



## LETTERS: Thursday

2010-02-17 17:33:29

### Attack on the Springs

Re: "Colorado Springs under attack by mainstream press," Our View, Feb. 16), It's clear that our city is in the cross-hairs of the battle between advocates of higher taxes and those who champion freedom. Those in the former camp often use fairness as a proxy to justify raising taxes. But not all that long ago most Americans tacitly understood that life is often unfair, but that with hard work and perseverance individuals can overcome profound adversities and thereby develop previously untapped sources of strength.

Today, we seemed to be governed by a new civic code, one that equates fairness with a robust government response to problems across the spectrum, with little understanding of government's rightful role and no demand for individual responsibility. However, there are always casualties in such battles, and in this instance the virtues of thrift, discipline, and delayed gratification have sustained mortal wounds. That advocates of higher taxes and regulation support a fully functional statist government is obvious since they lobby for government expansion with equal fervor whether the economy is in recession or booming.

It's instructive to remember that it wasn't always thus, that our forebears better understood the virtues of limited government. In a 1996 work published by the Cato Institute titled "Business and the Fight for a Free Society," Theodore J. Forstmann and Edward H. Crane, wrote: "Statist society promises your happiness in exchange for the better part of your freedom. Civil society merely guarantees your freedom. Happiness is up to you."

*Philip Mella*

Woodland Park

### The AFA 'pagan problem'

Some people may be disturbed by the slew of recent letters to The Gazette attacking those "barbaric practices of Druidism" and touting "Christianity as the greatest force for freedom..." Not me. I find them highly entertaining. People are certainly capable of sticking their feet in their mouths and I applaud The Gazette for publishing such nonsense. This whole "pagan problem" at the Air Force Academy is a boon to your readers. And then you have been printing letters in rebuttal to the delusional ones, usually written by cogent writers who invariably state their points in a rational manner. Good job.

Just today I read the letter titled "Atheism's a faith in evolution," in which J. Dale Holt writes: "Evolution happened a long, long time ago. We don't see it happening right now." The letter just kept getting funnier and funnier until it magically ended with this: "...evolutionists... are living in the dark ages, not Christians who are following the Biblical mandate to subdue the world."

That's a great one, huh? Are we all now living during the Crusades? As far as I'm concerned, editorial comments don't always have to be intelligently written.

The Gazette has found that sometimes humor will sell the paper.

*Douglas Georgic*

Colorado Springs

### **City needs better vetting**

The Mayor's spin on the inept manner in which the Memorial Hospital Advisory Panel has been handled is indicative of the need for the city to create a professional board of vetting, in order to eliminate the ongoing problem we have been treated to by the fiascos involving Ray Marshall, Jan Doran's initial refusal to recuse herself from the ethics panel on Mayor Lionel Rivera, and now Mr. Leigh and Mrs. Scott.

Who advises the city is an important function and the future of Memorial Hospital goes beyond the need for amateur city management. The least that can be done to restore trust in city management is for the process of vetting to be turned over to a group qualified to perform this function and with the power to do background investigations.

*Rick Wehner*

Colorado Springs

### **We need Medicare for all**

It's time to listen to the people, not the lobbyists for the medical-industrial complex, about what we need to ensure that every American has affordable access to the medical care. Get it right — Medicare for all. Pay attention — you can make this work if you want to.

*Kady Hommel*

Colorado Springs

### **Douglas Bruce not a 'hero'**

Regarding Mike Heiny's opinion letter about Douglas Bruce being a "hero," let's be clear about something: Doug Bruce is in it for Doug Bruce. He will follow the rules when they suit him, and evade them when they do not. If anyone else had housed and supported petition signature gatherers, they would have been lambasted as "hiding the truth." I'm not saying that what he did was illegal, because, honestly, I don't know. What I am saying is that he evaded answering about his role in this, and would have called anyone else on the carpet for what he did.

All you have to do is look at California and see what Prop 13 did for that state, which is what TABOR is doing to ours. You can say that lower taxes are a good thing, but when you have double the people, half the money will not do. Wake up people! If you want services, someone has to pay for them!

*Janet Cox*

Ellicott

### **From a 'wishful thinker'**

I find it amusing that The Gazette editors are concerned that the national media is reporting untruths about the state of affairs here in Colorado Springs.

Anyone who has interviewed with your reporters knows to expect that the facts of the story will be misrepresented, left out, or distorted. The Gazette's opinion page, and almost every article by Pam Zubeck and Daniel Chacón hammering the city over the past several years, has contained at best misleading information, and at worst outright untruths. The "PR Department" for the city has called The Gazette's reporter to correct you. but never have I seen a correction, retraction or apology. Because you clearly have an agenda, you apparently would never let the truth get in the way of an opportunity to make the city look bad. And now that has filtered up to the national media. I would think The Gazette would be proud!

I only wish the national media had reported that out of a \$1,400 property tax bill, I paid only \$105 to fund all my city services for an entire year. I wish they had reported that Doug Bruce thinks that is too much. And I hope the national exposure will help enlighten our citizens to the reality of how little they are actually paying for their city services.

But then again, I've always been a wishful thinker.

*Glenn Conklin*, 'proud city employee'

Colorado Springs

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