The Colorado

LIBERTY

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE COLORADO LIBERTARIAN PARTY, DEFENDERS OF LIBERTY

VOL. ONE, ISSUE THREE FREE TO THE OPEN-MINDED OR POLITICALLY HOMELESS SPRING '93

CLP convenes in Crestone April 23-25

By Ron Bain
Liberty Editor

Dr. Mary Ruwart, a woman who has frequently been compared to Ayn Rand, will be the keynote speaker at the 1993 convention of the Colorado Libertarian Party, scheduled for April 23-25 in the southern Colorado hamlet of Crestone.

Author of Healing Our World: The Other Piece of the Puzzle, Dr. Ruwart will discuss this landmark book of political philosophy which integrates the Judeo-Christian heritage with the personal self-responsibility of the Aquarian Age as well as the political self-responsibility of the worldwide libertarian movement.

Other topics to be addressed by Dr. Ruwart include: "Government Regulation of Health Care: A Matter of Life and Death;" "To Love is Libertarian or Libertarian is a Win-Win Word," and, "Peacefully Green."

Other speakers include: Steve Alexander (topic: "Heart and Soul"); Richard Gibb Martin (see article on Page 2); George Nieder, representing the awarding of the bid for the 1994 convention, and board candidate presentations. Sunday's business meeting, also beginning at 10:15 a.m., will feature board elections and discussion of changes to the CLP platform, constitution and by-laws.

Until April 15, registration costs $40 via: 1993 Libertarian Convention; 1317 Lakewood Drive, Fort Collins.
Doug Bruce will address Free the Taxpayer Rally

By Richard Combs
Denver Libertarian Party

Doug Bruce, author of Amendment One, will be the featured speaker at the second annual Free the Taxpayer Rally, which will take place at one p.m., Saturday, April 10 on the west steps of the State Capitol in Denver.

Bruce’s appearance should ensure good news coverage and a sizeable turnout. He will discuss the next steps in regaining control of our government, his election reform initiative. Petitioning for that initiative may be kicked off at the rally.

Organizations sponsoring the rally include the Colorado Libertarian Party, Colorado Taxpayers Party, National Commodity and Barter Association, TABOR (Taxpayers Bill of Rights/Election Reform) Committee, and TRIM (Tax Reform Immediately) Committee. Additional speakers include David Segal (CLP), Doug Campbell (CTP), and John Voss (NCBA). Several other speakers, including sympathetic state legislators, have not been confirmed.

In addition to speeches, the rally will include live music, literature tables, petitioning, and more. Participants are asked to bring a teabag to show their opposition to higher taxes. The theme of this year’s rally is “More Taxes = More Government = Less Liberty.” The diverse groups sponsoring the rally are united by their belief that too much power and money flow out of the hands of citizens and into the hands of government.

Last year’s rally took place at the downtown post office on the evening of April 15. It attracted about 200 people, according to David Segal, chair of the Denver Libertarian Party. “Although the rally was a success, we couldn’t compete with the filing deadline itself as a news story,” said Segal. “This year, we decided to hold the rally on the weekend before the filing deadline in order to get better news coverage and make it easier for people to attend.”
By Richard Gibb Martin
President, No More Drug War

In 1989, police stopped 49-year-old Ethel Hylton at Houston's Hobby Airport and told her she was under arrest because a drug dog had scratched at her luggage. Agents searched her bags and strip-searched her, but they found no drugs. They did find $39,110 in cash, money she had received from an insurance settlement and her life's savings, accumulated through 20 years of work as a hotel housekeeper and hospital janitor. Ethel completely documented where she got the money and was never charged with a crime. But the police kept her money anyway. Nearly four years later, she is still trying to get her money back.

-- Reported by the International Society for Individual Liberty

Libertarians can no longer afford to sit out the War On Drugs; stories like Ethel Hylton's are becoming far too commonplace. We must take the lead in the struggle for legalization. Given the amount of suffering and death caused by current drug policies, and given the rate at which our rights and freedoms are being lost in this immoral crusade, it is distressing that the libertarian movement is not giving this issue top priority. Future generations will not forgive us this moral delinquency unless we change direction very soon.

This article, intended for libertarians, advances three positions: 1) The War On Drugs demands our full attention. Next to it other issues pale in significance. 2) Contrary to what we usually hear, focusing on this cause is actually the best strategy for furthering our entire agenda. Finally, and I think most importantly, 3) We need to adopt a new approach, one that focuses on the victims, thus helping to recapture the moral high ground.

Friedman estimates that 10,000 of these were drug-related.
- More than 1.2 million persons are imprisoned in the U.S.; two-thirds of these cases -- 792,000 people -- are drug-related.
- Drug authorities have seized over $1 billion worth of assets from American citizens since 1984. The total is estimated to exceed $2 billion by the end of 1993 -- clearly a growth industry.
- A 1992 study of Baltimore found that 56% of black males between the ages of 18 and 35 are under correctional supervision, i.e., prison, jail, probation or being sought on a warrant, and that blacks are five times more likely than whites to be arrested for drug offenses, even though the percentage of use was approximately the same.
- In California, 66% of African-American males are arrested between the ages of 20 and 29.

