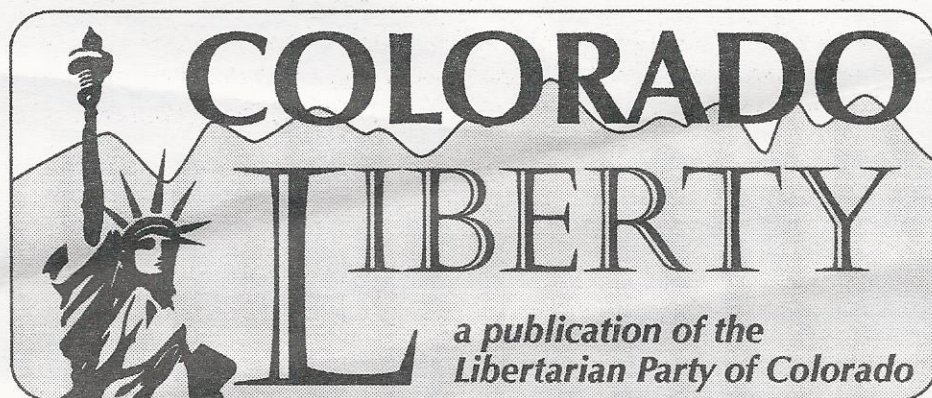


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Volume XIX, Number 1
<http://www.pageplus.com/~lpcolorado/>

January, 1998

1997 Banner Year for Colorado Libertarian Party

By Sandra Johnson



This seems like a good time to look back at what we have done during the past year, and to look at our plans for the future. Kudos to all who have worked so hard and made these accomplishments possible!

Accomplishments:

1. We played a major role in defeating the biggest issue of the 1997 elections in the Denver-metro area: a \$16 billion, 67% tax increase for the Regional Transportation District. Photos of our activists at the victory party were on the front page of the *Denver Post*, along with 72 point headlines! Our members made up a large percentage of the "Concerned Commuters of Colorado". One kept their Treasury, another did the press releases, others facilitated communications among the group, and many others came to the protest rallies (often with very little notice).

At the victory party we presented

the Libertarian Party "Friend of Liberty" award to Jon Caldara, who led the charge in organizing the successful effort to defeat the big RTD tax boondoggle. This award is given to the non-Libertarian who has contributed the most to preserving and protecting our freedom.

2. We fought the stadium tax. We put out a number of press releases including a Resolution calling for "The Separation of Sport and State. It was not put on the ballot in 1997.



3. Radio shows: our Public Information Director, Larry Hoffenberg, is a commentator on the Dan Kilo radio show every week. I had some fun hosting a radio show just before the elections, thanks to an invitation from Marty Nalitz. I introduced some basic Libertarian Party concepts and then interviewed guests on the RTD tax and Urban Renewal.

4. Bette Rose Smith has written, produced, and mailed successful bimonthly fundraising letters which have provided the revenue for many

projects. She also put together a very successful (and the first ever) LP garage sale in conjunction with our booth at the Denver People's Fair.

5. Registered Libertarians grew by 22% (500 people) from Aug. 17, 1996 to Aug. 19, 1997. (2256 to 2756...that is 500/2256 = 22%)

6. Earl Allen has published a top notch newsletter every month called *The Colorado Liberty*. It is available on-line at <http://www.pageplus.com/~lpcolorado/>

7. Judd Ptak, our Legislative Director, who keeps in contact with many legislators, is now our representative to the newly formed Colorado Coalition for Smaller Government.

8. Ron Bain organized a very successful Hemp Rally in Boulder. The Boulder LP set up a booth at the Boulder Creek Festival and the Denver LP set one up at the Denver People's Fair.



9. Dan Cochran, our Outreach Director, started a great newspaper in Loveland for the exchange of

information affecting economic and personal freedoms of the citizens of Loveland, Colorado. The *Guardian* is based on this observation: If you turn your back on bad government, it only gets worse and bigger!



10. We supported juror Laura Kriho in her fight for jury rights (i.e. the right not to be charged and convicted after voting your conscience on a jury). We organized a successful protest rally at the courthouse when she was sentenced.

11. We have two lawsuits in progress. One challenges the ballot position process, where D's and R's dibs first and second place; other parties draw for 3rd and lower places. The second suit is challenges the constitutionality of Amendment 15, a "campaign reform" passed by the Colorado voters in 1996 which interferes with our freedom of speech.

