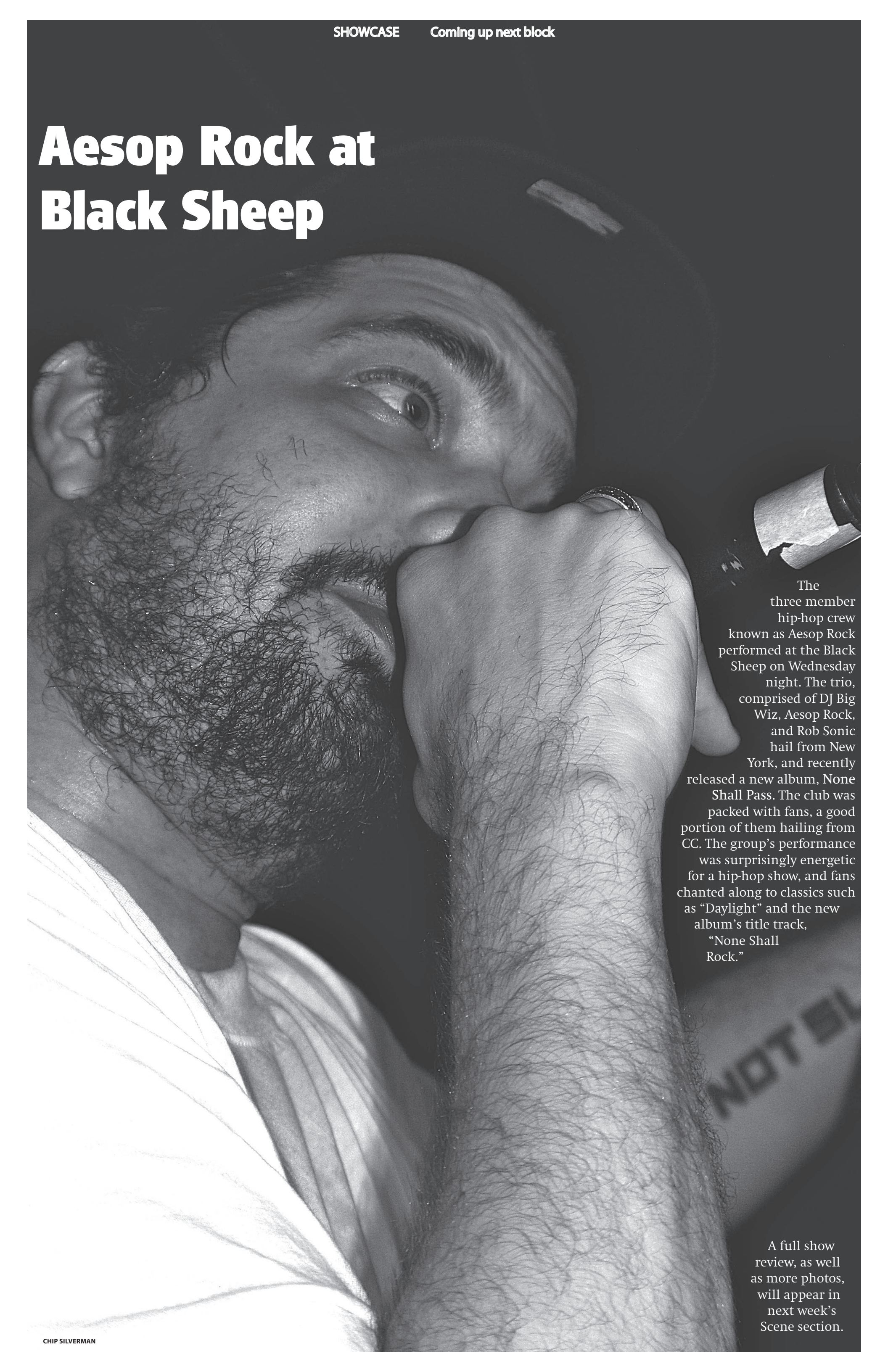


Aesop Rock at Black Sheep



The three member hip-hop crew known as Aesop Rock performed at the Black Sheep on Wednesday night. The trio, comprised of DJ Big Wiz, Aesop Rock, and Rob Sonic hail from New York, and recently released a new album, *None Shall Pass*. The club was packed with fans, a good portion of them hailing from CC. The group's performance was surprisingly energetic for a hip-hop show, and fans chanted along to classics such as "Daylight" and the new album's title track, "None Shall Rock."

A full show review, as well as more photos, will appear in next week's Scene section.

NEWS

Controversial author out of hiding, visiting CC next week

Salman Rushdie, a writer who stirs heated debate with both his presence and his pen, comes to CC Sunday, despite being a top target for extremists

WARREN PETTINE CATALYST STAFF

Salman Rushdie, by many accounts one of the most controversial writers of his generation, comes to campus Monday.

