

# **Brown Rated Most Libertarian**

by Richard G. Combs

Senator Hank Brown (R-CO) had the most libertarian voting record in the U.S. Senate

in 1993, according to the national office of the Libertarian Party. Brown's composite score of 90% tied with Rep. Dana Rorabacher (R–CA) for the highest score in the entire U.S. Congress. The party rated only two members of the Senate and four House members as libertarian overall. The only other libertarian senator was Judd Gregg (R–NH), with a composite score of 75%. The other representatives were Phil Crane (R–IL), 85%, Jim Kolbe (R–AZ), 75%, and Martin Hoke (R–OH), 69%.

The ratings are based on an index of the most critical votes in the 1993 session, with separate scores for issues affecting economic freedom and those dealing with personal liberty. Brown scored 100% on economic issues and 80% on personal liberty issues.

"We're certainly pleased by Senator Brown's outstanding record," observed Colorado Libertarian Party Chairman David Aitken. "However, it makes his votes in favor of the Feinstein amendment and the crime bill to which it is attached all the more puzzling and disappointing. This legislation would seriously encroach on our personal liberties, and we hope he will reconsider this unforgiveable lapse of judgement when the crime bill comes out of conference in a few days."

Rep. Scott McInnis was one of several freshman members of Congress characterized as disappointments by the Libertarian Party. These were individuals whose campaigns suggested they would be "libertarian-oriented," but whose first-year voting record ranked them in the "statist" category. Aitken urged Libertarian constituents of Rep. McInnis to let him know they are disappointed with him.

Three Senate and six House members scored near the libertarian quadrant. All but one are Republicans with high scores on economic issues and average or low personal liberty scores. Rep. Tim Penny of Minnesota, at 55%, is the only Democrat who came near having a libertarian record.

The rankings are compiled by Don Ernsberger, and the complete report, including individual votes and ratings, is available from him for \$10. The address is 865 Meadowood Lane, Warminster, PA 19874.

## Denver Libertarians March in Martin Luther King Day Parade

A small group of Denver Libertarians, led by Max Winkler, gathered at the obelisk west of the Capitol at 8:30 a.m. on January 17, Martin Luther King Day. They had to put up with the cold and the endless speeches by politicians for about two hours before finally beginning the march up Colfax and to the King memorial in City Park.

The LP contingent carried the party banner and signs reading "The Content of Our Character" and "If you want Justice, work for Liberty." They were a mere speck amidst the estimated 7,000 parade participants, but they were noticed. Two reporters were curious about why Libertarians chose to participate. Quite a few among the crowd read the signs with thoughtful expressions. Somewhere around Washington St., an onlooker shouted, "Hey, it's the Libertarians! All right!"

The LPers agreed that the participation was worthwhile, and should be repeated next year with a larger group. Everyone endorsed the suggestion, however, that the meeting time be changed in order to miss most of the speeches.

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## From the Editor

by Richard G. Combs

I read a relatively small story recently, with a modest-sized headline, reporting that traffic deaths in Colorado were up about 10% in 1993. An even smaller story reported that the state's homicide rate was expected to be down about 10% when the final tally was completed.

Makes you wonder, doesn't it? Why weren't there any calls for a special legislative session to deal with the growing automobile menace? Why aren't the media treating us to endless stories about the problem of "children" and cars? (In relation to guns, at least, anyone under 18, or sometimes 21, is considered a "child" by the media and politicians.)

Let's call on our legislators to study this problem. Since some "children" kill people with cars, let's insist that they take action to get cars out of the hands of "kids." After all, if even one life is saved, isn't it worth it?

We can make exceptions that allow responsible kids to use cars for legitimate purposes under adult supervision, such as going to driver's ed classes or motor sports events. Or perhaps these shouldn't be exceptions, but affirmative defenses. Haul the little hellions into court and make them prove they were using dad's Chrysler for legitimate purposes.