12. David Aitken developed a top quality web site; Deb Bishop designed a new database; we've hired a part-time staff person for the office; and we're paying down a legal bill from 1992 opposing Gov. Romer's use of tax money to fight against Amendment 1 (we're sole honorees of that debt).

13. In November we held a 2-day conference in Denver called "Success '97". Its highlights included sessions on the practical aspects of how to be a more effective political party in running campaigns as well as building the prerequisite infrastructure. We welcomed activists from all over our state, including representatives from new and growing affiliates in Carbonale, Gunnison, Colorado Springs, Fort Collins and Glenwood Springs.

Setbacks:

1. A very near victory with HB1168, which died on the last day of the legislative session. Under this bill we would have qualified as a minor political party and could get candidates on the ballot without going through the petition process.

2. Loss of members: our dues-paying members declined by 85, to 586, in the first 11 months of 1997. This is normal in an off election year—but I still don't like it!

3. The Firearms Coalition of Colorado (and the NRA) mailed a Colorado voter guide to their members which excluded the Libertarian candidates. I asked if it was a mistake or intentional. The response: "he had to do it on a typewriter and ran out of space!"

Plans for the upcoming year:

1. Letter to Lakewood, Colorado Republicans inviting them to join the LP if they are fed up with their branch of the Big Government Party. We mailed about 1000 copies of the letter

in late December, 1997, with 4000 to follow in '98.

2. Half-A-Slate in '98: we plan on having candidates for half of the Colorado State House Representatives. We'll provide some standard support to all candidates: brochures, yard signs, photographs, and some paid-for signatures for petitions to get on the ballot. This is the most ambitious project the Libertarian Party of Colorado has ever undertaken. If we are successful, we will get more serious attention from the press in the future.

3. Our best annual convention ever! For details of the April 24-26, 1998 event, see our web site at <http://www.pageplus.com/~lpcolorado/> or the ad in the center of this *Liberty*.

4. We are writing a bill to be introduced in the State Legislature which will address Transit Proposal Solutions from the LP perspective. It will focus on positive steps we can take to improve congestion through free market solutions.

5. We will fight the stadium tax should it rise again this spring. Larry Hoffenburg is all set up to put out another press release calling for "The Separation of Sport and State."

One sad thing happened during the year: one of our most cherished leaders left Colorado. Here's the heartfelt letter I wrote to her:

Dear Mary Margaret,

Thank you for giving many years of continuing hard work to the Libertarian Party of Colorado. We would not be where we are today without your efforts.

Thank you for providing knowledge and inspiration to many who became activists because of you.

Thank you for being there to guide our members for so many years.

Thank you for organizing many successful conventions regardless of the obstacles.

Thank you for having been a good friend to many of us. You have given much of yourself and for this we thank you.

On behalf of the Libertarian Party of Colorado Board of Directors and the entire membership, and the cause of "Freedom Now" it is my honor to present this award to you.

THANK YOU!

In Liberty,
Sandra Johnson,
State Chair

Help!! Monthly Pledgers Needed

by David Bryant, Treasurer

You are probably well aware of the Libertarian Party's monthly pledge program. What you may not realize is that the Colorado LP has a merchant's account, by means of which you can charge your monthly pledge to your Visa or MasterCard.

Won't you help us out? Just \$5 per month would go a long way to make your Party stronger and more effective. \$5 per month is such a small amount that you probably won't even notice it. But just think — if every Libertarian in Colorado gave just \$5 monthly, our operating budget would expand by 650%!

If you would like to help the Party this way, please call me, David Bryant,



at (303) 744-6577. I'll gladly arrange to set up your credit card payment on a schedule that works best for you. Help us defend your liberty! Join the monthly pledge program today!

Record Numbers at Denver Breakfast Group

by David Aitken

A record 12 people showed up for the Denver Breakfast Group on December 20th, the Saturday before Christmas. Good food and good conversation were shared by Bette Rose Smith, Doug Anderson, Sara Wilson, Gary Sandritter, Robin Sharp, Warren Kruse, Dave Ewing, David Bryant, Geoffrey Lloyd, Jim Misa, Bill Robinson, and David Aitken. You can share in the fun every Saturday morning at LePeep, Colorado Blvd and Mexico, at 8am. Call David Aitken at 831-4334 for details, or just show up.

