



Synthetic Oasis

From the top of Wet 'n Wild's highest slides of Orlando's tourism sprawl, one can see the expanse of Orlando's tourism sprawl. Wet 'n Wild, the Orlando water park, is an apex of all the consumerism and youthful simplicity of fun that can be found along International Drive. From I-Drive, one can buy 3 Florida T-shirts for \$10, commodify religion at the 'Holy Land Experience' amusement park, shop the outlets, or be dropped hundreds of feet at Orlando's best amusement parks.

NEWS



Philosophy professor John Riker, photographed in his office, will have been at Colorado College for forty years in February.

MEGHAN STEBBINS CATALYST STAFF

FEATURE

John Riker develops legacy over forty years at CC

GEOFF CLEMM CATALYST STAFF

“Genius,” “institution,” and “crazy mo-fo” are all descriptors that have been given about Philosophy Professor John Riker. What is it about Riker that makes him such a captivating professor?

“His vitality,” answered freshman Jesse Lehrich. “I mean, the dude must be in his sixties, but you look in his eyes and you see a twenty-year-old guy staring back at you. The amount of energy that he’s willing to focus on his class is truly incredible. He really cares about his students.”

“He has such an enormous personality,” said freshman Graham Lloyd, “but the kind of personality that invigorates you instead of squashing you.” This belief is widely held.

“He’s incredibly candid, and isn’t afraid to speak or act out what he’s thinking,” Lloyd continued. “He’s as willing to use swear words in class as he is to demonstrate with great accuracy the way CC students dance at parties.”

“One of the coolest things about John is his legacy that extends all across the country,” said senior Sam Yarabek, who has Riker as his senior thesis advisor. “One of my favorite teachers in high school was a student of Riker’s, and it was for this reason that my teacher convinced me to come to CC.”

While Riker has no qualms about using examples from his personal experiences to help illustrate philosophical points, many students don’t get to hear about his early years. These early years were spent in Chatham, New Jersey, a town not unlike those many CC students came from.

“Chatham was a wealthy suburb of New York City, which is now a very wealthy suburb of New York City,” said Riker. “It was insular to such a degree that a good many of my friends that I had still live there, simply

because it was understood that if one was going to have any life at all they had to have it in Chatham, New Jersey.”

Riker described the town as having rigorous upper-middle class codes that completely dominated social life.

“If you were not WASP, you were not good,” he said, “and this attitude pervaded the high school social scene, where you always wanted to be in the ‘in group’. The defining characteristic of this group was wealth. It didn’t matter how you made that wealth, just that you had it.”

The “great trauma” of Riker’s early life was when his family had to move to Montréal, Canada his freshman year of high school. This was especially distressing because Riker had been incredibly popular in high school: president of his class and captain of the sports teams. Because school in Montréal simply wasn’t possible for logistical reasons, Riker was sent to Mt. Herman preparatory school for boys in Western Massachusetts, a school that he “hated from the bottom of [his] heart.”

“My God, it was so organized,” recalled Riker. “So much so that I could predict five or six months in advance when I would be taking a pee that day.”

Riker expressed his hatred for Mt. Herman by becoming antisocial. However, this gave him time to study, and his mind “opened to literature and thinking [in a way] that [had] never happened before.” While his good grades could have gotten him into schools like Harvard or Yale, these were all-male schools, a type of institution that Riker had vowed never to attend again after his high school years.

Riker decided to go to Middlebury College in Vermont. It was there that he discovered philosophy.

“I signed up for a philosophy class not really knowing why,” Riker said with a smile.

“I opened up the dialogues of Plato, and it was love at first sight—it’s truly the only thing closest to what it feels like to fall in love. The feeling captured me; it absolutely captured me, and this love affair has continued my entire life.”

At Middlebury, Riker became “Mr. Popular” again. He was elected president of his fraternity, Kappa Delta Ro, played varsity lacrosse, and did “all the things that really good standardized students do.”

After graduating from Middlebury, as valedictorian of his class, Riker attended Vanderbilt University, where he received his Ph.D. in philosophy. It was during these years that he found Colorado College for the first time, where he spent a summer attempting to learn German.

“I immediately fell in love with both Colorado and the college. I fell in love for the same reason why someone goes down the street and you feel your heart go pitter-patter in your chest—you can’t explain why it happens, it just happens.”

Riker’s German was so bad that he couldn’t take any of the German courses he signed up for, which ended out being a stroke of luck, as he got to take a philosophy class taught by the chair of the department at that time, Jane Cauvel. When the class ended, Jane told Riker that if he ever needed a recommendation, he should just let her know.

Coincidentally, when Riker was looking for a job, Colorado College had an opening exactly in his area of study: ethics and American philosophy. He interviewed at the college and was hired in 1968, 40 years ago this February. To Riker’s dismay, a couple weeks before he was supposed to start teaching he received a letter from the local draft board. Luckily, Riker failed his physical due to a heart murmur.

“No one’s every heard the murmur since,” laughed Riker. “The body can do some pretty

magnificent things psychologically.”

In the 40 years that Riker has taught here, he has seen many changes take place at CC, the most significant of which was the foundation of the block plan.

“What a truly amazing year,” said Riker, his eyes lighting up. “It was the year when we decided to overthrow all the set conventions and go our own way—the year when we threw off all the shackles of the educational code and decided to teach education the way it wanted to be taught.”

The creation of the block plan was an amazing act of freedom, an act that Riker believes “still pervades the campus, in that it allows more creativity and free exploration on the part of the students than on any other campus.”

What hasn’t changed in these 40 years is Riker’s love of teaching.

“When minds start to open up to new ways of thinking and experiencing the world, it’s a visceral experience in the classroom. I’m absolutely addicted to it,” Riker said.

Perhaps the only love of Riker’s that goes beyond the love of teaching is love for his wife, Marcia Dobson, who was hired at Colorado College in 1977.

“I fell in love with her instantly,” said Riker. “She was so brilliant, so absolutely brilliant, and God, she was beautiful. Never before or since have I met a person like her, with such a depth of understanding. We just fell in love, and we’re still madly in love with one another 27 years later.”

Ultimately, Riker feels so grateful that he has been able to be part of such an “astounding and wonderful place.”

“I can’t imagine having spent 40 more alive years in any other college,” Riker said. “It really is like Brigadoon. It’s a place that almost can’t exist in the contemporary world, and yet it does. In my life, being at Colorado College has made all the difference.”



Fencing surrounds the construction site at Shove Chapel where workers are restoring a section that was struck by lightning in August

ALISON KELMAN CATALYST STAFF

Investments under review after slow endowment growth

WARREN PETTINE CATALYST STAFF

In October, Colorado College received a \$10 million gift from the El Pomar Foundation. This brings the total funds raised under President Dick Celeste to \$130 million.

"Compare us to our aspiration schools. We still have a long way to go," said Celeste about the impact of the gift on the school's endowment.

Celeste fully expects to meet the 300 million fund raising goal by 2010.

Among the US News top 30 liberal arts colleges, CC's endowment is the 20th largest. Its US News Ranking is 26th, making its endowment greater than five schools ranked ahead of it.

But its growth was the lowest in the study, at only 4.6 percent.

"There were several issues with that year," said Stacy Lutz Davidson, assistant treasurer for CC. "It was very specific to the way we had invested our investments." The five-year average is around 15 percent.

With different schools investing endowment money in several different ways, the amount of increase is constantly fluctuating, Davidson said.

After hearing of the low growth, the trustee committee began analyzing its investments and found the problem. CC was not diversifying its portfolio.

The school has been using the same investment manager since 1978. During that time, investment of endowment money has closely mirrored the S&P 500. Changes in financial climate during recent years have caused the school to rethink its strategy.

The committee has been working with David Swensen, chief investment officer of the Yale endowment, to find a new direction.

After the recent change in asset allocation, the traditional manager is in charge of 60 percent of the endowment, rather than the previous 90 percent. It will take five years before the portfolio is fully diversified. The business office is only transferring money to new firms after careful evaluation.

"We fully expect that when we diversify the investments, our returns will be in line with our peer institutions," Davidson said.

During the process of asset reallocation, the committee was approached by students requesting that the school disinvest from Sudan.

After careful consideration, the committee decided that the issue was far too complex rely on lists prepared by outside organizations. Instead, they are working with money managers with each stock to decide the exact impact of every investment.

The school needs 100 million for financial aid, of which 15 million has been raised thus far. With a total endowment of 800 million, the college would fully be able to realize its mission, Celeste said.

Shove repaired after lightning strike

Care taken to maintain architectural integrity, historical detail

ELIZABETH FINDELL CATALYST STAFF

On a stormy day in late August of this year, a powerful lightning bolt struck the western spire of CC's Shove Chapel. The spire shattered, sending chunks of stone several hundred feet.

"I was flabbergasted by the amount of damage," said Linda Madden, the chapel manager.

Efforts are now underway to repair the damaged spire, which was built in 1930 and designed after Winchester Cathedral in England. Workers are paying special attention to historic detail.

Shove Chapel is constructed from a particular type of limestone found in Indiana. A dozen stones were ordered from Hoosier Limestone and trucked to campus, and it took six weeks for the stones to arrive. The stone was then carefully cut to fit the damaged section of the chapel.

The stones are now being put in place by Professional Restoration and Repair, a company which has done stone work on several CC buildings and was on-campus when the lightning strike took place. Michael Collins Architecture, another company that CC has previously contracted, assisted in the design for the restoration.

