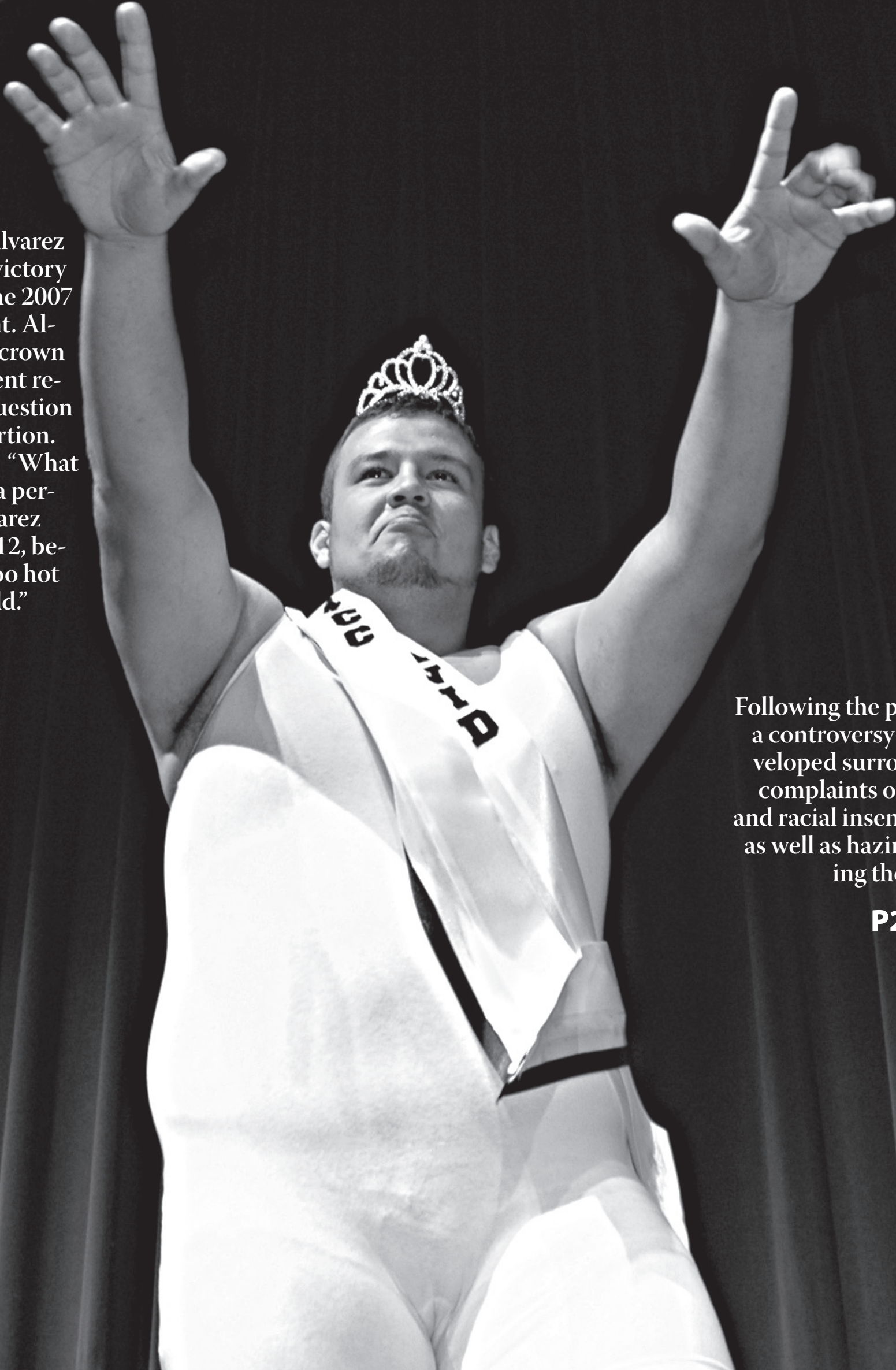


MIR. CC



Junior David Alvarez celebrates his victory as winner of the 2007 Mr. CC Pageant. Alvarez took the crown with his eloquent remarks in the question and answer portion. Responding to “What is your idea of a perfect date?” Alvarez replied, “April 12, because it’s not too hot and not too cold.”

Following the pageant, a controversy has developed surrounding complaints of sexual and racial insensitivity, as well as hazing, during the event.

P2, P10

NEWS

Students organize rally for Udall

Tarn Udall, the congressman's niece, arranges an "IdeaRaiser" at CC to support uncle's Senate race

WARREN PETTINE CATALYST STAFF

Frank Blakely sat stoically, slumped in an electric wheelchair. The oxygen tank that kept him breathing wheezed intermittently, interrupting his steady speech.

Blakely has had health problems most of his life. Last year, the amount of money he spent buying the prescription drugs he depends on doubled, due to reforms in the prescription drug plan. He says 25 percent of his income goes to medication. Blakely cannot afford the rent for his retirement community and is too sick to live alone.

"We don't give up though. Strong like bull!" he yelled proudly when he finished speaking.

Tanya Steve's parents are about to leave for Iraq. Since the start of the war, the Army has kept her mother and father deployed simultaneously for periods of up to 15 months. The length of their tours keeps extending. Steve is 15 years old.

"It is really hard on me, and my relatives who have to take care of me . . . If the tours were shorter, if they were only six months instead of a year, they wouldn't miss both Christmas and my birthday," said Steve.

Blakely and Steve told their stories last Thursday evening at the Mark Udall campaign "IdeaRaiser," organized by senior Tarn Udall, the candidate's niece.

Mark Udall, currently a Democratic congressman, is running for Senate. Local citizens, students, Democratic activists, and Udall campaign staffers came together at the event to share their personal stories. Joy Silvern, Outreach Director for the Udall campaign, was on hand to record these conversations and then pass her notes on to the candidate.

Udall developed his IdeaRaiser strategy during his 1997 run for a seat in the State House.

While going door-to-door to solicit votes, one man suggested that if Udall was elected he should make sure that the state gets a substantial amount of its energy from renewable sources. The idea stuck with Udall. In 2004, he finally got it written into law. His Amendment 37 mandates that by 2015 10 percent of the state's energy come from renewable sources.

"The IdeaRaiser is meant to be a series of conversations . . . We're not listening to politicians' ideas, they're listening to our ideas," said Tarn Udall.

The National Battleground: Colorado
Currently, the balance between the Senate's 50 Democrats and 49 Republicans (with one Independent) makes control by either party difficult. The national Democratic Party views the Colorado Senate race as not only winnable, but crucial. John Morris, the chair of El Paso County Democrats believes that if they can get 38 percent of El Paso County voters to vote for their candidate,



Mark Udall is running for a Senate seat with some help from his niece, Tarn Udall. OLIVER PARINI CATALYST STAFF

they can dramatically affect the statewide election.

This means that students have a much greater potential of affecting national politics by voting in Colorado rather than at home, said Tarn Udall.

Precinct 386, the newest in Colorado

The IdeaRaiser is meant to be a series of conversations . . . We're not listening to politicians' ideas, they're listening to our ideas.

TARN UDALL

Springs, encompasses the CC campus and a few surrounding blocks. This new precinct will allow students to vote in the Slocum Commons rather than traveling all the way across town. Getting students to vote in larger numbers will have a big impact on election results, said Morris.

Five years ago, CC student Gregg Piesco-Putnam registered 180 students to vote just days before the deadline. Democratic candidate Mike Merrifield of house district 18 ended up winning the election by just 120 votes.

