

# The Pueblo Chieftain

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**EDITORIALS**

## Cuts inevitable

WHEN COLORADO State University-Pueblo President Lesley Di Mare announces Friday how the local institution will trim more than \$3 million from its budget for next year, there will be plenty of grumbling and gnashing of teeth among some faculty members. You can pretty much see the protests coming.

But when you get beyond the emotion of the situation, it doesn't take long to realize that the university is doing the only thing it can. In order to survive and thrive, expenses must more closely align with revenues. And when most of an institution's budget pays for the salaries and benefits of staff, something has to give.

The Colorado State University system has been propping up the Belmont campus for years, pumping millions of system dollars into the CSU-Pueblo operation. The local campus also has been eating away at its own reserve funds to keep afloat.

But now the excess funding well has run dry and action is required.

In separate stories in *The Pueblo Chieftain* this weekend, county and city officials expressed their support to faculty

members who are advocating for more time to come up with alternate budget cuts that don't touch so many employees. Pardon us, but we don't think county or city officials would appreciate being told how to manage their budgets in such a time of fiscal challenge. What makes them think it's their business to poke their nose in CSU-Pueblo's efforts to right their own financial ship?

Some have criticized the CSU System administration, claiming that the budget battle is another example of Northern Colorado elitists treating Southern Coloradans poorly. Nothing could be further from the truth. The financial struggle is merely an attempt to set a sustainable budget for our important university.

We are confident that Dr. Di Mare, along with CSU System Chancellor Mike Martin, will do their utmost to be fair and to minimize the impact of expected cuts. They claim they are committed to maintaining the educational quality of the university, and we believe them.

Instead of constant criticism, faculty members would do themselves a favor by unify behind President Di Mare and being part of a cooperative solution.

## Voter law change

JON CALDARA proved his point. Now it's time for Colorado legislators to act.

After a three-month investigation, Colorado Attorney General John Suthers will not charge Mr. Caldara, president of the Independence Institute and a radio talk show host, with voter fraud. We don't believe any fraud occurred either.

To emphasize his belief that Colorado's newly adopted election laws are flawed, Mr. Caldara registered to vote in last fall's recall election of Senate President John Morse.

Even though he didn't actually cast a ballot in the race, Mr. Caldara wanted to show how the law allows those who don't actually live in a district to vote there. The Boulder resident simply signed a lease for living arrangements in Colorado Springs days prior to the recall vote. He secured a ballot but then left it blank.

Mr. Caldara's concern, like ours, is that

Republicans and Democrats could use the new Colorado law to move voters into key districts where their votes could impact an election's outcome. There is nothing in the current law to prevent it and the attorney general's lack of legal action in Mr. Caldara's case proves it.

In the coming weeks, there are certain to be legislative proposals to dump or tweak the state election laws. We implore our elected officials to return integrity to our election system. We suggest that the flawed same-day registration rules be repealed and that the loosey-goosey residency requirements be tightened up. We also call on legislators to do away with the mail-in ballot process, which has proven costly and also opens the door to election fraud.

Protecting our elections from fraud should always be a higher priority than voter convenience.

**THINGS CHANGE**

## New sexuality standards



**MONA CHAREN**

Opinion

The New York Times brings us the "next frontier in fertility treatment." It's about dissolving the prejudice against transgender people having children. "Andy Inkster, a transgender man, had always wanted biological children. So when he embarked on the transition from female to male at age 18 — changing his name, taking testosterone and eventually undergoing surgery to remove his breasts — he left his female reproductive organs intact. In his mid-20s, he decided it was time. He stopped taking testosterone and started trying to get pregnant."

Baystate Reproductive Medicine turned Inkster away, saying it didn't have enough experience with transgender people to provide the hormones and donor sperm required.

"Mr. Inkster eventually found another clinic that helped him conceive via in vitro fertilization and donor sperm, and in October 2010, he gave birth to a daughter, Elise. A month later, he sued Baystate for sexual discrimination." The Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination agrees with Inkster.

I never thought I'd see the words "he gave birth to a daughter" outside of science fiction, and at the risk of seeming insensitive, I think the clinic was right. But it's not surprising that the civil rights commission has taken up this cause. It occupies the juncture of two appalling trends. The first is an obsession with sexuality as identity, and the second is a devaluing of the best interests of children in favor of the self-expression of adults.

