

FROM THE EDITOR'S POINT OF VIEW

Amendment #2 Need Not Destroy Us—But It Could

by Paul Kashmann

I only talk to my friend Linda twice a year now. We call each other on our birthdays, as we've done for the past twelve years since she and her family moved out to Oregon.



Paul Kashmann

Thus, I was not surprised for my phone to ring early on the morning of November 4th, nor to hear Linda's distinctive greeting on the other end of the line. "Happy Birthday, Paul", she hollered. "How did you like your present". Knowing my politics as a good friend does, she was referring to Bill Clinton's victory over George Bush the night before.

I allowed that I was, indeed, pleased with that outcome, but that I had fared less well on some local ballot initiatives.

Without waiting to hear the details, Linda informed me, following a less-than-civil eulogy to the entire Bush clan (down to the grandchildren - only the dog escaped unscathed), that for her it had been a clean sweep.

She was calling at 5a.m. Corvallis time, and had just gotten in from celebrating Oregon's defeat of a proposed ballot issue limiting the rights of that state's

homosexual community.

I hated to rain on her continuing parade, but felt I had to inform her, before the newspapers, that Colorado's collective electorate had opted for a different response to the issue of civil rights for gays. Amendment #2

I have learned that, at times, new laws are needed to emphasize not just the letter of our judicial code, but the spirit, as well.

had passed.

Being a former Coloradan, she was incredulous. "What the hell are you people doing out there?", she bellowed. It has been that question that I have been trying to answer ever since.

Let's get the basics out of the way. I voted against Amendment #2. I am not homosexual. I do not know what that feels like. I have, however, had enough contact with members of the homosexual community to have abandoned the myth that brands that particular sexual orientation as the exclusive hiding place of a whole variety of moral reprobates.

I do, however, know what it feels like to be misunderstood, rejected, and even attacked for being part of a group outside society's majority mainstream.

Having been brought up in a Jewish family, I learned that it hurts when people use the word "Christian" as a substitute for "caring", "moral", and "upstanding", while at the same time equating "Jew" with "cheap" and "selfish".

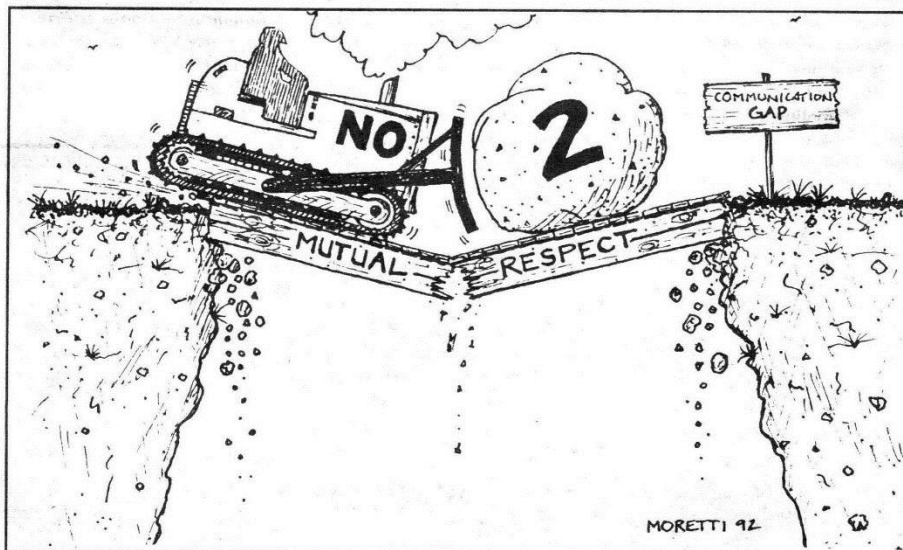
I have learned that, at times, certain groups are persecuted in ways that our laws are not fully prepared to address, and new laws are needed to emphasize not just the letter of our judicial code, but the spirit, as well.

"Hate crimes", with race or religion as a target, have been specifically legislated against across our country, although laws had previously existed forbidding many of the specific actions that "hate crimes" employ.

As I placed my vote, I was not addressing whether homosexuality is a lifestyle issue or a genetic predisposition. I do not know. I'm still listening and reading, but as of today, I just don't know.

I do know that the ordinances in Aspen, Denver, and Boulder, that before Amendment #2 prohibited discrimination based on

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FROM THE EDITOR'S POINT OF VIEW

What Got Your Attention For "Story-of-the-Year?"

by Paul Kashmann

Well, with the passing of another 365 day slice of history, it is time to bestow "Story of the Year status", once again. A few things come quickly to mind.



Paul Kashmann

Certainly noteworthy is the recent apprehension of a suspect in the series of rapes that plagued our community for the past three years. But let's mark that tale the "Best Ending To A Bad Story" (hopefully).

Worthy of at least "Honorable Mention" is the planned Broadway Marketplace development that will upgrade a large underutilized property in the I-25, Broadway, Alameda triangle. While the plot is still unfolding, the project will bring PACE out of the suburbs for the first time, bring the hulking Montgomery Ward skeleton crashing mercifully to its death in a few short weeks, and will give West Washington Park/Baker a full service grocery (Albertson's) for the first time in many years. A pedestrian tale for some tabloids, but impor-

tant stuff for a community publication such as *The Profile*.

But, for its ability to engage, if not enrage, the consciousness of an entire state overnight, we give the coveted "Story of The Year" honor to the ongoing "Tale of Amendment 2".

We feel that such heady honors should go only to a story that strengthens the community -

School-yard threats have rapidly escalated into drive-by shootings and tried-as-adult cop-killings.

makes it better than it was before. As painful as the debate has been thus far, it is our firm belief that Colorado will be better for the exchange, a compromise will be reached, and our state will once again resume its rightful reputation as a place where independent thinking and individual differences are cherished rather than chastised. Where what an individual does in private, pales next to that person's contribution to the community at large.

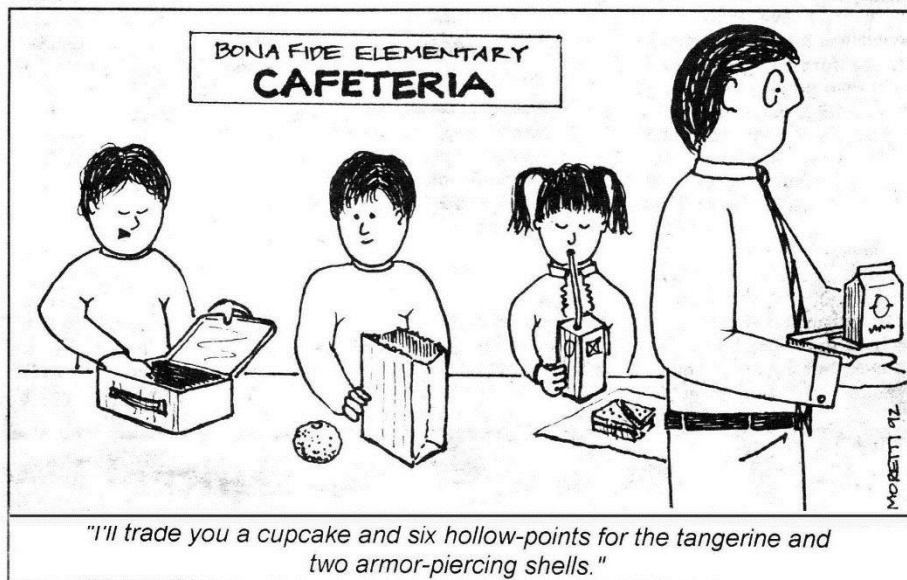
I am intrigued by columnist

Clifford May's suggestion that general legislation be passed that would outlaw workplace discrimination based on anything other than factors directly related to a person's ability to perform the task at hand. May may be headed in the right direction, but it's a bit too early to tell. It does appear that things are moving from the strident extremes into a more malleable situation where a just compromise might be possible. Stay tuned.

Another tale that cannot, and must not escape mention, concerns the ongoing, real life game of "guns" that is being played by our children. This story, that is hands down winner for "Most Frightening", is chronicled over and over in our streets and in our schools. As school-yard threats have rapidly escalated into drive-by shootings and tried-as-adult cop-killings, society stands by dazed, without a clue - no less a plan - as to how to proceed.

Children, who a few short years ago had only to cross the street and turn the corner to avoid the neighborhood bully, now search nervously for a safe place to hide from the escalating

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FROM THE EDITOR'S POINT OF VIEW

Living Life As A Multiple Choice Test

by Paul Kashmann

Life in Colorado has become a multiple choice test. The grading is simple — pass or fail. We're way past the time where some smokescreen essays will baffle the instructor enough so she'll let us pass. And our work thus far is certainly not good enough to just take an "F" on the final, and still earn a passing grade.

It's "nitty-gritty" time for the people of Colorado. The test has come, and it's time to open the little blue books.

Math, to be sure, will be a bear. First, imagine all the citizens of our "fair" state want the same thing, a "quality lifestyle" for themselves and their families. Imagine that will cost \$X million dollars.

Now, imagine that the state has \$X minus \$XXX million dollars to spend. What elements will you cut out of that "quality lifestyle" to make the equation balance? A few teachers? A baseball stadium? A couple of highways and bridges? How about police protection during the

Pope's visit? Or on Martin Luther King Day?

Oh, did I mention that there are several different definitions of that term "quality lifestyle"? And did I tell you that you can increase the amount of money you have to spend on that "quali-

We're way past the time where some smokescreen essays will baffle the instructor.

ty lifestyle" we disagree on, but we all have to vote on it first? That's right, all of us. We're all going to vote. It'll be fun. So, what is your answer?

O.K., I know it's tough. Take some time to mull it over and we'll come back to that one later. But don't dilly-dally, there is a time limit. Did I mention that if you take too long, and our "quality lifestyle" slips, people move away and you have less money to spend? Oh, sorry, I forgot to mention that. Well, let's move on to social studies.

O.k., here's Section I. The United States constitution guarantees to all its citizens the right

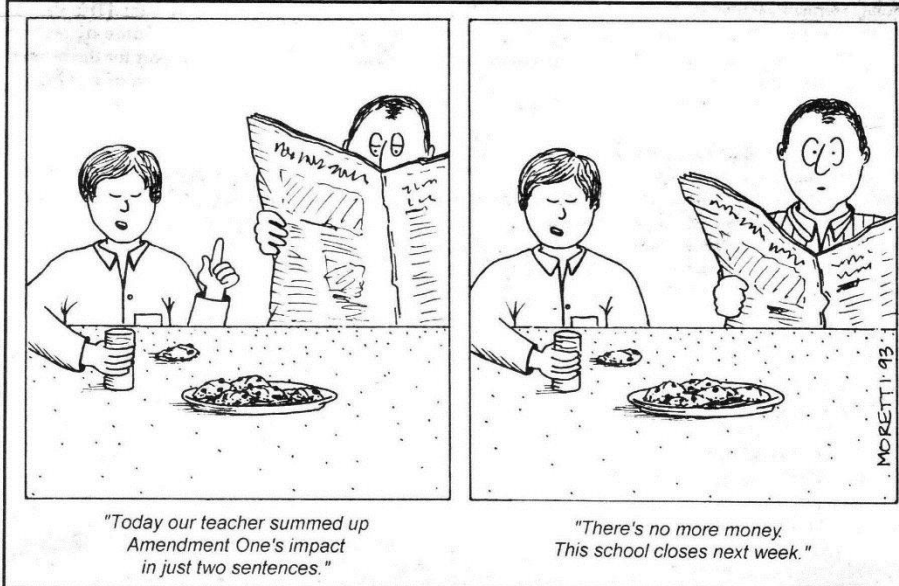
to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Don't like the way that sounds? Well, then rewrite it so you're happy. Simple right? Not so fast.

First, select the answer that best defines the word "citizen" to you. Second, select the answer that best describes the terms "liberty" and "pursuit of happiness".

Have you got that? Good. Easy wasn't it? Oh, I forgot Section II. After you've got your answer, find the person in the class who disagrees with you most completely. Has everybody made their choice? Now, get together with your partner, and rewrite the constitution so you're both happy.

Done yet? You'd better pick up the pace. If you keep squabbling then people won't come to visit our "fair" state, and some might even move away, and we'll have even less money available for our math exam.

Oh, before you leave, there has been a scheduling change. The exams for art and physical education have been postponed until we decide whether or not the classes will be dropped for next year.



FROM THE EDITOR'S POINT OF VIEW

Peaceful Co-existence: Can The Lion Lay Down With The Lamb

by Paul Kashmann

The February 10th meeting of the West University Community Association (WUCA) marked the first time that representatives of Safeway Stores Inc. publicly acknowledged their desire to replace the current market at Downing and Evans with a new facility more than twice as large.

To assemble the needed larger property for the new store, Safeway has contracted to purchase, and later demolish, about a dozen-and-a-half homes along Downing and Marion streets (Marion would be vacated from Evans to Warren).

An informal, raised-hand polling of the 150 or so residents attending the Feb. 10 forum, broke down to about 60%-40% in favor of Safeway's proposed expansion.

Residents concerned about increased traffic, and those living close by the store, expressed the most concern about its impact on their living environment and property values.

Residents favoring the proposal felt it would allow them to take care of more of their shopping on a one-stop basis, and would make their grocery shopping experience less chaotic, crowded, and confusing.

I think Safeway deserves to

For the two sides to come together on this project will require meaningful compromise from both sides.

have the most efficient, profitable marketplace environment it can construct. And I think the surrounding neighbors deserve a residential environment that is not adversely affected by the nearby commercial developments.

Whether the twain shall meet is the question at hand.

Safeway has been a loyal grocery provider since the mid-60's, and the neighborhood should be grateful for that. The neighborhood has put many truckloads of big bucks in Safeway's pockets, and the grocer should be grateful

for that.

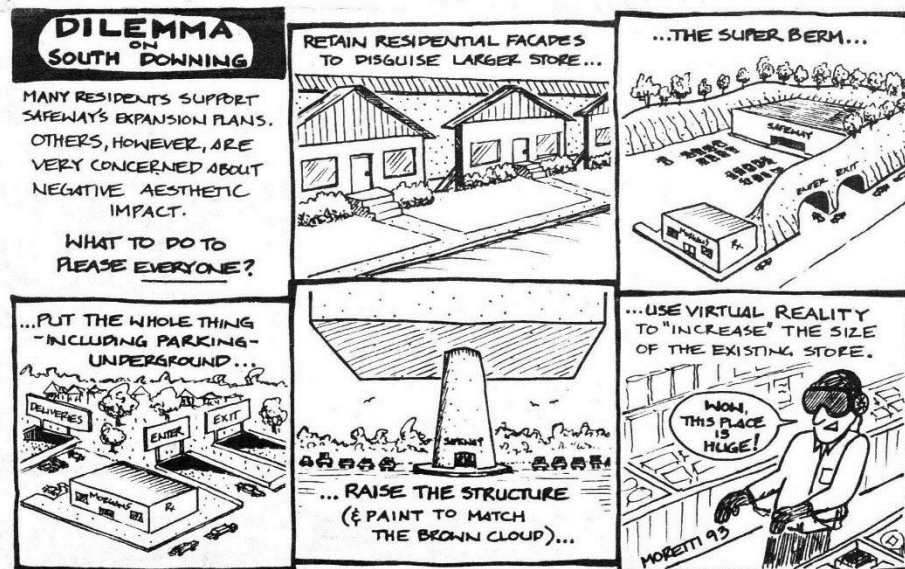
For the two sides to come together on this project will require meaningful compromise from both sides. The surrounding community's willingness to approve the destruction of 18 residential dwellings would be a major concession - a commitment to work with the developers, that should be met in kind with a major concession in turn.

