

# LIBERTY

*Published by the Libertarian Party of Colorado*

*March/April 2001*

The next meeting of the board of directors will be held at 7:00 pm on Monday, April 9 at party headquarters, 720 East 18th Avenue in Denver.

Party members are welcome at the meeting. Please call BetteRose for details: 303.639.5530

[www.lpcolorado.org](http://www.lpcolorado.org)

303.837.9393

[www.lp.org](http://www.lp.org)

## Libertarian Sheriff Calls for Simple Rules

140 members of the Pro Second Amendment Committee rose to their feet to applaud "Liberty Bill" Masters, the nation's only Libertarian Sheriff. The San Miguel County lawman addressed the Grand Junction group for its Eleventh Annual Awards Banquet March 10. Masters noted the links between the drug war and gun war and called for simplified laws.

"The palladium of liberty, the shield of liberty, is the Second Amendment," Masters said, quoting a judicial opinion. Yet our civil liberties are interrelated. "Have you taken up your duty, not just to guard the Second Amendment, but are you truly the protector of the beautiful but fragile lady we call Liberty?"

"Masters" continued on page 21

## Friedman Speaks at CU

by Ari Armstrong

The Libertarian student group at the University of Colorado at Boulder hosted a March 5 forum with David Friedman, professor of law and economics at Santa Clara, California. Friedman's talk, "Arguments For and Against Government," drew a crowd of around 200 students and area libertarians.

"David Friedman was tremendous," CU student Alex Baia said. "Articulate libertarians like Dr. Friedman are one of the many antidotes that the CU Boulder Campus Libertarians will use to fight outdated statist philosophies with the logic of liberty."

Friedman spoke for about an hour and then answered questions from the audience. Following the talk, the student group hosted a reception, also on campus. Bob Glass of Longmont presented Friedman with a Tyranny Response Team T-shirt during the reception. Participants came from as far away as Colorado Springs.

Tom Parker of the Boulder party said that Friedman "gave a fascinating and

"Friedman" continued on page 9

## inside

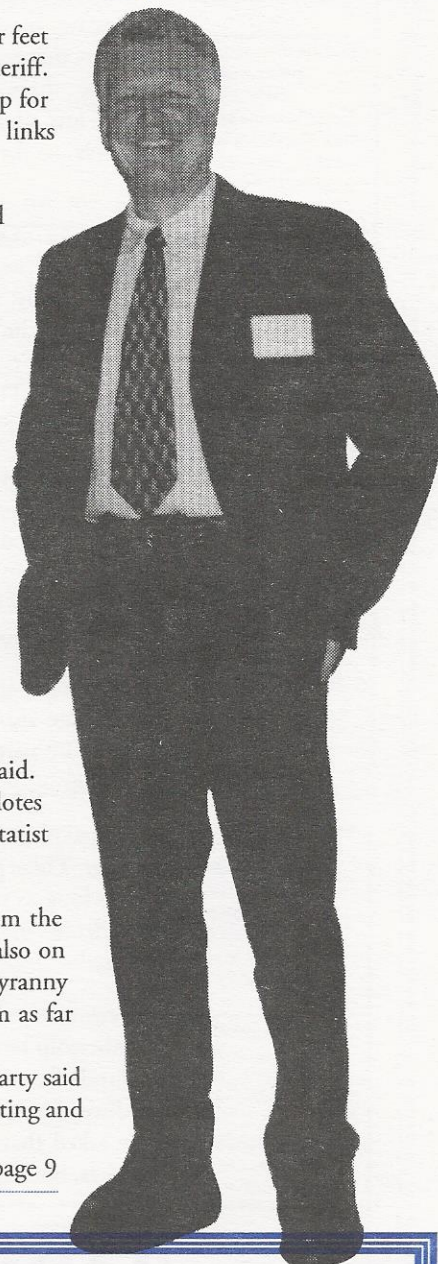
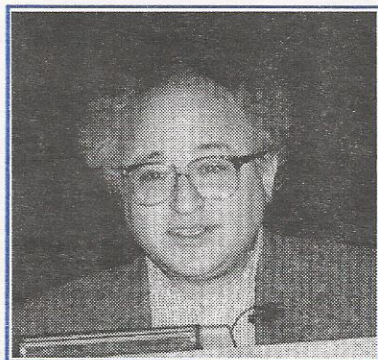
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### "Liberty Bill" will attend the convention!

Sign up and meet him. The State Libertarian Convention will be held May 18-20. Other speakers will include **Carla Howell**, record-breaking Senate candidate; **Reggie Rivers**, talk radio host; and **Russell Means**, American Indian activist. See pages 4 and 5 for details.



# Notes from the Chair

Dear Friends of Liberty,

By the time you read this, I will have spoken at a public forum put on by our Ft. Morgan affiliate and I will have been to Montrose to welcome our newest affiliate. Having just returned from Indy where we had a state chairs meeting, I realize just how great the state of Colorado is doing and these new affiliates prove that.

Other states really do look up to us because of all the things we have been able to accomplish: four new affiliates this year, voter registrations up by over 1,000 this year, three great speakers at the convention, ballot status, lots of press coverage and more. Colorado is certainly on the move.

One concern was brought up at that meeting that I would like to share with you. People don't always understand the Unified Membership Program. Yes, you pay only \$25 and you become a dues paying member of the state party and of the national party. (If you don't sign the pledge you are listed as a "subscriber.") The state receives \$1 per month from this membership.

*"Other states really do look up to us because of all the things we have been able to accomplish. Colorado is certainly on the move."*

Now one might think if they pledge or donate to national beyond the basic membership rate the state will get half of the money. That is not true. For example, if you donate \$100 per year to national, the state still gets \$12 over the year. If you donate \$500 to \$1,000 to national, the state gets \$48.

