

Student cyclists test their mettle against Independence Pass

With Aspen as their goal, 65 students spend block break on bikes, continuing CC tradition



CCstudents power up Independence Pass on day three of their trek to Aspen, CO.

Photo: Max Robillard

Hannah Furr

Each autumn, tourists travel from near and far to witness the spectacular red and yellow leaves of Colorado's aspen trees. Since the early 1950s, groups of Colorado College students have been among these tourists, and this year was no exception.

On Wednesday, September 24, as everyone else on campus prepared for their first block break of the year, around 65 CC students and one faculty member, Alberto Hernandez-Lemus, gathered outside Loomis Hall to begin a 154-mile bike tour following Highway 82 to Aspen, Colorado.

"We put all of our stuff in the boxcar and vans and began riding whenever we were ready...it was really casual," said Max Robillard, a sophomore on the CC bike team. This year was Robillard's first first year participating in the Aspen bike trip, and he was accompanied by teammates and friends.

The bike tour was mapped out over a stretch of four days. Students began riding on Wednesday afternoon and biked about 35 miles to the first checkpoint: Round Mountain Campground. That night, everyone gathered around a campfire, ate dinner and then slept in tents that they had packed in the

Cont'd page 2

Opinion: Obama wins on logic, loses on impact in first debate

Steven Galinat

On September 26, presidential candidates Barack Obama and John McCain engaged in their first debate at the University of Mississippi. Given the extremely contentious atmosphere of this election season, and the skill of these two accomplished politicians, there was a great deal of anticipation and speculation as to what their first formal exchange would reveal about their platforms and campaigns.

The topic of the debate was supposed to be foreign policy, but the recent financial crisis loomed like an 800-pound gorilla in the room, drawing comments from both candidates. The \$700 billion bailout plan still had not been voted upon and neither candidate seemed to want to address that specifically, even though moderator Jim Lehrer specifically asked them if they would vote for it (they both did after the debate).]

Obama's economic message focused on the irresponsible deregulation that occurred under the Bush administration, which he sees as

one of the causes for the current crisis. McCain, ironically, was the one who employed lofty rhetoric about believing in "the goodness and strength of the American worker," and that "America is still the greatest producer, exporter, and importer." But McCain's facts were either incorrect, or he has a very peculiar definition of what 'greatest' means. According to the CIA the United States is only the world's fourth largest exporter, but the largest importer by a huge margin, nearly \$500 billion more than the European Union.

Obama apparently agreed, once saying, "I don't know where McCain is getting his facts." But that was the only questioning he really did of McCain's position. In addition to this, the Illinois senator, for some inexplicable reason, made a point of saying "I agree with Senator McCain" or this, John McCain proved relatively good at specifically pointing out

Cont'd page 5

In best block break fashion

Students travel the nation for the ultimate four day adventure



Scene P6

The new face of CC dining

Bon Appetit chosen by 14-member committee



Kristi Beard News P2

"Choke" chokes

Story of a vulgar dimwit who edges on annoying

Meredith Mantik Scene P8

Registration efforts stymied by false information

Wagma Mommandi

As record numbers of Colorado College students become active in 2008 political campaigns, CC's politically inclined are working overtime to ensure that every eligible voter is able to cast a ballot on November 4. However, registration efforts on campus have been met with some ambiguity, as misinformation and a lack of efficient means of notification have made some students uneasy about whether they will be able to vote in El Paso County.

On Wednesday, September 24, the Colorado Democratic Party held a press conference accusing El Paso County Clerk Bob Balink of "blatantly misstating the law." The accusations stem from an email sent in March from El Paso County Elections Manager Liz Olson to the office of President Celeste outlining what it takes to vote in Colorado.

Olson says in the letter, "I wanted...see if you might be able to put some information in your school newspaper regarding the guidelines for voter registration. Since 2008 is going to be such a big election year, we feel it's important to provide information... regarding the residency requirements for voter registration."

The notice Olson attached stated, among other things, "If your parents still claim you on their income tax return and they file that return

Cont'd page 11

NEWS

Quality, price, sustainability determine food service provider

Kirstie Beard

Earlier this year, a committee of administrators and faculty at Colorado College opted not to renew Sodexho's contract to serve as the school's primary food service provider, a role that Sodexho had fulfilled this role for the previous 35 years.

The desire to modify Colorado College's food services stemmed from the fact that many students had begun to question the quality and value of Sodexho's services after visiting other colleges, and also from the observations faculty members made during their three, five and ten-year market evaluations.

CC's search for a new food service provider was a nine-month process conducted by a hired Food Service Consultant and led by a 14-person "Ad Hoc Food Vision Committee" that consisted of CC faculty, students and staff.

