Libertarians Respond to Tragedy

Libertarians from around the nation mourned America's great loss and called for civic action.

"As many of us sit feeling helpless I want to remind you that there is a very patriotic act you can do today—give blood!" said Shawn Elke Glazer, M.D., in an e-mail to Colorado Libertarian activists.

The LP's national chair, Dr. James W. Lark, said, "The Libertarian Party calls on all Libertarians to aid our fellow Americans who have suffered from this horrible tragedy. Donate blood for the victims fighting for their lives in New York and Washington, DC. Contribute to the charities that will assist the families and relatives."

State Chair John Berntson said, "There can be no excuse for this attack on innocent people. Our prayers go out for the victims and their families. We urge the administration to be cautious in any counter-attacks they may plan, to ensure that only those truly responsible for today's disasters are punished."

Libertarians in Colorado Springs helped guard a mosque and called for a spirit of unity and a renewed commitment to First Amendment religious freedoms.

Activists Support Immigrants

Libertarians from across the state joined together August 18 to pick fruit near Palisade, to support support immigrants and protest abusive policies of the INS.

"I was happy with the turnout and that all three television networks showed up to broadcast the event," said Richard Lamping, the event's organizer for the fourth consecutive year. On the same day, Palisade held its annual Peach Fest to celebrate the harvest.

Galen Wallace, a local fruit grower and Libertarian city council member, said, "Without migrant workers, the agricultural industry would cease to exist." Wallace noted that immigration restrictions leave workers at the mercy of unscrupulous labor dealers. He said that problem would disappear if business owners in the United States were able to contact migrant workers and obtain free passage for them.

Bruce Talbott, another farmer, also said immigrants are essential for American agriculture, estimating that between 70-80% of the area's agricultural work is performed by immigrants. "Some guys [from Mexico] have been here as long as 20 to 25 years," he noted.

Talbott let the Libertarians spend the day picking peaches on one of the orchards his family rents.

"Fruit" continued on page 21.

Jennifer Armstrong picks peaches in Palisade for the Libertarian Party's fourth annual INS Protest.
Notes from the Chair: Radio Flyer

Okay, so you’ve been out working a booth or you’ve been handing out party literature at a supermarket. What have you accomplished?

Quite a lot, actually. You have spread the word of freedom to people who may not have heard about it in any other way. For every hundred flyers you have handed out, probably twenty to thirty of them have been read, at least partially.

Of course, this means that the majority of those flyers ended up in a trash can somewhere, never having been read. Do not let this discourage you; it is all part of the game. Honestly, have you read every single scrap of paper that someone has thrust into your hands or left flapping under your windshield wipers? Of course not, so don’t expect others to do so either.

Still, it does show there is a limit to how far we can go by simply handing out flyers. Bulk mail or bulk e-mail would be the next logical step, but these methods have an even higher “trash can” rating. I believe it is time for us to graduate to formal advertising, the way any business or major charity would. We need to get beyond depending upon people to read what we give them. Most of them lead busy lives and simply will not take the time.

This is why I would avoid newspaper advertising. While it might be useful in a small, neighborhood paper, people still choose what they will read in a newspaper. This is why most of the ads in a newspaper cater to those who go there looking for some specific thing: movie timetables, car and real estate ads, grocery coupons, white sales, business supplies, or singles ads. Nobody looks through a newspaper trying to find their next political party.

This is why I believe we need to move up to an advertising medium that relies less on customer motivation. We need to tell them who we are, rather than making them read about it. If we could afford television, I would be all for it, but we are not there yet. Therefore, I would like to put us on the radio.

Through radio, you get everybody who is listening, unless you craft the message so badly that they change the station. You get a few seconds, while people are still happily humming the last tune, to make one or two points that they cannot deny and offer up a solution. You get to make people hear who you are and what you would do about things.

Perhaps more importantly, radio would give us a presence that no amount of windshield flyers ever could. It would subliminally cause people to think of us as the professional organization that we are, and not as some adjunct to the militia movement. In a word, we would be perceived as “serious.” This will drastically change the way people—and the press—think about us.

This is why I want us to do it THIS year. Let us not wait until campaign season, when we are just one of many political advertisers. Let us do it now, while we have the airwaves mostly to ourselves. Let people form their opinion of us before all the name-calling begins. Besides, doing it now is a good application of the EMILY principle (Early Money Is Like Yeast), bringing us more members and contributors in time to help during the next campaign.

The board has agreed to a small pilot project. Kent McNaughton is already working on getting it done. We will use it to draw people to our website and let the website statistics tell us how well it is working. Based on that, we will decide what adjustments need to be made and how to proceed.

Our current expenditure is to be less than two thousand dollars, but the endgame will require a larger level of funding. Rest assured, we shall be asking for it. To play with the grownups, you have to adopt some of their toys; radio is one of them. We don’t have to match our competitors commercial for commercial, dollar for dollar, but we do have to have a presence, else nobody will think we are for real.

Meanwhile, this does not mean that we can stop all of our booths and other outreach methods. This is just one more step in our evolution from concerned citizens to a major political force. I hope you will support this endeavor.

—John K. Bernstein
Liberal Concealed Carry Would Reduce Crime

Stratton's Police Chief Brian Hill should be commended for issuing concealed-carry permits to Coloradans outside his jurisdiction, spokespersons from the Libertarian Party of Colorado said. If there is a problem with the system, it is that not enough other jurisdictions issue them as frequently, or as uniformly.

While most states in the Union have already adopted liberal concealed-carry laws that recognize the rights of law-abiding citizens to defend themselves, the Colorado legislature has failed to do so. Republican Governor Bill Owens actively worked for the defeat of such a law in 1999, despite the fact that increased carry of handguns by responsible citizens is proven to reduce incidents of mass murder.

As Sarah Huntley reported in the August 25 issue of the Rocky Mountain News ("Concealed-gun permits doled out"), current Colorado law allows each sheriff or chief law enforcement officer to issue permits according to his or her own personal preferences or discretion. Some officers issue no permits at all in their jurisdictions.

"Individual personal preferences, or whims, have no rightful place in the official procedures of an elected officer of Colorado, when those preferences or whims interfere with a Colorado citizen looking to his own physical safety," stated John K. Berntson, chairman of the Libertarian Party of Colorado. He noted that people who have carry-concealed-weapon (CCW) permits are overwhelmingly law-abiding and trustworthy, and present no danger or risk to anyone except criminals looking for easy targets.

"How many Coloradans have died, been maimed, suffered the devastation of a mugging or rape, or lost loved ones at the hands of criminals merely because their sheriffs don't want to be troubled to issue a CCW? How many sheriffs believe that ordinary citizens are incapable or unworthy of using a CCW?"

San Miguel County Sheriff William Masters, an elected Libertarian, agrees. "The trouble with the state law in Colorado regarding CCW permits is that each jurisdiction can set up its own rules... The state must pass a law that corrects these problems," he affirmed in an interview.

Sheriff Masters issues permits to applicants if they are legally able to posses firearms and are either residents of or property owners in San Miguel County, or non-residents conducting business there. If the recipient is from out of town, he informs the recipient's local sheriff of the permit as a courtesy. "Being a Libertarian, of course I believe that no citizen should have to beg their sheriff for the right to defend themselves."

"Some sheriffs issue permits to anyone who walks in the door, some require they pay for and attend classes, some refuse to issue any permits, and some charge hundreds of dollars for the permit," Masters said.

Officers often try to justify refusal of permits by claiming that allowing fewer guns on the streets will reduce crime, despite substantial evidence showing law-abiding citizens with guns deter crime. The Rocky Mountain News article also suggested that some sheriffs are using CCW permits as a means to raise revenue.

"The situation is unacceptable from several standpoints," argues Berntson. "The process must be shall-issue, with little or no discretion allowed, and firm control on the difficulty, delay, and cost of getting the permit. If Colorado requires a permit at all, the Libertarian Party insists that all applicants be treated with simple equality before the law. No cronyism, no profiteering, no discrimination."

Sheriff Masters also brings up the interstate aspect of permits. "Because of the confusion in our issuing process, no other state recognizes Colorado permits as valid."

"Interstate reciprocity of permits is crucial," explains Brian Rachocki, Outreach Director of the Libertarian Party of Colorado. "Why should your right, or for Colorado, your state-granted permission, to defend yourself and your family evaporate when you cross a border into, say, Raton or Cheyenne?"

And even if reciprocity agreements are established, a fundamental problem will persist: the entrenchment of the permit system itself. "We still won't have a Vermont-style system," said Rachocki.

Berntson agrees. "Vermont-style CCW, meaning no permit is needed to carry concealed, is what the LP wants to achieve for Colorado. Many of our candidates campaigned on that platform in 2000."

Libertarian strategists suggest a two-pronged approach: simple, uniform, non-discretionary CCW permits on the one hand, and making the permits less necessary on the other.

"Let every person have a choice of how to handle this very delicate question, a question everyone has to answer for himself," adds Berntson. "Choice is what Libertarians are all about."
‘Rage Against the Dying of the Light’

On April 24-25, Ralph Shnelvar held a discussion about the Bill of Rights at Fairview High School in Boulder. The following is based on the conclusion of his talk.

