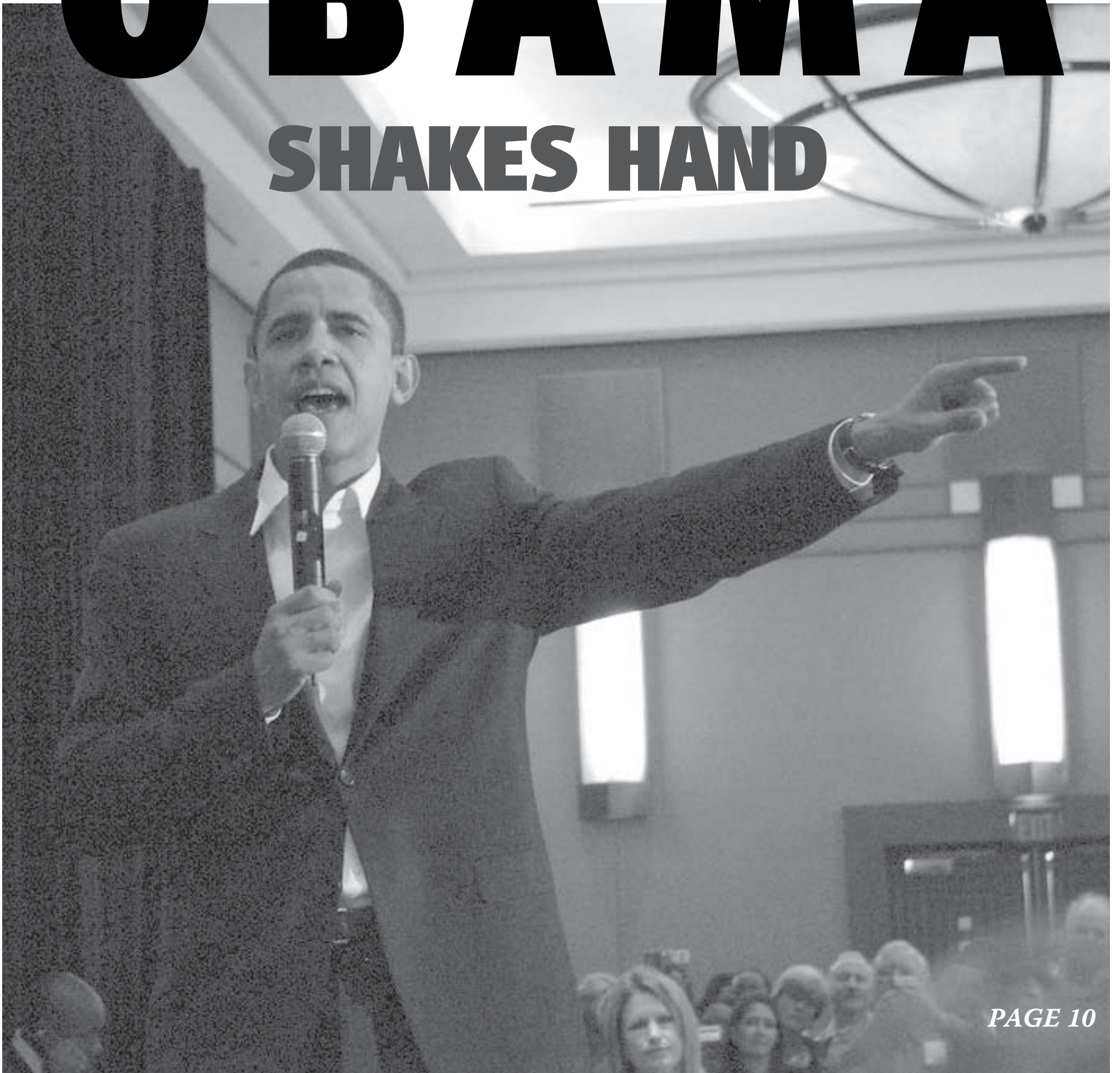


O B A M A

SHAKES HAND



PAGE 10

PHOTOS COURTESY OF FLIKR CREATIVE COMMONS



NEWS



BuyWell stakes its fortunes on fair trade

Temporarily running their multimillion-dollar startup from a tent complex on Autrey Field, a pair of CC entrepreneurs live, work, and sleep fair trade coffee

RYAN CASPAR CATALYST STAFF

Since the beginning of the year, a handful of tents on Autrey field have housed the corporate headquarters of BuyWell International, now a multimillion dollar company.

Kyle Cureau and Jess Arnsteen, co-founders of this emerging fair trade coffee company, have spent the past few weeks camping out in the tents to keep their equipment under watch and their free coffee bar open 24 hours a day. They will continue to do so until their warehouse renovations are finished later this fall.

Cureau and Arnsteen have been offering free coffee to anyone who stops by, regardless of the time of day. To do this, they sleep there. They serve drinks from espresso and

macchiato to fresh gourmet drip coffee, all purchased directly from farmers for “fair trade” prices and practices. CC students have been serving as baristas, helping to serve coffee to the constant flow of caffeine seekers.

Arnsteen is quick to point out that BuyWell sells only free trade coffee, compared to many larger coffee corporations who have added a free trade blend or two to capitalize on the new socially conscious market.

The fair trade label is a guarantee by an independent certifier who ensures that a company meets the criteria established by the Fairtrade Labeling Organization, a collection of fair trade groups from 20 countries.

Arnsteen recalled the feeling of sitting in the back of the warehouse surrounded by 14 pallets containing a total of 35,000 pounds of coffee. Each pallet represented one family’s crops for an entire year.

“It felt really good to look at those fourteen pallets and think about how much we helped those families . . . this doesn’t just give them a chance to diversify crops; that money gives them an opportunity to access education, credit, healthcare, and water, or the opportunity to get out of the coffee business altogether. They’re often tied to the land by the low prices they must sell for,” Arnsteen said.

This Saturday, BuyWell will host the Java Jam, a celebration of “coffee, good friends, and good music.” It will take place from 3–10 p.m. on Autrey Field and will feature several local and campus bands, perhaps even a reuniting of a graduated campus favorite

from last year.

BuyWell’s temporary tenancy lasts until the end of the month, when they move back into the warehouse in preparation for the company launch on October 18. There they will host a gathering of business partners, investors, and like-minded entrepreneurs gathering to celebrate the new warehouse and embrace the new ideals of socially conscious, “double-bottom-line” business, in which social contributions are held as important as profits.

After October 18, BuyWell will be in full operation, roasting and shipping tons of coffee across the country to shops, cafés, and college campuses.

In June, BuyWell started the process of renovating the warehouse in order to scale up their coffee production capacity. After many headaches and setbacks, they finally received all of the required permits and the go-ahead to start construction two weeks ago. While the warehouse is being torn apart, BuyWell needed somewhere to go. A couple of options were considered, including renting another building for a month, but the clear first choice was to return to their roots at CC. They arranged to rent space right outside the Synergy and Interfaith houses, and never imagined the awesome chemistry that ensued.

“I’m having lots of fun,” Arnsteen said after his fifth double shot of espresso. “The vibe here is great, with these two houses and us here; we didn’t even consider how cool this would be. I love it.”



Top: Jess Arnsteen swirls a delicious latte in the BuyWell tent set up on Autrey Field.

Left: In addition to giving away free coffee, BuyWell has been giving roasting demonstrations.

Bottom: BuyWell’s espresso machine has been stirring up a buzz on campus.



Senate stalls Fort Carson growth plan

Sen. Ken Salazar, D-Colo., pushed bill to protect Pinyon Canyon

JOEL MINOR CATALYST STAFF

The usually quiet section of Highway 350 between La Junta and Trinidad was a bit louder on the night of September 6.

This section of highway includes the small towns of Timpas, Bloom, Delhi, Thatcher, Tyrone, and Model, as well as the ranches, farms, and open prairies of the 414,000-acre Piñon Canyon, the area in which Ft. Carson military base in Colorado Springs hopes to expand its pre-existing 235,000-acre training facility.

On September 6, the Senate narrowly passed an amendment to a military spending bill that prevents the Army from taking any action on the expansion for at least a year.

That moratorium, or 'cool-down period,' as it has been called, received both celebratory and cautious response from ranchers and other opponents to expansion.

Ranchers in the area would be forced to sell their land to the Army by the law of eminent domain if Congress approves the expansion of Ft. Carson. Many have publicly expressed their unwillingness to sell their land.

"The land that they are trying to take has been in families for generations. My family has personally owned the land I live on for three generations" said Sarah Broce, a student whose family home is near Kim.