Many people give to national thinking they are giving to the state also. The fact is, you have to give directly to the state party if you want more of your money to stay here.

Some people refuse to join National for one reason or another. These people can still donate to the state party and as long as they are registered Libertarian, they are considered members of the Libertarian Party of Colorado.

By contract the national party gets to set the membership rates. If the state party had to rely wholly on funds from national, we could do little more than produce the *Liberty* and pay a few office bills. Many have asked that we share the money with the county affiliates, but right now that is not possible. In fact, the

state depends on additional fund raising to get other projects done.

More projects could be funded if registered Libertarians would also become dues-paying members or donate to the state party. A donation of \$12 covers the costs of a single subscription to the *Liberty* for a year. A pledge of \$10 per month would help hire a part-time staff member. A pledge of \$5 per month would help the state fund county affiliates.

There are over 4,200 registered Libertarians in the state of Colorado. That is an increase of almost 30 percent in the last year alone! However, the number of dues-paying members has remained steady at around 850. Fewer than 25 percent of the Libertarians in this state help fund the party.

We are thrilled that those with financial difficulties still choose to register and vote Libertarian. But is there a way you could afford to donate to the party? Can you give up a movie and popcorn one time to help pay for the *Liberty*? Maybe give up a dinner out so the party can spend the money advocating liberty?

Every month I get a report from Joe Dehn with our monthly membership stats. As of February, Colorado ranked thirteenth in terms of overall membership (with 863) and sixth in terms of membership per population. We have fallen behind since the 90s!

I am giving every Libertarian in this state a challenge. If half of all the registered Libertarians became national dues paying members, we would be second only to California in membership. If only 300 more people become dues paying members, we will be at the top of the chart in density.

My challenge is that by the time the April report rolls around, our state ranks fifth in membership and first in density. Further, by December, our state should rank second in membership.

I will bring the latest figures to the convention. So go out and find those libertarians. I personally will offer a small reward to the person who brings in the most dues paying members by April 29.

*BetteRose Smith*

**LIBERTY**

Published monthly by the Libertarian Party of Colorado. Subscription is included in the state party membership, which is extended to all those who register to vote as Libertarians, pay membership dues, or both. Paid subscriptions are \$10 per year. Make checks payable to, and send correspondence regarding subscriptions to: **Libertarian Party of Colorado**, 720 East 18th Avenue #309, Denver, Colorado 80203-1415. Submissions may be sent to [ariamstrong@hotmail.com](mailto:ariamstrong@hotmail.com) (text-only preferred); photographs to Ari Armstrong, Box 1034, Arvada, CO 80001.

Colophon: Created on a Macintosh Power PC 6500/275 using QUARK XPRESS® 4.0 and Photoshop® 5.0. Output (page proofs) directed to a Hewlett Packard Laser Jet 4mp. Printed by Quality Press.



# Means No Stranger to Controversy

# 3

by Ari Armstrong

Michele Poague was a young girl living in South Dakota when she and her sister saw a police car drive through town. The girls arrived at the court house just as a chair came smashing through the window.

It was 1974. Inside, a fight had erupted between Russell Means' supporters and the police. The skirmish was precipitated by the Indians' refusal to stand as a sign of respect to the judge (see page 318 in Means' autobiography, *Where White Men Fear to Tread*). Means was on trial for the Wounded Knee standoff.

Poague went on to become chair of the Libertarian Party of Colorado and a supporter of Means.

Poague's sister BetteRose Smith serves as current chair. She addressed the recent controversy involving Means' protest of the Columbus Day Parade: "What Russell Means said was that Italians have a right to parade, and he has a right to protest. Never once did he talk about doing anything violent. We're the party that believes in the First Amendment, even if we disagree with what you say. He's taking a libertarian approach."

Some have blasted the American Indian Movement for protesting the parade by blocking the street. However, libertarians point out that the problem is inherent in a system of poorly defined property rights. The roads are "public," aren't they? Then how can some members of the "public" be excluded? Libertarians see the solution to such paradoxes in transferring political property to private individuals and groups.

Criticizing Columbus is not the same thing as criticizing Western society. Means makes clear that he has a problem with Columbus' specific harmful actions, not with Italian culture: "[B]y honoring the first transatlantic slave trader, the city [of Denver] was affirming and supporting genocide...[C]elebrate Leonardo da Vinci or Sophia Loren or Joe DiMaggio—anyone except Columbus" (519).

At first glance, the alliance between Means and the Libertarian party might seem unlikely. He has

criticized American "materialism," he wants "free markets, but not the kind of unbridled free enterprise that leads inevitably to corporate socialism" (480), and he scoffs at "Eurocentric logic" (302).

Misunderstandings arise partly from semantics. While libertarians advocate material progress and increased wealth, they generally join Means in criticizing a crass

or empty materialism disconnected from deeper spiritual values.

Means sees our "country speeding toward right-wing socialism, its corporations in collusion with government to dictate economic policy and protect their own interests by eliminating opportunity" (486). All libertarians blast this sort of "corporate socialism."

Libertarians tend to argue that logic and the principles of science are valid across cultures; one can uphold their legitimacy without falling into strains of European rationalism.