"Thanks for getting me elected in 2002," said Merrifield.

Politics is Personal

Campaign staffer Silvern got involved in the politics after teaching at a school where 180 students were split into 8 classes in one big open room. The room was supposed to be a library. There were no walls or partitions.

"It was chaos," said Silvern.

While the students took their standardized test, pigeons flew in through a broken window, interrupting the children's concentration. Another day, a minority student asked Silvern if white kids had walls in their classrooms.

At Thursday's IdeaRaiser, CC senior Rachel Deutsch talked about her volunteer work with District 11. She takes kids from low income schools on trips to outdoor areas like Garden Of The Gods.

"It's sad how, without effort of volunteers, these kids wouldn't have the opportunity to see the wonder just outside their backyard," said Deutsch.

"It's easy to forget that everything that is really emotional, impact-full or passionate about our lives is influenced by politics," said Tarn Udall.

The Udall campaign plans to hold more IdeaRaisers at CC throughout the year.

BRIEFS

Student Hit by Van on Cascade

Sophomore Sarah Eckstat was struck by a van as she walked across Cascade Avenue late Monday morning, sustaining serious but not life-threatening injuries. The driver of the van was charged with careless driving, as Eckstat was crossing at one of the designated crosswalks, and therefore had the right of way.

According to CC spokeswoman Jane Turnis, an average of one student is hit by a vehicle around campus every year. However, this incident occurred less than one month after senior Jacqueline Pitts was hit by a car on Nevada.

Over the last few weeks, campus security has increased its efforts to ensure that students are familiar with traffic rules around campus. Administrators have been considering implementing traffic reforms to force drivers to decrease their speed near campus for several years.

Gear House dedicated as Ahlberg Outdoor Education Center

In a ceremony last Friday, the building on Weber many students know as the Gear House was dedicated as the Ahlberg Outdoor Education Center. The center bears the name of CC alumnus Jerry Ahlberg, as does the Jerry W. Ahlberg Outdoor Education Fund, a program set up by Ahlberg's friends after his death in 1997 to enhance outdoor education at CC and make it more accessible to novices. The newly dedicated Ahlberg Center will continue to serve as a central location for outdoor equipment and other resources. The dedication was marked by the unveiling of an inscribed boulder in front of the house.



Mr. CC event raises controversy

Senior Sierra Fleenor sent a letter to the assistant dean of students on Wednesday addressing issues of hazing, as well as racial and sexual insensitivity, at Sunday's Mr. CC contest. Fleenor sent the letter not in her capacity as president of the CCSGA, but as a private student with deep concerns.

The offending incidents were a skit involving "Pedro the Painter," a rape joke by a finalist contestant, and the alleged hazing of a sophomore member of the sorority.

The Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority, which organized the event, has contacted their national organization. The Pan-Hellenic council, in conjunction with Kappa, is also in the process of organizing several different educational workshops. These workshops will address the definition of hazing, as well as minority and women's issues.



CC has submitted a plan to the U.S. Department of Justice for making all campus buildings accessible to the handicapped within five years. Of the sixty-five buildings on campus, five will need upgrades.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY OLIVER PARINI CATALYST STAFF

Rumors of armed man on campus prove unfounded

JOEL MINOR CATALYST STAFF

Despite rumors swirling around campus to the contrary, there was in fact no armed and dangerous individual anywhere near the CC last weekend, said Deputy Chief of Security Darren Salkil.

According to Salkil, the Colorado Springs Police Department put out a citywide alert Saturday about an armed and possibly dangerous man. The man was in fact several miles from campus, in the Rangewood neighborhood of north Colorado Springs, and was arrested without incident by police on Saturday afternoon.

On Friday night, a police helicopter could be seen overhead from campus, and officers patrolled with dogs only a few blocks away. Salkil stated that a student reported the alert to Security after hearing about it and thinking it applied to the campus. Following the report, Security contacted the Colorado Springs Police Department and discovered that the alert, although citywide, specifically applied to the neighborhood several miles north of campus and that there was no cause for concern.

"We have verified that they had no calls of that kind anywhere near the vicinity of the college," said Salkil.

If there had been an armed individual on campus, Security has several plans prepared for response to various levels of security threats, which focus on taking command of the situation, rapidly securing a response force, and communicating the emergency situation to the campus at large, as well as to the local police force.

In recent weeks, a number of security alerts have been sent out to students. Near the beginning of the year, police issued a notice that a registered sex offender had moved into a neighborhood near CC. Another alert was issued in October, this one concerning a shooting near Wahsatch and Yampa. A third, at the end of October, warned of a trespasser on campus.

None of these earlier cases were connected to last weekend's alert.

CC to comply with disability law

JOEL MINOR CATALYST STAFF

After a 2005 Department of Justice review for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Colorado College is now becoming one of the most handicap-accessible private liberal arts colleges in the nation.

The review, which was not based on a complaint and was simply conducted as part of an ongoing effort by the DoJ to investigate the handicap accessibility of private college campuses, resulted in a five-year plan submitted by CC in August of this year to the DoJ, which will increase accessibility to a few targeted areas of campus.

"We are now in the implementation process," said Jan Edwards, the director of disability services and ADA coordinator for CC.

Chris Melcher, CC legal counsel and director of business, who, along with Edwards, is part of the five-member ADA working group that is working toward compliance with the ADA in the places where the college was ruled to be non-compliant in the DoJ review, is excited by the progress the campus is making toward the goal of full accessibility.

"Something that we're proud of is that we've been approached by five or six other private liberal arts schools for suggestions, because the Department of Justice has recommended CC as a place that honors not only the letter of the law, but also the spirit of the law," Melcher said.

Recent improvements include making restrooms on the second floor of Armstrong Hall handicap accessible and building a new ramp on the east side of Cossitt Hall, which Edwards was pleased to say "is beautiful and fits the historical character of the building."

Some of the other upcoming projects include making handicap accessible restrooms in Worner, Loomis, Barnes, and Olin, making changes to doors throughout campus, and making some lab stations in Barnes and Olin more accessible. The new Cornerstone Arts Center will be fully compliant with the ADA.

"Our goal is to make sure that the campus is accessible and welcoming to anyone who comes on our campus, including students and visitors," Edwards said. She hopes that the changes, which are estimated to cost between \$5 and \$6 million, will be complete by September 2012.

Currently, there are no students at CC

who are permanently in wheelchairs, but temporary injuries sometimes force students to temporarily use wheelchairs or other movement aids. However, Edwards pointed out that handicap accessibility extends beyond just people in wheelchairs.

"We're also working on access for people with hearing and vision impairments," Edwards said.

Melcher agreed.

"We believe all our facilities and all of our programs will be accessible to everyone, which fits with our core value of honoring the life of the mind. We believe all students should be able to honor the life the mind, regardless of any physical disabilities. My hope would be that in the next several years, any person . . . would be able to come onto our campus and attend any program or event, visit any facility, and take part in any aspect of campus without first having to ask 'Can I get there?'"

"If we have a campus that is welcoming and where those questions don't have to be asked, then we're gonna have a richer campus life. We'd love to have in our graduating class of 2015 the next Steven Hawking, the next Hellen Keller, the next Franklin Delano Roosevelt," Melcher said.