Calendar

January, 1998

- 1/3 - Sat - Denver Breakfast Group - 8:00am - LePeep, Mexico and Colorado Blvd, Denver, call David Aitken, 303-831-4334
- 1/6 - Tue - Ft. Collins 1st Tuesday Breakfast Club - 7:00am - Joe's Fireside Cafe, 238 S. College Ave., Fort Collins. Contact Pat Hartman (970) 224-3116
- 1/6 - Tue - Boulder Activists Lunch - noon - Coco's, 28th and Iris, call Ken Kirkmeyer, 303-774-0775
- 1/8 - Thu. - Libertarian Community of Jefferson County - 1st Thursday - 6:00pm - Lakewood Library, 10200 W. 20th. Ave., Lakewood, call Tom Goonan, 303-202-9069
- 1/9 - Fri - Denver Potluck Supper - 2nd Friday - 7:00pm - home of David Aitken, 1240 Ogden #4, Denver, Co 80218, 303-831-4334. Bring a main dish, side dish, or dessert to share. Drinks, plates, and utensils will be provided. If you don't have any ideas for what to bring, check the deli in your local supermarket
- 1/10 - Sat - Denver Breakfast Group - 8:00am - LePeep, Mexico and Colorado Blvd, Denver, call David Aitken, 303-831-4334
- 1/10 - Sat - Board of Directors - 1:00pm - home of Dan Cochran, Outreach Director, 1029 21st St. SW, Loveland, Co 80537, 970-667-7557 or 303-837-9393, all members welcome, public comment 12:45 and 3:15, call for directions
- 1/13 - Tue - Boulder Activists Lunch - noon - Coco's, 28th and Iris, call Ken Kirkmeyer, 303-774-0775
- 1/14 - Wed - Boulder LP Board Meeting - 2nd Wednesday - 6:30pm - Trillian's, 30th and Arapahoe, call Ken Kirkmeyer, 303-774-0775
- 1/17 - Sat - Denver Breakfast Group - 8:00am - LePeep, Mexico and Colorado Blvd, Denver, call David Aitken, 303-831-4334
- 1/19 - Mon - Ft. Collins Activists - 3rd Monday - 7:00pm - China Dragon, 1401 W. Elizabeth, Fort Collins. Contact Dan Cochran (970) 667-7557

- 1/20 - Tue - Boulder Activists Lunch - noon - Coco's, 28th and Iris, call Ken Kirkmeyer, 303-774-0775
- 1/24 - Sat - Denver Breakfast Group - 8:00am - LePeep, Mexico and Colorado Blvd, Denver, call David Aitken, 303-831-4334
- 1/27 - Tue - Boulder Activists Lunch - noon - Coco's, 28th and Iris, call Ken Kirkmeyer, 303-774-0775
- 1/31 - Sat - Denver Breakfast Group - 8:00am - LePeep, Mexico and Colorado Blvd, Denver, call David Aitken, 303-831-4334

February, 1998

- 2/5 - Thu. - Jeffco Libertarians - 7:00pm - 8:30pm - Lakewood Library, on 20th Avenue, one light west of Kipling, call Tom Goonan at 303-202-9069
- 2/14-21 (including Valentine's Day) Libertarian Cruise: LP National Committee Member Ken Bisson is inviting Libertarians and their friends and family to take a seven-day cruise in the Caribbean. This social event will be hosted by the Northeast Indiana Libertarians on Princess Cruise Lines' "The Love Boat." Prices start at \$964/person. Anyone interested or even somewhat curious about the cruise can email Ken for more information at kbisson@usa.net. Bon Voyage!

April, 1998

- 4/24-26 - Fri/Sat - LPCO State Convention - Sheraton Denver West Hotel, 360 Union Blvd

July, 1998

- 7/2-5 - National Convention - Washington, DC. (202) 333-0008

Kudos

- Kudos to Warren Kruse and Robin, Jim Misa, Dave Bryant, David Aitken, BetteRose Smith, and Doug Anderson for preparing the famous "Lakewood Letter" for mailing to thousands of Republicans in Lakewood.

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Let Wildlife Pay Its Way

by Karl Hess, Jr.

Hunting season is here and the word from the Colorado Division of Wildlife is that business is too good—too good because too many hunters want to hunt in Colorado. This should be cause to celebrate, especially since DOW's latest figures show that annual hunting fees from non-residents have soared to \$35 million, four times that paid by residents. Add to that the dollars spent on lodging, food, gas, supplies, and hunting services, and Colorado has the making of a seasonal bonanza for its rural and recreational economies. Yet to tap the wildlife bonanza, and to channel a healthy dose of its benefits into producing even more wildlife, DOW needs to provide new and better hunting. It can do so by letting wildlife pay its way.