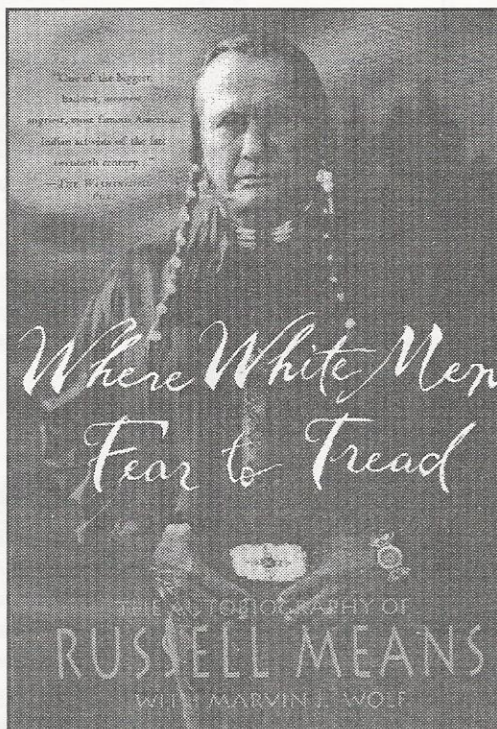
No one doubts Means' authenticity. He describes his 1998 bid to become the

Libertarian candidate for President: "My message was different from [Ron] Paul's because it was sincere, delivered in plain English and without resorting to the euphemisms and false facades of white man's politics, or the dull, dry rhetoric of economics" (485).

Means writes, "What the [Libertarian] party stood for—free-market economics and no government interference in people's lives—sounded just right to me...I was thrilled to learn that it is a party of principle...Libertarians do not compromise. They do not sell out" (482).

Means supports the right to bear arms, opposes government welfare and political schools, and wants to repeal drug prohibition.

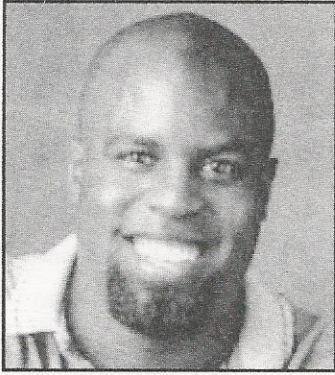
Means will attend Colorado's LP convention in May (see pages 4-5) and may run for President in 2004. Boulder LP member Ron Bain said, "He's got an iron grip of a handshake, I'll tell you that. I'd like to be his Colorado coordinator, that's how much I support him. Anybody with his ability to demand attention and press has got to be good for the party."



*"Libertarians do not compromise. They do not sell out."*



# REGGIE RIVERS



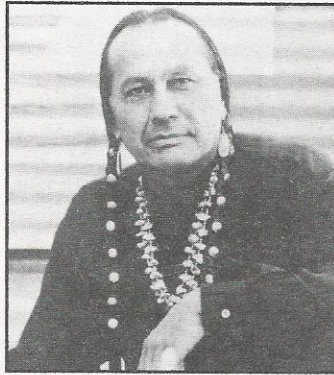
Metro Denver's hottest Libertarian-leaning talk show host will be one of the exciting speakers at the Gala Banquet on Saturday night.

Former running back and special teams player for the Denver Broncos, Reggie had, for two years, hosted his own show on KOA Radio and is currently hosting a daily, drive-time show on 630 KHOW Radio.

# RUSSELL MEANS

The Libertarian Party of Colorado Convention 2001 is pleased to bring you one of the biggest, baddest, meanest and most famous American Indian activists of the twentieth century.

In his widely-praised 1997 autobiography, *Where White Men Fear To Tread*, Means tells the story of his political evolution, including his encounter with libertarian ideas and the Libertarian Party.



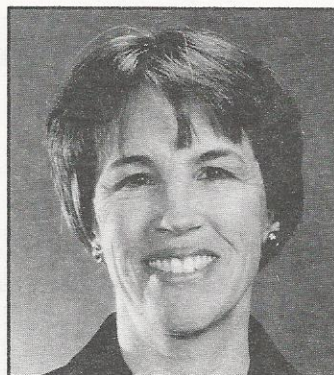
**This Year - INTRODUCE A FRIEND TO LIBERTY!**

Additional Banquet ticket only \$40 with each full price 2 day convention ticket. OR 1/2 PRICE for all students and non or \*new libertarians with each full price 2 day convention ticket.

\*Non-member and not registered Libertarian as of 1/1/01

# CARLA HOWELL

Carla Howell's bold Libertarian "small government is beautiful" campaign for U.S. Senate in Massachusetts, set new Libertarian records. In Massachusetts, where there are 470,000 registered Republicans versus 16,000 registered Libertarians. In a six-way contest for Ted Kennedy's seat, Carla Howell finished just 1 percentage point behind the Republican candidate; the most successful Libertarian U.S. Senate campaign ever.



## EVENTS SCHEDULE

**Friday, May 18**

7:00 PM ---*Early Registration, Open House Introduction Entertainment & Suite Parties*

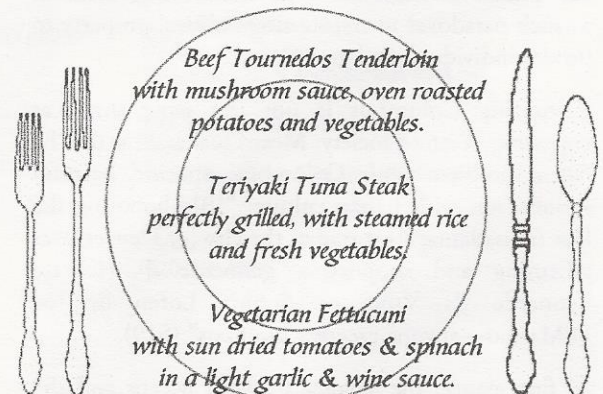
**Saturday, May 19**

7:30 AM --- <i>Registration</i>	
8:00 AM --- <i>Coffee</i>	<i>Coffee</i>
Philosophy	Activism
9:00 AM --- <i>Seminar</i>	<i>Business</i>
Philosophy	Board Reports
10:00 AM --- <i>Keynote Speaker</i>	
11:00 AM --- <i>Seminar</i>	<i>Business</i>
Philosophy	Bylaws
12:00 PM --- <i>Awards Luncheon</i>	
1:00 PM --- <i>Special Guest</i>	
2:00 PM --- <i>Seminar</i>	<i>Business</i>
Philosophy	Campaigns
3:00 PM --- <i>Seminar</i>	<i>Seminar</i>
Philosophy	Campaigns
4:00 PM --- <i>Seminar</i>	<i>Seminar</i>
Philosophy	Campaigns
6:00 PM --- <i>Cocktail Party</i>	
7:00 PM --- <i>Banquet and Dance</i>	