Other fall-out from the War On Drugs includes:
- Black-market prices and exorbitant profits escalate user crime and dealer violence -- the harsher the laws, the worse these get.
- Use of children because adults receive harsher penalties.
- Corruption of law enforcement officers and government officials at all levels.
- Enlarging the influence, power and violence of gangs.

There are many worthy libertarian causes -- privatizing airports, deregulating the insurance industry, lowering taxes, etc. -- but few if any people are being killed or imprisoned because the post office is not yet privatized, or because zoning regulations are still in place. The War On Drugs, on the other hand, is killing and ruining the lives of thousands, even millions, of Americans, as well as threatening the freedom of all Americans in fundamental ways.

Our agenda will have to wait.

WHY US? Strategic Considerations

"A successful defense of freedom therefore, must be dogmatic and make no concessions to expediency... Freedom will prevail only if it is accepted as a general principle."

-- F.A. Hayek

Many of our strategic gurus counsel that we should downplay the drug issue because it is so unpopular. I disagree: focusing on this war is the best policy not only morally, but strategically as well. By concentrating our resources on this issue we can dramatically improve our image in a number of ways.

First, we can remove the impression that we are really "Reaganites" in disguise. Our emphasis on economics coupled with the free market rhetoric of Ronald Reagan combined to identify us too closely with the right wing of the Republican Party. Leading with the drug issue will go a long way towards winning back our proper image as "Defenders of Liberty." Contrast this with the popular image of "Yuppies That Don't Like To Pay Taxes."

Second, we foster growth and infuse the movement with energy by focusing our attention on actual victims of state tyranny. There is no question that our economic agenda is important, but people are dying every day because of this immoral, misdirected, bloody campaign loosed upon the American people.

Furthermore, we can broaden our appeal to minorities by pointing out that the War On Drugs is, in effect, a race war against poor blacks and other inner-city ethnic groups. These people desperately need libertarian solutions, instead of the usual calls for more laws, more prisons, and more police -- the instruments of legalized oppression more likely to end up in prison or in a morgue than in college.

By focusing on the victims of this war, we may be able to reach the people of our inner cities with a vital message: they are the primary target of the War On Drugs. Contrary to orthodox opinion, the real villain -- the cause of so much death and misery -- is the government, not drugs.

Finally, we should focus on the drug issue because it is vital to libertarian philosophy. Self-ownership -- the right of the individual to his or her own body -- is an essential principle around which our political goals revolve. The right to ingest drugs (or anything else) is nothing less than the right of self-ownership. This is the fundamental right that libertarians must defend above all others. If we don't successfully defend a property right to our own bodies, then we will never establish property rights to: our homes, businesses, guns, incomes, etc.

Although this issue is currently unpopular, we must find the courage of our convictions and stand for our principles. In the last century libertarians led a similarly unpopular fight to abolish slavery. In the 1960s, an end to the military draft was our cause. Today, the challenge is the War On Drugs; this is the issue of our day and the libertarian struggle demanding our energy. We are it -- there is no one else.

TACTICS: Recapturing the Moral High Ground

Before we bring others to our conclusions, we must first persuade them to consider our arguments. Everyone already knows how they feel about the drug issue; opinions are firmly set. And so, even though our arguments are superior, even though ending the violence is the only rational answer, we still for the most part...
that focuses on the victims, thus helping to recapture the moral high ground in this debate.

WHY DRUGS: News From the Front

Even a cursory look at the numbers begs the question: what other political issue even comes close to causing such misery?

* One-third of all AIDS sufferers, or 52,000 of the 156,000 cases, contracted the disease from infected needles.
* There were 24,000 homicides in the U.S. during 1992; Milton

freedom of all Americans in fundamental ways.

As society calls for harsher, draconian measures, police and the courts increasingly ignore and erode our Constitutional protections. It is clear that drug users are the scapegoats and that this war is the vehicle for the rise of totalitarianism in America.

The scope of this tragedy and the extent of the danger is such that libertarians must attack this issue head on and with all of our resources. Too many people are dying; the rest of

prisons, and more police -- the instruments of legalized oppression devastating their communities.

Why have libertarians failed to reach minorities? Partly because we have overemphasized economics at a time when a far greater problem afflicts minority communities. As long as a war is raging in their neighborhoods it should come as no surprise that discussing an end to zoning regulations falls to impress this community. Our free market and privatization schemes are largely irrelevant to black youths who are

ending the violence is the only rational answer, we still for the most part make very little headway in changing people’s beliefs.

It takes mental effort to re-examine a position, especially a deeply held one. And the effort required is greater when, as in the case of relegalizing drugs, the proposal runs contrary to “conventional wisdom”. We must first demonstrate that the issue is important enough to warrant the necessary effort. Despite our superior arguments, we have failed in this

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Medical marijuana initiative proposed by Denverites

By Richard Combs
Denver Libertarian Party

A group of Denver residents, with the backing of NORML (National Organization for Reform of Marijuana Laws), has begun circulating the Denver Medical Marijuana Initiative (DMMI). The initiated ordinance, if enacted, would "make lowest priority the arrest or prosecution of those involved in the possession or cultivation of hemp for medicinal purposes."