DOW already has a Ranching for Wildlife program that gives ranchers strong incentives to expand wildlife habitat and hunting on their private lands. Started in 1986, the program allocates a set number of big game hunting licenses that can be sold by participating ranchers for a profit. In return, those ranchers must open their private lands, at no charge, to public hunters drawn from a state lottery. A decade of results are promising. According to Robert Davis of the Institute of Behavioral Science at the University of Colorado, Ranching for Wildlife has benefited people, land, and wildlife. The bulk of ranchers in the program are earning, or expect to earn, more profit from the hunting of elk and pronghorn than they are from the growing of cows. Market signals are literally driving them "voluntarily" out of the livestock business. Fewer cows, in turn, translate into more and better game habitat and healthier and more abundant herds of publicly-desired wildlife.

But there is a hitch: the current program is limited to 30 ranches. This stirs resentment among landowners excluded from the program. It also squanders a tool that could greatly enhance wildlife habitat and quality hunting in Colorado. Davis estimates that the program could be expanded over ten years to 800 ranches,

covering 16 percent of the state and reaching 20,000 hunters annually. This could yield tens of millions to the state coffer and just as much to rural communities, while yielding cattle-free habitat to burgeoning wildlife populations. It could also go a long way to help end the historic standoff between ranchers and environmentalists by giving both a viable option to cows. What stands in the way of this wildlife bonanza is prejudice and misunderstanding. Critics of Ranching for Wildlife claim it is too commercial, it would privatize wildlife, and it is elitist. Nonsense!

Wildlife is already big business in Colorado; the only relevant question is whether the state has the vision to nurture that business to provide better hunting for sportsmen, better incentives to private ranchers to manage for wildlife, and better revenue flows to DOW so it can best steward its wildlife trust. Privatization of wildlife is not at stake. What is at stake are the plants and soil that are already privatized by virtue of fee simple ownership. Will landowners use their land to grow more cows, will they subdivide and develop it, or will they set aside a sizeable portion of it for wildlife? How that question is answered will likely determine the fate of Colorado's wildlife in the 21st Century. Finally, elitism is a bugaboo. Basic economics tells us the more there is of a product, the lower is its price and the more widely available it is to the public. Wildlife is no exception. Produce more elk or pronghorn to hunt (a share of which goes free to the public anyway) and more, not fewer, people will benefit. Those who oppose Ranching for Wildlife would, in effect, keep elk and pronghorn the Mercedes Benz of wildlife — available only to the lucky few who can afford them or win them in a state big game lottery.

These ideas are not new. IUCN, the World Conservation Fund, is pushing programs like Ranching for Wildlife globally as a proven tool for conserving the earth's remaining open spaces and its wealth of biological diversity. In Southern Africa, for example, landowners and traditional rural communities are banding together and setting aside former livestock lands for the sake of wildlife. Sure, they are making money. But because they are making money, they are able to make land use decisions that will benefit future generations. It's time Colorado joined the world community in letting wildlife pay its way — and, in the process, making markets and incentives a powerful weapon for conservation. DOW should open the Ranching for Wildlife program to all takers. It has nothing to lose and everything to gain. It stands to win millions of acres of wildlife habitat, millions of dollars for wildlife management, and millions more in rural economic health.

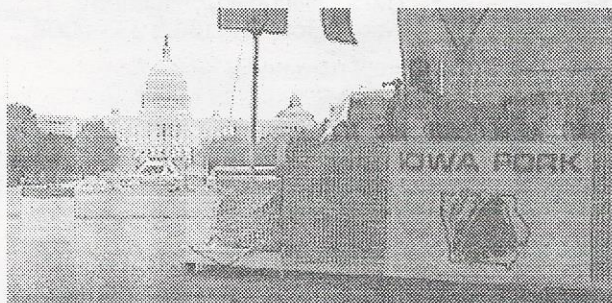
Karl Hess, Jr. lives in Boulder.

Jeffco Libertarians To Discuss Constitution

by Tom Goonan

Jeffco Libertarians are inaugurating a Constitution discussion group on Wednesday, January 21. The format will be dinner at 6:00 pm, discussion from 7 - 9:30. The group will meet monthly on the third Wednesday and will study the Constitution, its terms, its philosophical underpinnings, the arguments for and against, its antecedent, the Articles of Confederation, and

how and why it has disappeared from the American scene. We already have at least ten persons signed on. Anyone else who is interested in participating can contact Tom Goonan at (303) 202-9069 (h), (303) 236-8747, ext. 228 (w), or at tgoonan@sprintmail.com



...and Colorado pork, and California pork, and New York pork, and...