Let's extend the program beyond "kids." We could discourage irresponsible automobile use with a stiff tax on gasoline (perhaps 10,000% on the dreaded "super premium"). We could make auto dealers pay much higher fees for their dealer licenses and forbid private sales. We could require everyone wanting to buy a vehicle to wait five days while the authorities checked for any past record of irresponsible travel-related behavior. Eventually, we could confiscate the vehicles of everyone who could not demonstrate, under rigorous criteria, an urgent, clear-cut need. A general desire to move about freely would not be enough.

These measures would save lives, ease congestion, reduce air pollution, ease the burden on traffic courts and motorcycle cops, and reap numerous other benefits. For all this, giving up such antiquated, 18th century ideas as the right to freedom of movement seems like a small price to pay.

## To the Editor

Dear Editor:

I have a rough idea and would like the suggestions, comments, and offers of help from fellow Libertarians to turn it into a winner for the CLP.

In January 1995, the State of Colorado will begin using a new system to test vehicle emissions. Colorado was forced by the EPA to change to this system under threat of losing Federal funds. Because of the limited number of sites, some reports have suggested the new system will have long lines as the norm.

If long lines do occur, I believe we will have an ideal opportunity to collect signatures from angry voters. But

#### **CLiPboard**



A publication of the

## **Colorado Libertarian Party**

David Aitken, Chairman and Publisher

Richard G. Combs,
Publications Director and Editor

Subscription is included with party membership (members by voter registration only must notify the CLP headquarters). For non-members, subscriptions are \$6 per year. Make checks payable to and send all correspondence to:

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

Editorial Policy: The Colorado Libertarian Party fully supports the First Amendment; however, since we do not wish to invite lawsuits, we will screen materials for libelous content. Otherwise, this publication will serve as an open forum for libertarian news and commentary. All remarks made in open meetings will be considered "on the record."

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Those who would give up essential Liberty, to purchase a little temporary Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety.

Benjamin Franklin

signatures for what? Candidates? An initiative to repeal the law? A Libertarian/Eco solution to replace the law? A law forbidding Colorado from giving in to Federal blackmail?

If you would like to flesh out one of these ideas or have an even better idea, please write me at the address below. As always, don't open your mouth or pick up your pen unless you're willing to be a part (no matter how small) of the solution!!!

Sincerely,

Doug Anderson 531 Washington Denver, CO 80203

#### **Affiliate News**

#### — Aurora —

Aurora Libertarians appear to have lost their regular meeting place, Archie Malone's restaurant. Archie's is closing at 6:30 p.m., not a healthy sign. The January meeting was held in Durango's, a Mexican restaurant at the corner of Iliff and Havana. The February meeting will be at the same location unless a continuing search locates a better alternative.

At the January meeting, Chair Jeff Orrok treated the group to a videotape of Doug Bruce's speech at the Colorado Union of Taxpayers annual meeting. Bruce addressed how we can make sure Amendment One is obeyed. He outlined the key compliance issues of the amendment and described, with his usual sharp wit, how various state and local officials, including "some woman named Meyer," have chosen to ignore or misunderstand the plain language of the amendment. Other Libertarian groups interested in viewing the CUT videotape can contact Jeff Orrok at (303) 360-7005.

#### ----- Boulder -----

The Boulder group's outreach meeting this month consisted of a discussion of common law, police confiscation of assets, and oppressive new anti-crime legislation.

BCLP member Bryan Griffin will be setting up a libertarian computer bulletin board service on the Internet. Bryan plans to make information from libertarian think tanks, and other liberty-related documents, easily available on-line.

#### ----- Denver -----

Former state chair Dave Daniels visited with the Denver LP at its January meeting, treating the group to an African-American perspective of libertarianism. Daniels, who has been living in Minneapolis, is in town producing his reggae/rasta play, "Malcom X Meet Peter Tosh." The play is running at the Mercury Cafe in LoDo Denver.

The group also heard Max Winkler discuss the pro-freedom aspects of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and outline plans for the Denver LP's participation in the annual King march.

The February 1 meeting will feature state Rep. Phil Pankey (R-Littleton) discussing the current legislative session and the Romer proposal for state health care reform.

#### ----- El Paso & Fremont Counties -----

Libertarians in these two counties did a great deal of the work that successfully put the Election Reform Amendment on the ballot. Members from both groups held a joint meeting recently to formulate their plans for 1994.