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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Minority-exclusive class held in summer

Students who arrive at CC in summer surprised to find themselves in a class containing only other minorities; CC defends “bridge program” on grounds that it aids transition and increases retention rates

ELIZABETH FINDELL CATALYST STAFF

When Erin Yamamoto received an invitation over the summer to come to college early and participate in an academic preparation class for potential science majors, she jumped at the chance. It wasn't until she arrived on campus that she received a surprise.

“When we got there, we found out it was all minorities and disadvantaged kids,” Yamamoto said. “Everyone was pretty shocked.”

“They didn't inform us of that small detail,” Susan Kim, another participant, said with a laugh. “They just said it was a scientific analysis and writing course.”

In reality, the program is a bit of both, designed for students interested in science and rooted in an effort to help minorities prepare for college.

The first CC bridge program—a program intended to bridge the gap between high school and college—began in the biology department in 1988, when the Howard Hughes Institute funded a college preparation program for minority or first-generation high school juniors. In 1993, the Analysis & Writing program began for students interested in science.

Today there are three bridge programs for incoming students and two College Ahead summer programs for high school juniors. Roughly 50 incoming students participate, 16-18 in each of the 3 classes.

“In 1988, Howard Hughes wanted programs to target underrepresented American ethnic minorities,” explained Ralph Bertrand, a faculty member who works on the bridge programs.

Over the years, when questioned in court, programs have withdrawn the word “minority” and expanded slightly to include international and economically underprivileged students along with first generation and

minorities.

“It's for students that may benefit from additional help,” said Bertrand.

The main objective of the bridge programs is to improve retention, at which Bertrand says it has been effective.

“It has not been effective as a tool to mainstream students into sciences; there's a high attrition rate, but we've been keeping statistics that show that it really helps retention.” He noted that a greater percentage of students stay at CC who attend the program compared to those who are invited and choose not to participate.

“I got the feeling that if they did tell you in advance that it was for minority students that there would be lesser turnout,” says bridge participant Shane Becker, speculating over the miscommunication. He said that he agreed to be part of the program mainly because of the \$700 check the school wrote him for incentive, but that he was glad he did it. “It helped us get into the CC community,” he said.

“It was a good precursor to the block plan, and CC in general. It prepared me for writing courses; I just felt like it shouldn't have been all minorities. It felt like we were herded together.”

SUSAN KIM

Bertrand said that he receives mostly positive feedback from bridge students.

“Sometimes that's surprising to me,” he admitted, “because so often they're ready to go, they don't need the extra help, and we wonder if it's effective.” But the school continues to hear good reports of the program,



Students from one of 2007's minority bridge program classes pose together.

COURTESY OF TENZING TASHI

he said, and the students say they enjoy it.

Despite some ambivalence, Kim agrees that she is glad she participated in the program.

“It was a good precursor to the block plan, and CC in general. It prepared me for writing courses; I just felt like it shouldn't have been all minorities. It felt like we were herded together.”

Bertrand recognizes that the program is controversial.

“But in the broader perspective of CC, it's a need,” he said. He noted that the school in the past held nothing but upper-class white

kids, and says that to encourage diversity “we need to bring in those students in any way we can.” He also said that the school tries to be sensitive to the controversy, and doesn't want to make minorities feel inferior by insinuating that they need extra help.

In the end, the students who were bridge students were glad more for the friendships they formed and the comfort they gained than for the academic preparation.

“It's hard to break out of that initial social group,” said Kim, “but I'm glad I did it. I met a lot of people I know will be with me for a long time.”

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Above: Fredo, Rastall's faithful line chef for the past three years, pauses to smile during a busy night in Rastall. Below: In order to provide fast service with his burgers, Fredo arranges them in an assembly line. PHOTOS BY MEGHAN STEBBINS CATALYST

FEATURE

More than a fry cook: Fredo gives Rastall a gourmet twist



GEOFF CLEMM GUEST WRITER

Ask many students about their favorite worker in Rastall, and chances are you're going to hear all about Fredo. The report is unanimous: "Fredo rocks."

What makes Fredo—who refused to reveal his full name—so special? Students have a lot to say on the topic.

Some rave about the food. "Fredo treats making food as a gourmet chef, not just a fry cook," remarks one contented Rastall diner. "That respect makes the food all that much better."

It's a widely held opinion that "Fredo goes above and beyond traditional grill items with a little bit of TLC."

It's not just his skills on the grill that make Fredo renowned throughout the student body. "He always knows my order," explained one freshman. "He's very personable. It's nice to come in and know that you're not meeting a stranger every day."

Other students see Fredo as a friend as well as a cook.

"I talk to him all the time," said freshman Baker Arena. "He's very approachable. We chat about music, concerts, CC hockey—he's a really chill dude."

Other than the brief hello, hold the pickles, and thanks for the burger, however, most students don't get to meet the man behind the chef hat. Not many people know that before building burgers and other delicious grill items at CC, Fredo made a living building missile systems in the Army.

"Army man, mailman, I did it all. Person-

ally, I had more adventures working for the postal service than the Army. It was a fun job. I'm not a pushy person, so I got along with pretty much everyone," said Fredo.

Those people skills helped him land a job as fry chef at CC three years ago. After the birth of his second child, Fredo moved from his hometown in Connecticut to Colorado Springs. He was offered a position working at CC with, as he admits with a smile, "minimal professional cooking experience. It was my personality that got me through the door."

Since then he has worked constantly to provide the best grill experience possible for CC Rastall-goers.

"I'm never afraid to ask questions—try new things. I'm always cooking, always looking for that new flavor," Fredo said.

Since coming to CC, Fredo has started the Monday Night Barbeque. Every Monday, Fredo can be found outside on the patio listening to his classic rock and grilling up one of his specials—"over two hundred of them," he claims proudly. The Barbeque has become such a hit that he's now planning to start a Tuesday and Wednesday specials night.

Fredo began work in the fall so that he could start with the incoming freshman class.

"Class of '09—they have a place in my heart, man," Fredo said.

In the three years that he has been here, Fredo has only missed one Saturday and one Sunday. All that time has given him a lot of chances to get to get close to the CC student body.

"I'm never afraid to ask questions—try new things. I'm always cooking, always looking for that new flavor."

FREDO

"I love the kids here. They're very open minded—very friendly. They make every day exciting," Fredo said.

He loves it when the kids have odd requests, from the garden burgers with bacon to the cheeseburgers with a fried egg on top. The cheeseburger fried egg combination is now one of his personal favorites. The best part of Fredo's job is seeing the students enjoy his food.

"When the girls come back for seconds, you know you really did something right," Fredo said.

As much as Fredo loves grilling, everything in his life comes second to his wife and four

kids at home: three girls and a boy. Anyone who knows Fredo knows just how lucky those four kids are.

"You can't be their best friend all the time, but we have a lot of fun together. I'm really a 17-year-old stuck in a 43-year-old body," Fredo said, laughing. "If I could, I'd be 17 forever." In fact, it's Fredo's dream that one

day his kids will be able to go to CC, and that was a big part of choosing a position here.

Beloved by those who know him, Fredo has become a fixture at Colorado College, and he plans to be here for a long time.

"I want to see my class of 2009 at their 20th reunion. This is my last job, man—right here."

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SCENE

All-star cast lights up Beatles on screen

MOVIE REVIEW

Across the Universe takes viewers on a surreal and psychedelic journey that is both unsettling and familiar, with the integration of well-loved, epic Beatles songs

ANNA SANGER CATALYST STAFF

In a psychedelic visual whirlwind accompanied by revitalized Beatles favorites, *Across the Universe* takes its audience on one crazy trip.