"With all the resources, it was pretty routine for us," said George Eckhardt, the assistant director of facilities.

Eckhardt expects the repairs to be finished by the time students leave campus for winter break.

The construction has had little effect on the day-to-day operations of the chapel. The biggest disturbance has been for brides who are disappointed with having scaffolding against the building. Approximately 75 weddings take place in Shove each year, with couples paying \$675 to use the facility.

"The problem is mostly just aesthetic,"

said Madden.

The cost of repairing the chapel is estimated to cost \$35,000 to \$40,000 for labor costs associated with installation, as well as the cutting and shipping of the limestone. The college's insurance deductible only covered up to \$25,000 worth of damage, so the extra money will come out of education reserves for emergencies and maintenance projects.

Most campus buildings have little or no lightning protection. More lightning rods have been added to Shove since the incident. The school also plans to add protection to Palmer, a building that has experienced lightning damage in the past.

In the meantime, the scaffolding and rock tent will illustrate workers' efforts as Shove is restored.

Said Madden, "We joke that it was designed to look like a medieval cathedral, and it's looking more and more like one."

CATALYST

The *Catalyst* is a weekly newspaper produced and managed exclusively by students of The Colorado College. Published for the benefit of the college community and the surrounding local area, the *Catalyst* aims to bring general interest and academic-oriented news, ideas, and opinions into greater collective view -- to act as a catalyst for informed debate. The newspaper is published under the auspices of Cutler Publications, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit independent of The Colorado College.

Phone: 719.389.6675

Fax: 719.389.6962

Newsroom: newsroom.catalyst@coloradocollege.edu

Letters: letters.catalyst@coloradocollege.edu

Advertising: ads.catalyst@coloradocollege.edu

Subscriptions: subscriptions.catalyst@coloradocollege.edu

The Catalyst
1028 Weber St.
Colorado Springs, CO 80946

NEWS

Co-Editor • Daniel Anthony
Co-Editor • Ethan Axelrod
Photo Editor • Oliver Parini
Layout Editor • Louisa Tur

FEATURES

Co-Editor • Anne-Marie Kelley
Co-Editor • Erin LeFils-Shaw
Photo Editor • Meghan Stebbins
Layout Editor • Jay Hobbs

SCENE

Editor • Mandy Moench
Photo Editor • Chip Silverman
Layout Editor • Rachel Harris

COMMENT & DEBATE

Co-Editor • Scott Petiya
Co-Editor • Ellie Wood
Layout Editor • Tim Hughes
Graphics Editor • Erin Hittesdorf

WRITERS

Lauren Aczon
Emma Calabrese
Danielle Dubler
Elizabeth Findell
Tendo Kironde
Meredith Mantik
Joel Minor
Wagma Mommandi
Heidi O'Connor
Warren Pettine
Anna Sanger
Brenna Swift
Jessie Vader
Chris Vernon

SENIOR EDITORS

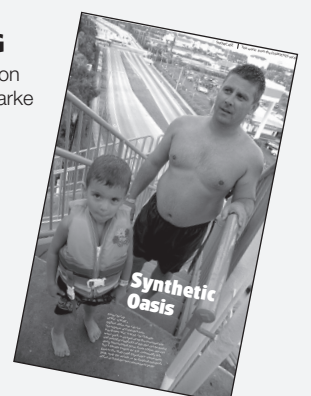
Editor and Publisher • Jackson Solway
Managing Editor • Lark Turner
Director of Copy and Standards • Michelle Dotter

ADVERTISING

Manager • Jacob Dickson
Representative • Russ Clarke

DISTRIBUTION

Anna Sanger
Rachel Weitzenkorn

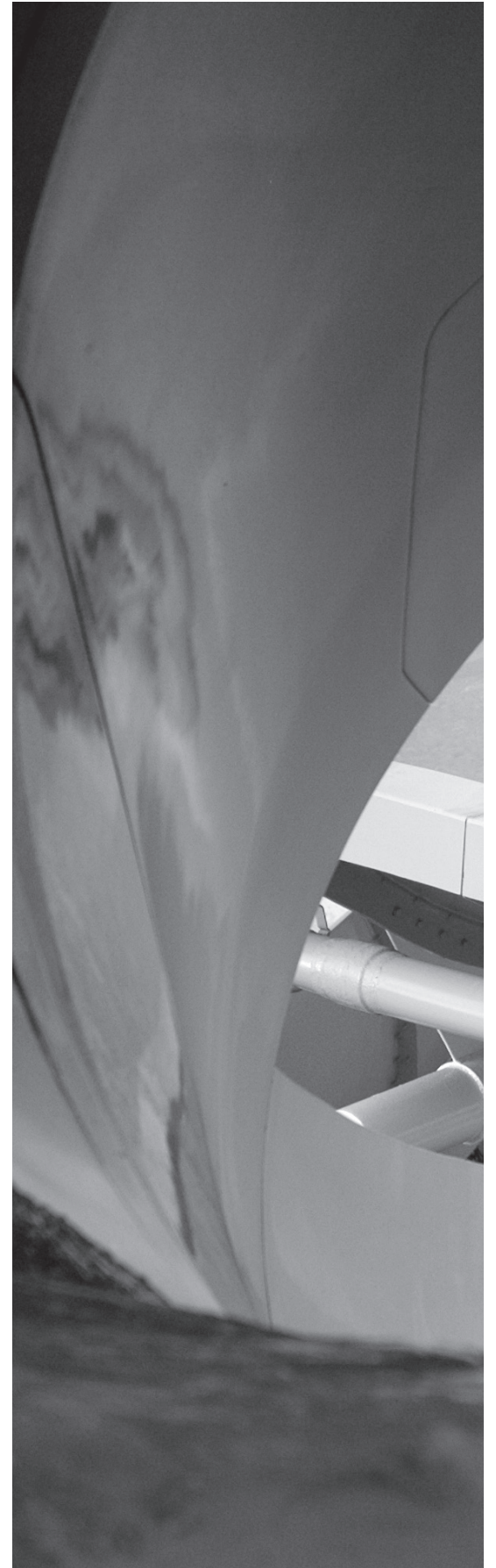


Still Wet 'n Wild in November

Tourism industry thrives through the Florida winter

Right: Park-goers wait in line for the slide DiscoH20, a new slide that shoots into a large disco and strobe-lit room playing 70s classics before funneling each raft down a final slide.

Below: As Orlando is a popular family vacation destination, every amusement park, including Wet n' Wild, has multiple child-friendly play areas, like the one photographed below.



Locals and tourists consider Wet n' Wild the best water park in central Florida. Due to Florida's warm weather, park-goers can be found in bathing suits year round. These pictures were taken in late November during the Thanksgiving holidays, when visitors looped Wet n' Wild's dozens of water slides without waiting in the lines that normally exceed 30 minutes during summer. Although Wet N' Wild competes with Typhoon Lagoon and Disney's Blizzard Beach, its centrality on the tourist hot spot, International Drive, makes it a symbol for all that is Orlando tourism. With views of Universal's sky-scraping rollercoasters and the atmosphere of consumerism buzzing in the souvenir shops that litter International Drive, Wet n' Wild is a unique tourist space of carefree enjoyment. Social standards of hygiene and body image stay outside of the water park's gate, while inside, people run around in sopping socks, skimpy bikinis, and dripping t-shirts.



Top: This slide is one of the longest in the park. It uses momentum to bank its riders high against the walls while turning, creating the impression that a capsizing is imminent.
Above: Wet n' Wild's gigantic wave pool is one of its most populated attractions. Every five minutes, the pool generates waves that are large enough to intimidate anyone without an inner tube.
Left: Sunny weather and intensive water play provide the perfect excuse for napping on the hundreds of beach chairs scattered throughout the park.

PHOTOS BY WHITNEY CONTI CATALYST STAFF

CC chews over dining's future

With Sodexho's contract up for renewal, other providers contend for food service control

JOEL MINOR CATALYST STAFF

Freshman Stuart Hackley has a bone to pick with Rastall.

"I'm not a big fan of the meal plan or the food service itself, because I feel like they're exploiting us. The Dining Dollar is extremely inflated," Hackley said.

Another freshman, Joycie Hunter, is more concerned with the food they offer.

"I would like lobster ravioli on the menu," Hunter said.

The Campus Dining Vision Committee (CDVC) is very interested in hearing these opinions. Headed by college legal counsel Chris Melcher, this committee will be reviewing bids for the school's food service in the spring. They are eager to gather campus input.

"All our suggestions we want to come from the greater campus community," said Leslie Kinson, student chair of the CDVC.

Sodexho has been the food supplier for the school for the past 40 years. According to Shawn Finnegan, general manager of dining services for Sodexho at CC, this length is not uncommon. Sodexho's average contract with a school is over 25 years.

"When I first arrived about a year and a half ago, one of the things I was asked to do was to look into whether the college has the best food service for the campus community. As part of that, I discovered that the college had never bid out the food service," Melcher said.

Once the CDVC has gathered student input, they will work with an independent consultant to prepare a list of requirements. This will be distributed to several food service providers. In the spring, the committee will review applications, and the winner of the contract will begin servicing the campus this summer.

"It'll be an open, competitive bidding process. Sodexho has every opportunity to win that bid and show us that they are the best provider for campus," Melcher said.

And Sodexho believes that they will be.

