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## Letters to the Editor - Sept. 9

September 9, 2004

### CU UNSAFE?

#### Prof unfairly disparages school

Without a doubt, many members of the University of Colorado-Boulder faculty are deeply troubled by the events of the past year surrounding the university's football program. But Joanne Belknap, a professor of sociology, went too far when she commented on the university in an article on the football program in The New York Times (Sept. 4) that, "I wouldn't send my kid here." This comment unnecessarily disparages the entire university, its many faculty members, and its 30,000 students.

The University of Colorado-Boulder is much, much more than a football program — it is home to many outstanding academic and research programs in areas of science, law, engineering, and policy, and is one of the nation's leading research universities in the environmental sciences, my own area of specialization.

For many of us on the faculty, we observe events associated with football program and the university administration through the media, just like members of the general public. Our day-to-day work at the university is, believe it or not, relatively far removed from the football program and is focused on achieving excellence in research, education and outreach to the community. I can speak with first-hand knowledge about the programs at the University of Colorado-Boulder that I am associated with; these programs are ones that anyone can feel proud about sending their children to, knowing not only that they will receive a valuable education, but also that they will be treated with respect and dignity. Any faculty member who encourages students to avoid the University of Colorado-Boulder, rather than working to make the university a desired destination, is part of the problem, not the solution.

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