LEGALIZE HEROIN? (See page 3)

Colorado Liberty
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Republicans
Vulnerable in District 8

By Michael Freeman

The Colorado Libertarian Party has a chance to become the 2nd, not the 3rd, party in at least one district in the state. There is only one major party in District 8 — the Democratic Party. In this Denver district, a triangle bounded roughly by Colfax on the south, Dahlia on the east, and the Platte river on the northwest, the Republican Party is just another minor party.

As evidence, consider the following:
Republican Hugh Fowler, the winner in the C.U. Regent-at-Large election, with 48% of the statewide vote, received only 13% in District 8. This is less than 3 times Libertarian Suzanne Conlon’s 4.4% in the same district.

And, John Fuhr, the GOP’s weakest candidate statewide, received 31% of the statewide vote for Governor, but (get this!) only 8.5% of the vote in District 8. This is only slightly more than 3 times Paul Grant’s 2.7% in this district.

Overall, the Republican candidates, who received from 34% to 55% of the statewide vote in these elections, received from 8 to 17.5% in District 8. Compare this with the CLP’s 2.3 to 4.4% in this district, and it becomes clear that the difference between the GOP and CLP percentages, though substantial, is certainly not dramatic. The GOP currently outpolls the CLP in this district by only 3 or 4 to one. The GOP is not a major party in District 8. It can be overtaken.

Crime Rate Got you Down?
Try a Free Market Approach

By Carolyn Phelps

Most people accept the idea that police protection is a legitimate function of government and police power should be controlled in the public sector rather than the private sector. Even many who advocate free market solutions to correct other government services where waste and corruption are evident have not thought through how the police line will be drawn.

and public policemen are required to follow the “law of hot pursuit” which means the suspect they are pursuing must remain within sight at all times.

Both the public police and the private security guard can use a weapon to prevent the commission of a felony, but neither can

Colorado Libertarians’ Most Important Asset

By Paul Bilzi

What is the most important thing Colorado — (which is always ready to answer your questions)
services where waste and corruption are evident, draw the line when it comes to police protection. Public police are “doing the best they can with the funds available”, but there is increasing evidence their best isn’t enough. The instances of police corruption, brutality, and inefficiency rise as the cost to the taxpayer increases. Due to many factors, including budget problems faced by most public police forces, the rising crime rate in all segments of society, and the growing trend for individuals, corporations, and even municipalities to supplement tax paid police protection with private security personnel, private police service has become a more legitimate and even necessary adjunct to public, tax paid police service.

Private security is expanding in areas where government service is inadequate. Many corporations hire private guards to protect their property and personnel. Is a common sight to see private police patrolling shopping malls, banks, and other public places. As in the old days of the merchant police, merchants in high crime areas are banding together to hire private guards to patrol their property. Owners of apartment buildings, condominiums, and many unincorporated communities, especially the more affluent, rely on private security forces because the county sheriff’s departments often have neither the funds nor the manpower to supply sufficient protection.

Are these “rent-a-cops” subject to the same rules that apply to public police officers? Who enforces the law? Can they carry a gun and if so, what happens if they shoot someone? Some people, especially private police officers, accuse private security guards of a lack of professionalism. What kind of training is required for private guards and how thorough are the background checks on private police?

The high visibility of a uniformed, private security guard usually acts as a deterrent to crime and the private guards are trained to persuade a suspect to remain at the scene of a crime voluntarily, but if it is necessary to make an arrest the private guard can do so under the same rules that apply to a private citizen. Although laws vary from state to state, generally a private security guard can legally make an arrest only if he is sure a felony has been committed. A public police officer, on the other hand, can legally make an arrest with probable cause; i.e., reasonable suspicion a crime has been committed.

If a private guard pursues a suspect to someone else’s property or a public street, he is subject to liability. However, both private-
Profile of a Libertarian: Keane Richardson

By David B. Tyson

The immaculate tidiness of Keane Richardson's living room could both represent and belie his outlook on politics: an orderly fertility, a maintenance for Armageddon. One might well place Keane somewhere between political activist and entrenched pessimist, between expert coordinator and fatalistic participant.

Involved professionally with marketing for Hewlett-Packard, his skills carry over to his hobby politics. He recently helped place a minority coalition of anti-taxers on the Loveland Town Council, though losing election himself. Although his loss may well have been due to his Libertarian label (he was the only candidate to run as an LP member), he would not, in retrospect, have done differently.

Having politics as a hobby has allowed Keane to "meet a lot of friends." It has provided both a forum and the seasoning to become a better public speaker. It has given him greater ability to work with people. The latter has proved invaluable in Loveland. In the course of building effective political coalitions Keane has found it vital to avoid generating animosity — which is made all the more difficult when principles are involved; especially when you hold firmly those principles.

It was principles that attracted Keane to the LP. Having abandoned both the Democratic and Republican parties, Keane discovered that the Libertarians had something radical to offer. And Keane accepted the offer. He took on a leading role in the Larimer County Libertarians. His time and efforts supported the growth of the libertarian movement in the Loveland area. And, of course, he was campaigner and candidate for municipal election.

