New look for 1985

Analysis

Grand Junction economy takes a dive

By BOB JAHELKA

Grand Junction's economic plight was the subject of a December article in the Denver Post, which declared an economic catastrophe one would only wish on one's worst enemies. Statistics show homes for sale in 1984 were thirteen times the number in 1980; personal and business bankruptcies abound; real estate values have fallen better than 50%; most S&L's are reported on the margin; and area population has sharply declined.

Add local government financial problems to the picture. Mesa County floated a $36 million bond issue to cover specified construction expenses with this debt to be paid from estimated annual sales tax revenues of $11 million. Actual revenues are now $4.6 million, just a shade above what's needed to service this one debt. Civil servant pay raises are being canceled and concern about maintaining services at present levels is under discussion. Needless to say, city governments share the same headaches.

The root cause of these problems is the sharp drop in demand for energy. Oil well drilling activity has diminished, demand for coal has dropped, uranium prices have declined; but the major impact is the drop in synfuels activity close to 100% according to some reports. This is not new however: similar boom/bust events occurred in the early 1900's and again during and for a period after WWII. Both of these synfuel booms were killed by big petroleum finds; the first by the Texas fields and the second by the OPEC fields.

The present bust stems from the world oil glut and history once again repeats itself. Government intervention, in this instance, has made this a larger, more costly bust. It all began with the Arab oil embargo in 1973-1974 which initiated us consumers to the "energy crisis" via long gas lines and sharply higher prices administered by OPEC. Awareness that the U.S. was no longer self-sufficient with approximately 40% of our daily needs being imported became common knowledge. During the Ford and Carter years, plans were being laid for government to do something about the problem.

The Energy Security Act of 1980 was the answer. It brought tax money to bear on the problem with better than $17 billion placed at the disposal of the Synfuels Corp. just to get things started. It was contemplated that four times this initial amount would be used before the end of the decade. The goal was to create more liquid fuel supplies from shale, tar sands, and coal located in the Piceance

CLP condemns U.S. military presence in Central America
Party also votes to support firearm legislation

The Colorado Libertarian Party Board of Directors, in action taken at the December 20 meeting, strongly endorsed the following resolution:

"The Colorado Libertarian Party is strongly opposed to the U.S. military presence in the conflicts in Nicaragua and El Salvador. We urge the following actions be taken:

"1. Unilateral withdrawal of all U.S. Armed Forces from Central America except for those present in the Panama Canal Zone for purely defensive purposes.

"2. Curtailment of shipments of weapons, munitions and other military equipment to Central America, except for

Cont. on pg. 6

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Regional Roundup

Gravel pit biz raises property rights questions

By JIM GLENNIE

PARK COUNTY—The High Timber Times, Park County’s local newspaper, has not yet chosen to do a feature article on the following issue, but they have carried two letters to the editor. The first was headlined, “Illegal Operation”, and the second “Without a Permit.”

To anyone but the uninitiated, this would be a clear signal that something serious and dangerous is occurring in our area.

What is going on? Well, it seems that one of the oldest ranches (acquired during the era when America’s homestead laws were still in effect) is engaging in a gravel mining operation. Such operations tend to be messy: lots of dust, noise, rumbling trucks, unsightly views, etc.

And, as might be expected, some of the solid citizens who live nearby object to this intrusion into their “rights.” To their dismay, the rancher has not been penalized or reprimanded for operating illegally. (It seems that he has not asked permission of the duly elected authorities to conduct gravel pit operations, although the pit has been in operation since 1975.)

Some of these folks are reported to be sympathetic to the rancher and have suggested a compromise: Move the gravel pit to another location on his ranch where it will not affect his community, and then these folks would not only refrain from protesting the pit operations, but would actually assist financially in the transfer of the operations.

However, they are distressed to report that the rancher is intransigent. Not only does he refuse their generous offer of aid, but when he appears at the county hearings, it is with inadequate or missing documentation. And yet he gets a sympathetic, even good-natured reception from the planning commissioners.

These people are angry. They feel that their rights are being violated, that their land and home values are being reduced by an operation that they see as illegal, and they sense that good old boy politics are being played out against them.

If these are the salient facts, then this would seem to be a clear-cut case of property rights: the rancher’s right to use his property as he sees fit versus the right of his neighbors to enjoy their property free from intrusion. When these rights seem to clash, how can individuals in a free society justly resolve them?

In future columns I will examine some alternatives and keep you abreast of developments in this case.

Taxpayers foot the bill for Boulder’s planning

Steamboat treasury raided

By ROBERT JAHIELKA

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS—The Steamboat Springs City Council recently announced a $200,000 grant to the Steamboat Springs Chamber Resort for funds to aid their promotional activities. Council members justified this disbursement of tax money on the grounds that all will benefit from this investment. The propriety of this was barely questioned. Media applauded the decision and commented that it’s hoped the Council will be less “Stingy” next time.

A couple of libertarians, along with a conservative or two, are trying to arouse some criticism through personal contacts with Council members, letters to the editor and the like. One call to a private citizen elicited this response: “Those ………! You expected different?” Answers this strong were in the minority, however, so a groundswell of objections doesn’t appear to be in the offing. A few objectors have promised to continue the fight and perhaps we can at least stop future raids on the City Treasury.