"We're actually looking forward to the

process, because it'll give us an opportunity to look at the program and make upgrades that are long overdue," said Jessica Alford, the director of operations for Sodexho at CC. "The food program that we have now is designed for students who are no longer here, so we'll do what's necessary to keep our current students happy."

Sodexho could very well continue on with CC. Ranked the number two food service provider in the nation, Sodexho has over 900 contracts with colleges in the US.

A 40 Year History of Food

In place since 2003, the current contract is for 10 years, though each side has the right to terminate, penalty-free with 60 days notice.

Student meal plans do not just pay for food; they support the entire system. Mandatory food plans play a big role in this process. Without the volume discount pricing that these plans ensure, it is difficult to support good food offerings.

"It would be very hard to open Rastall if you weren't sure if 50 people were showing up for breakfast or 200 people," Melcher said.

The college owns the facilities and equipment, from the grill to the forks, while Sodexho manages the operation. CC is constantly replacing silverware, Melcher said.

The portion of a student's meal plan that goes to the college covers overhead, maintenance, and replacement expenses. Money also goes to Gold cards, some salaried expenses, and insurance to cover injuries.

Sodexho's share goes to providing the food, paying wages and insurance, and keeping several dining locations open long hours. Several years ago, students led a petition demanding that workers at CC receive a living wage, determined as \$10.38 per hour.

Sodexho's insurance covers 5 million per occurrence of food poisoning, with an aggregate of 21 million total. Additionally, the multiple locations and late hours create

large overhead expenses. The library coffee cart only recently moved into the black, Finnegan said.

If Sodexho makes over 10 percent profit, then it is split with CC 50/50. Money the college receives goes to the college general fund. There have been years when this split occurred and others when Sodexho failed to make a profit, Finnegan said.

Dining Dollars Are Gone

Five years ago, student requests resulted in the Dining dollars system. In order to cover the various overhead expenses, Dining Dollars cover more than the cost of a meal in actual dollars, and vary with actual dollar value depending on the meal plan. Prices appear lower than they actually are.

The goal was to give more flexibility in dining options, replacing a system of plans giving a varied number of meals each week. But the situation has changed.

"Where it's evolved to today, there's a fair amount of dissatisfaction with the dining dollar with the students," Melcher said.

Regardless of the provider, Dining Dollars will not be returning next year.

But Charles's Job is Safe

One aspect of food service that is unlikely to change next year are the faces behind the counters at Rastall, Herb n' Farm, Benji's, Jazzman's, and the C-Store.

Should Sodexho not be selected as the campus food service provider, all of its employees, with the exception of some upper management staff, will be allowed to keep their current jobs, hours, salaries, and benefits.

"Our staff don't have to worry about losing their jobs if the contract changes hands," explained Alford.

Eighty percent of these individuals are full-time employees.

"We appreciate their hard work and their continuing hard work," Melcher said.

Phil Somerville, a cook in Rastall, isn't

Question: What do you think of the meal plan and food service system, and how do you feel about it?



"It's okay—there's always something for everyone, but it doesn't always work out every time. With Dining Dollars versus meals, I think that's kind of weird, because it seems that people with meals are better off, because people with Dining Dollars are having to scramble at the end of the semester."

Dianna Alexander
Freshman

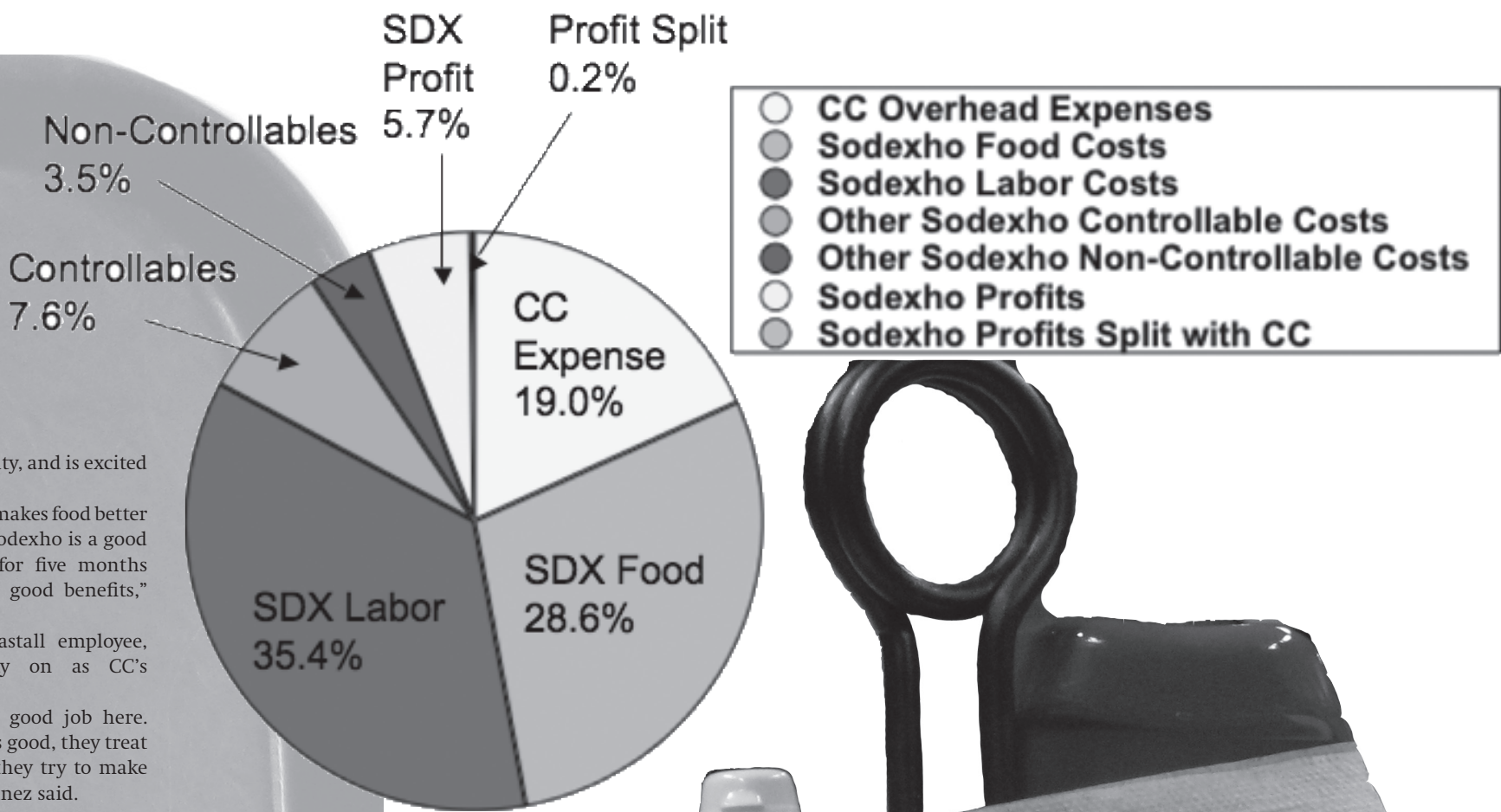


"The food gets so old so quick. We shouldn't use a contracted dining service; we should have our own. Every other small liberal arts school with a good food service, like Bowdoin, does their own food service, instead of having a big contracted company that doesn't care about us. But the staff is really nice. Michael definitely cares."

Nate Danforth
Sophomore



Break Down of Dining Expenses 2006-2007



ure
tract

worried about his job security, and is excited for the bidding process.

“Competition is great—it makes food better and it makes us perform. Sodexho is a good company. I’ve been here for five months now and I love it. There’s good benefits,” Somerville said.

Teli Martinez, also a Rastall employee, hopes Sodexho will stay on as CC’s contractor.

“I think this is a really good job here. They treat all the employees good, they treat everyone like family. And they try to make the food really good,” Martinez said.

The Committee is Listening

The CDVC is hosting open discussions in Rastall Friday night and again during lunch on Monday.

The committee has met, or is planning to meet, with the Black Student Union, Native American Student Union, MOSAIC, Femco, Colorado College Student Government Association, Carnivore Club, and athletic groups. Food Chained, a separate group, will also be conducting a survey that the CDVC plans to use.

They plan to combine this input with research on what peer institutions do, eight to ten of which Melcher visited last year.

“We’ll take all of that and try to find the best vision for our campus, of how we provide food they want to eat and food that is healthy for them, in a setting they will enjoy,” Melcher said.

Additional reporting by Warren Pettine, Catalyst Staff



do you think it could be improved?

“I think it’s too expensive, but worthwhile when Fredo cooks. I think we need more options foodwise. Maybe even some late-night options.”

Hunter Allen
Junior



“I think it’s too expensive; it’s pretty difficult to eat healthy and also have a good-tasting meal, and the one organic place on campus, I haven’t been there much this year, but every time I do, I get sick. I actually have a friend who ate at Herb ‘n Farm recently and got food poisoning.”

Abby Block
Junior



“It’s good. I feel like the hours should be earlier. Dinner should go longer on the weekends and breakfast on the weekends should be earlier.”

Carol Earnest
Freshman

SPORTS

SPORTS COMMENTARY

Life Lessons from the Court



Senior Zach Kauffman attempts to boost his team's score while closely guarded by an opponent. Kauffman and his teammates experienced utter humiliation on the court that night.

