

LIBERTY

Published by the Libertarian Party of Colorado

March 2002

The next meeting of the board of directors will be held at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, March 12 at Libertarian Party Headquarters.

Party members are welcome at the meeting. Please call John Berntson for details at 719.532.0118.

www.lpcolorado.org

720.941.2344

www.lp.org

Libertarians See Flurry of Activity in CO

Libertarians across Colorado made headlines during February and advanced their ideas.

Sheriff Bill Masters, author of the recently published book *Drug War Addiction* (1.800.374.4049 or www.accuratepress.net), spoke on over two dozen radio programs around the nation during February following a release distributed by George Getz of the national LP.

The **Leadville Libertarians** passed a balanced-budget resolution February 19. "You would not believe the struggle we had," said Councilor Joe Swyers. The council also voted to get rid of an administrative assistant position, and it began efforts to repeal fireworks ordinances and a business license tax. Earlier in February, Ari Armstrong responded to criticisms leveled at the council by Bernie Herpin of the Pikes Peak Firearms Coalition; Armstrong's essay is at www.co-freedom.com/2002/02/herpin.html.

Ralph Shnelvar and Mark Holden, candidates for governor and state representative respectively, testified in favor of House Bill 1242 February 14. The bill, sponsored by David Schultheis and favored by Rocky Mountain Gun Owners, would liberalize concealed handgun carry. Shnelvar pointed out that similar measures have worked well in other states, and Holden argued the bill should be amended to cover all types of weapons and allow police chiefs as well as sheriffs to issue. While libertarians generally favor even more liberal laws, such as Vermont has, Holden said 1242 is "one of the more rational bills currently being considered by our state representatives."

Shnelvar's letters were also published in the *Denver Post* and *Rocky Mountain News* during February. He



Rick Stanley (left) was arrested on a bogus warrant after he spoke at a February 23 Bill of Rights rally at the State Capitol in Denver. For details, see <http://www.lpcolorado.org/cl/2002/02rsarrest.html>.

At right, Lori van Buren, Elizabeth Bennett, Joe Johnson as Lady Liberty, and Ralph Shnelvar also attended the rally.

blasted Owens' educational reforms as meaningless, and he wrote, "What funds terrorists and other criminals is that there is so much money to be made from the inflated prices of illegal drugs."

Rick Stanley, LP candidate for U.S. Senate, challenged Minnesota Governor Jesse Ventura to a three-round boxing match to raise awareness of his campaign. The story earned press attention in Colorado Springs and Vail, but Ventura didn't agree to the match.

Mark Holden, W. Earl Allen, David Bryant, Joe Johnson, Elizabeth Bennett, and Dan Cochran volunteered to help proctor the annual metropolitan MATHCOUNTS contest held at the University of Denver February 9. MATHCOUNTS is a nationwide volunteer organization dedicated to the improvement of the mathematical abilities of our youth. The Libertarian Party was recognized for its volunteer efforts.

Tom Preble will begin writing a regular column for the *Denver Post* starting in a few weeks. Preble, a long-time libertarian who now lives in the southeastern part of the state, began his relationship with the newspaper with a "Colorado Voices" column. Preble's new column will appear twice a month in the Sunday Lifestyles section.

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**Support the LP of Colorado—
Send your donation or pledge
in the enclosed envelope today!**

Notes from the Chair: Cowboys and Indians

This past year, I have been privileged to work with a young man from India. I shall call him "Vid." In the office, we often refer to Vid as our "faithful Indian companion," but I don't think he gets the joke. Vid is an atypical Indian, quite Western in many ways. He often says, "My mother prays to cows, I eat them!"

You can learn a lot listening to Vid. Once, he happened to mention that his people do not listen to the radio. Don't they have radios in India? Yes, they do. So what was the problem?



After a little digging, I found out that the Indian government controls the radio stations. Their programming choices, from what I can tell, are mostly public service announcements. So, nobody listens.

Once, while speeding down the interstate, Vid said that his people could not travel like this—the roads simply were not good enough. The government builds the roads, and apparently, they do not do it well. Okay, India is a train country, but there is a lack of flexibility in trains, good for delivering bulk supplies but bad about delivering just-in-time inventories, or people, in a timely manner.

But India has far greater problems. I have told Vid—though I am sure he already knows—that the big challenge for India in the coming generation is to make its great mass of population, now mired in poverty, productive. Their lives are barely worth living, and they drag down the productive segments of society as well. Millions of poor people have to be fed, even if barely, and that takes a lot out of an economy, especially if those people cannot put anything back in.