Besides the petitioning effort for ERA, Fremont county Libertarians have been fighting recent gun control legislation. Phil Freytag reports that he has been looking for support for the libertarian position by attending gun shows, and Fremont county libertarians may form an alliance with the Firearms Coalition of Colorado.

### — Jefferson County —

The Jeffco Libertarians spent a good part of the month collecting signatures for ERA. Their Jefferson Forum featured state Rep. Penn Pfiffner (LR-Lakewood) speaking on the subject of socialized medicine.

### ----- Mesa County -----

Dann Hayes has returned to Mesa County, after a temporary move to the Denver area. He joined the state party's new public relations director, Dale Doelling, on one of the many radio talk shows on which he has been a guest recently. Dale has been on the radio discussing ballot access, Project Healthy Choice, and other Libertarian issues.

Mesa County libertarians recently mailed a letter, a Libertarian brochure, and a press release concerning the Brady Bill, to all the pawn shops and gun shops in the county.

The group will meet soon to reorganize and plan for 1994.

# Libertarian Party Membership

Join the Libertarian Party today and help the cause of Freedom in 1994. State dues include a **CLiPboard** subscription. National dues include the **LP News**.

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Address:

City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_

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Work Phone:\_

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

(Signature is required for national membership only.)

What does the above pledge mean? We ask our members to disavow the *initiation* of force. This does not mean that you cannot defend yourself; you do have a right to defend your life, liberty, and property. It means that you cannot use the coercive power of government to forcibly achieve your personal, ethical or religious goals.

This commitment helps us maintain our principles and provides us with a measuring stick to determine if we have strayed from our common goal: a society where all relationships among persons are based on voluntary cooperation.

Make checks payable to **Colorado Libertarian Party** 720 E. 18th Ave, #309 Denver CO 80203

# The Right to Die is a Religious Freedom

by Mary J. Ruwart

Freedom of choice, especially as it pertains to religion, is one of the ideals on which our country was founded. Today our freedom to live—and to die—by our spiritual beliefs is under attack. The brutal movement to make government our God comes one step closer in every attack upon the controversial Dr. Kevorkian.

On February 18, 1993, the courageous and compassionate doctor assisted my sister Martie in her transition to the next life. Martie was starving to death as gastrointestinal cancer strangled her bowel. In dealing with this dilemma, my sister found great comfort in her belief that a Loving Essence pervaded the universe. Martie tried to live the path of love, and even became a vegetarian so that animals would not die to sustain her.

As Martie considered her suicide, she asked the Loving Principle of the universe to give her a sign that she was acting in accordance with her highest good. Martie received that sign and left this life in peace.

Martie's suicide was a deeply *religious* choice, with consequences only to herself. Surely there is no more profound profession of faith than a deliberate choice to meet one's Maker! Any legislature that attempts to take that choice away is denying its constituents the right to freedom of religion. Any court that attempts to try a person for assisting someone in such a choice is violating the principles it is supposed to uphold.

How compassionate are we if we demand that others suffer because we think we know God's will better than they? Are we loving our neighbors by condemning them to a slow and painful death? After watching what my sister went through, I am convinced that a law banning assisted suicide will actually cause more death and suffering.

The fear of suffering was so great for Martie that when Dr. Kevorkian agreed to help her, she underwent a profound transformation. Instead of being totally bedridden and unable to hold down even her water, Martie was able to get up for part of the day and hold down small meals. She still could not eat enough to sustain herself, but her condition became almost tolerable during her last week. Dr. Kevorkian assured me that



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this was not unusual. If fear of suffering is so great that it contributes adversely to a person's physical condition, surely the chances of recovery are proportionately lessened! How horrible to think that this factor may tip the balance in some cases and literally make the difference between life and death! Could those who support a ban on assisted suicides actually be killing people? If so, how will they defend themselves when their day of Judgement comes?

I do not pretend to know the answers to these questions. I do not presume to know what is best for another, or what is God's will for these individuals. I try to honor my neighbor's choice, especially when it brings no harm to others. I support the choice of those who wish to live every day that they can glean and the choice of those who wish to depart this earth when the quality of their life deteriorates.

