LIBERTARIANS LIBERATE THEMSELVES

by Betty Beverly

The Holiday Inn-Northglenn was the site of this year's Colorado Libertarian Party State Convention, which was held on the Memorial Day weekend. Approximately fifty people attended business meetings and workshops whose theme was "Liberate Yourself First."

Libertarians attending the convention nominated Dwight Filley and Jerry Van Sickle for Congress, Craig Green for Senate, and Jim Phelps for State House. The members of the '84-'85 Board of Directors chosen by Party members are: Dwight Filley, State Chair; Victoria Mason, Membership Director; Penn Pfeiffer, Campaigns Director; Bob Hurt, Finance Director; and Betty Beverly, Communications Director.

David Bergland, Libertarian Party presidential candidate, spoke at the banquet Saturday evening, stressing that, though he may not win the election, he intends to "win" increased media coverage of the Libertarian Party and increased activism in the Party. A "toast" of Libertarian Party founder Dave Nolan and a presentation honoring long-time activist Ruth Bennet, who is leaving the state, followed Bergland's speech.

Workshops were aimed at improving people's skills in communication, particularly with non-libertarians, and learning methods of living free in an un-free world. Several workshops also dealt with translating personal liberation into political activism.

The light turnout was disappointing to Convention organizers John Williams and Judy Huffman, and may have been due in part to the fact that few controversial issues needed to be addressed this year. The Party Platform, By-Laws and Constitution were adopted with few changes.

Ms. Huffman stated that "If at least one person received information to help them become a freer person, then the Convention was a success." She added, "As Libertarians, we need some of the skills that were offered to learn to deal more effectively with non-libertarians. We end up turning them off." She felt the workshops made people more aware of the necessity for Libertarians to communicate with people who would be sympathetic to our philosophy if they were introduced to it in a positive way.

A VOLUNTARY NATIONAL DEFENSE?

- ANALYSIS -

by Craig Green

Somewhere along the line, most of us have been taught that some things, such as national defense, are responsibilities of the government. Of course, the term "government" has come to mean the Washington establishment, the corporate state, the bureaucratic welfare state, the forces of multinational domination, the military-industrial complex, and so forth. And, of course, all such things are beyond the reach of most people, the average citizen, the person on the street.

Hardware contractors and generals? Why not let "the people" decide in the most democratic way possible, the free market? This would involve, for example, the people asking a little of a lot of people, rather than asking a lot of only a few, and figures that he needs the support of nearly every Libertarian Party member in Colorado to achieve his goal of creating the ground floor for successful Libertarian campaigns.

The new Finance Director is Bob Hurt, an air technician for the Colorado National Guard. He plans to open the door for a new era of Libertarianism in Colorado.
Somewhere along the line, most of us have been taught that some things, such as national defense, cannot adequately be provided without coercion of government. We are led to believe that the free market will not work when it comes to an issue that is as crucial to our survival as a "free" nation. This coercion manifests itself in many ways, such as the draft, taxation and emergency powers bestowed upon the president (some of which remind me more of Nazi Germany than any free society). It seems that many people in this country have accepted the idea that we, the people, are just too stupid to understand and make rational decisions about defense. Horsefeathers!

What makes democracy work, anyway? Is it a few elitist leaders who tell the rest of us what to do and how to think? It seems to me that liberals, conservatives, libertarians and most others generally agree that the reason a democracy is the least offensive kind of (traditional) government, is simply because more people are involved in making decisions. This is just as valid a concept for national defense as for any other issue, and I know of virtually no one who would give our military leaders carte blanche to make their own decisions without some measure of control from "the people." Just look at most Latin American countries to see the wisdom of this idea.

So, if a little democracy works fairly well, why not have a lot more democracy? That is, why not have a lot more people making a lot more decisions about defense and other issues? This is precisely what the free market is all about! If national defense is such an important issue (which it is, certainly!), then why leave most of the decisions to a few politicians, bureaucrats, military hardware contractors and generals. Why not let "the people" decide in the most democratic way possible, the free market? This would involve, for example, letting people not pay for military expenditures if they believed that they were either not necessary, or cost too much, or did not agree with the way they were being used. How effective can democracy be if "the people" make a decision only once every two, four, or six years? Why not make decisions every day, every week, every month, as necessary? If we are too stupid to decide how much and what kind of national defense to have, then why are we somehow magically transformed into models of democratic efficiency at election time? Come on, folks, let's stop shortchanging ourselves. If the free market works elsewhere, why not for defense?