Another provision of the initiative makes a physician's letter stating that marijuana can help the patient prima facia evidence of its medical usefulness. The initiative also directs the city of Denver to lobby the state legislature for a state medical marijuana bill.

Spokesman Gregory Daurer said the initiative is patterned after a resolution enacted by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors last August. The Board acted after voters in San Francisco passed Proposition P, supporting medical marijuana use, by 80%, the highest margin ever for a proposition in that city.

Supporters need 5,700 valid signatures to get the DMMI on the ballot. "We're aiming for 10,000," said Daurer. "We're recruiting petitioners now, and we're going to have a booth at the People's Fair." The group hopes to qualify for the Denver municipal ballot this November.

The DMMI effort is being operated out of the newly opened NORML office at 2435 South Broadway in Denver. "Right now, we're open Saturdays from 10 to 6 and Wednesday evenings from 6 to 9," said Daurer. "We'll expand the hours as we get more volunteers to help."

In addition to the petitions, the office offers an array of hemp and hemp-related products and a wealth of information on the topic, including Jack Herer's definitive history of hemp use and prohibition, The Emperor Wears No Clothes. The office does not have a direct phone line yet, but callers can leave a message on NORML's HelpLine, 470-1100.

April gun rally scheduled in Denver

The first Right to Bear Arms rally will take place at 1:00 pm Sunday, April 18, on the west steps of the State Capitol in Denver. The rally is a joint project of the Colorado Libertarian Party, Firearms Coalition, and Colorado State Shooters Association.

The rally takes place on the anniversary of Paul Revere's ride, the day before the battles of Concord and Lexington, which began the Revolutionary War. "Most Americans today don't realize that the British troops set out to confiscate stores of weapons," said David Segal, chair of the Denver Libertarian Party and event organizer. "The ragtag bands of militia called the Minutemen were defending the right to keep and bear arms, which they knew was the ultimate defense against tyranny."

David Kopel of the Firearms Coalition will be the featured speaker at the rally. He is the author of The Samurai, the Mountie, and the Cowboy: Should America Adopt the Gun Controls of Other Democracies? and the attorney who successfully challenged the Denver "assault weapon" ordinance.

A band of "rendezvousers," outfitted like the trappers and mountain men of old, are expected for the rally, along with live music. Additional speakers are planned, but have not been confirmed.

War On Drugs: the issue of the '90s...

Continued From Page 2

debate partly because few are listening; we have not provided sufficient reasons for people to make the necessary mental effort.

We must focus on the victims of the war. By shifting away from an emphasis on economic analysis, we can move some to see the importance of this issue. There are so many victims that this is (unfortunately) easy to do. The sheer number of people killed, ruined and imprisoned - the extent of the suffering - is enough to overwhelm the - the violence -- that causes victims. By focusing on the victims we expose this hypocrisy. Even more importantly, we demonstrate that libertarians care for people as well as principles.

And, we don't have to abandon any of our positions - we can defend our principles, make the rational case and maintain the moral high ground of compassionate concern for our neighbors. It's simply a matter of shifting the emphasis and the order in which we present our case.

Finally, I believe that liberty in America does or dies with the
The Colorado Libertarian Party is selling bumperstickers to show public appreciation for Douglas Bruce’s perseverance and personal efforts in the passage of Amendment One. This national precedent-setting amendment is a major victory for the taxpayers of Colorado, and Amendment One clones should be on the ballot in a dozen states over the next two years.

Bumperstickers are $2.00 each or 3/$5.00, available at upcoming LP meetings, or by mail from:

Colorado Libertarian Party
720 E. 18th Ave. #309
Denver, CO 80203

Make checks payable to the Colorado Libertarian Party. A portion of all profits will be donated to the TABOR Committee.

Thank You Doug Bruce
a true friend of liberty

Richard Gibb Martin, who will speak to the CLP convention in Crestone on Saturday, April 24, is the founder of No More Drug War, a non-profit organization dedicated to the legalization of drugs. He is also the president of Marbros Real Estate Development Company in southern California. He is the past chairman of the Orange County and South Bay Regions of the California Libertarian Party. He has also run for Congress twice as a Libertarian candidate. He holds a B.A. in Philosophy from the University of Southern California. He and his family live in Long Beach.

Finally, I believe that liberty in America lives or dies with the outcome of the War On Drugs. As I stated earlier, next to this issue, all other libertarian concerns shrink to relative insignificance.

Significant, long term progress will never come through the policies of appeasement. While the implications of our principles may be unpopular, we must not listen to those who counsel compromise. It is a strategic disaster to compromise on fundamental principles like self-ownership -- no matter how alluring short term objectives may seem.

