts to disarm an apprehensive civilian population were not very successful, and they were largely abandoned by 1921.

By the late 1920's however, the situation had stabilized. The economy was strong, and Nazis, Communists and other would-be tyrants were generally regarded as amusing

but harmless fanatics. This complacent atmosphere was at its peak when the German gun control law of 1928 was enacted, and most Germans (who had no notion of an inalienable individual right to keep, let alone bear, arms), happily complied with the "reasonable" new law.

Like the current Clinton/Reno proposals, the 1928 German law called for the registration of all guns and all gun sales, the licensing of all gun sellers, and licensing for all handguns. Additionally, under the German law, a permit was required to buy long guns and ammunition, and all ammunition sales were registered - measures which are heartily endorsed by American gun control advocates today. When Hitler and the Nazi party took over in January of 1933, they found that the Weimar Republic's 1928 gun control laws had already made effective resistance to their tyranny virtually impossible.

It wasn't that there were no Germans who were willing to fight the Nazis. Indeed the large Social Democratic Party, long the mainstay of the Weimar Republic, had a well organized and fairly well trained paramilitary organization called the Reichsbanner that was passionately anti-Nazi and quite eager to fight. Unfortunately, most of the Reichsbanner's military type weapons were stockpiled at government-controlled police stations and arsenals, and the few weapons in private hands were already registered and thus easily confiscated. The rest, as they say, is history.

And that is why as an American, a Libertarian and a Jew, I fear being disarmed by the likes of Bill Clinton a great deal more than I fear being shot at by the likes of Buford Furrow.

Furrow, after all, fired over 60 rounds (probably two 32-round clips) on full automatic at a bunch of kids at a day-care center without killing anyone, a degree of marksmanship so poor it can seldom be found outside our police forces.

Clinton and his cohorts, on the other hand, are quite capable of killing the Bill of Rights and destroying a constitutional republic with the stroke of a pen.

David Segal is a long-time Libertarian and gun rights advocate who lives in Denver. His weekly column (*Modest Proposals*) is currently appearing in the *Colorado Daily*.

"I fear being disarmed by the likes of Bill Clinton a great deal more than I fear being shot at ..."

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11

Concealed Carry Now

by Ari Armstrong (<http://www.co-freedom.com>)

On Friday evening, September 3, Chad Anderson drove to a Grand Junction City Market grocery store and asked for his estranged wife Sarah, whom he had assaulted a month earlier. After leaving briefly and returning, Anderson dragged Sarah from the store by her hair while cursing her. Hobert Franklin, Jr. attempted to stop Anderson inside the store. Anderson pulled a .22 Ruger revolver from his pocket and shot Franklin in the chest, killing him. Once in the parking lot, Anderson shot Sarah twice, once in the body and once in the head, killing her.

Meanwhile, David Gilcrease had heard about the emergency and had come to the parking lot to confront Anderson. Anderson shot and killed Gilcrease and then killed himself. Five shots, three innocent deaths and a suicide. A horrible tragedy. Would a "shall-issue" concealed carry law in Colorado have stopped it?

It's impossible to predict what the effects of a law might have been in a particular case, but clearly the rates of murder, rape, aggravated assault, and robbery decline in states that permit citizens to carry concealed handguns. Colorado is one of a few states that either prohibit concealed carry by law-abiding citizens or limit the practice. In Colorado, county sheriffs may issue concealed carry permits at their discretion.

Professor John Lott, Jr. of Yale Law School conducted a comprehensive statistical study of crime and compiled the results in his book, *More Guns, Less Crime*. Lott writes that if every county in America "had been subject to state concealed-handgun laws and had thus been forced to issue handgun permits, murders in the United States would have declined by about 1,400 the number of rapes in states without nondiscretionary laws would have declined by 4,200, aggravated assaults by 60,000, and robberies by 12,000."