What have we learned?

We learned that freedom is exceedingly rare in history. We learned that the freedom that we are all experiencing at this time is nothing but a bubble in the long history of slavery and domination.

We learned how easy it is to say that “those people” need to be controlled. We learned how some people, whether it be a king or a petty bureaucrat, derive joy from the imposition of their rules.

We learned how precious freedom is. It is precious in two senses. First, because so many good people—people like Spartacus, John Locke, Frederick Douglass, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton—struggled and died to secure our freedoms. Second, we know that being beaten, chained, underfed, ill-housed, and treated as a piece of property is a miserable existence, and being a master is barely better.

We learned how surprised Frederick Douglass was that free men can produce—indeed, do produce—incredible wealth. And we learned why: when individuals freely interact, then any exchange makes them both happier. People will continue to trade all their lives in order to improve their conditions. We learned that when government interferes in these exchanges, people are made less happy.

Our freedoms are supposed to be secured by the Bill of Rights. We went through the Amendments one by one and learned how sickly the life and spirit of the Bill of Rights have become.

People seek out freedom. It is like a beacon to them. There is a reason that the Statue of Liberty holds a torch, a light, shining the light of freedom through the darkness of misery.

In 1937 a wonderful poet, Dylan Thomas, wrote a poem called “Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night.” The last two lines of that poem read, “Do not go gentle into that good night / Rage, rage against the dying of the light.”

The poem is about dying. But the words are appropriate for our discussion about freedom, because without freedom there is a spiritual death.

You can die this death by a thousand cuts. A tax here. A regulation there. An idiotic law here. A twisting of logic there.

Some day you will wake up to find that every moment of the rest of your life has been planned by this government program or that. You will be told what to eat because it is for your own good. You will be told what school your children must go to and what clothes they must wear. You will be told what exercises they must do and what recreation is too dangerous for them.

You will be told what music you can listen to so that you do not hear that which is too violent or too sexy or simply that which is not politically correct.

You will be told that this restriction or that restriction is a reasonable restriction. And with each restriction the light of liberty will become a little less bright. A few people will complain about the restriction, but they will be labeled zealots who do not understand that this restriction is ever so reasonable a restriction.

You will be told that this person needs something and that person needs something else, and you will be told that it is your responsibility to pay for those things. You will be forced to pay for those things by the strong arm of government. When you say that you do not have enough for yourself, you will say that you need things too. The government will give you things, but never quite the things you need, and never quite the things you want. But you will be satisfied because you got these things for free.

Some day you will wake up and you will be told what charities you must contribute to. You will not even notice that being forced to give to a charity makes the word “charity” meaningless. You will be told what good works deserve your charity and which charities aren’t, and you will be told this by some faceless, unelected bureaucrat who thinks he knows what is best for society. You will be told where you must live so as to meet some goal of social diversity. You will be told what color to paint your house so as not to offend the tastes of your neighbors.

You will be told that you cannot spend the money you have earned on the things that you want because you will then be consuming too much. You will always be told that you are consuming too much.

"Rage" continued on page 5
Sandra Johnson’s Race Leaves Legacy

Dear Sandra,

I feel that I owe you, more than anyone else in my life, an apology. That’s right, an apology. You see, as I stood there that November morning behind that curtain, I was perplexed. I had heard of the Libertarian Party, and I knew Libertarians agreed with me on the issue most important to me. Though I knew little else about Libertarians, I knew that they believed in my right to self-protection.

I had never voted Libertarian before, because for the past five elections, the Republicans had assured me that if I would just elect them, they would save my rights. I had been a gun owner living in the “people’s state of New Jersey.” In such a place, one just keeps one’s head down and tries not to draw any attention.

On Election Day 2000 here in Colorado, I realized that the Republicans had sold me out in New Jersey (one reason I moved here), and that Colorado Republicans were just as unlikely to secure my rights.

I had no problem pulling the lever for the Libertarian running for the state house in my district, but this governor’s race was a bit harder for me. I had read about Bill Owens’ voting record in the state senate. He was, after all, a pro-gun senator, and why should it be such a leap of faith to believe that he would be a pro-gun governor? This was the West, after all, so a Republican elected by the “gun vote” wouldn’t try to disarm his constituents. Or so I imagined.

The polls had placed Owens in the lead. Because of that, I considered voting Libertarian to send a strong message to the new governor. On the other hand, what if Owens lost? The Democrat was avidly anti-gun. I could almost imagine the headlines screaming that Owens had lost by a single vote — my vote. So, even though it pained me, I voted for Owens, instead of somebody I knew would never betray my trust.

True to his Republican stripes, Owens sold me out, and my life was changed forever. I think about that election day every day of my life. I knew that I should have voted for you, but I tried to “play it safe.” I didn’t want to “waste my vote.” Sound familiar? You probably heard that a lot on the campaign trail.

Since the beginning of last year, I have personally set up and run an LP booth at two dozen events. In that time, I have personally registered at least 50 new Libertarian voters and signed up about a dozen new dues-paying members. With the contributions of others, the booth averages about ten new registrations and two new memberships per show. I plan to expand to include computer shows, raves, business expos, and hemp festivals.

Here’s the catch. If you had not been on the ballot in 1998, I might have never joined the party. I became a Libertarian activist because I chose Owens when I knew in my heart I should have voted for you. I have suffered because of my mistake. If you had not been on the ballot, I might have figured that there was no point in voting and become apolitical.

But you were on the ballot, and so I could blame no one but myself for my poor choice. As a result, I have been working to take back that vote. I will not stop until Owens is ousted. Even then I will not stop. This is all because you were on the ballot! You were successful far beyond what the vote totals may have suggested.

Because of my experiences, I agree with you that we need to run candidates whenever we can. Voters need to know they have a choice, and that choice is the Libertarian Party.

Sincerely,

Joe Johnson

Liberty in my lifetime!

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“Rage” continued from page 4

You will be told that you must vote because it is your duty to do so. Your choice of candidates will be between those who wish to force you to do things for your own good and those who think they know better what “your own good” is. In other words, you will be presented with a choice, but you will have no choice at all.

Some day you will wake up and you will know that your parents had some freedom but that you have none. Humanity will return to that morass of history in which only the privileged few—the king, the emperor, the Party members, the priesthood, the Caesar—are free. You and your children will be told that you are free but you will know, finally, that you are slaves.

Some day you will find that the fist of government has reached into your chest and squeezed your heart so that your soul has disappeared.

I grew up with underappreciated freedoms. The freedoms bought at the expense of the blood of our ancestors. I experienced the joy and the spiritual and physical benefits of liberty. So it is not for me but for you and your children that I ask you, I beg you:

“Do not go gentle into that good night. Rage, rage against the dying of the light.”
The Activist’s Corner

By Joe Johnson

As you know, the Activist’s Corner is dedicated to a Libertarian activist who is out in the trenches daily, "making it happen" and spreading the message of individual liberty and personal responsibility.

Sometimes the stories are from long-time Libertarians; this month I would like to highlight a man who is newer to the party. Over the past six months he has exploded onto the scene, and he is shaking the very foundations of what were once perceived to be the "limits" of what could be done in terms of growing the party.

This man is a natural-born salesman, and as luck would have it, like several others in the LPCO, he loves selling the idea of liberty. He just loves it. This man is Rick Stanley, LPCO candidate for U.S. Senate in 2002.

I have not known Rick very long, and while his style is different than mine, I cannot help but admire his ability to register new Libertarians. I want to relate a story of an event that I witnessed during which Rick was at the top of his game. But first, I'd like to relate a conversation that I had with Rick at the LPCO state convention in May.

After my long-winded fund-raising speech ("If you all join the 1776 League I won’t have to bore you again next year"), during which I gloated over the fact that the Libertarian Party of Colorado experienced a 30% increase in Libertarian voter registrations over the past year, Rick came up to me and asked why I felt that registrations were so important. After all, he said, "We don’t get as much money or as many volunteers from registrations as we do from dues-paying memberships."

I explained registered Libertarians make up the rank-and-file core, our voting block. As this core group continues to grow, so does the acceptance of the idea of liberty outside of that core. But more importantly, the media (as well as the Ds and Rs) follow the registration numbers. As we grow, so will our coverage in the press—as well as the attention paid to our ideas by our opponents.

Finally, perhaps the single most important reason we need to continue our success in registration growth is to get the title "Libertarian" added to Colorado’s voter registration card. Currently, the form makes room only for "Republican," "Democrat," "Unaffiliated," and "Other." The powers that be have banished us to the ranks of "Other."

The vast majority of people who register to vote in this state do so in the Motor Vehicle office, and we are not permitted to hang a banner ("Libertarian Party—Defenders of Freedom") at the DMV. Therefore, most people think that they have three choices, and not surprisingly, when forced with a choice between Democrat and Republican, a large number of these voters choose neither by checking "Unaffiliated."

Many of these "Unaffiliated" voters are actually Libertarians, they just don’t know it. Until we introduce ourselves to enough people and have them register themselves as "Libertarian," and then have the name "Libertarian" printed on the registration form, we will remain an "also-ran" party. Because people can’t see our name on the form, most of them don’t even know they CAN register as Libertarians.