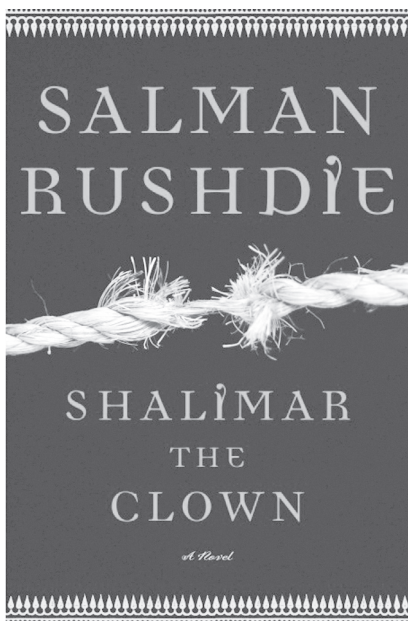
His latest work, *Shalimar The Clown*, has received widespread acclaim. In India it was awarded the Crossword Fiction award, and it was a finalist in Britain for the Whitbread Book Awards. The work was also short-listed for the 2007 International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award.

Rushdie's first official recognition came when he won the Booker Prize, Britain's most prestigious literary award, for his 1981 novel *Midnight's Children*.

The praise, however, is not universal. Rushdie was born in British-controlled India to a Muslim background. His literary treatment of that religious tradition has given rise to violent opposition.

"Anyone who knows anyone that's Muslim or anything about the religion knows when they're crossing a line," junior Wagma Mommandi said. She, and many other Muslims, feel Rushdie is miles past it.

The controversy arose over 1988's *The Satanic Verses*. In this book, Rushdie explores portions of the Koran that Mohammad was reportedly tricked into writing but



"Anyone who knows anyone that's Muslim or anything about the religion knows when they're crossing a line."

JUNIOR WAGMA
MOMMANDI

later forsook, among other themes. India banned his work for a time. Ayatollah Khomeini, then Supreme Leader of Iran, issued a fatwa that said Islamic law demanded the death of Rushdie and his publishers.

The threats were no joke. The Japanese translator for the book, Hitoshi Igarashi, was stabbed to death on July 11, 1991. The Italian translator, Ettore Capriolo, barely survived a stabbing attempt the same month. The publisher in Norway, William Nygaard, survived an October 1993 attempt on his life in Oslo. Rushdie himself was in hiding in Britain until the late 1990s.

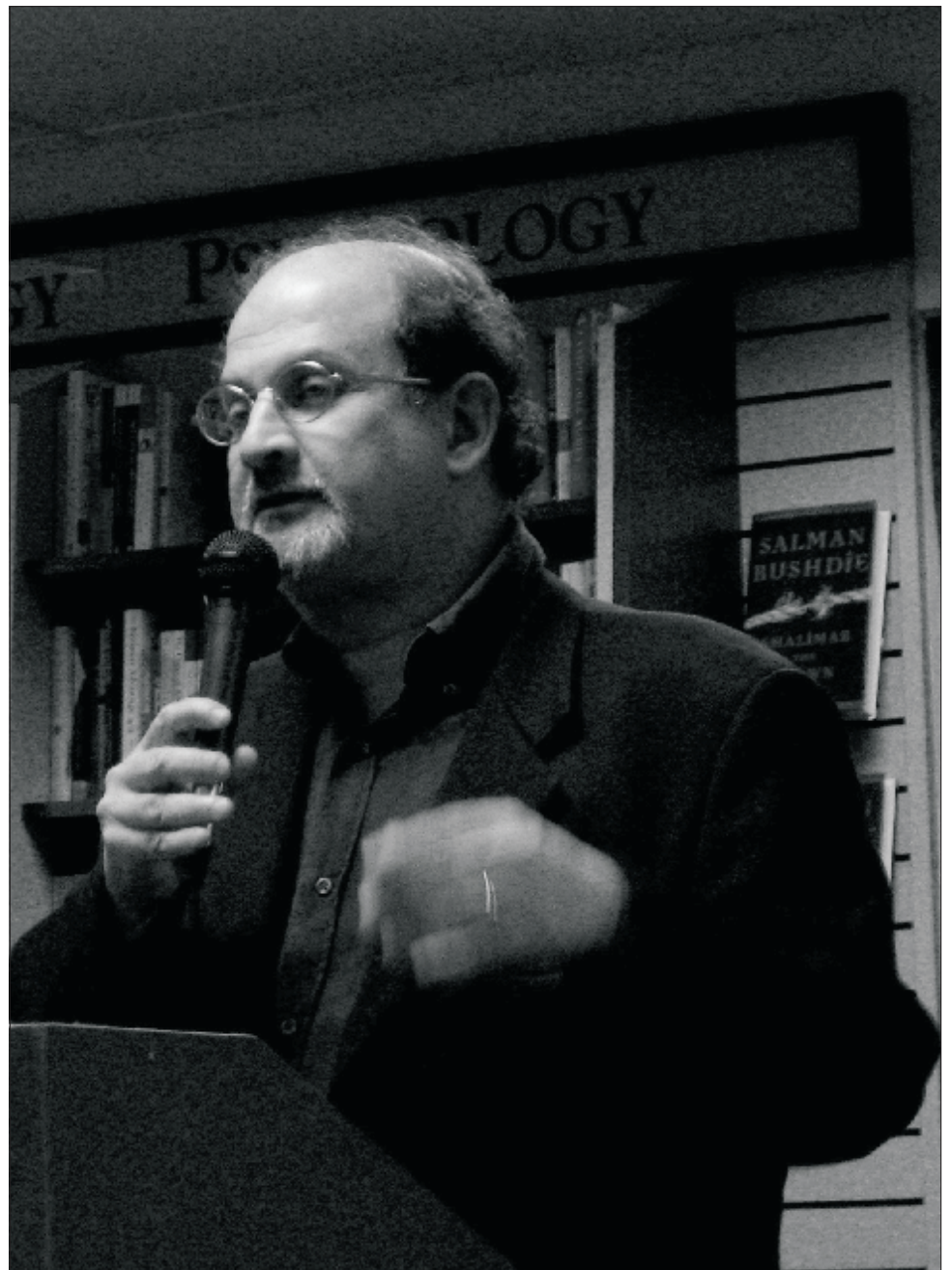
"Most Muslim people think that he wrote the *Satanic Verses* not just because he wanted to be creative, but wanting to be insulting towards Islam. I feel the same way. I've read the book, but I feel like [he] just needed to draw attention to himself," Mommandi said.