After visiting and evaluating food providers at other campuses, CC submitted a 45-page document to 15 national and regional providers

that requested proposals for the bid process. Seven providers soon responded. With the help of the food service consultant and the committee, CC was able to narrow the field four finalists: Sodexho, Bon Appétit, Gourmet Dining, and Aramark.

These four finalists were placed in a three-month competition that included visiting the campus, providing sample meals, and presenting multiple references that demonstrated they would be a good match for the CC environment.

The college decided that Bon Appétit's quality of food, use of sustainable materials, and reasonable prices made it the best fit for the CC campus. Thus, Bon Appétit had its big reveal as the new food provider the first Friday after commencement.

"While it was sad to see the Sodexho management team go, Bon Appétit's commitment to sustainable and local foods has produced a lot more excitement about dining services in general," said John Lauer, one of the faculty members on the 14-person committee and also CC's Residential Life Director-Office Coordinator.

Bon Appétit was given five weeks

to make this change possible, and had to quickly become familiar with the use of gold cards, the block plan and catering. They also remodeled Rastall Dining Hall, Colorado Coffee, the Preserve, and Benjamin's, and adjusted to providing food for CC's off-campus cabin.

"There were no major problems, issues, or missed meals due to the switch," said Chris Melcher, CC's General Counsel/Director of Business. "I have been thrilled with Bon Appétit's strive for excellent service."

On June 30, Sodexho served their last Colorado College dinner, and on July 1, Bon Appétit served their first breakfast, marking the beginning of a long relationship with not only CC students and faculty but also the Colorado Springs community. (how?)

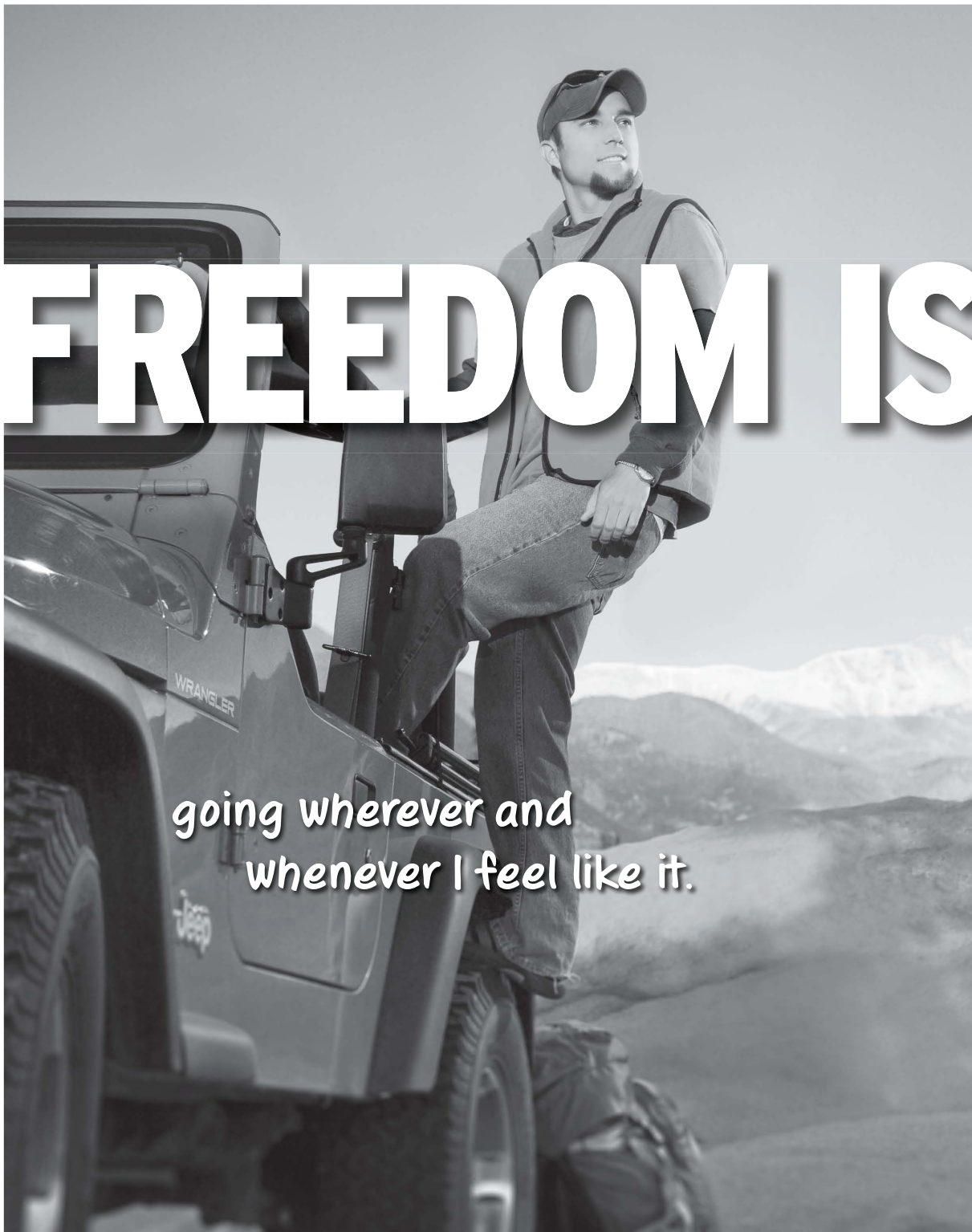
CC's initial goal of switching food providers was to focus on food as part of improving and building community relationships. Bon Appétit has helped achieve and even exceed this goal with their commitment to value on both a professional, environmental, and personal level.