This made sense to Rick, and he pledged his commitment to gaining Libertarian registrations. I had no idea just what “committed” meant to Rick. All that I can say is WOW!

Last month several ranking members of the LPCO met over dinner with Mr. Stanley to discuss strategy for his campaign, and I was invited to tag along. During the course of the evening (about three hours), I witnessed Rick discuss libertarian principles with various members of the wait staff. He simply told them, "Libertarians would allow you to keep ALL of your tips—all of them—no taxes taken from your hard work. Does that sound interesting to you?"

Needless to say, they were interested. Rick gave them more information, and asked them to read it over on their breaks. By the end of the night, many asked what they could do to make the libertarian ideas come true. He told them first to register as Libertarians to send the message to the "powers that be" that they want more freedom, and then to vote for him (as well as other Libertarians) in November 2002. As I watched, three people filled out voter registration forms, with "Libertarian" written in next to the box marked "Other." Meanwhile, they said "thank you" and wished Rick good luck.

Three new registrations while I watched! I wouldn’t have believed it if I hadn’t seen it with my own eyes, but there they were, and all while I ate dinner!

Rick tells me that he has somewhere in the neighborhood of 500 new Libertarian voter

“Activist” continued on page 21
Chicken Soup for the Libertarian Party
by Elizabeth Bennett

Two years ago I picked up one of those "cult" books, Chicken Soup for the Soul. It was filled with spirit-boosting stories. However, none of the stories touched me the way one did. The story is called, "Who you are makes a difference."

I got off to a slow start. I looked for stars. I wanted to pin a star on each person I honored. Deep in my drawer there are about ten stars. I intended to give my grandmother the first; no single person could have made such a powerful and important impact in my life. But I never got to it, and she is now gone.

When I joined the Libertarian Party, I did not know I would be meeting another person able to make such an impact on my life. That's when I met BetteRose Smith. This woman was unstoppable. If I had a question, she answered it. If I had a task and needed help, she answered that call, too. I have never called BetteRose that she did not answer and did not offer her hand. I have spent hours listening to her stories about why the Libertarian Party is so important to her and why it is the only choice. I have never met a woman like her.

A teacher in New York honored each of her seniors. She gave each of them a blue ribbon and told them the difference they made. Each of them had to take three ribbons and give the first ribbon to the person who made the biggest difference in his or her life. Then they would take two, give one and so on until all three had been given.

One of these ribbons was passed on by a gentleman who thought he should honor his boss. The boss was a "grouchy fellow." However, he realized this man has made a great impact on his career and thus his life. His boss was stunned and honored. His boss then had to give the last ribbon away. He was thinking the rest of the day, and on his drive home he realized that his son has made the biggest difference in his life. Even though he had not shown this to his son, he chose to give the ribbon to him.

When he sat his son down and told him the reason he had chosen to give the ribbon to him, his son began to sob, and his body began to shake. He told his father that he was planning on committing suicide tomorrow," because he didn't think his father loved him. Now dry your eyes and think of the impact of such a simple ribbon. I heard this story (I had the audio version), and I was determined to let the people in my life know how much they have made a difference in my life.

I began to speak to others in the Libertarian Party, and we wanted to give BetteRose something to show her our gratitude. We had many folks offering to help us out. While on an outing Joe and I saw a ring that had a star on it. My mind went right to the stars sitting in my desk. Here is one person who has made a difference in not just my life, but many others'. So it was decided, this would be our "award," our recognition for a job superbly done.

Pam and Rick Stanley jumped in to help us get this ring. I had the whole thing planned out in my mind. I was going to tell this story at the convention. But I could not for the life of me tell this story and keep the tears at bay. Time was running short, so I fumbled and stumbled and handed the ring to BetteRose. I had to wait until after the convention to tell her the reason we chose the ring and why it was so important that we in the LP give her this ring.

Life is a journey, sometimes an adventure, sometimes a race, and other times a mystery. In the end, there are people who make this journey worth the travel. BetteRose Smith is one of those people. It should also be noted that both BetteRose and Michele sacrificed much time and money to give us such a wonderful convention. This is why we chose to honor them there. We were able to get a Statue of Liberty charm for Michele. Thank you both for your continued dedication to liberty.
Time to Reclaim Our Birthright

by Bob Glass

Freedom is our birthright. Today, too many Americans have sold out their birthright for the empty promises of government handouts or the illusion of security through socialist policies.

It is time for us to reclaim our birthright.

Once in a while a moment in history approaches that offers us the opportunity to shake the foundations of the political establishment. We have a unique chance with the 2002 race for governor to bring the message of liberty to the people of Colorado.

We'll be in a three-way race. 30% of the people voted against Amendment 22 last year, despite the most heavily financed propaganda campaign ever conducted in this state. And despite the fact that the Republican governor, Bill Owens, signed Amendment 22 on the very first line. When a reporter asked Owens if he thought gun owners would turn on him, he said flippantly, "What are they going to do, vote Democratic?"

2002 is the year for the disenfranchised to vote Libertarian.

Not only has Owens alienated his base of civil arms advocates, but he has supported a larger and larger state budget and, by complicity, accepted drug prohibition; along with the police state that comes with it. What's worse, Owens has already said he may take his tyranny nation-wide through higher office. We can put an end to Owens' plans right now.

I will spend the next fourteen months working full-time to beat Bill Owens and restore civil liberties in Colorado. I need your help.

My libertarian roots run deep. In fact, I was a libertarian before the Libertarian Party was even formed. A high school teacher of mine introduced me to the work of Ayn Rand and Nathaniel Branden, and I became active in libertarian circles in New York. Later on in Colorado I publish my own pro-freedom magazine, The Partisan, which has printed articles from L. Neil Smith, David Kopel, Vin Suprynowicz, and Claire Wolfe. I've had the chance to interview Randy Weaver, John Ross, and others.

More recently, I hosted my own pro-freedom radio show. I am also one of the founders of the Tyranny Response Team; which now has chapters in two dozen states. While the press has not always been fair to the TRT, I have been able to earn extensive media coverage, including a Speak Out column in the Rocky Mountain News and a spot on the national television show Politically Incorrect.

My achievements are important for two reasons. First, other Libertarians in Colorado can look at my work and easily see that I'm a life-long, dedicated, 100% libertarian. No compromises, no exceptions. My views do not change with the political winds. Second, because I already have name recognition, my candidacy will be able to attract more attention than any Libertarian race in Colorado's history.

It goes without saying that civil arms and the right of self-defense will play a major role in this campaign. Bill Owens supported a tyrannical law that denies law-abiding Coloradans their right to contract and their right to purchase a firearm for self-defense before getting the permission of Big Brother. Until recently I sold guns, and I can show you reams of forms representing honest citizens who were unjustly denied their right to purchase a gun. Owens also supported laws to strip lawful adults ages 18-20 of their rights of self-defense and to require mandatory storage of firearms, otherwise known as the "rapist protection act." Colorado's largest gun-rights group calls Owens "Governor Gun Control."

Another key issue is the war on drugs. Drug prohibition, like alcohol prohibition before it, has increased rates of violent crime, led to more dangerous drugs, and corrupted our police departments. The time is right to win with this issue and roll back a major portion of the encroaching police state.

Taxes must be much lower. I will oppose taking the hard-earned money of Coloradans for politicians' pet projects. To date, the debate has been how much the state government should grow every year. I will put the debate back where it belongs: over how much state government should shrink every year.

I will also fight to protect property rights, whether it's the City of Denver confiscating a restaurant to make room for a parking garage, or state regulations hurting the property rights of farmers, or so-called "growth" legislation that harms the private property rights of homeowners. Libertarians understand that property rights are the basis of all our other rights and the foundation of the rule of just law.

We've got to run a race the likes of which the Libertarian Party has never before attempted. We've got to mobilize more volunteers. Raise more money. Talk to more voters, I believe we can do it, together. Thankfully, a number of dedicated activists, including Bette Rose Smith and Ralph Shnevar, have already come aboard my campaign. Bill Owens may have tons of money, but we have something he knows nothing about: a passion for liberty.

It is time to reclaim our birthright.

For more information, please contact www.glassforgovernor.org or 303.546.6125.
The Next Generation Candidate

by James Vance

Fellow Liberty readers: I've been given this opportunity by the Liberty publishers to comment directly to you about my campaign. I would like to first start off by remarking that in my opinion some information that has been published in the previous two issues of the Liberty may have painted a very negative image of my campaign in the minds of some libertarians. I am hoping this direct correspondence changes that image.

I would like to reassure you that my campaign will always be based on the philosophy that I intend to spend my entire term as Governor of Colorado working to give the PEOPLE legitimate representation in the Governor's office in the first time in decades. Moreover, I will be working to give the PEOPLE of Colorado back as many of the FREEDOMS they've lost that I can within the appointed powers of the Governor's office.