F.A. Hayek believed that classical liberalism failed because it sacrificed principles to expediency. Let's not repeat that mistake.
Beyond the Left/Right Spectrum
By Ron Bain, Liberty Editor

The Konradieff Wave and Libertarian economic philosophy

How many of you are familiar with the 1920s Russian economist Nikolai Konradieff and his theories of cyclic economic expansion and contraction? Well, it's not surprising -- they don't learn about him in former Soviet Russia these days either. But a short recap of his theories may help the reader understand that libertarians' principled adherence to theories of laissez-faire capitalism is not mean-spirited, but actually very utilitarian.

Konradieff, who lived in Lenin's Russia, spent much of his lifetime studying the economic cycles of capitalist countries such as Britain, France and America between the late 18th century and his own day. Based upon his perusal of wage and commodity records covering about 130 years, Konradieff theorized that capitalist economies contract and expand on a regular cycle of 50 to 60 years. He went on to speculate that the severity of variation between recessionary troughs and expansionary peaks would be increased, not decreased, by interventionary actions of government. In other words, the harder capitalist governments tried to avoid recessions by doing socialist things, the worse it made the inevitable cyclic recessions.

For this, Konradieff was labeled a counterrevolutionary by his Marxist-Leninist government, which expected him to prove its belief that capitalism would self-destruct. Instead, Konradieff's theories indicated that capitalism would continue to cycle indefinitely between high and low parameters -- if left alone by government. And he cast doubts on socialism, therefore the economist was imprisoned in a Siberian labor camp where, according to Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, he "became mentally ill and died."

Konradieff's theories accurately predicted America's Great Depression of the 1930s, and indicate that another doozy of a depression is heading our way around the turn of the century. And if Konradieff's theories are correct, then the past 60 years of welfare, business subsidies, deficit spending and redistribution of income are going to cause the next depression to make the last one look like a fun hayride.

Nikolai Konradieff's Wave

I believe that most Libertarians, whether they have heard of Konradieff or not, inherently and innately believe in his theories on a gut level. Nobody wants to suffer through the mother of all depressions in our lifetimes, but we fear that the policies preferred by the majority in our economically influential country will cause an economic setback so severe that right-wing Republicans, socialist Democrats and everyone else worldwide will be drastically affected. So the fact that Libertarians rail against welfare and subsidies and planned economies isn't

Counterpoint
Amendment 2 is a good law

By Clyde Harkins
Colorado Tax Reform Activist

In response to Chris Bogart's Guest Editorial on Amendment 2, I have also followed the Amendment 2 debate and voted "Yes". Here is why.

Shall it be resolved that homosexuality is bad?

Yes. Unless Chris Bogart has managed to suspend the law of cause and effect, the answer to this question has to be yes. Even if a person thinks homosexuality is not morally wrong, they would have to conclude on the basis of the evidence that the behavior results in wrong. The Center for Disease Control reports that 160,000 of 220,000, who have been diagnosed as having AIDS, have died. Another one million individuals have been diagnosed as having the HIV virus and it's sadly certain early death awaits them. It is a "slight of logical thinking" to conclude that homosexual behavior, particularly, promiscuous behavior, isn't harmful, and therefore not wrong. I apply the same standard of logic, that is, to look at the effects of behavior, to alcoholism, drug use, obesity, etcetera.

Chris Bogart suggests that "homosexuality is not bad because this (homosexuality) is obviously a personal, moral issue, not a political one". There are very few issues of personal morality that do not become political issues. The reason...
Chris Bogart suggests that homosexuality is not bad because this (homosexuality) is obviously a personal, moral issue, not a political one. There are very few issues of personal morality that do not become political issues. The reason is that all laws either sanction or approve some aspects of individual behavior. No person is an island and someone always ends up being hurt and paying the bill for individual irresponsibility. I suggest that anyone who thinks this is not the case should talk to the family of an alcoholic.

The radical, homosexual lobby has used and is planning to use the law to coerce the rest of the population to recognize, protect, and subsidize their behavior. This makes gay rights and homosexuality a political issue. Amendment 2 was put on the ballot and passed as a defensive measure whose intent it was to block coercion. If you want to know the real agenda of the revolutionary, homosexual lobby, please read David Horowitz's article in the January, 1993 issue of The American Spectator.

Further, homosexuality is a political issue because the government is going to extract additional taxes from individuals to administer programs and, in the case of AIDS, to provide medical care. Your health insurance costs are now seven percent higher because of alcoholism, nine percent higher because of smoking and it's estimated will be five percent higher because of AIDS by the year 2000. Health care costs are at least partially out of control because we subsidize many behaviors that are irresponsible. Does anyone not know that 50 percent of current health care costs in the U.S. are the result of consciously chosen destructive behaviors on the part of individuals?

I have read the Denver gay rights ordinance and it contains numerous "thou shalt nots" and "thou shalt". I suggest individuals get a copy of the ordinance and read it for yourself. The ordinance is definitely a statement of someone's morality and political beliefs.

The distinction Chris Bogart makes between personal, moral and political issues, in Aristotelian logic, is what is called a "convenient mental construct," whose purpose it is to avoid the obvious, that is, in the case of homosexual behavior and many other behaviors, the clear cause and effect relationship between morality, personal choices and political issues.

Wake up and smell reality! It's one thing to not discriminate against innocent behaviors, and another thing not to be willing to make logical, rational distinctions and choices about behaviors that result in the deaths of both the individuals who chose the behavior, and their innocent victims.