The future holds the promise of more activity. Keane may organize a boycott of downtown businesses should the city further its plan to subsidize them. Bridges will be built to others who have lost of Big Brother. Political skills will be drawn and sharpened. Loveland Libertarians plan affiliation with the CLP separate from the Larimer County Libertarians. With so much of their efforts placed on the community they hope to further their activist roles through better education and participation at the local level.

With his increasing radicalism has come, however, increasing frustration. Keane believes "that everyone's a libertarian, they just don't know it." But how to get people to realize that truth before it's too late has led to some pessimism. As the book next to Keane's reading lamp, The Ominous Parallels by Leonard Peikoff, may indicate, Keane foresees an uncertain but certainly dismal future for America and the world. But his pessimism is not terminal. If not enough can be done to prevent social and economic collapse, the hope is that out of the ashes of modern statism might arise a libertarian society. Like the active, collected person that he is, Keane plans to keep his head when those about him lose theirs.

Elections Libertarians Can Win Now

By Honey Lanham & Boyce Kendrick

A man from Maryland was once President of the Towson PTA and later elected Vice President of the United States. Spiro Agnew is not the caliber of candidate we Libertarians are looking for, but we can nonetheless learn from his example some fundamental lessons about GETTING ELECTED.

Today the Philomath Council, Tomorrow

Among ground-floor offices, the easiest

Bookstore to Officially Open!

An Open House Party will be held Sunday, February 6, 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. to celebrate the opening of the CLP Library Bookstore at CLP Headquarters, 1041 Cherokee.

Hors d'oeuvres will be served and wine will be $1 a glass. Get all your wine free by donating books that night!

A video tape of the fall 1981 interview with Roger MacBride, 1976 LP presidential candidate and editor of Rose Wilder Lane books will be shown at 4 p.m.

The new library will be open starting Wednesday, February 2nd, and will have two times of service. One will be the book sales
Today the Philomath Council, Tomorrow...

Among ground-floor offices, the easiest ones to win are those no one else will volunteer to fill. Membership on the Philomath City Council, for example. The key to winning this race was consenting to run. That's all Oregon Libertarian Paul Dillon had to do! Philomath, a town of twenty-seven hundred residents, is governed by a mayor and council of six members elected for a term of four years—three of the lawmakers elected every other year. Paul says that there is a strong sense of voluntary action in the community, and in fact the mayor and councilmembers serve without pay.

In the November 2, 1982 election, Paul got 543 votes, only 12 less than the winner.

Twenty-Dollar War Chest

Although it was a non-partisan race, Paul made his views known for a mere twenty dollars by publishing a one-page commentary on local issues from what he described as a "hard-core libertarian" perspective. Paul's letter to his neighbors was left on each household's doorstep in three days of leafletting by Paul, his wife Lexy, and his oldest son Brad, age sixteen at the time.

This is the first election Paul has entered, but actually he was already a member of the city council. A year and a half ago, a vacancy occurred and was dutifully noted in the Benton Bulletin, the county's weekly newspaper. Seven days later, the paper mentioned that the council was still looking for a volunteer to fill the seat. By the time the vacancy was six weeks old, Paul decided he would offer to take it.

As a member of the council, he has given his colleagues copies of Bob Poole's Cutting Back City Hall, and is gratified to hear some of those insights occasionally on the lips of his fellow councilmembers. He says he hasn't eliminated bad legislation, but that he has succeeded in removing some of the most objectionable parts of it.

Had there been another Libertarian willing to file for a place on the ballot, there would now be two Libertarians on the Philomath City Council! Paul Dillon advises fellow Libertarians, "if you want to run in 1984, volunteer for any vacancy that comes along."

Given our need to insinuate ourselves into the political pipeline, it is best to abandon the notion that there is any such thing as an insignificant office or one that is beneath our dignity.

If it is within our reach, let's grasp it!

Gentlemen, the fact that all my horses and all my men couldn't put Humpty together again simply proves to me that I must have more horses and more men."

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Join the Bandwagon, Work for Transportation Deregulation

Climates of opinion seem to change in ebbs and flows, and often the best way to influence things is to help push when the tide is running your way. The tide is definitely running in a Libertarian direction in the area of transportation.

1. The Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies recently released a report urging deregulation of towing companies, movers, limousines and sightseeing and charter buses.

2. Senator Don McManus (D, Adams County), the assistant minority leader in the Colorado Senate, is introducing bills to deregulate taxis, intercity busses, package delivery, and household moving. He was surprised to find support from such disparate groups as the (conservative) Mountain States Legal Foundation, and (liberal) Common Cause.

3. There is a movement afoot to sell RTD to the highest bidder and rid ourselves of an arrogant, inefficient, grossly expensive boon-doggle.