Jude (Jim Sturgess), a struggling blue-collar young man, leaves England to find his father in America. He ends up befriending troublesome Princeton dropout Max (Joe Anderson) and his gorgeous sister Lucy (Evan Rachel Wood).

The crew winds up in New York City, living in a hip Greenwich Village pad right in the middle of the anti-war revolution.

The group deals with common problems of the 1960s; the Vietnam War draft, the struggle to make ends meet, and the frequent use of hallucinogens shape the lives of the adventurous youth.

The movie also manages to address the extremely important civil rights movement in a powerful way, using the beautiful song "Let it Be."

Janis Joplin and Jimi Hendrix even make appearances, portrayed by the characters Sadie (Dana Fuchs), an aspiring singer, and JoJo (Martin Luther), her lead guitarist. Jude, Sadie, Lucy, and Prudence are all there—a totally foxy cast of characters that burst into song when the mood is right... and even when it's not.

The plot is slightly chaotic and confusing, mimicking the atmosphere of the era. Characters climb in through the bathroom window and are suddenly part of the storyline with little explanation (except for that Beatles song "She Came In Through The Bath-

room Window"). In effect, audience members can focus more on the sheer emotion brought on by the mix of great music and stunning scenery.

At the heart of it all is a classic tale of young love between the aspiring artist Jude and the passionate activist Lucy. What better soundtrack to a radical love story than the Beatles?

When the Beatles swept America, they changed the music scene forever. As a result, their timeless songs are ingrained in U.S. culture. Hearing the familiar classics sung by a variety of talented voices with a slightly more Broadway sound provides a fun experience.

Particularly riveting are the scenes for "I Want You (She's So Heavy)," where Uncle Sam comes to life to bid poor Max into the U.S. army. Another noteworthy montage includes a cameo from none other than Bono, belting "I Am the Walrus" at an exceptionally psychedelic party. Also keep an eye out for Selma Hayek as a sexy nurse in "Happiness Is a Warm Gun".

Director Julie Taymor creates a work of art. Previously the director of the Broadway sensation *The Lion King*, Taymor brings her creative flair to the big screen. Huge papier-mâché figures mirror the tremendous props she used onstage.

Musicals in general have the ability to leave audience members in a music-induced trance, humming their favorite tunes from the show. *Across the Universe* is no exception. There is something phenomenal about the 60s and the social change the era inspired.

The movie is incredible, emotional, and will sweep you off your feet.



COURTESY OF ACROSSTHEUNIVERSE.COM

Visiting writers command a liberal arts education

MEREDITH MANTIK CATALYST STAFF

This block, CC had the pleasure of hosting visiting writer and professor Kate Northrop, who is teaching Introduction to Poetry for the English department. On sabbatical from West Chester University, she savors the block plan and getting to know the students in a smaller class size that what she's used to.

On Tuesday night, Northrop was featured in the English department's Visiting Writer Series. Northrop read from her first book of poetry (written in seven years), *Back Through Interruption*, which won the 2001 Tom and Stan Wick Poetry Prize, and her second book (written in two years), *Things Are Disappearing Here*.

Northrop's writing has been praised for its inherent "restraint," which critic John Dempsey finds all-too-rare in contemporary poets: "Many contemporary poets seem to have the need to pack as much as they can into a poem—to fill it with objects, images, and active verbs in an attempt to show off their skill. [Northrop allows] language [to] carry itself [without] having to stack the deck."

Her writing is not carried solely by image alone, but the poignant negative space between imagery. These elements and her hope that her poetry "pleasurably haunts" adds all the more to the mysteriously lingering tone of *Things Are Disappearing Here*, as in a fragment from "The Visitor":

what was your name? When you visited once,

*by the backroad where the stones glowed pale
in the moonlight, I was too young, I still thought
I belonged to the world. But now*

*quartered in this house, watching the neighbor'
children*

*turn to dusk, I feel
I'm ready. Come back*

*and bring your finest wine, the oldest bottle.
Bring that strange dusky book you were reading.*

What's surprising is that Northrop didn't always want to be a writer. She majored in art history at the University of Pennsylvania, and began writing as a reaction to the "fallibility of speech" and to correct the "sloppiness of everyday conversation." She wrote only "to write for the nourishment of writing, not necessarily to be a writer." But Northrop's love of poetry encouraged her to persist; now, she maintains that being a good writer is about "balancing stubbornness with the ability to take criticism."

Another poet featured in the Visiting Writers Series, Jessy Randall, a Columbia graduate, believes that as long as you have persistence, you can get far, no matter what you major in or how good you are at it. This is a poet who wrote her first poem, titled, "On the Death of My Hamster," at age nine, and though it remained discouragingly unpublished, she persevered. On November 8, Jessy Randall read from her new first book, *A Day in Boyland*, which centers on love and relationships and has a very different style than Northrop's. Randall's work is described as "sexy and witty writing that comments on an absurd world," as apparent her poem "The Revenge":

*With \$300,000
I could buy a lion.
I could buy a llama.
I could buy a llama
farm. I could make sweaters from their wool.
I could become a llama wool millionaire
and take those millions and buy a spaceship.
I could discover life orbiting Alpha Centauri
and find a new boyfriend on the new planet,
one who really understands love, and what it means,*

and what it requires.

For those of us who are majoring in English and are asked the question, "What are you going to do with that, teach?" with a pompous chortle, Randall is a good example to look to. She works happily at Tutt Library during the day and has time left over to write poetry on paper and on her e-poetry Web pages (Google "Jessy Randall" and check some of these out!).

Northrop was a waitress and bartended for a while before she decided to teach. And though she finds teaching very rewarding, she reminds us that there are plenty other jobs for writers out there, such as editing for books, magazines, and journals, or writing for TV and film. And both Randall and Northrop consider themselves largely successful.

Society may scoff not only at English majors but at liberal arts education entirely—but the liberal arts teach us how to live instead of how to survive.

"A liberal arts education teaches you to read, perceive, analyze, discuss, and argue," says Northrop.

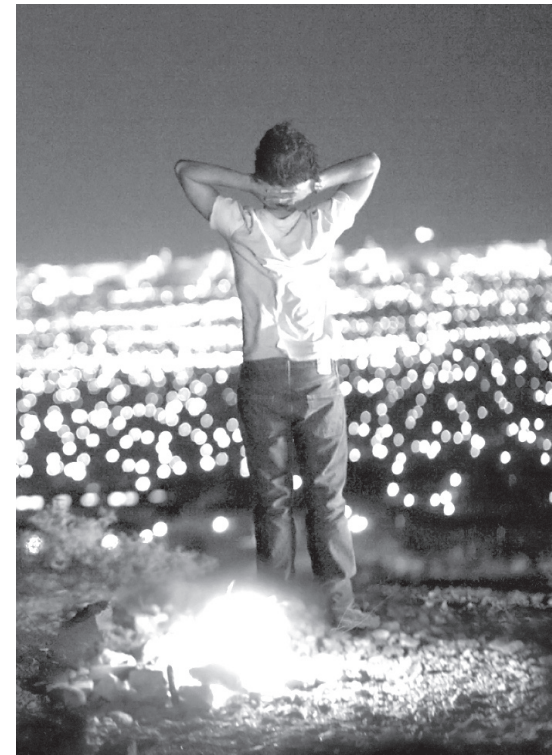
And those of you whose parents are still trying to dissuade you from majoring in English, art history, philosophy, or any of those "useless" fields, fear not—Randall and Northrop (along with other professors on campus) are behind you in your decision to pursue your passions, whatever they are.