The Satanic Verses did not, however, offend senior Kritika Dwivedi, who is of Indian descent. She felt Rushdie made fun of all religions and that this was fine.

"My mom and my dad think he's great. Not because he's anti-Muslim, but because they find him interest-

ing. He's a widely read Indian author, world known. He writes such racy things. People want to read that," Dwivedi said.

President Dick Celeste, former ambassa-



COURTESY OF KEN CONLEY

dor to India, feels the event is going to draw in many people from the community.

"He's maybe the most brilliant deployer of the English language around," President Celeste said.

Though the edict still stands, Rushdie has given up his life of hiding.

In June of 2007, the British crown awarded Rushdie with knighthood for his contributions to literature. A Pakistani minister at

the time warned the award would lead to terrorism. Instead it was followed by a five-year term at Emory University as a Distinguished Writer in Residence.

Barry Sarchett of the English Department arranged for the Rushdie event, which is part of the Colorado College's Visiting Writers Series. Unfortunately, Sarchett was unavailable for comment before press time.

Rushdie's speech is scheduled for Sunday, 7 p.m. in Armstrong Hall.

Administration expands Vision 2010 fundraising efforts

ETHAN AXELROD CATALYST STAFF

Colorado College administrators took advantage of the presence of thousands of alumni and parents this homecoming weekend to announce the commencement of the public phase of fundraising efforts related to the Vision 2010 campaign.

According to the campaign's official Web page, Vision 2010, announced in 2003 by President Celeste, is a movement to improve the college by the year 2010 by "moving toward a new level of intellectual rigor, a more diverse and respectful community, and a 21st-century campus."

An increase in financial aid spending, the addition of 20 tenured professors, and the construction of new campus buildings are among the actions that have been proposed in order to realize the mission statement

of Vision 2010. The Cornerstone Building, currently under construction, is touted as a central accomplishment of the campaign. Administrators have also discussed possible renovations of Tutt Library and the El Pomar Sports Center.

The overall cost of the planned improvements is expected to be roughly \$300 million. Since Vision 2010's announcement, administrators have engaged in a "quiet" fundraising effort, so called because the college has not engaged in a large-scale publicity campaign as a strategy for raising money. The money collected has primarily come from alumni and parents making their typical annual donations.

To date, the quiet fundraising campaign has yielded 125.5 million dollars, including a recently announced \$10 million gift from Colorado's El Pomar Foundation, the largest single gift in the college's history.

According to Diane Benninghoff, Assistant Vice President of Advancement, this year's homecoming weekend was an ideal time to inaugurate the public phase of the fundraising effort, because it represented a rough halfway point in Vision 2010.

While Benninghoff was quick to point out that the administration has not made an effort to keep Vision 2010 a secret, she explained that the public phase of the fundraising drive will involve a greater dedication to informing potential donors of the Vision 2010 project and its progress. In doing so, the administration hopes to increase the rate of fundraising.

Last weekend's event, which featured a speech from President Celeste, marked the first of what are expected to be many organized events aimed at informing a large group of alumni and parents about Vision 2010. Those in attendance received a flyer

highlighting the various ways in which they can help the project. They were encouraged to make annual donations and even include CC in their estates.

Attendees were also encouraged to help CC in non-monetary ways, such as recommending students for jobs and internships.

Having raised less than half of their target amount, the administration now has just over two years to raise \$175 million. Despite this seemingly daunting task, officials seem optimistic. In a press release announcing the acceptance of the \$10 million El Pomar donation, President Celeste stated that Vision 2010 has gained "great momentum." Benninghoff added that her colleagues in the Office of Advancement are "excited" about the prospect of reaching their financial goals.

