



Liberty News

May 2001

a publication of the Libertarian Party of Boulder County

LPBC Has Best Tax Day Protest Ever

by Chuck Wright

Thousands of last minute tax filers and passerby's were greeted by a 7 foot tall Miss Liberty on tax day at the Boulder Main Post Office. Occasionally cars stopped in the middle of Walnut St. to gawk at Miss Liberty. And more than a few pedestrians felt compelled to snap a photograph of Miss Liberty including her "Enough is Enough, Vote Libertarian" sign she prominently carried. It was all part of the LPBC's annual tax day protest on April 16th.

While Miss Liberty attracted attention to the party, LPBC members were busily distributing the LP's fake million dollar bills (at least \$500 million was handed out) and carried signs that stated "The Income Tax is Slavery."

Despite the cold weather, LPBC members Joe Johnson (aka Miss Liberty), Elizabeth Bennett (we couldn't have done it without Elizabeth's hot chocolate runs), and Chuck Wright stuck it out until midnight.

It was simply amazing to see a steady stream of filers right up until midnight. A few late filers were still buying stamps and addressing their envelopes at 11:59 PM. Fortunately for a dozen last minute filers, the post office didn't actually empty the mail boxes until about 12:04 AM. But at least one late filer arrived moments too late and was very upset about it. Here's your million dollar bill sir!

The LPBC thanks Ralph Shnelvar, Greg Woods, Joe Van Landshoot, Dariush Rusta, and Ken and Andrea Bray who all helped make this years annual tax day protest the LPBC's best ever.

Perhaps next year we can improve our protest by having Miss Liberty plus LPBC members dressed in



Elizabeth Bennett stands next to a 7' tall Miss Liberty (Joe Johnson) at this years tax day protest.

Colonial costumes. Does anybody know where we can obtain costumes?

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A Captive Audience

by Ralph Shnelvar

As many of you know from LPCOchat@listbot.com I volunteered to teach a class on the Bill of Rights to a freshman class at Fairview High School.

If you can possibly do it, I strongly urge you to teach a class about freedom. If you don't know how, I will be happy to demonstrate the techniques that I have learned over the years on how to do public speaking. If you want, I'll even do a class for you as long as you attend and watch how it is done. Contact me, 303-546-6125 or ralphs@dos32.com, if you would like to work with me on this.

Teaching a class is an effective use of one's time. Compare this to, say, volunteering for a gun show or a science fiction convention. In a 4-hour stretch at a show you might get to talk to twenty-five people for maybe three minutes each. In a class you will get to twenty-five impressionable students for nearly an hour. By one measure-time per person-you will be twenty times more effective.

(Of course, at a gun show you will be collecting money and talking to voters. The payoff for doing a gun show or a convention is much more immediate.)

You will also have to prepare and you will also have to be comfortable doing public speaking. Preparation for the class is not a trivial task but you will likely find the preparation extremely interesting. Public speaking, if you've never or rarely done it before, can be taught. Being comfortable with public speaking will also make you a more effective candidate should you ever decide to become one.

I titled this little article Captive Audience. The title

Quotable...

***When buying and selling are controlled
by legislation, the first things to be
bought and sold are legislators.***

--P.J. O'Rourke

really was a double entendre. Not only was the class at Fairview High School my captive audience, the class was also the captive audience of the school.

Another reason that you should do a lecture is to see just how bad it is in these schools. Fairview is by reputation a comparatively good school. I know that my daughter's U.S. Government teacher, Mr. Radke, is a good teacher (my daughter speaks highly of him) and yet these kids were dead inside. Nearly all the passion for learning seems to have been drained out of them. Even talking about the things that they are interested in - raves, beer, being harassed by the police - elicited almost no emotion from them. Mr. Radke said that I had engaged the kids. I wonder what it must be like



Ralph (right) discusses the Bill of Rights with Mr. Radke's history class at Fairview High.

when they are not engaged.

Besides telling these kids that there are people interested in freedom, you will get a first-hand look at the crushing sense of "slavery" that these kids experience. "Slavery" is not quite the right word. There is a sense that one is being forced to waste one's time on complete trivialities. Frankly, no adult outside of a jail would put up with it.

I'm arrogant enough to know that I am a good public speaker. I'm arrogant enough to know that I'm entertaining to anyone who is half awake. Yet these kids were (in a couple of cases, quite literally) asleep. A few were obviously high. The crushing boredom of school has driven them to cherish the three minutes between classes as their only relief.

Thus one of the downsides to teaching a class is the sense of anguish that you will likely experience because your message will fall on minds whose thoughts are a million miles away.

But maybe, just maybe, you will experience the high that I felt when, on the second day of classes I heard one young man shout to his class "Libertarians rule!"

It was worth it.