Colo. Spgs. to host 1985 CLP convention May 3-5

The Convention this year will be held in Colorado Springs during the weekend of May 3, 4, and 5. An exciting program dealing with political action is being planned with speakers such as Murray Rothbard and Larry Dodge. There will be parties and fun. There will be lively discussion both in the workshops and in the business meetings. The general theme for the workshops is “Getting Political”. Various workshops will deal with the question of “Ideology vs. Pragmatism,” the value of initiatives in spreading the Libertarian message, the sorts of issues that should be emphasized, and the types of races that ought to be emphasized. Some of the business to be enacted should evoke some lively discussion also. One of the items of great importance is what constitutes membership in CLP. This is an issue because with the recent court decision, any voter can register as a Libertarian. Does that make one a Libertarian or what? There will also be displays by various groups and businesses.

Preregistration is available now at $45 for the entire main events package which will include all speeches, films, meetings, parties, and access to the display area. Not included are meals, drinks, lodging, etc. This price will be good through February 15th. Registration at the door and preregistration up to May 1 will also be available. Write to Peter Nelson through the Colorado Liberty if you are interested in preregistration or in a display area for your business or organization.

If you think I'm fat,you should see the frame on the wall.
Taxpayers foot the bill for Boulder's planning

By JERRY VAN SICKLE

BOULDER—As in Berkeley and Ann Arbor and Madison, Boulder’s public University attracts faculty and students, governmental agencies and contractors, who welcome government interference into the local economy.

Comprehensive planning has become a sacred rite in Boulder. The careful definition of rights between new and existing neighbors is being abandoned for a bargaining process with planning staffs, boards, city councils and county commissioners—the death knell of real planning and an invitation to corruption. Long run and imaginative planning is filled with uncertainty for those who invest their savings in land and buildings.

Boulder’s “Comp Plan” was the mechanism used to turn away a major rival to Storage Technology, Boulder County’s largest employer. STC is now on the financial ropes. Thousands of their unemployed workers have been denied another expanding high tech employer in Boulder.

Without a blush, the portion of the Comp Plan used to turn down those “out-of-town-jasppers” was then amended to allow a specific local firm, NBO, to expand. In spite of the special legislation it worked so hard to achieve, NBO then threw up its hands at the endless red tape and expensive submissions required to satisfy local planning processes; now they threaten to move or expand outside of Boulder.

The common assumption remains that all this intervention is legitimate. Most outspoken citizens are in favor of limiting—or aiding—natural economic growth. Few speak in favor of freedom—for everyone to move and work and offer jobs wherever they are willing to do so peacefully.

So Boulder City Council and staff are now joining local businesses and interested citizens in “planning” the evolution of downtown Boulder. Their shared notion is clear: Citizens and their elected and appointed officials, have every right to aid or limit investors and landowners. After all, their developments become “our” downtown and the impact on nearby neighborhoods needs special public protection.

Boulder forgets that the “public” has no intention of sharing losses with hobbled investors or sacrificed neighborhoods—that windfall advantages will be handed to some landowners because equal opportunity is denied others—that the consumer and taxpayer will pay in unseen ways because of competition denied.

In the midst of Boulder’s interferences with natural and imaginative change, there are signs of hope. Economic squeeze is the incentive for libertarian ideas to edge their way into public consideration.

Under the pressure of maintenance costs for public roads, Boulder County set up a committee to study the encouragement of private roads in new subdivisions and the return of public roads and maintenance to existing neighborhoods.

Under the pressure of escalating jail costs, Boulder County is considering the possibility of private contracting for the building and management of jail facilities! Even the liberal Camera, Boulder’s only daily newspaper, has pondered the virtues of this alternative. Their editorial on private jails noted the similarity to another recent event. After years of pleading to the State Legislature for more Courts to clear the backlog of cases, a senior District Judge and chief clerk resigned their posts to set up a private arbitration service. Richard Dana announced his plan to have respected judges join him in settling disputes between willing parties—for an hourly fee—with a guarantee of timely service.

Private roads, jails and courts! Even the most sacred of public services are being considered for private alternatives in communal-minded Boulder!
Membership fees to be debated at convention

The requirements for membership in the Colorado Libertarian Party may change substantially at the Party’s May convention in Colorado Springs, according to Dwight Filley, the Party Chair. Currently, only those people who have paid their dues of $25 per year are members of the Libertarian Party. But a recent Court ruling allowed Libertarians to register as such in Colorado, and this put the Party in the same position as the Democrats and Republicans.

There is no paid membership in either of the two older parties.

According to Filley, there are both pros and cons to dropping the dues requirement to be considered a member of the Party. “We clearly need to maintain a group of people who care enough about liberty to contribute financially, especially considering our perpetually tight budget,” he said, “but it can be argued that if a person registers as a Libertarian, who are we to say that person isn’t really a Libertarian because he hasn’t paid us any money?”

Filley went on to point out that some other states, confronted with this problem, have only charged dues to become a member of the (blank) State Libertarian League, or Coalition, or some such name.

“I look forward to the debate on this topic at the Convention,” he continued. “We need to resolve it in such a way that we maximize both the number of Libertarians and the financial health of the Party.”

