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Wednesday, December 21, 2005

Guest Commentary

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Nation-building is not the job of American soldiers

The military's goal in Iraq was to depose the regime of Saddam Hussein. Our military achieved a brilliant victory in Iraq when it pulled Saddam out of his hole in the ground, eliminated or captured members of his regime and liberated the Iraqi people from his regime. They did so with great speed, competence, courage and honor. That was our military's victory!

From the time of the military's victory, we have been in the business of nation building, which has turned into an occupation and training ground for terrorists due to the flawed policies and judgments of this administration. They believed we would be met with flower and song. They were either ignorant of or had no regard for the Islamic religion, culture and the extreme divisions among the Shiite, Sunni, and Kurds. Nation building is the civilian administration's responsibility. The majority of casualties have occurred for both our military and the Iraq people under the nation building phase of this endeavor. We the people cannot allow the military's victory to be diminished or forgotten as a means to cover up the flawed policies and judgments of nation building.

So when we hear the rhetoric "We will not leave until we achieve complete victory," We the people must hold the administration accountable for the political nation building victory. Our military already achieved its victory by deposing the regime of Saddam Hussein, capturing or eliminating members of his regime and liberating the Iraqi people from his regime.

JEAN E. WINKLER

Windsor

It's hard to believe such ignorance still exists

This letter is in response to a caller, Ruby, from Greeley. She says "We cater to Latinos." She is upset because they are working in restaurants and stores, that they are bettering themselves and even getting their own businesses. I very honestly find it very hard to believe that such ignorant people still exist in this day and age.

I'll bet her ignorant forefathers came here for the same reason, to work and hope for their own businesses and a better life.

If they were anything like her, they probably did it at the expense of the true native Americans. As a matter of fact, the land on which the rock she lives under was stolen from them.

BEATRICE HUNTER

Greeley

There are responsible exotic pet owners; don't kill these animals

After reading articles on Mr. Craig's The Rocky Mountain Wildlife Conservation Center (Tribune, Dec. 18), I felt the sense of déjà vu.

He criticizes other exotic owners and he supposedly runs a sanctuary that is saving these creatures, but if he kills them I don't see how is he saving them.

This is not the first or second time he threatened to euthanize his animals. How come other places can manage their finances in spite of a hurricane related drop in donations without threatening with mass euthanasia?

Responsibility means thinking ahead; love for the animals is not enough. Don't adopt more than you can support.

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I find it totally repulsive that somebody who is calling himself a rescuer threatens to kill the very animals he claims to be saving, while badmouthing responsible owners like myself.

Just like we have some bad drivers, parents or dog owners, there are some bad exotic animals owners, but the majority are great and love their animals. How come you don't acknowledge it in your article. Isn't it your responsibility to present both sides?

Imagine the public outcry if everybody adopting foster children or domestics threatened to kill them unless they get money?

Maybe it is time for Mr. Craig to do what is best for the animals, step down and put somebody in charge who, like him, is an animal lover and at the same time is financially savvy and fiscally responsible, as I can't not bear a thought of another episode where these wonderful creatures would be threatened with death.

Yes, he is accredited by private, self-appointed clubs ASA and TAOS (not government agencies). What does this say about their credibility?

The best way to keep animals safe it to place them with responsible owners (pet home, exhibitor or sanctuary).

ZUZANA KUKOL

Vice president, www.phoenixexotics.org

Las Vegas

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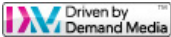


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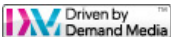
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