The platform issues I would like to present to you and to the general population of Colorado I consider to be my primary projects are there for you to measure my achievement by WHEN victory is secured in the general election. My four-tier project platform is very straightforward: create a smaller government by cutting out useless programs and redundant functions; eliminate the sales tax and reduce the income tax by reducing the size of government and government spending; protect victim's interests and compensate their losses by establishing a victim's Bill of Rights; and reduce crime and protect the Second Amendment by establishing a Vermont-style Concealed Carry RIGHT. These goals can be considered "measurables" by which the public can track my progress in the step-by-step restoration of their rights and freedoms.

One thing I promise to you and the general public is that I will NOT go off spouting idealistic "perfect world" type plans where there will be no partisan or hostile politics from the members of state legislature. I have realistic goals to achieve over the course of a four-year term through working for the PEOPLE who will understand these goals and subsequently DEMAND ACTION from their representatives towards achieving these goals.

I was also asked to address you all on WHY I believe I am the best candidate to win the nomination of the Libertarian Party. Overall I believe I have numerous advantages that can bring in record numbers of voters for a "3rd Party" candidate if I do not achieve my primary goal of securing enough votes to win the entire election in November 2002.

First I think I have an immediate connection and therefore attractiveness as a candidate to my generation—the Generation "X" voters. This group of voters has not been really motivated to vote since the 1992 Clinton campaign, and I believe I can be the candidate they can rally around—BEING ONE OF THEM—and I will get them out and voting Libertarian. This attractiveness easily translates into attracting the newest voting pool—the Generation "Y (or Why)" voter too.

Next I think I have a great insight into the not only what can actually work for Coloradans towards the restoration of their lost rights and freedoms in a realistic world, but also have an excellent understanding of both the conceptual and practical workings of the political system in the modern era. Based on this I feel I will be able to work better within the system toward the achievement of instituting a long lasting pattern of libertarianism in not only the Governor's office, but the entire workings of the state government.

Additionally I believe I can get my campaign some legitimate attention because of my "unknown factor." Once I prove to the media over the remainder of this year that my campaign is unique in style, attitude, and goals they will WANT to know more about me, and therefore WANT to know more about my platform and libertarianism. I believe I can approach and be approached by the media in a non-combative tone, and therefore perpetuate an air of being an "underdog" (which automatically draws in some people to support me) because I have a lack of corruption or callousness that is associated with being a professional politician.

So I am presenting Coloradans with only four KEY items that will be my central focus in my first four years as Governor—a workable, achievable series of plans. I will also be maintaining a libertarian philosophy on other issues that pass by my scope. I ask that you please visit my campaign web site at: http://www.JamesVance.com to learn more about my political perspectives, and hopefully give you a solid foundation towards understanding where I'm coming from philosophically and personally as I seek to become Coloradans' next Governor. I understand that many simply do not have Internet access, so please feel free to call me at 303.667.1823 if you have any questions. This number goes straight to voice mail so leave a your name, number, and a good time to call you back.

I would also like to thank the editors of the Liberty for this great opportunity to address you personally.
Witch Hunt Targets Golyansky

Gregory Golyansky is a Russian emigre. He, his brother, and a cousin own and operate ABC Loan Company, a pawnshop in Aurora. He has lived in America for 25 years, and he's a naturalized U.S. citizen.

After the Brady bill was signed into law (1994), Greg had problems with the government. Someone would come to his store to buy a gun. They would fill out the paperwork (ATF form 4473), and Greg would run the background check. The Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) would sometimes call to tell him the buyer was not qualified. Then, two or three days later, they'd call again and say "Oops. We goofed. That guy can buy a gun after all." But by then Greg had already lost the sale.

This was wrong. The law says the government has 24 hours to determine if a prospective firearms purchaser is disqualified. If they can't make that determination in 24 hours, they must allow the sale to proceed. So Greg complained to his state senator, Mike Coffman, who in turn put pressure on the CBI to follow the 24-hour rule.

Greg had other problems with the government. The CBI asked for Social Security numbers from firearms purchasers. Greg refused to supply them because the CBI had no legal authority to ask for them. Same routine—same result. Greg forced the CBI to follow the rules.

In reviewing his file of forms 4473, Greg Golyansky noticed that 89% of the people who were refused permission to buy a gun were African-Americans. He reported this fact to the CBI. An argument ensued. Susan Kitchen, an agent at the CBI, asked Greg, "Are you implying that I'm a racist?" Greg's reply was less than diplomatic. "I'm not implying anything. I'm accusing you to your face. You are a racist."

All of this happened from 1996, through early 1998. During that same period CBI agent Kitchen complained about Golyansky's political activism, and the way he had put pressure on her, to agents of the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (BATF). The BATF commenced an undercover operation involving "straw purchases" at ABC Loan Company, apparently in retaliation for Golyansky's exercise of his right to speak to his elected representatives and to petition the government.

Now federal law provides that a person who makes a false statement on form 4473 commits a felony. If the firearms dealer knows the prospective purchaser is lying, and helps him make the false statement, then the dealer is also culpable.

In the course of its investigation, the BATF discovered many actual straw purchasers who were doing business with Greg. Rather than bust those people, who were clearly breaking the law, the BATF allowed them to remain at large in hopes they might eventually incriminate Greg. In fact, one of those "straw purchasers," Randy Canister, is now suspected of committing three murders. The BATF placed Mr. Canister under arrest nine months before those murders occurred. But they let him go—because Golyansky might get wise to their undercover operation if the government put Randy Canister on trial.

The BATF wrapped up their investigation in 1998. They presented their "evidence" of wrongdoing at ABC Loan Company to the U.S. Attorney's office. The U.S. Attorney declined to prosecute, probably because he didn't believe Greg had actually broken the law. People had lied on the forms 4473 they submitted through Greg, but there was no clear indication Greg knew they were lying. He always insisted on photo ID cards, and he always ran the required background checks. He dotted his i's and he crossed his t's. In fact, in one particular instance in which a female undercover agent entered Greg's store in the presence of a man who had recently failed the background check, Greg refused to do business with her. "Why are you here with that guy?" he asked. "He can't buy a gun. Are you trying to buy one for him?"

Then came Columbine—April 20, 1999. Coincidentally, Thomas Strickland was sworn in as the new U.S. Attorney for Colorado the very next day. Shortly thereafter, Strickland announced the formation of his "Project Exile" task force. That task force included CBI agent Susan Kitchen—the very same agent whom Greg had accused of racism; and who had tried, and failed, to make a "straw purchase" from Greg when he recognized her companion.

In December of 1999 the Denver Post published a series of articles about ABC Loan Company. These articles included many facts from the BATF's investigation, which was still supposed to be a secret. It's not entirely clear who leaked these facts to the Post. It is clear that the first story in this series was written by David Olinger. Coincidentally, Mr. Olinger worked for Thomas Strickland during Mr. Strickland's abortive bid for a U.S. Senate seat in 1996.

This is where it gets really interesting. In the spring of 2000, Bob Troyer, an assistant U.S. Attorney in Denver, expressed his official opinion: the "straw purchase" provisions of the Brady law are unconstitutionally vague. The BATF had expanded the written provisions of the law by administrative fiat, and
they had not conveyed their interpretation of the law to federally licensed firearms dealers in any coherent fashion. Mr. Troyer recommended that the government provide Greg Golyansky a better explanation of the administrative interpretation the BATF wished to place upon the written provisions of the Brady bill. In Troyer's opinion, there was no basis for a criminal prosecution of ABC Loan Company.

This was entirely unacceptable to the Justice Department. Janet Reno sent Sean Conolley, a lawyer from Washington, DC, to Denver. He outranked Troyer, and he quickly squelched Troyer's expressions of official opinion. Soon thereafter, U.S. Attorney Thomas Strickland took the ABC Loan Company case to a grand jury. On May 10, 2000, the grand jury returned a 37-count indictment against Greg, his brother, and his cousin. So Strickland, in his zeal to promote Project Exile, and with inside knowledge of Greg's political activities, brought criminal charges against an innocent man—charges his predecessor in office was not willing to bring—based on an investigation that had been closed for almost two years.

Now the agent who led that investigation, Adam Ging, is currently on administrative leave for alleged misconduct in a mysterious "Kentucky incident." Curiously, the file in that case has been sealed by a judicial gag order. The U.S. Attorney for the Central District of California has publicly stated that he will never prosecute another case involving Mr. Ging as a witness, clearly implying that Ging has lied on the stand in previous cases.

U.S. Attorney Thomas Strickland knew all about this. He knew, as a matter of law, that Mr. Ging would not be allowed to testify in the Golyansky case. He also knew the court had already issued a gag order suppressing evidence of Agent Ging's alleged misconduct in Kentucky. So what did he do?

First, his office caused Mr. Ging's impeccable statement to be placed in the public record. Someone in the government faxed the statement to Steve Curtis, a talk show host on KNUS radio. Someone provided a copy to the Denver Post, which published another inflammatory article about ABC Loan Company soon thereafter. Can you guess who wrote that article? You're right. It was David Olinger, Strickland's stooge at the Post.

It looks like Strickland knew that Ging's statements about Golyansky were probably false, and could never be used in court, so he did the next best thing. He intentionally poisoned the potential jury pool.

