

IM HOCKEY: FIERCE SKATES. P.6

With many strong teams, the IM hockey season is proving especially fierce this year. A "Usual Suspect" breaks out of the defense zone in a recent game against the Manatees.



NEWS



In response to slurs carved into the RLC's door, Mathias Hall has recently taken measures to counteract homophobic behavior. An awareness bulletin has been placed next to the C Store.

OLIVER PARINI CATALYST STAFF

Gay RLC confronted with hateful vandalism

Anti-gay slurs graffitied on doors to Mathias RLC's office, apartment raise concerns about intolerance

ELIZABETH FINDELL CATALYST STAFF

When Mathias Residential Life Coordinator Richard Peralta walked into his office around the beginning of November to find "Fag" written in marker on his door, he did not automatically assume that it was a personal attack against him. It could have stemmed from general Mathias bitterness. He disregarded the incident.

However, a week later, he approached to find "Fag" written again across the door—this time in large block letters. About a week after that, "Free BJs" was graffitied across the front door to his personal apartment. Three days after that, "Enjoy AIDS" was written across the apartment back door.

"I feel that it is hate," said Peralta. "What concerns me the most is that it's targeted towards me, not a matter of someone trying to be funny."

Deputy Chief of Security Darren Salkil agrees.

"We've always had what could technically be called vandalism on campus, but it's never been malicious like this," he said.

Campus security has launched an investigation into the vandalism against Peralta,

but so far has come across very little information regarding the incidents.

"It's disheartening, because we think someone must know something," said Salkil.

Peralta admits some disappointment at the lack of student response to the writing on the doors, particularly when other incidents of insensitivity have created much outrage.

"To me, it's interesting to see the response to the blackface, where the students weren't targeting anyone, as opposed to this direct targeting of an individual," said Peralta.

Peralta worries that student apathy could be due to continuing tensions between him and many Mathias residents over the handling of Mathias Survivor earlier this year. Many were upset with Peralta following that night, and he has struggled to win back goodwill.

"There are a lot of rumors he's trying to overcome, but because of what was written, this seems to have more to do with his sexual orientation than his performance as RLC," said Laura Bennett, the assistant director of Residential Life.

Following the first two "fag" writings on Peralta's door, Bennett sent out a mass e-

mail to all of Mathias explaining what had happened and condemning bias-motivated actions. The e-mail led one Mathias student to come forward and report sexual orientation-biased vandalism on his own door earlier in the year.

Sophomore Charlie Keller had found "Gay" scratched into the bulletin board on his door during the first week of school. Keller, who didn't initially report the incident because he didn't want to give the perpetrator the satisfaction, said he felt complete shock and

"I feel that it is hate. What concerns me the most is that it's targeted towards me, not a matter of someone trying to be funny."

RICHARD PERALTA

surprise that such a thing would happen at CC.

"I hope students realize how this hurts our community," Bennett said. "When it

happens in a residential hall, that's your home."

The campus has been trying to work on new protocol for how to deal with bias-motivated vandalism. All agree that how they handle the vandalism against Peralta and Keller is only part of a bigger necessary conversation.

"There's a climate on campus . . . There's a reason why diversity training was brought in," said Salkil.

Said Peralta, "Technically, at this point it's just harassment and vandalism, but there is always the possibility that it could become more."

Peralta, who has only worked at CC for four months, says he is trying to remain professional and fulfill his role at the school despite the personal attacks. He doesn't know whether the offensive writings will continue, but it has been a week and a half since the last graffiti incident.

To Peralta, the most distressing part of the hate vandalism against him is its anonymity.

"It could be a student who drops by and asks me for a key; it could be someone who comes into my office to get a piece of candy," he said.

Recycling bins in small houses emptied into trash

DAN ANTHONY CATALYST STAFF

Most residence halls around campus sport distinctive blue recycling bins, and students naturally assume that what is thrown into them gets recycled. But for most halls on campus, this is not the case.

Only in Mathias, Slocum, Loomis, and Bemis do these blue bins actually get recycled. In small houses, like Jackson, Arthur, Ticknor, MacGregor, and the theme houses, the bins just get emptied into the trash by Sodhexo custodial staff.

"It looks like you're doing something to make a difference, but really you're not. In some ways, I think that's worse," said junior Monica Martinez, Jackson House RA.

Students who work for the Recycling Team, a work study job, empty the bins from the large dorms into one of the campus's recycling dumpsters outside. Trucks from a company called Best Way then come and haul their contents up to a recycling center in Denver.

At the last meeting with small house RAs, ResLife staff clarified the recycling policy. If small houses want their recycling bins to be anything more than blue plastic trash cans, they must appoint student volunteers to remove any non-recyclable items in them and empty them at the dumpsters outside, like the work study employees do in the large dorms.

If only 20 percent of a recycling dumpster is contaminated with trash, the entire thing must be thrown away. However, the sorting process, though necessary, requires only a small amount of time and effort.

"It only takes us a couple hours per week at most, and that's with only four people doing four of the largest buildings on campus," said junior Amelia-Rose O'Connor, one of the Recycling Team members.

ResLife has called for a student-initiated effort to bring recycling into the smaller houses. And according to Martinez, no one is organizing such an effort. Though some houses do address the problem, such as the Synergy and Arthur, students have not attempted to create an organized program.

Martinez suspected that the school has made little effort to publicize this because it conflicts with the image of CC as very environmentally conscious.

"I don't think they try to cover it up, but they definitely don't make a point of mentioning it," Martinez said.

One of the biggest impediments to a simpler recycling program is the need to sort garbage from the recycling bins. Though not an intensive job, it still adds another step in the process.

"We need to solve the root problem. Instead of just dealing with garbage in the recycling bins, we need to inform the campus to stop throwing trash into recycling bins," O'Connor said.

The problems with the residential side of the recycling program emerge more clearly against the effectiveness of the academic side. In academic buildings, Sodhexo custodial staff handles the recycling, and the administration said last spring that it was meeting 75-80 percent of its recycling goal there.



The contents of many recycling bins, like this one in Jackson House, will end up in trash dumpsters. To see them used for their proper purpose, volunteers must sort garbage from recyclables. OLIVER PARINI CATALYST STAFF

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Corrections

In the Nov. 16 edition of the *Catalyst*, a photograph with the story "Minority-exclusive class held in summer" was miscaptioned. The caption read that the students pictured in the photo were from last summer's minority bridge class. In fact, those pictured were international students on an international student hiking day. Only one of the students in the photo also participated in the bridge program.