ALISON KELMAN CATALYST STAFF

DAVID BOWEN CATALYST STAFF

I have been playing basketball my entire life, as far as I can remember it. In my early youth, my father bought my sister and I a hoop that we placed on the car pad in my backyard. Fond memories of myself shooting baskets in the fading evening light before dinner flood back to me as I probe long untouched sections of my brain.

In elementary and middle school, my friends would come over and play pick-up games from time to time. The winters of seventh and eighth grade I spent competing against other schools as part of an established team. As I recall, I played pretty good defense and had a decent shot.

My high school was significantly larger than most, and unfortunately my skills and size were not ad-

I didn't play basketball for all those years so I could become highly skilled and effective at winning, I played because I liked playing.

equate to make the exceedingly competitive team. Nevertheless, I continued to play pick-up games with my friends and to shoot around in the backyard by myself.

Soon after arriving at Colorado College three and a half years ago, I began to play basketball among my friends with some regularity. The experience has been unique and rewarding; over the years, I started to think we were actually pretty good players.

That was, until my friends and I entered the open-league intramural basketball tournament and played our second game. I don't remember the score exactly, but suffice it to say we got beaten by about 50 points. To even score 50 points in the 40 minute game means a team must have been scoring more than a point a minute. And they scored more than 50 points.

So we got crushed by this other team. Though we did draw first blood, they scored 20 points before we made another basket.

The game was humiliating. Granted, the other team's players vastly outweighed us and were much taller—our tallest player being only 6'2"—but they also were simply more athletic. The countless hours I had spent as a young lad shooting in my backyard and the numerous pick-up games I had played as an adolescent had amounted to basically nothing. I didn't score a point and was supremely blocked twice. At halftime, I thought I did not even want to play anymore.

Yet then I came to an epiphany—perhaps a mundane one, but an epiphany nonetheless (indeed, I believe that most epiphanies are only a deeper understanding of a wisdom that may appear conventional from afar). I realized that I was having a good time playing ball even while losing by an insurmountable margin. I didn't play basketball for all those years so I could become highly skilled and effective at winning; I played because I liked playing. When I came to that understanding, I enjoyed the rest of the game thoroughly.

I believe this message can be applied to my life,

and perhaps yours, too, on a larger and assuredly more meaningful scale. Life is not about being better than everyone else—the categories by which we judge worth are arbitrarily constructed in the first place—but rather about knowing oneself and knowing what makes each of us happy. Then life is just a matter of achieving that happiness in a healthy manner.

I believe Gloria from *White Men Can't Jump* when she says, "Sometimes when you win, you really lose, and sometimes when you lose, you really win; and sometimes when you win or lose, you actually tie, and sometimes when you tie, you actually win or lose. Winning or losing is all one organic mechanism, from which one extracts what one needs."

We got crushed by this other team.



Senior Chris Simons drives the ball as senior Nolan Swett prepares to shut him down.

ALISON KELMAN CATALYST STAFF

ALTERNATIVE SPORTS

Washers: The Sport of Kings

A Game of Convenience and a Game of Passion

DAVE BOWEN CATALYST STAFF

Throughout the long and prodigious history of humanity, people have coalesced at certain times in order to compete for the glory of their peers' admiration. In the distant past, physical prowess was valued, and subsequently the most primitive and brutal of competitions—the brawl—was developed.

However, the significant disadvantage of the brawl, of course, was that the competitors put themselves at serious risk of injury, particularly the loser. For that reason, the spirit of competition inherent in the brawls was applied to different, typically less dangerous, endeavors. These activities could include practical tasks such as the skinning of animals or the collection of berries, but the creation of competitive endeavors without an explicitly useful purpose heralded the first beginnings of modern sport.

Over time, sporting has become more sophisticated and even less utilitarian, culminating in the development of a game known as "Washers."

Washers, for the uninitiated, is a contest similar to horseshoes in rule and principle, though different equipment is employed. Two teams of partners attempt to toss a metal washer into a bucket secured to a wooden box. If a player puts the washer in the bucket, he or she is rewarded with three points. If the washer stays in the box, it is worth one point, and if it lies upon the edge of the box (which virtually never happens), it's worth two.

Washers...is a contest similar to horseshoes in rule and principle, though different in equipment employed.

There are two buckets separated by a gap of 15 to 20 feet, and partners stand on opposite ends. The teams alternate rounds, tossing three washers per turn. The first team to 21 points wins.

I attempted to discover the origins of washers, but

upon visiting the Web page of the International Association of Washers Players (IAWP), I found only this: "The history of the game is cloaked in mystery but lends itself to colorful conjecture."

While I personally do not doubt the accuracy of the first part of that statement, I hesitate to call the origin conjecture "colorful." My guess is that someone wanted to play horseshoes but didn't have any, so they substituted some washers and a paint bucket.

"The history of the game is cloaked in mystery but lends itself to colorful conjecture."

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WASHERS PLAYERS

Regardless of its origins, Washers is a great sport due to its unique and simple objectives. It's a pure sport, untainted by referees and boundary lines. Accordingly, Washers lends itself well to passing the time with some buddies and some refreshments.

It's a social game. It brings people together. Because Washers does not ask for much energy or sustained involvement from its participants, it allows the competitors the freedom to converse with the other players and nearby spectators. Given this tendency, Washers is primarily a game of the late afternoon and evening, so it appears with less frequency in the winter months as the daylight grows shorter.

But that does not mean that Washers is dead for now, or sleeping peacefully like a bear in its cave. Quite the opposite: Washers is alive wherever it has a hold on the hearts, minds, and hands of its adherents.

As the IAWP states, "Washers is a game for youngsters, oldsters and in-betweensters ... folks of all ages find Washers stimulating, challenging and rewarding."

Now that's a bit of wisdom you can't buy off the street.



Senior Dave Bowen launches a washer and cracks a smile while playing an entertaining game similar to horseshoes. ALISON KELMAN CATALYST STAFF

Captain Carver's Snow Report

There are several different factors to take into consideration this weekend when deciding on your ski or snowboard destination. Free skiing at Crested Butte is one option to consider. A beautiful three and a half hour drive along the Arkansas and over Monarch Pass will land you in this surreal little mountain town. The town's combination of rustic charm and fine dining make it a nice place to visit with close friends or a closer friend.

If you are willing to make the trek down to southwestern Colorado, you may find the ridiculous load of snow that you have always dreamed about. This week Wolf Creek reported a new 51 inches from a single storm. With a variety of terrain, low-key atmosphere, and some of the largest snowfalls in the country, Wolf Creek may be the place to go this weekend.

Captain Carver

Arapahoe Basin

Lifts Open: 4 of 7
Acres Open: 140
Conditions: Packed Powder
Depth @ Mid: 18"

Breckenridge:

Lifts Open: 4
Acres Open: 213
Conditions: Packed Powder
Depth @ Mid: 18"

Keystone:

Lifts Open: 7
Acres Open: 162
Conditions: Packed Powder
Depth @ Mid: 18"

Beaver Creek:

% Open Trails: 28%
Conditions: Packed Powder
Depth @ Mid: 18"

Copper Mtn:

Lifts Open: 6
Acres Open: 203
Conditions: Packed Powder
Depth @ Upper: 23"

Winter Park:

Lifts Open: 5
Acres Open: 98
Depth @ Mid: 24"
Park and Pipe: Yes (2)



**NATIVE TRAILS:
Jamie Storrs's
Ride of the Week:**

The trail this week is a great one for a little after-class exercise, and is easy to moderate, so it is fun for everyone from beginners to the experienced.

This trail starts from the Stratton Open Space, which is located right here in the Springs. To get there, take Tejon south, and then bear right where it meets a three-way intersection after the Bristol Brewing Company (keep in mind for after-ride hydration). Keep your eyes out for a sign on your right that says "Stratton Open Space."

From the parking lot, take the trail uphill until you meet a dirt road. Continue up the road until you get to the reservoir on your right, and then just past it you will see a marker for the trail, which forks off to the right from the road.

This is where the climb starts: a gradual 600-foot vertical climb. Once the trail merges with another dirt road, take a breath and look out onto the majesty of suburban sprawl that is the Springs. Then get ready for downhill.

The downhill is the same section that you just rode up, and is full of banked turns, as well as plenty of water bars to air off of. The one thing you need to keep in mind is to watch out for uphill bikers and dogs.

Well get out there and enjoy, and read up next week for a review of downhill Pikes Peak.

CLUB LACROSSE

Former lacrosse players create league of their own

TURNER RESOR CATALYST STAFF

For many students, coming to Colorado College means finding a balance between a once-familiar life and the new opportunities surrounding the school and the West. Enjoying the mountains, people, and education provided by CC often means sacrificing other past interests.

Over the years, CC lacrosse players from around the country have struggled with the idea of having to choose one thing over the other. Being a member of a CC varsity lacrosse team, which requires a large time commitment and a disciplined work ethic, likely meant that one would have less time to partake in many of the school's other unique opportunities. Unlike other sports that offer IM or Club levels to satisfy one's competitive nostalgia, lacrosse lovers have had to choose between all or nothing.

Thanks to the efforts of former CC lacrosse players, varsity coach David Zazarro, and helpful members of the Athletics Department, a way has been found to combine the new world with the old. For the past two blocks, senior ex-lacrosse player Warren Pettine has been organizing a weekly gathering for all those who have been stinking up their rooms and houses with mildewed lacrosse gear in hopes of gearing up one more time.

