

THE ASPEN TIMES

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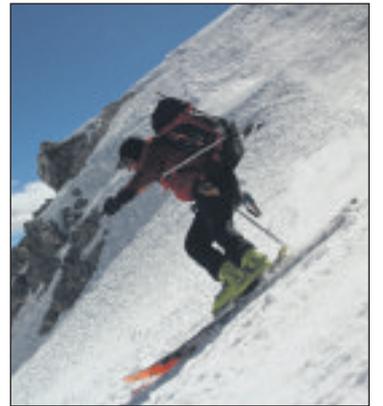
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SKIING the LAND of the INCAS

Aspen crew completes unique journey to Mount Ampato in Peru

Scott Condon
The Aspen Times



STEVE MAROLT/COURTESY PHOTO

Mike Marolt carves a turn on Ampato in May. Mike and Steve Marolt climb and ski a peak in excess of 20,000 feet every year.

Mike and Steve Marolt have tackled more challenging peaks than 20,630-foot Mount Ampato in Peru, but they said the otherworldly setting and the legacy of the Inca Ice Maiden made it their most fascinating adventure yet.

The Marolt twins of Aspen were part of a crew of five men who climbed and skied the dormant volcano in the southern Andes in May. Their colleagues were Jim Giles, Jon Gibbons and Mike Maple, all of Aspen.

The Marolts try to make at least one expedition per year above 20,000 feet to stay in shape for high-altitude climbing and skiing. They have a goal to summit

JIM GILES/COURTESY PHOTO

Steve Marolt cranks a turn on Mount Ampato, a 20,630-foot peak in Peru, in May. An Aspen contingent was the first known to ski the peak.

AMPATO, A10

State deems chairlift-pusher legally insane

Rick Carroll
The Aspen Times

A man charged with pushing another man off a chairlift in Aspen has been deemed legally insane by a state psychiatrist.

Even so, Pitkin County District Judge Chris Seldin at a hearing Monday set July 15 as the bench trial date for Thomas Proesel in the interest of granting the suspect a speedy trial.

In April, Proesel pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity to an attempted first-degree assault charge stemming from his pushing a 28-year-old snowboarder off the Loge Peak lift at Aspen

Highlands on the morning of Jan. 17. The snowboarder, after plummeting 20 to 25 feet into a pile of fresh powder, was not injured.



Thomas Proesel

Proesel's mental condition at the time is at the center of the case. During a conference call with Seldin and prosecutor Andrea Bryan, Proesel's attorney, Saskia A. Jordan of Denver, said he was "in a psychotic state at the time of the incident."

Jordan, during the hearing,

noted that she and Bryan have discussed the state's findings on Proesel and suggested that Bryan will not challenge the report.

"If the finding of insanity is not going to be contested, how much of a trial do we need to have?" Jordan said.

Bryan declined comment after the hearing.

Proesel did not appear at Monday's hearing, but his presence will be required for the trial, which won't have a jury and will be presided over by Seldin. Since Feb. 13, Proesel has resided in the Pasadena Villa Smoky Mountain Lodge, a treatment facility in Tennessee.

Seldin also granted permission to Proesel, 32, formerly an Aspen resident, to live with his parents in Winnetka, Illinois. That arrangement, which includes a set of bond conditions Proesel must abide by, was not contested by the victim, Bryan said.

After he is discharged from Pasadena Villa, Proesel will be in the company of his father on the trip home, according to court records.

Proesel's father also is under court order to ensure that his son takes his prescribed oral medication, while a physician will monitor his intradermal injections. One drug is an anti-psychotic

medication and the other is a mood stabilizer, according to court records.

The judge also allowed Proesel to leave his home, but only if he is accompanied by his father or a relative approved by his father. Proesel also is forbidden from consuming alcohol or using marijuana.

"The court does appreciate the proactive approach the family has taken to ensure that Mr. Proesel is receiving the care he needs," Seldin said.

A status conference on the case is scheduled for July 5.

rcarroll@aspen-times.com

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THE BIG DANCE



SPECIAL TO THE ASPEN TIMES

From left, Noelle Hernandez, founder and owner of NCH Design; Anneke Scholten, Dancing Bear general manager; Jack Biegler, Dancing Bear owner and board member; Teddy Farrell, Sunrise project director; and Pamela Ross, director of real estate sales for Dancing Bear Aspen, celebrate the opening of the club's final set of residences last week.

HODGMAN

From page A3

because so many people are going through this, but also because I said out loud how afraid I was, that I couldn't do it," he said.

The book offers an indelible portrait of Betty in old age — a stubborn, feisty, funny, loveable character. But going home to her also serves in "Bettyville" as a jumping-off point for Hodgman to explore his childhood, his family, his identity as a gay man, his mis-steps into substance abuse, his struggle to connect honestly with his mom and dad.

"It's really a book about

communication," he said.

Betty died last summer at 92. But George has stayed in Paris, Missouri (population 1,246), in the family home, where he is now beginning work on a novel.

With his decades of experience as one of New York's top book and magazine editors, he held the book to a high standard before he shared it with readers — first with his agent, then with writer friends. But he also knew that writing a memoir about so-called "flyover country" might be a tough sell in New York publishing houses.

"My biggest fear was that I knew everyone would say, 'Oh, it's too small. It's a book about an old lady and a fat

man and he's gay and she's crazy," he said. "I mean, it didn't seem like it'd be anyone in New York's idea of a commercial thing."

Having edited many memoirs and novels, he felt he could transcend that big-city prejudice by tapping into something universal about mothers and sons. The advice he gave himself sounds a lot like the advice he'll be giving students in Aspen this week.

"You have to trust the reader, you have to make a gesture of intimacy toward the reader of revelation and honesty if you're going to make it a relationship," he said. "A memoir is about the relationship between reader and writer — a bond."

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