Greg Golyansky's case is still dragging on. One of the BATF agents whom the government had pulled from their witness list has recently been fired for testifying in another case without permission from his superiors. That agent has also been testifying on Greg's behalf. Not every agent in the BATF is corrupt.


As the Golyansky trial date approaches, several additional intriguing dramas are unfolding.

Richard Eugene Stanley, a Libertarian, has announced his intention to run for the office of U.S. Senator from Colorado. On Saturday, August 4, 2001, Stanley publicized the Golyansky story during the course of a radio interview with Bob Glass. Stanley continues to stand squarely behind the right of citizens to keep and bear arms, and their corresponding right to obtain firearms without submitting to the odious—and unconstitutional—provisions of the Brady bill.

Thomas Strickland has announced his intention to run for U.S. Senate again. He intends to make Project Exile, and the Golyansky prosecution, the centerpiece of his campaign. If he wins, the Democratic majority in the U.S. Senate will be strengthened.

Thomas Strickland is no longer the U.S. Attorney for Colorado. He left that office shortly after George W. Bush was sworn in as president of the United States. Richard Spriggs, a former federal judge, served seven months as U.S. Attorney under an interim appointment made by the Justice Department, which is still largely dominated by Clinton's appointees. George W. Bush has named John Suthers—once the DA in Colorado Springs, and a staunch Republican—as the new U.S. Attorney for Colorado. On August 31, 2001, Mr. Suthers received an interim appointment to that office, replacing Mr. Spriggs. But Mr. Suthers permanent appointment is still stalled in the U.S. Senate. He is probably unwilling to jeopardize his own permanent appointment by making any controversial moves while serving in an interim capacity.

Will the Senate act on the Suthers' appointment before October 29th? Will a new series of inflammatory articles appear soon in the Post, further contaminating the potential pool of Golyansky jurors? Will Suthers, if confirmed, move to quash the Golyansky indictment? Will Stanley's efforts to expose Strickland's corrupt political motives succeed?

The Golyansky case gets smellier the longer it drags on. Political ambitions, and the struggle for control of the U.S. Senate, are coloring every move. Meanwhile Gregory Golyansky, his brother Leonid, and his cousin Dimitry—who fled Soviet tyranny and the KGB only to suffer gross indignities at the hands of the American tyrants who run the Justice Department and the BATF—continue to labor under the burden of a politically motivated indictment.

Justice in Colorado is no longer merely blind. It is dead. And Thomas Strickland killed it.
John Ross, author of the underground classic novel *Unintended Consequences*, will speak at the Libertarian Party's Fourth Annual Awards Banquet October 20. Anyone may reserve a spot at the event.

Ross' book contains extensive historical background on the American right to keep and bear arms, along with modern abuses of that right. Aaron Zelman of Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership said, "What Harriet Beecher Stowe did in 1853 [showing the horrors of slavery in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*] John Ross has done for today's struggle for individual freedom."

Columnist Vin Suprynowicz describes Ross' work as a "modern novel of liberty to rival Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged.*"

Ross is highly critical of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, which retaliated against Ross. His attorney wrote to the director of the BATF:

"Mr. Ross is... the author of 'Unintended Consequences,' a highly popular novel about the trials and tribulations of legal gun owners and dealers in the United States. Although the book is manifestly a work of fiction, it accurately depicts documented historical events in the long and sordid history of misconduct by personnel of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms..."

"Because the book is highly critical of the [BATF], it appears that some in your agency have undertaken to suppress it and to intimidate its author. For example, in 1997 the book's publisher became aware that individuals purporting to be BATF agents had threatened vendors of the book in at least three different states with 'problems' if they did not cease their sales of the book... [A]gents from your St. Louis field office have engaged in an official effort to enlist Mrs. Ross, who is amicably separated from her husband as an informant against her husband..."

Ross was scheduled to speak at last year's LP event, but he suffered a stroke, from which he has recovered. His book has sold more than 50,000 copies.

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Press Watch: Libertarians in the News

News Errs in Senate Coverage

In early August, the Rocky Mountain News referred to Wayne Allard's "only announced foe, Tom Strickland." Allard is the Republican incumbent Senator, while Strickland is a Democratic challenger. The News' reporting was flat wrong. In fact, Libertarian Rick Stanley had already announced formally, filed paperwork to that effect, and sent the News multiple announcements about his campaign.

After Libertarians peppered the News and the reporter with e-mails, the paper finally mentioned Stanley on August 14. M.E. Sprengelmeyer, the News' reporter in Washington, reported, "Denver businessman Rick Stanley has announced he is running on the Libertarian ticket."

Also, under the Regional Briefing, the News reported, "A Denver businessman will join the race for Sen. Wayne Allard's seat in 2002."

"Rick Stanley, co-owner of Stanley Fasteners and Shop Supply, plans to run on the Libertarian Party ticket, championing gun rights, an end to the war on drugs and gradual elimination of the Social Security system.

"Allard is expected to run for re-election but has not announced. Former U.S. Attorney Tom Strickland is the first Democrat to declare candidacy."

Papers Slam War on Drugs

The Denver Post's August 25 lead editorial harshly criticized drug prohibition. Indeed, the headline proclaimed, "War on drugs a crime." The writers emphasized the racial injustices of the drug war, noting that blacks suffer the most from persecution even though more whites take drugs. "Blacks make up 3.8 percent of the state population but nearly a quarter of its prisoners," the Post reminded us.

The newspaper quoted U.S. District Judge John Kane: "The best way for a kid who is caught using or selling drugs to get off is to select a congressman, senator, or high-ranking official as one's parent." The editorial concluded, "Clearly, while drug abuse is bad, the war on drugs is worse."

On June 29, the Rocky Mountain News published an article by Sheldon Richman of the Future of Freedom Foundation titled, "How can we win drug war if we can't clean up prisons?" The article is available on the internet at http://www.fff.org/editorial/ed0701ff.htm.

The Post's editorial, along with the News' inclusion of Richman's article, marks the success Libertarians and their allies have had in their efforts to repeal drug prohibition, which causes violence, corrupts our police department, leads to more dangerous drugs, and trashes the Bill of Rights.

Camera Reports Bain's Race

An August 13 article by Greg Avery in Boulder's Daily Camera, titled "Council candidate list grows," reported on the candidates for city council. Avery reported, "[Ron] Bain, 43, a former state and county chairman of the Libertarian Party and member of the Independence Institute, has lived in the city for most of the past nine years and owns A Way With Words resume-writing service. He describes himself as a believer in property rights, a vegetarian and a pacifist who doesn't own a gun and supports animal rights... Bain said he intends to stick below the city's voluntary $11,742 spending cap but opposes the public matching funding system for campaigns. 'I cannot imagine a worse thing to be subsidized,' Bain said."

Courageous Citizens Need No Forced Draft

Terry Donze submitted the following letter, which ran in the Rocky Mountain News.

Cowards! That's what we are—cowards and traitors! At least that's what Washington thinks of us. We must register for the draft because we can't be trusted to defend our homes if America is invaded. Now Colorado will blackmail all those cowards by not allowing them to operate a motor vehicle ("Law links driving to draft," July 11).

But what red-blooded American wouldn't come to America's defense if it was attacked? There really are no cowards here, just some men who think it objectionable to meddle in more pointless political foreign wars, especially at the behest of the U.N.

Congressman Ron Paul, R-Texas, has filed HR 1577 to repeal the Selective Service Act of 1979, and with good reason. We could eliminate the $500 million in costs since 1980. Even the Pentagon's 1993 report said, "...peacetime draft registration could be suspended without irreparable damage to national security." Repeal could also help restore a small amount of personal privacy by shutting down this multimillion-dollar information agency that gives personal data to a variety of federal and state agencies.

"The best way for a kid who is caught using or selling drugs to get off is to select a congressman, senator, or high-ranking official as one's parent."

More Press Watch information is available at www.lpcolorado.org.
Economist Blames Downturn on Fed’s Inflation

In an article posted August 22 to www.mises.org, John Cochran, chair of the economics department at Metropolitan State College, argued current economic troubles were caused by inflationary policies by the Federal Reserve.

“The current crisis is unambiguously an ‘Austrian’ crisis. Even if one wants to pretend, ala Paul Krugman in a recent New York Times op-ed, that the U.S. economy’s problem is “self-defeating optimism,” one should recognize that the ‘self-defeating optimism’ is directly attributable to market responses to the excessive creation of money and credit initiated by the Federal Reserve System beginning in the mid-1990s.”

Cochran argued that in order to prevent future problems, “the remedy is simple: avoid inflations by stopping the Fed’s power to inflate.”

Cochran is an adjunct scholar of the Ludwig von Mises Institute, a leading American voice of the “Austrian” tradition of economics. Mises, along with his Nobel-award-winning student Friedrich Hayek, argued that economic downturns are primarily caused by monetary inflation and the resulting faulty investments. Mises’ works also informed Ayn Rand, Murray Rothbard, and other leaders of the modern libertarian movement. Cochran’s article was titled, “Hayek’s Law and Rothbard’s Wisdom.”