Lott also found that mass public shootings decline drastically under concealed carry laws. "For those states from which data are

available before and after the passage of such [nondiscretionary concealed handgun] laws, the mean per-capita death rate from mass shootings in those states plummets by 69 percent."

So even though we can't be sure a non-discretionary concealed handgun law in Colorado would have stopped Anderson from murdering three innocent people on September 3, it's clear that such a law would have saved some lives by preventing many similar murders statewide.

The anti-gun lobby uses every tragedy involving guns to push their political agenda. "If Anderson hadn't been able to steal that .22, he couldn't have used it to murder three innocent people." But this line of argument ignores some important facts. Even if guns were banned altogether, Anderson still might have purchased one on the black market – or used some other weapon like a knife or a crow-bar. And if guns were totally banned, thousands of other lives would be lost – because law-abiding people would have no defense against violent thugs, not even in their own homes.

Concealed carry has a deterrent effect even if citizens never actually use their guns in self-defense. Many would-be criminals will avoid confrontations with armed citizens. If Chad Anderson had known he would be facing several concealed handgun carriers at City Market, he might never have gone there in the first place. In that event, those who had decided to carry concealed handguns would have prevented a terrible tragedy without putting anyone at risk.

Murders make for dramatic television. But the crimes prevented by handgun ownership can only be studied through academic statistical research. And the lives saved by gun owners are still very important – even if they're not reported on TV.

Ari Armstrong is a Senior Fellow with the Independence Institute, a think-tank in Golden, Colorado (www.i2i.org). Ari also publishes the *Colorado Freedom Report*, available over the Web at www.co-freedom.com. Ari speaks for himself. This article is not to be construed as necessarily representing the views of the Independence Institute, nor as an attempt to influence any election or legislative action.

"Concealed carry has a deterrent effect even if citizens never actually use their guns in self-defense."

LETTERS TO THE LIBERTY

The editorial policy of *Colorado Liberty* is to provide a Libertarian perspective on issues of current interest. Many such issues are controversial, even among Libertarians. The editors of the *Liberty* invite commentary from all sides of such issues. We aim to make the *Liberty* an informative and objective advocate for freedom.

A FETUS IS A PARASITE

Dear Editor:

I am writing to respond to a letter in my October *Colorado Liberty*, where Dr. Wes Munsil writes that Libertarians should be anti-abortion because we should defend the right to life of the unborn just as we defend all other rights. I am sorry, but he is wrong. We should be defending the right of a woman to control her own body – and here's why.

A fetus may be a human being, even as a single cell, but it is also a parasite. No one should be forced to harbor a parasite, whether human, tapeworm, or what-have-you. A woman who freely chooses to have a good percentage of her nutritional intake absorbed by a baby should get to do so, of course, just as I can give a bum on the corner a buck if I so choose; but I don't want the government to force me to support the bum involuntarily through taxes (or, rather, I'd like the government to stop doing so!) or to force a woman to support a parasite.

I have a personal reason for writing this. My mother died from kidney failure because of her pregnancy with me. If I'd been aborted, she'd still be alive. I barely made it myself; it's just sheer luck that I'm here today to write this letter. As a doctor (I'm assuming you're a medical doctor) you should know that pregnancy can be dangerous. Shame on you for advocating the use of governmental guns to coerce women into continuing such a risky condition if they choose not to.

Of course, the good doctor may have mistaken your magazine for an organ of the Republican Party.

Paul Scott Williams

Ed. note – See Ari Armstrong's web site www.co-freedom.com for a libertarian point / counterpoint discussion of the abortion issue.

The following letter was originally addressed to the editors of the *Gazette* in Colorado Springs. Written by John Berntson, Colorado's Libertarian of the Year, it conveys our message with gentle yet powerful insights.

FREEDOM IS NOT UNHEALTHY

In a recent letter to the *Gazette*, Steven Whitmarsh found fault with the Libertarian Party. While admitting dissatisfaction with the two big parties, he found our policies disturbing.