How much of the proposed 53,000 sq.ft. store will Safeway back away from, to provide increased green belt insulation from surrounding neighbors? How much is Safeway willing to commit to landscaping to buffer the visual impact of the development?

Safeway will immediately begin to reap increased profits from the larger market. Neighbors shouldn't have to wait generations for slender slivers of vegetation to grow into mature trees that fit the community.

The property under consideration is on the cusp of a residential/commercial area. The proposed development can either increase the commercial identification, or reinforce the residential

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FROM THE EDITOR'S POINT OF VIEW

The Only Issue—Our Only Home

by Paul Kashmann

The only issue. The Earth. Our only home. As we approach the 23rd anniversary of the first Earth Day celebration, we must view the State of The Planet with mixed emotions.



Paul Kashmann

There is relief that the light of awareness now shines in much of the global consciousness. There is concern that that light is not yet bright enough to illuminate many dark corners of ignorance and cynicism.

There is hope spawned by lines of cars bringing the family's weekly stash of newspaper, glass, and cans to the local recycling center. There is concern as reports surface of truckloads of recycled goods being quietly landfilled due to an immature market for the post-consumer bounty.

There is hope as more and more "green" products appear on market shelves, as a result of consumer demand for environmentally friendly cleansers. And there is concern at the memory of an American president denying the deterioration of Earth's protective ozone layer, and characterizing those who disagree, as "way out there".

Balancing the environmental imperative of preserving our planet, with the economic imperative of a global economy is enormously complex.

A friend reminds me that if we were starting over again, with the knowledge we have today, there would be riots in the streets over the thought of gasoline-burning

rounds his newly pruned shrubs with mulch created from recycled Christmas Trees, then spreads fertilizer from a bag that warns of hazards to dogs and small children.

The conflict continues all around us. But the battle has, thus far, been neither won nor lost.

We must continue our recycling efforts because the concept is good, and where there is a buck to be made, the markets will eventually follow.

We must do our best, through our actions, to be examples to our children of an environmentally sensitive lifestyle, because they will surely do much of what we do, and ignore much of what we say.

We must continue the discussion, because the more clearly the issue is illuminated, the more difficult it becomes to plunge it back into the darkness.

Celebrate Earth Day, April 22nd. And every day thereafter.

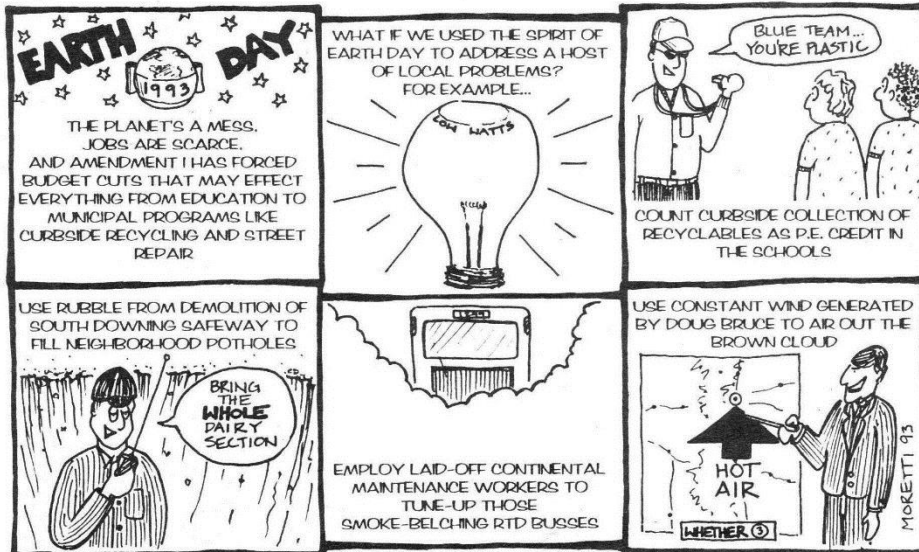
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vehicles being allowed to spew "toxic wastes" into our atmosphere.

Yet, the percentage of response to pleas to park those vehicles one day a week during our high pollution season, barely reaches into the double-digit category.

As the family returns home from that trip to the recycler, dad pulls a compact disc out of its hard plastic "jewel-box" container, and pops it on the stereo.

Your neighbor gleefully sur-



FROM THE EDITOR'S POINT OF VIEW

Is It Pay For Value, Or Extortion?

by Paul Kashmann

Some emotional ramblings if you don't mind. Our heart goes out to Asbury Elementary School teacher Ann Chambers, and so many others like her.



Paul Kashmann

Chambers has been diagnosed with cancer, and is facing extensive, and expensive treatment to fight the disease.

Friends and neighbors are rallying to her aid to raise the nearly \$150,000 needed for procedures not covered by Chambers' insurance. We urge you to stop by Asbury Elementary School, 1320 E. Asbury, May 22, 8a.m.-4p.m., for a Garage Sale/Craft Sale fundraiser to aid in the effort.

I'm afraid I've got more questions than answers this time. (I usually do, but sometimes I at least *think* I've got some answers.)

Where does the responsibility actually lie? How can our insurance system leave so many people with insurance so uninsured?

I guess I understand that medical treatment can be very expensive, but does it really need to be *that* expensive? Does it contribute to the costs appreciably that physicians are, as a group, *extremely* well paid compared to

the rest of society? At what point are they adequately reimbursed for their educational expenses, cost of doing business, and acquired skill?

I know that insurance costs keep going up due to (I'm told) increased medical costs, malpractice suits, etc. But aren't the net worths of these insurance compa-

Is that doctor with a scalpel worth any more than a teacher in a classroom educating the person who will later grow up to be that doctor?

nies going up astronomically as well? I'm just asking.

And attorneys. Skilled folks as well. But \$200 an hour? \$125 an hour? Why? Why does the cost of legal representation need to mount to the point of causing someone to have to withdraw from legal proceedings because they simply can't afford it?

And the law suits. Are they based on the needs of the client to sue or the need of the attorney to sue? How do legal expenses impact our health care system? Or our justice system?

As a matter of fact, what do we pay people for, anyway?

Where are our values? Is it a matter of a value for value exchange of compensation, or is it extortion?

Is that doctor with a scalpel worth any more than a teacher in a classroom educating the person who will later grow up to be that doctor?

Is that attorney any better schooled, or more important to society than the woman with two masters degrees working to resurrect the lives of runaway children whose families have failed them?

We pay the doctor or the lawyer what is asked because we have no choice. We can help junior with his homework, but few of us can defend ourselves against an unjust lawsuit, or remove a spleen when it's called for. (Hang on junior, just let me wipe this paint off my hands.)

We simply trust the system not to steal from us. But there is a widespread feeling that that may just be what's happening.

Oh, by the way. Don't forget to vote May 18th. There are some folks running for the Denver school board. Those fortunate enough to get elected will be responsible for setting policy and direction for a school district of more than 60,000 students and a few thousand teachers and administrators.

It's an unpaid position. Well, with money being so tight...



FROM THE EDITOR'S POINT OF VIEW

Pop-Tops—An Issue For The '90s

by Paul Kashmann

Pop-tops - the issue of the '90s. Thank God they've come. I thought we'd be talking about one-way streets forever.

As with the one-ways controversy, there are strong feelings on all sides of the pop-top question. And, as with the one-ways controversy, progress on the issues spawned by the recent flood of residential redevelopment has come slowly.

On June 7th, City Council will take public comment about proposed changes to the zoning code that aim to control the negative effects of pop-top/scrape-off construction, while not totally stunting the local real estate market.

The changes have been proposed by a committee of residents and builders who have worked for the past year, at the request of Councilwomen Mary DeGroot and Polly Flobeck, to reach an equitable compromise between the extremes.

Some folks feel the changes don't do enough, and some say they go too far (see page 1 article).

Ex-councilman John Silchia, an opponent of government intervention, feels the proposed changes "bring a (restrictive)

Boulder mentality to Denver", that he condemns.

His Cherry Creek North neighbor Walt Kemball feels City government has fallen short in its "responsibility to preserve the character of its neighborhoods." The very nature of the Cherry Creek North residential area has certainly been altered by recent redevelopment.

It is our view that the pro-

It is our view that the proposed regulations make a reasonable attempt to maintain the rights of all concerned.

posed regulations make a reasonable attempt to maintain the rights of all concerned.

Certainly individual property rights are a cornerstone of our society, but in an urban situation where we live so close together, some controls need to be in place. We need to compromise on how much freedom you can exercise on your property, before that exercise infringes excessively on the rights of your neighbors.

The proposed zoning changes skirt the issue of aesthetics, except in the most general way. To deal with the problem of "ugly", would require that indi-

vidual neighborhoods declare themselves "conservation districts", that would allow more control over the style of construction permitted in a particular area.

To us, that begins to smell a bit too much like the covenants of the suburbs. In our attempts to maintain balance, we must be careful to not homogenize the differences that add flavor to our community.

As always, regardless of your position, we urge you to join in the debate at City Council. If you don't state your case, don't complain when the gavel falls in line with the other side.

We wish to take this opportunity to send our thoughts and prayers to a good friend who has struggled mightily in recent months with life's deepest pain, and most profound questions.

Nita Warrick, a mainstay at the Washington Park Community Center for many years, was taken by paramedics to St. Joseph's Hospital late last month, after being found unconscious at her home. Nita is in an advanced stage of terminal cancer, and a note she had written indicates she had grown weary of her condition.

Nita we wish you only peace. For you certainly have our love, and deepest respect.



Despite the fact that Peter's pop top design complied with each and every physical regulation, the overall theme proved unpopular with the neighbors.

FROM THE EDITOR'S POINT OF VIEW

Winning Isn't Everything...

by Paul Kashmann

My, how we lose our minds when the heat begins to rise.

My son's Mother of God Stars baseball team received a blessing from above (or so we thought) last month, in the form of a block of seats to see the Colorado Rockies play the Los Angeles Dodgers. The operative word here is *play*.



Paul Kashmann

Well, to borrow a saying from the world of hockey, "We went to a fight the other night and a baseball game broke out." Not once, but twice during the game (the operative word here being *game*), as a result of batters hit by the pitcher, mayhem broke out on the field. Faces contorted, fists flew, and general insanity reigned. It escapes me who actually won the contest. Certainly not the kids in attendance, though they were quick to join the fray in spirit.

Thus, it came as no real surprise when, in our next Catholic Youth league game, a batter, barely grazed by a half-hearted pitch, found it necessary to glare at the pitcher as he sullenly jogged to first base. Upon return to the bench he made it known what *he* would do if that should happen again.

This past week, in the late stages of a hotly contested, close ballgame, the umpire - after issuing a clear warning - ended the game, and awarded the contest to the visiting team because of a parent's comments he judged to be initially inappropriate, and eventually obscene.

What got debated was what was said and what wasn't. Once again, the kids lost. What should be debated is the direction that organized sports, at all levels, are

My, how we lose our minds when the heat begins to rise.

taking in this day and age, and what are the values that athletics have to offer.

Ask junior if he'd like to be a big league ballplayer, and then count the seconds before the discussion turns to dollars. Give a kid an autograph or baseball card of his favorite hero, and count the seconds before the discussion turns to dollars.

Sports used to be one way for a kid in need to finance his way to college. Now, the professional leagues, hungry for more money-makers, pillage the college ranks in the name of "hardship". College sports fans are robbed of their stars, and the stars are robbed of their education.

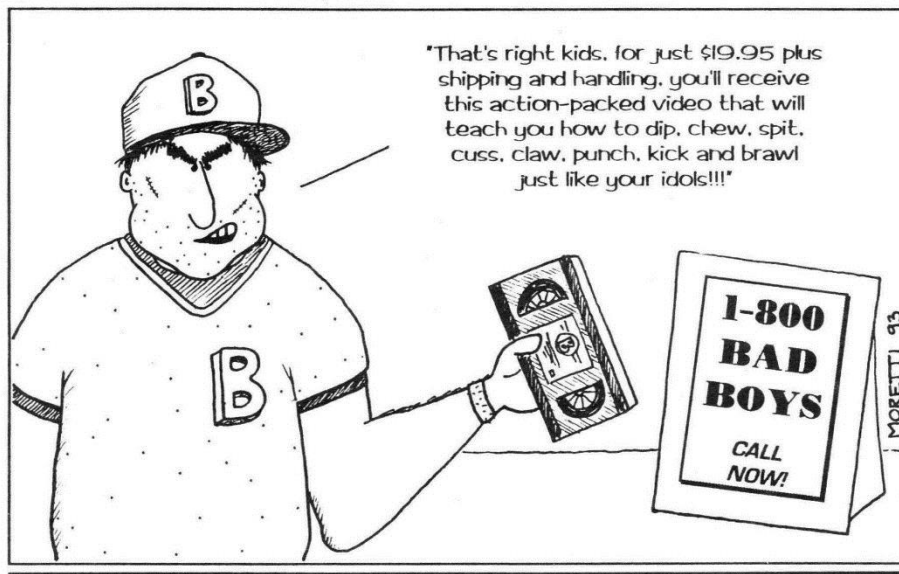
I won't even start on our recent Olympic "Dream Team". (O.K., just a comment.) I can't even imagine a greater abuse of the Olympic spirit, or a more boring Olympic basketball series. I feel for the college players who were deprived of their rightful opportunity to represent their nation.

And as for our Little League ballplayers. Can we please keep things in perspective? Sports are a wonderful way for a child to combine pure fun with the opportunity to learn valuable athletic skills as well as valuable skills for living life.

Winning is wonderful and should be encouraged. However, winning is neither "everything" or "the only thing". Life is not a never-ending string of victories, and we can learn through sports how to press forward, using a loss as a springboard to future success.

Parents, if your life is not as full as you would like, then increase the intensity in your life, not your child's.

Allow your son or daughter to strike out, fall on the ice, or miss an important foul shot. Celebrate the attempt, not just the success. For in the end, when all the games are in the past, it is sure that persistent, practiced effort will result in a life blessed with its rightful share of victories.