**Sunday, May 20**

8:00 AM --- <i>Coffee</i>	<i>Coffee</i>
Philosophy	Campaigns
9:00 AM --- <i>Seminar</i>	<i>Seminar</i>
Philosophy	Activism
10:00 AM --- <i>Seminar</i>	<i>Seminar</i>
Philosophy	Activism
11:00 AM --- <i>Lunch - on your own</i>	
12:00 PM --- <i>Seminar</i>	<i>Seminar</i>
Philosophy	Activism
1:00 PM --- <i>Business- Board Elections</i>	
2:00 PM --- <i>Special Guest</i>	
3:00 PM --- <i>Closing Speaker</i>	
4:00 PM --- <i>New Board Meets</i>	

## SATURDAY'S GALA BANQUET & DANCE





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Through Minorities and  
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**MAY**  
**18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>**  
**2001**

*Banquet & Dance*

*Awards Luncheon*

*Suite Parties*

*Banquet & Dance*

*Awards Luncheon*

*Suite Parties*

## PJ MOORE

PJ Moore, a nationally touring Headline Comedian, has a strong performance history. He has done voice-over work, a stint as a radio DJ, and has also recorded two full length folk song albums.

PJ Moore's humorous writings have been featured in Playboy Magazine. He has appeared on *Colorado PM* and in *The Denver Post*, as well as many other publications.

## BILL GROOM

Bill Groom is an attorney, writer, seminar leader, and executive vice president of Cynergetics Institute, a nonprofit organization that presents personal and organizational development seminars. Cynergetics Institute is also working to establish a restorative justice council to provide financial and educational support for existing and new restorative justice programs.

### ADDITIONAL SPEAKERS

**Christie Donner** - Christie is currently working with women in prison for drug offenses and helps to oversee the welfare of their minor children.

**Shariar Ghalam** - Shariar grew up in Iran where he was a member of the Armed Forces. At 22, he escaped to America seeking liberty.

**Bob Glass** - Bob is the owner of Paladin Arms and the publisher of one of Colorado's newest libertarian magazines, *The Partisan*.

**Desiree Hickson** - Desiree was a candidate for State House in 2000.

**Jerry Sonnenberg** - Jerry is a current board member of the Colorado Farm Bureau.

**Emma Phillips** - Emma is the State Coordinator for F.A.M.M. (Families Against Mandatory Minimums). She is also the founder of Friends and Families.

### Hotel Reservations for ONLY \$ 69.00 Mention Group # 1776

Room rate includes a complimentary upgrade continental buffet breakfast. 1-800-848-4060 303-373-5730 ext. 645

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E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
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		Door Price
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 DAY WITH BANQUET:	\$129	\$149
<input type="checkbox"/> ADDITIONAL BANQUET:	\$45	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 DAY NO BANQUET:	\$99	\$109
<input type="checkbox"/> BANQUET ONLY:	\$55	\$65
<input type="checkbox"/> BEEF <input type="checkbox"/> SEAFOOD <input type="checkbox"/> VEGETARIAN		

☐ Check ☐ Cash ☐ Money Order

☐ Visa/ Master Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks Payable to Bette Rose Smith or Michele Poague

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Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Libertarian Convention 2001

720 East 18 Avenue, #309

Denver, CO 80203

303-837-9393

Remember, there is no charge for attending business meetings or candidate elections.



# 6

## Restorative Justice: An Idea Whose Time Has Come

by Bill Groom

Restorative justice is new to most of the world, though it's based on ancient customs of resolving conflicts. It is similar to the Biblical concept of *shalom* where the parties and the community, in the aftermath of any harm done by one to another, sought to make things right—to restore physical well-being, right relationships, and a trusting environment, all without the intervention of government.<sup>1</sup>

### The Problems of Retribution

Retributive justice considers an offense as a violation of a law. Rather than the person actually harmed by an offense, the state assumes the role of victim. The real victim is involved only as a witness, if at all. The offender is not permitted to meet with the victim and try to make amends. Both the victim and offender are shunted aside and represented by professionals.

Our retributive justice system does not address many of the needs of the victim, offender, and community.

The victim needs to express his (or her) suffering, be compensated for his loss, and know the offender regrets the harmful behavior. The victim also needs to know he is not a bad person because something bad has happened to him.

To learn from his behavior, the offender needs to acknowledge his (or her) responsibility. He needs to feel genuine remorse and to express his regret to the victim. To ever again be a whole human being, he needs to make restitution to the extent possible for the harm he has caused. He may need support to acquire the beliefs, skills, and knowledge required to fulfill his obligations to the victim and the community, and to meet his own needs to achieve a quality life.

The community needs to be a safe and trusting place in which offenders can break free of a life cycle of crime, punishment, and more crime. The community also needs to have all of its members adding value to the community instead of it being diminished by the actions of offenders.

