

Dear Editor,

Art is like pornography, easy to recognize but hard to define. While there are numerous statues downtown I see precious little art among them. As of last November, because none of the artists had business licenses, the prices were supposed to come off those statues. That never happened. The old statues were replaced with new statues and these have prices too.

Take the statue of the "Pitiful Piddlers" on the northeast corner of Nevada Way and Avenue B. It is a monument to wasteful spending. \$50,000.00 in RDA money went to a Colorado sculptor who (despite a contractual requirement) stiffed the city by not paying for a business license. I doubt the Piddlers have done the downtown a nickel's worth of good.

When I moved here Boulder City was something unique onto itself. Then our Rotary royalty decided to transform the town, make it over into a pseudo-Sedona, semi-Scottsdale sort of place. The Boulder City that was, was just not good enough for them. They needed utility fund subsidized golf, taxpayer supported art, and all manner of other extravagances paid for with public money.

It is probably too late to preserve Boulder City as a bedroom community. It is not too late to wake up to what is going on. The city needs to get out of the scrap metal business. Cleansing the downtown of these symbols of vulgar excess would be an artistic statement in itself.

If our local elite crave art they can buy it with their own money. Would Mrs. Mayes accept the Piddlers statue in lieu of \$50,000.00 of her annual salary? No? What if we had it chrome plated? Offered her free home delivery? Considering the city's finances the Piddlers could probably be had for a fraction of its purchase price. Are there any offers?

Dick Farmer