What I have not told Vid—and must get around to someday—is that it is his own government and his own society that prevent these people from being productive. Laws, traditions, influence-peddling, and a lack of property rights keeps these people firmly rooted in their miserable lives. It will not be until these people can keep what they earn that they will prosper—and then they will have the most powerful economy on Earth.

One hope for these people is Vid, and many thousands like him working over here. You see, my office is sort of turning our Indian into a cowboy. Once Vid had an American team leader, but now he is alone. He must stand up, argue and cajole, and take complete responsibility, not just for his own work but for the project as a whole.

Vid spends many weekends on our boss's ranch, using chainsaws and tractors, learning auto mechanics and carpentry. These are things he would never be able to do at home. People of Vid's middle class simply do not do work that can be done by the working class. This is not snobbery. The belief, prevalent in most of the world, is that doing their work takes bread from their mouths.

And this is the real problem for India: the idea that their economy exists to create jobs, and the more jobs, the better. Indians want to put these people to work, so they support policies and traditions that employ the most people, in the name of the common good.

But it is not work that these people need, it is product. That is why mankind has economies; not to have more labor, but more production. The Indians need more cowboys, people focused on getting the job done by the most efficient means possible. This will free up energies that can be spent creating more desperately needed product.

Maybe Vid will show them how. Or maybe he will decide to stay here. He would be welcome to.

Meanwhile, the notion of the common good, as opposed to individual rights, continues to gain ground in our country, the home of the cowboy.

People are taught to believe the common good outweighs all other considerations. As a result, our own economy becomes mired with feel-good, make-work projects, and more productive effort is channeled into unproductive endeavors. In the end, we too shall be rewarded with huge numbers of impoverished people. To avoid this, we must teach our own people why they should want to be cowboys.

—John Bertson

"Our own economy becomes mired with feel-good make-work projects and more productive effort is channeled into unproductive endeavors."

LIBERTY

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'Taxcutter' Plans to Speak at Convention

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Douglas Bruce, the tax reduction activist who authored the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR), will speak at the Colorado LP's convention in May about his new educational organization, Active Citizens Together (ACT). (See pages 4-5 for more information about the convention.)

In an e-mail note from early February, Bruce said, "I would be happy to speak in Leadville about ACT. It is already a non-profit corporation; the application for non-profit mailing has been filed, and I have the forms for filing the IRS tax-deductible status. Our skeleton website is www.actnow.bz. We will flesh it out shortly,

but I am planning to mail an ACT flier to all El Paso County voter households by the end of the month, so that comes first."

ACT evolved from a previous idea to start a group called "Active Colorado Taxpayers." Bruce said, "We used the same acronym, but we plan to cover a broader range of topics, including jury rights and petitioner rights."

Bruce said he also plans to discuss issues related to TABOR. Bruce ran as a Republican for State Senate in 2000, but lost the primary to Ron May by 114 votes.

Libertarian Fired for Refusing Urine Test

LP Activist Deb Burch was fired in January for refusing to submit to a urine test at her job.

Michael McKinzie wrote to an e-mail list, "Deb Burch, LPN, is one of the founding members of Liberty 80701, the Morgan County affiliate of the LPCO. Deb was employed at Eben Ezer Nursing Home in Brush, CO. This nursing home recently lost track of some Demerol. Commonly, as a matter of course, missing drugs trigger urine tests for all nurses.

"Deb refused on principle and was immediately fired. Deb made clear to her employer that she didn't take any drugs and was refusing to take the urine test because she was standing up for her principles. Her boss was incredulous and asked Deb if she intended to stand up for her principles even though it meant losing her job. 'Of course,' Deb replied, 'that's what

principles are.' Deb is currently seeking other employment."

LPCO Public Relations Director Kent McNaughton added, "We should never forget that it is by virtue of the courage of people like Deb in this country that we retain what rights we still have. It's not by meetings and keen strategy that we will attain freedom. It is by standing up to the small tyrannies that assault us on a day-by-day basis. My heartiest thumbs-up for her guts in the face of this threat. And my humble admiration."

Rick Stanley, Libertarian for U.S. Senate, said, "Deb Burch, with her stand, has shown more courage, honor and commitment to principles than most of the politicians in Washington, D.C. She should consider being a citizen legislator [by] representing Colorado at the federal level."

*"[W]e retain
what rights we
still have...
by standing
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tyrannies that
assault us on
a day-by-day
basis."*

LPCO Runs Radio Ads on KBPI, 106.7 FM

The Libertarian Party of Colorado purchased time for radio advertisements January 14-15. The 60-second spot ran 16 times on KBPI 106.7 FM, a station that plays hard rock and caters to young adults ages 16-30. "Uncle Nasty" is a DJ on the station who won the Friend of Liberty award last year. Alexandra Coleman helped to produce the ad.

