

Letters

Pity the prairie dogs

The Boulder Beat by Paul Danish in the December 2006 *Coloradan* (“Of big bad cats and prairie rats”) reflected an appalling piece of hubris. Of course, Mr. Danish meant to be quite humorous in his remarks about the perfectly hilarious way in which the city Mothers and Fathers could either exterminate the prairie dogs outright or have them stalked and killed by ferrets.

Believe me when I say that CU alumni treasure all that is Colorado, and that includes the diverse animal population and the beautiful environment. It is unfortunate that both these Coloradan treasures fall prey to, shall we say, the untutored efforts of over-zealous developers.

So Mr. Danish has had his little joke. So be it. Now, I believe we are due a keenly felt apology. And remember, Mr. Danish, what the Nobel laureate Isaac Bashevis Singer once said: “In relation to them [animals] all people are Nazis, for animals it is an eternal Treblinka [the Nazi death camp north of Warsaw].”

L.M. Arangno (PhDPhil’94)
Colorado Springs

Nichols: good and/or evil

I was impressed by the Boulder Beat article by Paul Danish in the September 2006 *Coloradan*. I heartily support the idea that a statue of Capt. Nichols be erected with the inscription Mr. Danish recommended. I especially like the part that would say, “. . . In every human being there is the capacity for

great good and great evil. Choose carefully. Do not forget. . . .”

How wonderful it would be to use the great error of Capt. Nichols to encourage thousands upon thousands to recognize their capacity for both good and evil and to choose good! I hope to one day see Mr. Danish’s idea come to life on the Norlin Quad.

Erin Lyon (Gray) (Psych’99)
Little Rock, Ark.

After a read of Paul Danish’s “Boulder Beat” in the September issue I am really sorry that George Orwell is not alive to see such a great example of double-think and historical revisionism.

Mr. Danish has centered his ire on the respect garnered by Capt. David Nichols of the Sand Creek battle discussed on the other side of the same page. The politically correct take on those events says that the Cheyenne torture and murder of the Hungate family and the throwing of their bodies down their farm well only 50 miles east of Denver never happened. It also fails to recognize the fresh white persons’ scalps found in Black Kettle’s lodges at Sand Creek where he and his braves were under the “peaceful protection” of the American flag.

I wonder why Mr. Danish also does not want to build a monument ridiculing Colorado Gov. Evans for calling out the First Colorado Volunteer Cavalry to stop Indian depredations and to safeguard the terrified white people isolated from the rest of America by the closing of the Overland Trail. Sure, the Indian was fighting for his life and country. What makes anyone think the whites were not doing the same thing? When did murder become only a crime of the whites? I would like to have seen some of these present-day liberal Boulder bed-wetters standing up before the people of Denver in 1864 and telling them the massacre of the Hungate family meant nothing and that the Cheyenne were the victims!

Nothing historical can be changed by refusing to admit any and all facts, whether they meet the desperate political needs of the present or any other time. Capt. Nichols was and is a hero who made CU possible as well as helped to preserve Colorado for the Union at Glorietta Pass, N.M., during the Civil War. But the PC thinkers have trained themselves to recognize only what they want to have happened, not all of what did happen.

History is what it was, and truth does not depend on political correctness. It was dirty. It was cruel. Only fools try to revise it.

Norman Snodgrass (Jour’54)
Denver

Remembering Lauri

It was stunning to see “In Memory of Lauri” in the December issue. Macky was a wonderful building, near to my heart. But it was never the same after the murder of a fellow student.

Forty years have passed since the death of Lauri Jaquette. She would have been about my age, a grandparent, a valuable citizen. It is appropriate she be honored on campus with a plaque. I shall look for it when I visit.

Risto Marttinen (A&S’62)
Mechanicsville, Va.

It’s a B-29, silly editors

I just got home from watching the first half of the CU vs. NU game and find the December *Coloradan* in the mail. Can’t wait to see what’s going on at the alma mater!