Aitken Appointed to National Bylaws Committee

On December 14th, 1997, the Libertarian National Committee appointed David Aitken, Denver LP chairman and longtime activist, to the Bylaws Committee.

Mr. Aitken and 10 other Libertarians from around the country will draft proposed bylaws changes to be considered at the National Convention to be held in Washington, DC over the July 4th weekend.

Among the items to be considered are changes to the presidential nominating requirements to make the best possible use of our national media coverage. Another item may be the way the number of delegates is computed to account for the growth of the party.

Proposed bylaws changes may be sent to Mr. Aitken at 1240 Ogden #4, Denver, Co 80218, 303-831-4334, e-mail: daiken@tde.com.



Cool Stamps on Your Colorado Liberty

By David Bryant

Did your Liberty arrive with some odd looking stamps on it? Let us explain. The L.P.C. sends the Colorado Liberty to dues paying members via 1st class mail (registered non dues paying members receive it 3rd class). So first **thank you** for contributing; your contribution is how we accomplish things. In our never ending battle to stretch your contribution to its maximum we have figured out how to lower 1st class mailing cost by 15%.

Brian Holthouse, a long time Libertarian and stamp collector, is

providing the LPC with unused US postage stamps at 85% of face value. The stamps come from Brian's collection and the many collections Brian has purchased in their entirety through out the years. Brian explained that many collections contain unused plate blocks and sheets of US postage without any special value to collectors. While still perfectly valid for mailing items their odd denominations cause them to have a lower value than a single 1st class stamp (isn't the market a beautiful thing). Brian's donation thus allows us to reduce our annual 1st class expenses by about \$300-\$400, or about 3 months rent on our very cheap office space.

The change is not without some concerns. Especially among the glue-tongued volunteers who label and stamp the Colorado Liberty each month. If you would like to be part of this proud but closed-mouth group, call volunteer coordinator Jim Misa at (303) 394-4688. Jim manages to convince Libertarians to swap pizza, beer, and soda for a couple of hours each month testing their math and tongue skills. (Leth's see doth two fourths and a twenty - four equal thirty - two?). Stho, a sthpecial THANKS to all of them!

The Benefits of Immigration

by Donald J. Boudreaux

In my October "Notes from FEE" I challenged a case, made by some market advocates, for immigration restrictions. I have since received scolding letters and E-mails from numerous people predicting that open borders would bring all manner of calamities. While some writers were less certain than others about the baleful consequences of unregulated immigration, only one correspondent fully shared my support for eliminating all immigration restrictions.

These many letters have prompted me to think longer and harder about immigration. Alas, my opinion remains unchanged: we should welcome all immigrants. Government should not redistribute income to immigrants, but neither should government prevent immigration.

Each immigrant comes to America to make himself better off. Suppose

government no longer redistributes income to immigrants. Would immigrants still relocate here? You bet! A handful will come because some Americans are willing to use their own resources to care for them. Most immigrants will come because each has sufficient skill and ambition to profit in the market.

Absent government welfare payments to immigrants, immigrants who do not seek work burden no one other than family or friends who voluntarily assume this burden. I here ignore such non-working immigrants who receive no government handouts. These immigrants do not raise the ire of anti-immigrationists. Opponents of immigration object most vehemently to immigrants who are eager to work.

Such objections are mistaken. Let's see why.

(continued on page 9)

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THE PARLOR PULITZER

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How hermits can make a big impact.

IS THERE SEX AFTER ACTIVISM?

What is the price of being an activist?

WHAT IS THE PRICE OF FREE SPEECH?

Creating and taking advantage of press coverage.

IF PRO IS THE OPPOSITE OF CON...

How government is supposed to work really works.

COLD HEARTED CAPITALISTS

What is true human nature.

WILL ALL THE DEFENDANTS RISE

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GETTING YOUR LABOR'S WORTH

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OR

VICTORY 2000's
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Saturday April 25

10:00AM
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12:00PM
Awards Luncheon
6:00PM
Cocktail Party
Banquet and Dance

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10:00AM
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11:00AM
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Legislature Open for Business

by David Bryant

The Colorado General Assembly convened on Wednesday, January 7, 1998. We need to keep an eye on them!