In the Nov. 16 issue of the *Catalyst*, a photo on the story "Students organize rally for Udall" was miscredited. It was not taken by Oliver Parini. The CC Office of Communications took the photo and Tarn Udall requested it on behalf of the *Catalyst*.

In the Nov. 16 issue of the *Catalyst*, the Showcase photo had no photo credit. It was taken by Jordan Salinger, contributing photographer.

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.

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FEATURE

Behind the scenes with CC RAs

GEOFF CLEMM CATALYST STAFF

One of the benefits of being an RA is being able to mess with your residents.

"I told my hall that 11:30 was lights out," said one RA, "and everybody believed me! It was great."

Another RA reminisced about the time she told one of her residents that he couldn't perform the activity he was engaging in because he was living in the "abstinence" hall.

"When he protested, I told him that if he didn't want to be on the abstinence hall he shouldn't have checked that box. He wasn't very happy about this—started throwing things around the room. It was great," she laughed.

Unfortunately, being an RA is definitely not all fun and games.

"I've literally lost some of my friends," one RA said. "Some of my best friends I don't even talk to anymore. I'm the 'RA' to them now. It hurts when I [find] out that my friends are going off to block break together and they don't even consider me. When I go to parties some people are outright rude. They'll come up to me and ask me things like, 'Are you here to write us up?' For someone whose room used to be a social center last year, it's really tough."

This sentiment is widely held.

"The hardest part about being an RA is the reputation that comes with it," one RA said. "It seems like so many people look down on me for it. I mean, I do my job so that my residents can survive the year. We're not out to get them—we're just here to keep everyone safe. When they're rude to me when I write them up, it hurts more than they can imagine. The staff has little cry fests about it sometimes."

"Your image is constantly being watched," complained another RA. "I've never had so many people looking at me my entire life. When you're in the building, you're never not working. You have a spotlight on you; you can't even go to the bathroom without being bombarded, let alone try to socialize."

Other RAs lamented about the stress of having to constantly watch yourself.

"Everything you say can be brought up against you. I hate going to parties and [having] people stare at me. It totally puts the damper on my social life," an RA said.

It is widely known that the life of an RA is not an easy one.

"It's very hard to confront your peers," said Assistant Director of Residential Life Laura Bennett. "RAs typically live with their friends. When you have to confront your friend that you really want to just go party with, it can be really hard. It's very difficult to balance the different roles. It's not just a job, it's a lifestyle. When you become an RA, your lifestyle changes."

All the same, each year a number of students apply for this position, and usually around 60 percent get hired. What does it take to get hired?

"Trust and good communication," Bennett explained. "I need staff that I can trust to use good judgment and can think for themselves in a crisis—someone who can make decisions when they need to be made. Just as important, each member of my staff needs to be able to develop good relationships, both with their students and their staff team."

On top of all of these qualities, the administration looks for students who can handle all the different responsibilities of the job.

"I hire kids that are able to be a student and



Katie Van Buskirk, a Mathias RA, works a desk shift.

ELLIE WOOD CATALYST STAFF

a friend, but are also capable of dealing with the responsibility of having a live-in job," Bennett said.

It's certainly not a job for everyone. Being an RA does come with monetary compensation, but many RAs claim it's "not enough for what we have to do."

And there are a lot of requirements to be an RA. First, desk duty includes approximately eight shifts a block, each three hours long. And despite what some students may believe, homework never actually gets done during these shifts.

Then there are "on-duty" shifts, approximately three times a block. The weekday hours are 7 p.m. to 12 a.m. and weekend hours are 7 p.m. to 2 a.m., but an RA also has to respond to any assistance a resident might need until 8 a.m.

On top of this, RAs are required to be on campus much longer than the average student. They're at school two weeks before school starts for training, and they're back at school two weeks before winter vacation ends for more training. They also have to stay an extra day after spring break and summer vacation begins. On top of this, one entire block break is spent on duty.

So if a student has to go through all of this, why would anyone want to be an RA? Some do it for the opportunity to take on a leadership position.

"I'm very social and I like interacting with people," said one RA. "Even if I'm uncomfortable, I come off as friendly. So many kids come into my room and vent—and I'm very good at keeping secrets. I needed my RA so much freshman year, and I knew I could be just like him."

"I thought it was a good opportunity to practice social and leadership skills," said one staff member. "In high school I liked interacting with underclassman, and I thought that it would be a good opportunity to do that."

"I really admired my RA," said another staff member. "I wanted to be there for my students like my RA was for me."

There are other advantages to being an RA as well.

"You get a really nice room, an in with the college, and a chance to bond with some other really cool people," said one RA. "On top of all that, you get a free microfridge," she added, laughing.

Other RAs also praised the friendships they made. "You get to meet a lot of new really cool people you normally wouldn't otherwise," one said.

Money is certainly another incentive. Students receive \$8,000 a year for their first two years as an RA. After that, the compensation is upped to \$8,900.

Another side benefit of being an RA is that you learn how to deal with confrontation.

"Although some RAs don't understand

this, you can't go around with a ruler and a whip all the time," said one RA. "You'll just become known as the bitch. You need to learn how to balance being both an RA and a friend."

"After a policy violation, I never bring it up," said another RA. "It was just business to me. I won't hold it against him. I still treat him like a person."

However, confrontation is a necessary part of the job, for the students' safety if nothing else.

"I feel guilty about sending kids to the hospital, because I know they'll hate me for it," said one RA, "but I think their parents would rather get a call saying they're in the hospital than that they're dead. I act the way I know my parents would want an RA to act."

For those students who decide to become an RA, the path isn't easy.

"The process is really intense," one student said. "There are essays to write, faculty recommendations to get—it's a really stressful process."

RAs had different responses on what exactly got them hired.

"To be an RA, you need to know time management like it is your God. If you don't have time management you won't last more than a month. I think my organization skills really came through in my application," said one RA.

"I'm a really patient person, and I think the staff saw how important that was," another RA said. "Patience is important because some RAs can be disrespectful in the way they confront their residents."

"Be honest when you answer their questions," advised one RA. "If you make stuff up, they can see right through you."