FROM THE EDITOR'S POINT OF VIEW

Thoughts On: Our Violent Summer, A Gentle Friend, & A Point Missed

by Paul Kashmann

Unsettling, to say the least. The continuing outburst of violence that is becoming as much the signature of 1990's Denver as the Rocky Mountains, or the Downtown "cash register" building. Unsettling. Like those in the midwest awaiting the savage flood waters, we, in Denver, are enduring a different tidal wave, equally as fearsome, and we can only guess when the torrent will subside. Unsettling.



Paul Kashmann

Denver's disaster of violence is even more frightening, because there are no channels to contain it, to predict its flow. It erupts randomly - one time spawned by anger, the next time by boredom.

And an entire city is sleeping a little less soundly these days.

In some neighborhoods where the sounds of gunshots are not uncommon, cries are finally being heard of "Enough!" as residents make vows to take back their streets.

In other areas, where residents previously felt insulated from such urban disturbances, any late night noises are apt to bring visions of invading gang members lurking in the shadows.

And our children are on the front lines. At school, at parties, at sporting events, at the mall, even in our own homes. We wonder if they are safe. And we don't know what to do.

We must, as so many city's have done before us, address the complex issues that have contributed to our summer of bloodshed. While we discuss with philosophers, psychologists, and sociologists the great underlying societal problems that tear at the fabric of our community, we cannot simply throw our hands up in resignation. We must deal with the stark reality of today.

Extraordinary conditions must be met with extraordinary measures. We must control our people and our weapons. As with most people I talk with, I have many questions, some opinions, and no answers.

Let the dialogue begin, let it be swift, and let us take action.

Imagine a safe city.

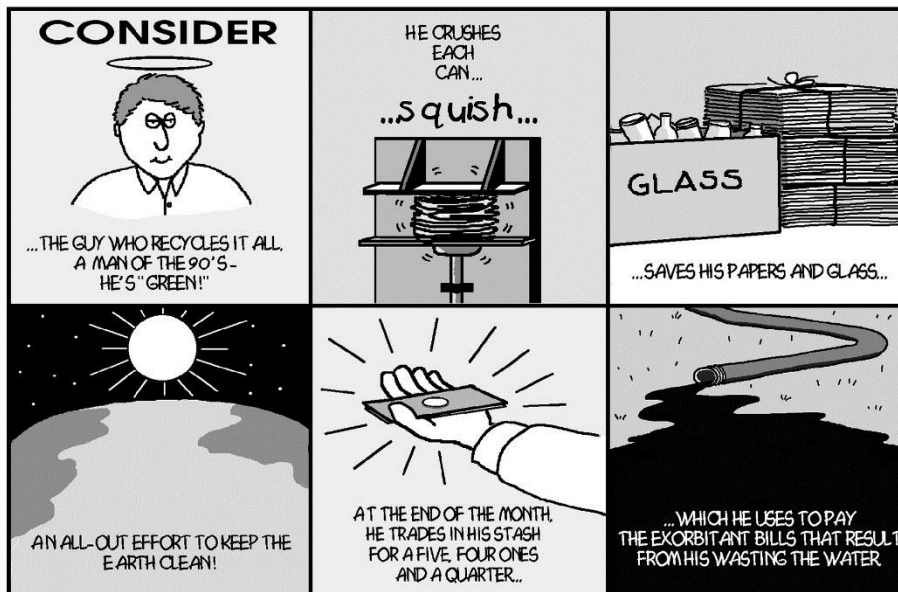
Editor's note: What is your answer to the violence that has filled our streets, our media, and our minds this summer? Write (as briefly as possible please): Stop The Insanity, c/o The Profile, 617 E. Jewell Ave., Denver, Co., 80210).

Washington Park residents lost a very good friend last month, when Nita Warrick, long a mainstay at the Washington Park Community Center, finally succumbed after a long bout with cancer.

While Nita's efforts were focused mainly on the senior programs in recent years, there has been no one who passed through the Center over the past 20-plus years, that has not been touched by her good cheer and her good works.

Nita Warrick was dedicated to her friends and her community in a way that should inspire us all. She will be dearly missed.

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FROM THE EDITOR'S POINT OF VIEW

Denver's Violent Streak Is Not Just A Media Event

by Paul Kashmann

As the statistics highlighted on page one would indicate, we have a problem in this country with too many people being murdered by people wielding handguns.



Paul Kashmann

Events of recent months seem to indicate that much of the carnage, at least in Denver, is being wrought by youngsters. Children too young to fight and die for their country, are fighting, killing, and dying in our streets, in a game of "guns" gone mad.

The systemic answers to America's penchant for violence run deep in our fabric, and must be addressed for a cure - or at least a remission - to take place. But I agree with Ken Gordon (see article on page one) that when you're in the midst of a flood, it's too late to worry about where you built your house, and time to bag sand - fast. We must take action against the torrent of violence, now.

I disagree wholeheartedly with

those who would minimize the problem, declaring it merely the concoction of a sensational media blitz. While the recent focus of the Denver media on guns and violence may be overwhelming, frightening, and disconcerting, to turn our heads and minimize the

The systemic answers to America's penchant for violence run deep in our fabric.

issue would be irresponsible.

The time is now for Coloradans to address the problem at hand. We cannot afford the moral, economic, or spiritual decline that would accompany our earning a reputation like Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, and other centers of violence have labored with for so long.

A massive dialogue is beginning this month on both the state and local level. Let no citizen turn aside from the debate. Let Denver be the wild west no more.

With the publication of this September issue, *The Profile* celebrates 15 years of publishing the news in south-central Denver. I have been honored to be involved with this effort since the third month of publication, and continue to be inspired by the untiring efforts of the many free-lancers, volunteers, and community activists who continue to make up the soul of this publication. My most sincere thanks and congratulations to you all.

Our loyal advertisers, who provide the funds that fuel our efforts, deserve the most profound gratitude of our entire community. Without the support of south Denver businesses, through good economy and bad, the flow of neighborhood news would have stopped long ago.

It has been a true pleasure to work with you all over the past decade and a half. Here's to many more.



FROM THE EDITOR'S POINT OF VIEW

Now that we've seen the symptom, it's time to face the problem.

by Paul Kashmann

Youth and violence. Youth and violence. Youth and violence. Youth and joblessness. Youth and no direction. Youth and no self esteem. Youth and hopelessness. Finally, attention is shifting from the dramatic "news at ten" symptoms, to the insidious causes that have weakened the very fabric of our community.



Paul Kashmann

From the kitchen to the committee room, people are beginning to ask the right questions. "What is the root cause of this epidemic?" "How do we eradicate the disease, and strengthen our societal body so it can't take hold, again?"

We need to inoculate the spirit of the young. We must keep them feeling loved, worthy, and hopeful. Violent behavior is the ultimate statement of hopelessness. The most perverse demand for attention to needs.

We must recommit, as a culture, that our children are our most valuable resource. Each and

every one. We must instill in them clear, compassionate, and well rooted community values.

"It takes the entire village to raise a single child." Various versions of this statement have been attributed to the African and Native American cultures.

The current overwhelmed, under-funded juvenile judicial system is totally ineffective.

Wherever its roots, I have heard it repeatedly in recent discussions of the changes necessary to heal our community.

Gangs as we know them today would not exist if their members found love, direction, purpose, and empowerment in other corners of their life.

We must increase our commitment to early childhood education. We must make supervised after-school activities available for our young, and meaningful jobs available to those who need them. We must. We have found

out what happens when we make excuses, and fail our children.

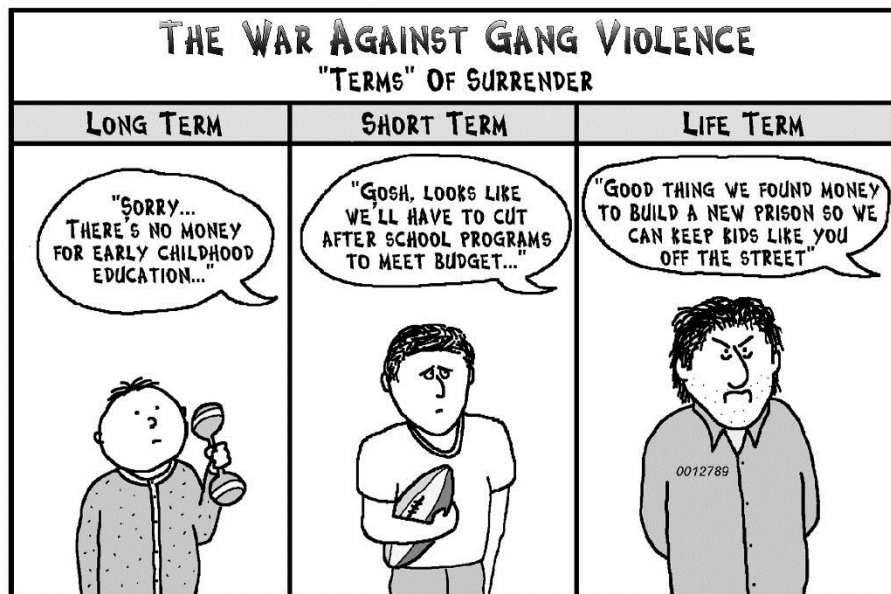
We must stop pointing at parents who fail, and reach out to help them. Even before their children are born if we must. Pre-natal health care cannot be withheld as punishment against those we don't think should be parents.

And meaningful parenting classes must be a part of all high school curriculums. Failing to prepare our children for the most difficult challenge of their life is not going to prevent teen pregnancies.

For those who get off the track, and there will always be many young people who will, we need a judicial system with the capability and compassion to deal out quick and appropriate consequences.

The current overwhelmed, under-funded juvenile judicial system is totally ineffective, dealing out minimal, meaningless sentences months, if not years, following the offense. Behavior modification at its most futile.

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FROM THE EDITOR'S POINT OF VIEW

'Tis Better To Give To Be Sure... But 'Tis Best To Share.

by Paul Kashmann

I love Thanksgiving. I really do. If you wrapped up the December holidays, and the whole buy-mania that's grown up around them, I wouldn't even trade it for my third helping of



Paul
Kashmann

Turkey-day stuffing.

There is some-thing uniquely wonderful when friends and/or family gather together around a table to share a feast prepared

by all, with aromas reminiscent of every holiday you ever had or wish you'd had.

Some bring the bird, and some bring the bread, but the focus is more on what's on the table to share here today, rather than what'll be at home for me to have tomorrow.

There's something even more uniquely wonderful that occurs when, miraculously, a self-centered son-of-a-gun like myself lives a moment or two on a different page. When I set aside all thoughts of wants, not-yets, and wish-I-had-more, and seriously

contemplate the wonder of the life I live.

I am forty-six years old, and I have never lived a day when I wanted a meal, and couldn't have one. I have never lived a day when I wanted a warm, dry home to come home to, and that home wasn't there.

I have never lived a day when

*I wouldn't trade
my third helping of
stuffing for the entire
December holidays.*

I needed a friend to call, and not a single number came to mind, nor a day when there was no family I could turn to in time of need.

My lack is only in degree of wealth, I have never known actual poverty. I have never been close.

As have we all, I grew up hearing the old adage that "it is better to give than to receive", and I have come to believe that that is most certainly true.

But what I have found to be true as well, is that the best of all

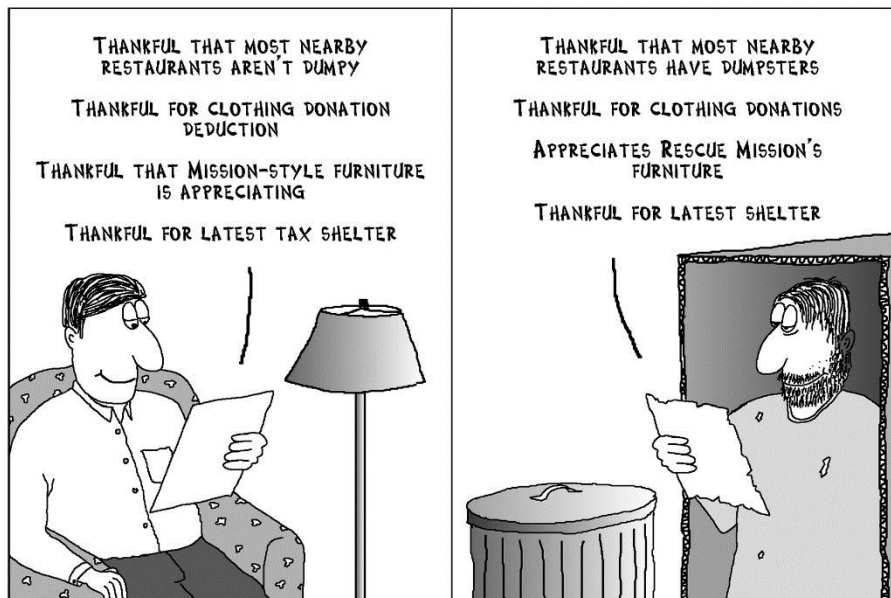
conditions is to share. Whether the bounty be great or small, when shared, the parts, in fact, become greater than the whole.

This Thanksgiving, do yourself a favor and look for that one extra opportunity to share your blessings with someone else. Brad Wells' article on page 18 talks about the Broadway Assistance Center, a local helping agency that assists those on the edge during their time of need. Wells' talks about the need, at times, to give someone, not a hand-out, but a hand up out a hole they've fallen into.

What better time than Thanksgiving to reach out to those less fortunate in our community? It doesn't even matter much who it is that you extend yourself to, because none of us can do it all by ourselves. And there's so many in need. But, if each one of us reaches out to just one person...

Well, you get the idea.

Like I said, I love Thanksgiving. I really do. Have a great Turkey Day.



FROM THE EDITOR'S POINT OF VIEW

South Denver In Good Health As We Approach The New Year

by Paul Kashmann

A few thoughts as we head into the New Year. Edging our way toward the 21st century, the neighborhoods of south-central Denver seem to be in good health.



Paul
Kashmann

Certainly the business picture is brighter than it's been in a decade or so. The commercial strips that dot our residential area sport full storefronts, where a few short years ago "For Lease" seemed to be the business of choice.

The South Gaylord and South Pearl districts, both having served south Denver for nearly a century, exude a renewed stability and vitality, and as a result, are attracting a more regional audience to supplement their loyal, local customer base.

Over on South Broadway, with the recent opening of PACE as the initial tenant at Broadway Marketplace, that corridor seems to be in a "sky's-the-limit" position, unless the sky falls in on all

of us. Fortunately, indicators suggest that's not in the cards for the foreseeable future.

Other major strips, such as 6th Avenue, Evans Avenue, and Colorado Boulevard show positive growth as well. Across our community, the problem seems to be not "How do we grow?" but "How do we control this growth

The problem seems to be not "How do we grow?" but "How do we control this growth so it doesn't overwhelm us?"

so it doesn't overwhelm us?" (i.e., Safeway at Evans and Downing.)