Studies indicate that we use 80% of our lifetime medical services in the last few months before our death. By her decision to leave this world when she did, Martie made those scarce resources available to those who wish to hold on until the end. Ironically, many of the people who could benefit from her decision are some of the very people who might choose to deny others like her their right to religious freedom. Have they forgotten that we reap as we sow? If we try to impose our religious views on others through legislation, one day it will be done unto us.

Mary J. Ruwart, Ph.D., is a senior scientist at the Upjohn Co. in Kalamazoo, Michigan. She escorted her sister Martie to Dr. Kevorkian on February 18th of last year. The sisters collaborated on a book about political freedom of choice entitled *Healing Our World: The Other Piece of the Puzzle* (SunStar Press, PO Box 50342, Kalamazoo, MI 49005; \$14.95, plus \$2 shipping & handling).

The drama behind Martie's decision and death are chronicled in a recent book by her cousin Michael Betzold, *Appointment with Dr. Death* (Momentum Books, 6964 Crooks Rd., Suite 1, Troy, MI 48098; \$21.95, plus \$2 shipping & handling).

## State Named Human Rights Violator

The December 1993 issue of Ballot Access News featured Colorado as the "Copenhagen Violator of the Month" because of its draconian ballot access laws. The Copenhagen Document is part of the Helsinki Accord on human rights. This agreement requires that signatories (the U.S. is one) not discriminate for or against any political party or candidate. A number of state legislators received copies of the article. Ballot Access News can be reached at Box 470296, San Francisco, CA 94147, phone 415-922-9779.

The ACLU has indicated a willingness to sue on behalf of a slate of county candidates to overturn these obscene restrictions. The catch is that the slate must be from a county where the number of signatures required to get on the ballot is greater than 5 percent of the registered voters (this is the standard used by Federal Courts).

Counties which do *not* qualify are: Denver, Boulder, Eagle, Fremont, El Paso, Jefferson, Garfield, Larimer, Mesa, Delta, La Plata, Montrose, Adams, Arapahoe, Douglas, Pueblo, and Weld. If you live in some other county and would like to help, please call David Aitken at 303-831-4334.

### Colorado Libertarian Party 1994 Convention April 29 - May 1, 1994 Featuring Durk Pearson and Sandy Shaw (via teleconference) Larry Dodge, Tom Tancredo, Eric Klien, David Kopel, L. Neil Smith and David Rosdeitcher

	Anyone interested in non-aggression. <u>Information - (303)484</u> April 29 - May 1, 1994. Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday		
	Roundup Ranch. 11.5 miles west of Sedalia on Colorado		
UNITED STATE OF THE STATE OF TH	The second floor of the lodge has several bunk rooms. You provide all bedding and linens. Camper hookups and tent		
Louging	spaces are also available. Lodging space is provided with the		
O4.			
Cost:	Full package includes all programs and materials. Meals and	A CONTRACT OF CONT	
		a carte:	
		alf Day or Evening\$12	
		Meals and Camp Lodging \$45	
		ree Market/Information Tables \$10	
	PROGRAM		
Friday:	5:30-7:00 pm registration, reception		
	7:00-8:30 pm <u>dinner</u>		
	8:30-10:00 pm welcome: Mary Margaret Glennie		
	L. NEIL SMITH	Hillary Behind Bars.	
Saturday:	8:00-8:45 am <u>breakfast</u>		
	8:45-9:00 am <u>break</u>		
	9:00-10:30 am BUSINESS MEETING		
	1state reports	2bids for 1995 convention	
	3vote on bids for 1995 convention	4candidate presentations	
	10:30-10:45 am break		
	10:45-11:45 am DURK PEARSON and SANDY SHAW	Killing the F.D.A. Before It Kills You.	
	11:45-12:00 n break		
	12:00-1:15 pm lunch		
	1:15-1:30 pm break		
	1:30-2:30 pm DURK PEARSON and SANDY SHAW	Pulling the Plug: No Unfunded Federal Mandates.	
	2:30-2:45 pm break	tuning the ring. No omanded reactar management	
	2:45-3:45 pm ERIC KLIEN	Oceania: A New Country.	
		Oceania. A New Country.	
	3:45-4:00 pm <u>break</u>	A	
	4:00-5:00 pm TOM TANCREDO	Amendment One is Good Medicine.	
	5:00-6:00 pm <u>break</u>		
	6:00-7:00 pm banquet and entertainment with DAVID	ROSDEITCHER (THE ZIP CODE MAN)	
	7:00-7:30 pm <u>break</u>		
	Table 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1	A (the Fully Informed Jury Association): Still Growing	
	8:30 <u>have fun</u>		
Sunday:	8:00-8:45 am <u>breakfast</u>		
	8:45-9:00 am <u>break</u>		
	9:00-10:30 am BUSINESS MEETING		
	1elections 2platform	3constitution and by-laws	
	10:30-10:45 am <u>break</u>		
	10:45-11:45 am DURK PEARSON and SANDY SHAW	Feds Go Home: Who Own the Western Public Lands	
	11:45-12:00 n <u>break</u>		
	12:00-1:15 pm lunch DAVID KOPEL	The Right to Bear Arms.	
	1:15-1:30 pm break		
	1:30-2:30 pm DURK PEARSON and SANDY SHAW	Personal Life Extension Questions and Answers.	
	2:45-3:45 pm new board meeting		
(name)	REGISTRATIO	NO	
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## The Libertarian Bookshelf