The ranchers in the proposed expansion area and others throughout southern Colorado—especially in the towns of Kim and La Junta, whose economy is largely centered around the cattle market—have been actively opposing the expansion since last year, when a map was accidentally leaked by the Army showing future plans for the Piñon Canyon site to include not only the currently proposed 414,000-acre expansion, but also the entirety of the rest of southeast Colorado, an additional 2.5 million acres.

The Army believes that the expansion is necessary to the continual operation of Ft. Carson, which has been rumored to be in danger of closing in recent years. The closing of Ft. Carson would have an immense impact on Colorado Springs and the surrounding areas, as Ft. Carson soldiers and



Some 400,000 acres in Pinyon Canyon have been the object of fighting between the Army and local residents for the past year. The Army says it needs the land for training space, but Congress recently passed legislation keeping it in the hands of the original owners, some of whom have run

COURTESY OF LON ROBERTSON

their families contribute a great deal in both tax revenue and labor for the city.

The moratorium amendment was introduced and ushered through the Senate by Colorado Senator Ken Salazar, a Democrat and 1977 CC graduate. A similar amendment, introduced by Colorado Representatives John Salazar and Marilyn Musgrave, was approved by a much larger margin in the House of Representatives in June.

"[The Senate's passage of the moratorium is] just one in a series of ongoing victories that we have been achieving with input and help from others, including CC students. It obviously sets a precedent of opposition by our legislators," said Lon Robertson, president of the Piñon Canyon Expansion Opposition Coalition (PCEOC). "However, it hasn't yet passed muster insofar as the conference committee report. It still has to get through that process: back to the House and the Senate for votes on the conference report."

Robertson is referring to the next step in the process: The amendments will go before a joint House-Senate subcommittee, which will draft a final compromise bill.

Robertson stated that PCEOC's work is not done, and that they still must "keep the Congress honest by watching for and not allowing any special language to be put into a bill or amendment that would allow the military to go forward."

Robertson and his allies worry about the possibility of a reversal of the recent gains made in the subcommittee, as well as in two other amendments that Salazar

and Allard jointly filed, which would effectively give the Army the go-ahead to move forward in the expansion process by allowing the Army to conduct environmental and other impact studies.

The Army is relatively unfazed by the development. An official statement issued by Ft. Carson's press office to the *Catalyst* stated, "The United States Army appreciates the opportunity presented by Colorado Senators and other members of the Colorado Delegation to lay out its case and need for expansion at Fort Carson's Piñon Canyon Maneuver Site (PCMS). The Army and Fort Carson remain committed to the expansion effort, which is necessary to support the current and future training needs of the soldiers stationed at Fort Carson, as well as members of the Army Reserve and National Guard."

Robertson matched the Army's resolve, stating, "The potential environment losses that would be caused by an unneeded Piñon Canyon expansion is tied to all of our futures. The footprints we leave become the path to the future generations. We are thus choosing a future that is sustainable by opposing the expansion of Piñon Canyon."

The one-year moratorium on any activity related to the expansion is meant to give both parties time to reconcile their differences. As neither side is ready to back down, however, the issue will likely remain in contention for quite some time.

Porn star offers stiff competition to anti-porn pastor

Ron Jeremy, Craig Gross flesh out their views on porn in a stuffed Shove show

DANIEL ANTHONY CATALYST STAFF

The "Hardest (Working) Man in Show Business" Ron Jeremy faced the "Porn Pastor" Craig Gross in Shove Chapel last night, where they debated the \$90 million pornography industry and its effects on society and individuals.

Jeremy, one of the pornography industry's most famous actors, claims that pornography can have a place in healthy sexuality. Gross, founder of the anti-pornography site XXXchurch.com, believes that pornography is harmful and addictive, a corruption of the ideal human sexuality.

One organizer of this debate, Kevin Matthews of Pulpit Rock Church in Colorado Springs, hopes the debate can raise awareness about the issue without turning into a brutal slog, because the two debaters respect one another and each appreciates the other's point of view.

"What I like about this is that it's not a hate debate. These two guys are friends. They respect one another. You can walk out of it with an appreciation of the other side's

perspective," Matthews said.

Both Jeremy and Gross spoke of their friendship to the Independent last week. Gross told the Independent that Jeremy has even spent time with Gross and his family. Besides this, they have shared a tour bus since August, doing porn debates in cities across the country.

Jeremy, the star of over 1,900 adult films, defends his industry with the argument that it's just another form of entertainment, which adults should be free to view if they wish. He emphasizes that the porn industry does not market to minors, but says that someone over 18 should have the right to watch what he or she wants.

"I like to say that pornography is a great reflection on culture. You can tell a lot about a person by the porn they watch. Besides, pornography is a great way to relieve stress—it's good for the body and the mind," said junior Richard Scudder, pornography enthusiast.

Gross, whose site is the largest anti-pornography resource on the internet, believes that pornography wrecks lives by creating unrealistic expectations about sexuality,

and, worse, creates addiction. He talks about pornography undermining relationships by creating situations where people cannot be satisfied by their partners.

Steve Kammer, the moderator of CC's Campus Crusade for Christ chapter and a co-sponsor of the debate, said, "I find it hard to believe that someone can be using [pornography] without any negative consequences."

Another central question in the pornography debate is about the women who are exploited by the industry. Jeremy likes to point out that in the porn industry, women can occasionally rise to the top and run their own corporations, command huge salaries, and wield a great deal of power.

Gross thinks it's more important to talk about the women who are abused and taken advantage of, and those who end up in the industry against their will. Jeremy says that Gross and his people are doing good work to get women like that out of the industry.

Though promoters of the event present it as fair and broad-minded, some here at CC felt that some relevant people and groups have been ignored for the sake of promoting a two-sided, sensationalistic debate.

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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Corrections

FROM VOL. 38 2007

A News article in last week's issue titled "Underage drinking: Class of 2011 maintains the tradition," inaccurately referred to a college policy regarding drinking-related hospital visits. The article indicated that if a student is 18, the college will not contact the student's parents following alcohol-related hospital transport. Except under special circumstances, the college does insist on a conversation with a parent and/or guardian after such an incident. The Catalyst regrets the error.

"With pornography, it's a complex issue. It's not black and white, A or B, and there are a lot of voices that could add their perspectives. There have been questions raised about those voices that have been left out, and whether this is the best way to approach this debate," said Chaplain Kate Holbrook, whose office helped facilitate this event by holding it at Shove.

Most notably, no women had a say in the debate, even though the issue affects women and both debaters shared their views on women working in the pornography industry. CC Feminist and Gender Studies professor Tonja Olive told the Independent last week that without women's voices, something called the Great Porn Debate was "missing something."

Olive and Matthews have talked about finding a way to continue the debate in a way that gives a chance for a broader discussion. Matthews stated that they have considered holding a more open panel in order to "continue dialogue about this topic."

FEATURE

Reconsidering Greek myths at CC

ERYNN LEFILLS-SHAW CATALYST STAFF

To be Greek, or not to be Greek: that is the question.

Well, maybe it's not the question, but it is a question that dozens of freshmen confront. Greek life is surrounded by so many myths and rumors that it's hard to know what to believe. And with recruitment looming ahead, the freshman class is being bombarded by superstitions that upperclassmen have propagated for years.

First, the basics. Colorado College has five Greek organizations: Delta Gamma, Kappa Kappa Gamma, and Kappa Alpha Theta, the three sororities; and Kappa Sigma and Sigma Chi, the two active fraternities. About 11 percent of the campus body is involved in the Greek system.

Who makes up that 11 percent? Most CC Greeks, like all the other students here at CC, are more than just one thing. Like many students on campus, Greeks are athletes, singers, mentors, Honor Council members, writers, dancers, club leaders, resident advisors, community volunteers and more. Extracurricular and community involvement are somewhat of a standard at CC, but many people assume that because someone is Greek, he or she is only Greek.

Who's not involved, and why did they make that choice? "No thanks; I don't have to pay for my friends" seems to be the most common response for why someone has decided not to go Greek, right after "I can



Kappa Alpha Theta and Kappa Kappa Gamma are two of the three sororities available for women at CC.

PHOTOS BY JACK SIDDOWNAY CATALYST STAFF

think for myself, thank you."

Senior Emily Kelley, Pan-Hellenic president, said, "You're not paying for friends; you're paying for the experience. You're paying for everything else: the formals, the events, a house that can be a safe haven

when you need your own space." The Pan-Hellenic council is the governing body for all sororities on campus.