The text of the ad said, "Racial profiling. Nighttime raids with guns drawn. Arrests without warrants, due process, or time limits. Snooping through e-mail. Sound like another country? Think again.

"Right now your government is taking away your rights. You have been led to believe that there is nothing you can do, that your opinion doesn't count. Don't believe the hype. You have the power to change things. Get involved. Register to vote Libertarian and go to www.lpcolorado.org to learn more about your rights... It's time we took control of our government

and bring back the freedoms this country was founded on."

Unfortunately, the web page went down on January 15 at around noon and was not restored until the next day. The company that used to own the server was sold and resold several times, and the company that finally ended up in control temporarily lost the entire block of pages. The redesigned page is at www.lpcolorado.org.

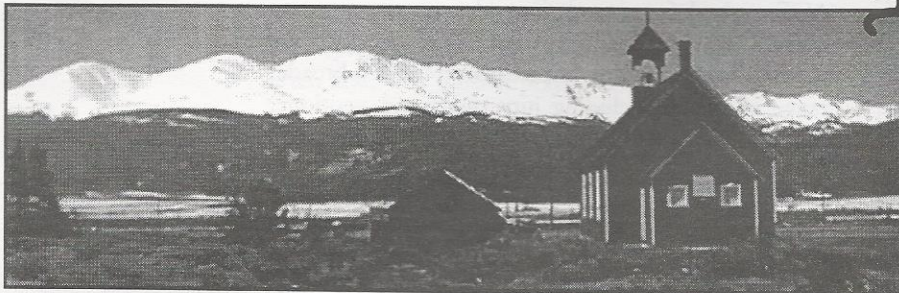
Richard Combs, the publications director, decided to hire another company to host the page. He also worked to ensure the domain name was paid up to date.

In other party news, *Colorado Liberty* was prepared to be mailed in record time on January 26. Fourteen volunteers helped out: David Aitken, Ari Armstrong, Elizabeth Bennett, David Bryant, Richard Combs, Elke Glazer, Mark and Linda Holden, Joe Johnson, Robin and Warren Kruse, Geoff Lloyd, Gaar Potter, and Walter Schlomer.

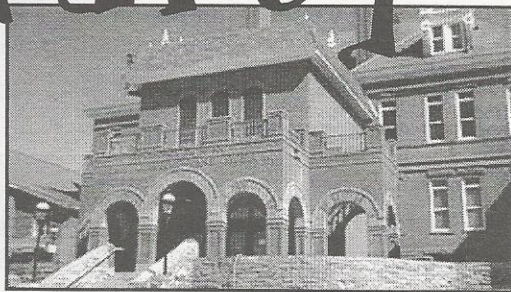
Libertarian

Colorado State Convention

May 17-19, 2002, Leadville, Colorado
National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum



Historic school house outside of Leadville—photos courtesy of www.leadville.com



National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum

Please join us for the 2002 Convention of the Libertarian Party of Colorado! Libertarian members and those interested in the ideas of liberty are welcome. On Friday evening, we'll gather for social events. On Saturday morning, we'll vote for our candidates and state board. Voting is open to all party members. Then, starting at 12:30 pm, come hear top speakers from around the state, including authors L. Neil Smith and Boston T. Party, Douglas Bruce, and Joe Becker. Saturday evening features a banquet with Sheriff Bill Masters. On Sunday, we'll turn our attention to political strategy and activist training. Whether you can attend all three days or just Saturday, we hope to see you there!

At 10,430 feet, Leadville is the highest incorporated city in the United States. It is also one of Colorado's largest historic districts. With the 2001 elections, Leadville became home to a Libertarian city council. The 2002 Convention will be held in the National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum, built in 1900. The address is 120 West 9th Street.

Lodging is available to meet all needs. The Delaware Hotel on 700 Harrison Avenue is within easy walking distance of the Convention center. It was built in 1886 in a Victorian style. Call 800.748.2004. For those on a more frugal budget, the Leadville Hostel on 500 East 7th Street offers dorms and rooms for \$15 to \$20 per person. Group rates are available. Call 719.486.9334 or visit www.leadvillehostel.com. For complete information about hotels, beds-and-breakfast, campgrounds, and other lodging facilities, please see www.leadville.com or call the Chamber of Commerce at 719.486.3900.

☐ **Full-time Student Rate: \$25.**

☐ **Individuals: \$75. Couples: \$125 (for both). Children 16 and under: \$25.**

Prices include entrance to the convention for all three days, including the banquet. Lodging and other meals are not included. Space is limited, and prices increase by \$25 per person May 1.