Letter

No more whining quota groups

Dear Editor:

Mr. Bogart says most libertarians were split on the issue of Amendment 2. I was not and believe most libertarians were not either.

This amendment prevents the creation of another whiner-oriented, quota-fed special privilege group. Our Constitution grants inalienable rights to all peoples of this country. There is no need to create special rights for anyone.

Discrimination my be intolerable but it is a part of every person on this earth. It cannot be legislated away and I doubt if it will ever be gone.

However, it should influence one who is discriminated against to work for or start up competitive solutions against the discriminator. By eliminating this method of free enterprise production, you develop a whining socialist.

Richard T. Parks
Denver, Colorado
Letters to The LIBERTY

Nuclear energy remarkably safe

Dear Editor:

As an engineer and confirmed Libertarian, I read with interest your editorial in the Nov.-Dec. issue of The Colorado Liberty regarding how the Libertarian movement could help the environment. While most of your points are good ones, I’m afraid I must disagree with the science behind your stance on nuclear energy.

Nuclear energy is a remarkably safe form of energy generation. The primary reason it is so expensive here in America is government red tape, so at least we both agree that the time has come to get the government out of the nuclear energy business. On that point we have no problem.

However, I must disagree about your proposed method for getting rid of nuclear waste. Shooting nuclear waste material into the sun would be spectacularly unsafe and wasteful -- quite frankly, your grandchildren would hate you for it. Nuclear waste is chock full of isotopes of all types that will make them resources to our descendants, when our science has advanced enough to "mine" them. Moreover, storing nuclear waste is a simple matter -- glassify it into bricks and stack them up in the desert. Put a fence around it and big signs that say "Cross this line and die!" and that's the end of that. Besides can you imagine the environmental impact of just one booster loaded with nuclear waste exploding over Florida.

One last point: The United States has no spare Saturn 5 boosters in its inventory, nor does it have the production capability to build any at this time. Space industry experts estimate that it would take us 10 years to rebuild that type of production capability. If we were going to do as you proposed, we'd have to buy $100 billion worth of energy from the Energy Department.

Harry A. Marinakis
Colorado Springs

Drug legalization lowers usage, AIDS & crime

Dear Editor:

Wherever drug legalization has been tried, it has been a success. In the Netherlands, drugs like heroin and cocaine for the most part have been legalized. Since legalization in the Netherlands, drug use and crime have fallen, and the Netherlands has the lowest incidence of AIDS in Europe. Prior to the 1980s, Great Britain allowed proven drug addicts free drugs by prescription. During the 1980s, under pressure from the Reagan and Bush administrations, Britain reversed its drug policy and pursued the drug war with a vengeance. Predictably, during the Eighties, drug use and crime shot up sharply in Britain. Recognizing the stupidity of the drug war, the British again reversed their policy in the early 1990s, and predictably drug use and crime have since seen a sharp decline.

Why is it true that when drugs are legalized, crime declines? Because when drugs are legalized, the price of drugs fall. Pursue the drug war more vigorously and guess what happens? The price goes up! When the price goes up, users commit more crime to pay for their drugs, and more people are motivated to get into the high profit drug business. The higher the profits, the more drug pushers are willing to be violent to protect the people would think differently than you? Most people know drugs are bad for them and would therefore never try them. The experiences of both the Netherlands and Britain bear out my argument.

Why is it true that when drugs are legalized, the incidence of AIDS declines? There are two primary reasons this is true. The first is because when drugs are illegal, needles are often illegal too, and drug users end up sharing needles. The other reason is prostitution is one way of paying for high priced illegal drugs.

If the intent of the drug war is to reduce drug use and the associated crime, then it has been a complete failure by yielding the exact opposite of its intended effect. The drug war is self-defeating, and thus it's not surprising that after 30-plus years of the drug war, things have only gotten much worse.

Every time drug legalization has been tried (using either a free market approach or under tight controls), the outcome has been desirable when compared to prohibition. The experience of the Netherlands, Great Britain, and our own American prohibition of alcohol proves legalization works much better than prohibition. Nowhere on earth has prohibition worked better than legalization.

Chuck Wright
Boulder, Colorado

Predicts GOP return to personal freedom

Dear Editor:

In 1964, Barry Goldwater spoke of personal freedom. This message connected with grass roots Republicans. Many became aware that personal freedom was what mattered most to them in the unwinnable election of 1964. And beyond.

As we again elect the same, the same message must be made. The personal freedoms and opportunities of 1964 must be renewed. The Vergennes, Vermont, Republican candidate for governor, James Aiken, Jr., must be supported. His campaign promises to keep the state out of a drug war and out of the business of drug control:

James Aiken, Jr.
Vergennes, Vermont
Term limits critical to nation's future

Dear Friends:

I'm writing to discuss an issue that I believe is critical to our nation's future. Over the past decade, I have become increasingly concerned over the fiscal and regulatory irresponsibility of Congress. It is an institution that I believe is quite literally out of control.