The players, who currently refer to themselves as the "club lacrosse team," have been meeting on Tuesday nights under the lights of Washburn field. According to Pettine, there are usually around 14 players in attendance every week. With small numbers, the team usually plays an abbreviated half-field version of the sport.

Members come from varying lacrosse backgrounds. Pettine estimates that "Half the kids that go have played lacrosse competitively at some point in their life."

The showing has impressed Pettine.

"The level of play is really good. There are even a few high school All-Americans out there," he said.

Senior Jamie Storrs, an ex-lacrosse player from Rhode Island agrees with Pettine adding that the play is "especially good on nights when we have Katie

"Growing up on the east coast, lacrosse is what you do."

SENIOR JAMIE STORRS

Schultz playing goalie." Schultz was the former lacrosse goalie for the women's team.

On nights when she cannot make it, the players make a rule that one must put the ball in the corner of the net in order to consider it a goal.

Storrs is very thankful for Pettine's and others' efforts organizing the sport this year.

"Growing up on the East Coast, lacrosse is what you do," explained Storrs. "You miss that piece of your life." Storrs believes that it took "Warren stepping up" to bring that part of his life to CC.

Pettine hopes that one day the sport may be included at the IM level.

Through the process of organizing the games, he has also realized the benefits to playing a sport you love on a less competitive level.

"When you're having fun with it, you play a lot better," Warren said. "Instead of doing 40s, your drinking 40s."

Pettine worries slightly that the club team may draw numbers from the varsity team, and because of this refers to the team as the "dark side" of lacrosse.

After a second of pause, he adds, "Come to the dark side, it's a lot of fun."

The Scoreboard

Men's Basketball:

Recent Results:

CC v. Southwestern U, 44-65 L

CC v. Trinity U, 59-40 L

Upcoming Home Games:

Dec. 8 v. Western State College, 2 p.m.

Dec. 21 v. Coe College, 2 p.m.

Men's Ice Hockey:

Recent Results:

CC v. University of Alaska Anchorage, 1-0 W

CC v. University of Alaska Anchorage, 4-1W

Women's Basketball:

Recent Results:

CC v. Colorado Christian College, 65-64 L

Upcoming Home Games:

Dec. 14 v. Augustana College, 7 p.m.

Dec. 15 v. Augustana College, 2 p.m.

Swimming & Diving:

Recent Results:

Men:

CC v. McMurry U, 101-103 L

Women:

CC v. McMurry U, 130-94 W

THE WORD IS OUT ABOUT HOW TO GET GREAT SKIN

:: Painless :: Fast :: Great Results



genesis
medspa

Physician-Directed Skin Care

Lisa Jenks, MD
Medical Director

Call 579-6890 for your complimentary consultation

MEN'S HOCKEY

O'Connell and Walsky Return Home For Alaska Games

Sophomore Matt Overman nets game-winner Friday night

DAVID MAURO CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Colorado College hockey team swept a weekend series at Alaska-Anchorage to take a six-point lead over second-place Denver in the Western Collegiate Hockey Association standings.

The two Tiger victories were especially sweet for Anchorage natives Drew O'Connell and Eric Walsky. O'Connell, a junior goalie, got his first win of the season in the first game, in which the Tigers were able to stop all six of Alaska-Anchorage's power plays on their way to a 1-0 victory. Junior forward Walsky's second period goal on Saturday helped to fuel CC's 4-1 comeback effort.

After watching freshman Richard Bachman start

"I need to fight for my spot . . . It's great to do it in front of my family."

JUNIOR DREW O'CONNELL

in goal for much of the season, O'Connell excelled on Friday as he tallied 28 saves to secure his third career shutout.

The return to Anchorage also offered some payback for O'Connell, who had allowed three goals in a start at Anchorage as a freshman. O'Connell was also in goal last year when Alaska-Anchorage won their first game ever at the World Arena.

"It's getting late in the year, and I'm a junior and I need to fight for my spot . . . It's great to do it in front of my family," O'Connell said.

Walsky, who spent two seasons playing for Alaska-Anchorage before transferring to CC, was booed by the Anchorage fans after he scored. After the game, however, he did not seem bothered by his hometown crowd's reaction.

"I knew some people weren't too happy that I left, but I thought it was more playful than anything else. I wanted to play well in front of my hometown crowd, but I tried to treat it like any other game," Walsky said.

Injuries pushed Matt Overman into the starting lineup for the weekend's games, and the sophomore right wing took full advantage of the opportunity.

"It's a game-winner in a 1-0 game, and he'll never forget it."

HEAD COACH SCOTT OWENS

Overman, who missed most of last year's season due to a shoulder injury and had seen action in only one game this season, scored the Tigers' lone goal on Friday night. The game-winner was also the Minnesota native's first career goal.

"It's a game-winner in a 1-0 game, and he'll never forget it," CC Head Coach Scott Owens said. "He's somebody that just competes and battles."

While the Tigers were sweeping the last-place Sea-wolves in Anchorage, Denver split a series with North Dakota, allowing CC to extend their lead over DU. The Tigers, who will not return to World Arena until January 11, have no games next weekend but will then travel to Minnesota for a weekend series with St. Cloud State.

Athlete of the Week

ANDY WENTZ

Wilmette, IL



Sport: Wasabi Ultimate Frisbee

Position: Midfield

Year: Senior

Major: Studio Art

Superstitions:

Chewing gum while playing helps your focus.

Favorite food:

Red Bull and Big League Chew (hook up the endorsements)

Favorite quote:

No excuses; be a champion.

Dreams:

To play in ultimate Frisbee nationals.

Favorite athlete or sports team:

Andre Dawson

If you could travel anywhere:

Japan

Inspirational people:

Oscar Wilde and Michael Jordan

If you could have a superpower:

I wish I could jump higher.

Something you want to know the answer to:

What's the longest number of years someone has ruled a country?

Something you want the Catalyst to know:

Your mama likes it sloppy, she'll do it in the hotel lobby, your girlfriend is our hobby, uh, Wasabi.

Join Campus Dining as we take you



Home for the Holidays

Great Food • Loads of Fun
Holiday Favorites



The fun begins on December 13, 2007
from 11:00 am - 1:30 pm in Rastall.
Hope to see you there!

SCENE

A *Thousand Splendid Suns*: A powerful and necessary read

MANDY MOENCH CATALYST STAFF

In Salman Rushdie's address in Armstrong Hall in October, he referred to the work of Khaled Hosseini, author of *The Kite Runner*, as embodying the sort of mystical, lyrical quality that has swept America off its feet because of its conspicuous absence in English literature. America was enthralled by the 2003 tale of redemption, its portrayal of Afghan history and culture as rich as its characters.

Reading and understanding such a poignant exposure of Middle Eastern culture is not only powerful, but absolutely necessary for an American living in the post-September 11 world.

The acclaim of *The Kite Runner* would make it seem near impossible to garner the same effect with a second novel. However, Hosseini's second novel, *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, achieved equal success, with one key element that differentiated it entirely from *The Kite Runner*: This time around, his main characters are women.

In a 2003 interview with Newline, a Pakistani news source, Hosseini defended his absence of women in *The Kite Runner* by explaining it was due to the demands of the narrative. "The story of what has happened to women in Afghanistan, however, is a very important one," he explained, "and fertile ground for fiction."

A Thousand Splendid Suns intertwines the lives of two women of separate generations brought together by marriage to the same man.

The childhood of the older wife, Mariam, is described in the opening chapters of the novel. Living in exile with her ostracized mother, her identity is formed around the concept of being a *harami*, an illegitimate child.

After losing her mother and being publicly spurned by her well-to-do father, Mariam is given away in mar-

riage to Rasheed, the man that will bind her inextricably to Laila, her co-wife, in future years.

Although unhappy and childless in her marriage with Rasheed, it is here that Mariam finds a sense of security. She learns how to hide, protected by the burqa that Rasheed makes her wear in Kabul. She describes it as a one-way window, where she becomes "an observer, buffered from the scrutinizing eyes of strangers. She no longer worried that people knew, with a single glance, all the shameful secrets of her past."

Although she becomes both verbally and physically abused by Rasheed, Mariam still describes herself, paradoxically, as being "prized by his protectiveness... treasured and significant."

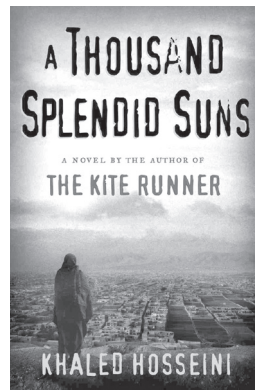
Mariam's small sense of belonging is destroyed when, in the midst of war, Rasheed manipulates a younger woman, Leila, into marrying him. Although originally divided by hate and jealousy, Mariam and Laila must overcome their divisions to keep each other alive in spirit.

Their existence becomes one of sharing: sharing their friendship, sharing their husband, and sharing Laila's two children as the years stretch into a time of war and famine for the family.

Throughout the novel, the two women become bearers. When the Taliban come into power and forbid women from venturing without male companionship out in public, Laila must bear frequent beatings by Taliban officers to go visit her daughter because Rasheed refuses to escort her to the orphanage, where the daughter is kept for a while due to food shortage.

Although Hosseini's portrayal of Afghan history and the role of women throughout the different regimes is powerful and educational, it is his beautiful prose and strong characterization that achieve mastery in the novel.

