



Liberty News

October 2000

a publication of the Libertarian Party of Boulder County

If You Can't Stand the Heat...

by Ron Bain

Fifty-plus days with high temperatures above 90 degrees that wilted Coloradans during July and August. Raging forest fires that threatened homes and parklands throughout the Western United States. Heatwaves in California and Colorado that have utility bills soaring and tempers flaring. It must be global warming, mustn't it?

The theory is that minor increases in mean global temperature over the past 125 years are due to additional "greenhouse gases" -- primarily carbon dioxide, water vapor, methane and nitrous oxide -- that man has placed into earth's atmosphere.

One of the problems with global warming theory is that it relies too heavily on a very large set of assumptions: that century-old temperature records are complete and accurate; that tree rings, ice cores, flood plains and ocean sediments can be precisely interpreted; that the modern earth is a steady-state, unchanging planet receiving a constant, invariable amount of heat from the sun; and that burning of fossil fuels is the only explanation for increased atmospheric CO₂.

Temperature records are not complete going back any further than the 1940s or 1950s. Prior to that, accurate measurements of daily temperatures were an extremely rare thing, limited to college campuses, scientific research stations and ships at sea. It wasn't until the 1940s that the National Weather Service established weather ground stations in every state. More accurate satellite measurements of atmospheric temperatures have been made since the late 1970s, and have detected only the most minuscule increase in average temperatures during the past 20 years.

Although precise interpretation of tree rings, ice cores, flood plains and ocean sediments is impossible, these natural records of weather extremes indicate without a doubt that the earth experienced wild temperature variations long before man evolved or industrialized.

Does the sun always provide the earth with the exact same amount of solar energy, year after year? Sunspot records would indicate otherwise. The period of 1645 to 1715, during which sunspots were rarely seen, is referred to as the Maunder Minimum. Three to four hundred years ago, European glaciers were more extended and they moved southward, there was more sea ice, and rivers froze more frequently. Historical records indicate that Europeans starved en masse when 17th century harvests were devastated by premature winters.

"There's no doubt that the sun varies," stated solar researcher Gary Rottman of Boulder's Laboratory for Atmospheric Science and Physics. But the amount of measured fluctuation is small, he cautioned, in the range of 1/10th to 3/10ths of a percent.

The term "carbon sinks" refers to the ability of plants on land and in the ocean to absorb a particular isotope of carbon from the atmosphere. About half of the carbon dioxide that is released into the atmosphere - whether by polluting humans, decaying plants or burning forests - is absorbed back into the planet's vegetation. Fossil fuel deposits - coal, oil and natural gas - constitute another long-term carbon sink that's being converted into atmospheric carbon dioxide by human activity, but there is no indication of a CO₂

(Continued on page 3...)

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Thoughts from the Chairman

by Lorene Van Buren

This month I have been on the run a bit and not much time to think of what to put in this corner of the *Liberty News*.

Saturday of Labor Day Weekend, I volunteered at the gun show in Loveland. There was a very low turnout of the public there but it was the last long weekend of the summer season.

I submitted a letter to the editor of the *Daily Camera* responding to the rant against the Second Amendment written by a Mr. Paul. Since my letter has not yet been published, I think I am safe in saying they don't really want to print opinion on both sides of certain issues.

On September 12, I attended a meeting of the Second Amendment Sisters held in Longmont. TRT sponsored an anti-Bell Campaign rally outside the Hyatt Regency at 17th & Welton on September 15.

The next day SAS had its own rally outside the Hyatt from 10-4. The City of Denver denied them a permit for an information table but they arranged for a portable speaker system and so they could walk along the sidewalk reading their self-defense stories over the speaker.

The Boulder Lunch Activist Group is still searching for a regular meeting place. Although the food was

excellent at the Broker Inn, the quality of service was definitely not reflective of the 18% mandatory "service charge". Broker refuses to make any exceptions or allowances for any group smaller than 100 persons. The US West Cafeteria was re-visited in September and on October 2 we will be at Hunan Garden, 949 Walnut.