Because these needs are not met by our present justice system, the results are often a frustrating sense that justice has not been done.

### Restorative Justice

Restorative justice seeks to balance the needs of all of those affected by a criminal offense. The offense is considered a violation of a relationship, not of a law.

Restorative justice starts with the premise that the offender is not a mistake because he made a mistake. It separates his personhood from his behavior. But it also requires the offender to acknowledge his responsibility for his behavior and be accountable for its results. Since his personhood is not being attacked, it's safe for him to admit his responsibility and feel genuine remorse for his behavior.

If they agree, the victim and offender have the opportunity to meet in a safe setting, along with a trained facilitator, usually a volunteer. If the victim does not want to meet with the offender, a family member or other surrogate may attend the meeting. Family members of the victim and offender and concerned members of the neighborhood and larger community may also participate in the meeting, depending on the circumstances.

Without verbally attacking the offender, restorative justice gives the victim an opportunity to tell of his emotional and physical pain and describe his financial loss. He gets answers to his questions about the offense. The family and community members express their response and thoughts about the incident.

The offender tells his side of the story. He's confronted for any justifying or blaming others for his behavior. Hearing the victim describe his suffering and seeing the harm that was done, gives the offender, perhaps for the first time, an understanding of the pain that resulted from his behavior. The safety of the process and the understanding of the harm he's caused, enable the offender to apologize to the victim and other community participants, and express his sincere regret.

**Meet Bill Groom at the  
State Libertarian Convention!**  
See pages 4 & 5 for details.

### The Agreement

The parties agree on what needs to be done to make the victim and community as whole as possible. A written agreement is signed by all of the parties. It may include restitution, therapy, and other assistance for the victim. Service for the community and a public apology may be added.

The parties agree on what the offender needs to enable him to complete his obligations under the agreement and to be an accepted, productive, and valued member

*"Restorative justice requires the offender to acknowledge his responsibility for his behavior and be accountable for its results."*



of the community. This may include counseling, skills training, further education, and a good job. They seek ways in the community for these services to be provided. A program staff person verifies that the terms of the agreement are met. If the offender fails to comply, the case may be referred to the traditional criminal justice system.

If the offender is under the jurisdiction of a court, the judge may approve a pre-sentence restorative justice conference and consider the resulting agreement in passing sentence on the offender. Research has shown that in a surprising number of cases, after the victims have heard their offenders' regret and willingness to repair the harm, they no longer demand imprisonment. Often the victim will forgive the offender and ask the court for leniency.



2000 Libertarian Presidential Candidate Harry Browne points to new prison construction in Colorado. Libertarians support alternatives to more prisons.

Even if the offender is sentenced to probation, community corrections, jail, or prison, his behavior during the restorative process and the victim's requests may well persuade the judge to reduce the severity of the sentence. Restorative justice cannot replace retributive justice overnight, if ever. The present system is needed as a backup if the offender does not complete his agreement. If an alleged offender is innocent, refuses to acknowledge his responsibility, or is not willing to try to make things right, our traditional justice system is still needed.

#### **An Alternative is Needed**

It's generally considered best if a restorative justice program is administered by a community-based organization, not an existing criminal justice governmental agency. It's difficult to change the principles of any long established institution.

Retributive justice does change criminal behavior—for a while. As long as criminals are locked up, they're not committing any crimes in the community. But behavior is only the tip of the iceberg. Invisible under the surface are the core beliefs that shape values and attitudes, which largely determine behavior. Behavior is visible and measurable and relatively easy to change—for a while. Attitudes and values and especially core beliefs are invisible, immeasurable, and much more difficult to change.

Because retributive justice focuses only on behavior, the rate of repeat offenses remains the same no matter what we try. Prisoner rehabilitation, education, job training, boot camps, longer sentences, more severe conditions—none of these has made any permanent difference. Why? Because all of these efforts target offender behavior. The underlying core beliefs of offenders about who they are and what the world is remain the same. Values remain the same. Attitudes remain the same.

Silently and unseen, 97 out of every 100 prisoners slip back into our communities upon release, less able to make a living honestly than they were before they were locked up. Most of them are more cunning and warped than before. About 60% will soon be caught committing additional crimes—and this doesn't even address the crimes for which these graduates of

*"Most [prisoners] are more cunning and warped than before, these graduates of our finest universities of crime."*

our finest universities of crime are not caught. But these results of our retributive justice system are neither headlines nor on the six o'clock news. We citizens see and hear the lead horror stories and demand that our correctional system "lock 'em up."

It's time to enlarge the focus of our criminal justice system to include core beliefs, values and attitudes. Restorative justice works both above and below the surface. Because it's voluntary and no one is being made wrong and everyone is trying to meet the needs of all of the affected parties, the process creates a safe place in which attitudes, values, and core beliefs of the players can be examined and balanced. It enables the participants to understand one another at a deep personal level, and most importantly, deepen their understanding of themselves.

"Justice" continued on page 8



Because restorative justice has such a drastically different view of crime and offenders, it requires a drastically different organization to administer it. An effective community-based restorative justice program must have broad and deep community support from all of the major segments. The program needs only a small, well-trained staff with a large group of well-trained volunteer facilitators and conference board members. When starting the first restorative justice program in a community, it's probably best to start with first-time non-violent juvenile offenses. Once a successful record of accomplishment is established, the program can be expanded gradually to include more serious offenses, including those of adults.

Restorative justice is especially applicable for property crimes. But it has been effective even in murder cases. There are a few restorative justice programs in prisons; a group of prisoners listen to the painful stories of crime victims (usually not victims of their crimes, but of similar ones). They begin to understand the suffering their past criminal behavior has caused. Understanding is the first step toward feeling sincere regret.