Congress is dulling America's competitive edge, strangling our capital markets, and increasingly denying the very liberties many Americans took for granted in the past. I refuse to idly stand by and watch this, the greatest nation in the history of mankind, destroyed by men of mediocrity stature, whose distinctive trait seems to be a lust for political power.

Fortunately, I believe that the rapidly growing term limitation movement offers us an extraordinary opportunity to steer us off this disastrous course in which we are headed. The term limit movement appears to be a unique phenomenon in American political history: it is supported by upwards of 70 percent of the population regardless of the demographic breakdown. Blacks, whites, men, women, liberals, conservatives and libertarians all support term limits. Conversely, inside the Beltway in Washington, D.C., there is a fierce opposition to term limits.

I do not believe the Founders of this nation ever envisioned 98% reelection rates for the House of Representatives. The S&L crisis, The Founders believed in democracy but felt that, for it to work, it had to be representative democracy. With 46% of Congressmen holding law degrees and almost all of them career politicians, Congress is hardly representative of the American people.

The second major reason I support term limits is that even if you had the most representative Congress possible, filled with well-meaning intelligent individuals, the fact is that sooner or later, people lose their good judgement when immersed in the perks, privilege and power of Congress. There is, in fact, a "culture of ruling" inside the Beltway that gradually takes its toll on a Congressman's common sense. The less time one is exposed to this culture, the better chance we have of maintaining a true citizen legislature that represents the private sector.

I am a great believer in the power of individual initiative. We can make a difference if we are committed and willing to work to try to leave a legacy of freedom and prosperity for our children and grandchildren.

Edward H. Crane
Washington, D.C.

Lay off the legalize drugs fixation

Dear Editor:

It is well known that the Libertarian Party has difficulty in gaining widespread popular support in the United States. I do not find this especially surprising.

May I offer an observation from a "pseudo-libertarian" viewpoint? The Libertarian Party is alienating potential supporters with its seemingly all-encompassing fixation on relaxing drug laws. This fixation gives the Libertarian Party a reputation as being a collection of over-the-hill 1960s hippies who are concerned with filling their dope bowls profit drug business. The higher the profits, the more drug pushers are willing to be violent to protect the drug turf. It's no coincidence that violence in America increased substantially during the Eighties as the Reagan and Bush administrations pushed the drug war forward.

Why is it that true when drugs are legalized, drug use declines? Because the price of drugs declines. Most drug users are not rich, and usually cannot afford their habits. One way for them to pay for their habits is to sell drugs. Thus many drug users are constantly seeking out new people to entice into drug use. Besides drug users, others are attracted to pushing drugs simply due to the high profits. They too are always looking to entice new customers.

Besides the price, drug use is higher during prohibition for another reason. Drug users during a prohibition are simply afraid to come forward to seek treatment for their addiction. They fear if they come forward, they may face criminal prosecution, or they may face punishment from their dealer who wants to keep them as customers.

The third reason there is less drug use when drugs are legal is because many people try drugs simply because they are illegal. They get a certain thrill out of the fact they are doing something illegal.

Many people incorrectly believe drug use will go up if drugs are legalized. Their false assumption is that a whole lot more people will use drugs if they are legal and that legalization somehow is equivalent to condoning drug use. Not true. To intuitively see why the assumption is false, suppose heroin is legalized tomorrow. Would you be first in line to inject yourself with heroin? Would you suddenly condone the use of heroin? No, to both questions? Why do you suppose very many other people are what mattered most to them in the unwinnable election of 1988, and beyond.

Republicans pulled together after 1964. The grass roots formed an alliance with the big business wing on the common ground of economic freedom. The alliance worked. They elected Richard Nixon in 1968.

Nixon used administrative power to mitigate the effects of the Great Society on his big business and white southerner constituencies. It was a practical way to use the power that he had. But the grass roots conservatives who had been awakened by Goldwater to the cause of personal freedom wanted to affirm their cause by repealing the Great Society, not mitigating it. Nixon didn't (and perhaps couldn't) do this.

Most grass roots conservatives stayed in the Republican Party. This is easy to see by the overwhelming reception given to Goldwater at many succeeding Republican conventions. But in the early 1970s, some impatient conservatives broke away and formed the Libertarian Party.

The Libertarians did not bring along any economic interest groups to fund the promotion of their cause. This enabled them to be ideologically pure, completely committed to personal freedom. Purity is conspicuous, and the Libertarians became perceived, incorrectly, as the center of the personal freedom movement.

But without funds to promote candidates, they have failed to gain power.

Did the departure of these members from the Republican Party cause a vacuum in the party? To be sure, the number who left to become Libertarians was not large. But were they the activists? Were they the ones who would have become good candidates and the intellectual leaders of the personal... Continued on Page 6
Cañon City Libertarian wins court case, takes seat on city council

Fremont County Libertarians scored a major local victory on Feb. 11 when, after 15 months of litigation, the Colorado Court of Appeals reversed a District Court decision which sealed the write-in opponent of Cañon City Council candidate Katherine Schwinn, a member of the Libertarian Party.