Fear of financial obligation apparently runs much deeper than simply not wanting to pay for friends. About 80 percent of non-Greeks asked about their choice to be non-Greeks said that, even if they did want to rush, they couldn't fulfill the financial dues required for membership. What many people don't seem to know, however, is that many of the Greek organizations on campus offer financial help to members who cannot make their dues.

There is also the popular belief that Greek organizations promote heavy and unsafe drinking. According to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, over the past 50 years, 1,400 college students have died from alcohol-related causes and there have been 70,000 cases of sexual assault and acquaintance rape related to alcohol. Though there is no direct correlation between these statistics and Greek organizations, many students assume a connection.

But when it comes down to it, many college students drink. Whether or not fraternities and sororities facilitate this habit obviously depends on both the campus and the current student body. Keri Shippet, the coordinator of campus activities, confirms that none of the recent and highly publicized alcohol-related incidents at CC have come out of Greek events.

"It's sad that people assume that we're drinking clubs," said junior Blair Daverman, the vice president of education for Theta. She points out that many of the very popular on-campus events, such as Mr. CC, Kicks for CASA, and Psychedelic Bowling, are actually fundraiser events for charities.

"Being Greek is not about cheap beer in a Solo cup," said Kelley. "It's about tradition, education, self-improvement, helping out your fellow man, and—most importantly—brotherhood or sisterhood."

One popular belief that has been slightly harder to dismiss is fear of the time commitment of Greek life.

One non-Greek student interviewed said, "I barely have time to see my boyfriend, what with class, lab, work, practice, homework—oh, and did I mention the fact that we are on the block plan, so everything is intensified by three and a half? When would I fit in sorority meetings?"

Many Greeks interviewed stated that time

commitments are their least favorite part of membership, but, according to Pan-Hellenic V.P.A. junior Laura McQuaid, "I never regret the time spent with my sisters."

Many recent events, such as the hazing-related death of Matthew Carrington at Chico State, have brought Greek initiation rituals into a very negative spotlight. Every year for nearly three decades, there has been at least

one death per year as a result of hazing. While it is undeniable that some Greek organizations do participate in hazing, hazing laws are rigid in most states, including Colorado, and CC takes it further: This campus has a 100 percent, zero-tolerance policy for hazing.

Shippet points out that none of the active Greek organizations have had hazing violations. As she says, "zero-tolerance is zero-tolerance."

The individual organizations at CC take this very seriously as well. Sigma Chi's website states, "It is important to note that our ritual does not include any forms of hazing. Hazing directly contradicts the principles of friendship, justice, and learning."

For students whose only familiarity with fraternal life comes from movies like Animal House and The Skulls, ritual is hard to understand. It is easy to picture toga-wearing, blood-sipping gents sacrificing goats while speaking an unrecognizable and possibly fictitious language.

However, while there are surely no blood-thirsty goat killers, rituals are undisclosed to the general public, so only those who go through recruitment are in a position to find them out. Nonetheless, Kelley stated, "Rituals are secret, but I can assure you no animals or humans are harmed in the process."

Kelley said she finds it frustrating to fight the stereotype, stating that people tend to focus on the negative, sensationalist aspects of Greek life rather than the positive, realistic aspects.

"You hear about a party held at a Frat house, but you don't hear about how many thousands of hours Greeks dedicate to community service," Kelley said.

Let's face it: We are all members of some group that can be stereotyped, and chances are, we don't like or fit that stereotype—whether it be "hippy," "jock," "dumb blonde," or "bleeding-heart liberal."

As McQuaid says, "People just need to take the time to define 'Greek' for themselves."



Work for this newspaper.

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SPORTS

The Fan Box

KAREN FRIEFELD CATALYST STAFF

CC Football has only tasted success so far. With most of the season ahead, will they continue to rise or start to fall?

"I know a few of the freshmen on the team because I am their FYE mentor, but aside from that, I am waiting for CC football to gain the interest of students the way football teams at other colleges do. I think if they added a marching band and continued to win their games, they would at least get more interested fans that would want to support them and help them win." – Senior Tristan Bates

"I would say it is very difficult to tell from the games that we have played so far. This was the first year the team has ever played Sewanee, and the game against the Pomona-Pitzer colleges was not as challenging as some of the games will be later on in the season. So I would say fans need to wait until Homecoming to really see where we match up this year." – Sophomore Amy Howard

"The team definitely has a potent offense. There are a few very good, quick wide receivers, the running back makes very good cuts and sets up his blocks effectively, and John McDonald, the quarterback, is young but has definitely made smarter and smarter decisions each game. In terms of the team rising or falling, I am still anxious to see what happens against really challenging teams." – Sophomore James Love

Women's Volleyball:

If these hits could kill



The women's volleyball team sharpens their skills after success in a weekend tournament.

SAM HARTNETT CATALYST STAFF

The Scoreboard

Cross Country:

Next Home Meet:

Colorado College Invitational,
Sept. 22 at Memorial Park, 9 a.m.

Football:

Results:

CC v. Sewanee, 36-26 W
No upcoming home games

MEN'S SOCCER:

Results:

CC vs. Kalamazoo, 9-0 W
CC v. Cal State East Bay, 2-1 W

Next Home Game:

CC v. Nebraska Wesleyan,
Sept. 21, 3 p.m.

WOMEN'S SOCCER:

Results:

CC v. U of Rhode Island, 1-2 L
CC v. Loyola, 2-1 W
No upcoming home games

VOLLEYBALL:

Results:

CC v. Rhodes, 1-3 L
CC v. Hendrix, 3-0 W
CC v. Birmingham, 3-2 W
CC v. Southwestern, 3-1 W
No upcoming home games

Rugby:

Next Games:

Men's team v. Regis at
Regis, Sept. 23, 7 p.m.
Women's team v. CU-Boulder
at Boulder, Sept. 23, 7 p.m.

KAREN FRIEFELD CATALYST STAFF

On a typical Sunday morning at Colorado College, the main gymnasium is frozen in time. There is no movement, no sound aside from the occasional crackling light fixtures, and a pale, ashen glow on the floor from distant light sources peering in beneath locked doors.

Last weekend, this setting was completely reversed.

As an introduction to their first year in a conference, the CC volleyball team had to establish themselves in the SCAC Regional Tournament. Adorned with CC colors and kneepads, the Tigers earned their reputation as a competitive team against top Division III contenders like Southwestern and Birmingham Universities.

"The most exciting moment this weekend was coming back after the loss on Friday and winning against Birmingham Southern. This team had gone previously undefeated in the conference, so it was a big deal to win against them," said junior Laura McQuaid. She added, "It was just a bonus to play and win later that day against Southwestern, a national ranked team."

Losing only the first game of the tournament against Rhodes College, the women's volleyball team swept the other three teams seeded ahead of them in an explosive set of early wins.

What really helped the team dominate in such an early season challenge? The answer seems to be a new system of play. Instead of running the typical volleyball line-up, the team has gained new and experienced freshmen that allow them to run a 6-2.

"I like running the 6-2 for a couple reasons," said McQuaid. "It gives us more opportunities to run creative plays with three hitters in every rotation; it incorporates more players on our team, and both sides and setters get to sub in."

Another addition to the team this year is a female member of the coaching staff. Although Crystal, the new assistant coach, could not be present at the tournament last weekend, her personal experience playing at UCCS and her relationship with the team has already made a lasting impression.

"Our coaching staff is really great, but it is nice having a female on staff who really knows how to play the game the way we play it," said sophomore Kameron Moding. "The male coaches are [amazing] volleyball players, but they are so good that it is almost unrealistic for us to play against them. Crystal is the perfect [fit] for the team—she is awesome."

Aside from the more complete coaching staff and a larger base of experienced teammates, the CC volleyball team can also thank a lengthy preseason for their effective and unified play. After traveling abroad together, the team had a lot of early practice time to get used to new plays and ensure basic fundamentals like endurance, passing, and agility were up to par.

The tournament was their first test as a team.

"Seeing what we have done against teams like Southwestern and Birmingham, there is no reason we will not be able to go all the way and win the NCAA tournament," said senior Michelle Rybka. "Being new to the SCAC this year, it would make a huge statement to be conference champions, so, as a team, we have to focus on conference [games] first."

She continued, "On a more personal level, I want to help this team as much as possible by staying healthy. I have changed positions since last year partly because of a shoulder injury, so my goal is to help lead this team to a strong postseason."