Last year, the legislature's web site was fairly primitive. But there's good news! I've been poking my nose in there recently, and big improvements have been made. If you haven't visited the site yourself, you should point your browser to http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/stateleg.html and get familiar with it.

You can make your own views known to our elected representatives — and you can do most of it on-line! If enough Libertarians will just make the effort to keep informed about what's happening at the statehouse, and then take appropriate action, our Party can multiply its effectiveness a hundred-fold. Here's a brief rundown on the important reports that will be made available as the 1998 session unfolds. By spending just a few hours perusing them next year and then following up with e-mail, letters, and phone calls, you can help restore Liberty in Colorado!

Here's how: from the legislature's home page, you can choose either the **House** or the **Senate** link. Each chamber publishes a **Journal** and a **Calendar**, each of which will be updated daily during the session. You will also find new links appearing as Bills are introduced. Via the major House and Senate links, you can also access some limited personal information about each legislator, and learn about **Committee** assignments.

You can form your own opinion about each **Bill** by reading it — the links will be there! You can see the complete list of newly introduced **Bills** by consulting the **Daily Status Report**, by which you can also track each proposed enactment's progress. You can learn about each chamber's upcoming agenda by consulting the **Calendar** from time to time. And you can learn how each legislator voted by consulting one **Journal** or the other. The journals are also important because all amendments to bills are published there ... updating of the originally posted language via the **Bill**

link is sporadic, at best.

By now you're probably wondering, "How can I possibly hope to keep track of what those guys are doing with their tangled web of Bills and Journals and Calendars?"

Fortunately for us, the legislators find the whole mess just as confusing as we do! And so the **Daily Status Report** also contains a sort of cross-reference, to help everyone keep track of the action.

Once you've located a Bill you don't like (and *that's* not hard!), you'll easily be able to track its progress by looking it up in the **DSR**. By learning to which Committee your favorite abomination has been referred, you'll be able to infer which Senators and Representatives need to hear from you!

As the session progresses, your Party will be making its positions known via this newsletter, and also by way of our own web site: <http://www.pageplus.com/~lpcolorado/>

So let's all put our PC's to good use! Visit the Colorado legislature's page early and often, read what the Party thinks of pending legislation, and get involved in the political process. If we make enough noise, we can definitely influence the outcome of this session.

David Bryant will spend a lot of time tracking the 1998 legislative session himself. If you have questions about this article, or about things you've viewed on the Colorado page, please feel free to query him at <davidbryant@worldnet.att.net>.

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Jeffery L. Yablon (a contemporary tax lawyer): "Contrary to what some people claim, the tax laws have a lot of respect for logic. They use it so sparingly!"

Yale Law Professor Michael Gratz: "When Congress talks about simplification, taxpayers may well be reminded of Emerson's comments regarding an acquaintance: The louder he talked of his honor, the faster we counted our spoons."

Juan is a hypothetical immigrant. He arrives in America and immediately begins looking for employment. Before finding a job, he must secure food, clothing, and shelter. He may do so from funds brought with him from his native country, or he may depend upon the kindness of family, friends, or charitable organizations here in the United States. In either case, because such transfers are voluntary, no American is harmed.

If Juan resorts to theft, however, the story is different. Some Americans are indeed harmed. But criminal law is the appropriate tool for dealing with such thievery. Restricting immigration on the grounds that a handful of immigrants behave criminally would be like denying drivers licenses to everyone just because a small percentage of people drive recklessly. More focused and less ham-fisted means are available in both cases for weeding out the bad apples from the good.

Juan, however, is no thief. He's a worker. Suppose that Juan has no skills of any value to any American. He can do nothing that any American is willing to pay for. In this case, Juan will eventually return home. No American is harmed. (Actually, Juan would probably not come to America in the first place. People so destitute of skills are unlikely to leave home in search of work in a foreign and highly competitive economy.)

But Juan is extremely unlikely to lack any skill for which Americans are willing to pay some mutually agreeable wage. Readers who doubt this claim should consult that cornerstone of economics called the theory of comparative advantage — a theory, by the way, that exposes the senselessness of identifying people economically as being "above average" or "below average." The theory of comparative advantage makes clear that everyone is above average at some tasks and below average at many others.

When Juan finds employment, not only is Juan made better off, but so, too, is his employer. Consumers are also made better off, for the higher output or lower cost that Juan's availability makes possible for his employer is shared with consumers through reduced prices or improved

product quality. Nothing to complain of so far.