Common law frees marriages from state

by Rev. Christopher Mohr

As a minister I am amazed at how hard it is for me to convince the people I marry to have a marriage at the common law. Even Libertarians seem to have this crazy notion that they are not married if they don’t get their license from the State. It’s a real personal triumph for me when I manage to convince a couple to keep the State out of their bedrooms.

In the common vernacular, a “common-law” marriage is often a euphemism for an unmarried couple living out of wedlock together. But a marriage at the common law is an entirely different thing. We are fortunate that Colorado is one of only a tiny handful of states that fully recognizes common-law marriage. Legally, you are married when you say you are married. If you choose to have a minister solemnize your relationship before God or your community, that is your option. And if for some bizarre reason you want to give the state jurisdiction over your relationships are not subject to State control. But as a heterosexual I would think twice about participating in a system that refuses to recognize ten percent of our population.

Like me, you may already be saddled with one of those confounded State marriage licenses. If so, then your private life is now the property of the State. Just three years ago, a married couple was arrested and convicted of the “crime” of enjoying sex in the privacy of their own bedroom. Unusual? For now, maybe. But if the Moral Majority continues to gain political power, they will already have the weapons they need to enforce the missionary position upon everyone, so we have already given it to them voluntarily.

I am seriously considering getting a State divorce and then remarrying at the common law to free myself of my own license. I asked the State for an annulment by simply mailing them my li-
Convention committees forming

Volunteers are needed to serve on the following committees in preparation for the Colorado Libertarian Party State Convention:

Nomination Committee—contacting Libertarians to run for the Board of Directors, 1985-86.

Constitution and By-Laws Committee—reviewing CLP documents for possible changes, including this year’s important issue “Who Is a Libertarian Party Member Now That We Can Register As Libertarians?”

Platform Committee—Reviewing the CLP Platform in order to add new planks, discard planks and rewrite parts of the statement of principles of our Party.

Volunteers can contact Dwight Filley at 322-2689 or Campaigns Chair, Penn Pfiffner, at 427-4357.

Hold the second Wednesday of the month at Bob Hurt and Betty Beverly’s house, 1456 Fillmore, Denver. Call them at 329-3218 for directions.

Board of Directors—The fourth Wednesday of the month at 1456 Fillmore, Denver, at 7:30 pm.

I am seriously considering getting the State divorce and then remarrying at the common law to free myself of my own license. I asked the State for an annulment by simply mailing them my license and telling them that I no longer wanted it and could they please just remove our names from their records. I discovered that they wanted $75 or so and all the necessary divorce papers—after all, divorce is big business for the State. $75 may just be the price I will have to pay for freedom.

Someone else I know asked the State for an annulment on the grounds that his three-way marriage among himself, his wife and the State was never properly consummated; the State kept screwing them but he could never screw the State! If you’re fortunate enough now to be unmarried, please remember to keep the State out of your bedroom. As a minister I consider marriage to the State to be an unspeakable crime against Nature, and a most ungodly perversion.

Help your waitress, deny the IRS

How to Slash Taxes in the Next 5 Minutes

The purpose of this slip is to help defeat an insane new IRS procedure that threatens to impoverish the people who serve the food in our country’s restaurants. With this slip you can take away their power to put the squeeze on the guys and gals who work so hard in the food industry. You can have the satisfaction of helping another productive American to be free. Isn’t it high time that we who work and pay the bills of our spendthrift politicians begin to stick together? It’s a step in the right direction.

Customer: Only you say whether the amount you give is a payment for service or a gift. If you say it’s a gift, it becomes tax-exempt. If you don’t say one way or the other, the IRS will claim it as a taxable payment. Does the IRS deserve to speak for you? Please fill out the other end of this slip and eliminate any doubt as to the purpose of the amount you leave for your waiter or waitress. This is completely lawful and there’s no risk to you.

Waiter/Waitress: Offer this slip to your customers. If they are interested, tell them about the new procedures that require your management to report imaginary "tip" amounts to the IRS, and to withhold taxes from your tiny paycheck on the basis of the gross receipts of the restaurant. Save the filed-out slips. You will be able to use them to reduce the amounts IRS can tax you on. Gifts are not taxable and need not be reported.

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Editorials and Comments

Editorial

No more Invisible Hand

How many Libertarians does it take to change a light bulb?
Libertarians don't change light bulbs. They just sit in the dark and wait for the invisible hand to take care of it for them!
No, I don't think it's funny either, but there is enough truth in this version of the classic put-down joke to make me a little uncomfortable.
Sometimes we Libertarians get so carried away by the wonders possible if only there were a true free market; by our images of the idyllic life we could have on Galt's Mountain or wherever, that we stop short of offering tangible solutions to complicated problems. We resort to vague promises and obscure examples, such as the success of anarchy in the Hula-Boola tribe on some remote island off the coast of Africa, or some other nonsense about how "If everyone were totally free, somehow, some way, naturally, magically..." everything will work out. Is it any wonder that sometimes our audience's eyes glaze over, and our "message" is lost in the shuffling of feet?
From now on, whenever someone asks how far I would take this freedom business, and how exactly I propose to get there, I promise I'm not going to rely on the Invisible Hand.
I'll tell them the best way to change a light bulb.