There are limitless identities that students could be encouraged to cultivate as they mature. A handful that leap immediately to mind:

American, humorist, musician, athlete, debater, nature lover.

Instead, our universities fall all over themselves to encourage unusual sexual identities, from homosexuality and lesbianism to transgender, bisexual, transsexual and other. It's all done in the name of "inclusion" and nondiscrimination, but let's face it, there's an element of fashion in it.

Nontraditional sexual behavior is "in." There are academic courses at major universities concerning "queer theory," pornography and "lesbian gardening." (Truly.) How can any serious academic treat pornography as a fit subject for study?

We have elevated sexual appetites, especially unusual sexual tastes, to an exalted status, worthy of study, defining our natures and experiences, and outranking other traits in importance.

Children as young as 4 are being permitted to style their hair, wear the clothing and use the bathrooms of the other sex when they express the urge. This kind of change is one that liberal states approve. California requires that students from kindergarten through grade 12 be permitted to choose which "gender" to be associated with (Connecticut and Massachusetts have similar rules). If a biological girl decides at the age of 12 that she wants to be addressed as a boy and play boys' sports, state law requires that she be able to do so.

There are physicians who prescribe hormone-suppressing drugs to prevent preteens from going through puberty to better prepare them for gender-reassignment surgery. This is child abuse. Children pass through phases. Nothing permanent should be done to any child that is not medically necessary.

As for Mr. Inkster and people similarly situated, the first thing a fertility clinic should say is that a child is not an adult entitlement. The best interests of the child should be paramount. Each child needs and, when possible, should have a mother and a father — and not in the same body.

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**TELL IT TO THE CHIEFTAIN**

**Eilers neighborhood**

The designation of the Eilers Smelter as a Superfund Site seems like a done deal. But I would like to throw another log on the fire. Yes, the presence of any lead in our children is not a good thing. And the presence of lead in their yard is not desirable. But it is a correlation and not necessarily a cause-effect relationship.

Large amounts of lead were deposited in people's yards from the use of lead in gasoline. There are innumerable studies linking elevated lead levels in people living in proximity to heavily trafficked roads (Eilers is downwind of I-25).

Houses built in 1900 have lead in the paint and in water and sewer pipes. If it was the smelter emissions causing the elevated lead levels, then Salt Creek and the Mesa are in the path of the prevailing winds. If it was caused by using smelter slag for driveways, then many places in Pueblo would have elevated levels.

One consideration in looking at Eilers yards is whether they have grass. Any homeowner who has lived in the same house for a number of years knows that you have to add longer risers to your sprinkler system.

My own experience is that it takes 20 to 25 years for dust to accumulate and become a new inch of topsoil. It has been 19 years since lead was removed from gasoline and about 40 years since the process was begun. Thus three out of the top four inches of soil will have lead. And gardens will have plants taking up this lead and are being served as salad at the dinner table.

Each homeowner can do something about this problem. Through a process known as

phytoextraction, a considerable amount of lead can be removed. Planting members of the Brassica family (spinach, kale, cabbage) or sunflowers are some of the best. Of course when the plants are harvested they must go to the landfill.

Michael Theis  
Pueblo

**District 60**

It is obvious that District 60 school system is a failure.

The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result. That being the case, it may be time to try a new approach.

Two of the subjects giving our students the most trouble are math and science. A different approach that is being tried is to reverse the time for homework and teaching. The lesson would be communicated to the students via computer or Internet. The student would then do his or her homework in class where he or she could get individual attention. Students who have no trouble with the homework could be assigned to help students who are having trouble.

I saw where part of California has a 27 percent unemployment rate. The lieutenant governor says that in that same area there are more than 100,000 jobs that cannot be filled as businesses in that area cannot find people with the requisite skills needed to fill the positions. His point was that we are not teaching students what they need to know to succeed in our world today.

My suggestion of how to teach math and science is a start, but the entire system of education needs to be examined and changed to meet modern day needs.

Richard Barr  
Pueblo

**MALLARD FILLMORE**

By BRUCE TINSLEY