The Samurai, the Mountie, and the Cowboy: Should America Adopt the Gun Controls of Other Democracies? by David B. Kopel (Prometheus Books, 1992).

Reviewed by Bob Johnson.

Kopel's cleverly titled book is superbly researched, well documented, and full of insightful analyses. It is a scholarly work, yet eminently readable and, yes, entertaining.

Advocates of gun control blame America's high crime rate on widespread gun ownership. Other countries have less crime and stricter gun controls, they argue, so we can reduce our crime rate by emulating them in this area.

Mr. Kopel's analysis of crime and gun control in America and in seven other democracies reveals that cultural and social controls are far more relevant to crime rates than gun ownership or gun controls. In some cases, gun controls actually make crime worse. In all cases, gun control is accompanied by violations of civil liberties.

Where gun control appears to work, it does so not because gun control directly reduces gun misuse, but because it validates other authoritarian features of the society. Foreignstyle gun control is doomed to failure in America. It comes along with searches and seizures and many other restrictions on civil liberties that Americans will not tolerate. *Grassroots Tyranny – The Limits of Federalism* by Clint Bolick (Cato Institute).

Reviewed by David Aitken.

This book is a must read for any serious student of the Constitution. It identifies the original definition of federalism, one that most libertarians should be able to support, and tells how it has been subverted by liberals, conservatives, and the courts.

The 195-page book is divided into three sections, "Federalism," "Grassroots Tyranny," and "The Future." Mr. Bolick, of the Institute for Justice, does a marvelous job of making your blood boil at the shenanigans of state and local governments.

From the book jacket: "Far from acting as a rationale for grassroots tyranny, federalism was designed by the American Founders as a vital constitutional safeguard for individual liberty. Restoring and reinvigorating federalism's original meaning, Bolick argues, is essential to protecting precious liberties against grassroots tyranny in America's third century."

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### **RANDOM NOTES**

#### **CLP Joins Free Speech Coalition**

The CLP's Board of Directors voted to join the Citizens Against Censorship, a lobbying group working to kill free speech restrictions. In addition to the CLP, the group will most likely include the American Civil Liberties Union, League of Women Voters, Colorado Library Association, American Booksellers Association, and Human Rights Council.

The impetus for this group is the possible introduction of a change to the Colorado Constitution which would narrow citizen's rights to free speech.

The board unanimously passed the following resolution: "The Colorado Libertarian Party deplores and condemns any attempt to weaken the Colorado Constitution's guarantees of freedom of speech. We encourage our members to ask their representatives and senators in the Colorado General Assembly to vote against any proposal which would weaken the Colorado Constitution's free speech guarantees."