As a parent herself, Randall says she "can imagine wanting to make sure [her children] understand there might be a difference between what you do because you love it and what you do to make a living. Making art is important. I don't care if my kids are rich—in fact, I hope they aren't, since wealth can be the death of good art—but I do want them to be able to afford to move out of my house when the time comes."

As long as you can figure out a way to truck through life on your own steam, feel free to take pride in that dangerous liberal arts degree no matter what.

MOVIE REVIEW

Protagonist of Into the Wild surprises, delights



COURTESY OF INTOTHEWILD.COM

TENDO KIRONDE CATALYST STAFF

“Jim Gallien had driven four miles out of Fairbanks when he spotted the hitchhiker standing in the snow beside the road, thumb raised high, shivering in the gray Alaska dawn.”

For all of those who recognize this quotation, they might be a little hesitant to learn that Jon Krakauer’s artful telling of the life of Christopher McCandless has hit the big screens.

However, there’s no cause for concern: This film stays true to the story and proves to be a great movie experience.

Into the Wild tells the tale of a young man named Christopher McCandless (Emile Hirsch) who for many reasons decides to abandon his current life plans and experience the world first-hand by living in the wild. McCandless burns all ties to his past and family and sets out across the countryside, becoming the nomad “Alexander Supertramp.”

McCandless has ambitious plans to make it north to Alaska and live in solitude; however, on his journey there, his magnanimous character changes the lives of those he meets along the way.

When McCandless finally slips into solitude and enters the wild, he discovers who he truly is and the adventurous spirit that drives him.

This film boasts beautiful imagery and scenery that

This film boasts beautiful imagery and scenery that rivals the remarkable story of McCandless himself.

rivals the remarkable story of McCandless himself. The cast, although eclectic, gives a heartfelt performance so true to the characters that I found it hard to believe the main character is the actor from *The Girl Next Door*.

The acting was great, the direction was wonderful—even Vince Vaughn did a stand-up job. Sometimes the movie dragged on a little too long, but in the end it worked because it helped the viewer understand the grandeur of McCandless’s journey.

Along with all of the beauty of the film come the complex imperfections that make it so interesting. The main character is riddled with far-out ideology and even subtle hypocrisy.

This made the character so much more human that you really did think that you were watching Christopher McCandless’s life as it unfolded. McCandless isn’t perfect, and the people he meets notice that. The most interesting thing is how they react to it.

If you are looking for some sort of new hero to idolize, McCandless isn’t it. But if you are willing to give that up, you will receive something so much better in return.

Overall, I would say that this film was a great example of a movie that held true to its book origin, and because of that maintained much of the charm and beauty written into the story. I highly recommend catching this movie before it leaves theaters; this one is well worth the ticket stub.

NATIONAL BESTSELLER

INTO THE WILD In April 1992

a young man from a well-to-do family hitchhiked to Alaska and walked alone into the wilderness north of Mt. McKinley. His name was Christopher Johnson McCandless. He had given \$25,000 in savings to charity, abandoned his car and most of his possessions, burned all the cash in his wallet, and invented a new life for himself. Four months later, his decomposed body was found by a moose hunter...

J O N K R A K A U E R

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COURTESY OF LARSANDTHEGIRL-THEMOVIE.COM

MOVIE REVIEW

Lars and the Real Girl a real treat

MEREDITH MANTIK CATALYST STAFF

Don't wait for this black comedy to come out on DVD—*Lars and the Real Girl* is one of the best films this year. Too shy to even have dinner with his brother Gus (Paul Schneider) and sister-in-law Karin (Emily Mortimer), in whose garage he lives, Lars (Ryan Gosling) dwells in his own lonely, awkward universe. But one day, he meets Bianca. Bianca is just what Lars is looking for: beautiful, modest, religious—and made entirely of silicon.

When Gus and Karin ask Dr. Dagmar (Patricia Clarkson) for help, she suggests that they just go along with Lars's fantasies. Now everyone in the small, snowy town must adapt to having Lars's new friend around. But can Bianca make Lars more sociable and bring him true happiness?

What may sound like a modern-day *Harvey* or Don Quixote of sorts (just a anatomically correct sex doll where a seven foot rabbit should be), this film follows light-hearted absurdity while balancing it with a very familiar human tone we can all relate to.

We're reminded of those lost "invisible friends" from elementary school playgrounds, who made us happy when all others failed to. And when at puberty

Bianca is just what Lars is looking for: beautiful, modest, religious—and made entirely of silicon.

we toss our imagination out along with Santa Claus and the Tooth Fairy, imaginary friends are nothing but indications of insanity. But why not let polite, amiable Elwood P. Dowd have an enormous rabbit as a friend, and bashful Lars learn to be social with the help of a doll?

Some of us know Nancy Oliver as a writer for HBO's also dark *Six Feet Under* and Ryan Gosling as heart-throb Noah from *The Notebook*, but both of these artists shine and impress in this fine new flick. What could have been an absurd farce, Oliver portrays as a human, heartfelt story.

All too rarely in modern cinema do we find such masterful characterization. The scenes with Gosling and Patricia Clarkson (also from *Six Feet Under*) Clarkson are especially superb moments, in which acting and writing harmonize to create chillingly humanistic cinema.

Lars may just be one of the most sympathetic, loveable characters to grace the screen, and Gosling captures him elegantly in his Oscar-worthy performance.

Lars and the Real Girl is the type of movie we go to the cinema hoping to see. We laugh at the ridiculousness of a sex doll becoming an active, essential member of society, but as the film progresses and themes emerge, we find ourselves rapt in our seats, filled with bittersweet heartache. *Lars and the Real Girl* entertains, affects, and reminds us to test the limits of love and community—exactly the attributes that describe a brilliant piece of modern filmmaking.

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COMMENT & DEBATE

Solution mining is no solution

“Safe” uranium mining contaminates groundwater on Navajo lands

BROOK BROUWER GUEST WRITER

“Don’t drink the water” is a dark joke in the Navajo country of New Mexico. Over a thousand abandoned uranium mines dot the startlingly beautiful landscape, each one contaminating the air, land, and water.

As the U.S. government interest in making new nuclear bombs waned in the 1970s, so did the price of uranium, but today the industry is on the rise. Increasing demand for nuclear energy is driving up the price, and companies are once again turning to Navajo country for profit.

The community of Crown Point, NM is a focal point of this renewed attention and local resistance. Hydro Resource Incorporated (HRI), a subsidiary of Uranium Resources Incorporated (URI), has proposed a Solution Mine, also called In Situ Leach (ISL) mining, directly adjacent to the town.

Touted as an environmentally friendly economic boon, the new project is being resisted in court by local activists who see the project as a dire threat to the health of the Crown Point community.

ISL mining is a clever way of sucking economically attractive metals, like uranium, out of the bedrock. In the language of the industry, it all sounds like household chemistry. According to URI, a solution with “the same chemical composition as club soda, or as a dilute mixture of baking soda and water,” is pumped into the ground, where it reacts with metals in the bedrock, releasing them into the solution.

This liquid is then pumped out of the ground and passed through an ion exchange column, which strips the uranium out of the water, much like a water softener. The uranium is filtered, dried and packed up for shipping as “yellow cake” or uranium oxide. In the meantime, the water is cleaned using reverse osmosis and combined with “club soda” and pumped back into the ground for another round of extraction.