On the residential side, things are continuing on a positive course as well. While second-story pop-tops and scrape-off redevelopment continues at a brisk pace, the abuses of neighboring properties, and basic design sensibilities, are not as prolific or uncontrolled. Of course if it's your home that is now in shade where once there was sunlight,

I'm sure that's little consolation.

As the nature of our community has evolved - from a pleasant little hamlet on downtown's southern border, to the place to live for Denver's baby boom "yupsters" - it has required an enormous amount of patience, persistence, and compromise from all parties involved.

Whether the issue is my property rights versus my neighbor's, or businessman versus homeowner, it takes great flexibility and commitment to create and maintain the diverse semi-urban lifestyle that south-central residents covet.

It speaks well of our community that we continue to blend individual and neighborhood needs through compromise as often as code.

As I have taken a closer look recently at our community schools, I have found much about which to be encouraged. Struggling under the pressures of budget restrictions and court sanctions, the collaborative efforts of parents, faculty, and staff are frequently overcoming

■ See: EDITOR on Page 24

Dear Mastercard:

I need more credit.
Toys are so expensive
and I don't want to
let the kids down.
Can you help?

Dear Santa:

This year, I'd be happy to
skip the toys if I could
just have more time with
Mommy and Daddy.
Can you help?



FROM THE EDITOR'S POINT OF VIEW

It's Time To Reinvigorate The American Dream

by Paul Kashmann

The torrent of violence continues unabated. While the recent focus in Denver has been on crimes of violence committed by youth, a brief scan of the evening news will tell you



Paul Kashmann

that murder and mayhem of all types is committed on an ongoing basis by all segments of our society.

Cities all across the country are convening citizens' tribunals and expert commissions, searching for a solution. In his introduction to Denver's Safe City Summit (an ad hoc group of 100-plus residents from all segments of Denver's public/private citizenry) City Council president Dave Doering acknowledged that the city fathers were turning to the populace, because "if this (violence to and by youth) was a problem government could solve with laws, we would have already done it."

As have their compatriots across the land, Denver's "Summitteers" have searched for the one untried program, the miracle plan, that elusive blend of

money, hope, and commitment, to stem the tide.

Soon, initial recommendations will be directed toward Mayor Webb and the \$1,000,000 seed money he has earmarked in the '94 budget to fund Summit suggestions.

As always, education will compete with recreation, will compete

How is it that a country with so much money, has so many in need?

with job creation, will compete with child care, will compete with health care for pregnant teens, will compete, etc., etc. etc.

How is it that a country with so much money, has so many in need? So many people afraid of not having enough? So many people feeling so hopeless that lawlessness runs rampant as the only way to take home "my piece of the pie", or to extract vengeance for a perceived lack of ownership in the American "dream".

Our founding fathers and mothers, with the most primitive

vessels, sailed incredible distances through the most difficult of conditions, to find "the promised land", free of persecution. How sad that today, living in a culture of unmatched riches and unrivaled technology, we have lost our way.

We have become a nation with no direction other than the pursuit of the almighty dollar.

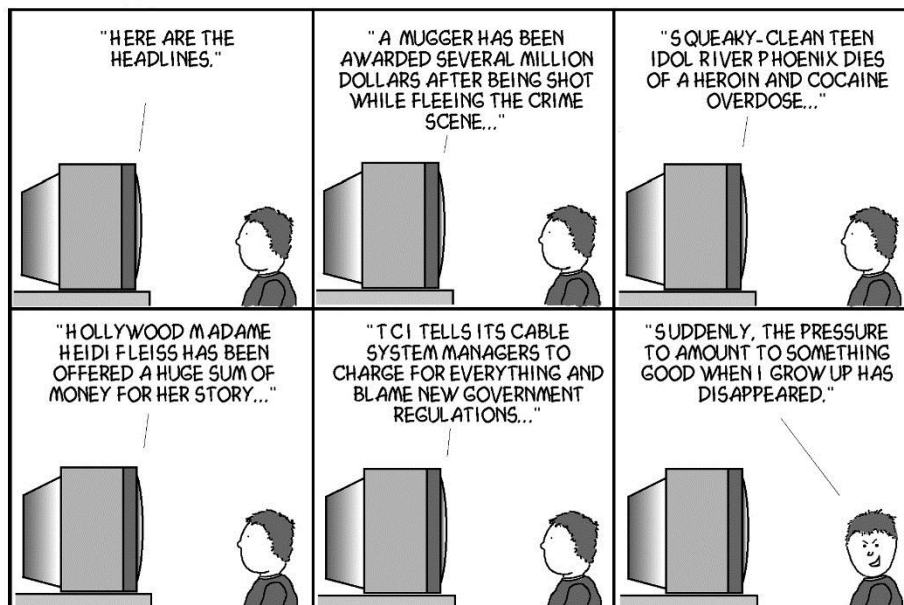
Rather than graciously and generously using our enormous riches for the benefit of all, we honor only those who accumulate the largest pile, simultaneously looking down on those unskilled at, or not motivated by acquisition, as slackers and underlings.

We hold up as heroes only the wealthy, then funnel the wealth to limited segments of our society. Is it any wonder so many are frustrated, at their wits end?

We must create a society where every person can have self-respect for his or her contribution to the communal good. Where people are valued more than the dollar.

Who is the greater hero - the millionaire football player who

■ See: EDITOR on Page 18



FROM THE EDITOR'S POINT OF VIEW

It's A Great Ride To The New Airport. On A Great Day.

by Paul Kashmann

If traveling is in your blood, then 1994 may well be your kind of year, and Denver should definitely be your kind of place.



Paul Kashmann

Whether you're looking to take a quick, comfy ride downtown, or a more epic journey to distant lands, this will be an interesting time to depart.

Denver International Airport (DIA) is scheduled to open March 9th, and regardless of where you stand on the need for a new air field, this is one impressive effort. "Stunning" is probably a more appropriate term.

T.V. and newspaper photos simply do not adequately convey either the size of the overall project (twice the size of Manhattan Island, seven times as big as Stapleton, larger than Dallas/Fort Worth and O'Hare combined), or its stark beauty sitting there on the plains east of the city.

Steve Klodt, south Denver resident and information specialist

a bright January morning.

First of all, south Denver residents should plan on an hour's drive to DIA on a good day. It may be 45 minutes, or an-hour-and-15 depending on your precise location and travel routes, but an hour is a good guide. And on a bright, clear day it will be a drive you'll enjoy.

T.V. and newspaper photos simply do not adequately convey the size of the overall project.

The entrance to Pena Boulevard, the main access to the new airport, is only about 6 miles east of Stapleton along I-70. From there, you'll head some 12 miles northeast across the flatlands before arriving at the picture-postcard main terminal. Believe me, the combination of a tranquil drive across Colorado's grasslands, capped by the sight of that awesome white tent-roof against the blue Colorado sky, makes the

Now, if you happen to have a need to get to DIA on a "bad day"—we're talking high winds and heavy snow—all bets are off, and you may want to take the bus. The ride is not going to be fun.

Eighteen miles across the eastern planes (approximate distance from Stapleton) in a blizzard, brings to mind visions of stranded motorists, missed flights, and frazzled nerves at best. There's a noticeable lack of snow fences protecting the access roads to DIA, so we just hope they're planned for the future, with plenty of snow plows for the just-in-case cases.

Once safely inside, the terminal continues to impress, with its combination of gleaming granite floors, polished steel ticket coun-

Once safely inside, the terminal continues to impress, with its combination of gleaming granite floors, polished steel ticket counters, and soaring "Arabian nights" roof. After depositing your baggage, you board the train (envision a new, clean subway) for a 90-second to 4-1/2 minute ride to one of DIA's three

■ See: EDITOR on Page 7



"And, should any of Denver's toxic winter air leak into the cabin during our refueling stop, an oxygen mask will drop from the compartment just above your head."

FROM THE EDITOR'S POINT OF VIEW

EPA Looks To Create South Denver "Dead Zone"

by Paul Kashmann

There'll be a hot time in the old town tonight, folks. And tomorrow night. And next month. As a matter of fact, if the engineers and blue suits at the Environmental Protection (right!) Agency, and the Colorado Department of Health (right!) get their way, there'll be a hot time in the old town for a couple thousand years.



Paul Kashmann

You see, the two aforementioned agencies have decided to create a permanent hazardous-waste disposal site in the middle of the Overland neighborhood (near Evans and Broadway), in order to save a few million bucks for the private corporation that created the mess. Well thank you, honorable guardians of the public trust.

From the 1920's to 1986, Shattuck Chemical Company processed a variety of heavy metals including radium, rhenium, molybdenum, and various uranium compounds, at their facility at 1805 S. Bannock St. In the process, Shattuck generated a whole slew of hazardous bi-products that

have left the site (including buildings, soil, and water runoff beneath the ground) fit for neither man nor beast. The property currently sits comfortably surrounded by 8 foot barbed-wire topped fencing, under 24-hour guard.

When the situation was originally addressed in 1991, the EPA evaluated several "mitigation"

From the 1920's to 1986, Shattuck Chemical Company processed a variety of heavy metals.

options, and, agreeing with the surrounding neighborhood and Denver's city fathers, decided to demolish the affected structures, excavate the tainted soil, and ship the whole mess to a permanent disposal site in Tooele, Utah. Shattuck was judged responsible for the mess, and charged with paying for the cleanup costs, estimated at some \$40-million.

Since that time, costs for the off-site disposal option have risen, and EPA's resolve has sunk. The agency, to the horror of Overland's residents, now

favors an on-site maintenance option that basically amounts to mixing the soil with concrete and ash, covering it up, and monitoring it for the next "forever" to be sure the concrete monolith is still intact, and not leaching heaven knows what into the local water supply.

EPA, apparently confident of the stability of future environmental conditions, says this latest recommended mitigation option "will be protective of human health and the environment." Would the agency be so cavalier in its assessment if this had occurred along the banks of Cherry Creek by the Country Club neighborhood? Or along the Highline Canal through Wellshire or southeast Denver?

While site work has continued at Shattuck, neighbors and the City are examining the legal options to force EPA, Colorado Health, and Shattuck to honor their charge in a more responsible manner, and to proceed with off-site disposal.

The Overland neighborhood, which includes the site of Denver's first settlement along the Platte River, has long struggled to survive the effects of growth. It

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FROM THE EDITOR'S POINT OF VIEW

Denver School District Speaks The Dreaded "C-Word"

by Paul Kashmann

The powers-that-be at Denver Public Schools (DPS) have some tough decisions to make.

Faced with a 1994-95 budget shortfall of some \$15 million, hard decisions must be made to balance the books. One stroke of the sword has already sliced away 62.5 teacher positions from middle and high schools for the coming year, saving \$2 million.



Paul Kashmann

In response to an efficiency study funded by the Greater Denver Chamber of Commerce, a variety of belt-tightening measures are being considered that would trim another \$2 million off next year's expenses, and a total of \$13 million over five years.

Unfortunately, this still leaves a wide gap between what's needed in the coming year, and what's available. And often, hard to solve problems result in hard to swallow solutions.

One recently suggested option that has South Denver parents gasping, involves the dreaded "C"-word. As in Closure. Several times over.

Under the guise of facility efficiency, DPS officials are considering closing four elementary schools and four middle schools due to low enrollment figures, at a potential savings of \$2.3 million.

South Denver residents would be especially hard hit, as two of the elementary schools (Rosedale, 2330 S. Sherman St.; and Cory,

If our schools are lacking in enrollment, shouldn't we be doing something to attract more families into the area?

1550 S. Steele St.), and all four of the middle schools (Baker, 574 W. 6th Ave; Gove, 4050 E. 14th Ave.; Grant, 1751 S. Washington St.; and Morey, 840 E. 14th Ave.), draw heavily from the south central neighborhoods.

While outgoing DPS superintendent Evie Dennis insisted the closure plan is only one of several contingency options, such serious suggestions merit an equally serious response.

First of all, in any financial balancing act, school closure should be the choice of last

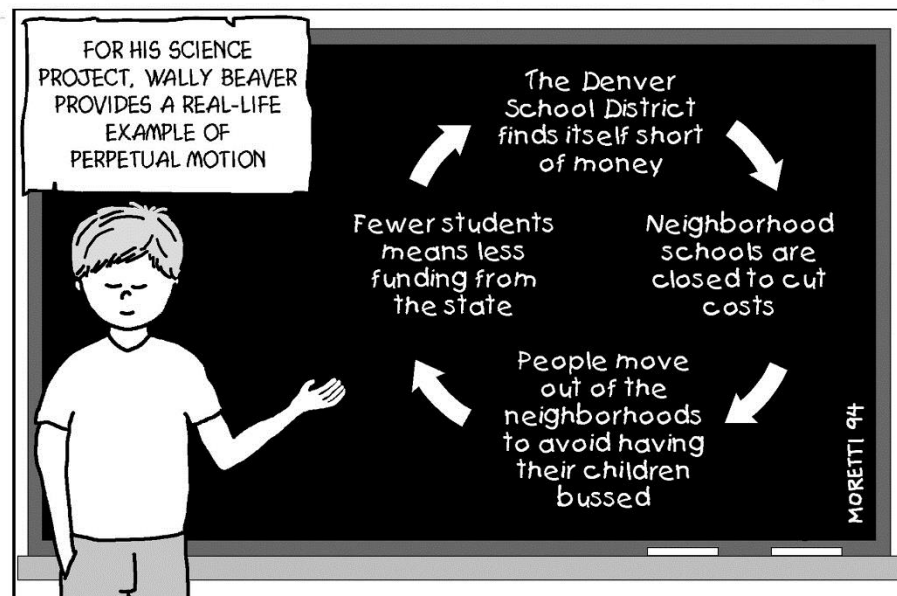
resort. While shifting demographics may at times seem to justify closure, the impact of losing such a basic community service can devastate a community, and cost the city more than the school district saves.

Would the closed schools be sold, or would they remain DPS property and be converted to alternate uses? To permanently remove several public school buildings from a single area of the city could have a long-range negative effect on the nature of that community.

Surveys consistently show that the presence of nearby schools is a major factor in the decision-making of home buyers with school-age children. How would those families view our communities if the suggested closures take place?

If our schools are lacking in enrollment, shouldn't we be doing something to attract more families into the area, rather than putting out a permanent "no children" sign?

School closures probably have their place. But such a broad swath as is being suggested by DPS may be more like community suicide - a very permanent solution to a temporary problem, that leaves no options open for the future.



FROM THE EDITOR'S POINT OF VIEW

Where Have You Gone Joe Dimaggio?

by Paul Kashmann

Recent events in the news have people wondering about what has happened to America's heroes. "Where have you gone Joe Dimaggio?", pleads an oft-repeated Paul Simon lyric.



Paul Kashmann

Well, the public personas - whether Joe Dimaggio, Tonya Harding, Gary Hart, or whomever - haven't gone anywhere. As a matter of fact that may just be the issue at hand. There's nowhere for celebrity to escape to. No quiet corner out of the spotlight in which to preserve the image. We are finally seeing a more clear picture.