Bon Appétit first made their

pledge to better the CC community during the initial contract and negotiation process, when they stated that they would contribute a substantial amount of money to improve Benjamin's and Rastall, a transformation that will occur over two to three years.

By having a chef as the central operator of the kitchen, Bon Appétit emphasizes taste, quality, and nutrition in all of their dishes. Their use of local, fresh, and organic products shows their commitment towards providing students with a healthier menu while also aiding the environment, a well-known trait around campus. In keeping with this idea of students' wellbeing, Bon Appétit aims at making every meal from scratch and has "gotten rid of the can openers," vouching for a more ideal home-cooking style in order to make relationships based around the dinner table possible, even when one is not at home.

Under the CC contract, all Sodexho employees were immediately offered jobs by Bon Appétit, which they could accept or turn down at their will.



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CC website among outlets spreading misleading registration information

Continued from page 1

Wagma Mommandi

and they file that return in a state other than Colorado, you are not eligible to register to vote or vote in Colorado.”

This claim has been deemed incorrect: dependency claims in tax returns do not have any effect on voter eligibility in Colorado.

Olson goes on to say in the email, “Our goal is to ensure that no one violates the law by voting when they shouldn’t and also by ensuring that anyone who wants to register to vote is given that opportunity.”

The e-mail was forwarded to Assistant Dean of Students Jeff Cathey who in turn sent it to student body president, senior Mark Neuman-Lee.

“I was unsure about the legality of some of the claims, so I sent it to the local Obama Campaign,” explained Neuman-Lee.

Lawyers from the Obama Campaign for Change office in Colorado Springs and the Colorado Democratic Party determined that the claims made were unlawful.

false “Coloradoans are responding to the change that Democrats up and down the ballot represent in this election, from Barack Obama

and Mark Udall on down,” said Pat Waak, Chairwoman of the Colorado Democratic Party. “I’m encouraged that voters, especially prospective young voters, are registering in record numbers. But when election officials spread false information about who is eligible to vote...we need to be concerned that eligible voters will be denied their right to vote.”

The information in the original email from Liz Olson was never published in the Catalyst, but did end up on the Colorado College website for students to access. Inquiries about who posted the information on the website were not answered. The website has now been changed noting to state that, “It is NOT TRUE that if your parents still claim you on their income tax return and they file that return in a state other than Colorado, you are not eligible to register to vote or vote in Colorado. You ARE eligible.”

Despite all of the confusion, the law is simple and straightforward when it comes to voting in Colorado. Martha Tierney, the Colorado Democratic Party’s attorney explained, “Young adults – even those young people from out of state who are attending school in Colorado – have a right to exercise their franchise if they are United States citizens, 18

years of age.”

Balink, a delegate to the Republican National Convention, could not be reached for comment.

Shortly after the September 24 press conference, he issued a press release that says in part, “It is my first duty as a Clerk and Recorder to facilitate the enfranchisement of every eligible elector in El Paso County. My staff and I are committed to ensure that this goal is attained.” Olson has explained that her office found out from lawyers that it had misinterpreted the law about out-of-state students. The press releases made by El Paso County employees apologizing for the false information are not falling on deaf ears, junior Kira Grush who is enrolled in PS 203 Political Campaigning this block, explains,

Junior Kira Grush, who is interning for Barack Obama’s Campaign for Change, said “Since 2002 there have been issues registering students; this is the first time the county clerk has formally apologized for, in effect, disenfranchising students at Colorado College.”

Neuman-Lee, among other students, is not satisfied with the press release issued by the County Clerk’s office. They claim problems with the registration of students continue. Claims of unusual problems when registering are continuing to surface. Many students have registered and still have not received confirmation or rejection notices from the County Clerk’s office.

Neuman-Lee explains, “Kids are in a mysterious limbo where they are unsure if they are registered or not, and they probably won’t find out until after the registration deadline.”

Students working on registration efforts on campus are frustrated with the slow response confirming that forms are going through.

goes on to explain “(We’re) looking at potentially losing hundreds of votes,” said Neuman-Lee.

Junior Anais Gude has faced problems in her efforts to register

to vote.