Residential life echoed this opinion. "If we see anybody apply for some selfish motivation—be it money or trying to convert residents to their religion—they're immediately out of the pool," said Bennett.

Most of the RAs claimed that if they could do the year over again, they would still decide to be RAs.

"I love the freshman class, and I love the kids I've met," said one RA. "While there have been many negative experiences, there are have been a lot of positive ones. I've made some amazing lasting friendships with other RAs and the kids in my dorm."

"I love my job. I love my coworkers. I love my bosses," another RA said. "They're all amazing people. It's like being in one big family. Getting to know the people—that's what has made it really worthwhile."



SPORTS

“Mel did a good job driving in, finding Paige and Eliese on backdoor cuts.”

**SENIOR LIZ
KOLBE**



At practice this past Wednesday, the women's basketball team regroups from the CC-sponsored Thanksgiving Invitational before the first conference game of the season. In the tournament field of four, the Tigers placed second to Lewis & Clark college's Pioneers.

PHOTOS BY KATIE SANTULLI CATALYST STAFF

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Turkey tourney harbinger for team

TURNER RESOR CATALYST STAFF

During this year's annual CC Thanksgiving Invitational, the women's basketball team experienced the good, the bad, and the turkey.

An impressive win Friday showed the team what they are capable of accomplishing this year; a frustrating loss on Saturday highlighted room for improvement; and visiting family and friends enhanced the tournament with holiday cheer. Everything combined together for a mixed-emotion learning experience.

Lewis and Clark College, Grinnell College, and Aurora University all traveled to Colorado Springs to compete in the tournament this year. The Tigers' first game on Friday matched them against the Aurora University Spartans and a bench of players nearly twice the size of CC's.

“They had a lot of players on their team, which made us a bit nervous,” said senior Liz Kolbe.

Tigers women's basketball normally has a roster of eleven players, but due to two absences, the women instead competed with only nine. Kolbe noted that CC “definitely [has] a small team compared to most.”

Multiple strong performances by the team made up for the lack of numbers, and the Tigers came out on top with a 75-64 win over the Spartans. According to Kolbe, “The balanced scoring was really good. At least three of us scored in double numbers.”

Sophomore Eliese Hansberry had a remarkable showing that contributed 27 points to the team, and marked her career-high scoring game.

“She found her spot on the floor and finished everything,” said an impressed Kolbe. Hansberry also came up with nine rebounds. Senior Paige Whitney added her own 18 points to the board, and Kolbe followed close behind with 14.

All of the girls were thankful to have junior Melanie Auguste on the floor feeding them scoring opportunities. At the end of the game Auguste had delivered 12 assists and managed 5 steals. Kolbe said that Auguste “did a good job driving in finding Paige and Eliese on backdoor cuts and slashes to the basket.”

Kolbe was altogether happy with the game, believing that “the team played really well as a unit.”

That same day, Lewis and Clark College defeated Grinnell College and put themselves into Saturday's championship game against our Tigers. Unfortunately, the CC women could not find their flow against the Pioneers. Tough defense from the Oregon-based team cut CC shooting to 18.5 percent, and gave the



Above:

Coach Kelly Mahlum directs practice.

Right:

Freshman Casey Drilllette takes a shot while Kolbe defends in the paint. Chach Mahlum directs from the sideline.



Pioneers a substantial win and the Tigers a bitter taste in their mouths.

After time spent reflecting on their loss in the finals, Kolbe believes that their loss Saturday will be beneficial in the long run. She believes that it is better to have these experiences early in the season rather than later.

“It's good that it happened early in the season,” said Kolbe. “It creates good dialogue about what happened and what needs to change in games to come.”

The team was further comforted by the attendance of family and friends, who came to cheer for their team and celebrate Thanksgiving with their loved ones. Parents and team members had a chance to come together off the court on Friday night and appreciate a less athletic spirit.

With their first conference game away in Texas against Southwestern College approaching, the women have been working on polishing their game in practice. The team is practicing the use of form in the offensive zone, as well as the ability to break from the form and improvise. Kolbe believes that this will require opening up space below the basket.

IM HOCKEY

Manatees squash Usual Suspects 5-3

MOLLY ADAMS CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The ice at Honnen looked real powdery Tuesday night.

"You think we're gonna get a Zamboni?" asked senior Max Kislevitz, member of the Manatees.

The consensus was no. The teams suited up together on the floor next to the boxes.

"This is a big game. It's fucking huge," said Ari Hol-loway-Nahum of the Manatees. "These guys are on top, and we're missing our goalie," he continued, referring to Jake O' Brien who was working at the ER that night for an EMT class. (Instead of saving goals, O' Brien saved a woman's life using CPR. Fact.)

"We're feeling pretty confident. We've been playing real well and really coming together as a team," said Dave Khuen, member of the Usual Suspects. The last time these teams met, the Suspects routed the Manatees 4-1.

The most basic Beginner IM rules: no checking—although referee Matt Johnson conceded that penalties can be hard to call since people fall on their own most of the time—and two girls have to be on the ice for each team at all times.

Isabel Werner, another Usual Suspect, added, "Some of us are out there to fill out space."

The first goal of the game was made a minute and a half in by Rob Christiansen with Greg Breslau for the assist. Colin Kelly of the Manatees immediately got a nosebleed in the box from aggressive nose-picking resulting from the game's growing tension.

Action cooled and wounds healed between then and the third period.

Goals two and three for the Suspects were scored by Khuen and Breslau with an assist from Peter King. Goal two for the Manatees was made by Kislevitz with an assist from Chris Burwell.

With eight and a half minutes left in the game, things got exciting when Kislevitz tied it up 3-3 with "the play of the year," as his team's goalie Mike DiGiulio referred to it. He intercepted the puck from the Suspects, plucking it out of the air with his Transformer-like glove, knocked it back down to the ice, and then wristed it top shelf for a spectacular goal that the otherwise valiant Suspects' goalie Berk Korustan had no chance of saving. There was shock and awe all around and a big, slippy-sloppy, team group hug on the ice.

After making a pretty serious attempt on goal at the end of the second period, Jaymie Oppenheim, arguably the team's best player, gave the Manatees their lead with four and a half minutes left.

Cody Lampl, D1 Tiger hockey player, yelled at the Suspects when they skated by the box, "Mark her up! Mark her up! She's killing you right now! She's a one-man team!" Lampl is the Suspects' coach and benefactor, bringing lots of extra sticks to games.