Mickey Mantle, portrayed for years as a fun-loving boozier along with his New York Yankee teammates, is now known to have been a deeply troubled alcoholic throughout his years in the limelight.

Offbeat actor Woody Allen's amusing neuroses are far less endearing now that they've been tainted by accusations of child abuse and incest.

Is Michael Jackson a pedophile? Is Michael Jordan a com-

pulsive gambler? How involved was Tonya Harding?

And then there's "The Juice".

We continue to look for our heroes in those that appear larger than life. Larger than our lives at least.

The celebrity that runs faster, jumps higher, hits farther, looks better, talks smoother, etc. than

We continue to look for our heroes in those that appear larger than life. Larger than our lives at least.

most mortals, does serve a purpose. Through our vicarious alliance with the achievements of others, we are set free of the chains that bind us to our day to day struggles. We believe we can be more than we are. We are inspired. This is good.

Problems arise when we attribute other characteristics to these celebrities not directly related to their specific areas of expertise. Characteristics like honesty, sincerity, compassion, loyalty, etc.

We have found too often that

there is no connection between heroic performance, and heroic behavior.

Denver Post sports columnist Woody Paige, addressing John Elway's complaints about the pressure he was under to succeed on the football field, once wrote (as I paraphrase), "Pressure is not when you make a few hundred thousand dollars for winning a football game. Pressure is when you make \$22,000 a year selling shoes, and you have three kids who want to go to college".

The issue is very similar in the search for "Joe Dimaggio" or someone like him.

A hero is not simply someone who, aided by awesome talent, and for great monetary reward, races faster than anyone else to the top of the mountain, scores more points, or wins more awards.

Hero is an inside deal. Hero is about persevering regardless of ability. Hero is about holding to principle regardless of reward or lack of it. Hero is about commitment to others as well as yourself.

The athlete, actor, or politician may indeed be a hero, but if so, it is because of what that person is on the inside, that we never see, not because of a successful performance of a much practiced script.

"Celebrity"

(Known on a first-name basis by employees of nearby home-improvement center!)

"Revered for noble spirit"

(Happily tackles the responsibilities of fatherhood!)

"Noted for special achievements"

(Rushes home tired to play with kids. Wakes up tired and rushes right back to work!)



"Champion"

(Voted MVP - "Most Valuable Pop" - five years in a row!)

"One with great courage"

(Passes up golf game with buddies to attend child's birthday party!)

"Known for bold exploits"

(Able to outmaneuver a dirty diaper or a flat tire - with the same pair of hands!!)

he·ro (hir'ō) n.

MORETTI '94

FROM THE EDITOR'S POINT OF VIEW

Administration Shortcuts The Process With Curfew Center

by Paul Kashmann

The current furor over use of Washington Park Recreation Center as a weekend detention center for curfew violators (see article on page 1) is a classic study in government poorly administered.



Paul Kashmann

The Webb administration, impatient to inaugurate the first major display of the results of its highly touted Safe City Summit, created

a flood of bad feelings for what may be a very good program.

(Under the new curfew guidelines, kids out after hours will be brought to detention sites around the city, and held until parents or other "responsible adults" pick them up.)

By taking an end run around the public information process, ignoring community representatives, and on the way, sidestepping a substantial block of public opinion, the Mayor may have created a backlash that will have neighborhoods in other parts of the city hyper-sensitive to the SafeNite program, should it be brought to their front door.

Even if one were to accept the

premise that it was essential to go citywide with the program all at once, it is difficult to imagine, in view of the objections expressed by responsible members of the Washington Park community, that the SafeNite administrators couldn't have found an alternate site suitable to house a few kids for a few hours, a few days a week.

A diligent public meeting process may have produced a different consensus about the program.

To be sure, there are those Washington Park residents who are unconcerned, or even pleased that the program is in their midst. They are hoping that the increased police presence will have a beneficial effect on the safety of the neighborhood.

A diligent public meeting process may have produced a different consensus about the program, and certainly would have allowed for a more thorough discussion of the issues involved than has taken place thus far.

Washington Park is not a walled community. And its resi-

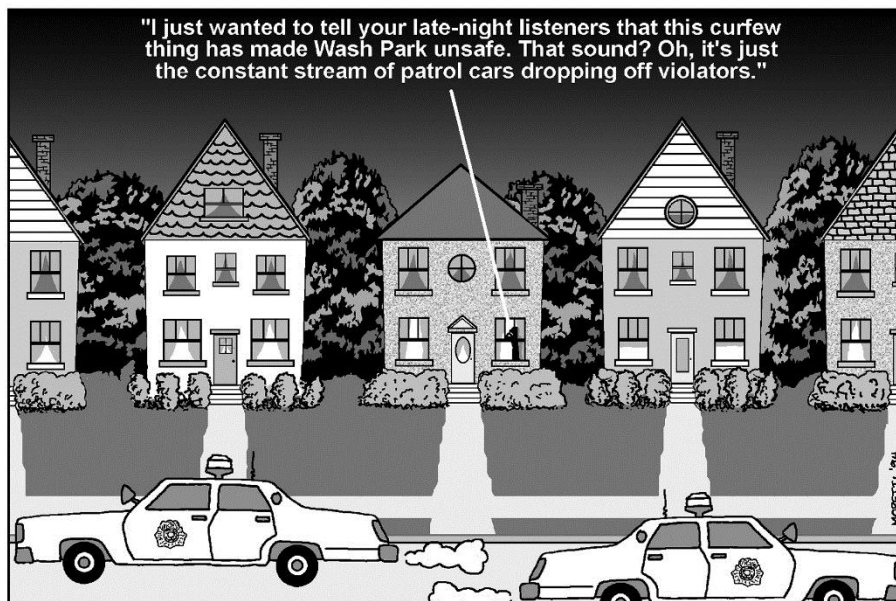
dents are not all selfish isolationists, living relaxed lives of opulence. They are mostly middle-class people who have worked hard to attain a comfortable standard of living in a nice neighborhood, and must continue their hard work to maintain that way of life.

The 165 acre park in which the recreation center sits has attracted visitors from far and wide for a hundred years or more. And, with the exception of periodic police sweeps needed to eliminate bands of rowdys and drug dealers, the community has welcomed visitors into their midst.

Statistics released by the administration to support the need for the new curfew legislation indicate nearly 600 vehicle thefts, 400 assaults, and more than 300 thefts were committed by juveniles after curfew in the past two years.

We assume it is these young, but serious criminals that SafeNite is designed to get off the street, and thus find it entirely reasonable that the community in which these scofflaws are to be held has some concern that the program is managed properly.

Mayor Webb will meet with residents to assess the Wash Park situation on August 30, 5:30p.m., at the Recreation Center. Be there. Listen. Be heard. Hopefully.



FROM THE EDITOR'S POINT OF VIEW

We Are All On The "Front Lines"

by Paul Kashmann

I need to get this off my chest. I truly hope that Denver's teachers realize that most of the world's working masses work harder than they feel they should have to work, for less money than they would like to receive.



Paul Kashmann

Most working stiffs feel that they don't get the recognition they deserve from the society they serve, and they bring

lots of work home with them more days than not.

I would suggest that a chaotic middle school classroom generates a pressure by day's end that would test the mettle of most of us. But what about the pressure of a retail store owner in a capricious economy, suffering with the silence of a cash register that does not ring enough to pay for the inventory sitting quietly on the shelf? Do teachers appreciate the pressure a salesman endures trying to reach some marketing manager's ever-increasing quota month after month, year after year, in order to be sure the "carrot" will be there to chase next month?

Teacher's speak often about

being on the "front line" - taking the brunt of society's problems head on. I would suggest that most of their neighbors are on that same front line, whether facing out of control kids, an out of control economy, or some other daily challenge.

While the recent teacher strike addressed some of the concerns of the educators, it seems to have addressed very few of the concerns

We cannot afford to spend another year talking about \$1,000 raises and duty-free lunch hours.

of the community waiting to be educated.

Teachers feel the community does not respect them, but they are wrong. The community does not respect the system that exists around the teacher. Without exception, people I have spoken with feel that good teachers should be making "doctor wages". I would have no trouble with a top caliber high school science teacher making \$85,000.

On the flip side, however, there must be accountability and evaluation, and a teacher who is not doing the job should be released without apologies. If the job of

educating is as important as most people realize it to be, then bad teachers must be quickly removed from the classroom, or placed in an apprentice situation until they can prove their abilities.

Our community must decide how it will restore discipline to the system. Our schools must be dedicated to education, not warehousing. A student who cannot participate without disruption must be removed to a remedial environment until he/she is ready to return to the classroom.

Denver has made some good strides with its magnet programs, and initial charter school offerings, but we need to expand the diversity that is offered. Children have many varied interests, and learn in many different ways, and we need to recognize that diversity and be prepared to nurture it.

These are only a few of the questions that must be addressed. We cannot afford to spend another year talking about \$1,000 raises and duty-free lunch hours.

It is very possible that future improvements to our school system may require a major infusion of tax dollars that can only come from a public willing to vote in favor of such expense. Unless we create confidence that that money will be spent for better than we've got, I wouldn't even ask.



FROM THE EDITOR'S POINT OF VIEW

Change Is Fine But Don't Lose The Roots

by Paul Kashmann

As 1994 heads to its final resting place, the state of the greater Washington Park community is "just peachy" by most measuring sticks.

Real estate values continue to push through the roof (physically and fiscally), making those who got here a few years ago extremely happy, and those who got here recently relieved and amazed that they made it. (Unless you came from California, in which case you probably wonder what all the hoopla is about.)

The retail community from Broadway to Colorado Blvd., and most points in between, is seeing its best time since "Denver" and "oil" were synonymous. The continuing efforts of our local politicians, in conjunction with the unceasing devotion of the neighborhood groups representing our community, has somehow preserved enough of our quality of life, in the midst of the ongoing circus of development, to still make this a mighty fine place to call "home".

But the times, my friends, are

definitely "a changin'." In the past month I have found myself in separate conversations with two local realtors who state that "there's no way regular folks will be able to buy into the Washington Park area like they used to. Not with prices the way they are."

Not that there's anything too irregular about folks in South Denver, we're just getting more

We must continue to nurture all segments of our community if it is to continue to be a place where families truly live.

and more "upscale" every year. The days of looking to a small Wash Park bungalow as the ideal starter for a young couple, is definitely a thing of the past.

One realtor told me that she "enjoyed it so much when we moved in twenty years ago, and there was a dry cleaner on one side, and a realtor on the other. My furnace man lived down the block, and my kid's kindergarten teacher lived around the corner. Not everyone is gone, but the folks moving in tend to be of a

different style. Not unpleasant, just different."

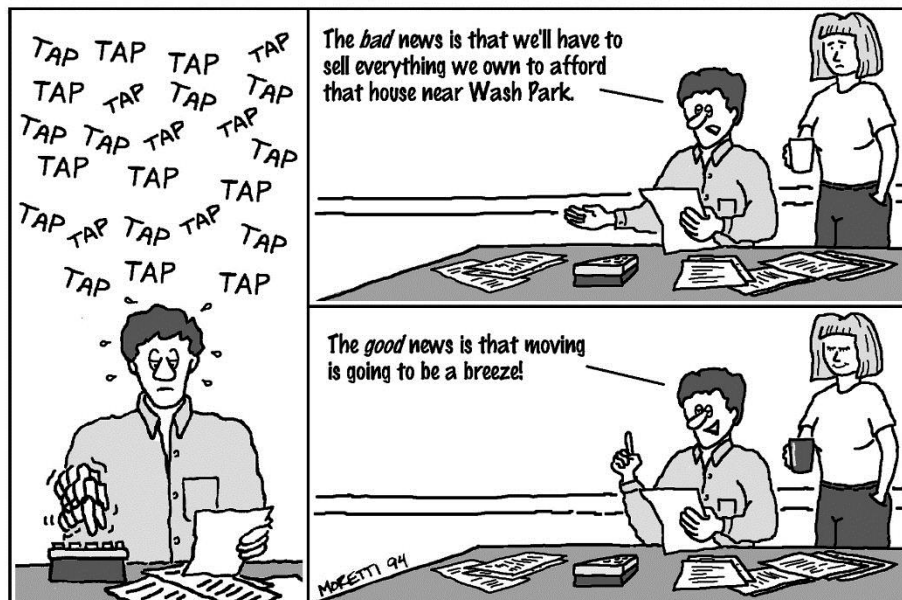
Like I said before, this is still the only place in town I want to live, and most of the folks I meet are just dandy, but I hope we don't lose sight of what it is that has made this part of the planet so special.

There is more to our community than the condition of our houses and W-2's. The churches and schools that have taught us deserve our attendance and participation so they might survive to teach their lessons of the head and the heart to future generations.

Our local retail strips that have served south Denver so well since the turn of the century deserve our patronage so they may patch the shoes and feed the appetites of our children and grandchildren.

We must continue to nurture all segments of our community if it is to continue to be a place where families truly live, rather than just pass through. It takes a great deal of investment to create a neighborhood. It takes a great deal of time and commitment. Often, in a place like Washington Park, the easiest part is coming up with the money.

Have a Happy, Healthy New Year, one and all.



FROM THE EDITOR'S POINT OF VIEW

Play The Part That Is Yours To Play

by Paul Kashmann

As the New Year dawns, things are basically "fine, thank you" in South Denver. Our residential neighborhoods are in good health, and our businesses are generally prospering right along with the statewide "boom".



Paul Kashmann

Washington Park, itself, continues to be the crown jewel of Denver's park system, and Harvard Gulch Park, at Logan and Iliff, is revered by its fans as a (fortunately) largely undiscovered gem in its own right. Cheesman Park to the north is a classic urban greenspace, and Cook, Alamo Placita, Eisenhower, Garland, and Ruby Hill parks surround us with yet more idyllic beauty.

Our branch libraries - Field, Decker, Ross-Broadway, Cherry Creek, and Virginia Village - have all been renovated or rebuilt, adding an invaluable, first-rate cultural resource to our community.

The University of Denver has been a good neighbor since the turn of the century. DU now offers middle and high school programs, and is embarking on a \$30+million

expansion of its athletic facilities, to include a new public ice-rink among the planned for amenities. The historic Chamberlin Observatory recently celebrated its 100th birthday, and public star viewings continue throughout the year.

People are dining at our restaurants in record numbers, filling

When major issues surface, the meeting halls are filled to overflowing. The rest of the year the chairs sit empty.

more seats than ever at music and theatrical events (yes, our neighborhoods house some of the city's finest small theaters), and generally enjoying life in south Denver.

While we can all rejoice at the marvelous quality of life we enjoy, we should remember that the situation can deteriorate in a heartbeat if we are not ever-vigilant in monitoring the forces that threaten that quality.