As URI notes, “Reverse osmosis is a proven technology that is used for most of the bottled water that is sold as ‘drinking water.’” In reality this seemingly benign process creates a toxic soup deep underground with little hope of clean up.

Mitchell Capitan has first-hand experience with the dangers of this method. During the 1980s, Capitan worked for five years as a lab technician at the

Mobil Oil pilot ISL project near Crown Point. This project never managed to clean up the groundwater contaminated during operations.

In the words of Capitan, “No matter how hard we tried, we could never get all the uranium out of the water, so Mobil gave up.”

Unable to finish what they started, Mobil closed up shop and left the pollution to penetrate the groundwater. When Capitan heard about HRI’s proposal to develop an ISL mine directly adjacent to Crown Point’s unpolluted drinking aquifer, he realized the threat and, with his wife Rita, formed the Eastern Navajo Diné Against Uranium Mining (ENDAUM) group.

URI (HRI’s parent company) has a particularly dismal reputation for cleanup. Their slick website paints a rosy picture of ISL mining, stating that “agricultural activities—farming and ranching—coexist with in-situ activities because there is very little impact on the surface soil or neighboring properties.”

The reality lies hidden below the surface. URI has been operating an ISL mine in south Texas for 30 years, and their neighbors aren’t happy. The Gallup Independent reported, “A group of lessors calling itself STOP, for South Texas Opposes Pollution, blames URI for permanently contaminating its land” and failing to restore clean drinking water. This group advises the Crown Point community to continue fighting HRI’s proposal, saying that, if they knew what they know now, they would never have signed their land and safety over to URI.

Yet the enticement of jobs and revenue from leasing land has a powerful pull in a rural economy like Crown Point. In the past, uranium mining provided a substantial source of income for members of the Navajo community. However, unlike conventional mining, which requires a relatively large number of low-skill laborers, ISL mining relies on only a few highly skilled technicians to operate the plant. As a result, even less of the potential profit will circulate in the local economy. The bulk of the benefit will be siphoned off to executives and investors.

URI is eagerly courting investors—not unlike yourself—displaying a happy trail of rising stock on their website. Indeed, there is substantial room for the generation of hot cash. According to Uranium Miner, a company devoted to “Tracking Uranium Related Mining Companies & Opportunities,” the October 15, 2007 price of uranium rose to \$78/lb from \$10.75/lb

in April 2003.

A shrinking supply and an accelerating demand are creating ideal conditions for profit at the expense of communities and the environment. In the eyes of the Uranium Miner, now is the time for finding “gems in the uranium mining and exploration industry that could richly reward investors.”

These rich rewards come with high costs that seem distant from the blinking lights of Wall Street. The costs are uncomfortably close to Navajo people who are still suffering from the last uranium-mining boom. The Southwest Resource and Information Center (SRIC) is a nonprofit that has worked with the Navajo for 36 years, trying to confront the issues around uranium mining.

In the 1990s, the efforts of SRIC and former uranium miners helped pass legislation to compensate families and workers for the deadly cancers, respiratory and kidney diseases they developed as a result of uranium mining. Even as these groups continue to struggle for cleanup and compensation, the rush toward new contamination has begun.

Companies like URI push uranium as a safe fuel that is “used to generate low-cost and environmentally-friendly electricity, without producing greenhouse gases which are by-products of other fuels.” However, behind the careful green-washing are serious environmental and health consequences.

According to a model used by HRI, ground water contamination will take hundreds of years to contaminate the adjacent aquifer. However, this model assumes that the bedrock is homogenous. According to SRIC’s models, the bedrock is not homogeneous, and the groundwater will move from the mine to the unpolluted aquifer within seven years, destroying a clean drinking water source for 15,000 people who depend on this aquifer.

They may be told sooner rather than later, “Oops, don’t drink the water.”

HRI’s proposed project stands to devastate a clean aquifer and generate little local income to an economically devastated Native nation. This nation’s ravenous appetite for energy is what drives this travesty. As consumers and investors, we must control our consumption and carefully consider our investments before yet another environmental injustice is laid upon the Navajo people.

A shrinking supply and an accelerating demand are creating ideal conditions for profit at the expense of communities and the environment.

Accidents on the asphalt: Near-fatal crosswalk casualties on CC campus arterials

GINGER MORGAN GUEST WRITER

I have made two trips to local hospitals during the last month, been on the phone with concerned parents, and talked to concerned friends huddled in the ER waiting for a chance to visit their friend . . .

As most people on campus are aware, two Colorado College students have been hit while crossing the major thoroughfares through campus. One student was hit while riding her bicycle across Nevada Avenue around dinnertime, and one student was hit this week walking in a crosswalk across Cascade Avenue just before lunch. Both students sustained serious injuries that will likely involve long recoveries and may have residual effects on them for years.

We all hate to ask: Whose fault is it? Personally, I think that is the wrong question. We all know drivers who pay no attention to the pedestrian crossing signs, honk at students, or speed up when it looks like someone is about to step into the street. We all also know students (and some faculty or staff) who ride their bikes across the crosswalks (against state

law), ride their skateboards across crosswalks (against state law), never look up to check for oncoming traffic, or sidle across the middle of the street where no crosswalk exists.

So whose fault is it?

I am less interested in blame than I am in asking, “How can we keep everyone safe?” Part of the answer lies in this issue being a two-way street. Pedestrians (and bicyclists and skateboarders) have to take responsibility to keep themselves safe. How do we do that?

1. If you are riding a bike or skateboard: DISMOUNT before crossing the street. Students, faculty, or staff hit in the street riding a bicycle or skateboard have no legal recourse to damages or insurance if they are hit, because they violated state law. Be forewarned that you may now face being ticketed if you do not dismount before crossing the street.

2. Remember what your Mama taught you: stop and “look both ways” before crossing the street.

3. Do not step into the crosswalk UNTIL a vehicle has yielded to you. DO NOT ASSUME THEY SHOULD OR WILL STOP.

I’d much rather visit with you over coffee than lying in a hospital bed.

4. If one vehicle stops, look for any oncoming traffic in the second lane before you proceed across the second lane. (Both CC students this fall were hit after the first car stopped and the car in the second lane did not.)

5. Wave and smile at the drivers who stop as a way to say thank you. Much of the local hostility about pedestrian crosswalks has to do with the perception that CC students are presumptuous and so self-centered that “they expect the world to stop for them.”

College staff members are discussing a wide range of possible actions we can undertake to make crosswalks on campus safer. If you have suggestions or strategies, feel free to let me know what they are. I promise to pass them along.

Until then, be careful. Be safe. Look both ways. I’d much rather visit with you over coffee than lying in a hospital bed while I worry about what I’ll have to tell your parents and friends.

Ginger Morgan is the Associate Dean of Students

Mr. CC pageant tainted by insensitivity

PROMPTED BY THE EVENTS AT AND FOLLOWING THE PAGEANT LAST SUNDAY, SEVERAL INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED THE CATALYST TO SHARE THEIR PERSPECTIVES. THE CATALYST REQUESTED LETTERS CENTERED AROUND THE FOLLOWING:

“PLEASE COMMENT ON HAZING, RACIAL AND SEXUAL SENSITIVITY, AND POLITICAL CORRECTNESS AT COLORADO COLLEGE, ESPECIALLY AS THEY PERTAIN TO THE EVENTS THAT OCCURRED AT MR. CC.”