A minute remained. Both teams were on their feet, leaning over the railings. After 45 seconds, Burwell scored once more for the Manatees and the clock stopped, final score being 5-3.

Jumping into the box and peeling off his sweat-dampened pinney, Ian Ross had a look of wonder in his eyes.

"The manatee is the strongest animal on the ice," he declared.

Everyone anticlimactically pulled off their stinky rentals in the same spot they put them on.

"It was a tough loss. I'm a little disappointed," Courtney Blake said as she brought her helmet up to the IM gear office.

"We'll get 'em in the playoffs," said Warren Takashima. "The playoffs are our time."

It was almost midnight. There was talk of whiskey among the winners. And then the Zamboni came out.

"The Manatee is the strongest animal on the ice."

SENIOR IAN ROSS

There was shock and awe all around and a big, slippy-sloppy, team group hug on the ice.



Top: Senior Chris Burwell brings his Oregon street hockey skills to Honnen.

Right: Senior Colin Kelly points to a self-inflicted bloody nose that resulted from aggressive picking.

Far Right: Seniors fans Matt Gettleman and Wiley Rogers get goofy for the Manatees.



PHOTOS BY
TURNER RESOR
CATALYST STAFF

MEN'S HOCKEY

Split games with DU leave Tigers first in league

Sweat and Rau lead league in goals scored

DAVE MAURO CONTRIBUTING WRITER

There was more than the Gold Pan and bragging rights on the line in last weekend's series between Colorado College and Denver University. With the two rivals leading the Western Collegiate Hockey Association standings, first place in the league was also at stake.

Denver took their six-game winless streak against CC at the World Arena on Friday night, where a sold-out crowd of 7,750 watched as the third-ranked Pioneers failed to get much of anything going against CC.

The 5-1 victory for the Tigers was made possible by junior center Chad Rau's first career hat trick. Rau, who along with sophomore Bill Sweatt leads the league in scoring, pushed his career goal total against DU to 10.

Sophomore defenseman Nate Prosser added a goal and two assists to help establish the Tigers as the team to beat in the WCHA.

Another sellout crowd attended Saturday's game—this time in Denver's Magness Arena—as DU squeaked by CC 3-2 and secured their first win in the last seven games.

An early goal from senior forward Jimmy Kilpatrick gave CC a 1-0 lead at the end of the first period, but the Tigers were unable to capitalize on their early momentum.

"It was a pretty good effort by us, but not a good enough effort to beat a team on the road," CC Head Coach Scott Owens said.

DU benefited from a crucial late penalty that resulted in the game-winning goal. CC's inability to take advantage of scoring opportunities may have been the difference.

"I think we could have put them away if we had buried a few of those, and it's a tough way to lose like that: knowing that we had the opportunity to finish and we never did," senior Scott McCulloch said.

The Tigers' loss was their first since losing to North Dakota on November 2. It ended a six-game winning streak that had helped the team reach first place in the WCHA and a #4 in national ranking.

CC, who is 1-4 on the road this year, will not return to the World Arena until January 11 when they play Alaska-Anchorage. The next eight away games will be an important test for the Tigers, and whether it is a first-place and highly ranked team or a team coming off multiple road losses that returns on January 11 remains to be seen.

NATIVE TRAILS:
Jamie Storr's ride of the Week
Installment One



Captain Jack's

As I am writing this, it is probably already snowing on the upper sections of this ride, so get out there as soon as you can and give it a try. Googling the trail name will give you directions to this very accessible bike ride. As for the trail itself, it is made up of a moderate climb on a well-maintained dirt road called high road. At the crest of the hill, look for trail #665, lower your seat, and get ready for several miles of fun rolling downhill—with a few "techie" sections, so be on your guard. Well, that's all for this week; check back next week.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Name:
Eliese Hansberry

Sport:
Basketball

Position:
Power Forward

Hometown:
Minneapolis, MN

Year:
Sophomore

Major:
Anthropology

Superstitions: My pre-game rituals have been the same since high school. I have to complete all of them before I play in the game.

Favorite food: Steak and sushi

Favorite quote: "I play to win, whether during practice or a real game. And I will not let anything get in the way of me and my competitive enthusiasm to win." Michael Jordan

Dreams: To go to the NCAA tournament and to have a big family.

Favorite athlete or sports team: Michael Jordan.

If you could travel anywhere: I would go to the arctic.

Inspirational people: My family; they all have taught me so many important things.

If you could have a super power: I would have the power to change into anyone or anything.

Something you want to know the answer to: Will there ever be a cure for breast cancer, and, if so, when?

Something you want the Catalyst to know: We have a lot of home games this year, and we're good, so everyone should come to the games. Our next one is on December 4 at 7 p.m. Be there or be square!

CAPTAIN CARVER'S SNOW REPORT

"Où est la neige?" "Donde esta la nieve?" "Wo ist der Schnee?" "Onde está a neve?" It seems that everybody. Germans, Portuguese, French, and the

mole people are all asking the same question: "Where is the \$%*@ing snow?"

As far as the Rockies go, it's currently going to take more than electric cool-aid and special WMD satellites to find any accumulation of snow worth getting excited about. Not to worry, though—a thin early season layer is all you

need to sharpen your skills for the coming season.

Growing up out west, I was always amazed by the East Coast skiers: their technique, and their being content in any conditions. Lesser conditions are good for one's riding skills and help us all appreciate the amazing snow that these mountains normally receive.

Just the same, take out your bells, get naked, dance, or do whatever it is you do to bring down the white of winter.

-CPT. Carver

Beaver Creek:

Lifts Open: 2
Acres Open: 53
Conditions: Machine Made
Depth @ Mid: 18"

Arapahoe Basin

Lifts Open: 4 of 7
Acres Open: 110
Conditions: Packed Powder
Depth @ Mid: 18"

Winter Park:

Lifts Open: 2
Acres Open: 50

Breckenridge:

Lifts Open: 4
Acres Open: 160
Conditions: Machine Made
Depth @ Mid: 18"

Copper Mtn:

Lifts Open: 5
Acres Open: 151
Conditions: Machine Made
Depth @ upper: 18"

Keystone:

Lifts Open: 4
Acres Open: 116
Conditions: Machine Made
Depth @ mid: 18"

Alan Murray, senior editor of *The Wall Street Journal* and CNBC-TV commentator will speak on:

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SCENE

MUSIC REVIEW

New music, old soul

Acoustic blues singer-songwriter Ryan Bingham achieves a gritty and rugged sound in his album Mescalito.