From the Chairman

by Lori Van Buren

This month I'm opening with a Call for Help. I will not be able to attend the July meeting of the LPBC Board (election of officers) on the scheduled date -- the second Thursday, or July 12. In order for that meeting to be legally conducted, I need someone to volunteer to act as Chairman and open the meeting, then conduct the election of officers. It is my understanding that the new officers assume their positions immediately after the election so the duties of the Chairman should not be overwhelming. Perhaps a past Chairman would be so kind as to do this for the good of the organization??

Hey, Listen Up! It is time to be thinking about holding a position on the LPBC Board next year. I hear there are several positions up for grabs -- why don't you make a grab? I have moved out of Boulder County so definitely won't be seeking election to any position on the LPBC Board. Seems like I have heard one or two other current Board members mention not seeking re-election. According to the Bylaws: "Members wishing to run for an office must advise the Publicity Director of their intention no later than the June Board meeting. The Publicity Director is responsible for creating an announcement of all candidates for each office, and submitting it to the Newsletter Editor for inclusion in the July issue of Liberty News."

TRT will be facing off against the Million (hundred?) Moms in Denver on Mother's Day again this year. If you feel like some "get in their faces" activism, you are welcome to join TRT. See the TRT website (www.trt-co.org) for details. On the other hand, if you would like a more peaceful day with some freedom loving folks, the Northern Colorado Second Amendment Sisters are having a picnic at North Lake Park in Loveland from 1:00-5:00 on Mother's Day afternoon; see their website at www.lovelandnet.com/nco-sas.

Also fast approaching is the Colorado LP Convention and annual meeting. If you are not on their mailing list and would like more information, check out www.lpcolorado.org.

And May 26-28 (Memorial Day Weekend) is once again the Boulder Creek Festival. We still need volunteers to man the booth for a few hours during the weekend.

April Board Minutes

by Bruce Waters

Chairman Lori Van Buren called the meeting to order at 6:40 at La Estrellita. The minutes of the March meeting were accepted as printed in the Liberty News. The secretary was unable to find the February minutes, so the motion to approve those was tabled. Treasurer Chuck Wright passed around copies of his Treasurer's report; we are solvent. Our dinner was served at this point, and we engaged in a wide ranging discussion which included such topics as raccoons and mad cow brains. Chuck pointed out a change to expenses on the Treasurer's report.

The Membership Director stated that we have 58 members, 51 voting and 7 contributing. Several need to renew. Continuing adjustments to membership rates affected a few people which Tom took care of by giving them an extra month. He also mailed out the newsletter. There is lots of website activity. Ron opined that we shouldn't charge any dues. Charging for membership stunts growth. Discussion, but no change in current policy. Motion, second and the membership report was approved.

Newsletter Editor John Larkin set a deadline of Wednesday, April 25 for Newsletter submissions. He needs submissions as usual. Thanks to those who do write. Ron may write letters to the editor. Outreach: Ron has made various connections and talked to various groups. Russel Means will talk at the convention May 20. No chair report.

Old Business: Boulder Creek Festival has willing workers, but nobody willing to organize. Joe Johnson's name was put forward, as well as members of the college group. Creek Fest has been "a colossal failure." The fee was approved if we can find a coordinator. Discussion.

Tax Protest Day: Chuck will be at the downtown Post Office from 4:00 'til 8:00. Weather is iffy. Will be cancelled if it rains or snows. Discussion.

New Business: Larry Gibes passing was discussed. He should get a mention in the newsletter. Next month's meeting will be held Thursday, May 10, 6:30 P.M. at the Golden Corral in Longmont. Chuck has decided against running for the Louisville Home Rule Charter Commission due to being out of town when the Commission will be doing its work. Sci-Fi convention 4/20-22/01 I-70 and Chambers.

Why I am not a Libertarian

by Andres Llorente

[Ed. note: I debated whether or not this article should be published in our newsletter. After a bit of deliberation, I decided to include it with this prescript. It's easy to dismiss this article, exclaiming that the author doesn't understand freedom, rights, or personal responsibility. It's easy to become frustrated, and think of canned responses. However, I found value in this article by using the ideas contained herein as a guide to what socialists consider downfalls of Libertarianism. It provides a starting point for formulating a response to common misgivings about Libertarianism in Boulder.]

A Socialist Critique of Libertarianism

Universal peace and prosperity demand cooperation and solidarity. While we must celebrate our individualism, we must acknowledge that we are more than individuals; we are a collective society. Much personal freedom actually comes through an attachment and commitment to something greater than oneself. Through minimal government and maximum cooperation we could govern ourselves peacefully and successfully. The fundamental shortcoming of Libertarian theory is its excessive emphasis on personal liberty to the detriment of our responsibility to one another and community.