Schwinn was declared the winner on election night, Nov. 5, 1991, after the election judges counted 709 votes for Schwinn and 703 for her write-in opponent. The canvassing board, consisting of the city clerk, the municipal judge and the city administrative assistant, refused to verify the results of the election as counted by the election judges because they had disqualified a number of irregular ballots. At the request of the city clerk, the city council then filed a lawsuit in District Court asking for a recount of the ballots and reinstating the disqualified ballots.

Two other Libertarians, Phil Freytag (chairman of the Fremont County Libertarian Party) and Steve Stewart (a former Cañon City councilman), entered the case as pro se intervenors to assist Schwinn in opposing the city council. Together they claimed that the case was not properly before the court, that the canvassing board only had a ministerial duty to verify the number of votes cast for the candidates and did not have the authority to second guess the election judges.

The District Court disagreed with the Libertarians' arguments, and counted all but one of the irregular ballots, reversing the results of the election in favor of the write-in candidate.

The Court of Appeals, however, agreed with Schwinn and the intervenors and reversed the District Court decision, giving the council seat back to Schwinn.

It seems that not only is it hard for Libertarians to win an election, but it is difficult for them to assume and keep the elective positions they have already won.

Recognized Libertarian chapter formed on campus of Mesa State

The Mesa State College Libertarians has joined the Student Body Association as its newest member and was admitted on February 2 as a political club.

Mesa State College Libertarians became a reality following two days of manning a table in the student center. During that period, 20 students not only expressed an interest, but signed on as members.

Mass Communications instructor and Libertarians faculty advisor.

"I was glad that we were able to share information concerning the Libertarian Party.\" Students will continue to be offered a chance to discover where they stand on the political scale by taking a short, and sometimes surprising, quiz labelled the "World's Smallest Political Quiz."

"The quiz was a tremendous success on the Mesa State campus," Hayes said. "We had 47 actually took the quiz with 32 falling in the libertarian sector, while four ended up in the liberal section. There were also two authoritarian, three

Candidates coming out of the woodwork for 1993-94

Libertarian candidates are coming out of Colorado's woodwork to indicate that the CLP will be well represented in the 1993 and 1994 state and local elections.

Two candidates, Keith Hamburger of Colorado Springs and Mary Callan of Fort Collins, have indicated interest in running for the Libertarian nomination for governor in 1994. Hamburger has also said that he will run a third time for Congress in the 5th District in 1996.

Also at the Congressional level, Chuck Wright of Louisville has his eye on the seat currently held by Bill Janklow. In the past has indicated an interest in running as an Independent rather than as a member of the Libertarian Party, might run for the Colorado House in District 34 in 1994.

Municipal elections often occur in odd-numbered years, and several Libertarian activists have noted their interest in local races in 1993: Dave Segal might consider a run for Denver City Council in 1993, or a run for Congress against Pat Schroeder in 1994; Carol Stuckey is considering a bid for Golden City Council in 1993, or a run for the Colorado House in 1994; Bruce Lockhart, Andrew Boardman and Cathy Smith are all viewing positions on the Fort Collins City Council (Boardman might run for mayor) in April.

Also in Fort Collins, Mary Margaret Glenn will consider a run for school board in 1994.

Dale Doelling has his eye on the Mesa County Commission in 1994.

Several others have volunteered to help with campaigns: Cooper Jager will be Chuck Wright's Congressional campaign manager, plus Richard Combs of Denver and Dany Hayes of Grand Junction each want to help out some lucky candidate's campaign.

Letters to the LIBERTY

Continued from Page 6

freedom wing of the party?

A vacuum that was filled by the big business wing? And at the grass roots level by the religious right? As the Libertarian Party established itself, the Republican message to the grass roots changed from personal freedom to family values. The message to the Fortune 500 remained the economy.

Now the Republicans have lost the White House, and, surprise, their message is going to change. There is a

again become the party's central message? Have they some other idea? Whatever they think, do they wait till the precinct caucuses in the spring of 1994 to put in their two cents worth? Or do they write or call party leaders right now so that a consensus can be formed rapidly...a consensus strong enough to influence the issues in 1993?

The redefinition of the grass roots component of the Republican message could occur fairly rapidly. The redefinition of the relationship

The MESA STATE LIBERTARIAN
the quiz. 32 coming in the libertarian section, while four ended up in the liberal section. There were also two authoritarian, three conservative and six centrist.

"And, from the looks that we received from both the students and faculty that didn’t take the quiz, I expect the turnout will be higher the next time we set up," Hayes said.

Joe Kaputa is one of the charter members of the Mesa State College Libertarians. "I used to be a registered Libertarian," he said upon encountering the campus booth organized by Hayes. "I think I’ll register Libertarian again."

Both the student radio station -- KMSA -- and the student newspaper -- The Criterion -- interviewed Hayes while at the table.

"Libertarian is not a dirty word," Hayes said. "We are not a radical left-or right-wing organization. We are a recognized political party in the United States of America -- with elected representatives all over the country. We see a problem and we think there are better ways to fix those problems than by increasing taxes."

For more information, contact Dann Hayes at (303) 434-5113.