I realize you might not receive this newsletter until after the event but I hope you don't forget Constitution Monday, West Steps of State Capitol on October 2, 4:30-7:00. Harry Browne will be a featured speaker. Other planned speakers include Bob Glass, Dudley Brown, Dr. Glazer, Ari Armstrong, and representatives of SAS (including a 16 year old activist). Following the events at the Capitol, there will be a reception for Mr. Browne at the Sheraton Denver Tech Center Hotel, 7007 S. Clinton. (Directions: From I-25, East on Arapahoe, then South on Clinton.) The reception will begin at 7:15, with speeches starting at 7:45.

There are two gun shows on the second weekend in October at which we should make our presence, and our candidates, known. If you can help out in Denver at the Merchandise Mart, please let Chuck Wright know (303-666-0509 or cawrigh@attglobal.net); contact Joe Johnson (303-604-9153 or joejohn@us.ibm.com) to volunteer for the Wasatch Show in Fort Collins. There will also be a Wasatch show in Loveland the following weekend.

3rd Annual Colorado "Libertarian of the Year" Awards Banquet

John Ross, author of the novel, *Unintended Consequences*, will be the guest speaker at the 3rd Annual Colorado Libertarian of the Year Awards Banquet to be held in Colorado Springs on Saturday, October 21.

The banquet features a cocktail hour, full course sit-down meal, the Libertarian of the Year Award presentation, and a speech by John Ross. Bring your copy of *Unintended Consequences* to the banquet and John will gladly sign it. If you don't have one, you can buy one at the banquet.

Attire is the best you can come up with. In Libertarian circles, that means anywhere from a button shirt and slacks to a three piece suit.

The banquet cost is \$40 per person and will be held on Saturday evening, October 21, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Colo. Springs. RSVP's are required. We're expecting a huge turnout this year so it's important that you RSVP as soon as possible. RSVP by calling (719) 596-6799 or email CGelt2000@aol.com. Payment can be by check (payable to LPEP), credit card (VISA or Mastercard) or cash, all payable between now and the night of the banquet.

If You Can't Stand the Heat

(continued from page 1)

build-up that's beyond the capacities of the carbon cycle.

Global warming theorists speculate that increased CO2 will increase the greenhouse effect by increasing water vapor in the atmosphere and harming plant respiration. Recent research indicates that plants adapt to changing CO2 and that CO2 concentrations in the atmosphere have varied widely over time, without direct correlations to variations in temperature.

Homo Sapiens is approximately one to three million years old while Industrial Man is only 150 years old. The world's climate had changed drastically for billions of years before man industrialized, and will continue to do so now that man has industrialized.

Nonetheless, in December 1997, Al Gore burned 439,500 pounds of jet fuel to travel to Kyoto, Japan for the U.N. Global Warming Conference. The result was the Kyoto Treaty and Protocols proposal, which would punish industrialized nations for polluting and reward less-developed nations for polluting. Although the Senate has thus far refused to ratify the treaty, Gore has promised to implement its expensive and restrictive provisions whether or not the treaty ever gets ratified.

If you read between the lines then, this is the "economic prosperity" that Al Gore would foist upon this nation:

Gasoline selling for \$3 to \$5 a gallon; new taxes on energy consumption or hydrocarbon pollution which will cause massive loss of jobs and industry in America; transfer of jobs and wealth to Third World nations; and no net gain in fighting worldwide pollution, just changes in pollution centers. Oh, and I forgot to mention, a global economic depression.

Ron Bain is a Staff Member at the Independence Institute, a free market think tank in Golden, Colorado. His research paper on global warming will be published this fall by the Independence Institute, <http://i2i.org>

Quotable...

"Peace, commerce and honest
friendship with all nations; entangling
alliances with none."

-- Thomas Jefferson

Libertarians Field Historic Ballot Slate

[Note: This is a press release from the LP of Colorado announcing the impressive slate of LP candidates. The LPBC itself has 5 candidates running: Dave Baker, Chuck Wright, Dwight Harding, Justin van Wart, and W. Earl Allen. For more info on all of the LP candidates, please see our web page: www.lpboulder.com/candidates]

DENVER, CO - The Libertarian Party of Colorado announced today that it is providing something no other "minor" party has provided in decades, if ever: a nearly full slate. Colorado voters have it within their power to elect a Libertarian majority in the State House and a strong plurality in the State Senate.