During their long weekend of consistent passing, serving, and hitting, the CC volleyball team proved that a unique offense could be the dominant factor in winning a match. Overall, hard falls on the gym floor and burns from intense diving are nothing in comparison to the confidence that the team has gained for the rest of the season.

With such an effective entrance into the competitive conference, will these women be able to finish what they have set out to do?

"The results of this tournament have shown our team, and hopefully our competitors in conference, that we are ready for any challenge," said McQuaid. "I just think this weekend made me personally even more excited for the coming conference matches on the road."

The team will continue their SCAC divisional matches with a game at Centre College.

"Seeing what we have done against teams like Southwestern and Birmingham, there is no reason we will not be able to go all the way and win the NCAA tournament."

SENIOR
MICHELLE
RYBKA

CC baseball team promises more than a ground rule double

KAREN FRIEFELD CATALYST STAFF

Although the hot dogs are still missing, one of the most popular, all-American pastimes is germinating on the baseball diamond just a mile from the CC campus.

Why yes, it is finally CC baseball.

Talk about the team got off the ground last week when two sophomores, Matthew Kerns and Tristan Knaite, organized practices, locations, and even a league to join in the spring.

"It has really been an uphill battle for us, since we are essentially getting no aid from the school," said Knaite, enthusiastic nonetheless. "Since we are entirely student-run, we have to establish ourselves as a legitimate club team for two years before we can receive any funding or help from CC."

The team, a loose band of sophomores, seniors, and football players is only half its possible size—the generous roster allows 33 players of all skill levels. Word about the team has spread quickly, and nostalgic high school players are showing up to each practice.

"Although we don't have any freshmen yet, it is nice to see people coming who have either never really played or miss their high school teams. I know I missed playing last year," sophomore Edric Spears said.

The team meets briefly twice a week to practice in-

field and outfield, and after more players get involved, scrimmages will become a key part of practice.

"Personally, I want to start now to get back in shape," said sophomore Bobby Garcia. He added, "I want to get back up to, if not surpass, where I was in high school baseball."

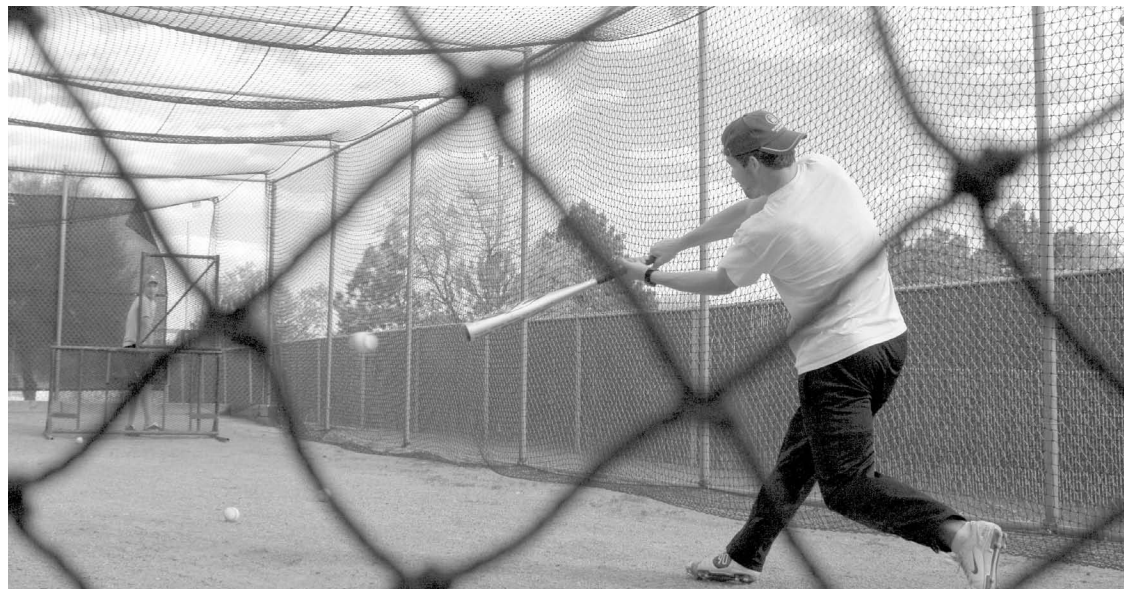
After collecting players in the fall, the team has joined the National Club Baseball Association (NCBA) and will play against the University of Wyoming, Fort Lewis, and Western State in the spring. The game schedule will involve roughly 20 games and scrimmages against local and regional teams, and upon winning the league, the team could play against nationally ranked teams from other divisions.

For now, however, the birth of the new team is still foremost in the minds of CC baseball players.

"Our goal is to establish ourselves as a team that will play competitively on into the years after I have graduated, and—hopefully—to become a varsity sport," said Kerns.

He continued, "Personally, I didn't even notice how much I missed watching and playing baseball until it was missing in my life last year, and I want to help create something that will continue the already fond memories I have from baseball when I was growing up."

The team practices at Memorial Park from 3-5 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday.

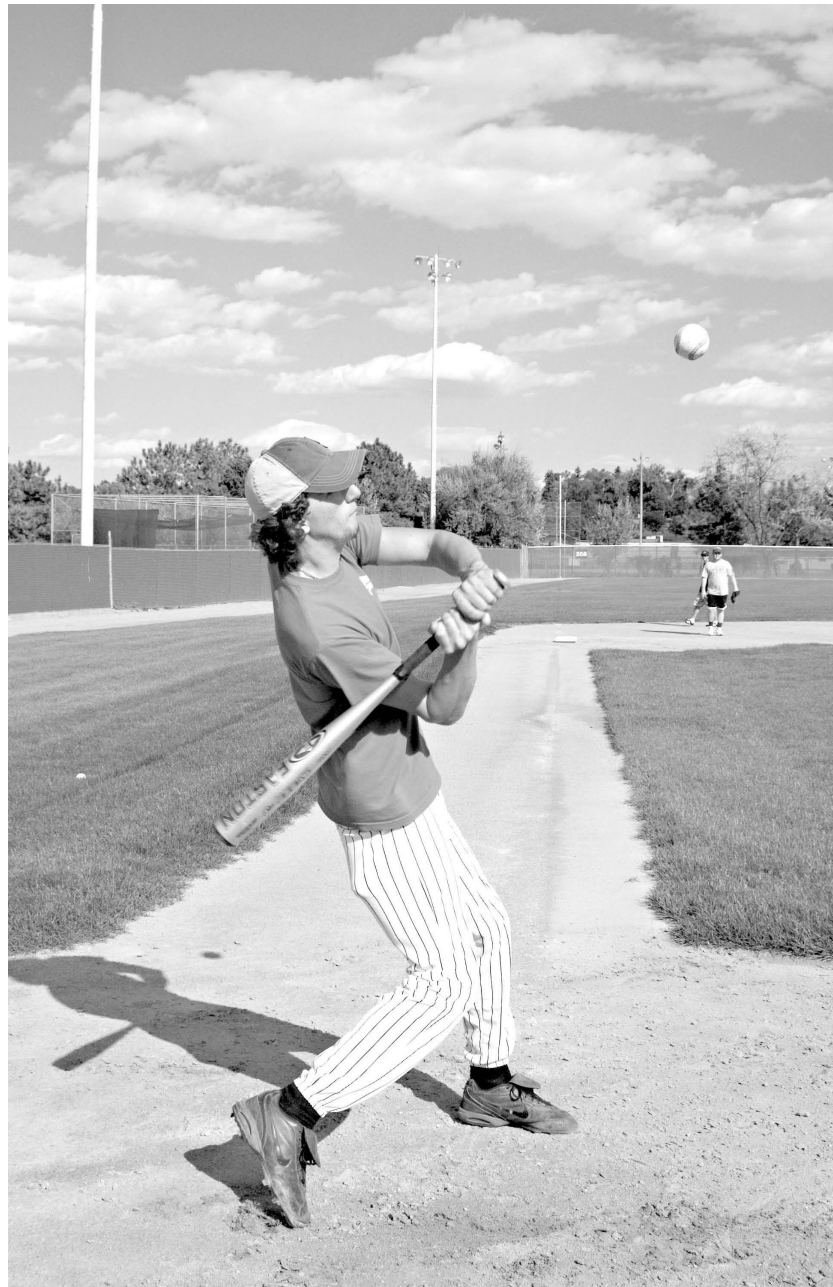


MEGHAN STEBBINS CATALYST STAFF

Top Right: Sophomore Jack Ludwig helps his outfielders practice catching and throwing.