I am not suggesting that we become wandering bands of nomadic freedom-fighters and let the Soviets or anyone else invade the U.S. But it's about time that the tried and failed foreign policy of the U.S. government during this century is seriously questioned by the American people. We shouldn't just be looking to see how terrible it is for the Pentagon to pay $500 for a 10-cent bolt. Of course waste is important, but it disguises the big picture: that U.S. military forces do not defend this country against attack, but rather provide warm young bodies for an aggressive, hostile foreign policy that neither respects human rights nor accomplishes its stated purpose. Until we start questioning the basic concepts of foreign policy, instead of attacking minor issues as waste in contracting, we are never going to get the arms race under control. Neither are we going to provide an adequate national defense, which the $200 billion per year in no way resembles.

"Every man who puts money into the hands of a 'government' (so called), puts into its hands a sword which will be used against himself, to extract more money from him, and also to keep him in subjection to its arbitrary will."
—Lysander Spooner, 1870.
Why we should build a missile defense system

by Dwight Filley

The “Star Wars” ideas that Reagan has proposed, such as laser guns and particle beams, may be far-fetched; but less exotic ideas, primarily orbiting unmanned non-nuclear rocket launchers, seem to be feasible. Equipped with radars to guide them, these satellite-based rockets would intercept and destroy enemy warheads during the vulnerable early phase of their flight.

Military history is full of examples of defenses evolving to counter seemingly invulnerable offensive weapons. The anti-tank gun stops tanks, as the musket stopped armored knights. The intercontinental ballistic missile seems invincible, but a growing body of opinion thinks otherwise, on both sides of the iron curtain.

Most of us don’t want to kill Russians, or anyone else. We just want to be left in peace. Is not a defensive system worth pursuing? To get us out of the Mutual Assured Destruction madness?

It’s true that any such system will not stop all missiles, but then, no defense is perfect.

And it’s true that it would be nice to “demilitarize space,” but isn’t the risk of vast destruction a rather high price to pay to keep space pure?

And it’s true that any such system will trigger more defensive measures from the Soviets. But so what? Should we not equip our troops with anti-tank weapons just because there might be a subsequent improvement in enemy armor?

What is not true is the remarkable assertion that a missile defense system is “destabilizing”—that it would encourage the Soviets to attack just before the system becomes operational. Such a defense would not appear overnight, and would present no single tempting moment.

As the defense system grows, the risk of war lessens, since fewer warheads would get through, and the likelihood of “victory” decreases.

The freeze movement is right. We have too many warheads now. But we must defend ourselves. Rather than buy more missiles, we should spend some of that money on a defense system which even if less than perfect, will save millions of Americans, perhaps even you and your family, from agony or death if war comes—and greatly reduce the chance of war coming at all.

The idea that nuclear war is “unthinkable” has lead many to stop thinking about it—to assume that it would be the end of the world and that’s that. But the outcome is not some clean, ultimate purifying fire; instead there will be vast suffering. In almost every catastrophe there are more wounded than killed, so the chances are good that you, dear reader, would be stumbling around in the ruins; sick, hurt and hungry.

Must we continue to endure a Pentagon that offers us no defense against this “Day After,” other than committing the same horrible atrocities against the other side?

WE ARE ALREADY FREE!

by Rev. Christopher Mohr

As a libertarian I have dreamed of a society where the government does not regulate and control the private decisions of my life. I have voted libertarian (or not voted at all, when there were no libertarians on the ballot), but have been skeptical of the political process. Though the LP has won some great court battles in their fight for freedom, it has depressed me to see the main thrust of libertarian activism leaning toward the legislative process, trying to change the laws by electing officials with a libertarian philosophy. I was afraid I would have to wait a long, long time for the government to grant me freedoms I have by right.

But now there is a man by the name of George Gordon out of Boise, Idaho, who is giving me hope that we can be free now.

A hundred years ago, most Americans were freemen bound only by Common Law and those statutes which codified Common Law. Today, almost everyone is reduced to the status of subject, bound by the countless regulations of Equity Law. This is because we make contracts with the State and are thereby subject to the terms of these contracts (statutes and regulations). When we get a driver’s license we volunteer into a regulated enterprise and replace our right-of-way on the roads with the regulated privilege of driving. When we incorporate our businesses, we grant the State permission to control the dealings of that business. When we get a marriage license from the State, we allow them to control the education, medical care and raising of our children, literally applying to him because he has made no contract with the government to be regulated on the roads. He has dropped out of the banking/credit system and has been able to argue with the IRS that their income tax laws do not apply to him.

This fellow has researched Supreme Court case law like no man I have ever seen. Over and over again the High Court has made the distinction between Equity Law and Common Law, and based their decisions on the status (freeman or subject) of the individual before them. The status of Freeman is almost nonexistent in law today, but the Supreme Court still recognizes it, and there is at least one man who has won thirty-three consecutive cases in the Courts using these arguments.

We don’t have to wait for the government to grant us freedom, we can take it on our own.
George Gordon out of Boise, Idaho, who claims that we can be free now. He claims that we have been cunningly deceived by the government to think that laws passed by local and national legislators apply to everyone. In fact, it is possible to establish for one's self the status of a freeman and be bound only by the Common Law.