From the chair
by Dwight Filley

A way to win more elections

The primary goal of the Libertarian Party should be to elect candidates to office. After all, isn't that what a political party does?
The question then becomes, how do we best accomplish this goal? Clearly we get our highest vote totals in the smaller races, so this is where we are most likely to win.
Unfortunately, the candidates most capable of winning, those with the most energy, and the best communication skills, tend to run for major offices, where they can reach a wider audience.
This has considerable merit from the point of view of educating the public about freedom and the attainment thereof, but our vote totals in the major races seem to show little correlation between vigorous campaigning and high vote counts. At the Gubernatorial, Senate of Congressional level, we probably get the committed Libertarian voters and little else, no matter how hard we campaign.
However, in the less important races, vigorous and skillful campaigning can often make a major difference in vote totals. This is due to several factors:
First, people are more likely to risk their vote on a radical candidate for a lesser office.

Guest editorial

Our amber atmosphere - a free market solution

By BRUCE RIGGS

"For purple mountain majesty, for amber atmosphere..." Prelude to Denver the Beautiful. Grain looks nice waving amber across Colorado's eastern plains. The up thrust Rockies form an elegant backdrop looking west. The New Wave addition of orange air does not improve this landscape. Choosing not to live in do not bear the full cost of their action. Private cost is divergent from social cost — the definition of a technological externality.

As one individual driver's contribution to the problem or solution is exceedingly small, the market incentive is to do nothing at all. However, owners, operators, tenants and employers in Metro buildings bear the higher cost of maintenance as-
However, in the less important races, vigorous and skillful campaigning can often make a major difference in vote totals. This is due to several factors:

First, people are more likely to risk their vote on a radical candidate for a lesser office, probably because they are resistant to risk a vote on such a radical philosophy, and want to try it out on the lowest possible level.

Second, smaller races are frequently not contested, and sometimes not even visible to the voter. A good effort on our part might make the Libertarian candidate the only one anyone ever heard of.

And third, the opposing candidates in smaller races are often real bozos, against whom we can shine.

It’s true that we give up some positive exposure by encouraging our most energetic and articulate people to run for little tiny positions, but this party needs a WIN! Something we can point to as a solid success.

Furthermore, campaigns by their very nature are not very educational. How much of the philosophy of freedom can you get across when the moderator gives you three minutes?

If we want to educate, we should do so between campaigns – on talk shows, with letters to the editors, speeches, etc.

During campaigns, we should put our primary effort on winning – not by compromising any principles, but by using those three minutes to say something simple, principled, and attractive to the voter.

The way to win is to try hardest in the smallest races, and run lineholders in the major ones.

The best candidates should run in the smallest races.

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**Short stuff**

by Serena O’Shea

**Rational thought goes on the rampage**

Overheard on the Campaign Trail ’84:

“Oh, I don’t have the time to vote today, I’ll go tomorrow.”

“Mondale can’t say he will have to raise taxes. Even though Reagan will anyway, he knows not to say it.” The same man’s reason for voting for Reagan? “He won’t raise taxes.”

“What do you mean, I have to register?”

“Attend my caucuses? We don’t have them, we’re Methodist.”

“Well, I was there once and they changed the door, the regular one was locked. I’m NOT voting! They make it as hard as possible.”

“I’m not voting for her, she always wore that red suit.”

“I’m voting for him, his family looks nice.”

“I’m not voting for him, he wouldn’t come to the coffee I had at my house.”

“I’m voting for her, I saw her in that parade.”

From the cognitive reasoning of a five-year-old: “Well, I would vote for Ronald Reagan because he is a King!”

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The up thrust Rockies form an elegant backdrop looking west. The New Wave addition of orange air does not improve this landscape. Choosing not to live in a “punk” rendition of “Queen City of the Plains,” I would like to address Denver’s smog problem and explore the possibility of a free-market solution.

It is no secret that the automobile is the chief contributor of toxic carbon monoxide and oxides of nitrogen. Further, the automobile is a significant contributor to the particulate component of our amber atmosphere. Recently, Denver mounted a Better Air Campaign to effect a voluntary reduction in the number of cars operating in the Metro area, and consequently to reduce the levels of these pollutants in the air. The question remains as to why any rational driver, responding to market incentive and self-interest, should drive less, take the bus, or even car?

In the economic jargon, car exhaust is a “technological externality” – a non-market spill over from the markets which govern the operation of one’s car. Insofar as the driver ponders a trip in the Metro area at all, three factors are weighed:

1.) Convenience of driving.
2.) Cost of driving vs. other options, inputting some value for time in travel.
3.) Budget constraints.

Since there is no direct charge for emitting more pollution by driving, why consider the quantity of pollutants added to the decision at all in the decision equation?