“I filled out a form last spring, I never heard back and so I had to re-register, then I called them again two days ago and they didn’t have any record of me in the computer. It all seems kind of weird. So all I could do is register again,” Gude said. “I’m anxious, if I can’t vote it will be absolutely infuriating”

She goes on to explain, “It seems as though I’m surrounded by people who are having registration problems ... I’m worried to see what it will be like on election day, what students will have to face when trying to vote.”

Senior Geneva Sills also had a complicated registration process.

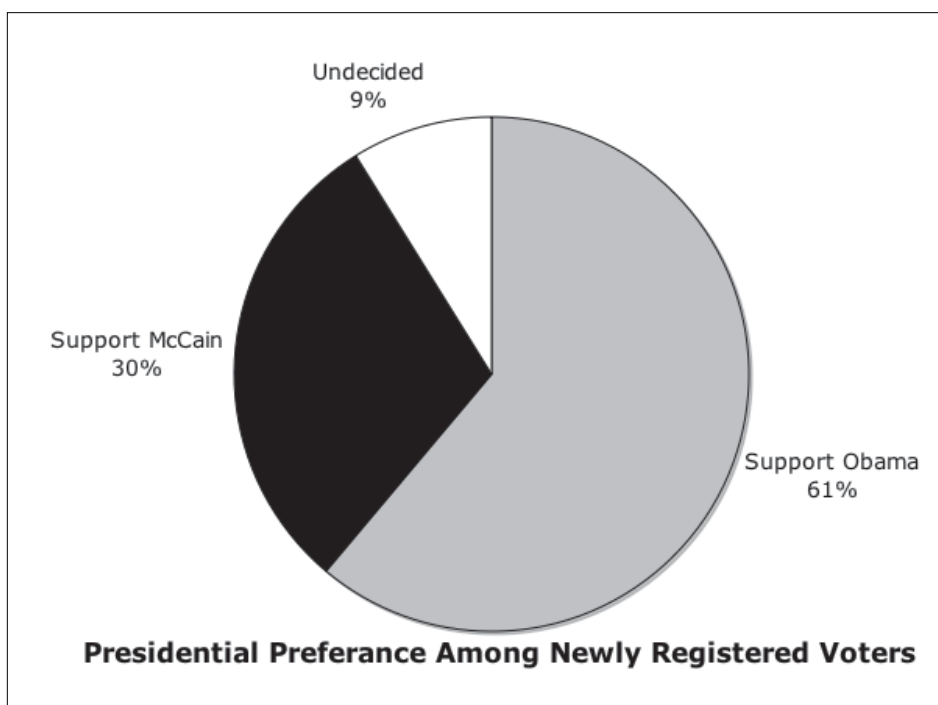
“I filled out the registration forms and turned them in. A few weeks later I got a letter in the mail saying I had filled them out incorrectly, so I filled them out again, then I got another letter saying I filled them out wrong again,” said Sills, “I think now I’m finally registered correctly. Something that seems as though it should be very simply turned out to be pretty complicated.”

The only way to ensure students are registered to vote is to contact the El Paso County Clerk’s Office and ask if they are registered.

The Colorado Independent newspaper reports that nearly 120,000 new voters registered to vote between January and August of 2008.

El Paso County is considered to be among the most reliable Republican strongholds in the country. In 2004, Democrat John Kerry received only 32 percent of the vote in the county. Colorado College is considered to be among the most Democratic constituencies in the area.

The Colorado independent (Independent newspaper) reports that nearly 120,000 new voters registered to vote between January and August of 2008. The deadline to register in Colorado, an important swing state in the general election, is October 6. Mail-in voting will begin immediately following.



Source: Wall Street Journal / NBC

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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SPORTS

Men's soccer poised for NCAA, led by offensive power

Warren Takeshima

As CC's men's soccer team nears the halfway point of the regular season, their situation looks exceptional. They're off to a 7-1 start and have 2-0 record in conference play.

Last weekend, the Tigers made their presence felt at the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference where they crushed Birmingham Southern College and Millsaps College, outscoring their opponents by 10-1 over the two games.

CC's ability to shoot relentlessly against their opponents has become a trademark, as they display the knack to score early and often.

This offensive power has lacked in previous seasons, but it seems that the Tigers have found the right formula to take them to the NCAA tournament.

The scoring power has not come from just one individual. 16 different Tigers have recorded at least one goal. It does appear, however, that the

junior class is emerging as the core of CC's offense – 21 of CC's goals have been produced by junior players. Junior co-captain Trevor Cobb is having a phenomenal season, producing five goals and adding another six assists to his name. Cobb's scoring record is joined by classmates Chris Ellis, Jordan Reese, David Van Sicklen, Ben Hancock, and Brendan Douglas, who all have had multiple goals this season.

Senior forward Logan Boccard also has five tallies, contributing immensely to CC's arsenal of goal scorers.