The Libertarian Party is running candidates in 58 out of 65 State House races and in 18 out of 20 State Senate races. In addition, Libertarians are running in all six US House seats and party member Johanna Fallis is running for Secretary of State.

Every Colorado voter will have a chance to vote for a Libertarian; most will be able to vote for three or more. In fact, Libertarians are providing a larger slate for state and federal offices in Colorado than the Democrats.

This incredible list of candidates makes it possible that a party other than the Republicans or Democrats could run an American state, for the first time since before the Civil War. Many believe that it is long past time.

"Libertarians are proud to have this opportunity to give Colorado a government dedicated to protecting their rights and, otherwise, getting out of their way," said Bette Rose Smith, Chair of the Libertarian Party of Colorado. "I certainly want to thank our Campaigns Director, Norm Olsen, and his entire team for making this dream come true.

"Now it is up to the people of Colorado to decide if they want to break the two-party monopoly that has, for so long, been stealing our money, intruding in our lives, and setting us against each other. Together, they have corrupted the meaning of freedom."

Further information can be found at our website - www.lpcolorado.org

New Convert Opens Eyes

by Jack Wardrop

I am a recent Libertarian convert. I was a lifelong Democrat. Here is what opened my eyes....

Taxes have been taken out of my paycheck my whole life. I always felt that paying up was a necessary part of running a government (my Democratic upbringing). I actually felt good about "paying my way". Recently though, I have come to realize the government, regardless how big or small, should have nothing to do with your paycheck.

The fact that the government has access to your paycheck is bad enough. But more importantly we have allowed the government to take its percentage before this money has hit our bank. That's 1984. But the government has allowed you an option of claiming deductions, including yourself. So relax. Pony up on April 15th and be done with it. That's fine and that's what I will do.

How did it start though, that the government could get its greasy hands on my paycheck in the first place? How did this form of invasion start? I was taught that having the government take out its share up front was for convenience to me. I went along. In fact paying as you go is an American lesson we learn. Waiting to pay is seen as miserly and weak. Tear the Band-Aid all off at once. Thinking I would have to face some enormous amount I could never come up with on April 15th also scared the hell out of me. That's part of the psychology though that young people like me have been scared into.

We need to remember though, what a paycheck is. It's part of a contract you set up with your employer. You work for them, they pay you. Why should the IRS have anything to do with that? We are "allowed" the right to pay the IRS up front in order to lull us to sleep. We would have a revolt if everyone deposited the money

they earned into the bank and then turned around to cut the IRS a check. I hand it to the IRS, this system works for keeping the masses asleep. Hey, the IRS knows it's take as soon as your paycheck is cut. So why don't we all pay our taxes on April 15th and keep the IRS out of our affairs.

OK, so it's easy to beat up on the IRS. Remember, they are just a high powered collection agency. We need to think bigger. Get rid of the income tax all together. Stop owing the government like they are some landlord. Give up your favorite perk from the government and kill the Income Tax. This is a pretty big step for a country weaned on entitlements and one can make a pretty good argument that certain taxes are needed. You drive on a road, you need to pay for its upkeep through gas taxes. But how in the world can good old American work be taxed? Taxing income is regressive. Why do we allow this clearly oppressive system? I am going to vote Libertarian so this country can get back what the founding fathers wrote down in the Constitution. Keep government small!

(Mr. Wardrop lives in Illinois and visits the Boulder area about once a year.)

Baker Discusses Libertarian Alternatives

Dave Baker, Libertarian candidate for U.S. Congress in District 2, got the opportunity to share his ideas with the Boulder community in an August article published in the *Daily Camera*, the city's largest newspaper.

"We used to be laughed off radio shows for talking about drug prohibition," said Baker, adding that the now-popular idea of privatizing Social Security has been pushed by Libertarians for years.

"Baker, a Boulder health care professional, calls for personal freedom with less government interference, free trade, doing away with the federal income tax, and legalizing drugs," the article continued.

A large photo of Baker (and Green Party candidate Ron Fortholfer) accompanied the article.

Quotable...

"Government is not reason; it is not eloquence; it is force. Like fire, it is a dangerous servant and a fearful master."