While the discharge of emissions is a free resource to the driver, it is not without cost to the community as a whole. It increases the deterioration of buildings, the maintenance of air filtration systems, the cost and frequency of window cleaning, and the wage one commands to work in this environment. Further, it is both an irritant and health risk to Metro residents. These costs are quantifiable and real. Drivers clearly

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The amount of the bribe should be equal to the increased cost of operations above the level required at the limit of the atmosphere’s capacity to absorb auto emissions. The bribe is then amortized over the estimated time required to get the public to respond. And what form shall the bribe take? Pass out dollars to people on the Mall who promise to ride the bus? It would be hard to measure the success of that program. Rather, the bribe should take the form of moral suction. Those bearing the external burden would do well to fund the touching no drive ads of the Better Air Campaign to independently produce ads to touch the hearts and minds of the more reluctant. Individuals with Metro involvements serve their own self-interest by paying (bribing) their way into the moral market in which the automobile operator operates.

Like most bribes held up in a market economy, this also can be a double-edged sword. If those bearing the external costs cannot bribe one to drive less, they will bribe public officials to force restrictions on the car habit. Simple economics have proven many times that solutions of individual volition are far cheaper than mandatory controls and enforcement.

Denver has offered a free-market solution to the smog problem. Granted, the market incentive is thin. Perhaps less than convincing to a population raised on government interference. Further, it is a carrot and stick approach. If the market responds slowly, the high-cost command system is waiting in the wings. Take the bribe. Eat the carrot.
Letters

Moral corruption?

To the Editor:
I want to thank Stormy Mon and Colorado Liberty for the kind words in the review of my book, A Liberty Primer.

I can't resist commenting on Stormy's complaint about my copyright, which he suggests is an egregious lack of consistency in following libertarian principles. Extending his line of reasoning, to achieve ideological purity one would have to stop breathing if he had benefited from government enforcement of pollution laws. Maybe if we all held our breath, government would go away.

I note that four other libertarian books favorably mentioned in Stormy's review (Restoring the American Dream by Ringer, For a New Liberty by Rothbard, A New Beginning by Ed Clark and The Incredible Bread Machine by World Research) are all also copyrighted by their authors. This herey obviously reaches high in our ranks!

Even Colorado Liberty, which Stormy cites as an exemplar of purity for avoiding copyrights, is, according to its front cover, delivered by the U.S. Government Postal Service at a subsidized "non-profit" rate under government permit Number 675.

There seems to be no end to our moral corruption!

Alan Burris

Democratic tyranny

To the Editor:
Craig Green's response to my earlier criticism leaves that criticism intact (Colorado Liberty, November-December 1984). I had approached Mr. Green for recom-

Dunn's not done yet.

have been consistently in the wrong regarding the advent of advanced weapons.

If Mr. Elmore was more interested in scholarship than raising alarms, he might have taken the trouble to investigate Project Defender, which was an effort in the 1960's to develop comprehensive defense against missile attack. It was the aerospace community's conclusion 20 years ago that such a defense was possible, but the entire program was put on ice by the Kennedy-Johnson administra-

Michael J. Dunn
Editor, American Defense

If I had your money...

by Ed Hoskins

Underground has own price

IF I HAD YOUR MONEY...

I never cease to be amazed at the fear, loathing, avoidance, and resulting ignorance of most of my friends concerning their financial matters.

So I hope that in this space I can, in the months to come, help to clarify, put in order, nudgy, etc., some of the various financial and tax issues that pester us all.

I'd like to treat, in some depth, but with an eye to the eonies involved, "tax shelters," flat tax proposals, value added taxation, common investment and purchasing decisions, the risks and opportunities in the financial markets, the myths and facts about hard currency investment and hoarding, and what is new and used in tax resistance.

EVEHYTHING HAS ITS PRICE

Taxes are theft. I hate them. As a re-

Craig Green

probably will anyway if trends continue.

That said, I will now speak frankly about tax resistance and tax cheating. And taxable income.

The underground economy lives, but it is being much more careful. Due to new reporting and enforcement measures enacted under the Reagan administration, the opportunities for hiding income are narrower and getting narrower. The ways to conduct business while not coming to the attention of the IRS are fewer and less comfortable.

There is a heavy price to be paid in life style, in convenience, in the burden of fear — and that's if you're successful. Many go broke trying to make a living underground. Many are nailed.

The tax resistance movement survives, but mostly as a collection of profitably oversold (Buy my book! Take my newsletter!) schemes whose only claim to fame is temporary exasperation on the part of the government. The perenially successful tax resisters are more likely to be quiet and/or impoverished. In

Page 5
Dunn's not done yet

To the Editor:

Marcus Elmore "assures" us (upon reading a book by Freeman Dyson) that a space-based defense system couldn't work, would be destabilizing, and would impoverish the nation.

Freeman Dyson is not part of, and has no access to, the work being performed under the Strategic Defense Initiative. He, along with Carl Sagan and others, have their pre-formed opinions based on lack of definitive knowledge of what our technological capabilities really are. Scientists who are familiar with this effort (Edward Teller, George Keyworth, Jastrow, the Fletcher Committee, the American Institute for Aeronautics and Astronautics) are in support of the Strategic Defense Initiative.

More specifically, I am currently involved in this work as a systems engineer at the Boeing Aerospace Company, conducting preliminary design of kinetic energy weapons typical of those proposed in the High Frontier concept. I have been previously involved in design work concerning high-energy lasers. From the results we have to date, there appears to be no basic technical obstacle to developing and deploying a missile defense system before the turn of the century that would be as much as 90% effective against a major Soviet attack.