#### Legislative Liberty Line

The CLP's Legislative Liberty Line (303-839-9065) is now in operation. The recorded message changes weekly. It provides brief descriptions of selected bills before the legislature, with the party's recommendations regarding each bill. For news about the U.S. Congress, don't forget the National LP's hot line at 900-454-2378 (\$1.95 per minute).

#### Plan Now for Rally

The annual 2nd Amendment rally is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, April 17th at the state capitol. Please reserve this important date on your calendar.

The rally commemorates the April 19, 1775 battles of Lexington and Concord, fought to prevent British troops from seizing the privately-owned, state-of-the-art assault weapons of American patriots.

If you'd like to help with this rally, please call David Segal at 296-4059.

#### **Kudos for Wright**

Last October, Jeff Wright of Colorado Springs authored a guest editorial on health care in the Cañon City Daily Record. Way to go, Jeff!

#### Join the Militia

Yes, the Second Amendment mentions the militia. It does *not* say the militia is a creature of the government.

Be among the first to join Jim Phelps' American Militia, Inc. Membership is \$20, payable to American Militia. Write to Jim if you want more information. He is looking for comments and suggestions, too. The address is:

Jim Phelps American Militia 1437 Kenton St., #100 Aurora, CO 80010

## Colorado Libertarian Party Directory

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New Member Info 1-800-682-1776 LP Nat'l Newsline 1-900-4LiberT \$1.95/minute (454 - 2378)

Election results, Congress Watch, LP news

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# **Upcoming Events**

#### **February**

- Denver LP, Village Inn, 890 S. Colorado, 7:00 p.m. Speaker: State Rep. Phil Pankey. (303) 871-8824.
- 1 Ft. Collins 1st Tue. Breakfast Club, Wally's, Oak Street Plaza, 7 a.m. Speaker. (303) 484-8184.
- 2&16 CSU Campus Libertarians, CSU Student Center. Bruce Lockhart, (303) 223-7504.
  - 8 Ft. Collins 2nd Tue. Discussion Group, 7 p.m., Mary Margaret Glennie's, 1317 Lakewood Dr. (303) 484-8184.
  - 12 Ft. Collins 2nd Saturday Shootist Society. (303) 484-6824.
  - 15 Aurora Libertarians, Durango's, Iliff & Havana (tentative), 7 p.m. (303) 755-4843.
  - 16 Jefferson Forum, Lakewood Library, 10200 W. 20th Ave., 7 p.m. Speaker: Ray Walton, Colorado Union of Taxpayers, "Taxation and Amendment One." (303) 424-9687.
  - 19 Denver Libertarian Gun Club. (303) 296-4059.
  - 20 Boulder LP, Old Train Depot, 30th & Pearl, 7 p.m. (303) 443-1870.
  - 21 Ft. Collins 3rd Mon. Social, 7 p.m., Mary Margaret Glennie's, 1317 Lakewood Dr. (303) 484-8184.

#### March

- Denver LP, Village Inn, 890 S. Colorado, 7:00 p.m. Speaker or video. (303) 871-8824.
- 1 Ft. Collins 1st Tue. Breakfast Club, Wally's, Oak Street Plaza, 7 a.m. Speaker. (303) 484-8184.
- 2&16 CSU Campus Libertarians, CSU Student Center. Bruce Lockhart, (303) 223-7504.
  - 8 Ft. Collins 2nd Tue. Discussion Group, 7 p.m., Mary Margaret Glennie's, 1317 Lakewood Dr. (303) 484-8184.
  - 12 Ft. Collins 2nd Saturday Shootist Society. (303) 484-6824.
  - 15 Aurora Libertarians, Durango's, Iliff & Havana (tentative), 7 p.m. (303) 755-4843.
  - 16 Jefferson Forum, Lakewood Library, 10200 W. 20th Ave., 7 p.m. Speaker. (303) 424-9687.
  - 19 Denver Libertarian Gun Club. (303) 296-4059.
  - 20 Boulder LP, Old Train Depot, 30th & Pearl, 7 p.m. (303) 443-1870.
  - 21 Ft. Collins 3rd Mon. Social, 7 p.m., Mary Margaret Glennie's, 1317 Lakewood Dr. (303) 484-8184.

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