Our policies are based on the traditional value of freedom. We advocate free choice coupled with complete responsibility; that is, people must live with the consequences of their own actions. If a young lady chooses to dance at a strip club, she can earn a good wage, but she must accept the harm to her reputation. If a Christian landlord decides not to rent to an unmarried couple, that is his choice, but he must accept the harm to his business.

Sir, we would not restrict immigration. Peaceful people should be allowed to cross borders for peaceful purposes. Think about the peaches that rotted on Colorado's Western Slope last year. More immigrant workers would have saved them, lowering food prices for all of us. But even if that were not true, do not forget that every pair of hands to work is also a mouth to feed. By coming here, they generate demand and create jobs. It all evens out. No, we do not condone welfare programs for immigrants; we do not condone welfare for anyone.

As to your other concern: Pornography, like beauty, is often in the eye of the beholder. You think you know it when you see it? Good. Don't buy it. Tell your friends. Organize boycotts. Fight social ills at the social level. Because, when you use the law to force your morality on everyone, you give the same power to anybody else who can cobble together a voting majority.

You are not satisfied with the Demopublicans yet, I assume, you vote for them. You say you're choosing the lesser of two evils? Then you are still choosing evil. Try choosing freedom instead. Then, unless you use force, damage property, or break your contract, you will simply reap the rewards and punishments of your own actions.

John K. Berntson

Chair, Libertarian Party of El Paso County

"No, we do not condone welfare programs for immigrants; we do not condone welfare for anyone."

Send your letters to **Colorado Liberty** c/o Libertarian Party of Colorado, 720 East 18th Avenue #309, Denver CO 80203. Or send e-mail to <betterose@aol.com>, <davidbryant@att.net>, <rez2word@aol.com>, or <tgoonan@sprintmail.com>.

Letters of fewer than 300 words are preferred. If you really want to speak out on an issue that interests you, send us an article instead. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit your submissions as we see fit. But we're reasonable about it.

November, 1999

- 11/1, 8, 15, 22, & 29 - **LPBC Activists'** luncheon. Noon each Monday at Healthy Habits, Foothills and Baseline in Boulder. Call Ron Bain: 303-443-9179
- 11/3, 10, 17, & 24 - **Colo Springs Friends of Liberty.** 7 pm each Wednesday at Baron's Saloon, NW corner of Airport & Academy. Call John Berntson: 719-532-0118.
- 11/6, 13, 20, & 27 - **Denver Breakfast.** 8 am every Saturday at LePeep's, Mexico and Colorado in Denver. Call David Aitken at 303-831-4334 / <daitken@tde.com>
- 11/2 - **Larimer County Activist Breakfast.** First Tuesday each month, 7 am at Joe's Fireside Cafe, 238 S College Avenue in Ft Collins. Call Lee Smith: 970-635-0395.
- 11/4 - **Libertarian Community of Jefferson County.** First Thursday each month. 6 pm social, 7 pm business meeting at Tom Goonan's home, 12895 W 16th Drive in Golden. Call Tom at 303-202-9069.
- 11/11 - **LPBC Board Meeting.** Second Thursday each month. 6:30 pm; location not yet determined. Call Ron Bain at 303-443-9179 for location.
- 11/13 & 14 - **Success 99.** How to run successful campaigns and build your local organization. Featuring Steve Dasbach, Ron Crickenberger, Bill Winter, Michael Cloud, Barbara Goushaw, and Jim Lark. \$79 per person. Call the Balcom Group at 202-234-3880 for more information.
- 11/15 - **Ft Collins Activists.** Third Monday of each month, 7 pm at the China Dragon, 1401 W Elizabeth in Ft Collins. Call Dan Cochran: 970-667-7557.