Some people, however, are harmed by Juan's availability — namely, American workers who compete with Juan. If Juan's most marketable skill is nearly identical to the most marketable skill possessed by Sam the American, Juan is a potential rival for Sam's job. Because of Juan, Sam's income may fall.

Protecting Sam from income loss, though, is inappropriate. To prevent Juan from entering America is to do nothing more virtuous than to protect Sam from competition. But it is also to prevent George and Bill and other Americans from freely dealing with Juan, who is someone they would otherwise choose to deal with! To restrict immigration is to deny to Americans their freedom of association. Sam, then, becomes a monopolist under immigration restrictions. If Sam suffers income loss when these restrictions are lifted, he is no more worthy of our solicitude than is any other monopolist whose monopoly privilege unravels.

Suppose that government grants me the exclusive privilege to write newspaper op-eds. No longer can publishers carry the likes of Walter Williams, George Will, Maureen Dowd, or Russell Baker. Protected from such competitors, my income skyrockets. Now imagine that government withdraws this privilege. Publishers — and readers! — are again free to patronize op-ed writers other than me. My income plummets.

Should you feel sorry for me? Of course not. Would you conclude from the fact that this heightened competition reduces my income that the wealth of the nation falls? Of course not. Likewise, productively employed immigrants invariably increase the nation's wealth by intensifying competition and expanding the division of labor. Immigration restrictions, in contrast, reduce economic growth. Prosperity cannot be bred by monopoly protections.

Immigration opponents also fear that open immigration means overcrowding. This worry is overblown. First, the United States is sparsely populated. Second, owners of private property have incentives to keep their properties from being overcrowded. The proper solution to overcrowding is privatizing property holdings, not

forcibly stopping productive people from coming to our country.

Third, overcrowding is an elusive concept. Among the people who wrote to complain that immigration spawns overcrowding was a resident of New York City. But this person clearly doesn't mind crowds. If he did, he'd move to Oklahoma or Mississippi.

Manhattan is one of the most densely populated spots on earth. Yet it is also one of the wealthiest. New Yorkers often complain of crowds, but no one is compelled to live in that city. The reason people live there is because economic opportunity in New York is vast. Living in close contact with lots of people is a price that many of us voluntarily pay for the opportunity to take advantage of the wealth-producing capacities of an extensive division of labor.

New York and Los Angeles are crowded but wealthy. Oklahoma and Mississippi are sparsely populated but much poorer. This fact alone is ample evidence of the great economic benefits of immigration.

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Mankind are very odd creatures:
One half censure what they
practise, the other half practise
what they censure; the rest
always say and do as they ought.

—Poor Richard (Benjamin Franklin)

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North Pole Cult Under Siege

December 19, 1997

NORTH POLE (Paladin Press) — A botched raid ended in a stand-off today as a multi-jurisdictional task force of federal law enforcement agents tried to arrest the leader of a militant doomsday cult, who call themselves "Elves," living in a heavily fortified compound at the Northpole. According to witnesses, federal agents hid in livestock trailers as they drove up to the compound.

The approach was difficult in the snow using wheeled vehicles. Several agents were reportedly thrown from the trailer when it hit a snowbank. The agents were unable to use dog teams and sleds because the ATF agents shot all the dogs during training at a nearby recreational facility where agents had practiced for weeks on a mock-up of the compound in preparation for the raid.

As three National Guard helicopters approached, over 100 law officers stormed the main compound, a heavily fortified gingerbread structure, shooting, throwing concussion grenades and screaming "This is not an assault!" An unidentified elf shouted back "these are not bullets" and opened fire. Cult members and law officers negotiated a cease-fire about 45 minutes after the incident began, and ambulances evacuated the wounded while emergency medical personnel shouted "these are not ambulances."

For the next several hours, armored vehicles swarmed about the premises, each bearing a large sign reading "This is a rental car." The area was cordoned off and ATF agents with machine guns were posted in the roadways to keep reporters at least two miles from the main battle area.

In a lengthy report on the group Saturday, the *Northpole Tribune-Herald* said that the cult was known to have a large arsenal of high-powered weapons, probably produced in a workshop disguised as a "toy factory." This toy factory is also believed to be the site of a methamphetamine laboratory, according to sources inside the ATF, who note a suspicious heat signature was found at the base of a tall brick structure protruding through the roof.