-- George Washington

LP Candidates in Colorado

Secretary of State Johanna Fallis

Boulder County Commissioner, Justin van Wart
[LPBC]

U. S. Congress, District 1 Richard Combs
U. S. Congress, District 2 David Michael Baker
[LPBC]

U. S. Congress, District 3 Drew Sakson
U. S. Congress, District 4 Kordon L Baker
U. S. Congress, District 5 Kerry Kantor
U. S. Congress, District 6 Adam D Katz

State Senate, District 4 Amy M Kacsh
State Senate, District 8 Mike Zuckerman
State Senate, District 10 Pat Glidewell
State Senate, District 12 Patrick L Lilly
State Senate, District 14 Wayne L Bowlby
State Senate, District 17 Charles A Wright [LPBC]

State Senate, District 18 Mark H Nikkel
State Senate, District 19 Bud Martin
State Senate, District 21 Doyle W Travis
State Senate, District 23 Steven E Lechner
State Senate, District 25 Ron Schweizer
State Senate, District 26 Steven M Lee

State Senate, District 27 Harry Ozols
State Senate, District 28 Steven Dreiling
State Senate, District 29 Cyril B Smaling
State Senate, District 31 Patrick Adamson
State Senate, District 33 Jesse L Wilkins
State Senate, District 35 Jeff Taton

State Representative, HD 1 Dwayne Smilanich
State Representative, HD 2 Vernon L Tomkins
State Representative, HD 3 Benjamin Aycrigg
State Representative, HD 4 Ralph Estrada
State Representative, HD 5 Martin Vigil
State Representative, HD 6 Richard Blair III

State Representative, HD 8 Walter Schlomer
State Representative, HD 9 Dawn Reader-McCreery
State Representative, HD 11 Glen Brink
State Representative, HD 12 Dwight Harding
[LPBC]

State Representative, HD 13 Wright J Morgan
State Representative, HD 14 Jonathan Birge

State Representative, HD 15 Carol Geltemeyer
State Representative, HD 16 Bradford H Ricker

State Representative, HD 17 Michael Hechtman
State Representative, HD 18 Desiree Hickson
State Representative, HD 19 Colette Wright
State Representative, HD 20 Ariane M Hildenbrandt

State Representative, HD 21 Robert Herzfeld
State Representative, HD 22 Kent McNaughton
State Representative, HD 24 Shawn Glazer
State Representative, HD 25 Duane Bates
State Representative, HD 28 Mike Spalding
State Representative, HD 29 Gregg Miller

State Representative, HD 30 Kelly Koop
State Representative, HD 31 W Earl Allen [LPBC]
State Representative, HD 32 Stephen Hutchens
State Representative, HD 33 Norman T Olsen
State Representative, HD 34 David Wood
State Representative, HD 35 Ari Armstrong

State Representative, HD 36 Clayton Steiner
State Representative, HD 38 Richard Roeder
State Representative, HD 39 Ross Atwood
State Representative, HD 40 Jay Bloomfield
State Representative, HD 41 Jal Staples
State Representative, HD 42 Lyman Hall

State Representative, HD 43 Grace Reed
State Representative, HD 44 James Meacham
State Representative, HD 45 Lawrence Tudor
State Representative, HD 47 Betty K McCanless
State Representative, HD 48 Anthony Barbour
State Representative, HD 49 Robert Brooks

State Representative, HD 50 Russ J Haddad
State Representative, HD 51 Brenda Bissel-Morey
State Representative, HD 52 Alberto Squassabia
State Representative, HD 53 Clifford Ham
State Representative, HD 54 Chris Lans
State Representative, HD 55 David Cooper

State Representative, HD 56 Barry K Maggert
State Representative, HD 57 James Brent Shroyer
State Representative, HD 58 William Dale Murphy
State Representative, HD 59 William Zimsky
State Representative, HD 60 Robert Johnson
State Representative, HD 61 Tim P Sauer

State Representative, HD 62 Sharon K Davis
State Representative, HD 63 Gene Leverett
State Representative, HD 64 Zach Ullevig
State Representative, HD 65 Trent Eichhorn

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Every Monday, Noon:

LPBC Weekly Lunch

NOTE: Healthy Habits went out of business as of 7/23. Until further notice, Monday lunch locations are changing frequently.