The CLP needs to be active between elections as well as during them, and here is an issue that affects nearly every one in a highly visible way. It lines up lots of good guys on our side, and gives us a chance to use our not inconsiderable political power in the mainstream of state affairs, which will not only help us become more free, but also will insert us into the nuts and bolts world of Colorado politics, where we can make contacts and begin to personally know the movers and shakers in our state. Finally, it would really be nice to be in the winner’s circle this time.

So contact your senator or representative or write a letter to the editor, or do something to help push this favorable tide further toward freedom.

Cliches of Statism
"Why Not Legalize Heroin?"

By Frank Bubb

Heroin itself does not cause crime. Rather, it is governmental prohibition of heroin that has forged the heroin-crime link.

By prohibiting heroin, government has reduced its supply and increased the risk involved in selling it. Government has thus driven up the cost of a “normal” habit to about $100 per day. Absent such prohibition, the same habit would cost less than $2 per day.

The only way for most addicts to afford a habit at current prices is to steal or push drugs.

Yet, we constantly are confronted with the cliche: “Surely you can’t be serious about legalizing heroin! Heroin addiction causes crime, a growing problem, that certainly

crime. Indeed, nowhere in the Ball study is it argued that the pharmacological properties of heroin cause addicts to commit crimes!

In fact, a 1976 Detroit study found that when police cracked down on heroin, its price rose and so did thefts. When enforcement was relaxed, heroin prices and thefts both fell.

It is crucially important that we understand the exact connection between heroin and crime, because it is variously estimated that our half-million or so heroin addicts commit between 20 and 70 percent of America’s property crimes. These crimes are concentrated in the areas that can least afford them: black areas of large cities.

These addicts were legal, many of the medi-

Editor:

I read with interest an article in your November-December, 1982 issue an article entitled “Private Courts.” It is a freedom fighter and has been through the mill with the so called justice system and therefore have been trying with the idea of “Private Courts.” It seems to me that the article was calling “Private Courts” something that in fact was just another form of public courts as they are still arms of the government, created by legislation, etc.

My idea of a private court would be one created by private enterprise. These courts would in fact be the type of courts our constitution calls for, namely the.”common Law Court.” The litigants would pay a small fee to provide court reporters and juries. Juries would be people who are interested in justice and would in effect volunteer their time for a small fee. No Attorneys would be allowed. No briefs would be accepted.

Each litigant would enter into a binding contract that they would accept the findings of the jurors. Jurors names would be placed in a fish bowl and the litigants would meet prior to trial and draw names, which would have background of juror, etc. If either litigant was not satisfied with the name drawn they could place the name back in the jar and draw another. After the litigants were satisfied with the jury, the trial time would be set and all juries would be notified.

At trial each of the litigants would present their own case to the jury and the jury would render its decision, which would be binding by the contract each litigant had signed to enter the system.

This would truly be a “Private Court” and no rules, regulations or laws would be argued. The problem with the current arbitrators, mediators, and peoples courts now in existence is that they are still under the control of the government.

Our government has long forgotten the simple justice which was the foundation of our nation. This type of court could be handled by the Libertarian Party and would truly give meaning to what this party stands for. Private Enterprise, unencumbered by regulations, rules, laws and ordinances.

YVONNE W. CAVANAUGH

It was especially unfair that Oregon wasn’t mentioned, since Oregon’s candidate for Governor polled 2.63% higher than the Colorado gubernatorial showing. It was also unfair that Ohio was listed as a state in which our gubernatorial candidate polled less than 1%, since actually our Ohio gubernatorial candidate polled 1.17%, higher than Clark’s Ohio percentage.

The article “puffed” Joe Fuhrig and stated that he received “nearly 15%.” Actually, he received 13.8%, which is good, but why did the article omit Randall Clemmons, our Arizona US Senate candidate, who polled 2.78%, twice Fuhrig’s percentage? That result was known the day after election.

The Colorado LP is doing very well by almost every index, and the hoped for victory in the Colorado LP ballot lawsuit may prove to be extremely beneficial to the LP all over the country. The Colorado LP deserves to be proud of itself, but there’s no point in unfairly downgrading the LP of other states.

RICHARD WINGER
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Legalize Heroin?
(Cont'd. from page 3)
fits from the drug trade because the law keeps legitimate businesses out of the market.

It would reduce corruption among police, prosecutors and judges, some of whom receive bribes to let the illegal drug trade continue.

It would allow police to focus more of their efforts on real crimes — crimes against people and property.

It would permit us to stop jailing drug users and pushers, thus restoring their freedom, reducing overcrowding in the jails and saving tax dollars.

It would allow us to dismantle the costly federal drug bureaucracy.

It would allow us to stop aggravating other nations and propping up certain corrupt dictators, all in an unsuccessful effort to stop the flow of heroin across our borders.

No responsible, informed person could advocate the use of heroin. But it is time we recognize that our policy of suppressing heroin has become a disaster, harming people in all sorts of unanticipated ways. For the same reasons Prohibition was repealed about half-century ago, we should repeal the prohibition against heroin today.

(Frank Buckh is vice chairman of the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania and a lawyer residing in Swarthmore, PA)

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