Learning to love in spite of circumstances or fal-



COURTESY OF WWW.KHALEDHOSSEINI.COM

[Hosseini's] beautiful prose and strong characterization achieve mastery in the novel.

libility is a major theme of the book. Laila, whose first child is the illegitimate offspring of her teenage sweetheart, Tariq, almost personally aborts her second child, Rasheed's, because she believes there is no way she can love Rasheed's child in the same way that she loves Tariq's. However, she consciously decides to love the child whose parentage was not his choice. Mariam and Laila choose to love each other in the same way.

It is Hosseini's masterful assumption of the female mind that chills the reader, knowing that he is, in fact, a man. He inhabits the female psyche exceptionally, from girlhood to adolescence to womanhood.

At first glance, the male representation in *A Thousand Splendid Suns* may seem stereotypically chauvinist. Mariam's mother bitterly rages about men: "A man's heart is a wretched, wretched thing, Mariam. It isn't like a mother's womb. It doesn't bleed; it won't stretch to make room for you." However, Hosseini's characterization is far more in-depth.

Although the oppression of women in Afghanistan and in radical Islam is highlighted in *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, by no means are all of the male characters as tyrannical as Rasheed.

Laila's young lover, Tariq, cares for and protects her exceptionally, and Mariam's childhood mentor, Mullah Faizullah, remains an inspiration and guide for her throughout her life. Even Jalil, Mariam's father who rejected both her and her mother under societal pressure, travels across the country years later in an attempt to redeem his past wrongs.

Overall, *A Thousand Splendid Suns* is a must-read not only for those interested in Afghanistan or the experience of women in Islam, but for anyone who professes a love for the human spirit and endurance.

Although Western female readers may not identify with such political and physical oppression, the descriptions of Mariam and Laila's sentiments and experiences are as real and tangible as the book's pages.

We can help you buy a car that is brand new
— or just "new to you."



Whether you're looking to buy a brand new car — or a used car that is "new to you" — you can save time and money when you finance it at Ent. With great rates and flexible terms, Ent can help you get a great deal on your next set of wheels. Apply today at Ent.com/Vehicles, or just ask for Ent financing at the dealership.



Colorado Springs: (719) 574-1100 • Pueblo: (719) 542-5276
800-525-9623 • Ent.com

Ent is a community-chartered credit union.

Equal Opportunity Lender • Federally Insured by NCUA • © Ent Federal Credit Union, 2007
Ent is a registered trademark of Ent Federal Credit Union.

29540 10/07



COURTESY OF SRNELSON VIA CREATIVE COMMONS

Strikers in Hollywood: Selfish villains or cheated victims?

MANDY MOENCH CATALYST STAFF

Tuesday marked the 30th day of the writer's strike in Hollywood, where the Writer's Guild of America (WGA) has exchanged its pens for pickets and its wages for wagers.

Coddled by holiday reruns and seasonal specials, most viewers will not feel the full reverberations of the strike until after Christmas, when the reality will set in: Their favorite shows are in hiatus, or worse, may never return.

The issue at hand is, as always, money. Most tech-savvy collegians are familiar with the phenomenon of episode streaming, popularized by ABC and NBC. Apple has also joined the bandwagon, selling TV episodes on iTunes for \$1.99 apiece.

However, most consumers may not be aware that the writers, while receiving a percentage of the profits for each DVD sold, receive nary a penny for the millions of episodes watched or purchased online, called "online promos." It is for this reason that writers began to strike and production has been halted for many TV shows and select motion pictures.

Many writers have indulged their creative itches through low-budget YouTube productions, varying from hilarious parodies to frank pleas for support.

Mike Schur, writer and co-executive producer for "The Office," proposed dryly in one such video, "I encourage the company [NBC] to send their lawyers in to write our episodes, because their lawyers are very creative, terming a full-length airing of an episode with paid-for commercials an 'online promo'; it's really a good example of creativity and imagination."

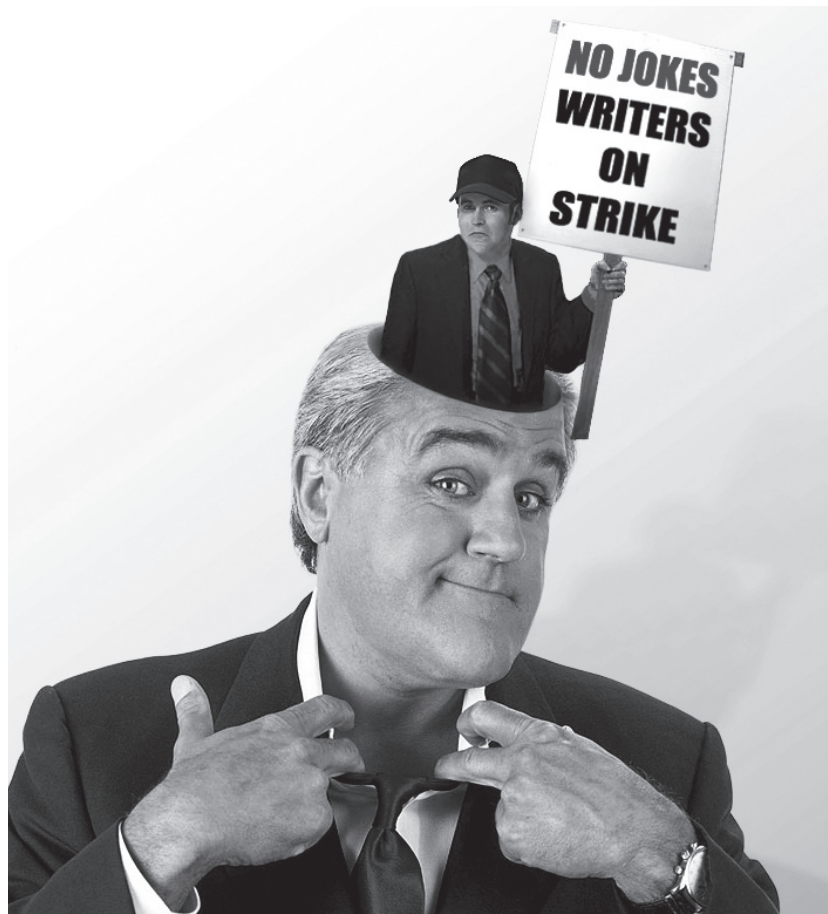
TV has by far been hit the hardest by the WGA strike. The beloved shows "Heroes," "The Office," and "Desperate Housewives" used up their only remaining episodes in the last week, with "Grey's Anatomy" and "Pushing Daisies" soon to follow.

NBC's "24," scheduled to be launched next month, will not air at all until some kind of conclusion has been reached.

The real tragedy, though, lies in shows that were in their final season. Long-time fans of both "ER" and "Scrubs" may never get the farewell they desired, as the likelihood of production companies scrapping money together to make a final episode for each show is slim at best. Instead, hunker down for a long winter of reruns and reality TV.

Charlene Lee, co-chair of Film Series and Film Union member, commented, "There is going to be an oversaturation of awful reality shows, the kind where you feel like you're getting dumber just by watching." Shows like "American Idol" are bound to thrive this year, freed from competition.

Although the strike provides a window of opportunity for shows that would normally not stand a



COURTESY OF AZRAINMAN VIA CREATIVE COMMONS

"If people want to see their shows come back, they should do something about it."

CHARLENE LEE

chance in mainstream competition—the show "Cops" got its fame in the last writers' strike of '88—Americans may have to suffer through a lot of bad TV this spring.

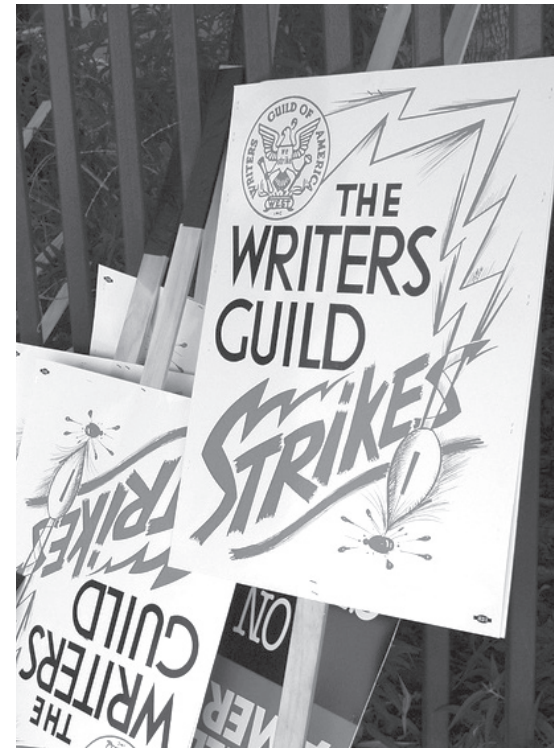
One of the major critiques of the strike is that it is a war between the rich and the even richer. The salary of Hollywood writers may pale in comparison with the myriad zeros of an actor's pay check, but the truth of the strike is that thousands of lower-level production workers are being laid off as a direct result. Is it worth the unemployment of these?

Lee also commented that writers are far more likely to be bivouacal, and are used to having to work additional jobs to support themselves; lower-level workers are not.

Over the last two summers, Lee has interned at two different production companies at major film studios and one TV production company. She shared how, over the summer, Hollywood was abuzz with talk of and preparations for the strike.

