The City of Boulder, always a study in contradictions, apparently feels anything goes for the protection of its own citizens (or at least one assumes they are citizens), but the State of Arizona should not have the same proclivity. This indicated by two separate articles in the Sunday, July 4 edition of the Denver Post.

One article notes that the American Civil Liberties Union opposed Boulder’s plan to “search bags and coolers brought into (Boulder’s) open spaces” during the July 4th holiday (These weekend rebel-rousers might be carrying contraband such as fireworks or glass bottles.). The search needed for “public safety reason,” according to the city of Boulder, was “voluntary” in that if a person would rather decline the search, he or she could simply elect to leave.

ACLU, Boulder chapter chairman, related that the Boulder search policy concerned him because he felt invoking “public safety” as a reason for a search, rather than basing it on “reasonable suspicion or probable cause,” contradicts the Bill of Rights and the freedoms being celebrated on July 4th.

In a separate article, the Post noted that Boulder’s Human Relations Commission (Do you suppose we have one of those in Haxtun?) asked the city of Boulder to denounce Arizona’s recently passed law, which cracks down on illegal immigration, noting that it threatens “basic notions of decency, justice and fairness.”

Arizona’s immigration law, which goes into affect in August if challenges in court fail, gives Arizona law enforcement the power to check paperwork on anyone suspected of being in the United States illegally. Critics say the law could lead to racial profiling of the state’s Latino population. However, proponents stress the need because the federal government seems unable to take its responsibility to stop the stream of illegal immigrants coming into the country, many of those across Arizona’s border.

In reading through Arizona Senate Bill 1070, one finds no wording that applies the law specifically to illegal Latinos. Rather it states “person” or “persons” in each paragraph that indicates who would be subject to misdemeanor charges and/or felony charges. Those simply in the country illegally could be subject to misdemeanor charges and turned over to (See Opinions, page 5)