Right: Sophomore Bobby Garcia collects his mit for practice at Memorial Park on Tuesday.

Above: Sophomore Ben Perdue takes some practice swings in the batting cage.



Athlete of the Week

Anna Clithero
Portland, Oregon

YEAR: Junior
MAJOR: Religion

WHAT SPORT AND POSITION DO YOU PLAY?

I play women's volleyball, and I am an outside hitter.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SPORTS TEAM?

I like the Oregon Ducks, mainly because I am from Oregon, and I really like the Seattle Mariners.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FOOD?

Just about all Greek food.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MOVIE?

Shawshank Redemption, without a doubt.

DO YOU HAVE ANY PRE-GAME RITUALS OR SUPERSTITIONS?

Not personally, but before each game I love dancing in the locker room with my team to techno, Incubus, and Justin Timberlake.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE QUOTE/MOTTO?

"The only true currency in this world is what you share with someone when you're uncool." —Almost Famous

Anna Clithero recently became the sixth player in CC history to surpass 1,000 career kills after Saturday's win over Birmingham-Southern College. She led the team with 22 individual kills and 17 kills in the game against Southwestern University.



SAM HARTNETT



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SCENE



The Roots played an impressive show at Denver's Paramount Theatre Monday as part of the VH1 Hip-Hop Honors Show. The group only played four or five songs from their albums and not one of their hits, focusing instead on old-school favorites and freestyle.

CONCERT REVIEW

Hip-Hop is in the building with The Roots in Denver

ARI MARGOLIS CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It is no secret that The Roots have been one of the most exciting live acts in hip-hop for more than a decade. As one of the few hip hop groups that uses a live band, Roots shows tend to take on an energy and dynamism that is unique in the hip-hop world.

Monday night at the Paramount Theatre in Denver was no exception, as The Roots put on an unanticipated yet inspiring show.

As part of the VH1 Hip-Hop Honors tour, the concert was a definite departure from their usual concert protocol. Instead of a set of crowd-pleasing favorites, of which there are many in The Roots' extensive repertoire of seven studio albums, this evening was more of a tribute to old-school hip hop in general. They played only four or five songs from their albums collectively, and not a single one of their radio-friendly mega hits in the two and a half hour set.

Yet even in the absence of more Roots favorites, there were plenty of old-school classics, as guest veterans MC Lyte and Big Daddy Kane threw down their respective hits from the late '80s through the mid-'90s with the impeccable Roots crew backing them up. Both Lyte and Kane are living legends in the hip hop world, and on Monday night they proved why.

Lyte did her "thing with an '89 swing" as she took the stage with her 1989 hit "Cha-Cha-Cha." Decked out in an I'm-38-years-old-but-I-know-I'm-still-sexy-as-hell corset over a white t-shirt, the ever-empowered female MC was well received by the already pumped-up crowd. Over the course of the night she came back to perform some of her other hits, including "Paper Thin," "Lyte as a Rock," "Ruffneck," and "Cold Rock the Party."

Big Daddy Kane was equally on point as he rocked the crowd with some old-school mainstays of his own, including "Set It Off," "Smooth Operator," "Warm it up Kane," and "Ain't no Half Steppin'."

Not to be outdone, in the highlight of the set, The Roots'

primary MC, Black Thought, wowed both audience and band alike with a superhuman freestyle that was by far the most impressive display of rapid-fire chops and flow I've ever witnessed. The men sharing the stage with him stared at the band's centerpiece as the audience erupted in applause.

Drummer Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson may even have almost missed a beat, he was so enthralled by Black Thought's display. Of course, the human metronome has never actually missed a beat in his life, so "almost" is as close as it got.

With a humility and modesty that is rare in hip-hop, Black Thought took a back seat for most of the night to his very special guests. Even more surprisingly, Lyte and Kane were upstaged by relatively unknown MC Mad Skillz. Skillz easily occupied the bulk of the stage time, including a poignant and timely performance of his song "Hip Hop Died?"

In a set that was so clearly meant to be a throwback to the glory days of "yes-yes y'allin," this song, a lament of the rise of corporate *hip-pop*—which capitalizes on the art form that originated as an expression of the urban black experience—was another high point of the show. The mostly noisy and responsive crowd fell silent from the first soulful chords from Kamal Gray's keyboard until Skillz and the band reached a triumphant climax in celebration of hip-hop.

The song is a reference to Nas's latest album, which is provocatively titled "Hip Hop is Dead." It is no coincidence that Skillz followed this song with a reverential cover of Nas's 1994 classic "It Ain't Hard to Tell."

Nas and other current MCs who have been in the game for such a long time struggle with the shift in mainstream hip-hop in recent years. In large part, record companies and corporate America have bastardized the once weighty art form by packaging the music to make it marketable, with great success

on that front. Isn't it appropriate, then, that The Roots are taking hip-hop back to its roots with this tour?

It was a great night for hip-hop in Denver, and probably a great night for The Roots as well—after so many years on the road, they must be tired of playing "The Seed" every night, anyway.

"Chas" says...

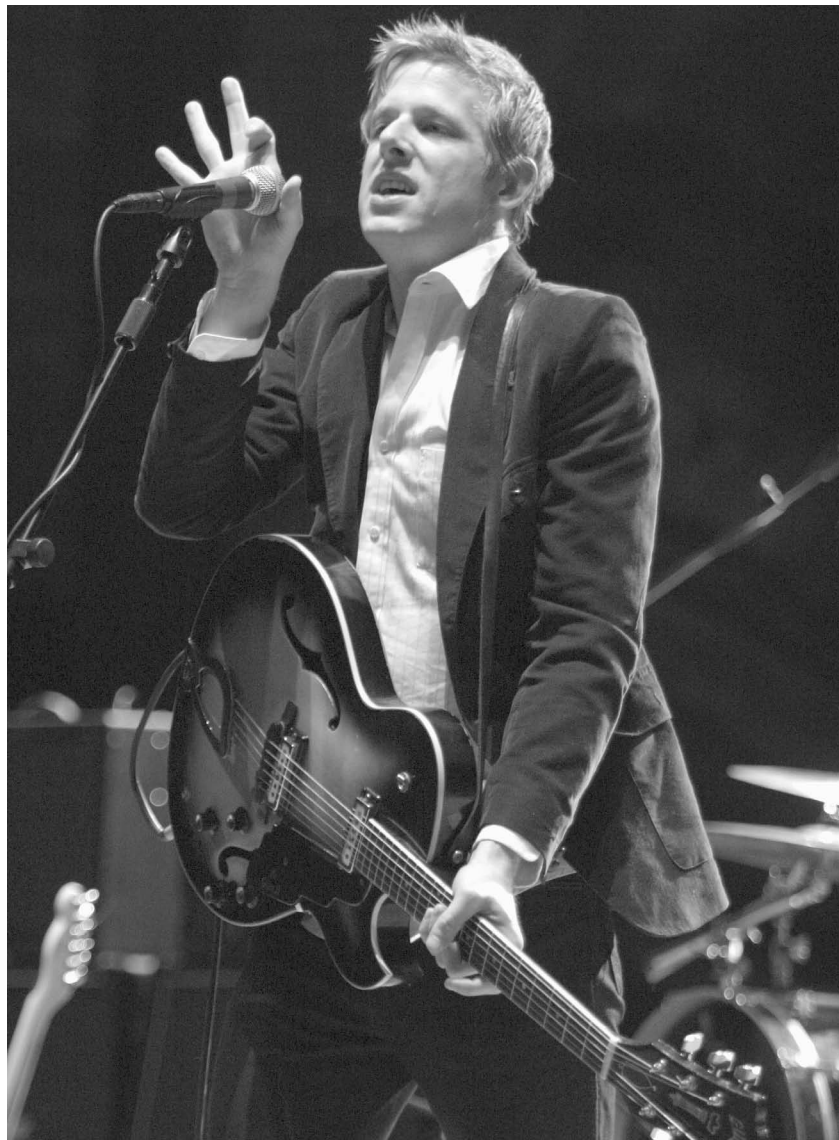
The library stays open until 4 a.m. on the last two days of the block!



Tutt Library Tips

ALBUM REVIEW

Spoon's *Ga Ga Ga Ga Ga* :



Spoon's *Ga Ga Ga Ga Ga* is a good addition to a Spoon-lover's collection, but a first-time listener should probably start elsewhere.

