

BOULDER- Description and travel

Flag-design campaign flying in Boulder

Consultant dreams of banner fluttering around the world

By CHARLIE BRENNAN
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BOULDER — A local writer and historian, told that a campaign is under way to design a city flag, didn't lose a beat in advancing her less-than-flattering suggestion.

"What's it going to show? A drug dealer and a Realtor?" she asked, requesting anonymity.

Rod Campbell is used to such jabs.

"People have said, 'You could just have a red flag, and put a hammer and a sickle in the corner, and that would be a good Boulder flag,'" said Campbell, who has received seven "legitimate" entries since running his contest idea up the flagpole earlier this month.

The 27-year-old computer consultant, who grew up in Boulder, has a vision of Boulder flags fluttering proudly around the world.

It's entirely appropriate, he said, given Boulder's global reputation. Boulder has sister city-type relationships with four foreign communities, and has even voted itself a nuclear-free zone.

"Boulder has chosen — some of its people have chosen — to become world-conscious," Campbell said. "The city actually has its own foreign policy."

Some people, though, think Boulder needs a flag about as much as it needs another health-food store or Friday-afternoon happy hour.

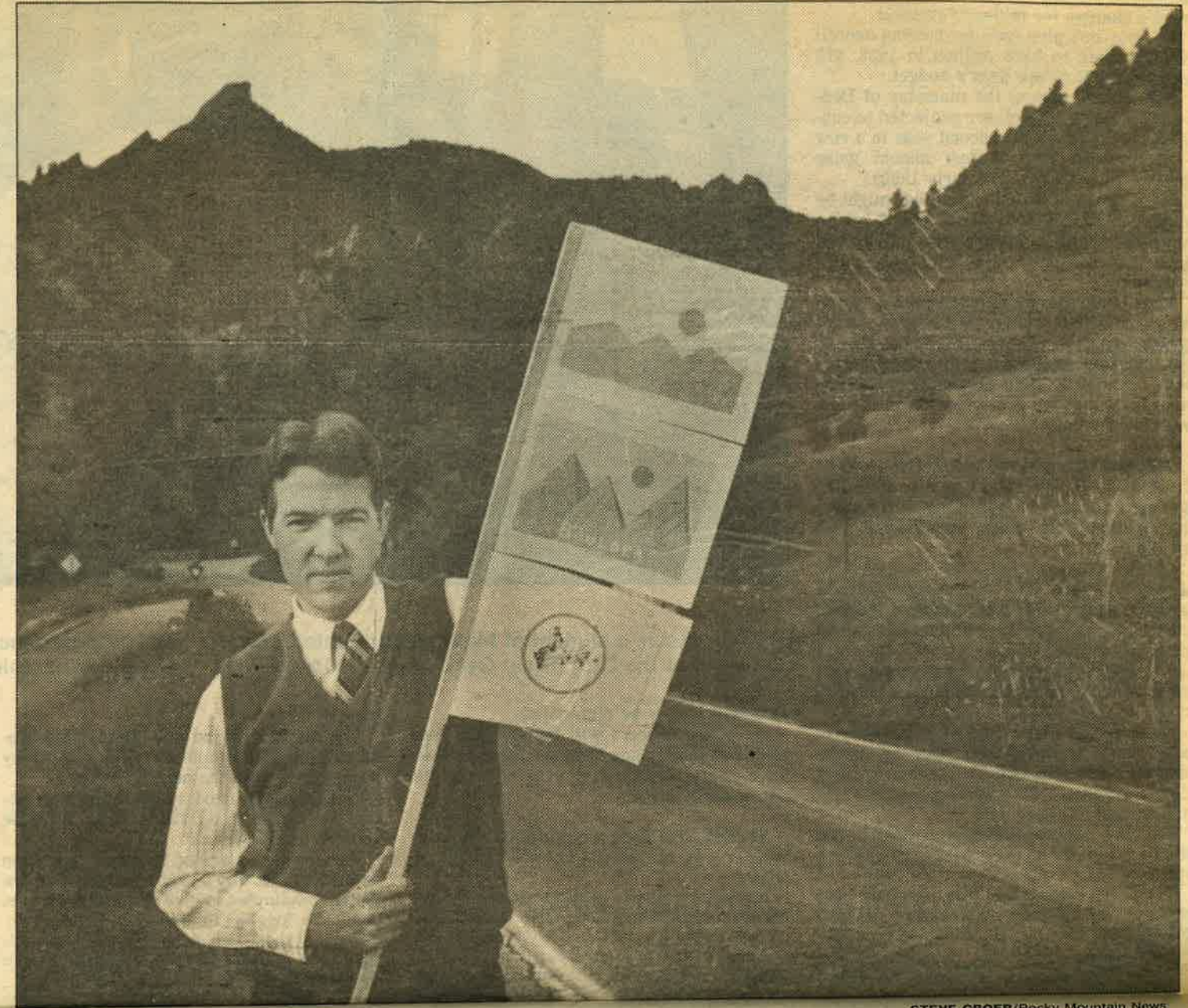
"It has stirred up a bit of controversy, I must say," Campbell said. "The question I hear is, 'Does Boulder really need a symbol at all?'"

Campbell and three others have formed the Better Boulder Task Force, a group that hopes to boost the town's image with civic-minded projects.

"It would be neat to walk into a Safeway in California, pick up a box of (Boulder-manufactured) Celestial Seasonings tea, and see a little Boulder flag in one corner, sort of saying, 'Made in Boulder,'" Campbell said.

Contestants have until Oct. 23 to get their entries in.

A panel of five judges will review the entries and pick the top four. The judges



STEVE GROER/Rocky Mountain News

Rod Campbell says a flag would help boost Boulder's image. Says Campbell: "It would be neat to walk into a

Safeway in California, pick up a box of (Boulder-made) Celestial Seasonings tea, and see a little Boulder flag."

are: Boulder businessmen Frank Day, Wayne Dozier and Skip Miller, scientist Walter Orr Roberts, and Karen Ripley, director of the Boulder Visual Arts Center.

Once the judges select the top four contenders, Campbell said, they will be put to an "unofficial" vote of the public the second week of November.

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The prize is simple but enduring.

"The winner gets to have a flag that lasts forever. That's a great prize," he said.

The contest is not restricted to Boulderites.

"I've always thought Boulder is a state

of mind and not a physical place anyway, so we're not closing it to anybody," Campbell said.

Entries are being accepted by the Better Boulder Task Force, P.O. Box 14062, Boulder 80308.