MATTHEW BAER CATALYST STAFF

The best new album I have heard in years. Ryan Bingham's latest release, *Mescalito*, appears at first listen to be the work of an aged musician who has lived one of those lives you think only exists in fiction novels. While the singer-songwriter Bingham may be only 26, his music conveys the creativeness, thoughtfulness, and emotion of an old soul. He has created a truly complete work.

Bingham, a Texas native and former rodeo bull rider, made his Lost Highway Records debut in October of this year with *Mescalito*, marking his first major album release. Bingham spent much of his childhood shuttling between border towns around West Texas and New Mexico. He has been living on his own since his mid-teens, at which point he hopped on the Southwestern rodeo circuit.

It was there that Bingham began playing music for friends. He eventually began playing regularly at a bar in Stephenville, Texas. He never knew he would become a professional musician that critics would compare to the likes of Woody Guthrie, Johnny Cash, and Bruce Springsteen.

"It was pretty much an accident, I guess," he said.

The compelling songs presented on his album are by no means accidental strokes of genius. The man knows pain. The man knows soul.

Marc Ford, best known for his undeniably gritty guitar work with The Black Crowes throughout the 1990's, produced the album as well as played on it. It may be Ford's knowledge and expertise that brings this album to the next level that Bingham was only bound to find sooner or later. It doesn't hurt to have a

guitarist like Ford subtly layering your music with simple yet poignant flourishes of guitar.

The only blemish on the record is what genre to place his music. It is folk, country and blues all in one. The hard driving slide guitar of "Bread and Water" and "Sunshine" brings thoughts of the great Delta and Chicago bluesmen. The honky-tonk bounce of "Dollar a Day" forces images of cowboy boots and dusty dirt roads into the head. You can almost see Bingham on the side of a lonely highway, cigarette and whiskey in hand, strumming the soft and heart-wrenching "Long Way from Georgia."

But what stands out the most is Bingham's voice. Not only do his lyrics paint beautiful narratives that seem to be taken straight from a Bob Dylan hidden diary, but his voice plays the part to perfection. While surely shaped by cigarettes and booze, it is hard to believe that Bingham didn't steal a bit of talent from some of the greatest voices of all time: Cash, Springsteen, Dylan.

You can almost see Bingham on the side of a lonely highway, cigarette and whiskey in hand, strumming the soft and heart-wrenching "Long Way from Georgia."

Mescalito flows from start to finish with a rugged grace that sucks the audience in. From Bingham's rustic and hard to ignore voice to the subtle yet forceful music that rests comfortably under him, this album gets better with age. What he brings to music is a fresh, reminiscing sound that resonates even in the coldest of hearts. Keep an eye out—this man's going places. See him in Denver on December 4th at the Walnut Room.



Bingham, a former rodeo bull rider, incorporates a deep cultural heritage into his music, both in lyric and sound. COURTESY OF WWW.BINGHAMMUSIC.COM

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MOVIE REVIEW

Dan in Real Life dull in real life

MEREDITH MANTK CATALYST STAFF

Writer and director Peter Hedges, who brought us *What's Eating Gilbert Grape* and *About a Boy*, utterly fails us with *Dan In Real Life*.

The romantic comedy is driven by a strong, eclectic cast including Steve Carell (*40-Year-Old Virgin*), Juliette Binoche (*Chocolat*), Dianne Wiest (*The Birdcage*), and Dane Cook (*Employee of the Month*), with outstanding camera work by Lawrence Cher, and a catchy soundtrack by Sondre Lerche. What could have been as great a film as Hedges' past work falls short only due to its screenplay.

Widower Dan Burns (Steve Carell) takes his three aloof daughters to a family reunion in Rhode Island, where he ends up falling for his brother's (Dane Cook) girlfriend, Marie (Juliette Binoche). The film revolves solely around Dan's tireless longing for Marie, and rejects all opportunities for subplots to develop the otherwise flat characters of Dan, Marie, and other family members.

Had the characters been explored more thoroughly and forced to do more than simply go boating and play charades, this film could have been a fabulous ensemble comedy. Instead, the single storyline turns the audience into a bottomless pit of sympathy for Dan—we miss the tension in the story, can take or leave each character, and know the clichéd plot by heart.

Even lovable Steve Carell can't pull off as one-dimensional a character as Dan, whom we know only as the whiny, passive, and awkward father figure. Beautiful Juliette Binoche's character is equally frustrating, turning into an aerobic priss. The audience constantly waits for Dane Cook's dumb but sensitive character to land a punchline. And what kind of writer would let Dianne Wiest get away as the marginal, stereotypical mother?

This comes as more than disappointing from a writer who wrote such complex, fascinating characters as April Burns from *Pieces of April*, and Will and Marcus from *About a Boy*.



Hyped by his colorful performance in NBC's *The Office*, Steve Carell's portrayal of Dan proved disappointingly one-dimensional. COURTESY OF DANINREALLIFE.MOVIES.GO.COM

While most of us often know popular films by their actors, actresses, and directors, perhaps *Dan in Real Life* reminds us of the importance of writers in the film industry, who may not be household names. After all, what would a cake be without its recipe, or a house without its blueprints? A script gives actors the ability to be great and lets the director interpret and translate it into cinematic genius on screen.

Now that we realize the importance of writers from the strike in Hollywood, we ask ourselves what we'd like film to become in the future. *Dan in Real Life* reminds everyone that it may be possible to make a bad movie out of a good script, but it's impossible to make a good movie out of a bad script.

World's only stand-up economist visits CC

MATTHEW BAER CATALYST STAFF

Yoram Bauman is truly the human manifestation of every college professor's office door, composed of newspaper clippings and comics. Bauman, the world's first and only stand-up economist, is nerdy and usually can't make anyone but nerds laugh.

While he is not covered in newspaper clippings and comics, Bauman does perform a stand-up routine that seems like it could have been taken from an office door in Palmer Hall. His biggest advantage: He has the market cornered (pun definitely intended).

Bauman performed his witty routine on Monday night in the Gates Common Room. The audience was a mix of CC students, professors, and local middle-aged folks. Bauman's Ph.D. in economics and experience as a professor at the University of Washington has given him plenty of material to create an intellectual and funny stand-up routine.

