

FOR WHOM THE BELLES TOLL

A group of unique and dedicated women support CU athletics



2009-10 Buff Belles Board of Directors

When it comes to the University of Colorado football team, the Buff Belles may be some of the biggest supporters on campus. New president Debra Odom hopes to make this even bigger. With last year's membership at over 300 and the group's growing momentum, the Belles are on track to hit 400 this year.

The Buff Belles, which was originally called the Ladies Quarterback Club, was started 39 years ago by Martha Johnson (CU '42). She started the club because she was tired of asking her husband questions about Colorado football and wanted to become more knowledgeable about the sport and the team. So she and her friends went to the CU head football coach at the time, Eddie Crowder, and asked questions about the game and the team. What started as a quest for knowledge then grew to an inaugural meeting of 100 women in 1970 and is now a robust group of CU enthusiasts and friends.

"Martha and her friends wanted to become better fans for the school," said current president of the Buff Belles, Debra Odom.

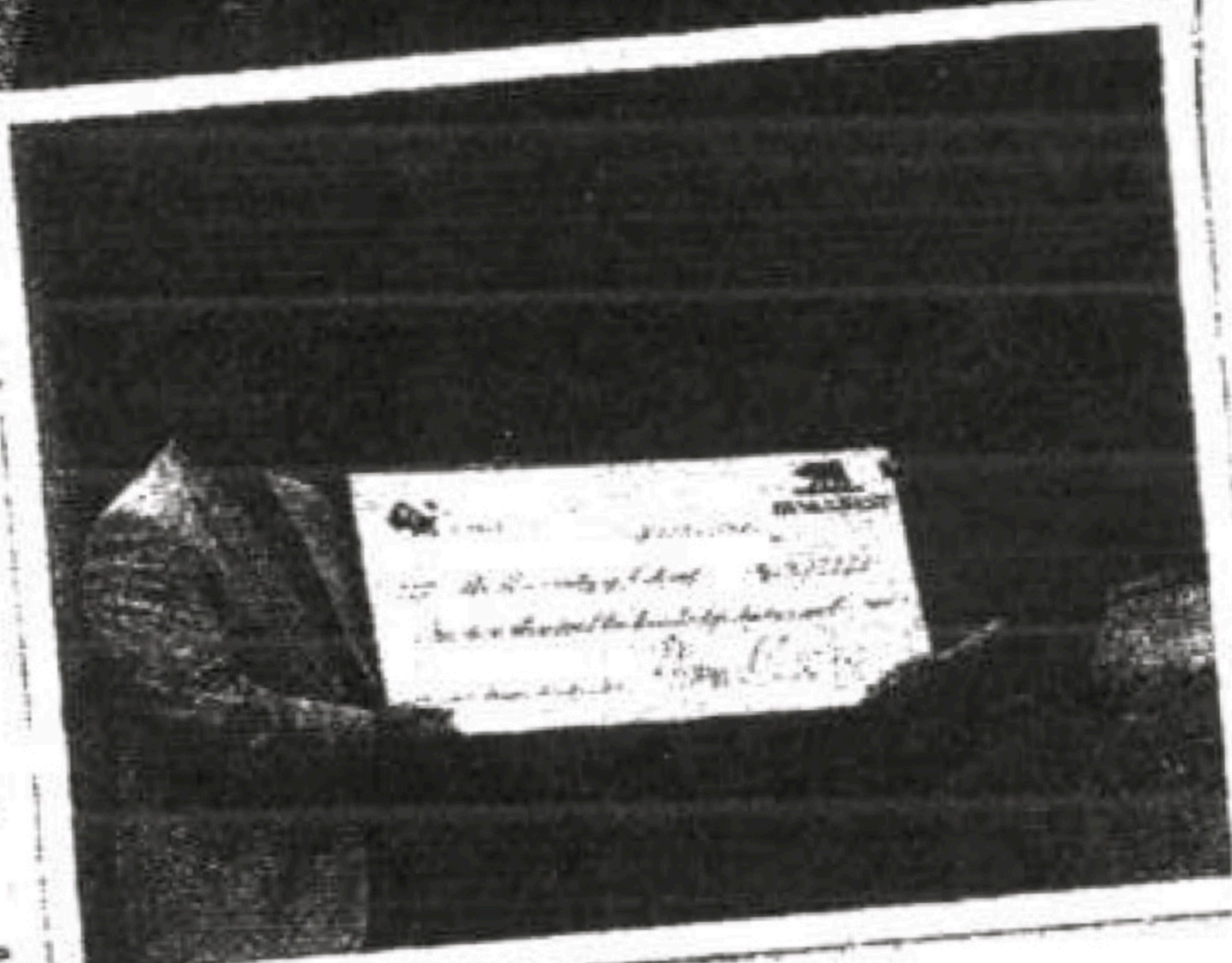
Today, the Buff Belles are much more than ladies interested in watching football. The group is made up of both men and women, alumni, community members, and folks of all ages who are passionate about all the athletic programs at CU - not just football. They want to be involved, are interested in giving back, and have an impact on CU Athletics.

"We are a support group for all Colorado athletics," said Odom. "Our fundraising exclusively goes to athletic scholarships."

The Buff Belles meet once a week during the football season and regularly host guest speakers from throughout the athletic department.

They also host several luncheon fundraisers each year. Aside from successful fundraising efforts, they logged in thousands of volunteer hours as a result of the Belles' dedication to the university. These regular gatherings are intended to talk about athletic programs, hear the prognosis for the future from the coaches, and get the inside scoop on strategy. But what members enjoy most is the camaraderie of other avid Buff fans who join together to promote and support the rich heritage of Colorado athletics.

At a recent Buff Belles luncheon, the group presented Jim Senter, the associate athletic director from the CU Foundation, with a check of nearly \$20,000 to support the CU scholarship program for student athletes. The donation is a terrific symbol of the commitment and dedication the Buff Belles have to the university. And next year's goal is no less impressive, as the Belles hope to raise over \$30,000. The future has never looked brighter for the Buff Belles!



BE A BELLE!

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN JOINING OR LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE BUFF BELLES, GO TO WWW.CUBUFF.COM/BUFFBELLES.

