

## **BOULDER DAILY CAMERA: FEB 20, 2009**

### **Boulder History: Nixon and Boulder go way back**

With "Frost/Nixon" up for five Academy Awards tonight, I thought it would be interesting to look at the Nixon years through past events in Boulder.

In early October of 1956, Vice President Richard Nixon announced he would be speaking in Denver and Boulder on Oct. 11. President Eisenhower was running for re-election, and Nixon said Colorado was one of 11 states where Republicans faced tough fights. Boulder County Republican chairman Joseph Dolan had only 10 days to make the arrangements. A few days later it was learned that Nixon's speech at Macky Auditorium on the University of Colorado campus would be on national television.

More than 30 newspaper correspondents would attend the event as well. Television, radio and teletype engineers arrived in Boulder with truckloads of special equipment for broadcasting the speech. They set up inside Macky Auditorium and a wooden frame tower was installed on the roof. From there, images were sent to the top of Flagstaff Mountain. A temporary 25-foot tower was constructed on Flagstaff with a microwave antenna for the program to be sent to the top of the telephone building in Denver

Hundreds of students stood outside Macky Auditorium to welcome the Vice President and Mrs. Nixon. Later, during the speech, more than 200 Young Republicans paraded down the aisles chanting "We want Dick!"

"I've seen some demonstrations," said a smiling Richard Nixon, "but this tops them all." After the Macky speeches, Nixon talked informally with students on the steps of Macky Auditorium and he urged them to become active in politics. "There is a need for life blood on both sides," he said.

Pat Nixon returned to Boulder as First Lady on March 5, 1970. Her stops included volunteer projects in Lafayette and Boulder, Boulder Manor Nursing Home, Boulder Day Nursery and Carmel House. About 100 demonstrators yelling "Stop the war now" and "Peace now" were present, but she paid no attention. Boulder police held them back. Later in Denver, Pat Nixon told a reporter she thought the college students in Boulder were "quite idealistic."

By 1973, CU students were demonstrating for the impeachment of Richard Nixon. On Oct. 26, about 150 students marched from the campus to the Boulder County Courthouse in Boulder chanting "No more years." At the courthouse there were speeches and placards read "Dump Dick," "No more doubt get Nixon out" and "Remove Nixon now."

Less than a year later, a standing-room only crowd at Shannon's Bar watched the resignation of President Richard Nixon on television. They applauded when he finally said he would leave office. "Wow ... we made a president resign," someone said. There were laughs and boos throughout the broadcast by the celebratory group.

The interviews by British talk show host David Frost in 1977 were shown at the Dark Horse bar on a big screen television. The interviews drew huge ratings, according to reports by the Arbitron television rating service. Most of a small crowd of about 30 people at the Dark Horse were still angry at Nixon and some shouted out comments during the broadcast. One man asked the bartender to change the channel. "You can't take this seriously," he said. "He's a sick man."

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