Initially, Bauman's routine consisted mostly of witty commentary on current and older political issues. This was by far his most accessible segment, lending itself more to common knowledge than specific economic learning.

Bauman's inner geek, though definitely already apparent, began to really show when he started a string of jokes with, "You know you're an economist if..." His take on Jeff Foxworthy's "You know you're a redneck if..." jokes went over well with the economics majors in the crowd.

The most entertaining part of the night came toward the end. Bauman is the first and only stand-up economist, and he might be the first and only stand-up comedian to use a PowerPoint presentation in his routine.

The PowerPoint was titled "There's Nothing Funny About Economics." Bauman proceeded to translate N. Gregory Mankiw's ten principles of economics from the country's best-selling economics textbook. The translations produced a great deal of laughter among both young and old segments of the crowd in Gates.

Bauman followed up his PowerPoint with a bit about pro- and anti-Iraq War bumper stickers, which ended the night on a wonderful high point. The one drawback to Bauman's performance was that it truly appealed only to the geeks and nerds. Bauman himself is a stereotypical geeky professor, which he easily recognizes and uses to produce even more laughs.

Even his delivery fits the profile: He seems a little nervous, his movements a slightly uncoordinated, and his voice sounds a little bit like Jeff Goldblum.

In addition to stand-up economics work, Bauman is also very active in efforts for climate change. He even brought a serious tone to his performance for a few moments on Monday night while addressing this subject.

Bauman created a unique performance not to be missed by anyone interested in economics or politics today. For those who can't stand or understand either subject, Bauman will be about as funny as a concrete wall. For everyone else, consider checking out his videos on YouTube or getting additional information on his Web site, standupeconomist.com.

While he is not covered in newspaper clippings and comics, he does perform a stand-up routine that seems like it could have been taken from an office door in Palmer Hall.



Framed with a grin as cheeky as his jokes, Yoram Bauman charms Economics students with his self-proclaimed nerdiness and wit. COURTESY OF STANDUPECONOMIST.COM

COMMENT & DEBATE

Teamwork is not always good for learning

Group projects sometimes lead to trouble for people who prefer to study on their own

BRENNA SWIFT CATALYST STAFF

Group work has been a ubiquitous part of my education, and I am sure that is also the case for you. It comes from a trend—largely American—that emphasizes “collaborative” learning.

For my job this summer, I read Diana G. Oblinger’s *Learning Space Design*, a collection of essays on planning college libraries and computer labs (yes, the first letters spell LSD). The very first chapter took pains to fault those who think learning is an individual activity. This is quoted as an old “assumption” that needs changing. “Cognitive theory” has supposedly proven that students work best by interaction, by talking to one another in groups.

“Learning is a social process,” says the author of Chapter 4 (“Community: The Hidden Context for Learning”).

To their credit, the writers of *Learning Space Design* argue mainly for discussion-based, not lecture-based, classroom interactions. I agree with that principle, and that is part of the reason I chose to go to Colorado College. But do I agree that the actual grunt work of learning—the absorption of all the facts and key things to know—gets done in groups? Is true learning a social process that cannot take place away from other people?

While it emphasizes discussion in the classroom, the book also seems to argue that “teamwork” and “social learning” should dominate all of a student’s study time. As far as I can tell, it uses the principle to inform its recommendations for college libraries and computer labs. There was very little material on quiet places to study, like the study in Tutt Library or the quiet room on the second floor.

After finishing *Learning Space Design*, I got the feeling that I was supposed to learn in a group at all times. Studying by myself is old-fashioned, counterproductive for society, and even worse for me. I have heard the reasoning so many times that I can almost quote it by memory: “You’ll be working with other people a lot in the real world. Teamwork is so important! You’d better get used to it.”

Ah, that elusive “real world.” Why do people always assume they can persuade and scare us just by evoking that specter? At the risk of sounding arrogant, I sometimes get the feeling I know more about the “real world” than they do—namely, that it is nothing new.

In any case, I know more about my learning patterns than anybody else does. Maybe I have some freak condition just because I run against all that “cognitive theory.” But chances are that I do not. Learning styles vary widely, and just as some students may genuinely learn best in groups, others prefer to study alone. I am one of those students. Gasp!

I have always liked reading. Reading—whether for a course or for fun—is an individual activity at its core. I find it very helpful to discuss passages or entire books after I have read them, but I have to read them by myself first. Nobody else can get the words into my brain for me. That is a task for my own eyes. Yes, you might take turns reading passages aloud,

but that does not allow for the individual pacing so central to reading.

Personally, I absorb more of the material when I read “silently.” And when I have a test to study for, I know that I will study most efficiently on my own. I will cover more of the text and know it far better than if I joined a study group. This has been true for all my classes, from *Biology of Vertebrates* to *Literary Theory*.

Group study is helpful to me only after I have reviewed the topic myself. I find that in these groups, I spend more time socializing and interacting with others than looking at the material at hand. My energy is directed outwards, not inwards, and I am not learning as much as I could. That is my goal for my undergraduate education: to learn as much as I can. And if I do not feel like it happens in a study group, I find other ways to pursue it.

Then there are the group projects that leave me

I find that in these groups, I spend more time socializing and interacting with others than looking at the material at hand. My energy is directed outwards, not inwards, and I am not learning as much as I could.

no choice in the matter. These are a category by themselves.

I had an endless number of group projects in high school. The ones I did almost never went well. We usually were not allowed to choose our own groups; our teachers took the liberty of assigning them for us. Maybe because we were working with classmates we did not know, nobody ever wanted to talk or coordinate with one another. The assignment, be it a poster board, PowerPoint presentation, or “creative activity,” almost always ended up a disorganized mess.

There was usually at least one very apathetic kid in the group: someone who welcomed the opportunity to sit back and let others do all the work. This person met all questions and demands with noncommittal grunts and could never be contacted outside of school.

In groups of three or more, there was also a kind of intermediate step between the totally lazy and the very enthusiastic. This student would do what he was told but contribute nothing beyond that.

Finally, somebody had to take the lead. That person ended up doing the most work.

The leader of the group had the awkward, unpleasant responsibility of goading the other students into action. In my eyes, that responsibility takes time away from the actual study of the material. So whenever I was assigned as a “group leader,” I felt like my own education was suffering. Instead I wasted my en-

ergy trying to politely urge my “teammates” to take the project seriously.