CC celebrates Coming Out Week

*Organizers pleased with event, but not satisfied:
“We still have work to do”*

JOEL MINOR CATALYST STAFF

Before unfamiliar parental faces were seen on campus for homecoming weekend, Colorado College students may remember seeing some familiar faces in different clothing than normal last Tuesday, when many students dressed in drag as part of the festivities put on by the Queer Straight Alliance (QSA) in honor of National Coming Out Week.

Senior Izzy May, co-chair of QSA, was pleased with the results of the week.

“I think it went well, and I think overall a lot of people have participated that haven’t in past years. There’s been some comments this week that have been disheartening, but the fact that you see people around that never come to minority student life has been really heartening.”

Many students who are not members of QSA or EQUAL participated in the various events of the week, including Monday’s speech by openly gay Reverend Fred Peterson, Tuesday’s drag dress-up, Wednesday’s candlelight vigil, Thursday’s picnic and concert, and Friday’s pledge quilt making.

Senior Tien Nguyen said that she came to Thursday’s picnic on Worner Quad because “my best friend is gay, so I wanted to come out here and support him—and it’s just a really nice day!”

Homecoming weekend festivities also brought some participants to events—Maggie Feil, a 2007 alumnus and former member of QSA, was back in town for Homecoming and was especially pleased with the positive reaction of the campus to the pledge quilt.

“I think that this pledge quilt is awesome; it’s a really great way to get people to express themselves in a positive way,” Feil said.

The pledge quilt, assembled from commitment cards made by CC students promising to make the world better for the queer community over the next 20 years, was assembled on Thursday and Friday and dedicated on Friday.

The 20 year theme came from the fact that Thursday was the 20th anniversary of the first National Coming Out Day, explained Beth Kancilia, co-chair of EQUAL and a member of the Queer Life Executive Board.

“Our theme this year is ‘talk about it,’ because this is the 20-year anniversary of coming out week . . . we want people to realize that we’re still fighting the battle 20 years later,” Kancilia said.

Kancilia was generally pleased with the reaction of the campus to the week’s events, noting that the only negative point she observed was the reaction of a few students upon being handed literature about life as a transvestite by QSA members in Worner during Tuesday’s Drag Day festivities.

“There were some negative reactions to drag day—people laughing about some of the information we were passing out. Those are the type of thing we need to be aware of. Everyone is okay with the drag ball, when

“Everyone is okay with the drag ball, when we’re all drunk and the lights are down, but we need to raise the issue that some people dress in drag every day.”

BETH KANCILIA
CO-CHAIR OF EQUAL

we’re all drunk and the lights are down, but we need to raise the issue that some people dress in drag every day,” Kancilia said.

Kancilia was especially pleased, however, with Wednesday’s candlelight vigil. “It was a really nice forum to have people talk about their personal stories,” she said.

May’s favorite event was Monday’s speech by Reverend Peterson. She explained that QSA wanted to bring him to campus to address the issue that QSA believes there is “a lot of ‘us and them’-ing going on” between the queer community and various Christian groups at CC, and QSA felt that Peterson “could really help people work out what side they’re on, no matter what side they think they’re on, and I think this dialogue is something we’re missing.”

May felt that Peterson’s speech and the week in general were a success, but concluded her interview by noting that “we still have work to do.”

Top: Two attendees of Coming Out Week hug on the Worner Quad in a show of support for CC’s queer community.

Bottom: The pledge quilt was made from cards written by CC students, as well as some alumni and parents who were on campus for Homecoming, full of promises to make the world a better place for the queer community.



WHITNEY CONTI CATALYST STAFF



IZZY MAY GUEST PHOTOGRAPHER

Correction

Last week in the article “Graduating in four years: Harder than it seems,” the *Catalyst* reported that the Neuroscience class Mischa Reiber failed to get into had a wait list of 60 students. The waitlist had only 18 students. The article said Reiber put four points to the class, which he maintains, though a representative for the Psychology department said he used none. Moreover, Reiber had not contacted his thesis adviser during the summer, as the article implied. The *Catalyst* regrets the error.

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

"I Could Not Function Without Rodeo"

CC sophomore pursues pro-rodeo aspirations as barrel racer

WAGMA MOMMANDI | GUEST WRITER

A sorority girl who barrel races may sound pretty unexpected, but rest assured, this is an accurate description of a CC student. Barrel racing, a women's rodeo event, arguably demands the most dedicated riders in order to achieve success. One of those select few is sophomore Kat Barker.

Born and raised in Chanute, Kansas, Barker competes as a barrel racer in the PWBRA (Professional Women's Barrel Racing Association), which is the female facet of the PRCA (Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association). She agreed to give Catalyst writer Wagma Mommandi an inside look at the life of rodeo.

Many Americans from the Midwest grow up attending stock shows and rodeos. However, most others, including many CC students, know little about rodeo, despite the prevalence of cowboy culture in the West.