The article quoted investigators as saying the crazed cult leader, who uses several aliases, "Santa Claus," "Saint Nick," "Sinterclaus," and "Saint Nicholas," age unknown, has abused children and has at least 15 wives. Santa Claus denies these accusations of abuse and said he has had only one wife, Mrs. Santa Claus.

Authorities had a warrant to search the Northpole compound for guns and explosive devices and an arrest warrant for its leader, Santa Claus, said Mess Stanford of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms in Washington, D.C. Mr. Stanford added it would be useless to attempt to get a copy of this warrant, however, because it had been sealed, "for national security reasons."

The assault came one day after the *Northpole Tribune-Herald* began publishing a series on the cult, quoting former members as saying the deranged cult leader, Santa Claus, tempted children with candy, had multiple wives, and claimed to be immortal. Cult members are kept in an isolated building and forced to construct toys around the clock. Claus, who claims the ability to read minds and see into closed rooms, continually reminds cult members that he "sees you when you're sleeping, he knows when you're awake. He knows if you've been bad or good."

ATF spokesman Jack Killchildren in Washington said the assault had been planned for several weeks, although he added, "I think the newspaper's investigation set up heightened tension."

The cult's compound, called "The Toy Factory," is dominated by a tower with lookout positions. It was built as a fortress, with red brick walls and windows facing in every direction. Guards reportedly patrol the 77-acre grounds at night.

Attorney General Janet Reno ordered the raid after cult members refused to surrender documents relating to national

security. A source inside the Justice Department said that the documents were lists of cabinet members and highly placed government officials who were naughty or nice. Despite preliminary, secret negotiations to obtain the list, the Elves refused to surrender the document to the Justice Department.

The raid was scheduled for December 23, because December 25 is believed to be a traditional cult holiday and all the militant elves would be engaged in cult rituals in preparation for the event.

At a press conference this afternoon, Attorney General Reno said, "These militants abuse children in the most vile manner, by teaching them to expect charity. They have even distributed free, working replicas of 'assault weapons' and 'handguns.' It is a matter of dire importance to our future and the future of all our children, that this peril be ended by every means at our disposal."

She went on to say that "I do not want to surround the compound and gas everyone and then burn it to the ground in order to protect the children, but that appears to be our only alternative."

According to Reno, the "Toy Factory" itself is a sweatshop and conditions inside were horrendous. The Department of Justice is also looking into allegations of animal cruelty. Former members of the cult have claimed that Santa Claus frequently uses leather restraints on at least eight reindeer, housed in sordid conditions on the compound. Witnesses reported seeing a reindeer with a protruding red nose, which Janet Reno said was further indication of the abusive conditions inside the compound.

Several of the elves were reported by the BATF to have been carrying automatic weapons. However, independent sources dispute this, claiming that the "automatic weapons" were nothing more than large candy canes.

ATF leader Ted Oyster, shaken after the ordeal, spoke to reporters as hundreds of agents, many of them in tears, were taken away from the Northpole in military airlifts, ambulances, and private vehicles.

"We had our plan down, we had our diversion down, and they were waiting..." Oyster said resignedly, shaking his head. "How they tricked us into shooting each other, I'll never know."

A hospital spokesman said that most of the wounded ATF agents appeared to be suffering from shrapnel wounds from broken candy canes, as well as frostbite, apparently suffered from wearing forest-green camouflage in the wintery terrain.

Attorney General Reno offered no comment on these reports.

Mack "the knife" McWarty was seen strolling across the White House lawn, chuckling to himself as he read what inside sources say was a copy of the naughty/nice list.

One highly placed government official was found dead in Marcy Park. His name and the cause of death are unknown at this time, however, the White House immediately issued a statement claiming the official had committed suicide after learning his name was not on the nice list.

Patsy Thomahawk refused to comment on the advice of her attorney on whether she had any part in removing copies of the naughty/nice list from a safe in the White House.

A spokesman from the MJTF said that it was indeed a tragedy that Santa Claus had caused this confrontation, but this should be a lesson to anyone who tries to give to everyone without permission from the welfare department, and that gathering sensitive data without a permit from official sources will be stopped by any means.

FBI spokesman Bob Fricks, the former national Abortion Poster Child of 1944, relayed that "We are dealing with a madman. We have cut off all electricity, water, and communications to the compound. Santa Claus has demanded that we relay a message to the world. It reads, 'Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night.' FBI psychological experts are presently analyzing the message, however, preliminary reports indicate this is an encrypted threat to invade the neighboring towns near the Northpole. It may also be a doomsday message that the cult intends to commit suicide, like Jonestown."

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