See www.lpboulder.com for updates

Monday, October 2, 4:30-7:30 pm

"Constitution Monday"

Denver Capitol, West Steps

Denver, CO

Ž Featuring: Harry Browne (LP Pres. candidate), Bob Glass (publisher, The Partisan), Dr. Shawn Elke Glazer (LP CO State Representative candidate), and more!

Thursday, October 12, 6:30 pm

LPBC Board Meeting

La Estrellita Mexican Restaurant

1718 Broadway, Boulder, CO

Saturday & Sunday, October 14 & 15:

Tanner Gun Show

Denver Merchandise Mart

I-25 & 58th, Denver CO

Call Chuck Wright: (303) 666-0509

Sunday, October 15, 7:00 pm

LPBC Monthly Dialogue

Odd Fellows Hall

1543 Pearl St., Boulder, CO

Ž Featuring: District Attorney Candidate Dave Sanderson and LP candidates.

TENTATIVE!! See www.lpboulder.com for updates!

Saturday, October 21, evening:

3rd Annual CO "Libertarian of the

Year" Awards Banquet (\$40/person)

Embassy Suites Hotel

Colorado Springs, CO

RSVP: (719) 596-6799 or

CGelt2000@aol.com

Ž Featuring: John Ross, author of Unintended Consequences.

Wednesday, October 25:

"CU Vote 2000" Debate

Hale Science Building, Room 270

CU Campus, Boulder, CO

Ž Featuring: Dave Baker, LP Congressional candidate

Tuesday, November 7, 7:00 am-7:00 pm

ELECTION DAY

VOTE LIBERTARIAN!

Thursday, November 9, 6:30 pm

LPBC Monthly Board Meeting

Cheng's Garden Restaurant

480 W. Dahlia, Louisville, CO

Saturday & Sunday, November 11 & 12:

"Crossroads of the West" Gun Show

Holiday Inn

I-70 & Chambers, Aurora, CO

Call Chuck Wright: (303) 666-0509

For more info about all LPBC events, contact Lori Van Buren: (303) 442-9695

or visit our website:

www.lpboulder.com

Five good reasons to join the Libertarian Party

1. We're the only party that wants to empower you -- not politicians. We want to return your money to you; we want to put your family's future back in your hands; we want to put your life back in your control.

2. We're the only party that defends your personal and economic liberty on every issue. The Republicans are trying to legislate your morality; the Democrats trying to spend your money. Only the Libertarian Party is trying to stop them both.

3. We're the tolerance party. Even though we may not approve of the choices other people make, we defend their right to make them as long as they alone bear responsibility for the consequences of their actions.

4. We're the responsibility party. Libertarians know that only through complete personal responsibility can individuals grow as human beings, and society be made more prosperous and secure.

5. We're the honest party. We are the only party that always holds to its basic principles. We don't attempt to curry favor by lying or by hiding our beliefs. Unlike all other politicians and political parties, we refuse to lie about what we really believe. We stand firm for our values at all times.

What Makes Harry Run?

In a system that stacks the odds against them, third-party hopefuls struggle to build a political presence

By ERIC BAILEY, Times Staff Writer

(The following is reprinted from a September 29, 2000 article that appeared on latimes.com.)

LA CROSSE, Wis. -- Greetings from the political ramparts, the unglamorous edge of the presidential campaign trail. Out here on the road with Harry Browne and his like--the longshots, the third-party hopefuls--respect often is earned one voter at a time.

In election 2000, the Democrats and Republicans, as always, have the money and media attention. Candidates like Browne hope you've just heard the name, wandered onto the campaign Web site, maybe caught the ideological riff on C-SPAN. "What we have is a marketing problem," Browne concedes. "We have a product that will improve people's lives markedly, but it's hard to get their ear."

Each time a presidential election rolls around, scores of Americans file petitions with the Federal Election Commission to run. Some are kooks, some are silly. But many others earnestly hit the hustings nationwide with unshrinking ideas on their lips and democracy in the soul. John Hagelin bears the Natural Law Party's holistic banner of preventive health care, innovative education and renewable energy. Across the rift, conservative Howard Phillips leads the Constitution Party toward election day. Browne and his laissez-faire Libertarians, founded in 1971 on the belief that government should offer a limited national defense and not much else, have done well enough to qualify for federal matching funds--tax dollars they studiously refuse to accept.