Name(s) _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

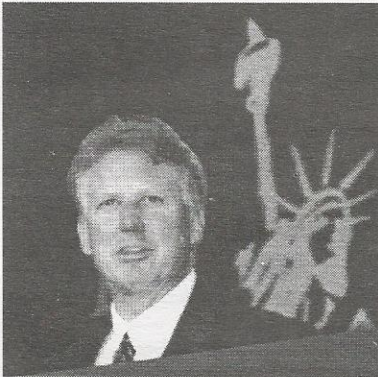
Zip _____

Make checks payable to Ari Armstrong and mail to Box 745015, Arvada, CO 80006.
For more information, see www.lpcolorado.org or contact ari@co-freedom.com or 303.412.8356.

Libertarian Party of Colorado 2002 Convention

May 17-19, 2002, Leadville, Colorado

speakers, guests, and schedule subject to change



Sheriff Bill Masters — “Drug War Addiction”

Masters is Colorado's highest-ranking Libertarian official and the nation's first Libertarian sheriff. He is the author of *Drug War Addiction: Notes from the Front Lines of America's #1 Policy Disaster*.

Meet other Libertarian officials: Carol Hill • Joe Swyers • Ken Cary • Lisa Dowdney • Robert Dempsey • and more!

James Vance and Ralph Shnelvar will compete for the LP's nomination for governor. Other candidates include Rick Stanley, Mark Holden, W. Earl Allen, and Norm Olsen.

Douglas Bruce — “Active Citizens Together”

NEW SPEAKER! Author, Taxpayers' Bill of Rights.

L. Neil Smith — “Bill of Rights Enforcement”

Prometheus Award-Winning Science Fiction Author

Boston T. Party — “The Clad Foot”

Author of Boston's Gun Bible and numerous other books

Joe Becker — “Fighting for Liberty in D.C.”

Journal of Libertarian Studies, formerly with Ron Paul

Wayne Laugesen — “Media in a Free Society”

Editor, Boulder Weekly

Gregg Stone — “Freedom and Pop Culture”

Radio D.J. on KBPI, 106.7 FM

Dr. Shawn Elke Glazer — “Medical Freedom”

Diana Hsieh — “Philosophy of Capitalism”

Ed Quillen — “The Colorado Constitution”

Columnist, Denver Post

Larry Welshon — “Market Education”

Co-founder, Alpine Valley School

Emma Phillips — “Drug War Injustices”

Families Against Mandatory Minimums

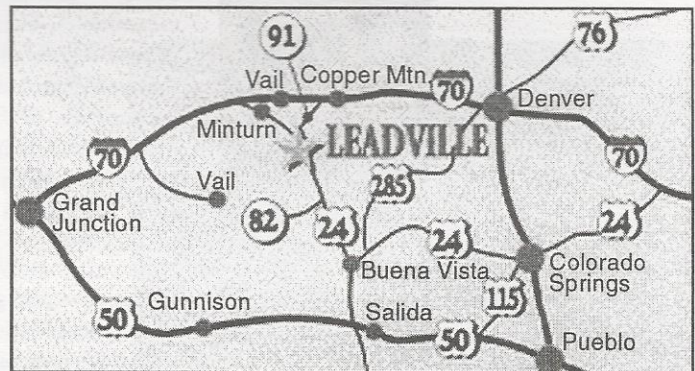
Stephen Rahe — “History of the Drug War”

Terrence Carroll — “Dangers of Power”

Reverend, Colorado Progressive Coalition

Sue Armstrong — “Unpatriotic ‘Patriot’ Act”

Colorado Director, American Civil Liberties Union



Schedule

All events at the Mining Museum,
Friday, May 17 through Sunday, May 19.

The only meal provided by the convention is Saturday's banquet. Leadville offers a wide variety of dining options.

Friday 6:00 pm. Social, cash bar, suite parties.

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Saturday 8:00 am. Candidate nominations, board elections, and other business. (Free to members.)

Saturday 12:30 pm. Speakers.

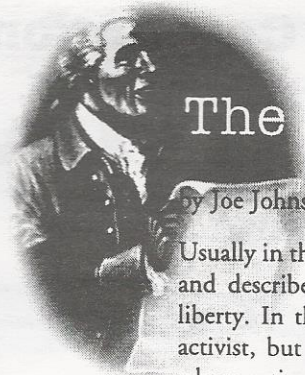
Saturday 6:30 pm. Social, cash bar.

Saturday 7:00 pm. Banquet,
featuring Sheriff Bill Masters.