All this scoring would mean nothing if CC let many goals into their own net. Yet this has not been a problem, as the defense has recorded five shutouts and only allowed four goals during the season.

Anchoring the defense is Captain Ben Beadle-Ryby and senior defender Berk Korustan. Their leadership, along with the tough play

of senior defenders Jimmer Comford and Wes Ridders, has made the CC defense as solid as ever. Senior Mike Richardson has also come off the bench to contribute critical minutes defensively.

Keepers Brian Engle, Andy McGhie, and Joe Wykowski have all taken part in CC's defensive brilliance, keeping out the few shots that come their way.

This weekend looks to be the toughest test for the Tigers, as they face a stubborn Southwestern Col-

lege and the number one team in the nation, Trinity University, away.

Yet just one victory this weekend will leave the team into prime position to make the NCAAs after a three-year absence from November's tournament. As long as they continue their consistent play on both sides of the ball, there should be little resistance from anyone left on their schedule.

The team plays at home next weekend against Nebraska Wesleyan University and Westminster College.

Cycling tradition punishes and rewards

Continued from page 1

Hannah Furr

tour vans that followed the group.

The rest of the tour schedule was very casual. Thursday morning had no strict starting time, and students began cycling whenever they woke up. The group traveled about 75 miles, and met up in the village of Twin Lakes around dinnertime. Part of the group opted to stay at the Inn at Blackwalth in Twin Lakes; the rest stayed at a campground nearby.

On the third day, the group went pedal-for-pedal over Independence Pass, a 12,095-foot high mountain pass outside of Aspen. At around 5:30 p.m. on Friday, the group gathered at the Saint Maritz hostel in Aspen with little left except triumph and glory.

After dinner, a group of students went to a local park with a boom box

and had a raging dance party with local Aspen teenagers. The small celebration was all fun and games until the Aspen police intervened due to a noise complaint. However, no one was punished.

"The officers said they didn't really care because they were glad that we were biking instead of getting drunk in the bars like all the other kids out," said a rider.

On Saturday, the bike group was given the day to explore Aspen—some students chose to go hiking and fishing around Maroon Bells, while others chose to just hang out or see a movie.

On Sunday, the tour vans and box truck brought all the students back to campus except Greg Block, JJ Tower and a couple other seniors who decided to bike back on their own. They were back in time for dinner.

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COMMENT & DEBATE

Debate analysis: It's all in how you say it

Continued From Page 1

Steven Galinat

...the differences between himself and his opponent by declaring how and why Obama is wrong.

Over half an hour into the debate, the candidates finally got around to talking about the proposed topic: foreign policy. The usual rhetoric of how “we will win in Iraq” was heard from McCain. Obama instead focused on his opposition to the war from the beginning and the lack of planning or proper preparation for an insurgency after Saddam had been removed. McCain held strong in this section of the debate, however, driving home the effectiveness of the surge, and quoting Obama’s statement that “the surge will not work” at the time McCain proposed the plan.

McCain came off as the tougher debater, stringing multiple points together, while weaving into them a sensationalist, exaggerated, or outright false attack. Put on the defensive, Obama was only able to respond to one or two of these claims because he was constrained by the format of the debate, leaving comments about his supposed neglect of General Petraeus unchecked. Throughout the debate McCain spoke strongly. When Obama made a point that he wanted to respond to, he jumped in

whenever Obama paused and started speaking. Conversely, when McCain would make an exaggerated statement Barack wanted to respond to, Obama would step in, raise his finger, and make a polite, respectful reply that McCain kept talking over and no one heard.

Like it or not, Barack Obama does have an inherent weakness in foreign policy. It is primarily for this reason that Senator Joe Biden brings so much to Obama’s campaign, and he referenced his running mates experience in this manner when questioned on it. McCain exploited this by emphasizing the years in Congress acquiring stories of past military operations, and cleverly referenced how he had gone against his own party to support intervention in Bosnia because “it was the right thing to do.”

Symbolic of how the night went, both candidates told a story of getting a bracelet from the mother of a U.S. soldier who died in Iraq. Both of these mothers had great lines for the candidates they supported. One told John McCain to not let “her son’s death been in vain.” The other told Barack Obama to “not let what she is going through happen to another mother.” Both of these points are valid, powerful, and moving, but John McCain pulled his bracelet story first, ending a speech strongly with that potent line. Obama start-



Cartoon: Basil Kincade

ed his response with that story, but rushed it out as a counter, placing evidence on how he “had a bracelet too,” not “don’t let another mother suffer,” and then moving on quickly to other points.

John McCain played to his base well. He emphasized Obama’s lack of experience and, by contrast, that he had actually “traveled through all these places,” and knew what to do because of it. Perhaps Obama’s best point of the night was when he quoted McCain saying we could “muddle through Afghanistan.” He followed that up by saying “You don’t muddle through the central front on terror, and you don’t muddle through going

after Bin Laden.”