Very few have star power, and even those who can snag a headline often fail to rise very far. Ralph Nader of the Green Party and Pat Buchanan of the Reform Party are recognizable figures, men of conviction following the third-party path Ross Perot blazed in 1992 and 1996. Nader is drawing big crowds, but both register only a blip in presidential polls, well behind George W. Bush and Al Gore.

Most third-party candidates like Browne languish in front of crowds a tenth or a hundredth the size that Bush and Gore draw. Their campaign budgets would scarcely cover what the major parties spend on balloons and bumper stickers.

There is a life of stewing for half a day at the airport to catch the cheapest flight. Denny's has become the official late-night restaurant of the Browne campaign. There are no media throngs on their campaign bus, mostly because there generally is no campaign bus. Yet they keep chugging, fueled by thimbles full of success. In an online campaign journal he keeps, Browne notes when he rises half a percentage point in some presidential poll. For the hordes of anonymous campers trudging up the steep hill that leads to the Oval Office, this is a fight to finish third, to build a political party in a nation with an MTV attention span and a growing distaste for politics.

And therein lie the hopes of Harry Browne.

A Salesman Hawking Change

You have almost certainly never heard of him. But he is a salesman to the core, this politician named Harry. And has he got something to sell.

We'll call him Harry, because just about everyone eventually calls him that, as if this man running for president is a favorite uncle. So we find Harry standing, all 6 feet, 4 inches of him, a youngish 67 and Jimmy Stewart skinny, with his arms crossed meeting folks assembling this midweek evening in La Crosse.

A tidy city of 51,000 cuddled next to the Mississippi's upper reaches, La Crosse is dominated by a couple of colleges, a few manufacturing plants, a brewery and, as one local puts it, "a lot of stubborn Germans." Harry wants to change that, to sell the crowd on the Libertarian philosophy of super small government and unassailable personal freedom. The white-haired presidential candidate in the coal black suit seems subdued tonight, but a Cheshire cat grin creases his pallid face whenever a supporter approaches.

Ritch Charles, a 49-year-old shipping clerk from nearby Onalaska, is meeting Harry for the first time. Still, it's as if they're best pals. It's hello Harry, some small talk, then over to the food platters inside the matchbox-size meeting room.

"The Democrats and Republicans just pander," says Charles, a serious man with a close-shaven head. "They don't represent the people anymore." Charles

(Continued on page 8...)

What Makes Harry Run?

(continued from page 7)

figures he'd be throwing away his vote on Bush or Gore, but his view is hardly typical. Third-party candidates like Browne fight what they call "wasted vote syndrome"--folks fearful of squandering their ballot on a no-hope candidate.

In another corner, the local Libertarian running for Wisconsin's U.S. Senate seat, Tim Peterson, is ignoring his drink and bemoaning the fate of White House hopefuls like Harry. He grumbles that next month's big debates only include presidential candidates scoring 15% or more in national polls, that landing a spot on the ballot in many states is a daunting and costly task for the little guy. "The odds," Peterson says, "are stacked hard against third-party candidates."

Now it's Harry's turn onstage. Hands clasped, he looks professorial up there. The voice is calm, soothing. But the words pour forth, a torrent of unwavering ideology. He vows to kill the federal income tax. Ditto Social Security. Forget about legislating morality: He rails against the "insane" war on drugs. He'll bring the troops home from foreign lands. He declares his intent to yank out the big, oily engine of government. "We Libertarians don't believe anyone is qualified to run your life except you," Harry says, sketching an America with "250 million leaders; 250 million people in charge of their own lives." A few heads nod.

But one who doesn't, a thin and bushy-bearded guy wearing a ponytail and camouflage hunting cap, raises his hand for a question. He may look counterculture, but this tuba-voiced father of two named Russ Shore comes on like a G-man during Prohibition. Shore wants a war on drugs. He talks fearfully of some junkie on heroin running down his wife and kids. Browne tries to sway him: How is that any different from a drunk driver? Do you want to outlaw alcohol?

Shore won't budge. Harry concedes that he expects no one to change an opinion overnight on so profound an issue. Try, he asks Shore, to give the concept some more thought. "Sir, I disagree with you," Shore bellows, like a foghorn. "You know, I've thought about joining the Libertarian Party. You have some good ideas. But to me it's a scary party, because it's an anything-goes party." Later, outside the room, Shore says he's made up his mind: He'll vote for George W. Bush.