When major issues surface, such as one-way streets, a new Safeway, school closings, etc., our neighborhood groups find their

meeting halls filled to over-flowing with residents willing to "go to the mat" to protect their community. No picket line is too long, no meeting too late, no task too demanding.

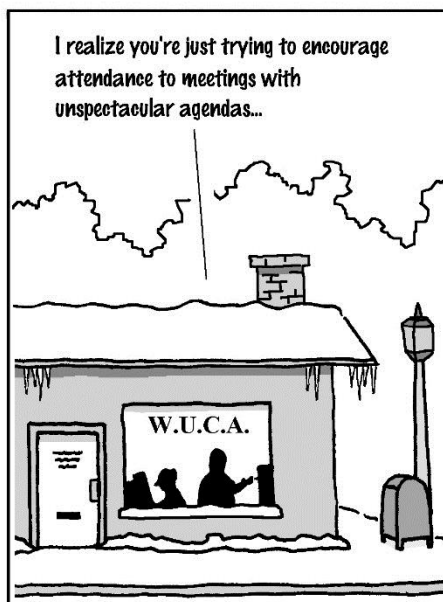
And, the rest of the year, the meeting halls are virtually empty, the chairs seldom filled. The same small, dedicated group of neighborhood activists meet to go over mundane rezoning requests, liquor license applications and the like, to be sure that nothing slips through the cracks that deserves closer examination.

I attended a conference of architects recently, where speakers labeled activists as NIMBY'S (Not In My Back Yard) and BANANA'S (Build Absolutely Nothing Anywhere Near Anybody), hindering development for capricious reasons.

I offered that if residents are at times obstructionist, it is because they have heard the stories before. They have accepted the assurances, trusted the guarantees. Then administrations, and their policies change.

Time goes by and "economic conditions" change. And we end up with retail at Cherry Creek West (just an example), where residential was supposed to go.

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FROM THE EDITOR'S POINT OF VIEW

Invest In The Future...& The Past

by Paul Kashmann

There always seems to be two sides to every story. What is good for the goose, does not always turn out to be good for the gander.



Paul Kashmann

John Moretti's February cartoon (below) expresses so clearly the dichotomy caused by the Denver area's ongoing growth cycle.

An endless stream of major corporate players are flocking to Colorado while the economy is flying. Good news, eh?

However, the big-bucks presence of these carpetbaggers also creates an economic tidal wave of conditions that frequently forces out the small retailer who has somehow been able to hang on to serve the community through good times and bad. Bummer, eh?

Price Club, Cub Food's, Sam's, Office Depot and the like can provide shoppers with substantial savings based on their mega-purchasing power. Good news, eh?

Unfortunately, many smaller, service-oriented retailers are unable to survive the exodus of

their customer base to the mega-merchants. Bummer, huh?

Safeway may have been more willing to negotiate a smaller store at Evans and Downing if the public wasn't flocking to the newer superstores, leaving smaller grocers to flounder in their wake. If the consuming public truly responded to more service and

There always seems to be two sides to every story. What is good for the goose, does not always turn out to be good for the gander.

less choice, the "superstore" market never would have evolved.

For the nearly 17 years that *The Profile* has covered south Denver, residents have bemoaned the loss of the "little guy", be it the corner butcher, the neighborhood pharmacy, the local hardware store, etc.

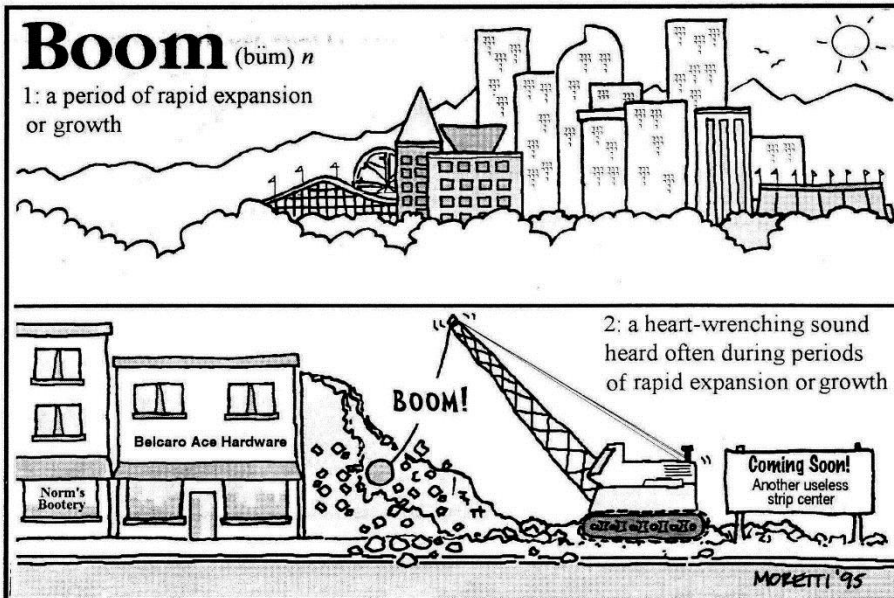
And, for the nearly 17 years that *The Profile* has covered south Denver, more and more residents have opted to buy their cut-rate

tools, prescriptions, and holiday pot roasts, from the warehouse style retailers, while and more and more independents have disappeared.

The issue is not one of morality, but simply of choices. If we are willing to kiss the past good-bye in order to save a few bucks for our future, then so be it. Shop the warehouses, and grunt at the pre-adults who grunt at you as they stare at the scanners pricing your goods.

If, however, you like the thought of doing business with someone who knows your name without looking at your license, really cares how your kid is doing at C.U., and knows a few quick shortcuts to help you finish that deck on the front of your house, then give the independent retailer a nod once in a while.

Like I said, there's two sides to every story. Sometimes you have to invest in the past as heavily as you do in the future.



FROM THE EDITOR'S POINT OF VIEW

DPS Needs To Get Focused Before Asking For More

by Paul Kashmann

Denver Public Schools last month let it be known that (surprise) money was running out once again, and it would be necessary to go to the public trough for additional funds in the not distant future.



Paul Kashmann

Budget projections indicate that by 1997, the shortfall between needed and available revenues will be in the \$30-\$40 million dollar range. This is the amount of currently unavailable dollars that must be found to continue to run DPS as it is run today, not DPS as we'd all like it to be. If you'd like more programs, smaller class size, better paid teachers, additional facilities, etc., take out your calculator (unless it's in your kid's locker at school), and watch the total grow.

Recent history has not unfolded kindly on those that have sought additional taxes, bonds, etc. for public schools. Districts across the metro area have found voters far less willing to dip into

their private coffers for "more of the same".

Those of you who have followed this column will know that the heart of *The Profile* is with the public school system. We feel that the health of DPS is critical to the

Recent history has not unfolded kindly on those that have sought additional taxes, bonds, etc. for public schools

health of Denver as we know it.

And, before we will be able to endorse additional funding for the folks at 900 Grant St., we'll have to be convinced the money will be well spent. The welfare of our children is of utmost concern, but we cannot be held blind hostage by that concern. We'll need to be convinced that additional money will translate into better education.

When Irv Moskowitz was hired as the new DPS superinten-

dent, we were hopeful for the district's future. Hopeful that the negativism and isolation of past administrations would be erased, and a new era of cooperation would begin. Hopeful for a DPS that showed a vision of what it could be. What it wanted to be. What it needed to be.

Thus far, we have not seen what we hoped for. If there is a vision of the future, it has not been publically defined. The district's management appears to be far more reactive than proactive. Major decisions continue to be made with the apparent attitude that the public is to be advised rather than involved. The community too frequently appears to be an afterthought in the DPS consciousness. This must change.

Since the beginning of time, school teachers and administrators have professed a desire for parents to "get involved" in their schools, to be a part of their children's education. Is DPS actually equipped to encourage such involvement?

The reality in many cases is

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FROM THE EDITOR'S POINT OF VIEW

Rebuilding DPS Is Grownups' Work, Not Child's Play

by Paul Kashmann

Mayor Wellington Webb last month took a shot across the political bow at mayoral hopeful Mary DeGroot, that not only missed



Paul Kashmann

DeGroot, but may have broad-sided an entire innocent group of voters that the Mayor would probably have been best advised to not offend.

In a campaign that has had voters wondering "Where's the beef?", Webb decided to paint DeGroot as insincere in her commitment to Denver Public Schools (DPS), due to her decision last year to remove her daughter from Cory Elementary, and enroll her in a private educational institution.

Amazingly, with only a single bullet, Webb mis-fired twice.

To doubt DeGroot's commitment to her city or its institutions is unwarranted. DeGroot has spoken out for years on the need for the City to partner with DPS on facilities sharing and other issues, even before such a stand was politically correct.

In her Council District 6 position, DeGroot was deeply involved in creating the public/DPS partnership that resulted in construction of Cory-Merrill Park, on the grounds of the two schools at Florida and Steele. The space now serves both the community and the students, and has spawned eight other partnership parks across the city.

Even more egregious is Webb's

It remains equally essential that each parent determine for each child the best educational environment at this time.

backhanded slap at parents who, caught between a desire to support public education and concern for their child's well-being, make the difficult decision to leave DPS for an alternative educational environment.

The decision is often a financial and emotional hardship for the family, and, in my experience, never one that is taken lightly.

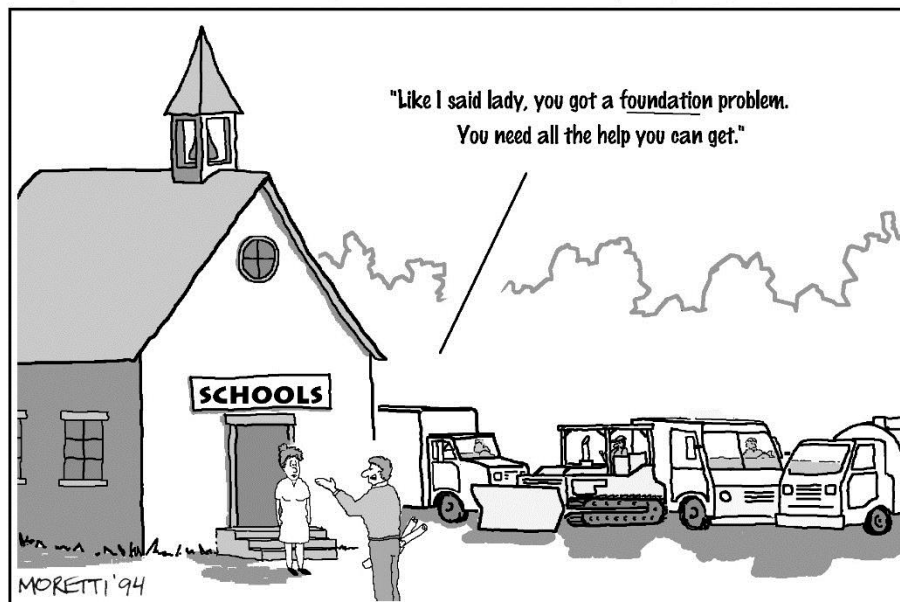
It is, without a doubt, the

responsibility of every Denver citizen to dig in and support DPS in any way possible. The health of our school district is absolutely critical to the long-term health of our city.

As vibrant as our city looks now, if DPS crumbles into ashes and more middle-class families abandon ship, in the not distant future, Denver could become Newark or East St. Louis, and Arapahoe or Douglas County could host the area's center of commerce.

The resurrection of Denver Public Schools has got to be the mission of the next decade for all quarters of our city. DPS must join hands with our city government, our business community, and each and every resident if this mission is to be accomplished.

However, it remains equally essential that each parent determine for each child the best educational environment *at this time*. Our kids are more than grist for our activist mill. They are only in 3rd, 5th, or 10th grade once, and we must judge what is best for them now, while we work tirelessly on the changes needed for the good of generations to come.



FROM THE EDITOR'S POINT OF VIEW

Lincoln Street McDonald's Leaves A Bad Taste

by Paul Kashmann

A few years back, West Washington Park neighbors spent more than two years holding public forums, and meeting with representatives of



Paul Kashmann

Denver's Planning Office, hammering out details of a neighborhood plan that they thought would provide a framework to guide future development in

their community.

Land uses and traffic patterns were considered in the context of today's needs and tomorrow's wants.

Slowly, a vision of what their community could become began to take shape, and a roadmap of how to get there laid out. Unfortunately, a few pieces of roadwork (read "down-zoning") were left undone, that were necessary to make the voyage to the community of the future a "done deal".

While Denver's governmental ranks have been growing in other departments by leaps and bounds in recent years, the City's

Planning Office has been left woefully understaffed - six city planners to deal with over 150 registered neighborhood organizations - and such zoning loopholes have often gone unaddressed.

Now, a few short years later, the first major challenge to the arrived-at plan has been mounted, and it appears to the folks who worked so hard to create it, that

Land uses and traffic patterns were considered in the context of today's needs & tomorrow's wants.

the document is hardly worth the paper it is printed on.

The McDonald's restaurant chain, whose burgers-served total is now in the 100-billion range, has submitted their own plans to the City to locate a spiffy new burger barn with a glassed-in kids "playland", on the vacated bank property at Lincoln Street and Alameda Avenue.

Citing their hallowed neighborhood plan, neighbors in the

area have besieged McD's with pleas to honor their guide, and to situate the operation on Broadway, rather than intrude so radically on an otherwise residentially dominated Lincoln Street.

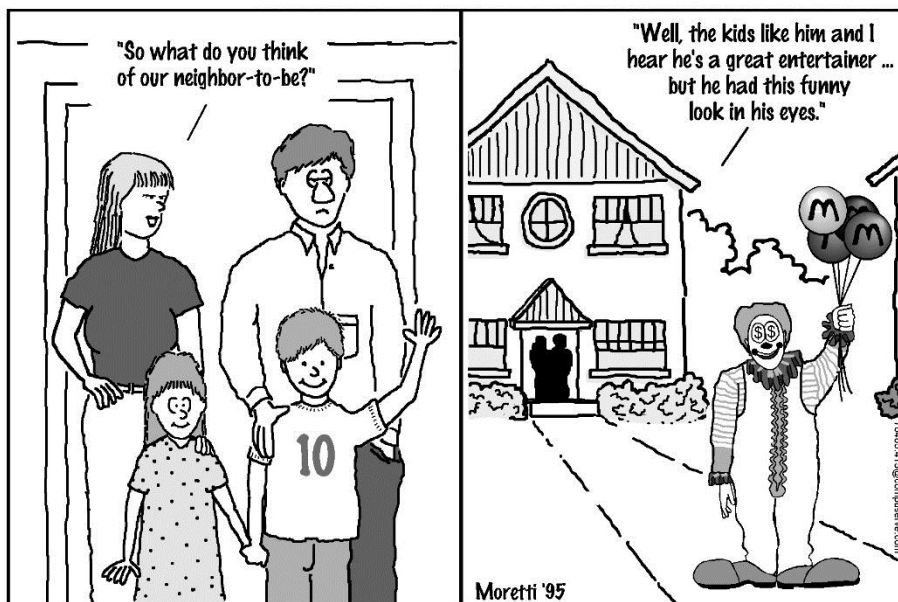
McDonald's, armed with the zoning required to allow them to steamroll the neighborhood wishes, presents a legion of consultants stating that the available Broadway frontage just is not wide enough to permit a safe and profitable operation, with access from traffic-rich Alameda Ave.