Although cost estimates are uncertain at this stage of investigation, a $50 billion price tag is seen to be a reasonable and attainable goal. Mr. Elmore's "assurances" are based on ignorance of the facts.

Mr. Filley's earlier editorial was and is squarely on the mark: this is the only option open to those who wish a change from the current balance of mutually assured destruction. As libertarians, we should be on the side of innovation and bold thinking, and be willing to place our trust in the genius of the American technological economy... rather than knuckle-under to the nay-sayers, who

result, I have a certain amount of conflict about being a tax accountant. If I didn't feel that I was helping my friends, I'd have a lot more conflict and would instead find productive work to do. I

Filley on freedom
by Dwight Filley

Free Nicaragua - free trade

The United States Government considers the communist government of Nicaragua to be a threat to its security. This seems odd, considering the enormous disparity in size, economic strength, and military might between the two nations, but it is true nevertheless.

In response to this "threat," the American government has sent military aid to the rebel Contras fighting the Sandinista government, it has carried out aerial reconnaissance, and it has conducted large military maneuvers on Nicaragua's borders.

It has even considered further restricting trade between the two countries. This last option seems particularly bizarre, in light of the same United States government's avowed policy in Vietnam a decade ago: i.e. to win the hearts and minds of the people.

Like it or not, most Third World people envy America, and would like to enjoy more American things. Things such as McDonald's hamburgers, Levi's, and rock and roll.

Obviously, there is no way any government can completely win the hearts and minds of any people, but a very effective way to begin is to saturate those people with American goods, especially since they are eager to buy them.

It becomes more and more difficult to hate a culture when you have voluntarily chosen to surround yourself with the products of that culture.

Now as it happens, over 60% of all goods entering the United States from Central and South America are subject to some form of trade restriction.

Why, you might ask, why in the world would the U.S. government restrict trade with the very people whose hearts and minds they want to win?

The answer, of course, is various business lobbies, which try to protect American companies from foreign competition.

The wisdom of any protectionist measure is highly questionable, but in this case, it is absurd. We should throw open our borders to the products of Central and South America, partly because U.S. citizens obviously want to buy them, partly because these sales give Latin America the money with which to buy American products, but mostly because the spread of socialism throughout these countries will be significantly slowed when the people see the full benefits of free enterprise, American style.

It has been said that when goods can't cross borders, armies will.

The Reagan administration, far from threatening military action against Nicaragua, should lift all trade restrictions. This would make both countries richer and more content, it wouldn't add one cent to the deficit, and it would go a long way toward winning the hearts and minds of the people.

Green replies

To the Editor:

Although I never expect to satisfy Mr.
Mandate was anti-Mondale, not pro-Reagan

by PATRICK LILLY

By now, virtually everyone has seen the polarity over the election results in the mainstream press. The conservative press is pontificating smugly about the “mandate” contained in Ronald Reagan’s re-election vote total, and the liberal press is energetically, if somewhat nervously, disputing all such claims. It all sounds very predictable. What’s an unbiased observer to conclude?

On this one, on the basic issue of fact, I’ll side with the liberals. But, as happens so often, they’ve got all the wrong reasons for an essentially right conclusion. The vote totals did not represent any overwhelming, uncritical acceptance of Reagan’s policies, but they certainly did not represent an overwhelming, unalloyed rejection of Mondale’s. Reagan’s lopsided win also was not, as some Democrats have suggested, the result of a lack of exposure of Mondale’s policies and proposals to the voting public. He had the cameras and tape recorders following him everywhere just like Mr. Reagan did. He also got the same $40 million subsidy from the taxpayers that Reagan got to help him air what the Chicago Tribune columnist Stephen Chapman called “those obnoxious television commercials.” In fact, the Mondale campaign made the largest political TV time buy in American history just before the election.

The Democrats are also wrong to charge that the Reagan win can be explained by those crafty Republicans somehow getting away with subverting the labyrinthine election finance restrictions which the Republicans and Democrats teamed up to foist off on us, the taxpayers. It would only be poetic justice if that were the case, but it’s not. Those laws, just as intended, will help ensure that the Democratic Party survives this year’s setback, just as they continue to help entrench the Republicans.

No, the real explanation of the Reagan landslide, the reason it does not represent any “mandate,” is this: millions of people voted for Reagan because they thought (rightly or wrongly) that it was the only way to vote against Mondale. Never before have we seen a national election in which so many votes were cast “against” rather than “for.”

Now, exposure, or rather the lack of it, does indeed have something to do with this. So do election finance restrictions and unfair spending advantages. But not in the way the Democrats seem to think.

The person whose vote totals were held down by a lack of exposure in the news media was not Walter Mondale, but David Bergland. If the national TV networks had reported on Bergland’s campaign (remember, he campaigned full-time for 13 months) with one-third the consistency with which they followed Mondale’s doomed campaign, millions of voters would have voted against Mondale by voting for Bergland instead of Reagan. But they didn’t. Aside from one spring appearance on ABC’s Nightline, Bergland got not one word of mention from the TV network news people.