• • •

Sunday 8:00 am till 3:00 pm. Political strategy, activist training, and sessions on theory and practice.

Sunday 3:00 pm. New board meets.

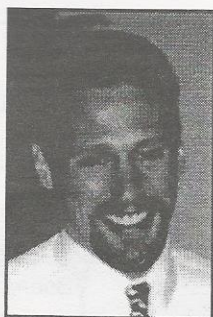


The Activist's Corner

by Joe Johnson

Usually in this column I highlight a Libertarian activist and describe his or her efforts to bring us closer to liberty. In this issue, I'll tell you about a Libertarian activist, but I'll focus on the contributions of others whose actions led him to the LP.

While working at a gun show, Boulder LP activist Elizabeth Bennett met Thomas Peckham, a real estate broker living in Aspen for over 25 years. Mr. Peckham explained that many within the party simply don't realize what impact they have on the lives of others when they are 'selling' liberty and the LP.



Sure, there are the measurables, like the number of new registered Libertarians that you signed up at a hemp rally, or the new dues-paying members who joined at a rave. But most often an activist never even learns about his or her successes.

Perhaps it's the guy who just took the World's Smallest

Political Quiz and walked away scratching his head, but may one day become the winning LP candidate for U.S. Senate. Or the woman who read your letter to the editor in the newspaper and will wind up as a Libertarian mayor of her town.

People find us because of the hard work of our activists, even when we never learn about our specific successes. I asked Mr. Peckham one question: "Could you tell me of a single incident that led you to become an activist for the Libertarian Party?" He answers each of us who may have worked at the county fair and found ourselves wondering, "Did I make a difference?"

It was an interview with Karl Hess, the late editor of the LP News and former Nixon speech writer. I was so excited at the time to find where I belonged in the political spectrum. I had never heard the word libertarian before—and then to find that I had been one all along! I had been registered Republican and had been an active member of the Young Republicans in college, but became disillusioned and hadn't even voted in the previous

presidential election. Of course, I've voted straight Libertarian ever since.

I registered Libertarian as soon as it was made possible to do so in my county. I must have actually joined the Party soon after I found out there was a Colorado LP. Paul Grant (who, I recall, was Chairman of the Colorado LP at the time) was running for Governor, and he spoke in Aspen. I attended his talk and met him. My oldest membership card is from February, 1985, and has Paul Grant's signature on it as National Chairman.

Wainwright Dawson (who actually knew Karl Hess personally) and I conceived of The Liberty Coalition ("TLC") here in Aspen, drinking beer at an Oktoberfest in 1991. We've had some success. We had a fund-raising dinner which Harry Browne attended on his first run for office. Pitkin County, for which Aspen is the county seat, provided the highest number of per capita votes for Harry in the state.

We had a booth at the local Carbondale Mountain Fair for several years until we lost our location. It's a crafts fair and no political booths are allowed, but we were able to set up on private property right at the entrance. Even after the property sold, we were able to use the spot until the new owner finally leased the area for outside restaurant dining. The restaurant recently went out of business, so I have hopes for the future.

Locally, our two Libertarian heroes now are former candidates Barry Maggert and Drew Saxon. Barry has run twice, and Drew actually won the endorsement of the Aspen Daily News.

We all have a story like this one. Every one of us found the LP through the work of others. Do we stop and think about that, or do we expect voters to find us all by themselves? Did you count the number of activists who Mr. Peckham met along the way? Each one played a part in creating an activist out of a voter. So the next time you are writing a letter to the editor about freedom and liberty, don't forget to mention that your ideas and ideals are libertarian. You never know: one of the people reading it just might be the next Thomas Peckham.

Liberty in my lifetime!
Joe Johnson

"Every one of us
found the LP
through the work
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**Support the LP of Colorado—
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Make the Sales Pitch for Liberty

by Mark Holden

One of the most important duties that faces us Libertarians is getting more people to support libertarian ideals and to vote for Libertarian candidates. Like it or not, we are the salesmen and saleswomen of liberty. We have the best product in the world to sell, but we often can't imagine why anyone would buy someone else's product. In order for us to find that buyer, to make that sale, and to close that deal, we need to develop better and more successful sales skills.

Politicians and car salesmen are very much alike. They are equally reviled and suspected by the general public. Political representation and automobiles are necessary, and the general public typically hates shopping for either. Yet every few years people must vote for a candidate and select a new or used car. The question for us is, how do we persuade the people who have historically bought Republican or Democrat to buy Libertarian?