Colorado is a state with a rich history of rodeo. Legend has it that rodeo was born on July 4, 1869 when different ranch families from Colorado would meet in Deer Trail, Colorado, to settle arguments over who the most successful ranchers were. These disagreements led to the first rodeo, which has evolved into the competition we know today.

The tradition has continued in Colorado. The world's premier rodeo, livestock, and horse show, The National Western Stock Show, and the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame are both located in Colorado.

There are over 600 professional rodeos held throughout the country year-round.

Modern day rodeo consists of several events: Bareback, Steer Wrestling, Team Roping, Saddle Bronc Riding, Tie-down Roping, Steer Roping, Barrel Racing, and Bull Riding.

Barrel racing initially developed as an event for women. While their husbands roped or rode bulls, the women barrel-raced. Instituted in 1949, the Girls Rodeo Association (GRA) was the first governing body of rodeo developed specifically for women, allowing them to compete in several events. In 1981, the GRA officially became the WPRA,

the Women's Professional Rodeo Association. Currently, barrel racing remains the most popular event of WPRA competition.

Barrel racing combines the athletic ability of the horse and the superb technical horsemanship skills of the rider. The challenge is to cautiously and successfully maneuver horses into a clover-leaf pattern around three metal barrels placed in the center of an arena while riding at dangerously fast speeds. Like most rodeo events, the goal is to make a run as fast as possible to beat the clock.

The timer begins when horse and rider cross the start line, and ends when the barrel pattern has been successfully executed with horse and rider crossing the finish line. The time depends primarily on the horse's physical and mental condition, the rider's horsemanship abilities, and the type of ground or terrain.

"I've been riding since I was 4 years old," explains Barker. "Barrel racing is such an unrefined sport, yet takes so much strength and precision to execute. I can bring my own style into the arena and let the adrenaline and my horse's power do the rest."

Along with the rider, the horse plays a large part in determining whether a rider will be successful.

"My horse is an Appendix bred gelding," says Barker. An Appendix horse is part Thoroughbred for speed and part Quarter Horse for strength and intelligence.

"I brought him to Colorado Springs my second semester of last year, after realizing that I could not function without rodeo in my life," says Barker.

She continues, "I recently received my permit to compete in the PWBRA. Hopefully I will move up in national and eventually world rankings."

With goals as lofty as these, a strict training regimen is necessary. Barrel racers train as much as most high-level competitive athletes.

"I train six to seven days per week: three days of physical workouts with a personal trainer, and three to four days of riding, depending on my race schedule. My workouts target specific muscles used in riding, most-

ly core strength for balance," says Barker.

With her current training schedule, Barker is confident she will reach the peak of her career in 2008.

In the future, Barker hopes to incorporate rodeo into her career, as well as continuing to ride as a professional. She plans to join a

team of orthopedic surgeons associated with the PRCA, intending to work with rodeo athletes and perform surgeries on injured cowboys and cowgirls.

Most importantly, if you're looking for a riding instructor, Barker assures she is a superb teacher.



Photos courtesy of Kat Barker

SPORTS

THE
SCORE
BOARD**Cross Country:****Recent Results:**

Southwestern Colorado Mid-States
Classic, Men 1st, Women 3rd

Upcoming Home Games:

None

Football:**Recent Results:**

CC v. Rhodes College, 29-30 L

Upcoming Home Games:

Oct. 20 v. DePauw, 1p.m.

Men's Soccer:**Recent Results:**

CC v. Trinity U, 0-2 L

CC v. Southwestern, 1-0 W

Upcoming Home Games:

Oct. 19, CC v. Oglethorpe, 3 p.m.

Oct. 21, CC v. Sewanee, 1 p.m.

Women's Soccer:**Recent Results:**

CC v. UTEP, 2-3 L

Upcoming Home Games:

None

Swimming & Diving:**Recent Results:****Men:**

CC v. Grand Canyon, 55-39 W

CC v. Metro State, 49-56 L

Women:

CC v. Grand Canyon, 60-33 W

CC v. Metro State, 57-33 W

CC v. Nebraska-Kearny, 77-33 W

Upcoming Home Games:

None

Men's Ice Hockey:**Recent Results:**

CC v. USA 18-Under National team, 6-3 W

Upcoming Home Games:

Oct. 19, CC v. U of Minnesota, 7:37 p.m.

Oct. 20, CC v. U of Minnesota, 7:07 p.m.

Debating the real
homecoming team

Fans gather by Stewart Field for the homecoming soccer game.

ELLIE WOOD CATALYST STAFF

MARIEGRACE VERES GUEST WRITER

Screaming fans wearing a plethora of CC apparel were seen jumping up and down at this past weekend's homecoming sporting events. From rugby, soccer, and hockey on Friday night to the alumni rugby team versus CC rugby and the football game on Saturday, CC fans were seen celebrating and showing their school spirit everywhere. But when asked what the true homecoming game is, many CC students had different opinions.

"The rugby team versus CC alumni was the true homecoming game, because this game represents CC in more than just competitive sports," said senior Sierra Fleenor. "It proved that CC school spirit lasts more than just four years."