December, 1999

- 12/1, 8, 15, 22, & 29 - **Colo Springs Friends of Liberty.** 7 pm each Wednesday at Baron's Saloon, NW corner of Airport & Academy. Call John Berntson: 719-532-0118.
- 12/4, 11, & 18 - **Denver Breakfast.** 8 am Saturday at LePeep's, Mexico and Colorado in Denver. Call David Aitken at 303-831-4334
- 12/6, 13, 20, & 27 - **LPBC Activists'** luncheon. Noon each Monday at Healthy Habits, Foothills and Baseline in Boulder. Call Ron Bain: 303-443-9179
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- 4/14, 15, & 16 - **State Convention in Denver.** Nomination of candidates and delegates; seminars, guest speakers, banquet and parties. Early registration \$99. For more details see the ad on page 8. Or contact Michele Bethke at 303-690-2907.

Call 303-837-9393 to add your local event to the Calendar.

Immigration Controls Cause Exploitation

by Sheldon Richman

No one can help but be moved by pictures of the deaf and mute immigrants from Mexico who were allegedly forced to work on the streets in New York City. No doubt they suffered under terrible conditions and were subject to exploitation.

If you ask them whether they prefer that situation to their lives in Mexico, you might be surprised by their answer. They must have hoped for a better life in the United States, or they would not have made the risky trip. What's more, in time they might have achieved a better life. Earlier generations of immigrants had it tough, but they came here willingly. And eventually they prospered.

All those wretched souls were at the mercy of those who smuggled them into the United States and of those for whom they worked.

What has not been noticed, however, is that the smugglers and exploiters had accomplices without whom they could not have carried out their schemes: Congress, the president, and the Immigration and Naturalization Service. The assistance these officials rendered was in the form of a legal barrier to the free movement of people into the United States.

We see many instances of the *Law of Black Markets*. If government attempts to outlaw a peaceful activity, that activity will continue – but under harsher conditions than previously. Think of Prohibition. People didn't stop drinking alcohol. But the liquor industry moved into the underworld, and violence increased. Law-enforcement was corrupted by black-market profits that reflected the risks of making and distributing liquor.

How does this relate to immigration?

Immigration is not outlawed, but it is restricted. Many people who want to come here cannot do so legally. Yet human nature pushes people to strive for better lives, and they won't stop just because the government says so. They will merely seek other ways to get here. So smugglers go into business to provide a service for which people pay dearly. And employers offer the

immigrants low-level jobs when they reach the United States. This is a simple matter of supply and demand.

The problem is that since immigration is illegal, smugglers and employers have a ready means of exploitation: they can threaten either to report the immigrants to the INS or to return them to their native countries. A penniless person in a strange land with a strange language would find it difficult to resist the exploitative demands made by anyone with that kind of power. This puts the immigrants at a steep disadvantage. Promises can be broken with impunity. Illegals have no recourse to the legal system unless they wish to be sent home.

Let us be clear about the source of that power to exploit these vulnerable people. That power comes from the immigration laws passed by Congress and enforced by the INS. Thus, government agents were accessories before the fact in the exploitation of the Mexicans in New York City; and in the deaths of other immigrants who suffocate in cattle cars while hiding from the INS. Without the immigration laws, those victims of governmental policy would be alive today.

The debate over immigration has raged for decades. Demagogues assail the American people with tales of immigrants who commit crimes and live off welfare. Their culture is said to be a threat to our American way of life. These are red herrings. If the government didn't tax productive American people to provide welfare, no one could go on the dole. Immigrant crime is no different from citizen crime. Our culture is robust precisely because it is an open mixture of so many elements.

The policy debate is mired in statistics and misses these essential points. First, the freedom to move about peacefully is a natural right. Second, it is human nature to strive for a better life. So long as the government thwarts that natural inclination through immigration controls, degradation, exploitation and death are certain to result. And the federal government will continue to be an accomplice in those offenses.

Sheldon Richman is a senior fellow at The Future of Freedom Foundation, which recently published *The Case for Free Trade and Open Immigration*.

"Illegals have no recourse to the legal system unless they wish to be sent home."

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