Finally I would just give up. Then I would do all the work myself—or, when feeling particularly resentful, only my portion. Most teachers understood, but a few did not. “Teamwork! Teamwork!” they would tell us.

When our team broke down for any reason, we would all be faulted. That meant that if most of the team members did not even care about the work, the entire group was screwed over. The leader of the group learned far less, and the apathetic students got away with learning nothing at all. How is that beneficial?

Here at CC, the situation is different. There are many more passionate, diligent students who want to do good work in their classes. As a result, assigned group projects have generally gone more smoothly in my classes here. Yet there are still echoes of that familiar pattern: the pattern that leaves the leaders a lot of responsibility and the more apathetic with none.

This is really nothing against the so-called “apathetic.” It’s natural for some people in the group to say more or voluntarily take more responsibility than others. But what if everyone just had to do their own work? These complications would go away, and we would all end up learning more!

Since group projects focus energy toward social interaction, they tend to result in work that is of a lesser quality than individual projects. All the compromise, conciliation, and finagling involved with “teamwork” just waters the project down, making it sloppier and less unique than individual work.

What about students like me—students who genuinely do learn better by themselves? Why are we always forced to give that up? What about students who are shy and will always be that way?

Group projects do have their virtues in particular situations, which is why they should not be abolished entirely. But I do think they should be deemphasized a great deal, or made a matter of choice. If somebody wants to form a group for studying or working on a project, more power to them. I still want the chance to work by myself if I so choose.

So far, I have not been given this option very often. That is because “cognitive theory” says I should learn best in groups. Why trust the cognitive theory over the actual student? If you ask me, the folks over at *Learning Space Design* have some surveying to do, if they have not done it already. If my recent conversations with other students are any indication, group work is often the most dreaded part of any class.

And as for the “teamwork” and “real world” bit: If all this group work is supposed to prepare me for an actual job, I will take special pains to find a job that involves more individual work than anything else. I simply do not want a job that has me working in a “team” at all stages of a given project. The later stages, maybe—if I submit a piece of writing to an editor, for example. But not right from the beginning.

All that talk about “teamwork” in the “real world” is a generalization. I will make my own real world, and it will involve teamwork when I want it to.

Strike calls attention to crucial role of writers

EMMA CALABRESE CATALYST STAFF

When I found out that the 12,000-plus membership of the Writers Guild of America went on strike on Nov. 5, I felt a little betrayed.

No more Office episodes? No more Daily Show? But they are my shows that I watch! How dare they take television away from me? The unalienable right to watch as much television as we want should really be in the Constitution—we are Americans, after all. What else are we going to do?

It was only after hearing more about the situation—writers' demands to be paid for shows and movies aired on the Internet, cell phones, and other new-media devices and Hollywood producers' reluctance to comply—that I was willing to admit (reluctantly) that the strike is kinda sorta maybe a good thing.

In a world where film stars are sensationalized and stalked, simultaneously adored and abhorred, it can be difficult to remember that the stars alone do not create the personalities we see on screen.

But when I take a moment to think about the fact that Dwight Schrute of *The Office*, Tracy Jordan of *30 Rock*, and Gregory House of *House* are not the same as the people who portray them, and that Dwight's soul does not live on off-screen in Rainn Wilson's body, I realize how important the writers are for these shows.

The characters that we TV fanatics love are the products of the eccentricities, creativity, and vision of many different people, and too often flashy actors and authoritative directors overshadow the contributions of writers.

But what if our favorite actors and hosts had to write their own dialogue? I have trouble imagining that Stephen Colbert would be nearly as funny if he had to come up with all of his material on his own, or that *Lost*'s Jack Shephard (Matthew Fox) could accomplish such striking levels of smoldering surliness without some good writing behind him.

On the other hand, Tom Cruise might do all right as long as he exclusively took roles portraying manic people, and I have a feeling that the writers for *America's Next Top Model* tailor their writing for Tyra Banks to fit her own special brand

of condescending self-importance, so she might be okay as well. But, you know, they are exceptions.

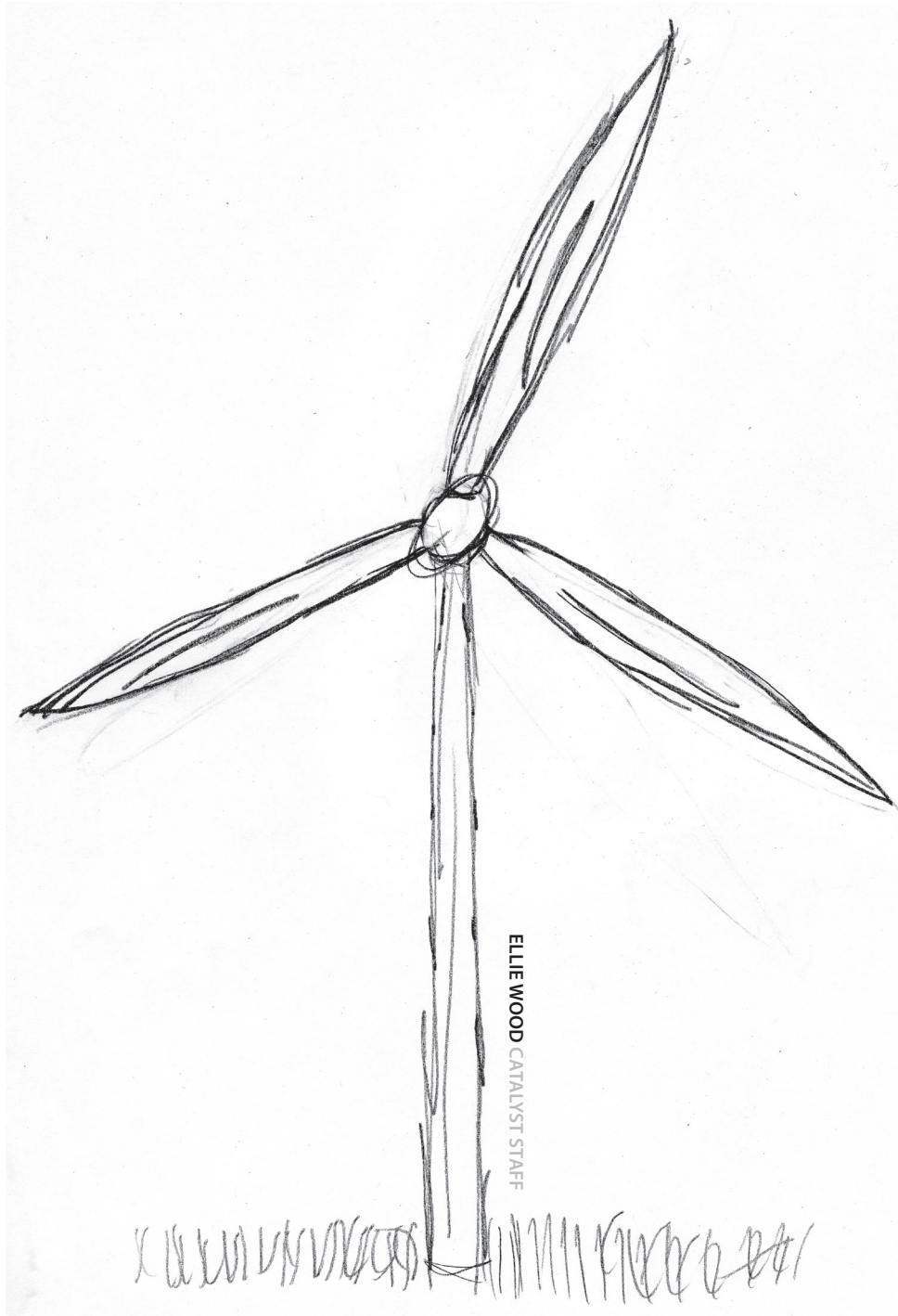
That said, the majority of actors and television hosts depend on writers to make them funny, touching, and worth remembering, and when we fall in love with characters, we are not only falling in love with the actors who play them, but also with the writers who invent them.