Cochran also argued that, regardless of how long the Fed pursues inflationary policies, economic recovery is hastened by leaving markets free to correct the problem.

LP Joins Louisville Parade

Libertarian candidates and other activists joined Louisville’s Labor Day Parade. Rick Stanley, candidate for U.S. Senate, handed out flyers wearing a trademark Hawaiian shirt. Ron Bain, who is running for Boulder’s city council, joined his neighbors for the event. Lady Liberty stood tall as a reminder of freedom. Other participants included Elizabeth Bennett, Audrey and Ken Bray, Dave Bryant, Craig Johnson and family, Joe Johnson, Michelle Konieczny and daughters, Eva Kosinski, John Larkin, Tony Middleton, Tom Parker (who provided the photographs), Darush Rusta and friend, BetteRose Smith, Rick Stanley, Jerry Van Sickle, Bruce Waters, Greg Woods, and Chuck Wright.

Earlier in the summer, the Boulder Libertarians participated in the Lafayette 5k run/walk. John Poosh said, “What still surprises me is that most people I approach are supportive and actually accept and read the literature offered, especially when they see ‘Lady Liberty’ marching with us. Of course, I can’t help comparing it to the Ghostbusters movie in which the Statue of Liberty is guided through the streets by cheering crowds to help save the world from would-be tyrants. I encourage any new LP members to participate in similar events to experience this for themselves.”

El Paso LP Fights Tax Hike

The El Paso County tax proposal just got worse. The City wants to increase the County’s proposed tax increase from seven to ten years. Under such an increase, some 43% of any revenue generated would go to municipalities in the county, with Colorado Springs getting the majority of that money.

“I thought Republicans stood for smaller government and lower taxes. Apparently, they don’t,” remarked Steve D’Ippolito, Chairman for the Libertarian Party of El Paso County.

“They admit to a bait-and-switch scheme to divert money away from roads and bridges. Now they propose to increase our taxes for ten years. Obviously, the Commissioners have no intention of fixing the county roads that are so desperately in need of repairs. This is quackery from some very ‘lame’ ducks.”

The LPEP newsletter continued, “The Libertarian Party favors lower taxes and full refunds of all overcollected revenues by all levels of government.”

Morgan Co. Cultivates Leaders

Liberty80701 is pleased to announce that we are growing! As a result of this growth, we have several new
contacts and positions. Michael T. McKinzie is stepping down from the chair and taking the position of Outreach Director. Richard Otero has taken over as Chairman. Heather Burch will be assisting Richard as Vice-Chairman. Debbie Burch has volunteered to be Treasurer. James Bass continues as Webmaster extraordinaire. Please address all communications to liberty80701@yahoo.com.

**Activist Blasts Tancredo**

Hello Congressman Tancredo,

Great quote from Walter Williams/Frederic Bastiat in your e-mail newsletter: "Plunder is when people forcibly take the property of another. It's legalized plunder when people use government, such as our Congress, to do the same thing. Or, as Bastiat put it, 'The state is great fiction by which everybody tries to live at the expense of everyone else.'"

However, don't you feel even the tiniest bit hypocritical? To my knowledge, you were NOT a co-sponsor of Rep. Ron Paul's bill to end the income tax. To my knowledge, you have NOT proposed or cosponsored any REAL tax reduction bills. (The Bush $1.2 trillion over ten years plan is NOT a tax cut, it is a SMALL reduction in the rate of growth of federal revenue.)

Tom, I'm not buying for a second that you're a "fiscal conservative," as you would like your constituents to believe. In fact, in the newsletter you highlight your support for spending $7 million for the purchase of the Beaver Brook Watershed.

On the contrary, Tom, you seem to have succumbed to the Washington temptation to SPEND, SPEND, SPEND. That's why I will be voting for the Libertarian candidate for Congress next year, whomever that will be.

Your unhappy constituent,
Larry Hoffenberg

**El Paso Libertarians Take Message to Pride Fest**

The Libertarian Party of El Paso County enjoyed a fun day in the sun and a successful Operation Politically Homeless booth at the Tenth Annual Pride Fest, held in Acacia Park in Colorado Springs August 5. LPEP members were out in force to bring the message of libertarian ideals about such issues as privacy rights and religious freedom to the gay and lesbian community.

LPEP Vice-Chair Scott Graves commented, "The event was a great success. We spoke with many voters who felt disenfranchised by the two major parties and were looking for another party that truly wants to defend their liberties. The Libertarian Party is that party, because we support individuals' rights to live and love as they wish, so long as they do not hurt someone else."

The Libertarian Party of El Paso County would like to thank the Pikes Peak Gay and Lesbian Community Center for hosting the annual event and giving LPEP another opportunity to spread the libertarian message of freedom with personal responsibility and limited government.
Owens No Friend of Gun Owners

Editor's note: Joe Johnson submitted the following letter to the Colorado State Shooting Association for publication in its newsletter. For three issues in a row, CSSA declined to print it. Johnson then submitted the letter to Colorado Liberty, hoping a number of CSSA members would get the chance to read it. However, Johnson worries that non-libertarian members of CSSA may never hear the problems with Owens' plan. He notes the editor of CSSA's publication may be reached at editor@cssa.org.

I would like to extend a note of gratitude to the board members of CSSA for having chosen to publish Governor Bill Owens' offer to provide state (taxpayer) funded gun ranges. This was only more proof that the leadership of CSSA is willing to air all sides of every issue, even from established anti-gunners. As the mainstream press never publishes all sides of an issue, it is refreshing to hear all viewpoints, even those detrimental to gun owners. Having noted this, I would like to point out the three main reasons (of several) to be opposed to this maneuver by Bill Owens.

1) Bill Owens needs to buy Colorado's gun owners. As Owens has shown that he is clearly not the friend of gun owners, he knows that he needs to "buy" the "gun vote," but he assumes that this vote will come cheaply. After all, it was he that, when asked: "but what about gun owners?" responded with, "What are they gonna do, vote Democrat?" Owens is now attempting to make us forget his anti-gun votes and his signature on the un-SAFE initiative (Amendment 22) in his right hand, by making us look at the money in his left hand. Owens says that he wants to build gun ranges for Colorado's gun owners because we need safe places to practice the sport that we love. But if Owens actually cared about the sport of shooting and wanted more gun ranges, he would begin overturning the bureaucratic red tape and zoning restrictions that are preventing the construction of such ranges! In short, Owens thinks that Colorado's gun owners can be purchased and purchased cheaply.

2) Owens does not have a very good track record of telling the truth to gun owners. As you will remember, Bill Owens promised to support gun rights in Colorado, and he won by a razor-thin majority (many political experts credit the 'gun vote' for this victory) by promising expanded gun rights. After taking office, he turned his back on gun owners and vetoed a universal concealed-carry bill that he promised to sign while on the campaign trail. And while professing gun rights, he placed his signature on the very first line on the un-SAFE initiative (Amendment 22), in front of an applauding crowd of anti-gunners on the capital steps. He's lied before ("fool us once, shame on him; fool us twice, shame on us!") and he'll lie again.

3) Gun registration is STILL a bad idea! Gun registration was a bad idea when it was introduced by the liberals. It's an equally bad idea now that it is being touted by the liberal wolf in conservative sheep's clothing. Owens is promising Colorado's gun owners government-funded gun ranges. But beware! Government funds ALWAYS come with government strings. What the government gives you, the government can—and most likely will—take away. But more insidious than that, if the government owns the gun ranges, guess who also owns the list of the members of those ranges? Gun registration is still a bad idea, even if Owens is willing to pay us for it.

As a member of CSSA as well as a gun rights activist, I would like to ask you to divorce yourself from Bill "Gun Control" Owens once and for all. We need to send a message to the Republican party that if they want our votes back, they cannot continue to run anti-gun candidates. We must also send the message to "Pinocchio" Owens that Colorado's gun owners do not have amnesia and we cannot be bought so cheaply. Remember, Judas sold his good friend Jesus over to the Romans for twelve silver pieces. In the morning, when he realized what he had done, he hanged himself. Let's not follow the same path. Owens' twelve silver pieces are counterfeit!

Joseph Johnson,
Member, CSSA

Stanley Asks Volunteers to Help Senate Campaign

"We need you!" Rick Stanley, the Libertarian party's candidate for U.S. Senate in 2002, needs help distributing flyers around the state.

Stanley wrote in an e-mail alert, "We have passed out 30,000 flyers already. We have 20,000 sitting at the Stanley for US Senate Campaign office (6280 39th Ave. in Denver) doing nothing. To win, we have to get these out EVERYWHERE, EVERY DAY! The TV ads and radio ads don't start for nine months. The newspaper ads don't start until January. Help us create awareness NOW!"

A number of volunteers are already working hard for Stanley's campaign, including David Bryant, Michelle Konieczny, Jim Frye, Dan Stewart, and Villate McKitrick. The campaign may be reached at www.stanley2002.org, or at 303.329.0481.
Holden Announces for State House

Mark Holden isn't wasting any time getting his campaign for state representative (district 37) off the ground. Holden has put together a campaign team and built his web page at www.elect-holden.com.