After a close game, CC alumni pulled out on top with another win added to their list.

Students, professors, parents, and alumni were seen crowding the ticket booths at all games. The soccer game on Friday was particularly overcrowded due to the number one ranked team, Trinity, challenging the Tigers. Many spectators were eager to watch a suspenseful game with the hope that CC would end up on top.

After a thrilling game and disappointing loss, many students still believed that the soccer game was the homecoming game.

Freshman Sloan Danenhower stated that "soccer was a unique opportunity to mingle with alumni and learn about CC in a special way."

Senior Jamie Storrs also agreed. "Seeing people sit upon that golden hill and watching and cheering for CC is a good bonding experience, because you meet so many amazing people."

The CC soccer game was highly praised among many homecoming sports fans.

But the football game was the game anticipated by countless fans across the CC campus.

When asked why, one CC student remarked "it is indescribable. For centuries, football was the game that brought people together from all aspects of life. Whether a person was young or old, loved the game or hated it, people were seen jubilant; and for a short period of time, nothing else mattered in the world but praying that your team would win."

After a nail-biting game, CC lost to Rhodes by one point in the remaining seconds of the game

"Football is much more festive than any other sporting event," said junior Amanda Lenz. "The football game is the game that all the alumni are truly excited about attending, and I think football will always be the homecoming team."

After one very exciting and action-packed weekend, homecoming is finally over and CC athletic teams can be proud of the wonderful entertainment they provided.

Many had a different preference to what they believe was the true homecoming game. But for freshman Chandler Griffin, there was not a specific homecoming game or team.

"Homecoming does not just apply to one sport," he said. "It applies to everybody, for it is everybody's school."

Athlete of the
Week**Favorite movie:**

Zoolander, it is so funny

Favorite pump-up song:

Bob the Builder because it is motivating and it's about working together to get something done

Favorite food:

Olive Garden salads, especially because you can have as much as you want

Favorite sports team:

Green Bay Packers

Favorite swimming event:

200 Individual Medley

If you were stuck on a desert island:

I would bring pool toys so I could have fun playing in the water

Pre-game ritual:

I jump on my bed with my eyes closed for five minutes and think about how I am going to win my race

Emily Stumhofer
OF Montana/Australia

COURTESY OF EMILY STUMHOFER

MAJOR: Political Science
SPORT: Swimming
Age/Class: 20, Class of 2009

"I don't really have [a hometown], but I suppose Montana or Australia."

"The rugby team versus CC alumni was the true homecoming game, because this game represents CC in more than just competitive sports."

SENIOR SIERRA FLEENOR

SCENE

Your pet doesn't care: The universe according to Colbert

MEREDITH MANTIK STAFF WRITER

We all know Stephen Colbert as the popular late-night jokester of Comedy Central, host of the *Colbert Report*, but this lovable comedian is not only an ex-costar of the *Daily Show*, leader of the "Colbert Nation," and designer of the "WristStrong" bracelet support movement. He is now also a writer.

"Turns out it takes more than 30 minutes a night to fix everything that's destroying America," said Colbert, "and that's where this book comes in."

I Am America (And So Can You!) hit the stands last week, but within a decent opening week came a rush of harsh criticism. Does Colbert's on-screen wit translate to the page?

For those of us who've seen Colbert on TV, we know him as the epitome of tongue-in-cheek humor with sarcasm—his dominant means to spark a laugh. On page, his words aren't backed by his ironic tone and can easily be misconstrued as literal.

For instance, don't take him seriously when he says, "No matter how many kids you have, you need to pick a favorite"—he supposedly is a decent father after all.

His intention for satire is enforced by his ridiculousness—enough to use "Jell-O must never be jiggled" as one of the only rules required for good household. (And don't forget: "Red" means 'stop', 'green' means 'go', 'purple' means 'Wednesday'.) He may seem brash at times and overly bizarre at others, but take him with a grain of salt and his writing shines with skillful ingenuity.

I Am America (And So Can You!) is divided into distinct sections titled "Religion," "Family," "Sex and Dating," "Science," and others, and yet he man-

ages to cover a much wider range of topics, including domestic animals ("Pets. Don't. Care. About. You. They're just there for the social networking you provide when you walk them."); the USDA ("Let my people Go-Gurt!"); interviews with cows ("Hey, wanna hear a funny joke? Cattle prods. Guess you had to be there."); and botany ("That's right—flower sex . . . More like Hotany").

For us students, he even gives his hilarious two cents on every class we will ever take: "Intro to Philosophy: If a tree falls in the forest and nobody hears it, I hope it lands on a philosophy professor."

But is there a thesis somewhere between Colbert reflecting on his brief intermittent childhood accounts, describing "cephalopod merriment" in octopus sex, and diagramming a way every kid can prove evolution wrong using just a hamster, a water pitcher, and Darwin's *Origin of Species*? And why should we take seriously someone who says we must avoid "the gay enemy" by rejecting "throw rugs, Clive Owen, origami, and baby carrots"?