Reflecting on the debate, it is clear that Barack Obama had good points, but he failed to deliver them as strongly as he could have. McCain, on the other hand, repudiated his experience on foreign policy, and delivered his message with a strength and vigor that at times drowned out superior argument. Obama has a lot of things going for him, but if he is going to ascend to the presidency he needs to start arguing with the force and authority of a president.

Support the candidate who supports college students: Mark Udall

Angela Cobian

During the course of the Bush administration, the average state tuition has skyrocketed to \$5,192 – a 64 percent increase in six years. The cost of tuition is rising much faster than family income, forcing more and more students to fall deeper into debt as they try to pay for college. A change is needed to fix this crisis. Armed with the right to vote, the most potent weapon given to a college student, we can finally fight back and elect members to Washington that will work to make college affordable for all.

While most of the attention thus far has focused on the historical presidential election, Colorado is also home to one of the most competitive senate race in the country. Making the senatorial election even more important to college students in Colorado are the stark differences between Democratic candidate Mark Udall and Republican candidate Bob Schaffer, especially on issues concerning higher education.

In short, Bob Schaffer is merely an extension of the Bush administration. A vote for Bob is basically a vote for Bush, and we have seen what President Bush has done to our tuition costs.

For example, Bob Schaffer was in Congress back in 2001 when tuition costs started to expand. Instead of fighting to lower the costs of college for students, Bob Schaffer was one of just four Congressmen to vote against a bill which guaranteed a drop in student loan interest rates and a raise in the amount of funds needy students may receive in Pell Grants. The legislation raised the overall amount of Pell Grants available, and included efforts to train and recruit teachers. The final vote on this legislation was 414-4.

Sadly, this is not the only time Schaffer has shown his lack of enthusiasm for our nation’s students. He has advocated to get rid of the Department of Education altogether because he believes the department is irrelevant.

There is no reason to believe Bob Schaffer would change his opinions

as our next U.S. Senator. Why Bob Schaffer wants to make it harder for students to attend college is beyond my comprehension, but his record clearly indicates he has no problem with our country’s rising tuition costs.

Schaffer’s extremism is not limited to education. He was found to be the fourteenth most conservative congressman in the modern political era. He has said the scientific evidence of global warming was nothing but “hot air.” He has equated stem cell research to torture by the Nazis, voted for the Iraq war, and while in Congress was one of only 15 members to vote against a renewable energy partnership. It is not surprising that so few Republicans or Democrats ever voted with Bob Schaffer.

Fortunately, Mark Udall is more pragmatic and bipartisan than his partisan challenger. Udall has been a fervent supporter of making sure that anyone that wants to attend college will have the financing to do so.

Among his many acts to make college more accessible, he cosponsored the College Student Relief Act of

2007, which made college more affordable and practical for students. He also voted for the largest single increase in college aid since the GI bill.

Whether it is his support of renewable energy or his vote against the authorization to invade Iraq, Mark Udall has shown the judgment we need from our leaders. Not to mention that Mark Udall will help President Barack Obama implement the change Washington D.C. and our country need.

The one thing we college students know better than most is that America has a bright future. We need to move past the partisan bickering we have had for the past eight years and move forward to improving our country. Working together will bring better tuition packages, improvements in higher education, and a better quality of life for students.

This is Mark Udall’s vision. We need to give him the power to make it happen.

Angela Cobian is chair of CC Students For Mark Udall.