"Libertarians want to lead responsible lives," Holden's web page states, "treated others fairly and with mutual respect and civility. Libertarians want a peaceful society where everyone is treated with equal respect and each person has the freedom to lead their own responsible life in accordance with their own beliefs.... Libertarians want a free and responsible society."

Holden adds, "Government has taken on too many of our responsibilities and we are increasingly being treated as children, incapable of independent decision. As our representatives in office continue to make more and more judgments about how we should live, we are losing our freedoms and liberties."

Holden is a mechanical engineer with a Master's degree from CU, Denver. He lives in Greenwood Village.

For the past several years, Holden has volunteered as the head proctor of the regional MATHCOUNTS program, which is dedicated to the improvement of the mathematical abilities of middle school students.

The Committee to Elect Mark Holden
4950 W. Yosemite St. #206
Greenwood Village, CO 80111
303.770.2222 • holden@elect-holden.com

1776 League Update: Bret Dornon and Joe Johnson are also 1776 League monthly donors. To join, please contact David Bryant at 720.941.2344 or davidbryant@worldnet.att.net.

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Bruce Urges Action to Cut Taxes

Tax reformer Douglas Bruce prodded Denver Libertarians to action September 7 with "a four-letter word: WORK." Bruce spoke to about two dozen Libertarians at the Denver affiliate's monthly meeting. "Work causes [referred tax increases] to be defeated."

Bruce strongly supports citizens' initiatives to limit government abuses. He opposes initiatives referred by politicians that try to increase taxes or attack citizens' rights. "I recommend a simple rule," he said. "If it comes from the government, vote 'no.'"

Bruce urged freedom activists to use the provision in the Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) that allows individuals to submit comments about ballot initiatives. These comments are then edited and mailed out to all the voters in an area.

People can comment on initiatives at the state, county, and local level, Bruce noted. County clerks maintain information about county and city initiatives. Individuals can go to their county clerk's office to request a list, then submit comments about the initiatives. County clerks will also provide information about where to submit the comments about local matters.

Bruce stressed the point that this year all comments must be submitted by September 21. Because that date was prior to the mailing of Colorado Liberty, party leaders planned to release the information early on the party's web page and e-mail list. E-mail remains the fastest way for the state party to contact activists. To be added to that list, please contact David Bryant at davidbryant@worldnet.att.net.

Bruce recommended that comments be submitted on the day of the deadline or shortly before. Because comments are limited to 500 words per side, per issue, Bruce said activists in the same area should coordinate efforts. Also, comments may not name any person or organization.

Bruce said referred tax increases and debt measures are often left unchallenged by comment. "I'm disappointed that more people aren't taking advantage of it," he said.

In addition to submitting comments about referred tax increases, Libertarians and other advocates of limited government can get involved in other ways.

- **Produce flyers that urge 'no' votes on tax and debt increases.** Bruce said an effective flyer lists the bad ballot initiatives on one side, and arguments against them on the other.

- **Write letters to newspaper editors.** "The letters-to-the-editor section is the most-read portion of a newspaper," Bruce said.

- **Run for local office.** Bruce said Libertarians should begin by serving in a local office. He said even local office holders can save taxpayers tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars. Serving for local office is also a great way to advance to the state legislature.

- **Promote pro-freedom initiatives.**

- **Speak at legislative hearings.**

- **Research local budgets.** If the government suddenly starts spending a lot more money on a program, that may be a sign of wasteful spending. By finding instances of government waste, activists can convince other voters to oppose new taxes.

Bruce announced plans to form a new tax reduction group, Active Colorado Taxpayers. The acronym, ACT, describes what Bruce has in mind. "We really want people who will go out and do something."

The tax reformer described various ways the government is ripping off the taxpayers. For instance, the upcoming Referendum A would allow the state to go into debt in order to finance open space. It would permit "borrowing to occur behind closed doors." He said the debt would last twenty years, even though it depends on lottery dollars for repayment, and the lottery is authorized for only eight more years.

Monorail is another example of an ineffective, costly proposal. The plan is to spend $50 million on a government study, then several billion more dollars to build it, then run it at a loss indefinitely.

Bruce laid out a number of strategies that activists can use to defeat wasteful tax spending. If a government entity proposes numerous new taxes at once, that can often be used as evidence that spending is out of control. Tax reformers should stress that so-called "excess revenues" would otherwise go back to taxpayers unless spent on new government programs.

Counter politicians' attempts to create fear. For instance, if politicians try to raise taxes on the pretext that they will benefit an essential, popular program like the police, reformers should point out all the other wasteful programs that could be cut to cover the expenses.

Reformers need to make simple arguments that resonate with voters. For instance, arguing that "the basics come first" helps to point out all the wasteful spending that could be cut. Government should "live on a budget, not a blank check."

To become involved with tax limitation in Colorado, please send your name, address, and other contact information to taxcutter@mtn.com. If you do not have e-mail, call 719.550.0010.
Why Ilios Matters: Denver Condemns Restaurant

by Mike Krause

At a recent dinner party, the talk turned to the City of Denver's use of condemnation to allow Mile High Development to get the property Ilios restaurant occupies to build a parking garage.

One friend asked, "How can they get away with that?" "They" referring to Mile High Development and their real estate agents in the Denver City Council.

The short answer is, "We let them."

The taking power of government is supposed to be heavy stuff, exercised with caution and with the humility such power confers. Using condemnation to facilitate the transfer of perfectly good privately-owned real estate housing perfectly good businesses to another private interest is simply reprehensible and endemic of politicians' zeal to satisfy the wants of moneyed special interests, all the while claiming to be operating in the public interest.

But that the Denver City Council has taken to this methodology should come as no surprise. Such twisting of government "taking" power has been rapidly evolving. And pushing the envelope of condemnation is simply a test of the limits of confiscation already implied by the power to tax property and income. If eminent domain or condemnation is supposed to be used only for public purposes, government simply tries to expand the definition of a public good. Hence the notion of "public/private development," which in the case of the art museum/condominium project is better termed "moneyed special interests backed by government muscle."

Government has become accustomed to a claim on an ever-expanding chunk of our income. The total tax bill, including local, state and federal, now runs between 40-50% of a typical earner's income (largely dependent on which state you reside in).

Here in Denver, that claim has become authority to transfer part of that money back to special interests in the form of corporate welfare. There is even a city agency, the Denver Urban Renewal Authority (DURA), whose job it is to give out public subsidies to private interests (to the tune of over $200 million over the last decade).

This notion was nicely defined by the wooing of Boeing, where there was never really any question on the part of city officials but that people's hard-earned tax money was theirs to offer as a subsidy to a giant corporation, including lying about the size of the subsidy with no fear of reprisal. Should anyone be surprised that the next step is to use the condemnation power of the city to facilitate the development plans of another corporation?

There is even a term for this—state capitalism—where above and beyond zoning and use restrictions, local government also decides the 'best use' of otherwise private property.

Last year in New Rochelle, New York, Mayor Timothy Idoni sought to condemn an entire neighborhood (34 homes, 28 businesses and two churches) to hand over to Ikea Furniture for a new outlet. The plan was dropped after being profiled on a John Stossel ABC news special, but the Ikea story is telling nonetheless.

Asked to justify the condemnation, Mayor Idoni responded, "No urban planner would ever design a neighborhood like that, with a house next to an industrial site next to a bus depot." (Sounds like some areas of Denver.) "That's not a neighborhood, in my opinion," the mayor concluded.

This is a prime example of the underlying arrogance of the government as judge of "best use" of property. The security and expectations based on the foundation of ownership and lease agreements are as important to the occupants of a marginal neighborhood as the residents of the swankiest gated community.

This arrogance shows through in Denver's disregard for Ilios' lease with the current property owners. Councilwoman Cathy Reynolds contends, "It is not our job to negotiate some sort of deal with someone who is not the owner of the land." Recall that when a citizens' group gathered the signatures to place a $60 million corporate welfare subsidy to the convention center hotel on the referendum, the same Councilwoman Reynolds argued that the subsidy was a contract that "had to be honored."

What about the notion that people enter into business leases (a form of contract) with the feeling of security that it is government's job to enforce them through contract law, not subvert them to enrich special interests? There is no shortage of voters who are willing to help along this warping of what constitutes a "public good." Miss D. Diamond herself, the owner of Ilios, admits she fully supported the art museum expansion, until Mile High's garage threatened to steamroll her own business.

But the irony aside, Ilios matters. The next piece of private property or small business to be swept aside by the grand schemes of Denver government officials and their special interests may well be yours.

Mike Krause wrote this article for the Independence Institute at www.i2i.org.
Tax Collectors More Annoying than Telemarketers

by Doug Newman

What annoys you? Mosquitoes? Dripping faucets? Your next-door neighbor’s five-year-old with his favorite riddle? Phone solicitors would also be near the top of many people’s lists of most annoying things.

Recently, I got an e-mail from a friend encouraging me to join a web-based “do not call” list. The purpose of this list was to discourage phone solicitors from “invading my privacy.” The list is being compiled as a result of a new Colorado law curtailing phone solicitation. After July 1, 2002, telemarketers who call people on this list will be subject to stiff fines. It costs nothing to put your name on this list. I replied that I had gotten this e-mail before and, although these calls annoy me, I declined to participate. I went on to state why this law is a bad one.