From the Libertarian party platform one reads that we "should be left free by government to deal with one another as free traders; and the resultant economic system, the only one compatible with the protection of individual rights, is the free market." Rights are not natural; they are creations of government. A Libertarian sees government as more a taker than giver of rights. Because using certain drugs in some nations is a right while here it is a crime we know that rights do not transfer freely from one nation to the next. Despite the great Libertarian complaint neither the free market nor the individual is excessively hindered by government involvement. At its very best government works for everyone to establish and preserve the public well being of an organized citizenry; at its worst government is manipulated by individuals who enjoy their own economic liberty to the tyrannical point of squelching the liberty of others. Government can redistribute wealth and attend to individuals in our culture who toil endlessly with no real chance of advancing. Overemphasis of individual rights undermines our responsibilities to one another. Democracy depends on cooperation of individuals beyond the dealing with one another as mere "free traders"; ethically it requires an appreciation of the common good and willingness to pool resources.

If the free market is so effective why haven't more of our problems been solved through its efficiency? Social programs exist because private enterprise will not address the shortcomings of capitalism. Localizing federal programs could eliminate entire layers of bureaucracy, systemic corruption, and many inefficiencies resulting from the attempt to manage too large a state. Full privatization of what is currently public domain would be a horrible error. The Libertarian theory is that with all the money the government steals from us in income taxes we would charitably support the not for profit and for profit enterprises which would emerge to address our country's needs. Yet, at the same time Libertarianism encourages the corporation and discourages cooperation because it promotes the cult of the ego, investment merely for personal gain, glorification of the corporate state, and the creation of a de facto caste system. Rather than address serious problems Libertarianism will preserve status quo as wealth will always protect wealth, and trickle down economics needs something upon which to trickle. The mythical American Dream promises the impossible to many for capitalism depends on unemployment. I am not afraid to pay taxes for causes that benefit the majority for I could one day be a beneficiary. Ironically, those who can give most painlessly complain most vociferously. After having lived and traveled in other countries with much higher tax rates and better social services I don't feel I lose an extraordinary percentage of my income to social programs, nor do I suffer from excessive government intrusion in my life.

Libertarians have blind faith in the free market of which we have even less control than of our big government; present global corporate domination is the direct result of too little regulation of the free market and gives the United States too much economic power over other countries. What about the rights as "free traders" of those living in other countries? Legally, corporations are considered natural persons and enjoy all the rights of individuals hence, corporations are people too, but like George Orwell's pigs they obviously enjoy more equality. In good faith how can a Libertarian hype personal responsibility and invest in a limited liability enterprise run by a CEO or major investor who stands very little chance of serving any jail time should his company break laws or harm others? Libertarianism is a capitalist anarchy that fails to acknowledge the greater consequences of personal responsibility or the ill effects of shrugging it. Presently our government

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

Every Monday, Noon:
LPBC Weekly Lunch
Hunan Garden
949 Walnut St.
Boulder, CO
303-442-2772

Thursday, May 10th, 6:30pm:
LPBC Board Meeting
Golden Corral
2315 N. Main St.
Longmont, CO 80501
303-772-4938

Fri - Sun, May 18-20
Colorado Libertarian Convention
Best Western Executive Hotel
441 Peoria St.
Denver, CO 80239
Call 303-837-9393 for information

Sat - Mon, May 26-28
(Memorial Weekend)
Boulder Creek Festival
Along Boulder Creek, between 9th
and 14th, and Arapahoe and Canyon
Call Joe Johnson for information and
volunteer opportunities: 303-604-9153

Sat - Sun, June 2-3, 9am - 5pm
Tanner Gun Show
Merchandise Mart
Denver, CO
Call Elizabeth Bennett:
303-604-9153 (home)
303-669-9111 (cell)

*For more info about all LPBC events,
contact Lori Van Buren: 970-278-1158
or visit our website:
www.lpboulder.com*

Why I am not a Libertarian

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does a poor job of corralling our companies, but in lieu of letting them go unhindered it is the best resource for monitoring and modifying their behavior. We already have a pretty good taste of the free market and it has a good taste of us. Corporations are cannibalistic, devouring both capitalists and non-capitalists alike; they merge, morph, absorb, and are absorbed all within the acceptably transient and insatiable parameters of the American capitalist parable. The effect is not to expand personal liberty, but to decrease it. Corporations control our politicians, how our news appears, what is available to us as consumers, and play governments against one another. How is free trade possible if fewer and fewer companies control the world economy and buy up friends and foes

alike? This multinational incest effectively narrows and centralizes power in a diminishing minority. Many of the top economies now are not countries, but corporations to whom Libertarian laissez-faire economics would give greater power at the cost of individual liberty.