Then there was money. With their taxpayer subsidies, both Reagan and Mondale were able to pay for hundreds of ads on national television to publicize their campaigns. Television advertising is the one thing which can, at least in part, make up for a lack of TV news coverage. (For proof of this, is any proof is needed, just note that there were precincts in Colorado where Lyndon LaRouche, an offensive, raving, militant socialist candidate, outpolled Bergland. He could afford national television advertising, because he, too, got a federal subsidy, left over from his unsuccessful attempt to secure the Democratic nomination. Bergland, on the other hand, could only afford to put a few spots on some of the non-national cable networks. This, too, had the effect of causing millions of Mondale non-supporters to vote, by default, for Reagan.)

And don’t forget ballot status. In some states, containing over 20% of the nation’s voters, did not permit their citizens the option of voting for Bergland, even if they wanted to. Reagan and Mondale, like all Democrats and Republicans, had guaranteed access to the ballot in every precinct in every state.

It all comes down to this: Reagan got the margin of victory he did because American voters believed that they had a choice between a completely unacceptable candidate, Walter Mondale, and someone else. So, of course they voted for someone else. If they had realized (or, in some states, if it had been true) that they had another choice, many of them would have chosen that other choice. Had that happened, not only would there have been no landslide, no appearance of a “mandate,” but David Bergland would have received a new record high Libertarian vote total.

Americans are not all that thrilled over Reagan. Although the current appearance of prosperity has lulled them to where they are not strongly dissatisfied, either. But they couldn’t stomach Mondale, with his promise to raise taxes. And they’re still being effectively controlled by the Democrats, the Republicans, the election laws, and the national news media, who steadfastly refuse to give them any other choices.

Butterflies are freer than caterpillars

What makes a libertarian different? The demopublican house talks about power, plumbing and curtains: libertarians say the foundation is rotten and the structure is falling down. What makes them great is Penny’s, Wards, K-Mart and all the other choices we have—competition. That’s all liberty: free choice, no coercion, competition.
Grand Junction bust...

Cont. from pg. 1

Creek Basin of Colorado, regarded as the bearer of the richest hydrocarbon deposits in the world. Grand Junction, as the economic hub of this area, would be a major beneficiary of this enormous governmental stimulation to the region's economy. Now with the ebb tide, Grand Junction's role is changed to that of a major victim.

A free market, left to deal with the problem of meeting liquid fuel demands, would have produced a more orderly growth of activity, reduced the pains of a big bust, and saved taxpayers a bundle.

Other human costs should also be considered in arriving at a total cost associated with any big economic bust: heart attacks, strokes, ulcers, troubled marriages, and even suicides. The true price in any government intervention is always much more than the tag shows.

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 Libertarian Calendar
1st Tuesday of every month, the Libertarian forum meets in the Brand Building, 203 S. Galena St., Aspen. Call 925-2825 for more information.
3rd Tuesday of every month, Boulder County Libertarian Association, 7:30 p.m., meets at 1915 Broadway, Boulder. Call Jerry van Sickle for details at (h) 442-0014 or (w) 445-3678.
2nd Wednesday of every month, CLP Cocktail Party, 7:30 p.m., 1456 Fillmore, Denver. Relaxed, informal, cash bar.
4th Thursday of every month, Park County Libertarians meet. Call Phil Prosser for details at 398-7683.

Watch for this free-spirited Volvo on Colorado's highways and byways — if you see it, give a friendly honk.
Book review

Bergland book thought-provoking

By JACK DEAN


Jack Dean, chairman of the Libertarian Party of California, is a public relations consultant and magazine editor. He managed David Bergland's campaign for the State Senate in 1978, and his statewide campaign for U.S. Senate in 1980.

Libertarianism In One Lesson is no ordinary presidential campaign book. But then, it wasn't meant to be.

The reader seeking a philosophical treatise dealing with esoteric libertarian theories will be disappointed. But the Libertarian activist who has been searching for the ideal introductory work for friends and acquaintances will be delighted with this primer by 1984 LP presidential candidate David Bergland.

In his introduction, Bergland states that his goal is to assist the instructor in political science or government who desires to supplement available course material with accurate, up-to-date material about America's third largest and fastest-growing political party and the philosophy on which it is based. He also states that a "broader purpose... is to make available to students some basic information about libertarianism, some relevant history about the libertarian movement, the history of the Libertarian Party, and how the Libertarian Party and its philosophy fit into the modern world." He succeeds on all accounts.

Bergland has obviously drawn upon his teaching background (he was a law professor for many years) to keep his writing uncomplicated and to the point. And the book's format—24 magazine-sized pages containing 14 short chapters—make it non-threatening, easy reading for even the most hard to reach member of today's video-oriented culture. Several tongue-in-cheek cartoons illustrate points made in the text. And the handy 8½x11 size makes it convenient to carry in a loose-leaf notebook.

This book has been written not so much to inspire as to educate, though it does both. Not so much to discuss current political problems, as to provide the uninitiated with a framework within which he or she will be able to determine where a libertarian will stand on just about any issue, and why.