"Everyone knew the strike was coming," she said. "It was very planned, very organized."

The arrival of multimedia is changing the nature of entertainment forever—episode streaming, although



COURTESY OF HERE IN VAN NUYS VIA CREATIVE COMMONS

Top: Even Second Life characters are in support of the WGA.

Left: Jay Leno proves that his jokes cannot be stopped, even though his writers are.

Above: Signs of the "cheated victims."

highly convenient, may take away from the "prime-time television experience." The popularity of reality shows can detract from the creative process and give leeway to a cheaper, more combative entertainment.

Lee ran into the problem of reality TV often when brainstorming show ideas for her internships; when pitching stories, her boss would often say, "No, people would rather see the real thing."

The sad truth is that, although viewers may complain of missing their favorite primetime shows, they will still watch TV whether it is terrible or wonderful. It is, after all, a consumer-driven universe.

"If people want to see their shows come back, they should do something about it," Lee said. "If the general public doesn't get involved, the studios will win out."

The will of the studios and the indifference of viewers will almost certainly outlast the pocketbooks of the picketers; it happened in 1988.

Whatever the outcome, it is the expressed wish of all for the strike to be over quickly. In the meantime, brace yourselves for a season of atypical television.

"Maybe people will pick up a book now," Lee suggested dryly. "Maybe not."

COMMENT & DEBATE

Hockey chants are hurtful to more than just opponents

Anti-gay slogans disturb community and harm CC's image

TIP RAGAN GUEST WRITER

I love CC hockey. From the first time that I went to the World Arena to cheer on the Tigers, I knew that I was hooked for life. Like many of you, I take great pride in the hard work and dedication that is so reflected in the success of our team.

In the thrill of the game, I get excited about all of us banding together as a campus community to root our players on. And I love seeing the greater Colorado Springs community turn out to support our efforts and show their appreciation for our team and school. It makes me feel, for want of a better phrase, "at home," as the "home game" says.

But then, as I'm basking in the warm glow of community and pride in our local hockey culture, something goes wrong. Those feelings of togetherness disappear and are replaced by hurt and embarrassment and the nagging feeling that maybe I don't really belong here as much as I had thought, as much as I want.

Why? Because a contingent of our students, carried away by the excitement of play—I can only suppose—stand up, point angrily at the visiting team's goaltender, and yell loudly, "You suck dick!"

I know that many, perhaps even most of those who join in this hateful chorus, do not understand how deeply hurtful and insulting their words are. I know that they haven't stopped to think how their words sound to someone like me, a gay man.

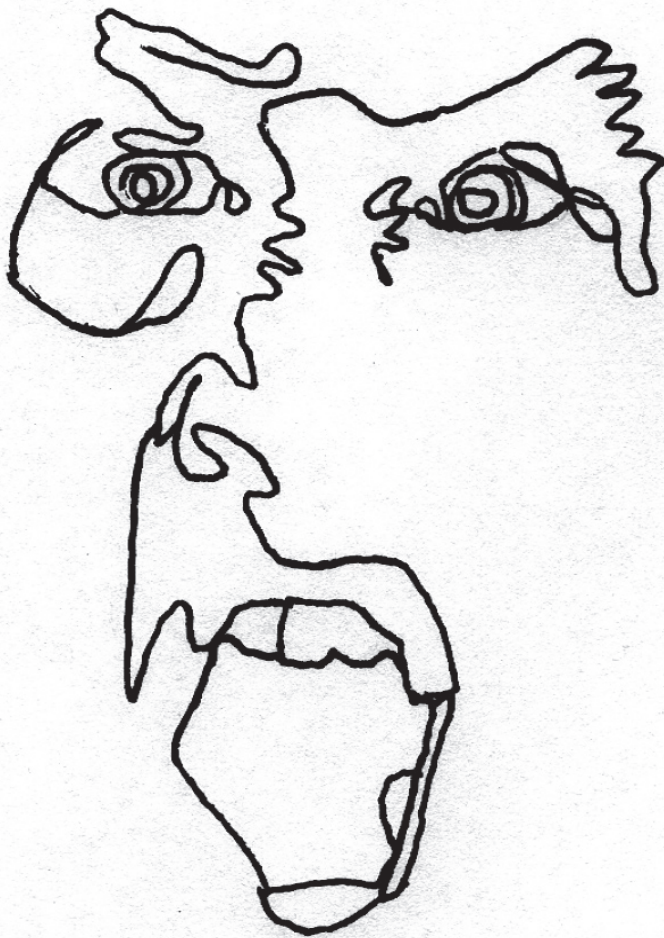
I suppose that it goes without saying that these words are unsportsmanlike. The idea of being a good sport, I'm afraid, seems to have gone out of fashion a long time ago. Booing at the visiting players when they enter the stadium, for instance, has become part of the game.

But yelling homophobic phrases, such as "You suck dick!" is still considered to be unacceptable behavior. And an unfortunate consequence of this behavior is that many people in the greater Colorado Springs community view us negatively. It feeds their perceptions that we are a school for ill-mannered, spoiled rich kids.

Yet it is not just because of prudishness or a low regard for poor sportsmanship that this chant leaves me feeling so depressed. The words "You suck dick!" touch me (and people like me) much more profoundly. Although I do not relish talking about my life in a personal way, I feel that giving an idea of what it is like to be a gay man in the World Arena when these words are screamed out might encourage some reflection. In particular, I hope that those of you who haven't thought about what these homophobic epithets mean to people like me might begin to reconsider the effects of your hurtful—even if they are not intended to be—actions.

Let me give you an idea of some of the thoughts that run through my head when I hear "You suck dick!" angrily yelled at the goaltender. I think about being a young boy watching TV. A variety show is on; a woman sings while surrounded by dancing men. Sitting next to me on the couch, I hear my mom comment, "Too bad that so many male dancers are homosexual." Yes, too bad.

I understood the message without having to ask why homosexual and weak went together: Unlike real men (e.g., athletes and soldiers), these men were queer, and therefore useless, deviant, and pitiable. And, in fact, I—the non-athletic, studious boy—had already heard the whispers of my classmates. I felt something close to panic realizing that I might also



GREG BLOCK GUEST ARTIST

be one of these men.

Could I be a faggot, someone my mother and others would disdain for my unmanliness, someone who might one day be pitied or ridiculed for being who I am?

I also think about finally embracing my queerness, when I was in graduate school in the Bay Area of San Francisco. Having finally found a supportive environment, I came out as a gay man. Yet even then, when my partner and I would walk hand in hand through the Castro, the gay heart of a city renowned for its tolerance, cars of young boys—many the same age as some of you—would drive by.

Slowing down, they would stick their heads out the windows and angrily yell, "Cocksuckers!" We were supposed to feel threatened, and we did, knowing that such yelling was one prelude to the gay bashing that was an ever-present threat to suspected gay men and lesbians alike.

If you ever find yourself wondering why you don't see more lesbians or gay men holding hands on this campus or on the streets of Colorado Springs, perhaps you might consider what part chants like "You suck dick!" play in keeping many of us literally afraid to do so.

Finally, I think about the moment a few years later when my partner, Dennis, and I had moved to the Upper West Side of Manhattan. We were excited about having finally escaped the relative intolerance of Stillwater, Oklahoma, thinking that the move to New York City would be a godsend of acceptance and inclusion. Yet the first words out of one new neighbor's mouth, just on seeing us, was "Faggots have moved in next door."

It is more than a little breathtaking to consider the sorts of things that some people feel empowered

to say about gay people who are just going about our business in the world. Chants like "You suck dick!" contribute to making the world a little bit safer for people like that, and a little less safe for people like Dennis and me.

I could go on and on. Any lesbian or gay man could. But I won't. I just want you to know what I think about when I hear those words, "You suck dick!" screamed out with hate. They carry such weight only because they build on the two most common misconceptions that homophobes have of gay men: that they are weak (victims), and that they and their lives deserve to be ridiculed (or worse).

I wish that I could have a sense of humor about this chant, but I can't. And others feel the same way. There are some faculty members here, for instance, who will not attend the games because they feel so humiliated and threatened by those words. The same is surely true of lesbians, gay men, and other progressive people on CC's staff and in the larger Colorado Springs community.

Again, this is bad enough. Yet what has become truly intolerable to me has been seeing embarrassed parents trying to talk loudly to their children during the chant to cover up the hurtful words. These parents do not want their impressionable young children to begin to think—because they see the older kids they like to emulate doing it—that homophobic taunts are "cool." Because that message is precisely what these children may learn.

And then, what does all of this tell the young gay man or lesbian who is still struggling with coming out? The suicide rate of gay teens is shockingly high; I shudder to think that the angry, hateful words of CC students might in any way contribute to the feelings of isolation and desperation that so many gay youth feel as they face an unknown future in a homophobic world.

Actions have consequences; words can be like water, dripping on stone. The effects may seem tiny in the moment, but over time, the result can be literally to wear away, disintegrate, destroy. People are more delicate than stones. We are affected by the climates in which we move and by the attitudes others hold toward us that create those climates. I am not being dramatic in calling on all of us at CC to think about all of the meanings carried by our words.

Those of you who refuse to participate in such homophobic behavior, I thank. You make me feel valued in the Colorado College community; you help me feel at home.