June 21 was my last day as an insurance agent. I had good success over a three-year period, largely as a result of leads generated by telemarketers. The new law will impose additional costs on insurance agents, insurance companies, and the telemarketing firms they hire. Every 90 days, insurance and telemarketing firms must review thousands of names to make sure they have not been added to the list.

These compliance costs will be passed on to insurance clients in the form of higher premiums. The new law subjects insurers and telemarketers to litigation exposure, the costs of which will be paid by, you guessed it, insurance clients. It may cost nothing to join the list, but the list and the law creating it have their costs. Nothing in life is free.

When someone calls to sell me something at an inconvenient time, it may irritate me, but that is about the extent of it. It does no physical or financial harm. It may interrupt my dinner, but it does not interrupt my life. I am as much within my rights to hang up on a telemarketer as I am to throw away that piece of junk mail. It is absurd to fine someone thousands of dollars for the non-crime of placing such a call.

Consider now the impositions and invasions of privacy posed by the agency we are asking to enforce the do-not-solicit law: the government. The government funds its operations by means of its most onerous and intrusive power, the taxing power.

Every year, by April 15, you must provide an extraordinarily exhaustive and detailed list of everything you have done that year. If you are self-employed, you must meticulously document every last expense and activity in order to take advantage of any write-offs to which you may be entitled. You must be able to substantiate that the lunch at the Olive Garden on June 17 was in fact a business lunch, and that the $23.17 you shelled out at OfficeMax on October 8 was for business, not personal, purposes. Is any of this any of the government’s business? Isn’t this an invasion of your privacy?

Yet, amazingly, even the U.S. Congress considered a bill this past spring banning dinnertime telemarketing.

Have you ever asked how much better off you would be if you were not being taxed into the pavement? I write this on July 4, when we celebrate the ouster of a “tyrant” who taxed his subjects at the rate of about 3%.

If you were turning over only 3% of your income to the powers that be, how much easier would it be to afford the house you want, the car you want, the clothes you want, educate your children as you see fit, take the vacations you want, give to the charities of your choice, save for your retirement, put away money for some unexpected problems in your life, insure yourself properly, etc.? Does this not constitute a real imposition? This ought to get our dunnder up at least as much as telemarketers.

But what about all the things our government “does for us”? Someone far wiser than I once remarked that a government that gives us everything we want (such as asinine laws against telemarketing) must first take away everything we have. Harry Browne, the Libertarian Party’s candidate for president in 1996 and 2000, was fond of asking the following question: Would you give up your favorite government program if you never again had to pay income tax?

My favorite government program, the Navy, has a constitutional mandate and would remain intact in the absence of the income tax, which makes up only about 38% of federal revenues. In fact, all constitutionally authorized activities could be funded with only a small fraction of our current federal budget.

The huge majority of what governments currently do could be done better in the private sector. People who could keep what they earned, and who could spend, save, invest and donate as they saw fit, could fund these activities far more efficiently.

Does the income tax not anger you? Does it not invade your privacy? Wouldn’t you love to be able to tell the tax police to go away? Wouldn’t you love to place your name on an IRS do-not-call list? Who interferes with your life more, telemarketers or the IRS? Who harms you more, the IRS or telemarketers? Who irritates you more, the IRS or telemarketers?

Libertarians Run for Local Offices

Four Libertarians across the state are running for local office this year. Ron Bain is running for a city council seat in Boulder. Carol Hill is vying for a spot on Leadville's city council. Mike Seebeck and Steve Gresh are running for school board in the Colorado Springs area in Districts 2 and 20, respectively.

On August 8, Bain submitted paperwork to the city. City residents were required to show up personally at city hall to sign his petition.

Carol Hill would join Joe Swyers, a Libertarian who currently serves on Leadville's city council. Swyers said, "Keep your fingers crossed! We could just have a chance at cutting back city hall and the profusion of codes and regulations."

Steve Gresh said, "The primary focus of my campaign is to defeat a $163 million bond issue that District 20 will place on the ballot this November. As far as I know, I am the only candidate for school board in D-20 who will be explaining to voters why they should vote against this bond issue. John Berntson, who is also a resident of D-20, is a member of my campaign committee. I am working with Douglas Bruce and Javier Mazzetti, a former D-20 school board president who often attends LPEP meetings, to write an Election Notice Comment against the bond issue for inclusion in the blue book that is distributed to every voter."

"During my campaign, and if I happen to be one of the three (out of six names on the ballot) who wins a seat on the D-20 school board, I will take whatever opportunities come along to explain to the public why private-sector educational alternatives are better than the government school system. If I am elected, I will also vote against any new requests to increase the spending of taxpayers' dollars."

"People can contact me to help with my campaign by calling me at 719.599.5706 or sending an e-mail message to SFGresh@aol.com."

"Fruit" continued from page 1

Joe Johnson, who drove from Louisville with Bette Rose Smith and Elizabeth Bennett, strapped on stilts and dressed up as the Statue of Liberty. He held a sign which read, "I was born in France—What about you?" and, "When I said, 'Give me your weak, your poor'... I Meant It!"

Ari Armstrong, another participant who grew up helping his grandfather grow Palisade peaches, said, "The great thing about this country is that it attracts people from all over the world who want freedom and who want to participate in our system of free enterprise." He added, "The federal government is sending out men with guns to hunt down other people for doing nothing more than trying to earn an honest day's pay."

Armstrong also commented, "It's too bad so many Republicans are hypocrites on this issue. They claim to support property rights, but they actively violate property rights by interfering with business owners' rights to hire workers, with workers' rights to pursue a job, and with consumers' rights to purchase products and services of their choice. For Libertarians, the freedom of contract is a fundamental human right."

Other participants included Jennifer Armstrong, Linn and Sharon Armstrong, and Dawn Lamping.

"Activist" continued from page 6

registrations to his credit, and if that example at dinner is any measure, I have no doubt that he does.

Rick has set a challenge to the entire membership. "One registration per week." That is his challenge. He wants every Libertarian reading this article to register one new person per week. If they do this," he said, "we will be in the majority in Colorado by November, 2002.

Think about it—if everyone registers one new person per week, we will double our numbers every week! And by November, 2002, there will be more registered Libertarians than Democrats or Republicans!"

He's got a point. While most of us do not have the chutzpah required to register three new Libertarians every time that we go out to eat, we all know a couple of people who want to be free, and by getting them to register as Libertarians, future election nights could be much different than past ones.

"I've proven that it can be done," says Rick. "The only question that remains is, how badly do we want it, and are we willing to do what it takes?" It's a question that deserves an answer.

Please e-mail comments or stories for a future 'Activist's Corner' to Joejohn@us.ibm.com.

Liberty in my lifetime!

Joe Johnson

"The great thing about this country is that it attracts people from all over the world who want freedom and who want to participate in our system of free enterprise."
Contacts—The Libertarian Party of Colorado

Please send updates and corrections to Ari Armstrong at ari@co-freedom.com or 303.412.8356. 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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http://www.lpbooulder.com

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BOARD: 2nd Thursday, 6:30 pm, 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

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child@amigo.net

Clear Creek County • Bob Harvey
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303.569.3456

Denver • Rick Stanley
6280 East 33rd Avenue • Denver, CO 80207-1319
720.941.2344 or 303.329.0481
MEETING: 1st Tuesday, 6:30 pm
DENVER BREAKFAST: Saturdays, 8:00 am,
LePeeps (Mexico&Colo.Bldg.), call David Atken,
303.631.4334, dalten@tdc.com

Douglas County • John W. Wright
4372 E. Andover Ave., Castle Rock, CO 80104
john.wright1@usa.net • www.freedouglas.org
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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
719.386.6799 • info@lepco.org
http://www.lepco.org

MEETING: Second Tuesday, 7 pm
BUSINESS: Last Wednesday, 7 pm

Fort Collins • Lee Smith
970.205.0395
MEETING: 1st Tuesday, 7 am

Four Corners • See El Paso County Contact

Grand Junction • Linn&Sharon Armstrong
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MEETING: 1st Thursday, 6 pm

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San Miguel County • Bill Masters
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Southside Denver • Bennett Rutledge
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303.860.1308
http://manhomepages.talkcity.com/
CapitolDr/abc9955/index.html
MEETING: 1st Monday, 7 pm

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970.385.5107 • Fax: 970.385.5226

Summit County • John Sabal
P.O. Box 858, Frisco, CO 80443 • 970.262.6369

Western Colorado • Brent Shroyer
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Western Slope LP (Montrose) • John Duncan
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Also Tim Jacobs, 970.249.6242

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CU Campus Libertarians • Alex Baia
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Attention Affiliates!
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The Federal Election Commission requires political committees to report the name, mailing address, occupation, and name of employer of each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of $200 in a calendar year. The IRS requires us to print "contributions are not tax-deductible" on all fund-raising appeals.

Although we'd like to tell you this is a government mandated notice, the FEC and IRS also say we're not allowed to tell you that!

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