Libertarians favor personal investment to replace social security although projections of its demise are unreasonably 30 years premature, thus are not sane economic speculation. To appease stockholders fewer companies offer pensions and retirement funds so Social Security must work in conjunction with

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Liberty News

Published monthly by the Libertarian Party of Boulder County. Subscription is included in LPBC membership, which is \$15 per year. Send all newsletter contributions, correspondence, and advertising inquiries to
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Letter to the Editor

by Ralph Shnelvar

[The following was printed by the Boulder Daily Camera on April 20th, 2001. This is also available online at www.thedailycamera.com/opinion/letters/20.lett.html]

Libertarians are both moral and practical

Mr. Edward Arnold's ad hominem attack on Libertarians (Open Forum, April 12) demands a response. Unfortunately, it is impossible to respond to his 10 specious attacks in a mere 300 words.

Libertarians are acutely aware of moral issues. We understand that in a world of limited resources, wasting any resource causes people, especially poor people, to have less. As Mr. Arnold pointed out, according to our government, 8 percent of Medicare payments are "improper." That's about \$20 billion per year on pure waste. This is immoral.

Mr. Arnold implies that without government intervention, nobody will provide affordable health care for the poor. He's ignoring history. Prior to Medicare, most hospitals engaged in "cost shifting" by considering each patient's ability to pay when setting their fees. Government inspectors won't allow this practice any longer. Medicare's cost-containment features lead directly to substandard medical care for the very people it was meant to help.

HMO monsters are the direct result of government interference in the marketplace. This government shields HMOs from lawsuits. That is why HMOs are indifferent to their customers' needs.

Libertarians know that government at all levels now consumes 50 percent of GDP an enormous drag on the economy. If government were reduced, many of the problems of health care would be eliminated because people would have more money to spend wisely.

When X is taxed by Mr. Arnold to serve Z, Z is the beneficiary in the short run. X has less to spend and invest, robbing everyone of a brighter future. Mr. Arnold, as an agent of government bureaucracy perforce, wastes money on administration that would otherwise not be spent. Z is dehumanized and ends up with what Mr. Arnold wants rather than what Z wants. Everyone is a loser except Mr. Edward "The Government" Arnold.

Why I am not a Libertarian

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personal savings and investment; to abolish the cornerstone of the American retirement plan would be tragic. The average American is no investment expert, despite what the champions of current fads would claim. Is our money any safer with banks subject to the whims and ways of the free market than it is with our own government? Many such investments enjoy stability through federal government insurance. Social Security can be improved by greater taxation of wealthy America for it is currently a regressive tax where the richest are proportionately taxed too little. The top 1% of the upper class in this country has more wealth than the bottom 80% of our population. Most Americans need to earn more, and the richest need to invest more in the country that gives them the opportunity to acquire great wealth. For the purposes of Social Security individuals are taxed on only their first \$70,000 of income so Bill Gates pitches in to this program with taxes on his first ten minutes of annual income. Social Security is an example of a government program that brings more than financial security for retired, widowed, or disabled Americans; it brings dignity to our nation as one of compassion and cooperation, not an egoistic free for all.

Although wildly successful we are young and need to learn from older nations most of which have higher tax rates and larger government programs such as universal health care. It is a failure of the free market, and its domination here that as the richest country in the world we have no comprehensive health care system. Capitalists should not be afraid of Socialism for it necessarily includes them in its political system. We need a more inclusive government that more accurately reflects the opinions and values of the diverse nation that we have become. Any step toward bringing more third party representation into our currently limited political landscape is a step in the right direction of better forwarding the diverse ideologies of all Americans. Coalition is essential to creative solutions to our complex problems. Libertarians should be among such a coalition, but must encourage interdependence rather than mythologize independence.

Andres Llorente is a teacher in Boulder, Colorado.

Libertarian Online Guide

f National Libertarian Party
f www.lp.org

f Colorado Libertarian Party
f www.lpcolorado.org

f Boulder County Libertarian Party
f www.lpboulder.com

f Advocates for Self-Government
f www.self-gov.org

f Cato Institute
f www.cato.org

f Laissez Faire Books
f www.laissezfaire.org

f Libertarian TV Schedule
f www.missliberty.com

f Reason Online
f www.reason.com

f More Advocates for Self Government
f www.reliablehost.com/self-gov

Join the Libertarian Party of Boulder County!

Choose one of these options:

___ *Combo Package:* Join the LPBC, LP-CO, and LP-US for only \$40

___ Join the LPBC for THREE FULL YEARS for only \$42

___ Join the LPBC for the small annual fee of \$15

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Day Phone: _____ Eve Phone: _____

Email address: _____

If you wish to be a voting member, please sign and date the following pledge:

"I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals."

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Choose a membership plan above and enclose a check or money order payable to the LPBC for the amount listed. Send to: LPBC, PMB #427, 2525 Arapahoe Ave., E4, Boulder, CO 80302. *Thank you for your support!*

Libertarian Party Directory

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