This is an important distinction, because the Common Law is essentially a libertarian law. This is the great law that has evolved over millennia of human progress, and is extremely simple to understand. Essentially, under common law, if I deprive a person of life, liberty or property, they have a cause of action against me and can go to the people of the community (the grand jury) to peti-

Your Views

FEDERAL RESERVE NOTES ARE NOT DOLLARS

Great care should be used in dealing with your alien government. I refer to your use of the dollar sign. No Congressional statute defines the “One Dollar” Federal Reserve Note as the “dollar” or even as A “dollar.” If you sign any form where a dollar is specified, without making clear it is the FRN, you do the restorations a great injustice. You help your adversary! In filing lawsuits, making applications, or whatever, make it clear that what “they” claim as dollars are not money, merely digits. Blocking out $ signs is easy. Please do it! On checks too.

Rules of court specify “dollars” but none circulate. The real dollar is represented at two places in the Constitution as the only thing it can be, the silver coin of 371.25 grains pure silver. Like Article I, Section 10, the dollar has never been changed. Attempts to do so would expose the FRN fraud.

Therefore, when writing letters, always state FRN’s, not dollars. Kick the habit. FRN’s are mere digits. FRN’s are imaginary and without substance.

The great movement you are a part of is shaking the de facto government to the core, their lies included. Don’t compromise; be precise. Why fall into the trap “they” have set for you?
James Wilson, Esq.
Box 201
Mesa, AZ 85201

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Colorado Liberty
PUBLISHED BY THE COLORADO LIBERTARIAN PARTY
Vol. 6 Number 4 July-August 1984
1041 Cherokee St., Denver, CO 80204. 573-5229, published six times a year by the Colorado Libertarian Party. The deadline for material and advertising is the end of the month preceding publication. We welcome typewritten articles, letters to the editor, photos and artwork, and will print the best of what we receive. Hint: write concisely.

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MEET THE CANDIDATES

by Ron Bain

Four veteran candidates: Dwight Filley, Craig Green, Jim Phelps and Jerry Van Sickle, have kicked off their campaigns as the Colorado Libertarian Party shifts into high gear for the campaign of 1984.

Dwight Filley

Filley, 38, of Denver, is running for the U.S. House of Representatives in the First District, which includes most of Denver. Filley is currently seeking the congressional seat currently held by incumbent Democrat Pat Schroeder, but he said his campaign would not focus on opposing Schroeder.

"I would rather concentrate on running against the Democrats in general and on two issues in particular," Filley said in an interview. "And those two issues are complete withdrawal from NATO and the need for slashing subsidies and welfare to special-interest groups and those who are not in need."

Craig Green

FIlley, a self-employed "investor carpenter" who buys, refurbishes, and sells old homes, said the next step in his campaign is a planned 800-piece mailing to local entrepreneurs, who seem generally well-disposed towards Libertarianism.

The CLP nominated Craig Green, 38, of Littleton, for the Senator shall seat now held by incumbent Democrat Bill Armstrong.

Green, a self-employed professional engineer specializing in water resources engineering, has been a four-year member of the CLP. He first tested the political waters as a candidate for Congress in 1982. During the current campaign, Green said he wanted to emphasize his desire to revise the Federal Reserve System toward a sound money policy, something neither conservatives nor liberals seem to advocate. Green also said he was eager to debate Senator Armstrong on the Senator's costly military spending policies.

Jim Phelps

"I think we ought to cut military spending down severely," he said.

Green has not yet been invited to debate Armstrong, but has received an invitation to a candidates' press conference scheduled for Thursday, July 12.

Jerry Van Sickle

The fourth declared Libertarian candidate in Colorado is Jerry Van Sickle, 53, of Boulder. He will be running for the U.S. House of Representatives in the Second District, opposing incumbent Democrat Tim Wirth.

Van Sickle, a former Navy officer and a self-employed architect and builder of private, modest-sized homes, has sought public office twice before as a Libertarian. In 1982, Van Sickle ran for a seat on the Board of Directors of the Regional Transportation District, and last year, he ran for a seat on the Boulder City Council.

A NEW SUIT

At about 10:30 am on June 27 at the IRS office in Prudential Plaza in Denver, Britt Smith of Denver, payed more than $2200 in back taxes in pennies. On hand (thanks to Dwight Filley's calls the night before) were the Denver Post, the Rocky Mountain News, and all four of the commercial television news teams. Within a few days AP.
Post, the Rocky Mountain News, and all four of the commercial television news teams. Within a few days AP, UPI, and papers from as far away as Illinois had also picked up the story.

An unsung hero in this story is Ron Stevens. Britt Smith, who is not a Libertarian, called the CLP because he knew and respected Ron. The lesson seems to be that merely talking to one’s friends about Libertarianism can make a difference.