McDonald's says it's trying to negotiate with the neighbors and the city by offering to make design concessions in the appearance of the new eatery.

The neighbors, and out-going councilman Dave Doering, say a Lincoln St. location is simply unacceptable. Both sides are threatening re-zonings, law-suits, etc. Chests are puffed out, and hair is rising on the backs of necks.

Meanwhile, the City, admitting that "we probably should have been more pro-active" in carrying out the neighborhood plan (and the down-zoning that would have limited the uses of properties like

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FROM THE EDITOR'S POINT OF VIEW

There's A Strange Aroma In The Air Nowadays

by Paul Kashmann

It may simply be my imagination, but there seems to be a strange, foul smell to Denver's air nowadays. Forget auto emissions, and don't point



Paul Kashmann

your finger toward the stockyards. The bothersome aroma I have detected seems to be coming from my television. And the newspapers. And, interestingly, it gets noticeably more noxious the closer we get to election day.

After close examination, and consultation with experts in the field, it appears to me that our air is fine, and our landfills well regulated. Unfortunately, it seems that Denver's current political climate stinks like a foul baby's diaper.

Something's different with this year's campaign, and it's a bit disorienting. I'm having trouble remembering where I am.

Forget "a taste of Old Chicago", I feel like I've been cornered by some New York dockworker thugs, who have suggested which way my vote should go,

"if I know what's good for me".

The mayoral campaign has been way too heavy on the innuendo, and a bit light on the innovation. Both campaigns have found it much easier to paint an unflattering picture of life under their opponent's rule, rather than a clear mural of what we could expect should they be elected.

Like courtroom lawyers, the candidates have taken the

The candidates have taken the approach that they don't need to have you 100% convinced that they can do the job.

approach that they don't need to have you 100% convinced that they can do the job. They just need to plant an element of reasonable doubt that their opponent can walk through your kitchen without stealing the silverware.

But, while my senses have been offended by the battle for the top spot down at City Hall, that is not the prime cause of my distress. It's the games being

played around the local City Council vacancies that have really caused my gag reflex to kick in.

Again, the candidates seem to find it difficult to adequately separate themselves from their opponents by trumpeting their own stands on relevant issues. Unsatisfied to simply build themselves up, considerable effort is being spent to undermine their opponent.

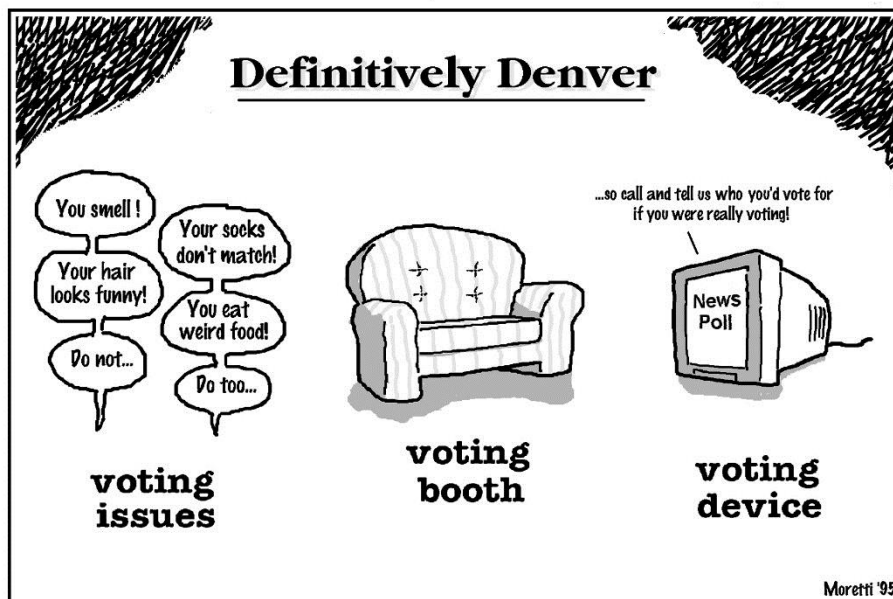
For the first time in nearly two decades of following south Denver council races, I have received furtive phone calls advising me that "You might be interested in an article coming out in such-and-such newspaper tomorrow about my opponent".

One of Denver's sterling daily journals called to inquire about details of a candidate's personal life, asking no questions about that individual's stand on relevant issues.

Innuendos have been flying about friendships and financing. Who's paying for who? And thus, who owns what? Or who?

I kept expecting Donna Rice to march into my office with some sort of sordid tale about a candi-

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FROM THE EDITOR'S POINT OF VIEW

DeGroot Campaign Brought DPS To Mayor's Attention

by Paul Kashmann

Mary DeGroot may have come out on the losing end of the recent mayoral campaign, but our city could end up a big winner because of her participation.

Since the early days of her two term stay on City Council, DeGroot has preached the gospel of city

the city.

The seed has been planted that with recreation facilities in Denver at a premium, perhaps those 100 or so DPS gymnasiums (not to mention several thousand classrooms) might be of use to Denver residents evenings and weekends.

The opportunities for shared programs, and the resultant overall benefit for our community as a whole, are only limited by the



Paul Kashmann

government/public schools cooperation. With ever expanding need stretching tax revenues to the limit, DeGroot early on recognized the wisdom in shared facilities and shared services as a way to maximize benefit to all of Denver's residents, while minimizing budgetary outlay and duplication of services.

Thanks to DeGroot, and other front-runners in the cooperative movement, the City and County of Denver now assists Denver Public Schools (DPS) with in-school health clinics, while once under-utilized DPS playgrounds now host a series of city/school parks in neighborhoods across

In his first mayoral campaign, Wellington Webb saw little opportunity for the City and school district to work together.

willingness of the two jurisdictions involved to raise their consciousness, and drop their guards.

In his first mayoral campaign, Wellington Webb saw little opportunity for the City and school district to work together ("There's no direct line of responsibilities..."). Four years later, Mayor Webb was becoming more aware of what could be

accomplished ("We're already doing some of the things you're talking about, such as health clinics...").

Now, after a hard fought campaign that made crystal clear the concern of Denver residents about the condition of our public school system, Mayor Webb seems to be putting the issue a lot closer to the front burner.

We applaud his appointment of new District 6 City Council representative, Susan Casey, to the City School Coordinating Commission.

Casey, as much as anyone during the recent campaign, carried her predecessor's torch, speaking clearly about the critical importance of a healthy DPS to a healthy Denver. "It needs to be our mission for the next decade" she told *The Profile*.

Mayor Webb needs to lead the charge over the next four years. The City/School commission met barely a handful of times during Webb's last term. That will not do. The dialogue must be elevated and ongoing. It must involve all segments of our community.

As District 7's new councilman,

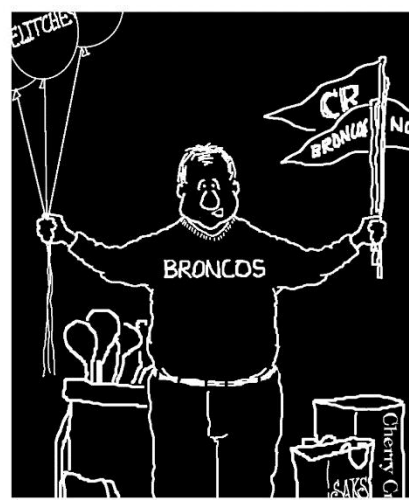
■ See: EDITOR'S VIEW on Page 8

Before computer enhancement

Hey, I'd love to support education
with a mill levy increase ...
...there's just no way I can afford it!



After computer enhancement



Moretti '95

FROM THE EDITOR'S POINT OF VIEW

Where Have You Gone Joe DiMaggio?

by Paul Kashmann

Venting, if you don't mind. First off, I need to let you know that I am, indeed, your average jock. For all my wordy dissertations on weighty



Paul Kashmann

issues, and attempts in recent years to qualify as a "sensitive new-age guy", I was raised in a family where sports were king.

You know the type. Vacations were scheduled around Little League baseball seasons, and my mother's elaborately prepared holiday meals were often served cold because an "important" game (as important as Alabama/ Texas Christian can be when you're growing up in New Jersey) went longer than expected.

Listening in my high school lunchroom to Bill Mazerowski stealing a World Series from the New York Yankees with a late inning home run. And, listening from my bed, late into the night, to the final game of the NIT basketball tournament year after year. Moments like these fight for first place childhood memories with summers in Florida with

Grandma Judy, and Thanksgiving on Long Island at Uncle Dan's.

Golf is not laughed about at our house, but worshiped. It's in our blood, I'm afraid. The planned highlight of this winter's pilgrimage to the sunny South will not be a wallet-bending stop at Disney World, but rather when my children become the 4th generation of my family to stroll the hallowed fairways of the Lake

I love sports. I love to play 'em, and love to watch 'em. At the stadium, in the park, or on TV. I am a shameless fan.

Worth Municipal Golf Course.

I love sports. I love to play 'em, and love to watch 'em. At the stadium, in the park, or on TV. I am a shameless fan (short for fanatic, I guess). But, it's not easy anymore, and it's getting harder every day. There are more and more hurdles I have to jump on my way to the ball park. My energy is waning.

I have to fight my way through the sports pages every day. Through the stories of \$5

million dollar salaries for baseball pitchers who have "5 and 5" records. (My excitement over the Rockies' acquisition of Mets star Bret Saberhagen is more than tempered by the absurd amount of money paid to acquire him, and the knowledge that no matter how he fares in Denver, he'll be sold to the highest bidder when it's contract time again).

I'm tired of hearing all the glowing stories of Coors Field. When the idea of building a \$135-million stadium was being sold to local taxpayers, we were told that we'd all benefit because the seats would be closer to the field, and we'd be able to reach out and touch our heroes.

I've looked hard at the "build it and they will come" sales pitches from that period, and have not yet found a mention of the 15 rows of \$26 Club Level seats, and second level of private boxes, that, in fact, pushed most of the upstairs seats some 6 rows higher, and 15 feet farther from the field, than comparable seats at Mile High Stadium.

And, have you taken the \$5 tour yet of your stadium? I think I'll invite Rockies big-wig Jerry McMorris over for dinner, and put a coin-op set up on my bathroom.

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FROM THE EDITOR'S POINT OF VIEW

Sometimes It's Just Too Late

by Paul Kashmann

An interesting month it was, August 1995. First Garcia (Jerry, the guitar player, that is), then, The Mick (Mantle, the ballplayer, that is).



Paul Kashmann

For me, the former was an icon, representing important periods in my life. The latter was my hero. Big time. The stuff that dreams are made of. Both

losses hurt. In different places, but deeply.

My editorial last month, "Where Have You Gone Joe Dimaggio?", alluded to the nature of heroes, and how our society treats them.

After August, I'm thinking more about the nature of heroes, and how they treat themselves.

Jerry Garcia was, among other things, a superlative musician. He presented himself to the world like a 60's version of the Energizer bunny. A big, lovable Teddy Bear whose ability to make music seemed endless. Garcia gave to his legion of fans all that they asked, providing bottomless nourishment for the psychic journey they traveled.

Unfortunately, he could not feed himself as well. Garcia was a man tormented by demons he could only hint at in his music. Neither the cheers of the crowd, nor his legendary food and drug addictions, could dull the pain that made Jerry run for so long.

But, Garcia knew he had to quit. For all the stays at Betty Ford, and a host of other such clinics, he just couldn't pull it off.

But the roar of the crowd following the crack of the bat, could not silence the voices of doubt in Mantle's mind.

In time.

Mickey Mantle was, among other things, a remarkable baseball player. Impossibly powerful at the plate, incredibly swift in the field and on the bases. The ultimate role model for any would-be ballplayer.

Hobbled by injuries, and a bone disease that would have left many in a wheelchair, he returned to the playing field time after time to respond to the cheers of the crowd, and hit the

unlikely home run when it mattered the most.

But the roar of the crowd following the crack of the bat, could not silence the voices of doubt in Mantle's mind. While half the youngsters in America (and probably as many adults) dreamed of being Mickey Mantle, Mickey Mantle dreamed of being someone else. Anyone else.

His legendary drinking binges with his Yankee teammates, as well as the private parties where only he and a bottle made the guest list, were Mantle's way of dealing with the inner pain that tidal waves of public adoration could not wash away.

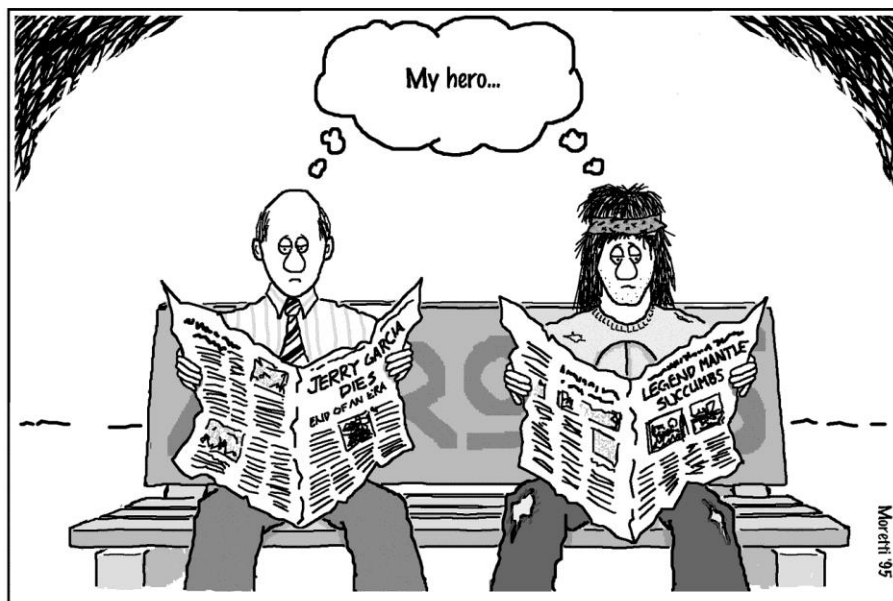
Eventually, the Mick realized he had to quit. And, after his own well publicized stay in treatment, filled with remorse over a wasted life, quit he did.

But, not in time.

A couple of things were made poignantly clear to me in August 1995.

First of all, drug abuse of any kind is not a political statement. It doesn't make it "cool" if you are a long-haired musician, or "uncool" if you are a red-neck ballplayer. It is simply an option that many people foolishly explore in a last-

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FROM THE EDITOR'S POINT OF VIEW

We're Up and Running, But Where Are We Going?

by Paul Kashmann

As the holiday season approaches, the good times continue to roll along for the metro area in general, and south Denver in particular.