When a prospective customer drives up to our lot in a Volcan SUX6000, it is not very smart for us to say things like, "How could you have bought that car? It has no power, it seats only four people, and the crash safety tests prove it to be an appallingly poor performer. You should have bought our Celestra Pleasure instead. Here's a contract; you need to sign it today."

Isn't it better to do something like this? You: "I see you are driving a Volcan. What is it about a Volcan you like?" Customer: "Economy." You: "That's good. Our Pleasure gets almost the same mileage, and you get 50% more horsepower for passing cars on those dangerous mountain roads. What else?" Customer: "It's small and easy to park." You: "It sure is. Our Pleasure is actually a little smaller, and the crash safety tests show it to be one of the safest cars on the road today. Would you like to take it out for a test drive?"

When IBM first started, they instituted a sales policy that their salesmen were not to criticize their competition or their competition's products. Instead, they were to only illustrate and demonstrate the features and benefits of the services and products of IBM. If the customer had been misled about an IBM product by the competition, the salesmen would only show or prove this not to be the case. They let the customers draw their own conclusions about the honesty and integrity of the competition. This successful model propelled them to the gigantic stature they still enjoy today.

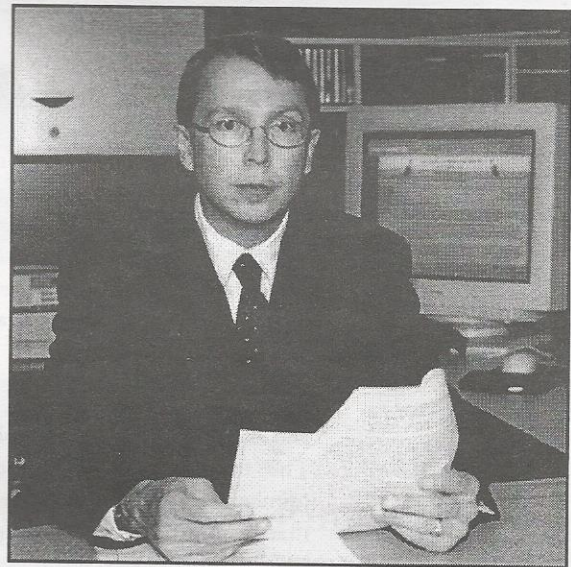
I personally have found this to be true in my own business and personal interactions. When you criticize

a product or belief that someone has bought into, you are, in essence, telling them that they made a stupid decision, that they are stupid people. You insult them.

When you show, demonstrate or prove to someone a superior product or idea, you allow that individual to maintain dignity and to feel good about making a better decision (to buy your product). They like you, and they feel good about doing business with you.

When we encounter people who have voted Republican or Democrat, we need to remember that they did so for a reason. They thought that the R's or D's gave them something they wanted or needed. And at the time, they felt good about what they thought was a fine decision. Now, we are here to help them make a better decision.

We all get frustrated at times with certain people, people who make uninformed and what we consider to be stupid decisions. There are some people out there who hate political decisions so much that they don't vote or always vote the easy way—straight party ticket. Don't waste too much of your time with these people, but don't insult them either. If you do, they may vote, just to vote against us.



If we are to be successful, we need to listen and learn about what our customers think is important, what they think they want or need. Then we need to craft our responses to answer those needs in a non-critical fashion. We need to show them that our products not only meet but actually exceed their expectations. We need to make friends, not enemies. And we need enthusiastic, not reluctant, supporters.

Our product won't sell itself just because we think we have the best product on the market. The IBM sales model and Ransberger Pivot take time and patience to master, but ultimately they are the most powerful conversion tools we have.

Mark Holden is the Libertarian candidate for State House District 37. His web page is at www.elect-holden.com.

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The Wisdom of Consistency

"Some people might... say: 'Consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds.' They got it from a very little mind, Emerson."

—Ayn Rand, *West Point Address*, 1974

by Ralph Shnelvar

Ayn Rand makes the point that consistency is a virtue. The lack of consistency leads to *ad hoc* decisions that result in great abuse. The essence of the abuse of political power is caprice.

In his essay published last month, *Steer Clear of Foolish Consistency*, James Vance wrote, "[C]onsider... the problems created if you simply eliminate free education... I ask you to just imagine trying to solve these massive looming problems when the average education level drops because we just eliminated the public education system."

There are a number of things wrong with my opponent's statement.

Let us start with a little economic/political philosophy. There are three overlapping classes of problems that Libertarians must deal with wisely. (A) Those laws of which the immediate elimination improves society. (B) Those laws of which the immediate elimination harms society. (C) Those laws that are politically impossible to eliminate immediately.