While several key topics are discussed in some depth—taxation, social security, education, foreign policy, pollution and victimless crimes—the book's greatest contribution to the student of libertarianism is its explanation of the nature of the Party activists will immediately see the outreach potential of this book. A sample copy sent to the head of every local school's government or political science department can begin the process of "educating the educators." A cover letter offering quantities for all of their department's instructors (at reduced rates or free, depending on their budget) might be the next step. The ultimate goal, of course, is to get the book into the hands of the students themselves.

Libertarianism in One Lesson can be used by LP activists as a tool to help build or rebuild local student organizations—either in the image of the now-defunct Students for a Libertarian Society, or in some other form. It could be the first step in a program to attract America's youth to a libertarian position.

The book also has other educational/
HOUSE CLEANING

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The book also has other educational/outreach potential.

For example, a copy sent to each political reporter in your area accompanied by a press release will do two things: get publicity for the book (and the free copies you've provided to local instructors), and at the same time—and perhaps most important—educate the reporters without them even knowing it.

In campaigning for the 1984 presidential nomination, David Bergland the candidate promised a grassroots campaign and has delivered one. In writing this campaign book, David Bergland the author promised an educational tool that could be used not just during the 1984 election, but for many years beyond. Once again, he has delivered. May there be many more editions.
Letter

Feds to enter smog game

To the Editor:

For the last month or so, I have been voluntarily going along with the Better Air Campaign, leaving my car at home whenever I can. But I am convinced that the "voluntary program" is doomed to fail, and that soon the Feds will be giving us yet one more restriction.

This infuriates me, since I don't believe that a free society would have created Denver's pollution problem. Earlier in this century, when the auto industry was in its first boom stages, the big companies sent powerful lobbyists to Washington to ensure indirect subsidies for their industry. They convinced the Defense Department to support the building of a $74 billion highway system— a project that has helped the auto industry more than it will ever help our national defense.

Soon, state and local governments were following suit, paving roads everywhere at taxpayer's expense for the benefit of the auto industry. Today, the average metropolitan area uses 50% of its space for cars, roads, garages, gas stations, and other auto-related purposes. In his excellent book Human Scale, author Kikpatrick Sale notes that when you ly monopolized by such unresponsive and inefficient bureaucracies as RTD. For the average Denverite, the car is the only transportation option left to him, and the resultant pollution is making that option less and less attractive.

I am convinced that a free society would have given us a wide range of options. The true cost of driving would have been borne by the drivers themselves. A host of alternatives would have presented themselves to city dwellers, most of them considerably more efficient and less polluting.

I am further convinced that it is not too late to let freedom work. It may be that dense population centers are a product of centralized control that our current corporate state offers. The free market tends to move toward decentralization, a move that is reversed by the power of centralized authority and the oligopolies that benefit from government subsidies and regulations. If our society would free up a bit, new businesses might not need to locate in power centers like Denver, but would disperse to smaller cities where the problems of overcrowding, pollution, crime, and a lower quality of life make

From the Editor:

Maybe I knew you in another life.
Maybe it's destiny.
I have always been your Valentine.
And always will be.

Love,
Caroline

To Shannon,
Auntie Jan's favorite Valentine
Warmly,
Stormy

To the Liberty
Jim Glennie

To the lady who creates every week
A new Oyster

The lady who led me out
Of my cloister.

Her paper boosts freedom,
The personal kind,

While we talk and petition,
And get left behind.

Elaine, will you be my Valentine?

Dwight

While we talk and petition,
And get left behind.

BETTY BOOBS
Here is my wish for a life of plundage
and pillar. I love you tragically.

Eric Stratton
Chaplain, U.S. Army Air Corps.

TO MY LADY GODIVA

Oh my God, you looked beautiful that
day you took the ride. I still wake up
like a star-struck teenager each morning,
feeling you next to me and feeling
amazed that a woman as special as you
could be loving me. I sure do love you
Karen!

—Chris
space for cars, roads, garages, gas stations, and other auto-related purposes. In his excellent book *Human Scale*, author Kirkpatrick Sale notes that when you divide the average car-owner's wage by the time he spends driving, maintaining his car, paying taxes to support the highways, buying health and accident insurance, paying tickets, supporting a highway patrol, stopping for gas, and all the other incidental costs of driving, not even counting the pollution costs, our poor wage-earner is in reality traveling at a net speed of only five miles per hour!

The tremendous governmental infusion of money to subsidize autos effectively destroyed alternative transportation approaches. What few transportation alternatives were left were then effective-
citizens to bear arms. At present, there are several localities which have passed laws forbidding the carrying of firearms. The new bill will declare such laws illegal.

Clarence Lovell of the National Rifle Association presented the bill to Board members for endorsement. The Libertarian Party has also named Bob Miller as a liaison to act as a "watchdog" at legislative sessions dealing with this issue.

Chris Mohr

**CLP condemns U.S. policy...**

Cont. from pg. 1

...those paid in full by parties other than the U.S. Government.

"3. Establishment of a foreign policy in the region of free trade and cooperation with all legally constituted governments free from U.S. intervention in their internal affairs."

The Board directed Bob Hurt, author of the resolution, to send copies of the resolution to President Reagan, all eight Colorado Congressional representatives and the media.

The Board has also endorsed a bill to be presented to the Colorado State Legislature pre-empting local firearm laws which run counter to the State Constitution guaranteeing the right of