*Not much to sink
your teeth into*

For a musical glutton with insatiable, varying appetites, Spoon is a comfort food. The Austin quartet has a distinctive recipe that has worked for them for over a decade. Those still unaccustomed to the band are in luck, because every album between *A Series of Sneaks* to *Gimmie Fiction* possesses several gems, making the music accessible without the air of pretension that suffocates some "indie" bands.

Every album, that is, with the exception of their latest, *Ga Ga Ga Ga Ga*, which only boasts a few memorable tunes.

Despite what lead singer Britt Daniel's terms a "Dadaist" title, *Ga Ga Ga Ga Ga* breaks disappointingly little new ground in its mere 36 minutes. The laudable accomplishment of *Ga* is the use of new instruments, particularly the flairs of brass in both "The Underdog" and "You Got Yr. Cherry Bomb," hints of xylophone, and guitar riffs with blended flamenco and pentatonic influences.

"The Ghost of You Lingers" attempts edginess with menacing staccato piano and wind tunnel vocals, but instead achieves nerve-grating novelty in about 30 seconds. It is no wonder, and a bit of a relief, that "Don't Make Me a Target" stays in the band's limelight-bathed comfort zone. Even the

charming piano-driven "Black Like Me" does not give the album much to finish on.

Although the beginning of "Don't you Evah" mimics Cake, Spoon's distinctly simple song structure and signature vocals pervades, and, after six albums, may be getting a little stale.

As Spoon's sixth album, *Ga* will not leave a bad taste in your mouth, nor will it leave a lingering memory of any sort, especially in the shadow its brother albums. Despite some clever lyrics, only a few of the songs can stand consecutive listens before they begin waiting for random shuffle to resuscitate them.

Simply put, this album is the least likely to satiate a serious Spoon craving. But, as Daniel muses in "The Underdog," "it can't all be wedding cake!"

Ultimately, *Ga* deserves a place in the collection of a tried-and-true Spoon lover, not in the hands of a rookie. Anyone wanting a good first taste of Spoon should download "The Underdog" and then backtrack to *Kill the Moonlight*. Those still hankering for a new sound may find that *An Argument Between Brain & Feet* by Denver darlings the Hot IQs will leave them salivating.

-D.V.D.

BAND REVIEW

The New "Big Band" Music:

Why you are going to love the Polyphonic Spree

SAM JOHNSTON CONTRIBUTING WRITER

*Let's face it:
Our generation
sucks at
enjoying
ourselves at
concerts. We
have become
masters at
folding our
arms, standing
still, staring at
a band, and
buying the t-
shirt afterward
to prove how
cool we are.*

If you ask your parents about big band music, they'll likely point to old greats like Duke Ellington, Benny Moten, and other masters of jazz and swing music who commanded not only over a dozen musicians of various instruments, but the face of popular music, too.

Well, that was before rock and roll came along, shifting the masses toward the sounds of the four and five-piece bands (and, eventually, hip hop and techno with even smaller musician requirements). The big band sound was forced to shrink out of the spotlight.

Then, years later, the Polyphonic Spree came along. Okay—it's not jazz, and you probably haven't heard the generic pop music stations play any of their songs. But it's becoming harder and harder to hide from this Dallas-based, 24-member troupe of glorious, blasting sound. Even their name demands attention: The Polyphonic Spree.

What does that mean? Who are these guys? Well, they define themselves as a "choral symphonic rock" band, but in order to really describe them, it takes a few more words. Try "exuberant," "energetic," and "joyous," and you can start to get the picture.

But there's a problem with this sort of music these days. If you walk into most concerts (bluegrass excluded), especially concerts like the ones up in Denver and Boulder, you'll be hard pressed to find a crowd that looks in the least bit exuberant, energetic, or (God forbid!) joyous.

Let's face it: Our generation sucks at enjoying ourselves at concerts. We have become masters at folding our arms, standing still, staring at a band, and buying the t-shirt afterward to prove how cool we are.



The Polyphonic Spree is playing at The Gothic Theater in Denver, Oct. 22, \$20

Now look back at original big band. People went to big band shows and danced. Not only that, but they swing danced. That sort of thing requires room, movement, and energy! And while their music may not produce swing dancing, The Polyphonic Spree requires the same sort of crowd when they play a concert—a living crowd.

Do yourself a favor. Embrace the Spree.

DISPATCHES

Higher learning at Catamount

CC students teach and learn at Colorado Springs' premier environmental institute

KRISTINA SHOYLEVA CATALYST STAFF

The Catamount Institute has a strong connection with CC, though this connection is informal as Catamount is a separate non-profit organization. Many CC students know Catamount as a research area where Environmental Science and ecology classes go for a few days of the block.

Catamount is a beautiful area at 9600-foot elevation in Woodland Park, just a 40-minute drive from the CC campus. Though the city of Woodland Park is only 15 minutes away from the Catamount site, students going there will only see what a CC class needs: two classrooms (one with a kitchen) and a bathhouse.

The lack of urban development in the area is an advantage to classes that require fieldwork and research, and the site is often used for such activities because the ecosystem is less affected by city life.

The Catamount Institute has been a non-profit organization since 1998. People working for Catamount do ecological research, teach children in grades K-12 through curricular and extracurricular programs, work with corporations to implement environmentally friendly practices, and do various other activities related to ecology and environmental science issues.

The research area up in the mountains is not the main business office of the organization; Catamount headquarters are located west on Uintah at the Beidleman Environmental Center. K-12 classes are not usually taught at the site in Woodland Park, but rather taught at area schools and other outdoor venues near Colorado Springs.

Working with Catamount is a great opportunity for CC students, but you don't have to enroll in an Environmental Science or ecology block that goes to the Catamount research site in order to get involved. Catamount offers CC students various opportunities to pursue their academic interests while supporting its mission of inspiring ecological stewardship.

Opportunities vary from volunteer work and camp counselor positions to job shadowing and internships. The fields in which students can volunteer are as diverse as the needs of the organization: curriculum development, teaching, research, public relations, marketing, finance, grant writing, etc.

Catamount also gives students an opportunity to try out a program for a day or two before they make a commitment. Working and volunteering hours are very flexible, and the exact time when a student works for the organization can differ from week to week depending on the student's schedule.

Since environmental issues and teaching are areas in which many CC students express a strong interest, the Catalyst interviewed Laura Tuel, Catamount's director of education, and Howard Drossman, a professor of Environmental Science at CC and co-founder of the Catamount Institute.

LAURA TUEL ON THE VARIOUS VOLUNTEER AND WORK OPPORTUNITIES THE CATAMOUNT INSTITUTE OFFERS TO CC STUDENTS:

THE CATALYST:

What are the different programs run by Catamount that a CC student can join?

LAURA TUEL:

A lot of CC students will probably find YES to be a very interesting program. YES is the abbreviation for Young Environmental Stewards. A CC student can volunteer by teaching environmental issues to children in fourth and fifth grade after their classes; it is an extracurricular program. The children CC students will teach are selected from teachers working at the school. There are no more than 16 children in a group. The program starts in the fall, September 17, and

ends the week before Christmas. The spring YES program starts in late January and ends in May. Another program CC students may want to participate in is Creek Connections. Two main differences between YES and Creek Connections are that Creek Connections is incorporated in the school program of the respective school and includes kids in different age groups, from kindergarten children to high school seniors. Creek Connections also deals with watersheds. A still other interesting program is "Stream of Consciousness," which is a partnership program with FutureSelf. Students discover and explore Fountain Creek, then create works of art and science to interpret both the value of Fountain Creek as a natural resource for the Pikes Peak Region as well as the degradation and pollution of this critical watershed. The main goal of these programs is to get children outside and help them connect with nature. In the contemporary world of TV games and computers, it is sometimes hard for children to learn how to appreciate nature or just play games outside. A fourth volunteer program I would recommend is one the Catamount is starting now. It's called "Rites of Passage," and is a five-day trip outdoors, again aiming at connecting people with nature.

CATALYST:

You mentioned that the Catamount offers CC students the chance to become camp counselors. What does a camp counselor do?

TUEL:

Being a camp counselor is a leadership position which is only offered over the summer. Counselors help run the camp, teach, and generally help with the organizational activities. Being a counselor is much like being a class mentor.

CATALYST:

What can students do if they want to volunteer in a program but do not know which one they will enjoy the most, or do not know how much time they can dedicate to it?

TUEL:

Catamount Institute is always in need of volunteers and interns. Based upon the wants and desires of the student and the needs of Catamount Institute, an assessment will be made to determine what the best program would be for the student.