In a big rented Buick stuffed with luggage, Harry and two aides dash east across Wisconsin, past rolling fields of hay and corn and apple-red barns with silos. This is a new day, Milwaukee the destination. A fresh

campaign stop beckons with the promise of redemption after last night. It is far from a lost cause, Harry insists.

Though not three decades old, the Libertarian Party is lurching toward national legitimacy. It claims 200,000 registered voters, threefold growth since 1996. Libertarians are running in half of this year's congressional races, the biggest third-party showing in a century. There are 170 Libertarians holding elected office, mostly municipal posts.

Harry and friends make Milwaukee just in time to feast on a Bavarian lunch. Then it's onward to the hotel. As always, he's almost instantly on the phone with some radio talk show. His tone is earnest but insistent, vigorously explaining the Libertarian philosophy. He's done scores of these interviews but still feels slighted by the media. During campaign stops Michael Cloud hands out donation cards chiding big media for the "Browne Out" on Harry.

To overcome the brush-off, the campaign airs nightly commercials on CNN and other national cable channels. Subtle, they're not. One features the shadow-cast figure of a woman complaining of abuse; she suffered "battered vote syndrome" at the hands of the major parties. In another, a wrecking ball demolishes the IRS building, followed by Harry's sunny mug promising to abolish taxes.

His radio interviews ended, Harry gazes out the window as gulls wheel in a rain squall off the Great Lakes. This underdog run was never his life's mission. Harry, a second-string center at Van Nuys High School, didn't excel at homework and never went to college. Instead, Harry read endlessly while battened down in an Army cryptography bunker in the postwar central Pacific. He went into advertising, worked with a group trying to repeal the federal income tax and sold silver through Swiss banks. He later turned to writing, produced 12 self-help and financial books, including *You Can Profit From a Monetary Crisis* in 1974. He was an expatriate, living in Vancouver, Canada and then Zurich, Switzerland. Home now is a Nashville suburb.

Harry had spent much of his adult life scrupulously distancing himself from the political process. He joined the party just six years ago. He didn't even vote for 30 years. The turning point came when his wife, Pamela, found him griping at some candidate on the TV screen. Why, she suggested, don't you run for president?

A self-admitted couch potato devoted to classical music and good fiction, Harry threw himself into the

(Continued on page 11...)

LETTERS for LIBERTY

Jury Nullification is a Legal Recourse

In a Sept. 9 letter, Frank Boyle argued that jury nullification is illegal and somehow in violation of a juror's oath. Obviously, this argument totally ignores the historical reasoning behind the adoption of the jury system in the first place. But there's no time for a history lesson here; we have too much work to do educating people in the present.

First, Boyle stated that O.J. Simpson's was a case of jury nullification. This is simply false. No juror in that case ever argued that murder should be legal!

Second, jury nullification is a legal recourse against bad laws. All attorneys, judges and, yes, lawmakers, take an oath to uphold the U.S. and state constitutions. When this oath is violated (as it is often lately), it is the responsibility of the individual governing body to impeach the violator. However, our founders knew that this is a case of the children guarding the candy dish. It is for this reason that we expect juries to acquit defendants who are charged with unconstitutional crimes.

The federal drug war is a perfect example. The Ninth and 10th amendments state very clearly that the U.S. government does not have the right to outlaw anything that a person ingests, injects or inhales. (It was for this reason that alcohol prohibition was adopted by constitutional amendment; they honored the Constitution back then.) Therefore, anyone accused of a federal drug charge is constitutionally innocent, regardless of the law, and it is the obligation of the juries to vote for acquittal.

It's the Constitution, people defend it or continue to lose it!

JOE JOHNSON
Lafayette

Quotable...

**"America needs fewer laws,
not more prisons."**

-- James Bovard

Killing Cats, the Immune System, and Guns

During the Middle Ages cats were associated with witchcraft and were perceived to be the embodiment of evil. Because of this, cats were systematically destroyed.

The result: Bubonic Plague which killed about one in three people (something like forty million world wide). It was the cats that ate the rats. It was the fleas on the rats that were the vector for the Plague. Ah, unintended consequences.