*These are the results of retributive and restorative justice:*

#### **The Victim**

- Retributive justice ends with a victim who is scarred emotionally, fearful of the future, harmed physically and financially, full of anger and hatred, and has the feeling that justice has not been done.
- Restorative justice ends with a victim who is made as whole as possible. He has told his story, expressed his emotions, and been heard. He is compensated for his financial loss, hears the apology and expression of sincere regret from the offender. He has a voice in what the offender needs to do to make things right for himself and the community. He participates in the decision of what can be done to enable the offender to complete his obligations and build a better life for himself.

#### **The Offender**

- Retributive justice ejects the offender from the community of humankind and takes away his freedom for a number of years. He's forced to be an accepted member of a warped and negative society of convicts. He's kept from expanding his marketable skills and knowledge. He's marked as a criminal for life, and released into a society that doesn't want him, won't hire him, and that has changed immensely while he was locked up.
- Restorative justice assures the offender that he is not a defective human being because of his harmful behavior. He is supported in acknowledging his

responsibility and in his efforts to make things right for the victim and the community. By completing his agreement, he's assured that he is an accepted and valued member of the community. He is supported in acquiring the beliefs, skills, and knowledge that will enable him to build a quality life—a life that adds value for others and holds peace and happiness for him.

#### **The Community**

- Retributive justice requires that the community bear the expense of apprehending, trying, convicting, and punishing its offenders. It pays for the cost of securing its streets, homes, offices, stores, and other buildings from crime. The total annual cost of crime in America in 1993 was \$674 billion<sup>2</sup>—about \$10,000 a year for a family of four. It wastes the value of millions of its people whose lives are wasted in the nonproductive sewer of crime. Its people live in fear of crime. They harbor anger and hatred toward offenders and burn with the desire for revenge. They live without lasting peace of mind, without lasting happiness.

- Restorative justice results in a community that is a more trusting and safe place. The cost, suffering, and fear of crime are reduced. The anger, hatred, and the need for revenge is diminished. More of its citizens are adding value for each other. It is a more peaceful, happier place.

In short, retributive justice leaves everyone involved in an offense in some way diminished and less whole than before. Restorative justice can leave everyone involved somehow greater and more whole than before; they can use the offense as a vehicle for their personal growth and peace and happiness.

#### **Notes**

1 *Changing Lenses: A New Focus for Crime and Justice*, Howard Zehr

2 U.S. News & World Report, Jan 17, 1994 v116 n2 p40(2)

Bill Groom is Director of Cynergetics Institute, the sponsoring organization for Make It Right, a juvenile restorative justice program for El Paso County. He is a lawyer, writer, and a former 20-year board member of two community corrections facilities in Colorado Springs. As a young lawyer in 1961 he was convicted, along with his first client and four other men, of securities violations and served three years in federal prison. He was reinstated as a Colorado attorney in 1976. Groom can be reached at P.O. Box 6130, Colorado Springs, CO 80934, 719.444.8644, cynerget@aol.com.

*This article was first printed in the September/October edition of Prison Policy News, P.O. Box 2143, Colorado Springs, CO 80901, 719.475.8059, info@epimethian.org.*

*"Restorative justice ends with a victim who is made as whole as possible."*



# News Updates

## Bob Glass' New Radio Show

Tyranny Response Team leader and magazine publisher Bob Glass has signed a six-month contract with 1060 AM radio to host a show on Saturdays from 1-2 pm. Glass also runs Paladin Arms in Longmont. Advertisements are scheduled to air about the state Libertarian convention.

"It's going to be called the Partisan View," Glass said. "It's going to be broadcast simultaneously on 1060 and three other stations around the state. We're going to cover all kinds of freedom topics—the whole libertarian agenda. It's going to be no-holds barred. We'll get people talking about the show."

## Tax Protest Planned

Tax day is just around the corner! Last year, Jay Carper and Ari Armstrong handed out literature at a local post office to people who were dropping off their tax payments. What better time to talk to people about the Libertarian alternative? Armstrong donned a Bill Clinton mask. He is encouraging area activists to wear Clinton and Bush masks this April 16 and carry a sign, "Whom Do You Trust?" Other activists can carry signs

saying, "Libertarians Trust YOU to Spend Your Own Money." Those more comfortable with a lower profile role can carry other signs or just hand out flyers.

Activists can meet Carper on Federal or plan to protest at another area post office. Carper may be reached at 303.252.7808.

BetteRose Smith has information about legal issues from the national party. She can be reached at 303.639.5530.

## Ladies of Liberty Wanted

BetteRose Smith is pursuing a "Ladies of Liberty" calendar as a party fundraiser. She already has found five volunteers to pose for photographs. Other ladies who are interested should contact Smith at 303.639.5530.

## Regional Notes

Libertarians in Nebraska just completed a petition drive to keep the ballot status of 2,000 registered Libertarian voters. Their March 31 convention includes a presentation from The Body Shop on industrial hemp and a video presentation about Ayn Rand.

"Friedman" continued from page 1

intellectual talk on the benefits of free markets, along with many real-life examples. Why is San Jose housing so expensive? 80 percent of the land is off the market. Do tariffs help? They help special interests, but hurt the country. This was a packed-house, first-rate event put on by the CU Libertarian group."

Friedman's central argument was that government is not able to solve "market failures" because of analogous but more pervasive political failures. An example of a market failure is air pollution, when the producer of the pollution doesn't bear the costs of it.

