

November 16, 1989

32 Executive Bill #1

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO

STUDENT UNION

Sponsored by: Tri-Executives

Dawn Massop
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A BILL

Doug Mayhew

BILL HISTORY

The Alpinist Club is a newly formed student organization which acts as a vehicle to provide the University with a student climbing team of expeditionary calibre, as well as creating a research environment for departments in alpine discovery.

Located in Washington, Mount Rainier is a feasible objective for the Alpinist Club's first major ascent. This will be keeping with the club's goals to operate in an extreme high altitude mountain environment and provide the university with an opportunity for unique alpine studies.

Presently, the Alpinist Club is preparing for the January 3rd-17th expedition. Our eighteen members are actively supporting the expeditionary team through training exercises ranging from avalanche seminars to high altitude pulmonary edema.

BILL SUMMARY

This bill will allocate \$1209.53 + GAR to the Alpinist Club for the use of one University of Colorado 4X4 Suburban. This cost covers all expenses incurred for round trip transportation.

BE IT ENACTED by the Legislative Council of the University of Colorado Student Union, THAT:

SECTION 1: An amount not to exceed \$1209.53 + GAR will be allocated to help fund transportation to Mount Rainier in the state of Washington, during January 7th-17th, 1990.

SECTION 2: A comprehensive overview of the expedition will be presented to the University by a discussion panel and documented slide show.

SECTION 3: Our three doctoral candidates members, in conjunction with the University will be compiling data obtained from experiments.

SECTION 4: Any additional funding that is received will be returned to Legislative Council's central reserve.

SECTION 5: A written report shall be submitted to the University of Colorado Student Union within one month following the team's return.

SECTION 6: This bill takes effect upon passage.

BUDGET

The use of one 4X4 Suburban:

Rental @ \$26.00 per day	\$ 286.00
Insurance @ \$2.00 per day	22.00
Mileage @ \$0.19 per mile	543.78
Gas @ \$1.25 per gallon	<u>357.75</u>
Total	\$1209.53

11/16/89 - PASSES - Legislative Council - 1st Reading - Accl.

11/30/89 - PASSES - Legislative Council - 2nd Reading - 9-0-2

(original was signed)

Robert Ervais
President Pro-Tempore
UCSU Legislative Council

Alan Ikeya
UCSU Executive

Dawn Massop
UCSU Executive

Tracy Wahl
UCSU Executive

Alpinists on Ranier

The morning of January 3rd, 1990, seven CU students left Boulder with the intention of climbing Mount Ranier in Washington State. It took one and a half days to reach the state, and the following three days were spent on the mountain itself in the attempt. The weather proved to be extremely hazardous for mountain travel, where upon it was decided that a retreat back down would prove the safest decision for the entire group. The weather did not improve, so the evening of January 8th, it was voted and decided that the ascent of Mount Ranier was too dangerous to continue. The group then packed and headed home. Although the trip seems unsuccessful at first, all learned many important points with extensive mountain travel.

Upon first arriving at Mount Ranier National Park, the group investigated avalanche danger, and obtained a five day weather forecast. The forecast indicated increasing snow depth, and heightening avalanche conditions. On ascent day #1, January 5th, 1990, avalanche conditions were reported as moderate to high. The group proceeded toward Camp Muir, cautious of possible avalanche slopes. By dusk, the weather was deteriorating rapidly, and it was determined that it would be hazardous to try to push to Muir in the dark, so we camped at a point just over half way to Muir. Once the tents were up, we attempted to dry ourselves and our gear, using the heat from camp stoves.

On the first morning we did get to see the mountain itself for twenty minutes or so, but it soon clouded over and the weather got worse than it had been as the wind became more violent. With the increased wind, snow accumulation on the tents from falling and drifting snow became more rapid. For the remainder of the second day in camp, through the night, and the morning of the third day at camp, we were up every four hours digging the tents out of the snow. Despite our

efforts, by morning, two tents had collapsed. Around noon of the third day on the mountain, the decision was made to retreat because of the weather. At the time, we were hoping to make another assault after drying our equipment and resting.

We stayed at a lodge in Ashford (just outside of the Park boundary), where we spent a day collecting weather forecasts and avalanche conditions. Conditions worsened as more snow and rain were expected and avalanche conditions elevated to between "extreme and unknown." It was at that point that the decision was made to pack up and head back to Boulder. The decision was an extremely difficult one for every member of the group to make, and took an entire afternoon of personal and group deliberating.

Winter travel brings about a necessity for mental preparedness, and toughness in order to deal with extremely harsh cold, wet, and snow. We learned about expedition style travel and, unfortunately, found ourselves to be over-prepared. We also learned more about Mount Ranier, including the fact that it boasts only an 8 to 10 percent success rate in the winter time; a lower rate than the year-round rates of Everest or K2! Each member also learned much about group dynamics, being dependent, and depended upon. The Alpinist Club would like to extend its deepest thanks to the people of the UCSU for their support of our climb-attempt/learning experience. Without your financial support, the trip would have been impossible, as any expedition of this style and size is extremely expensive, particularly for college students like ourselves. Thank-you again, and we hope to see you at the slide show!

Doug Mayhew (Pres)

Dave Biggs

Cornell DeWitt

John Doss

Andy Gray

Brad Grohusky

Eric Ringsby