Today we understand that inflammation is the necessary consequence of the immune system fighting off an infection. No competent medical scientist would routinely shut down our immune system because, well, the world is full of nasty things.

Today, some people think that guns are the embodiment of evil. Because of this guns are being systematically destroyed. It is the private possession of guns that is the equivalent of the human immune system and no competent political scientist would shut down the body politic's last line of defense because, well, the world is full of nasty things. Remove the guns and you will end up with the political equivalent of the Bubonic Plague.

Ah, unintended consequences.

One hundred or a thousand years from now they will look back out our millennium and our progeny will say "They did what? They killed the cats and they took away the guns?!?! Didn't they understand?"

Vote NO on the horribly misnamed S.A.F.E. initiative.

RALPH SHNELVAR
Boulder

Letters to the Editor Made Easy!

Now you can quickly and easily e-mail letters to the editors of the *Daily Camera*, *Times-Call*, *Denver Post*, *Rocky Mountain News*, *Boulder Weekly*, and *Louisville Times* via our website at www.lpboulder.com/lte !

LETTERS

The Drug War is Insane!

Editor,

If drug laws don't stop criminals from obtaining drugs, why would gun laws stop criminals from obtaining guns? What we *should* do is put violent criminals in prison and keep them there until we can trust them with a gun. If we can't trust them with a gun, keep them in prison -- forever if necessary.

As it is today, we keep nonviolent drug offenders in jail much longer than we do violent criminals. For example, the mandatory minimum sentence for possession of large amounts of marijuana is 24 years which is much longer than the average time served by murders, rapists, and child molesters. Consequently violent criminals are let of jail early to make room for nonviolent drug offenders. The drug war is insane! End the prohibition!

I'm Chuck Wright, the Libertarian Party's candidate for Colorado State Senate district 17 (eastern Boulder County, Lafayette, Longmont, Louisville). I want you to be free to live your life as you want to live it, not as the politicians want you to live it. Please visit my web site at: www.lpboulder.com/candidates/chuckwright/

Sincerely,

Chuck Wright
Libertarian Candidate for State Senate District 17
Louisville, CO

[Submitted 9/15/00 to the Denver Post, the Boulder Weekly, the Longmont Times Call, and the Louisville Times/Lafayette News/Erie Review]

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What Makes Harry Run?

(continued from page 8)

political grind. His raw honesty and salesmanship played well in this party of blunt thinkers, earning him the nod at the 1996 Libertarian convention. The political tenderfoot's inaugural run garnered nearly 500,000 votes, the second-best showing by a Libertarian. Four years wiser, Harry now hopes for six or eight times that but would settle for 1 million. But first he needs to conquer this Milwaukee campaign stop.

The fates are grinning, right from the moment Harry and his two-man road team drive into the parking lot outside the American Serbian Hall. A curly haired fellow in yellow sunglasses and driving a faded red Ford Fiesta, his blond wife and 10-year-old son along, waves to the candidate. "Harry Browne!" yelps Jeff Manke, 31. Harry walks over to smile and shake hands. "We came all the way down from Neenah!" Manke tells the candidate. "Brought the wife and kid!"

Inside, the crowd is buzzing. "Harry Browne" buttons

adorn lapels. By show time, more than 200 people have crowded in. It is a good evening. They guffaw at Michael Cloud's jokes. When Harry hits the stage they cheer his calls for personal freedom and diminutive government. They crow at the campaign commercials on a big-screen TV. They open wallets and purses. The take is more than \$12,000.

Harry and his squad head into the night, to Denny's for turkey clubs and chicken-fried steaks. The next morning will bring a rush-hour drive to Chicago's O'Hare Airport for a cheap flight back East. In Boston, they will unfurl the Libertarian version of the big tent, spending the morning with gun aficionados at the Woburn Sportsman's Assn. and the afternoon at the Massachusetts Cannabis Freedom Rally.

On and on it will go, for days and weeks ahead, to Norfolk, Va., and Detroit and Rockford, Ill., up until election day.

Harry is in this to the end, like the rest, fighting to finish third.

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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!*

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Inside:

Historic CO Ballot Slate.....page 3

A "new convert" speaks.....page 4

What Makes Harry Run?.....page 7

Letters for Liberty.....page 9

LIBERTY NEWS

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