

## LETTERS

### Resorting to Madness *a great film*

Dear Aleesha, Town Council members and Community:

I too was impressed with the film *Resorting to Madness: Taking Back Our Mountain Communities*, by Hunter Sykes of Coldstream Creative. The film was shown on Thursday, March 8, at the Majestic Theatre to a sold-out local audience.

The film addresses the impacts of the modern ski resort industry on mountain communities and environments. It features footage and interviews from dozens of ski areas, experts and concerned community members throughout North America who are facing (or who have already faced) the environmental and social effects of "resortification" and are subsequently grappling with decisions to ensure that their communities and landscapes are protected.

I applaud Sykes, a former resident of various mountain communities/ski towns, for thinking the subject important enough to make a film about, for investing his time, energy and financial resources in collecting

the information presented, and for bringing it to Crested Butte. The dialogue that he initiated with the audience following the film was a pretty positive open public forum on the issues our own communities are facing. There were many comments, numerous concerns and much interest in getting involved. The main questions were: "What exactly is going on?" "How can I find out?" "How do I get involved?" All good questions. And... most were answered by those in attendance. It would appear that similar public forums, if initiated, for dialogue and the dissemination of information on major development and growth issues facing our communities would be heartily supported and much appreciated.

The main message of Sykes' film is a positive one. It is that a community *can* shape its future with vision, planning and involvement. It *can* protect the things it loves most about its communities and landscapes and it *must*... otherwise we'll end up down-valley, looking up-valley at just another vacant, perfectly engineered, Col-

orado "Mountain Village."

If you missed the film, hang tight, it may be back in June, and will probably sell out again! And if you want to get involved and shape the future of this community—attend meetings, ask questions, join committees and contact any non-profit organization in town or one of your council members. We're all in the phone book (or pamphlet, as I like to say).

*"Never doubt that a small, group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."*—Margaret Mead

Thanks for listening,  
Michele Simpson

P.S. Thanks to the folks at the Majestic for supporting important films like this and to the concerned citizens who facilitated the showing of *Resorting to Madness* here in Crested Butte.