I will try to remember all of this in the next few weeks, as writers continue to negotiate with producers over payment. Of course I will get antsy for my *Office* fix, but a television dry spell would be worth it if it means that writers might gain some of the recognition and compensation they deserve. It is the holiday season, after all. I am willing to make some sacrifices.

In the meantime, I will count myself lucky to be able to watch *South Park* reruns, rather than having to endure episodes of my favorite shows improvised by the actors.

Wind power grows in Southwest

Small-scale power generation helps homeowners save money and reduces emissions



ELIZABETH TUCKER GUEST WRITER

On Thursday, November 15, David Calley came to speak at CC as part of the Innovative Minds series. Calley is an entrepreneur and inventor of a series of wind turbines developed as a supplemental source of power for individual homes and buildings. He is the co-founder and president of Southwest Windpower, which manufactures and sells the turbines, and has become the largest producer of small wind generators in the world. His company is based in Arizona, where Calley lives with his family.

Calley is an engineer and inventor at heart. Since childhood, he has been intrigued by physics and still loves tinkering with mechanical devices. As a young teenager, he developed his first wind turbine and used it to power his room.

Calley's goal in starting his company was to bring affordable renewable energy to developing countries to aid in economic and social growth. This has proved to be very difficult, but Calley has been extremely successful with sales to both rural and suburban homeowners and businesses in the U.S.

Southwest Windpower's products cater to those who are already hooked into the power grid but want to save money on electricity and reduce pollution. Depending on their location (as rules differ from city to city), a homeowner can buy one of Calley's wind turbines and put it up in their backyard or on top of their house.

The turbine's design lets it blend in with the surrounding scenery. Calley claims that many do not even notice the turbines in areas where they are especially common. The popular Skystream wind turbines may be as short as 34 feet and weigh 170 lbs—much less than most others out on the market. Homeowners need only a half acre of land to have one of these wind generators, which allows many suburban homeowners to use them.

The turbines can also be attached to existing light poles, power lines, or other tall structures. They can

A national tax credit system for small wind power generators would make them much more affordable, and further increase their popularity.

also be integrated into new construction, further reducing their initial cost. The turbines are also popular items for sailboats, as they are light and may be portable.

Depending on cost, these turbines can reduce power cost by 80 percent in states like California that offer incentives to those who use renewable energy. A national tax credit system for small wind power generators would make them much more affordable, and further increase their popularity.

Calley and his partner have remained optimistic despite numerous setbacks. This optimism was likely the only reason they are still in business today.

Early on, a competing company essentially stole their technology. This meant that later on, they were forced to compete with their own products. Luckily, Calley was able to develop a new design that is less costly and generates more power than their old models.

Southwest Windpower is continually improving their products, and designs them so that customers can retrofit the company's old turbines to integrate new technology.

It's clear that Calley's hard work has paid off; his company is generating tens of millions of dollars in sales per year, and expects to open a factory in China to cater to international customers, and to make turbines less costly for use in developing countries.

Calley seemed to be a good businessman, though it was obvious that his primary motivation was in helping people and improving the environment, not making money. America needs more entrepreneurs like Calley who care more about making a positive impact on the world.

Southwest Windpower has made amazing improvements, which have allowed many people to easily use a clean energy source, where they otherwise would not have been able to. If wind power can continue to be improved and advance technologically, it may be an important step in increasing worldwide use of renewable energy.

CALENDAR

Legendary sounds unified in *Mescalito*

MATTHEW BAER, SCENE, P.8

How teamwork leads to poor work: the pitfalls of social learning

BRENNNA SWIFT, COMMENT & DEBATE, P.10

Women's basketball takes second in Thanksgiving Invitational

TURNER RESOR, SPORTS, P.5

Bins misleading: No recycling program for small CC houses

DAN ANTHONY, NEWS, P.3

PLUS

Peralta finds office, apartment tagged "Fag," "Free BJs," "Enjoy AIDS"

ELIZABETH FINDELL, NEWS, P.2

Homophobic Graffiti Marks Doors of Mathias RLC

The Newspaper of Colorado College
Vol. 38 No. 9 2007

Look what's happening at CC

The Back Row Winter Concert



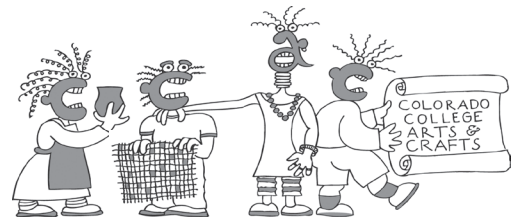
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