Catalyst:

How do volunteers travel from the campus to the school where they teach?

Tuel:

There are transportation options available.

Catalyst:

Can an internship at The Catamount Institute turn into a job offer?

Tuel:

It is a possibility.

Catalyst:

Can students job shadow at Catamount?

Tuel:

Sure.

Catalyst:

What should students interested in volunteering or working as interns for Catamount do?

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT CATAMOUNT AS AN INSTITUTION AND TO MAKE STUDENTS AWARE OF SIMILAR OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED BY CC, THE CATALYST INTERVIEWED HOWARD DROSSMAN, PROFESSOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND CO-FOUNDER OF CATAMOUNT INSTITUTE.

CATALYST:

How was The Catamount Institute founded?

HOWARD DROSSMAN:

My wife, Julie Francis, and I were the co-founders of Catamount. We thought that it would be good if we had an environmental science education center in the Springs, which could also be a research area. The land where Catamount's research area is now became available in 1996, and we purchased 177 acres as part of a deal with Teller County to preserve 1,400 acres of adjoining open space land. It was a great way to preserve the place from urban development, and it was obviously a good place for research. We got foundation funding for buying the place. Catamount was registered in 1998 as a non-profit organization. Now the Catamount's budget income comes from foundation funding and from government, corporate, and individual grants. The Catamount has no official connection with CC, but a number of EV and ecology classes visit for research and teaching.

CATALYST:

What programs does the EV program at CC offer that are similar to Catamount's programs?

DROSSMAN:

One study abroad program that I advise and can discuss is the MBL Ecosystem Center's Semester in Environmental Science, which provides a good opportunity for students who want to learn about ecosystem research. Students can do this program in the fall only. It comprises field-based classes taken for credit. The "semester abroad" takes place in Cape Cod, MA. Students enrolled in the program do aquatic and terrestrial biogeochemistry research for ten weeks, and then have the last five weeks to design a research project of their own with assistance from the Center's staff members. Another interesting program students can do if they are interested in learning about sustainable development while studying abroad is taught in Thailand. The program, based in Chiang Mai, Thailand, is the International Sustainable Development Studies Institute. Students can do the program either during the fall or spring semester. The semester in Thailand is taught on the block schedule. Since I advise in both programs, students can e-mail me at hdrossman@coloradocollege.edu with any questions related to the Semester in Environmental Science or the ISDSI program in Thailand.

CATALYST:

If you were to give CC students a list of reasons to volunteer for a program offered by Catamount, what would it be?

DROSSMAN:

First, it's close to the CC campus, so it can be done in just a single afternoon a week. Second, the program's mentors are highly skilled in environmental education and will work closely to meet the student's goals and interests. Third, there is a great diversity of program areas, a number of which can lead to great jobs in the environmental education and the non-profit sector. Last, you can act locally to effect change globally,

COMMENT & DEBATE

Drugs and drinking: *Reconsidering their role in our lives*

BRENNA SWIFT CATALYST STAFF

People will probably make fun of me for writing this article. That's how entrenched drinking and drugs have become in our campus culture. Why even question it?

You can go ahead and laugh at me, but I hope some of you will listen to what I have to say. We urgently need to have a dialogue about alcohol and substance abuse at this school. Many people feel that the problem has reached alarming proportions this year. There is a growing consensus that things are absolutely out of control.

Unfortunately, there's also a lot of denial, a lot of sidestepping, and a lot of excuses being made. CC students just don't like to have their drinking habits questioned.

As long as I'm talking about denial, I need to mention last week's cover article in the *Catalyst*. You know—the one on drinking and class of 2011. The main headline of the article asked whether freshmen have “taken it too far,” but the actual text seemed to argue that there's nothing to worry about. There was even a degree of pride in the claim that the class of 2011 has “maintained the tradition.”

I found this disappointing. The writer wasn't going to question underage drinking after all—just celebrate it as a “tradition.” Call it our special tradition, but I would argue that things really have gotten out of hand. Several students are being hospitalized each *weekend*. Should we just accept that?

Then there were the reactions to Laura Bennett's editorial, which was published in the very same issue of the *Catalyst*. Laura Bennett is the assistant director of residential life. She wrote about the two students who dressed up in “blackface” one weekend. All kinds of rumors surround the incident.

Faced with outrage from administrators and minority groups on campus, many people are trying to deny the possibility that these students attended a party at all. That way the hosts can avoid taking responsibility for the whole thing. And that way the issue won't touch drinking and its role in our lives.

But you know what? I think we all know that the students dressed in blackface so that they could attend a party—a *themed* party. A party with lots and lots of alcohol involved. Let's not try to squirm our way out of the truth. Strong people face their mistakes, make apologies, and seek to address the problem. Weaker people won't admit that they've done something wrong. In regards to the blackface

incident, that's the direction we're heading right now.

Why am I associating alcohol with the students in blackface? Well, it's all part of the same attitude—an attitude of carelessness and irresponsibility. Themed parties get away with their derogatory references because alcohol guarantees that “nobody will remember.”

Binge drinking is itself an irresponsible way to behave. Drink enough and you'll begin to behave in several *other* irresponsible ways. Like dress in blackface, get in a fight, or touch a girl where she doesn't want to be touched.

There's a consensus among CC students that both drinking and the resulting bad behavior are acceptable at parties. At a party, the presence of alcohol opens the door to all kinds of problems—derogatory costumes among them. An entire *culture* created the blackface incident: our CC party culture, which is about as wild and reckless as it could possibly get.

I just attended the all-campus forum on party culture, where there was a lot of debate about drinking. Many people wanted to talk about the blackface incident in isolation, ignoring the drinking and party scene. I think that's a big mistake, and I said so at the forum. Yes, racism was involved, but we won't get anywhere if we don't address the larger problems with these parties. Binge drinking is first and foremost among them.

First of all, why are upperclassmen serving alcohol to younger students at parties? At the forum, one Colorado Springs resident even claimed that they serve it to high school students. I really think that needs to stop.

If you host parties in a house off campus, I can just hear all the objections you're going to make: “I can't control who walks in the door. They'll come here if they want.”

Well, that's an empty excuse. You know full well that you're procuring alcohol for underage students—even *encouraging* them to drink so much that they get sick. Grow up and take some responsibility.

Yes, we CC students are quite privileged. But we're not “privileged” enough to disobey the law, risk sending people to the hospital, and disrupt entire neighborhoods with our disgusting behavior. For starters, you can quit making so much alcohol available at your parties.

Several of the themed parties have also got to go. “Pimps and hos”? “XXX-mas”? I thought CC students were careful about the way they treat women. I almost can't believe we have parties like that. I hope to God we don't have them again this year.

Unfortunately, though, that hope might be a little too optimistic. Drinking and raunchy parties are an engrained reality here. People get very angry when others question their choice to drink and attend these parties. Even now, I can sense that my comments are going to create hostility. If you really think about it, though, that's part of the problem. Why should I feel so afraid to raise these issues? Other people get to brag about their partying and drinking all the time.

That brings me to my next point of discussion: fitting in at CC. I'm a CC student, but I'm also a non-drinker. I find that in a lot of cases, it really does make me a social outcast. Many people seem skeptical, amused, or even angry when I tell them I don't drink. *You're at CC and you don't drink or smoke pot? Are you even a human being?* I've had an awesome time at CC so far, but I have to say that this is one experience I do NOT enjoy.

Some of my acquaintances have repeatedly offered to get me drunk because it would be “so much fun” to see what I'd be like. Others tell me I'm lame for not going to parties where I'd certainly be the only sober one around. That's disrespectful of my choice not to drink or participate in a culture that makes me uncomfortable. Every time somebody says it, I'm reminded that it's considered “weird” to stay away from alcohol.

If you have friends who've told you that they don't like drinking or off-campus parties, please respect that. Just like you wouldn't try to persuade a vegetarian to eat meat, don't try and cajole somebody into getting drunk.

The CC party culture can be especially intimidating for freshmen who are uncomfortable around drugs or alcohol for personal, religious, or other reasons. If you're a freshman in this situation and you're questioning your choice to come here, don't despair. You *can* find friends who will respect your decisions and take a more responsible stance on partying.

I'm going to close with a comment that one woman made at the forum on party culture. She's the night nurse at Boettcher. She says that an ER doctor called her, astonished that she'd seen so many CC students in one weekend. She asked what the school plans to do about the drinking problem.

That's what it is—a *problem*. And it's defining our school for the entire community. Did we even come here to get degrees? Or did we come to get drunk?