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Now the Republicans have lost the White House, and, surprise, their message is going to change. There is a presumption that the grass roots component of the message will change from prayer in school to personal freedom. Party members will decide whether this is a mature act of consensus or a time-consuming bloodletting, bearing in mind that it would be nice to have a unified new message for the next election only two years away and even nicer to be unified behind the Republican minority in Congress when they take on the Clinton blitz in just two months.

The Bush defeat presents Libertarians with some big decisions that must be made promptly. Do you come back home to the Republican Party to participate in the opportunity to redefine the message to one of personal freedom? Do you come home to a party with the financial muscle to win elections? Do you close down the distraction of the Libertarian Party so that the Republican Party can emerge as the party of personal freedom in the mind of the electorate?

If Libertarians have an opportunity to redefine the party, then regular party members have almost a responsibility to do so. Do component of the Republican message could occur fairly rapidly. The redirection of the relationship between the grass roots and the Republican economic interest groups will take more time.

Economic interest groups are also referred to as big business, or special interests, or the establishment, or the Eastern Establishment, or wealthy Republicans, or country club Republicans. They provide the money that finances campaigns are makes the party credible.

The grass roots needs the financial support of the interest groups, who in turn need the votes of the grass roots. An alliance of some sort is not only obvious, it is inevitable. A good alliance (which gives both what they want) is not inevitable, but is possible. The alliance of 1992 was not a good alliance.

Of course, it is a two-way street. The interest groups need to understand that, to the little guy, some of the excesses of the New Deal and the Great Society really do threaten freedom and need to be corrected. And excesses proposed by Clinton need to be stopped.

Cliff Rhead
Arvada, Colorado

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CLP Speaker's Bureau reactivated - call to schedule an informative speech

Following is a listing of the CLP Speaker's Bureau, including name, address, telephone number(s) and topic(s):

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1240 Ogden, No.4
Denver, Colorado 80218

**Doug Anderson**
531 Washington
Denver, Colorado 80203

**Ron Bain**
3300 Arapahoe, #215
Boulder, Colorado 80303

**Chuck Bilbe**
4842 S. Shenandoah Way
Aurora, Colorado 80015

**David Bryant**
520 South Corona
Denver, Colorado 80209

**Philip C. Freytag**
712 Macon Avenue
Cañon City, Colorado 81212

**Keith Hamburger**
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SPRING 1993
CLP MEETING CALENDAR & DIRECTORY

MEETING & EVENTS CALENDAR:

**April**

**Tues. 6th** - Denver Libertarian Party meets at Village Inn, 890 S. Colorado Blvd., Denver, at 7 p.m.

**Fri., 9th** - Western Colorado Libertarians meet at Otto's, intersection of Hwy's. 6 & 50 at I-70, in Grand Junction. Call (303) 434-5113 for details.

**Sat., 10th** - Rally to "FREE THE TAXPAYER," sponsored by the DLP, on the West Steps of the State Capitol in Denver. Begins at noon.

**Mon., 12th** - FREEDOM NOW meets in Fort Collins at the home of Mary Margaret Glennie, 1317 Lakewood Drive. Call (303) 484-8184.

**Tues., 13th** - CLP Board of Directors meets at 720 E. 18th Ave., #309, in Denver, at 7 p.m.

**Wed., 14th** - Boulder County Libertarian Party meets at The Old Train Depot on 30th in Boulder. Business meeting at 6 p.m.; public outreach meeting at 7 p.m.

**Thurs., 15th** - Picketing of the Income Tax at Denver Downtown Post Office, organized by the DLP & other groups.

**Sun., 18th** - Firearms Freedom Celebration to commemorate the anniversary of American patriots' armed resistance against British attempts to seize their weapons at Concord & Lexington. Begins at noon on the West Steps of the State Capitol in Denver.

**Tues., 20th** - Aurora Libertarians meets at Archie Malone's, Iliff & Buckley, at 7 p.m.


**Fri-Sat-Sun., 23rd-25th** - 1993 Colorado Libertarian Party Convention in Crestone, Colorado. Meetings will be held at the Crestone Restaurant; various choices in lodging & meals. Call Convention Coordinator Mary Margaret Glennie at (303) 484-8184 or (303) 838-1147 for more information.

**May**

**Tues., 4th** - Denver Libertarian Party meets at Village Inn, 890 S. Colorado Blvd., in Denver at 7 p.m.

**Mon., 10th** - FREEDOM NOW meets in Fort Collins at the home of Mary Margaret Glennie, 1317 Lakewood Dr. Call (303) 484-8184 for details.

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- Arapahoe County
  - Frozen Yolk: 1501 S. Monaco Circle, Englewood, CO 80112 |

- Aspen "The Liberty Coalition"
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- Aurora Libertarians
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- Boulder County Libertarian Party
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  - 207 Bonnie, Pueblo, CO 81001 |

  - University of Southern Colorado
    - Ed Trivett | (719) 545-1913 |

- Routt County
  - Robert Jahelka | (303) 879-4127 |
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- Speakers Bureau
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  - Mesa State College
    - Dann Hayes | (303) 434-5113 |

- Western State College/Gunnison
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