SCENE

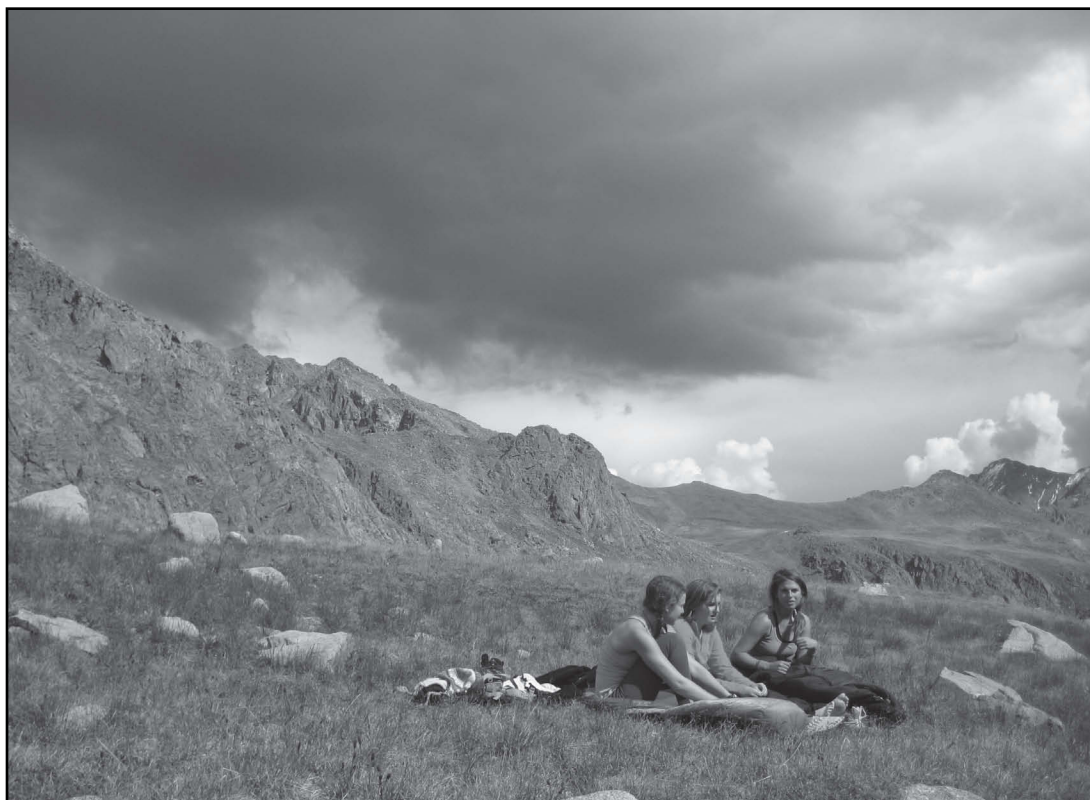
First Block Break 2008



Kids playing at the Tulsa State Fair. **Photo: Bryan Meador**



While many headed to the mountains, these girls went tubing in Texas. **Photo: Lauren Paley**



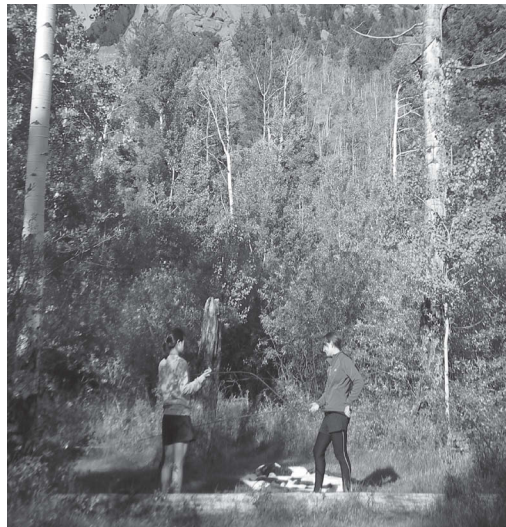
Foot trippers enjoy a cloudy afternoon in the Gore Range. **Photo: Emily Capelin**



Bikers rejoice at Wilkerson Pass. **Photo: Jared Faciszewski**



The ladies of the India service trip at the Haidakhandi Universal Ashram in Crestone. **Photo: Tonita Lopez**



Foot trippers pitch their first tent. **Photo: Alison Kelman**



A Kodak block break moment during in Aspen. **Photo: Sarah White**



Avid backpackers show their enthusiasm for hiking. **Photo: Alison Kelman**



A snapshot from the crowd at Austin City Limits music festival. **Photo: Lauren Paley**



Summiting in Roosevelt National Forest. **Photo: Anna Johnson**

COMMAND

Performance

HOMECOMING STUDENT EVENTS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10

"Helping HunGRR" Community Service Event at Worner Center from 12-1:30 p.m.

S/AA partners with the Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Group.

Come help decorate and pack lunches for the Colorado Springs homeless.

Bonfire and Bands

Armstrong Quad, 10 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11

Tiger Classic 5K Race

Monument Valley Park, 8 a.m.

Come register at 7 a.m. just South of the bridge.

Edith Kinney Gaylord Cornerstone Arts Center Grand Opening at 10 a.m.

All-Campus Picnic

Armstrong Quad, 12 p.m.

Students may purchase tickets at event for \$10.

Tiger Walk

Armstrong Quad to McHugh Alumni Plaza, 1 p.m.

Join the parade of classes and festivities from the all-campus picnic to McHugh Alumni Plaza.

Homecoming Dance

2 Bands and DJ, 9:30 p.m. - 1 a.m.

Tickets are available at the Worner Desk for \$10.