We cannot simply assume that the government system will operate in an ideal way, argued Friedman. Democratic voting is inherently problematic. Because the chance of any particular voter having an affect on the election is so remote, and because the benefits of a wise vote are distributed among the entire population, the vast majority of voters are ill-informed (or "rationally ignorant").

Representative politics tends to degenerate into special interest group warfare, in which highly organized groups lobby to transfer wealth from the vast population to themselves. This skews incentives to

produce and it also wastes resources in lobbying efforts and the resulting bureaucracy. Friedman offered numerous examples of how politicians made a problem worse in attempting to solve it.

On the other hand, entrepreneurs often solve market failures on the free market. For instance, "natural monopolies" such as the telephone line system are overcome with new technology such as cable access and satellite systems. Value is captured from the "public good" of radio broadcasting by packaging it with advertisements.

Even difficult problems like air pollution can be addressed on the market, as Friedman writes in his classic book *The Machinery of Freedom*. For instance, a class action lawsuit is possible in many instances. Others point out that improved technology and voluntary social pressures also contribute to a cleaner environment.

Thus, on balance, Friedman argued, society is better served by relying wholly on market institutions rather than on politicians.

Friedman also made a few comments about the Libertarian Party. In *Machinery*, Friedman writes, "We should regard politics not as a means of gaining power

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## Two Days at the Capitol

by Ari Armstrong

One day the Democrats won, the other day the Republicans won. Both days the clear loser was Lady Liberty.

I testified in front of the Senate judiciary committee on February 13 and 14. The first day I argued that mandatory gun storage laws are dangerous and a needless infringement of liberty. The next day I argued

State Senator Ken Gordon, sponsor of the bill, chose not to address the points I raised. Gordon was amiable, however, and he offered an amendment to his bill to make it somewhat less onerous.

Another Libertarian told the committee she relied on her gun for self-defense: "I'm not very strong, and I'm not very fast." She continued, "Keep the government out of my bedroom. Do not take away my right to choose—how to defend myself."

Fortunately, even though Judiciary passed the bill on a party-line vote, the senate body rejected the proposal.

The next day, prior to the hearing on Senator Penfield Tate's sentencing reform bill, the committee also heard a bill to further restrict late-term abortions. Democratic Senator Sue Windels argued that the bill would not solve any problem, because late-term abortions are pursued to protect the life of the mother or for other medical reasons. The only impact of the bill would be to increase medical costs and interfere with privacy between doctors and their patients.

I complimented Windels for her astute points, and I asked her why she was unable to follow the same line of reasoning the previous day relative to Gordon's bill. She asked, "You mean the argument that there are extra costs? What are the costs of the storage law?" I replied that the costs are the increased rates of violent crime. To that, Windels replied, "I don't believe that."

Has Windels ever read Lott's work? Has she ever read ANY study on the subject? Apparently it doesn't matter. If Windels chooses not to believe something, then that's good enough for government work.

During discussion of Tate's sentencing reform bill, Windels again regained her ability to think logically and examine evidence, while the Republicans forgot all about their previous opposition to intrusive government.

Although Republican Senator Jim F. Dyer argued eloquently for the privacy rights of gun owners, he apparently has no compunctions about the gestapo tactics of the drug war. He told me after the hearing, "We should put all drug users in prison and leave them there." That's exactly the sentiment expressed by the bigot Rosie O'Donnell, only in reference to "gun users."

Ken Gordon cut a deal with Governor Bill Owens to kill Tate's bill—he was the only Democrat to vote



Ari Armstrong and Debra Collins (Second Amendment Sisters) prepare to testify against the "lock up your safety" bill.

"Keep the government out of my bedroom. Do not take away my right to choose—how to defend myself."

that minimum prison sentences for non-violent drug offenders should be repealed and that alternatives to incarceration should be considered.

The committee voted against the libertarian position on both days. The two votes are representative of why our civil liberties are at risk at the hands of the "Republicrats." Indeed, my experience those two days serves as a microcosm of the American political landscape.

Arnie Grossman of the anti-gun lobby group Sane Alternatives to the Firearms Epidemic, the name of which likens gun ownership to a disease, asked, "Who could speak on behalf of unsafe gun storage?"

Apparently he can, because mandatory gun storage laws are proven to increase every category of violent crime by interfering with the right of self-defense. Yale scholar John Lott found that mandatory gun storage laws fail to reduce unintentional gun deaths yet they increase the rates of murder, rape, assault, and robbery.

Besides, I argued, child abuse is already against the law: CRS 18-6-401(1)(a) states, "A person commits child abuse if such person causes an injury to a child's life or health, or permits a child to be unreasonably placed in a situation that poses a threat of injury to the child's life or health..." Will the mere repetition of law make us safer, I asked? We don't need laws that discriminate against one class of citizen.





*Senator Penfield Tate prepares to speak on behalf of his bill to eliminate mandatory minimum prison sentences for drug offenders and study alternatives to prison expansion. His bill was defeated when Democrat Ken Gordon voted with the three Republicans on the committee.*

on a legislative committee in Colorado and vote for liberty day in and day out.

Even though my two days at the capitol were often frustrating, they were also encouraging. I met a lot of people who testified on behalf of liberty. My self-conscious goal is to help foster new coalitions between civil libertarians of the left and the right. The era of left-right politics is drawing to a close. The new division lies between those who love liberty and those who love state power.

There are signs of hope. For instance, even though Senator Mark Hillman voted against Tate's bill, he expressed an openness to the ideas of Milton Friedman, the free market economist who favors repealing drug prohibition.

*"Why do both  
Republicans and  
Democrats  
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platforms?"*

against it. He said he wants to pursue reforms in the future.