Paul Kashmann

Housing values are at an all time high, and commercial property vacancies are at an all time low. In the heart of the neighborhood, South Pearl and South Gaylord streets are enjoying remarkable good health. On the borders, Colorado Blvd. and Broadway are benefiting from the long sought attention of merchants tired of the sky-high rents in Cherry Creek and Downtown. From East Evans to 6th Avenue, from Baker to Bonnie Brae, business is booming.

Our City as a whole is in great shape, as well. The herd of cranes that penetrated our skyline for the past decade are down, and a host of major projects have been completed and are in operation. Denver International Airport, Denver's new Central Library, Coors Field, Colorado Convention Center, Cherry Creek mall, Elitch Gardens, etc., etc., etc.

Now that our city is up and

running, there remains only one question to be answered. Does anybody know where it is we are running to? Is there a vision of what we will become, or will we wait to find out when we get there?

How much growth is too much? Do we just keep building until we become L.A., or New York, or do we aspire to something better? Take a drive out

Housing values are at an all time high, commercial vacancies at an all time low.

County Road 93, north of Golden, and see the ever-growing string of housing developments crowding up against bluffs that historically provided some of the more scenic views in the area.

Yes, I agree. People need a place to live. I'm just hoping someone has at least an idea when enough growth will become enough.

And, what kind of populace will we become? What of our civic priorities? When you think of Portland, your image of its residents is, doubtless, quite dif-

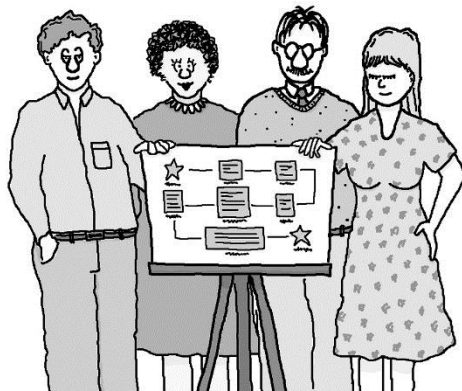
ferent from the picture that comes to mind when you contemplate the likes of Detroit, or Miami. What image will spring forth when Denver pops into the minds of folks around the country?

It only makes sense that with the economy so supercharged, there must be some extra money around somewhere. How will we invest? Keep it in our own pockets, or invest in our city? Football stadium or school bonds? Highways or light rail? More greenbelt or more shopping malls?

We continue to pony up to the bar in support of new sports facilities, because the owners convince us they need more revenue to pay their ever-more-wealthy millionaire athletes. On the flip side, we insist that our school districts meet CPA efficiency requirements before we give them a single red cent.

A city driven by powerful economic forces has a wonderful opportunity, but also a tremendous challenge. As is the case with all things, our fortunes will eventually cycle around to less favorable economic conditions. Let us hope that when that happens, the city we are living in is the one we had hoped for, rather than the one we wish we had built. Let's talk about it.

Major obstacles cleared away. Denver residents, business leaders and DPS officials work together to map out the best route to educational excellence...



...only to realize that there's not enough gas to make the trip.



Moretti '95

THE EDITOR'S POINT OF VIEW

Opportunities and Challenges Face Residents in the New Year

BY PAUL KASHMANN

The year dawns bright over the neighborhoods of south-central Denver.

The local economy continues to roll steadily along, albeit at a



Paul Kashmann

more controlled pace than the headlong tidal wave of the past few years.

While the leveling of prices and demand has realtors feeling a bit less giddy than they'd come to enjoy, south Denver real estate continues to be an excellent investment, (as well as a fine place to make your home).

The business community is seeing the continuation of good times as well. The recent renaissance of our inner neighborhood commercial strips along South Gaylord and South Pearl is now being enjoyed by merchants throughout the area. From Evans Avenue to 6th Avenue, Colorado Boulevard to Old Broadway, times are good.

Art galleries and other businesses that you might expect to find in lower downtown are set-

ting in along Broadway Terrace, near the Mayan Theatre, drawn by more affordable rents, and the comfortable eclectic feel of the Broadway corridor. The area is definitely on an upward climb.

It was Christmas all year long for West Washington Park residents, with 1995 marking the long-awaited clean-up of twin eyesores bracketing the commu-

The business community is seeing the continuation of good times as well.

nity on the north and south.

Now, Wild Oats Community Market (1111 S. Washington St.) and the twin bill of Twist & Shout and Video Visions (300 S. Logan), stand as worthy gateways to a neighborhood for too long weighed down by their hideous predecessors.

Land values in the neighborhoods west of Washington Park are not-so-slowly approaching those of their comrades to the east. Pop-tops and scrape-offs are increasingly more common, and the days of the sub-\$100,000 bungalow are quickly going the way of the buffalo.

The end of court ordered bus-

ing for Denver Public Schools (DPS) looks to be another boost for our community. While our children will now have the option of going to their neighborhood school throughout their elementary years, several noteworthy DPS magnet programs may be moving into our community as well.

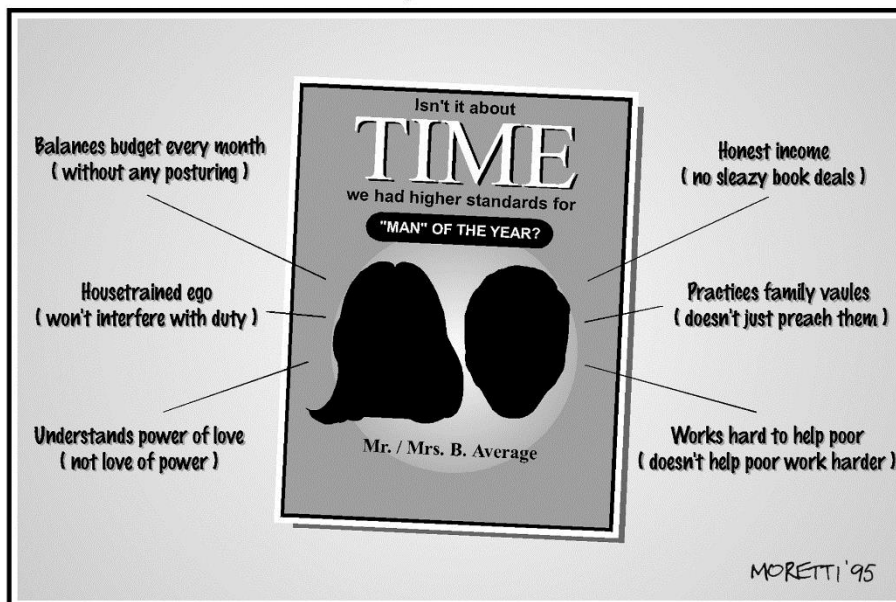
Grant Middle School, 1751 S. Washington St., is being spoken of as a candidate to house the Denver School of The Arts, now at Cole Middle School in north Denver.

If the Mitchell Montessori School is forced to leave its home at 1350 E. 33rd Ave., both Bradley (3050 S. Elm) and Slavin (3000 S. Clayton) elementary schools have been mentioned as possible new homes for that program.

Needless to say, all this opportunity brings with it responsibility as well. While much good is happening to our friends in the business community, there are carpet baggers on the horizon.

Our neighbors on Lincoln Street continue to battle to keep McDonalds from intruding onto that primarily residential street (at Lincoln and Alameda) of Victorian homes, with an out of place burg-

■ See: EDITOR on Page 3



THE EDITOR'S POINT OF VIEW

DPS Board Finds Itself "Between A Rock And A Hard Place"

BY PAUL KASHMANN

So, you didn't get elected to the Denver School Board, and you don't think you're lucky?

The sheer volume of decision-making needed to reform DPS in the post-busing era is enough to challenge even the most committed workaholic. Throw in the super-accelerated pace of the transition, and the number of controversial decisions that place the Board in a no-win public relations situation, and it makes you wonder why anyone would have any interest in the non-paying post.

As *The Profile* went to press, the Board was preparing to decide whether to let Grant Middle School, 1751 S. Washington St., become a walk-in neighborhood school, or to bus those students to Merrill, 1550 S. Monroe. A vacant Grant would then be given to the Denver School of The Arts, currently housed at Cole Middle School and Manual High, in north Denver.



Paul Kashmann

The Board projects a 1996-97 student population of only 209 for Grant, which has a capacity of 550 students. Merrill, expecting only 350 students in its nearly 1,100 student facility, obviously has plenty of space for roommates.

Grant supporters reject DPS attendance projections as, at best, pessimistic understatements,

The Grant community deserves a chance to recreate its neighborhood school.

and, at worst, intentional low-balling, to justify giving their neighborhood school to Denver's version of "Fame" High.

It is the view from this corner, that DPS should allow Grant the chance it is giving other neighborhoods across the city. For too long the school has been shackled with ineffective administration, and a student body made up of children from no less than 22 separate elementary schools.

We agree with Grant supporter Michael Craig, who urges DPS to forget the Grant that was, and see "the Grant that is, and the Grant that can be."

The residential neighborhood

surrounding the school is in remarkably good health and the nearby business community is booming. Given a few years to rebuild what DPS has slowly but surely torn asunder, we would expect a thriving student body at Grant, once again.

Supporters of the Denver School of the Arts should know that there is no malice intended toward their fine program, and we wish them the best in finding a suitable home. Were the space available, we would gladly welcome them to share our school.

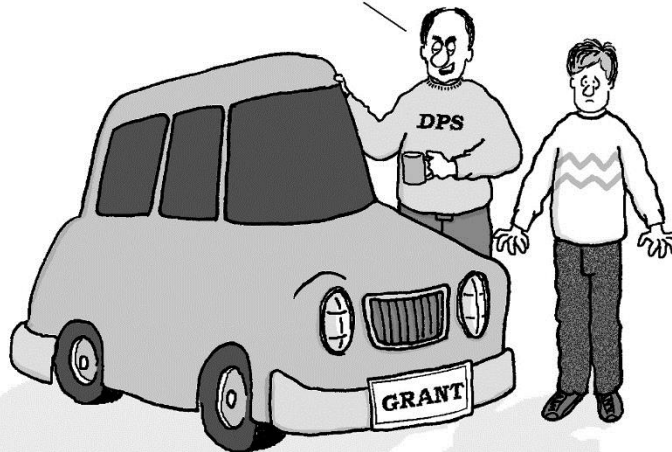
But Grant is a valued treasure that, until the busing era, had served the neighborhoods of south Denver well, for more than half a century. The original location of South High was in the area that is now the playground south of the current Grant building.

Forced busing, while intended to correct wrongs that should have never occurred, caused other harms that now should be redressed as well.

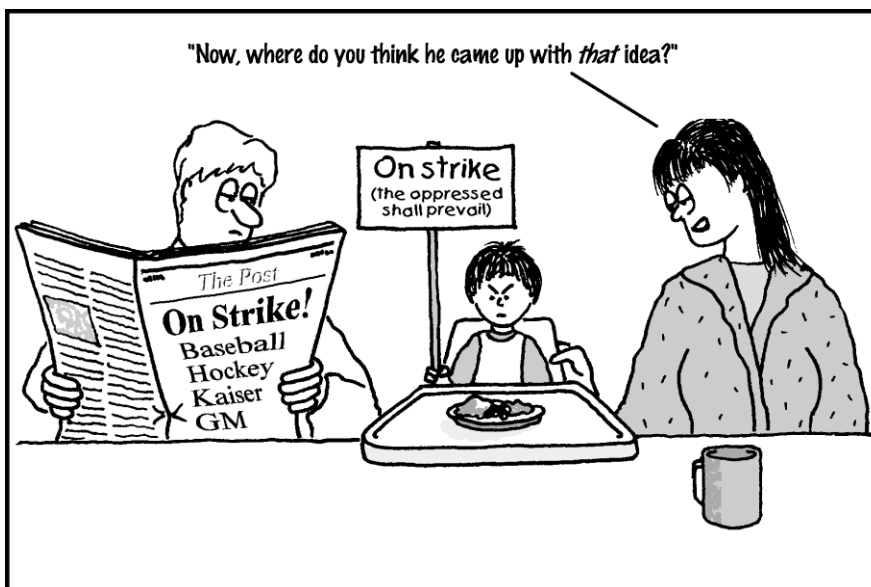
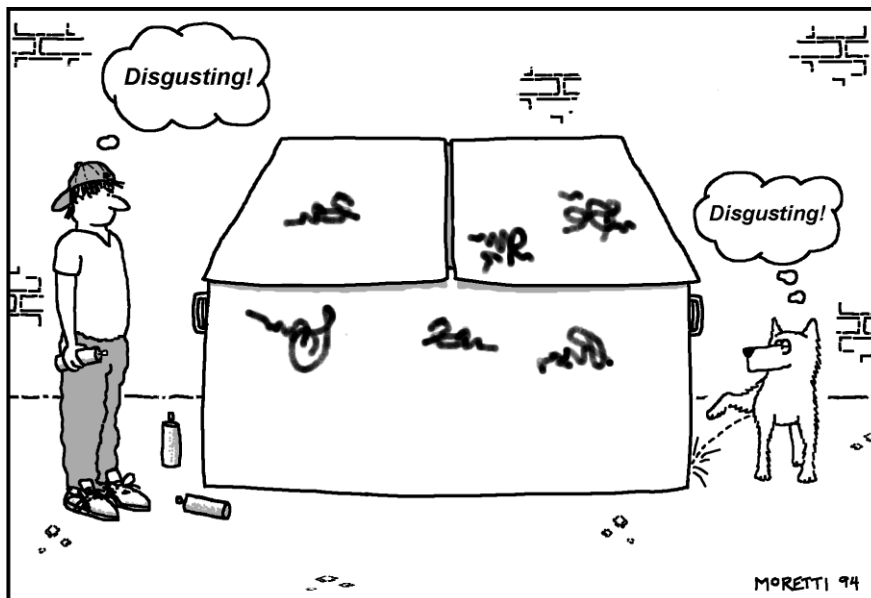
The residents of the Grant community deserve a chance to recreate their neighborhood school. We hope the DPS Board will honor them with that challenge.



Yep, I finally got it in working order.
However, seeing as how you never used it, I've decided to give it to someone else.



Moretti '96



Profile Cartoonist Retires His Pen

After three years of tapping the psyche, and touching the funny bone of the greater Washington Park community, Profile cartoonist John Moretti has holstered his pen and pad.

Moretti, a senior writer in the Marketing Dept. of Spectrum Human Resources Corp., has decided that the call of full-time career and full-time family does

not leave the time for outside free-lance activities, that was once available.

We salute John for the time he devoted to these pages, and for being clear in his desire to shift that time to his wife Kimberly, and young sons Jacob, 5, and Keenan, 1.

Thanks, Spaghetti, we'll leave a light on for you.