If you host parties in a house off campus, I can just hear all the objections you're going to make: “I can't control who walks in the door. They'll come here if they want.” Well, that's an empty excuse.

Just like you wouldn't try to persuade a vegetarian to eat meat, don't try and cajole somebody into getting drunk.

CLARIFICATION

In the last issue of the *Catalyst*, an early version of an opinions piece by Assistant Director of Residential Life Laura Bennett titled *Life Lessons Found Outside of the Classroom* ran in the paper. Due to an editing error, the updated version of the piece did not make it into print. The *Catalyst* would like to extend an apology to Ms. Bennett.

The primary difference between the versions was in how a party referred to as “Rep'n the Hood,” as Ms. Bennett originally wrote, was characterized. The *Catalyst* subsequently confirmed that a party over that weekend was referred to by some attendees as such. However, the majority of those present at that party did not—including the students who, at the time, privately claimed to the *Catalyst* to have been its hosts.

In the final version of her article, which was not published, Ms. Bennett makes her own distinction, and specifically notes that the party known as “Wear Where You're From” was not her reference point for her critique. Since the article's publication, the residents of 122 Uintah St. have come out publicly as having hosted the party in question.

Ms. Bennett's article, in both versions, made vague reference to other activities with racial overtones, specifically the wearing of blackface. Allegations made after the article's publication that some attendees of the party at 122 Uintah wore blackface have not been substantiated. The *Catalyst* regrets any confusion that may have been caused.

EDITORIAL POLICY

THE OPINIONS REPRESENTED IN THIS SECTION DO NOT REFLECT THOSE OF THE EDITOR, PUBLISHER, OR ANYONE OTHER THAN THE WRITER. ALL SUBMISSIONS TO THE OPINIONS SECTION MAY BE EDITED FOR FORM, LENGTH, AND CONTENT.

Belt buckles and Barack Obama

WARREN PETTINE CATALYST STAFF

Curtis was on the phone, as usual, even while driving up in the mountains. We'd spent the night camping along Shadow Mountain Lake and were going to spend the morning hiking to the Crystal waterfalls. Curtis is a friend of my father's from Colorado College. He was on the phone with his mother.

"I'm not sure I'll be able to give you a ride to the Obama rally. I have a lot of work to do," he said into his blackberry.

Curtis's mother is an old Democratic community activist from Boulder. Her younger son, Curtis's brother, has ties to Barack Obama's Colorado campaign and had reserved tickets for her to an airport hanger barbeque/fundraiser Obama was putting on. Obama would fly in, make a speech, shake some hands, and fly out. I quickly jumped on the chance.

"I can give her a ride," I said.

Curtis hesitated for a moment before saying into the phone, "Warren Pettine is going to pick you up. Yes, Ken's son. Ken and Paisley. Yes, I'll try and get him to bring Paisley."

My father, a two-time voter for Bush, had been joking recently that my next college tuition check was going to the Obama campaign. Knowing him, the joke might not be so far from the truth. I reassured myself by thinking of contribution limitations imposed by the McCain/Fitzgerald campaign finance reform bill and the rising cost of CC tuition.

Back at camp after the hike, my father seized the opportunity to go see Obama speak. We cleaned up the campsite, making s'mores over the smoldering coals, and packed up to leave.

Having spent two days in the mountains with only one set of hiking clothes, a shower and a change were desperately in order. We stopped at our mountain home in Frasier. The only clothes my father keeps there are western style. After a quick wash, I slipped into Wrangler brand jeans and button-up shirt. With buffalo jerky and beers, we piled into the car and set out for Obamaland.

In Boulder, we picked up Curtis's mother, an elderly black woman with strong convictions. She'd been involved in Boulder politics since long before I was born. We listened to a lecture on Bush's early learning disabilities and drug use, and then heard her heated digression on the need for new international personal identities. Obama was her man.

Her ticket was for one whole family. After some negotiating, it was decided that she would pose as our grandmother, though my obstinate father insisted buying a \$500 ticket, further chipping away at my college fund.



An Obama supporter at a campaign event. Obama's campaign claims that Obama can bridge divides that other politicians cannot, such as those between Republican and Democrat, black and white, and young and old voters.

Inside, the crowd was decked in Chinos and Boulder chic. There were long tables on each side with hamburgers and salad. A band on stage played jazz. The hanger was filled with over 500 people. A contingent of Broncos was there to show support.

As the only cowboys at the event, we quickly began receiving strange looks. Turning to make conversation with a closely cut bald man wearing a tight, black sweater, I joked lightly about the money Obama was pulling in from the event. He laughed politely.

As time for the speech came near, it quickly became apparent that there were not enough chairs to go around. Having given up on socializing, we decided to fetch camping chairs from the car. Curtis's mother had found her way to a table. We sat in the back of the room, three Wrangler-clad rednecks set up for the Obama speech like a Nascar rally.

Obama spoke on the need for optimism in American politics. He talked about reforming our healthcare system, rebuilding human rights credibility throughout the world, and tackling global climate change.

His strong voice resonated throughout the hanger, infectious with hope and pride. He paced the stage while speaking and did not break for applause. Often, a large smile broke across his face.

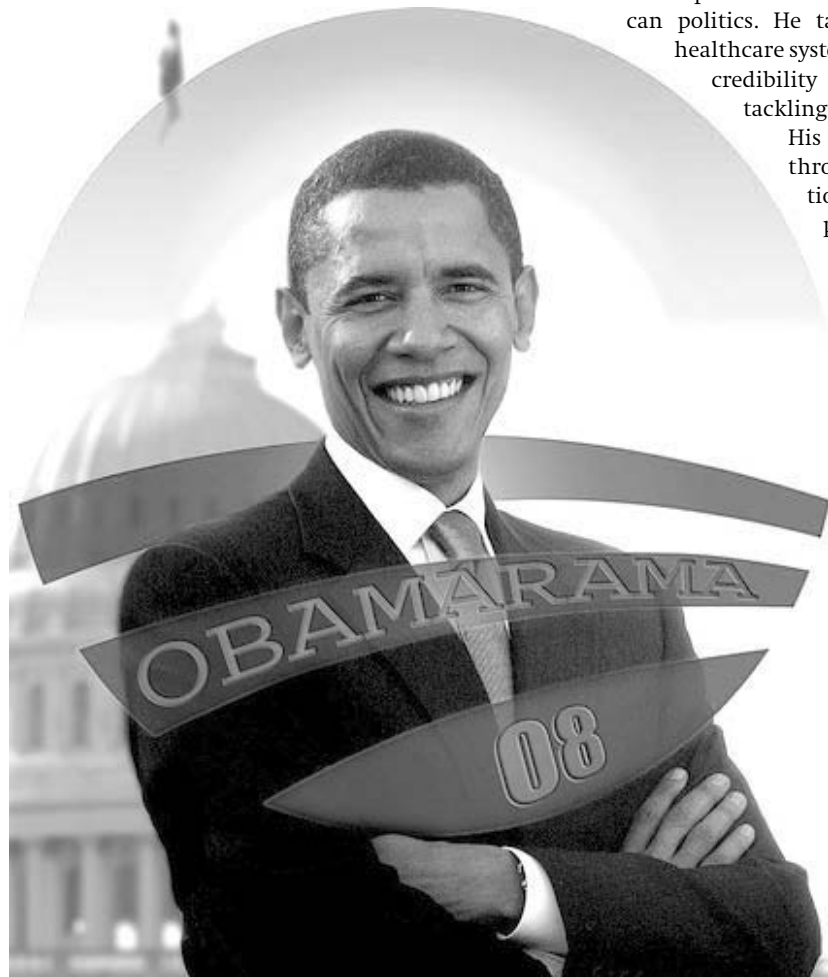
Following the speech, we lined up to meet him. After a few minutes, the man approached, reaching out his hand. I awkwardly shook it and gave him a wide grin, unable to find anything appropriately clever or congratulatory to say. He quickly moved on to the next hand in line as I reverently withdrew my own, now graced and glowing.

We folded up the camping chairs and piled back in the car, heading home to Fort Collins with the beer, jerky, and Wranglers in tow. The cowboy look was out. We'd changed into newly purchased Obama shirts.

Work for this newspaper.

Writer
Photographer
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catalyst@coloradocollege.edu



A campaign image of Obama, as it would appear on a campaign button. The term "Obamarama" is an unofficial label for the Obama movement.

Details: Emily Silver 505.917.6572

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