Ignorant insults and prejudicial pageantry: Stereotypes and hazing provoke complaints against the Mr. CC beauty pageant

LYNNE STAHL GUEST WRITER

According to the national Kappa Kappa Gamma website, the sorority is “proud of its programs of consequence, its high standards and adherence to ethical principles, and of its countless members whose accomplishments have provided a better life for others.”

Those who attended the Kappa-hosted Mr. CC Beauty Pageant last Sunday, however, can testify that our chapter’s “program of consequence” constituted a disgusting spectacle that demoralized and dehumanized audience members and participants alike.

The American Heritage Dictionary defines racism as “the belief that race accounts for differences in human character or ability and that a particular race is superior.” As members of the enlightened CC community, certainly we can agree that racism is a markedly unethical principle that destroys lives rather than improving them.

Why, then, did senior Kappa and emcee Jaime Webster show no qualms about depicting a sloppily dressed Pedro the Painter, choosing a stereotypically Hispanic name to put on the half-undone overall uniform stereotypically filled by a male immigrant worker? In planning the program, did it occur to no one that this portrayal might be a poor choice in itself, and even more so given the residual tension from what has been termed the “blackface incident”? Strike one.

Between contestant routines, Webster called her sorority sister Allison Gilbert up to the stage and asked her to kneel. Gilbert complied, and Webster, assisted by co-emcee Whitney Spooner, placed a pitcher of water and two full cups precariously on Gilbert’s back and told her she could get up whenever she wanted. In a shining example of the commitment to “cultural growth” and allegiance to “positive ethical principles” that KKG promotes, Webster and Spooner sat in chairs and kicked up their feet on the back of their objectified sister/table—who, incidentally, was clad in a white shirt.

Audience members, including football players well-coached to avoid any activity that could be construed as hazing, began to protest, yelling, “Hey, that’s hazing!” and “Women aren’t furniture!” but Webster dismissed the criticism, noting that Gilbert “is a sophomore” and that “she agreed to it,” and bolstered her self-defense with a jaw-dropping, “Hey, at

Webster dismissed the criticism, noting that Gilbert “is a sophomore” and that “she agreed to it,” and bolstered her self-defense with a jaw-dropping, “Hey, at least she’s good on her knees.”

least she’s good on her knees.”

CC’s hazing policy explicitly forbids any act which, among other things, “produces ridicule, embarrassment, harassment, intimidation, or other such result. . . . Examples include . . . public stunts and buffoonery, and morally degrading games or activities.”

If I felt pretty damn degraded by the stunt, I can only imagine how much worse Gilbert would have felt as its object. Also, significantly, “the express or implied consent of the victim will not be a defense of this violation,” so Webster’s claim of Gilbert’s willingness is both irrelevant and ignorant. Strike two.

Racism—check. Sexism—check. Next up was an utter slap in the face to people of any race, sex, gender, class, religion, orientation, etc.—basically, an insult against human beings. A judge asked contestant Daniel Winokur whether he would rather be a pirate, a Viking, or a ninja, and why. Winokur responded that he would be “a Viking, because of the raping and pillaging.”

That one was more of a baseball to the face than a strike, and I walked out of the auditorium. But why wasn’t he immediately disqualified? Why did some members of the audience laugh? Was Heather Horton’s talk on sexual assault earlier that week, mandated for all Greek organizations, so thoroughly ignored that no one took action?

I understand that people say stupid things under pressure, but what Winokur said should *never* occur to anyone as an appropriate answer in any circumstance, and it should never be allowed to go ignored or uncriticized because such a silence equates to an acceptance. Someone—the judges, the emcees, the audience, myself—should have spoken up and stopped the action, but no one did. And no one stopped Pedro the Painter, and no one stopped the objectification and humiliation of Gilbert. The key is revealed in the school’s hazing policy, which warns that apathy or acquiescence in the presence of hazing is also seen as a violation. When we don’t act, we make ourselves complicit.

On the whole, CC students are deeply passionate and caring people, and when we see an injustice, we move to combat it. The problem, however—much more profound, more radical, and more disturbing than the simple presence of such injustice—is that it so often has to be pointed out to us that this costume or that joke is *wrong*, because passive ignorance and ignorant passivity are every bit as damaging as active malice.

Kappa Kappa Gamma and Panhellenic council apologize

BRITTANY VOGEL & EMILY KELLEY GUEST WRITERS

On behalf of the CC Greeks and Kappa Kappa Gamma, we would like to offer our most sincere apologies for offending members of our campus community at the Mr. CC Male Beauty Pageant. Several of the comments and actions made during the event were highly inappropriate and are not representative of or condoned by CC Greeks or Kappa Kappa Gamma.

The intent was never to upset or demean anyone. The goals of Mr. CC were to raise money for three philanthropic organizations and provide a fun and entertaining evening for the campus community. This clearly did not happen, and we wholeheartedly apologize.

We are currently taking educational measures to ensure that nothing like this ever happens again. Those directly involved in this event will be given appropriate sanctions. Additionally, we are working with the administration to remedy our actions and take full responsibility for any misconduct.

CC Greeks are dedicated to personal growth and accountability. We regularly host workshops that educate our members on everything from sexual assault to individual leadership. Workshops such as these offer our members a new element of a liberal arts education not necessarily found in a classroom. In addition to educating Greeks, we as a community believe in holding ourselves accountable for our actions. We are currently organizing a Greek Judicial Board to internally address any conduct issues that relate specifically to Greeks.

One issue our new Greek Judicial Board will address specifically is hazing incidents. Hazing in any form is an unacceptable, egregious activity for any member of a Greek system. All Greek organizations, Colorado College, and the state of Colorado all have a zero-tolerance policy when it comes to hazing, by Greek or non-Greek students. Our educational materials distributed to our members include an explanation of what constitutes hazing and explicit admonitions against engaging in such activities.

Each Greek chapter at CC has strong philanthropic roots. We raise thousands of dollars every year for various charities, and we have a great time while doing good deeds. Mr. CC raised well over one thousand dollars for Reading is Fundamental, The California Wildfire Relief Fund, and the Kappa Kappa Gamma Foundation. Despite Kappa’s good intentions, it seems as if the positive aspects of Mr. CC are being overshadowed by the negative.

Remembering Kappa’s admirable objective, as a Greek organization we are just as offended by these disappointing comments and actions as many of the audience members were. In fact, many Kappa members approached Greek leaders directly after the pageant and were very upset and concerned.

As a Greek organization, we take insensitivity very seriously, and we have a zero-tolerance policy for breaking our code of ethics. Several of the comments and actions portrayed on stage at Mr. CC are in direct violation of our own standards, and as a Greek organization we are moving to correct the situation.

We hope that the campus community can forgive us for the harm we caused and continue to support us through this difficult and embarrassing time. We are using this ordeal as a learning experience, and we encourage open, respectful dialogue on these important issues.

Brittany Vogel is the President of Kappa Kappa Gamma
Emily Kelley is the Panhellenic Council President

The Catalyst encourages readers to submit letters to the editor. Comments, critiques, and complaints can also be made in person at the newspaper’s office at 1028 Weber St.

Letters should be emailed to letters.catalyst@coloradocollege.edu, or mailed to:
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Colorado Springs CO, 80903

The Catalyst reserves the right to edit letters for form, content, and clarity. Physically mailed letters will not be returned.