Why do both Republicans and Democrats suffer from pathological hysterias and advocate absurdly contradictory platforms? Part of the reason lies in the interest groups of the respective parties. Both parties consist of a disconnected and arbitrary grouping of ideological interests. The Republicans under Nixon, Reagan, and Bush used drug war hysteria to gain power, and recently Democrats tried to use gun war hysteria to gain power.

Thus, both Republicans and Democrats tend to defend civil liberties—when it is expedient for them. And they increase the power of the state at the expense of individual rights when that gets them more power. Power has a strange effect on some people's ability to think rationally. Of course, most successful politicians are people who can stuff the disparate elements of contradictory ideologies into a single package with enough votes to win.

It's always easier to increase the power of the state than it is to increase the power of individuals. Thus, with Democrats warring against civil liberties half the time Republicans warring against them the rest of the time, the only clear winner is the state.

Yet the principles of individual liberty and voluntary social groups are alive and well in Colorado. One of the ways to influence political outcomes is to educate the voting public. Maybe someday a Libertarian will sit

On my way out of the capitol, I met another legislator and asked him about asset forfeiture reform. He said, "Some people claim to be Constitutionalists, but they are selectively so. They can read the Second Amendment, and believe it means what it says, but they can't read the Fourth Amendment."

The struggle to regain and extend our liberties is only beginning. With the resolve of libertarians, Lady Liberty will never again be shut out of a legislative hearing. Her torch will again light the way to a free society.

## Vote for the 2001 Friend of Freedom

Every year, the Libertarian Party of Colorado gives its **Friend of Freedom award** to someone working outside the party who advances the cause of liberty. This year, voting is open to the entire state membership (those who are registered Libertarian or who pay dues). To vote, send your selection (and, if you wish, your second and third place choices) to Ari Armstrong, Box 1034, Arvada 80001. Please send \$1 (or more) with your vote to cover the costs of the award (any extra funds will be given to the party). Votes must be received by April 20.

Also, BetteRose Smith is accepting nominations for the **Minutemen awards**, given to Libertarian activists. Describe why you think a person deserves the award. Send your nominations to [betterose@aol.com](mailto:betterose@aol.com).



# Lies, Damn Lies and Republican Rhetoric

by Thomas L. Knapp, February 28, 2001  
<http://www.tlknapp.net/ldlarrframes.html>

I tried to come up with an accurate, yet pithy, summation of George W. Bush's speech to a joint session of Congress last night—but it's so much better to let someone speak for himself than to try to put words in his mouth. With that in mind, I think I'll start off with an excerpt from the White House Press Release on the subject:

"[The president's] budget increases spending for Social Security, Medicare and entitlement programs by \$81 billion, and increases discretionary spending by another \$26 billion, a four percent increase that means government spending will grow at more than the rate of inflation."

As late as yesterday, I still had friends telling me that the Republicans were the party of smaller government—the party that would rein in federal spending—that all I had to do was wait and see—that when I opined that the Republicans wouldn't do anything to cut government, I was talking through my hat.

More Social Security. More Medicare. More entitlements. More discretionary spending. Increased government spending, even accounting for inflation. Tucked into subtle phrases in the speech, we find more spending for the failed War on Drugs, more spending for welfare, more spending for, well, pretty much everything.

Is this what my friends mean by "smaller government?" Is this what they expected when they told me last November that they had to vote for George W. Bush because he was the only "smaller government" candidate who had a chance to win?

It's after midnight as I write this—but when I'm done, I think I'll break out the Rolodex, start ringing up my friends, and whisper two words into the phone:

**"Harry Browne."**

Yes, I know that the Democrats want even more spending and even smaller tax cuts. That's beside the point. The GOP controls the House of Representatives, the Senate, and the presidency. They don't need Democratic support to pass the budget they want. Compromise, at this point, is not a requirement.

Not a single Democratic vote is required to pass the next budget. Therefore, it is reasonable to assume that the president's budget proposal—specifics of which will be released tomorrow—reflects what he wants.

Given the glowing early reviews from the GOP's congressional leadership, it reflects what they want, too.

So, what do the Republicans want? In two words, more government.

Outside of some money for military pay raises and equipment improvements, every one of Bush's spending proposals, as described in the speech, flies in the face of the Constitution and of Republican rhetoric going back to Barry Goldwater's 1964 presidential candidacy—and unless the early trial balloons were false, those military spending proposals aren't an increase, but a reallocation of current military spending levels.

Quoth Bush:

"The highest percentage increase in our budget should go to our children's education. ...during the next 5 years, we triple spending, adding another \$5 billion to help every child in America learn to read. Values are important, so we have tripled funding for character education...[W]e have increased funding to train and recruit teachers."

Try as I might, I can't find the section of the Constitution that enumerates any federal power to provide for education. And unless I've missed something, the 10th Amendment—you know, the one that says the federal government can't do anything that it isn't specifically tasked with doing in the Constitution—doesn't seem to have been repealed.

The Republicans know this, of course. They've been bellyaching for two decades about it, and promising to eliminate the Department of Education and sow salt on the earth where it once stood. This hardly seems an auspicious beginning to that process. Perhaps Bush is hoping that all of the DoE bureaucrats will die of paper cuts incurred while riffling through the fresh stacks of Federal Reserve Notes he's having sent over.

On almost every budget item mentioned in the speech—from education to Social Security and Medicare and beyond—Bush proposes more spending and more federal intervention in areas where the federal government has no business in the first place.

For the first time in nearly half a century, the Republicans control the machinery of government. Their word is law. It's time to follow through on decades of promises to be fulfilled "some day," and last night's speech is a clear indication that they have no intention of doing so. "Some day" is here—and the Republicans are fresh out of excuses.

*"So, what do  
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