SMITE CONVENTIONAL POLITICIANS

The trendy thing this year is to refer to the Democrats and Republicans as the two older parties, rather than the “major” parties or “big” parties. Makes them sound stale or stodgy, which is only appropriate.

JUMP ON THE BANDWAGON
WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

The CLP is on the move, but we need your help! Whether you can volunteer a little time or want to become totally involved, any participation is welcome. Call the CLP office at 573-5229 or Penn Pfiffner, Campaigns Director at 427-4357, and help make 1984 a banner year for the Libertarian Party.

CANDIDATES... Wouldn’t it be great if people were given the opportunity to vote a straight Libertarian ticket this year? If you can’t afford the time and money to run a full time campaign, consider becoming a lineholder. With very little work you can make a significant impact. Hours: up to 12.

There are 160 positions up for election this year, including 8 positions for the RTD Board, 22 positions for District Attorney, 2 County Commissioner seats for each of 63 counties, 3 Regents for the University of Colorado, and 2 positions on the Board of Education.

CAMPAIGNS...
FUND RAISING GROUP of 3 people - up to 40 hours each
PRECINCT CAPTAINS to distribute leaflets & Colorado Liberty at local shopping centers, grocery stores, barber shops, etc. Coordinate petitioners in your area - up to 20 hours.
CAMPUS COORDINATORS to help establish student Libertarian groups on campuses across the state - 60 to 80 hours.
AFFILATE CHAIRS, one for each county. Help solicit petitioners, lineholders & Precinct Captains, and distribute Colorado Liberty - up to 40 hours.
FAIRS COORDINATOR - up to 40 hours.
MINORITY COMMUNITY COORDINATOR - up to 20 hours.

If you can’t afford any time, we need an average of $38.89 from each reader to reach our financial goal.

Libertarian Calendar

1st Tuesday of every month the Libertarian Forum meets in the Brand Building, 203 S. Galena St., Aspen. Call 925-8292 for more information.
3rd Tuesday of every month, Boulder County Libertarian Association, 7:30 p.m., at 1913 Broadway in Boulder. Call Jerry Van Sickle for details at (305) 442-0514 or (303) 443-5578.
1st and 3rd Wednesday every month, Discussion Group, 7:30 p.m., Party Office.
2nd Wednesday every month, CLP Cocktail Party, 7:30 p.m., Party Office. Relaxed, informal, cash bar.
4th Thursday of every month, Park County Libertarians meet. Call Phil Prosser for details at 838-7693.

JULY
11th Office Party
13th Board Meeting - CSU, Ft. Collins, 7:30 p.m.
18th Discussion group at office.

AUGUST
1st Discussion Group at office, 7:30 pm
8th Office Cocktail Party
11th-12th Bailey Days, Bailey, CO - CLP will have a booth
15th Board Meeting, Office - 7:30 pm

SEPTEMBER
5th Discussion Group at office, 7:30
12th Office Cocktail Party
19th Board Meeting, Office, 7:30 pm
19th Discussion Group, office, 7:30
LIBERTARIAN PROFILE

by Jan Prince

Ed Hopkins reminds me of Clark Kent, mild-mannered reporter. Underneath that unassuming exterior lies the heart of a radical. I met Ed in '82 when he got involved in Libertarian politics. It took quite a while to get to know him; I'm still getting to know him. He is the kind of person you can discuss any type of problem with and still feel confident he will listen and give feedback that is intelligent and well thought out. Distinquished from most activists by his calm, levelheaded, logical way of dealing with issues, his tolerance of differing viewpoints and lifestyles is unique in politics.

If you met Ed in the context of business (he is a self-employed CPA), you'd never guess, except for the sign on the side of his calculator, that he is a libertarian activist. This calm exterior allows him to make his radical ideas seem less threatening to "non-believers." Until I "interviewed" him for this profile, I had not been aware of the experience responsible for molding his temperament a priori underpinnings of any religious movement. "Resultant similarities include utopianism (libertarian society/millennium), strictly interpreted moral doctrines, factionalism and non-acquaintance with reality," claimed Hopkins.

Oddly, for such associations, Ed still claims to be a relativist—not believing in an absolute truth—while also deeming himself a "libertarian idealist and visionary—though destined to have my radical fires threatened by recurring tides of skepticism."

Political involvement began for him in '74. He participated in Libertarian campaigns until his appreciation of the free market and anti-authoritarian attitudes eventually made him uncomfortable with the left. While involved in Democratic politics, he voted a Libertarian ticket in '76 and '80. In May, 1981, he wandered into a CLP cocktail party and hasn't been seen in the mainstream since.

He served as Campaign Chair of the CLP for the '82 elections and is now an active co-sponsor of the initiative to de-...
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