LETTERS



At a hospital in Uromi, Nigeria, Mike Shum '07 pauses to gauge an increasingly chaotic queue for pediatric care. At 6 a.m. each morning, Shum and senior Jackson Solway acted as bodyguards for hospital administrators distributing patient-order tickets. Most mornings, parents of sick children nearly brought the pediatrics wing of the hospital to riot conditions. JACKSON SOLWAY CATALYST STAFF

How to save the world in three months with \$10,000

MIKE SHUM GUEST WRITER

The police car flashed its lights and directed us to the shoulder. As we pulled over to the curb, Francis looked at me with as much trepidation as I hoped he wouldn't have. The officer marched up beside the vehicle and lodged a rifle into my temple. He commanded us to surrender our money and other possessions through the thick stench of malt liquor.

Now, I wasn't particularly afraid of being pulled over in the middle of the night, or of the fact that we were at least 40 km from the nearest town, or even of this "cop," if that's what he was. I was more afraid of the fact that I had spent what was left of my \$10,000 grant on gas to get to the airport. My first reaction was to close my eyes and hope that this wasn't happening.

In November of last year, I, along with hundreds of other students across the nation, wrote project proposals for Kathryn Wasserman Davis's 100 Projects for Peace Grant. To celebrate her history of philanthropy, overall devotion to education, and more importantly her 100th birthday, Mrs. Davis decided to distribute \$1 million to 100 different projects across the registered Davis colleges.

She basically asked us to come up with a way to save the world in three months with \$10,000.

Projects ranged from distributing napkins with information about malnutrition in Brazil (Carleton College) to planning orchestral performances up and down the Gaza Strip (Boston Conservatory). I was fortunate enough to be Colorado College's nomination for my project, Unheard Voices for Peace.

Over the years, my frustration with leaders and politicians has grown as I have come to understand that large-scale decisions are often made without concern for those being represented. Marginalized groups are not being heard on vital issues like health care and education. I proposed that I would bridge

this gap with filmmaking as a tool to engage people in positions of power. Specifically, I proposed to relieve the poverty of voice on a local community level in Colorado Springs and on a global level in Nigeria.

After a month working in the states with a focus on think tanks in Colorado Springs, senior Jackson Solway and I traveled to Nigeria with a health mission to document a community's demands for basic health services at a hospital in Uromi state. The secular mission was organized by The Mercy Foundation, a group based out of Indy IN, which spends a week every year in various locations in rural Nigeria providing free healthcare. The idea is to help people, and to highlight most hospitals' inability to provide sufficient care through resulting media attention.

Thousands of people waited in line during what would be the only week of the year they could get any kind of treatment. Whole families traveled from miles away—often on foot—to receive basic prescriptions, eye checkups, and even undergo surgery.

We dropped our cameras and scrubbed in to find ourselves, 20 minutes in, shuffling forceps as a screaming baby burst out of a young woman's stomach in a fantastic rush of blood. There we were, inches away, with absolutely no medical backgrounds. We'd go on over the next three days to assist in hernia removals, tumor extractions, and anything else that involved a scalpel and a patient.

In the midst of my interviewing I noticed that even these well-funded NGOs were understaffed. The demand for surgery was growing and the number of people working stayed the same. It wasn't until the head doctor asked both Jackson and I if we wanted to help with surgery that I was certain they were understaffed.

We dropped our cameras and scrubbed in to find ourselves, 20 minutes in, shuffling forceps as a screaming baby burst out of a young woman's stomach in a fantastic rush of blood. There we were, inches away, with absolutely no medical backgrounds. We'd go on over the next three days to assist in hernia removals, tumor extractions, and anything else that involved a scalpel and a patient.

Witnessing a C-section is an experience I wasn't anticipating, and it won't be fading from my memory any time soon. As I watched the baby breathe on the table beside her mother, I couldn't help but imagine she would do anything for that child.

Being in Nigeria reminded me that visas, borders, and languages are ancillary to the essential needs of the family. During my time spent in Colorado, a frightening statistic caught my eye: 90,990 single mothers and their families undergo substantial hardship with health services.

I interviewed a Colorado College student named Jessica because she, like most of these mothers, cannot find jobs with health benefits that can reasonably sustain a family. She told me she was resorting to Medicaid, the government-run healthcare program, which she is currently still on.

The choice is becoming too common nationwide—families are forced to choose between working in poverty to pay for insufficient healthcare or becoming dependent on government aid and remaining in poverty anyway, only jobless.

Mike Shum graduated last spring. He is currently working as an admissions counselor for CC.

CALENDAR

Uranium woes far from the minds of NM mine owners

BROOK BROUWER, COMMENT & DEBATE, P.9

Fredo brings personality to Rastall grill

GEOFF CLEMM, NEWS, P.5

Suggestions of rape, hazing, racism taint Mr. CC pageant

STAHL, VOGEL, KELLEY, COMMENT & DEBATE, P.10

Why CC has a minority-only summer block

ELIZABETH FINDELL, NEWS, P.4

PLUS

Healthcare in Colorado Springs and Nigeria Under the Lens of CC Grantee

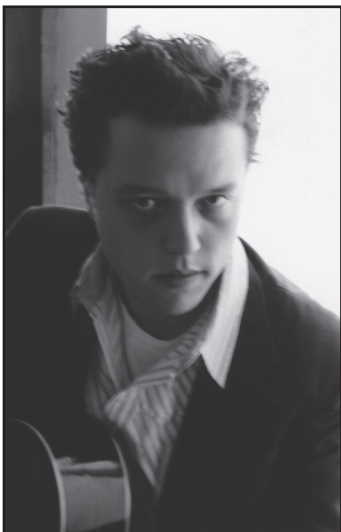
MIKE SHUM, COMMENT & DEBATE, P.11

Guns, Germs, Grants, and Poverty

The Newspaper of Colorado College
Vol. 38 No. 8 2007

Look what's happening at CC

Sunday
November 18th



KRCC Concerts
presents:



Jason Isbell and the 400 Unit
with Sarah Borges and the Broken Singles

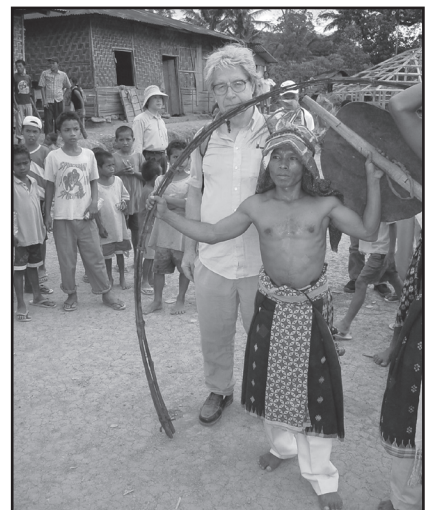
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\$10 KRCC members at the station, \$14 general admission,
\$14 day of show for everyone

Monday
November 19th

Robert B. Eckhardt:
Tall Tales About Little People:
Doing Science in the Age of Media

Robert B. Eckhardt, professor of developmental genetics and evolutionary morphology at Pennsylvania State University, was part of a team of scientists that studied the "hobbit" skeletons of Flores in Liang Bua, Indonesia. The 2004 discovery created a media spectacle in the world of paleo-anthropology, and Eckhardt was among those investigating the validity of claims that the Flores skeletons were a previously unknown species of human beings. The team approached the subject with an objective view based on rigorous hypothesis testing. Eckhardt will discuss the issues in the case and the ways in which he is "doing science in the age of media." Sponsored by the CC anthropology department, comparative literature program and a CC Venture Grant.



7 p.m., McHugh Student Commons,
above the Herb 'n' Farm Café; in the Western Ridge
Housing Complex, 1090 N. Cascade Ave., free