In the case of Social Security, for instance, one cannot and should not repeal that collection of laws abruptly. The economic harm would be both unfair and immense. Social Security must be unwound slowly so that commitments made by profligate politicians can be kept as best as possible to those who believed the promises.

In the case of education, removing the government's compulsory attendance laws and control of funding would generate an immediate beneficial effect. While it may not be politically feasible to fully establish market education in the immediate future, we must take a principled stand and encourage market reforms.

I lived through the 1973 "gas crisis," when the price of gasoline was capped. I remember the hours-long gas lines. I remember Milton Friedman saying [paraphrased], "If you want to get rid of gas lines, let the market set the price. The lines won't disappear in a month, or a week, or a day. They will disappear instantly." He was right. The market adjusts with astonishing speed.

Consider that Colorado now spends about \$5,800 per student per year for teachers and other operating expenses. The average teacher salary is about \$38,000. For a typical class of 25, this works out to a budget of

\$145,000. Compare the money spent by the taxpayers (\$145,000) to the average earned by teachers (\$38,000+taxes+overhead), and one sees the immense waste of the current system.

If schools were immediately privatized, teachers' salaries could be doubled even as total expenses were reduced. Good teachers would flood into the market. Parents would select schools and teachers that responded to the students' needs. It would take a very short time for the market in education to adjust to freedom; certainly it could be accomplished over a summer's vacation.

My opponent wrote, "The immediate net result is that you have also just lost the ability to require people to educate their children to today's academic standards."

Today's academic standards for government schools are laughable. And should we be surprised? We have taken the decision-making process away from the people who know the students best—those students and the parents of those students—and we have placed it in the hands of self-serving bureaucrats.

Vance quoted Einstein, but here's what Einstein actually thought about the government schools he attended: "It is in fact nothing short of a miracle that the modern methods of instruction have not yet entirely strangled the holy curiosity of inquiry; for this delicate little plant, aside from stimulation, stands mainly in need of freedom." Or, to adapt the quote Vance selected, "The problems that exist in education today cannot be solved by the system that created them."

There is also a very dark side to your statement, Mr. Vance. You do not trust parents to do the right thing. This common prejudice—"I'm a good parent, but there are so many bad parents out there"—is the root cause of the political difficulty of privatizing schools.

Parents want what is good for their kids. My wife and I went to an Independence Institute lecture on education. My wife asked the principal of a public school serving very poor students, "What percentage of parents exert considerable effort to see that their children get a good education?" He replied, "Almost all of them."

Kids also want a good education, until the stifling rigidity of the current system knocks all joy of learning out of them.

This prejudice—"I'm a good person but you are not"—permeates this society. It is why it is so hard to convince people that the unrestricted ownership of

"Consistency" continued on page 9

"The problems that exist in education today cannot be solved by the system that created them."

Vance Hosts "Grilling" in Littleton

9

James Vance, who is competing with Ralph Shnelvar for the Libertarian nomination for governor, hosted a "grilling" forum in Littleton January 27. He answered tough questions from the 16 people who attended.

Gregg Stone, known as "Uncle Nasty" on KBPI 106.7 FM radio, moderated the event. Audience members submitted questions on cards and also asked Vance questions from the floor. A few times during the three-hour session, discussion spilled onto the floor as some audience members debated the issues with each other.

Vance first addressed the issue of transportation. He said while the monorail plan is a "beautiful idea in theory," it is a "bad concept in practice." He said light rail is a possible alternative to monorail. Also, for transportation generally, "private funding for roads" and perhaps an expanded toll system would make for a better highway system.

For education, Vance said if elected, he plans to promote alternatives to today's system while "simultaneously making the current system a legitimate one." He said he wanted to redirect education tax dollars without raising taxes for education.

"I consider myself to be a product of the public school system," Vance said, and it's premature to ask the public to reconsider government education *per se*. Vance would eliminate the requirement for teachers' licenses. He also disfavors bilingual education, saying he'd prefer to use government education dollars to "help parents learn English" if they want.

Vance defended the idea of concealed carry, saying teachers should be allowed to carry a concealed handgun if they want to. Open carry isn't sufficient, because criminals know who's carrying. Concealed

carry "has affected the criminal mindset," as shown by a reduction of violent crime where concealed carry has been expanded.

Vance said he would eliminate the security office Owens created after September 11. "We don't need another office with another overpaid bureaucrat."

"I don't want the state involved" in growth plans, Vance said, although he is open to growth planning at the city or county level.

Vance also wants to eliminate the state sales tax. However, he may accept "user fees" on such items as tickets for ski lifts and stock shows. As an example of a program he would cut to save taxes, Vance named the Governor's Advocate Corps.