On the first episode of the *Colbert Report*, Colbert said that he was going to change the world. How is this seemingly pointless and disorganized book a step in aiding our world? How is the man who not only harasses every guest that appears on his show, but also criticizes the leaders who are trying to do "good" for America, changing the world for the better?

While Colbert does maintain a vicious wit and fervent self-adoration, he is essentially a satirist of American politics. His ridiculousness only reflects the ridiculousness of modern America, and his ego parodies the enflamed American mentality—the common man's thought that "we are the most powerful nation in the world, so of course everything we do must be the best, correct way of doing it."

Maybe we do give more praise to the six-packed man who chomped down a stinkbug on *Fear Factor* than to an amiable college graduate with a 4.0 GPA. Maybe celebrities are only using leftist "pet-causes" to buy them more fans. And maybe the fact that there is *still* heated disagreement over gay marriage is an indication of a stumbling in our society.

Colbert blatantly reveals the incongruity between our everyday lives and our beliefs. Though we stand by Al Gore and the whole global warming spiel, Colbert admits that "the degree to which I care about the Harp seal is still holding steady at way less than I care about my Audi A8". If we are a nation proud enough of our diversity to make job applications "race-free," why do employers seem to always find a way around it?

Many can read *I Am America (And So Can You!)* and conclude that it is a failure, a worthless attempt to make sense of America. But there is Colbert's point: Our nation's values have far deviated from their original foundation, so far that they are practically absurd for any society. Our democracy more and more resembles tyranny. And though Colbert may not adhere to a distinct political party, he does advocate common sense and individual autonomy, which seem to have become an entirely foreign medium today.

We all saw how courageously brutal Colbert was his speech at the 2006 White House Correspondence Dinner (and for those of you who didn't, a copy is in the back on his new book). We may be the most powerful nation, but we are quickly losing our grip on morality, at too high a speed and without seatbelts.

Colbert seems to say that our mentality of "if I want to fly headfirst through my car windshield at 200mph, that's between me and my brain damage" must change for America to survive.

Colbert seems to say that our mentality of "If I want to fly head-first through my car windshield at 200mph, that's between me and my brain damage" must change for America to survive.

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COMMENT & DEBATE

Survivor Mathias:

Student berates “criminal” revelers for destructive behavior, disrespect

CHRIS ROBINSON GUEST WRITER

I commend Anna Sanger for her attempt to maintain a degree of journalistic impartiality in her reporting of the Survivor Mathias “incident.” However, this is not an issue deserving of such treatment, and I feel compelled to respond to several aspects of the story.

First, nobody is seriously trying to identify the causes of this incident because they are already well known. An all-too-familiar lack of personal integrity and a hopefully isolated culture of entitlement and disrespect are chief among them. Anyone who has lived in Mathias—and I suspect even those who have not—can recount many stories of vandalism and idiocy that have occurred therein.

This is not a discussion about trust between students and staff. Trust implies mutuality. The staff knows it can’t trust the residents, and a majority of the residents know that they can’t trust a small group of their fellow students. Worst of all, the majority of residents knows that it can’t presently trust the staff to protect it from the enemy within.

This group of criminals in the midst of Mathias is responsible for vandalism that has occurred in the past and surely will continue into the future, acts that the rest of the dorm’s residents will collectively pay for in a variety of ways.

The silent majority will pay for the behavior of the criminal minority monetarily, and in the currency of quality of life as they are forced to navigate hallways smelling of vomit and beer and to lose sleep to the screams of the inebriated or—worse yet—are forced to evacuate the dorm in the middle of the night.

Did anyone besides me consider that perhaps a disgruntled resident, trying to sleep, pulled the fire alarm to bring the chaos to an end? Events like Survivor understandably push non-combatants and staff to the breaking point, but the purported theory that staff pulled the fire alarm is preposterous.

Though I suspect an appeal to conscience is futile here, in the heart of every cynic lies a disappointed idealist, so I’ll pose a few questions anyway. For those who destroyed the dorm and forced their fellow students to evacuate, how do you feel about that now? Be honest.

And for those who passed the buck and com-

plained that this incident was the result of a “lack of off-campus house parties and other activities,” do you really believe that? Are we to believe that the school has the responsibility to entertain you day and night to prevent you from destroying things? No kegger to go to; guess we’ll have to loot our own neighborhood.

Has it occurred to you that your weekend nights make a large number of people miserable and destroy their quality of life? How would your grandparents feel knowing that you commit crimes against CC while a student here?

And for those who may know the identity of the vandals, yet shelter them, why would you do that? What’s in it for you? Are you hedging your bets that one day you might want to wreck something with impunity?

Lastly, for those who blame the RLC and the staff for their woes, do you believe in your heart that it’s their fault, or is it just easier to blame “The Man?” I can’t answer these questions for you, but I will strongly suggest that self-reflection is a virtue some of you might consider cultivating.