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Palahniuk's adapted book leaves audiences all choked up

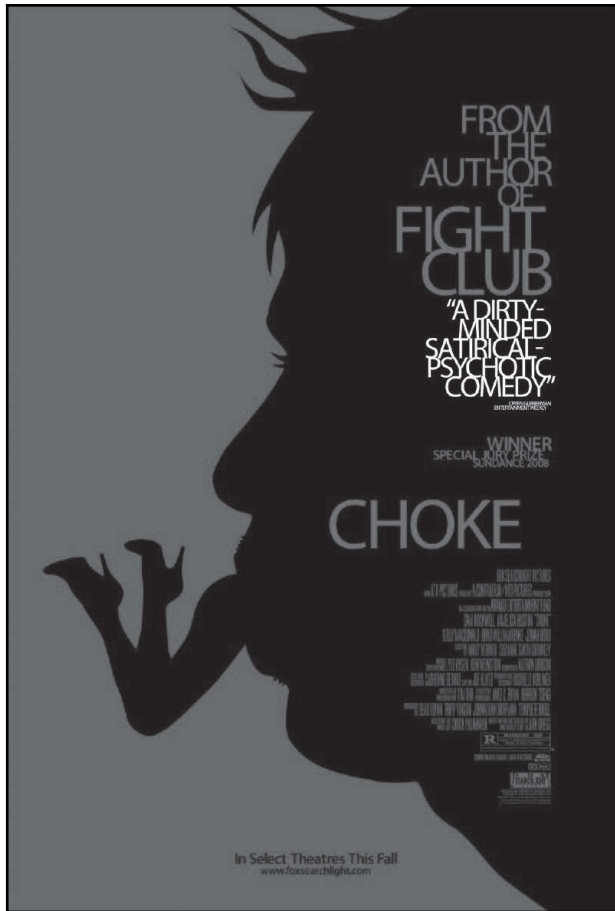
Meredith Mantik

Anyone who has read a novel by Chuck Palahniuk knows that the gag reflex is a highly valued commodity. So many of his fans were shocked when, within the first five minutes of "Choke," their stomachs remained entirely functional.

In fact, I'd be more likely to associate words like "whiny" or "tedious" with the film, compared to the disturbing and grotesque novel it's based on. If "Fight Club," Chuck Palahniuk's last film adaptation, was a roller coaster, "Choke" barely manages to be an unstable rock.

"Choke" is a whirlwind in the mind of sadistic sex addict Victor (Sam Rockwell), who purposefully chokes in public places to receive money and affection from his rescuers. He works at a colonial theme park with fellow sex addict, Denny (William Brad Henke). Together they attempt to find out the identity of Victor's real father by questioning his mentally ill mother (Angelica Huston) and her doctor (Kelly MacDonald)—or at least that's ultimately what the plot boils down to.

But while the narrator in the movie version of "Fight Club" balances



his sadism with quirky philosophical musings, Victor in "Choke" is just a vulgar dimwit who edges on annoying. Actor Sam Rockwell is a prime choice for most of Chuck Palahniuk's twisted characters, and his performance is enough to make Victor watchable. Actors Angelica Huston and Kelly MacDonald also

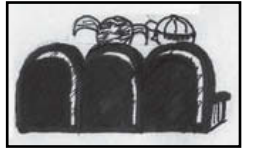
manage to keep the film afloat—until Victor realizes he may be a clone of Jesus Christ. And if that doesn't stump you, the tonally skewed storyline, awkward pacing, intermingled flashbacks, and fan club of horny, demented old ladies will. Though first-time director Clark Gregg may take some of the blame for the failure of "Choke" to live up to the success to "Fight Club," most blame can be attributed to the screenwriter's adaptation—oh wait, that's also Clark Gregg. Unlike Jim Uhls and David Fincher's adaptation of "Fight Club," "Choke" lacks style, substance, and focus. The film was supposedly shot in 25 days, and feels like it was adapted in less. Adapting a novel for the screen always leaves bits uncovered or distorted, but the box office version of "Choke" ignores what keeps the novel on its feet and leaves substantial gaps where the \$3.4 million should have been spent.

A guide to the ratings:



Must See...

Rental...



Snore...

In the end, what "Choke" succeeds in demonstrating is that you can't make a Chuck Palahniuk movie without a little bit of Chuck Palahniuk in it.



Verdict: Save yourself the disappointment and gas money and put your \$10 towards the book.

Election Selections

Wednesday, Oct. 8

The CC Debate Team: Obama vs. McCain — Discussion to follow and sparks may fly!
7:30 p.m., Gates Common Room

Friday, Oct. 10

Elections 2008: Endgame and Reflections — Panelists include Chuck Buxton '68, Eric Sondermann '76, Tim Fuller and Bob Loevy.
3 p.m., Tutt Science Center

Sunday, Oct. 26

Frank Rich: "Art, Culture and Politics" — *New York Times* op-ed columnist and cultural critic speaks the week before the election.
7 p.m., South Theatre, Edith Kinney Gaylord Cornerstone Arts Center; tickets at Worner Campus Center Information Desk

Tuesday, Nov. 4

The Election Viewing Party of the Decade! — A non-partisan viewing party to watch the election returns, with analysis from Bob Loevy, Tom Cronin, Tomi-Ann Roberts and Dick Celeste.
5–10 p.m., Main Space, Edith Kinney Gaylord Cornerstone Arts Center