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"Consistency" continued from page 8

handguns is a good thing. People have been trained to fear others' ability to control guns—or others' ability to control their choice of education.

It is all of a piece: Only the Nanny State knows what is best for everyone. It is our job as Libertarians to carry the message of free markets. Vance's statements further muddle the debate about education reform. He makes a false distinction between "reality" and libertarian principles.

Libertarians reject the initiation of political force. Libertarians reject forcing parents to educate their children to politically established "standards." I trust parents to educate their children far more than I trust politicians, Mr. Vance, to set those standards.

Contacts—The Libertarian Party of Colorado

Please send updates and corrections to Ari Armstrong at ari@co-freedom.com or 303.412.8356. Meeting times and locations subject to change without notice. For information on how to start a local affiliate or campus organization, contact Brian Rachocki at rachocki@earthlink.net or 303.814.0272.

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1355 Agape Way, Lafayette CO 80026
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<http://www.lpboulder.com>
MEETING: Mondays, noon, Hunan Garden
BOARD: 2nd Thursday, 6:30pm,
call Tom Parker, 303.665.2150

Broomfield Libertarians • Wright Morgan
52 Ruth Road East, Broomfield, CO 80020
303.465.9676
MEETING: 1st Wednesday, 7 pm

Chaffee and Lake Counties • Carol Hill
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720.941.2344 or 303.329.0481
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DENVER BREAKFAST: Saturdays, 8:00 am,
LePeeps (Mexico&Colo.Blvd.), call David Aitken,
303.831.4334, daitken@tde.com

Douglas County • Larry Hamilton
4405 Antelope Run Ct., Castle Rock, CO 80104
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303.660.6575
MEETING: Weekly, see web page for details.
BUSINESS: Monthly, see web page for details.

El Paso County • Carol Geltemeyer
4164 Austin Bluffs Parkway, #145
Colorado Springs, CO 80918
719.596.6799 • info@lpep.org
<http://www.lpep.org>
MEETING: Tuesdays, 7 pm. Meetings are also
held on Saturdays at 10:00 am at various
locations.
BUSINESS: Last Wednesday, 7pm

Fort Collins • Lee Smith
970.635.0395
MEETING: 1st Tuesday, 7 am

Grand Junction • Linn&Sharon Armstrong
970.464.5177

Greeley / Weld • Lester W. Edgett
1402 Pleasant Acres Dr., Evans, CO 80620
970.351.6527 • leswe26@msn.com

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Pueblo County • Joel Watts
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719.647.8898 • joelwatts@excite.com

Routt County • Mike Zuckerman
P.O. Box 777, Clark, CO 80428
970.870.8104
MEETING: 3rd Wednesday, 7 pm

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

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

Southern Colorado Libertarian Alliance
Paul Berthelot
348 E. 7th St., Walsenburg, CO 81089
719.738.5792 • sdj@amigo.net
MEETING: 1st Saturday, 9:00 am,
Chamber of Commerce Boardroom, 400 Main,
Lunch after meeting

Southside Denver • Bennett Rutledge
4264 E. Maplewood Way, Littleton, CO
720.529.8024
<http://msnhomepages.talkcity.com/CapitolDr/acb9955/index.html>
MEETING: 2nd Tuesday, 7 pm

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

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

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

Western Slope LP (Montrose) • JoJo Ping
970.240.8678 • westernslopelp@yahoo.com
Also Michael Humbert, 970.252.8750
<http://www.westernslopelp.org>
MEETING: 2nd & 4th Tuesday, 7pm
JoJo's Diner, 2133 E. Main, Montrose, CO 81401

Campus

CU Campus Libertarians • Alex Baia
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<http://ucsu.colorado.edu/~liberty>

Evergreen and Bailey areas: Anyone interested in participating in new affiliates please contact Michael T. McKinzie at 303.816.1621 or mtmrm@prolynx.com.

LIBERTY CALENDAR

March • April 2002

PLEASE SEE THE ADJACENT CONTACTS PAGE FOR MEETING TIMES AND LOCATIONS.

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

Key Dates:

- Rick Stanley's Court Date, March 5, 8:30 am, room 151-P.
- Denver LP Rally, State Capitol, March 23, noon.
- Colorado LP Convention, May 17-19. See pages 4-5.

				March	1	2 Denver Breakfast Fort Morgan El Paso County SoCO Lib. Alliance
3	4 Boulder Lunch	5 Rick Stanley's Court Date—8:30 am, room 151-P. El Paso County Fort Collins	6 Broomfield	7 Jefferson County	8	9 Denver Breakfast Fort Morgan El Paso County
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