What we are discussing here is a dilemma regarding the rule of law in microcosm. In a situation where the State (ResLife) cannot or will not enforce the laws, people turn inward and attempt to provide for their own security (pulling the fire alarm, staying in bed during the fire alarm), and the result is anarchy.

The State has two options: let the anarchy continue, or escalate its tactics of enforcement. Perhaps the school should install CCTV in the halls as a counter-insurgency measure. That would quickly bring this problem to a close. The perpetrators could be expelled and replaced by students who display a proper

dedication to excellence in this community.

Or maybe the student body could have an honest discussion about what college life should really be like, and why we’re here. I have the sense that a discussion of that nature is well underway, and it’s headed in the right direction. The majority of CC students display a solid commitment to a life worthy of public display.

If you agree with me, I encourage you to make your voice heard, if only among your friends. A passive capitulation to criminality in your midst is a poor precedent to set for your life. Sadly, we can’t have stocks or corporal punishment on the quad for vandals, but subtler forms of social ostracism can be just as effective.

If you are a member of the criminal minority, I can assure you of the following: the tide of public opinion long ago turned against you, and if you persist in that behavior you can expect a continued escalation of enforcement. Much to the majority’s delight, CC is becoming a more serious and competitive institution with each passing year, and the

values component of that trend will surely follow suit.

Consider the following from one of America’s greatest statesmen, Woodrow Wilson: “Any individual mind, no matter how rich in its contents or in its power, would be impoverished if it were isolated. It takes the vital processes of its life, like the plant itself, from the atmosphere, from the intellectual and moral atmosphere in which it lives.”

Be honest about what you bring to that atmosphere.

For those who passed the buck and complained that this incident was the result of a “lack of off-campus house parties and other activities,” do you really believe that? Are we to believe that the school has the responsibility to entertain you day and night to prevent you from destroying things? No kegger to go to; guess we’ll have to loot our own neighborhood.

“Anything goes” for alumni and students

EMMA CALABRESE GUEST WRITER

I should have realized before I left the warmth of my room at 9:30 on Saturday night that I would be the first person to arrive at the Homecoming Dance. This is CC, after all. Promptness is not a particularly valued trait.

I sat around munching popcorn and watching the Latin band play to an empty dance floor for around half an hour, wondering if the evening’s audience was going to consist of me and the people serving pop and beer. Several bowls of Goldfish later, alumni couples began to trickle in, hovering hesitantly near the edge of the dance floor.

It was only later, when students started arriving, that it really felt like a dance. The floor filled with dancing couples and groups in the course of a few minutes, and I was struck for the thousandth time with what an eccentric, one-of-a-kind school I go to.

The obvious lack of any kind of dress code gave the dance floor a ridiculous yet fun feel, as alumni boogied in jeans or gowns and students salsa-d in pa-

I could have brought my cat and danced with her, and I’m pretty sure no one would have blinked an eye.

jama pants and Chacos or leftover high school Prom dresses. This is CC, after all. Anything goes.

The spectrum of dance styles was vast as well; I saw everything from salsa dancing to a highly amusing display of windmill arms to something that I can only describe as whirling dervish-ism. People danced as couples, with friends, alone—I could have brought my cat and danced with her, and I’m pretty sure no one would have blinked an eye.

While there were far fewer alumni in the tent on Armstrong Quad, the atmosphere was similarly laid back, more like a frat party than anything. Palmer’s eclectic mix of classic rock, oldies, swing, and top forty songs also made for an un-self-conscious, if slightly ridiculous, atmosphere.

I think it was sometime between jumping up and down, crushed on all sides by the mass of people yelling along to “Eye of the Tiger” on Armstrong Quad, and frolicking around the dance floor in Palmer singing “Before He Cheats” with dozens of others who also knew the lyrics by heart that I realized how rare it is to get to live like this.

Self-consciousness, I’ve learned, is one of very few unacceptable qualities at CC, and as I watched everyone bust out the swing moves to “Jump, Jive, an’ Wail” I felt lucky to attend a school where Homecoming dance is a far cry from the stodgy, routine affair that I suspect it is at many other schools.

Attending CC has taught me that nothing improves an institution more than the mindset that throwing on a pair of spandex shorts and a t-shirt and heading out to a dance is just as respectable as spending three hours getting dolled up. We have the rest of our lives to dress and act appropriately, but for now I’m glad I can postpone that time for a little longer.

Alumni and students alike know that jeans and gowns, hip-hop and salsa and swing, muddy, make-shift, outdoor dance floors as well as indoor floors bedecked with streamers and balloons, are all part of the package.

‘Cause hey, it’s CC. Anything goes.

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Pro-rodeo hopeful on barrel racing at CC
Campus "comes out" for QSA celebration
Irate student criticizes Mathias mayhem
The "truthiness" about Colbert's new book

MEREDITH MANTIK, SCENE, P.6

CHRIS ROBINSON, COMMENT & DEBATE, P.7

JOEL MINOR, NEWS, P.3

WAGMA MOMMANDI, NEWS, P.4

PLUS

WARREN PETTINE, NEWS, P.2

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