Being a WWII buff (no pun intended) I eagerly read Nicole Branan’s article on Jerry Meehl [“World War II inspires climatologist”]. It was pretty good until I read the caption above the picture of the “B-24” crash.

Having built hundreds of Revell WWII models when I was I kid, I’m disappointed that [the cutline] incorrectly indicates the B-29 Superfortress in the crash picture as a B-24 Liberator. The multi-vision panel nose of the B-29 is very distinctive and hard to mistake for another plane.

By the way, did the P-51 Mustang under the wing run into the B-29 or vice versa?

Nic Colasurdo (EnvDes’82)
Rochester, N.Y.

Editor’s note: We’ve gotten more letters and e-mails pointing out this error than for anything else we’ve done wrong in recent memory. Thanks to all the careful readers and WWII Buffs. But please don’t blame Nicole Branan or Jerry Meehl for editors’ errors!

The B-29 in the photo had been hit over its Japanese target and lost two engines and a rudder, according to Meehl’s book. While making an emergency landing at Iwo Jima someone on the ground drove a D-8 bulldozer onto the runway to stop the barely-in-control B-29. The pilot clipped the bulldozer and skidded into a row of P-51s on the next runway. The crew was injured but managed to get out of the burning plane.

Don’t reinvent the diversity wheel

Over the past several months I have read articles on diversity [including “Refocusing on students of color” in the December 2006 issue]. I remember the times of challenge in the 1970s during the civil rights struggle in our country.

We as people of color wanted to achieve parity of color at the university. To some

degree we did. I believe when I graduated there were over a thousand Latino and Native Americans on campus. When I started in earlier years there were about 38 of us. We had specialized tutorial programs for “high-risk” students. We had waivers on admissions for “high-risk” students, and there was funding primarily for us in the form of grants.

The minute the social justice movement was stifled so was the door to the university. It hit us in the rear as we went out. Some 20 years later there are [fewer] faces of color on campus compared to when I was there.

We are trying to reinvent the wheel of social justice in education when it was in place over 30 years ago. Why not go back and see what has worked in the past? Is this another promise made to the people of color in Colorado with the door to close when the privileged feel it is time? Do we have to revisit this issue every so often?

We’ve all got color and we should all be proud of it. Let us work together as a people to bring the disenfranchised, the disadvantaged onto the same playing field.

Gilbert Quintana (Soc’73)
Holman, N.M.

Editor’s note: Please know that Mr. Quintana’s numbers regarding minority students are not totally accurate. As of fall 2006, minority degree-seeking students made up 14.4 percent of the CU-Boulder student body, totaling 4,177 students. This includes 1,722 Asian Americans, 250 American Indians, 430 African Americans and 1,775 Hispanic/Latinos.

Mandatory donations aren’t working

The athletic department and the foundation do not get the point about the sale of CU football season tickets.

This year [2006] was the first time for mandatory donations for most season ticket holders to retain their original seat assignments. This resulted in the loss of about 8,000 renewals. They threw out a few crumbs for fans who did not want to contribute, i.e., goal line instead of end zone seats. Now they are trying to sell discounted tickets in the club section, which requires an even larger donation. Those are obviously not selling well either.

As they have now discovered, CU does not have the fan base such as Michigan, Ohio State or Nebraska to warrant that kind of demand to attend and support CU athletics.

As a season ticket holder for over 50 years, I disagree with the policies.

Donald M. Mitchell (ElEng’44)
Brush



Your turn

Coloradan celebrates the power of thoughts and ideas. We invite you to write, e-mail or fax us your thoughts and comments on subjects related to the university community. The editors may edit for brevity, clarity and sensitivity to the diversity of the community.

Please let us know your suggestions for stories, your thoughts about CU happenings and your news for a note in “CU People.”

To keep in touch write *Coloradan*, CU-Boulder Alumni Association, Boulder, CO 80309-0459; phone 303-492-6635 or 800-492-7743; fax 303-492-6799; or e-mail pam.penfold@cufund.org.