Those of you who continue to yell these words, however, and who may want to insist that your freedom would somehow be limited by not being allowed to say them, I want to think hard about the impact of your actions: on other members of the CC community, on the reputation of Colorado College, on the children who learn from you, on the cowards who are emboldened by you, and on the sort of world you help to create. I hope that you'll join me in voicing loud support for our great team and institution in equally exciting, but less hateful ways.

Regardless of what happens, I will continue to attend games, support the team, and enjoy myself. But I will do it with a fuller heart and a happier spirit if we can all commit to act better in the future than we have sometimes acted in the past and to create a community at the College in which everyone can thrive—and feel at home.

Tip Ragan is the chair of the history department

Words can be like water, dripping on stone. The effects may seem tiny in the moment, but over time, the result can be literally to wear away, disintegrate, destroy.

Social and economic benefits of sweatshops

Sweatshops are inevitable sources of economic development and positive growth

STEVEN GALINAT GUEST WRITER

So sweatshops are bad, right?

They pay their workers extremely low wages to perform monotonous simple labor tasks such as shoemaking in an assembly line. The lack of regulation allows this cheap labor to be exploited. Not only are they paid low wages, but they are also sometimes verbally, physically, or even sexually abused.

So we should boycott products made from sweatshop labor, right? No!

Yes, it is true that horrible practices occur in sweatshops. Yes, it is true that they are not desirable. Would the world be a better place if there were no sweatshops? Of course it would. But this isn't going to happen anytime soon.

The truth of the matter is that, where there exists a huge demand for the jobs in factories that we in the West have labeled 'sweatshops,' and producers can—and inevitably will—make more money by utilizing this cheap labor, there will always be sweatshops.

It may be hard for you to understand, having never been unemployed in a Third World country, but the reason sweatshops can pay their workers cheap wages is because there are so many people who are not just willing to work for these wages, they want to work for them, and they would often work for less.

Yes, it is true that inhumane practices occur in some sweatshops. And I advocate prosecuting those detestable factory managers; but the fact is that the degree of inhumane practices has been overstated by the anti-sweatshop advocates in the West.

These advocates like to make a big deal out of the long hours workers spend doing monotonous repetitive tasks. Yes, these workers spend extended hours, often work six days a week or more, and have few breaks. But if it were up to the workers, they would work even more, so they could make even more money for their starving families.

The simple fact is that many of the nations in this world do not have much means to compete economically in the global market. For these countries, the one resource in

which they do have a comparative advantage is cheap labor. No one in the U.S. would be willing to work on an assembly line producing shoes, or clothes, or any of the other consumer products produced in so-called 'sweatshops'.

The people who do work in these 'sweatshops' are eager to do so, because they make more money they would otherwise. It may be a small amount, but it puts food on the table in a way that begging does not. If it didn't, no one would work there.

Let me tell you a story. Two women with two children both live in an area where the temperate agriculture they had meagerly survived on has disappeared. One chooses to move to a town where there is a sweatshop; the other goes to a town near the forest to chop wood and try to live on her own.

Three months later, the woman who moved to the sweatshop is living in a meager shack, her family eats full meals every day and sleep comfortably under the protection of mosquito nets to prevent malaria. The woman who moved to the forest is living in a shack that is falling apart: they eat most days, there are no mosquito nets,

and one of her children has already died of malaria.

Which of these women would you rather be?

The West and the so-called 'global south' differ most profoundly in their opinions about 'sweatshops'. For the struggling people in the Third World, a 'sweatshop' is often their best—and most desirable—option. They want the factory to be built in their town because of the economic opportunities it brings to them.

Many people seem to view 'sweatshops' as a self-perpetuating problem: that creating sweatshops dooms the people who work there to nothing else in life. In fact, the opposite is true. Sweatshops do cause economic development.

Working on an assembly line in a factory producing shoes may to you seem undesirable, but to many of the working class in the Third World it is not only profitable, but also a means of movement up the social and economic ladder. Someone who has worked in a sweatshop has developed skills working in a factory. They are more productive; the best ones move on to overseeing positions or are paid more for their work because they produce more per hour than the inexperienced workers. Even more so, the money made from working in a sweatshop can be used for education and eventually entrance into a more lucrative field.

In addition, and more important than the individual economic development that 'sweatshops' can cause, is the economic development of an entire country. No nation on earth has developed without going through a stage in which they employ sweatshop labor. Not Europe, not Japan, not the U.S., no one. True, some nations have utilized 'sweatshop' labor less than others, but take for instance the U.S. and Great Britain.

These two countries represented the pinnacle of economic and political power in the 20th and 19th centuries, respectively. Britain was the first nation to experience the industrial revolution, and consequently the first nation to begin 'sweatshop' labor. They did so, and continued to do so until 1847, when they passed their

first child labor

law.

But by 1847, child labor was no longer a problem. At that time Britain was on top of the world, having recently defeated Napoleon and established the nation as an unchallengeable world power. In the U.S., the first child labor law was passed in 1941, an event that marked the beginning of U.S. hegemony and position as a world power.

These laws were passed once the society and economy had already moved beyond child labor. In other words, sweatshop labor continued to be used until economically it was not viable. This trend has repeated itself up to the present day. Since World War II, only a handful of undeveloped or underdeveloped nations have been able to join the ranks of the so-called developed world. To name a few: South Korea, Taiwan, and Singapore. These three nations are part of the more widespread—and aptly named—South-east-Asian miracle.

Why were these nations able to develop while most of the world was not? There are a number of reasons, but sweatshops play a part. These nations began utilizing 'sweatshop' labor in the 1970s and early 1980s. Today they do not have sweatshops. Twenty years ago, when you looked at the tag in the back of your shirt, it would have had a good chance of saying "Made in Taiwan." Nowadays, it more likely says "Made in China."

But why did this happen? Why did the sweatshops in Taiwan move across the channel to China? The answer is economic development. It is no longer profitable to manage 'sweatshops' in Taiwan. The workforce there took part in 'sweatshop' labor decades ago. They are too skilled and educated now for it to be profitable to employ them in 'sweatshops.' They demand higher wages for their higher skill level, and they are able to do so because their higher skill level allows them to win more lucrative jobs.

Sweatshops are socially beneficial. They do create situations in which compromised workers can be exploited and abused. But they also help create the economic development that leads to the solution to the problem. Two western academics who were

at the beginning of their travels and studies self-proclaimed anti-sweatshops, Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl Wu-Dunn, upon experiencing sweatshops and the people who

work there first-hand, come to the conclusion that boycotting or criminalizing 'sweatshop' labor "risks harming the very people [they are] intended to help."

So at the risk of sounding completely preposterous: If you want to end sweatshops in the world, you should go out and buy as many sweatshop products you can afford. I realize this may seem ridiculous, but it is the truth.

Would it not be better if development could occur without this sweatshop phase? Of course it would. Should the international labor organization be funded and given the authority to prevent truly inhumane practices and abuse in sweatshops? Absolutely, but good luck getting Third World nations to consent to this outside authority. If anyone had a way to bypass the sweatshop phase of development, I would support it wholeheartedly, but so far that has not happened. So buy Nike, Wal-mart is great, and sweatshops are a problem that will solve themselves.

Since World War II, only a handful of undeveloped or underdeveloped nations have been able to join the ranks of the so-called developed world. To name a few: South Korea, Taiwan, and Singapore. These three nations are part of the more widespread—and aptly named—South-east-Asian miracle.



CAMPUS

Hosseini's second novel rivals *The Kite Runner*

MANDY MOENCH, SCENE, P.12

Washers replaces Horseshoes as student pastime

DAVE BOWEN, SPORTS, P.9

Homophobic hockey jeers hurt more than school reputation

TIP RAGAN, COMMENT & DEBATE, P.14

How sweatshops can be positive for developing nations

STEVEN GALINAT, COMMENT & DEBATE, P.15

PLUS

Food service contracts up for renewal, other providers to bid

JOEL MINOR, NEWS, P.6-7

Sodexho Faces Uncertain Future at CC

The Newspaper of Colorado College
Vol. 38 No. 10 2007

The Green Beat

- Sodexho's role as our campus food provider is going up for bid this year, and the Ad hoc Food Vision Advisory Committee needs your help to figure out the best food options for CC. Take the food surveys and get the nosh you want on campus!
- Focus the Nation, a national higher-ed teach-in symposium on the interdisciplinary reaches of global warming, will be held on campus January 30th and 31st. The event will feature your favorite professors from a variety of departments speaking on the implications of climate change in their professions, opening into a lively round-table discussion. This is a great way to learn more about the study and implications of climate change on other areas of study besides science.
- CC will be going through the process of a sustainability audit during the spring semester. This will help us determine what measures we can take to reduce energy and water use, and bring us closer to becoming climate neutral as a campus.
- At the latest Campus Sustainability Council meeting, subcommittees researched and presented on hot topics like green building, energy conservation, improving campus recycling, and helping to refine campus policy to further integrate sustainability into the college's everyday practices and overall goals.
- CC has a new car-sharing program on campus. Sign up on the board to the left of the Worner Desk to let users know that you need a ride, or to offer a seat in your car.
- The Farm Committee has been given permission to establish a student-run garden on a one-acre plot to the west of President Celeste's house. Committee members are currently hard at work planning for next spring's planting and operation. Watch for more news on the garden throughout the year.
- Bruce Coriell, CC's sustainability coordinator, has hired 3 new interns to help on sustainability projects around campus.

BLOCK

Be sure to check out this block's Greenwipe in restrooms around campus!

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS & ENACT