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THE CATALYST

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF COLORADO COLLEGE

Renovation on the horizon for Rastall Café



December 11, 2009

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Selection of World Cup teams implies global significance- not just for soccer fans

David Mauro
Sports Editor

World Cup 2010 is still more than six months away, but after FIFA held the draw in Cape Town, South Africa last week, the field is finally set. Here is a look at the eight groups and which two teams from each group are likely to advance to the knockout stages of the World Cup next summer.

Group A: South Africa, Mexico, Uruguay, France

With the inclusion of the host nation's national team (South Africa received an automatic bid), Group A has to be considered one of the World Cup's weaker groups. France and Mexico are the initial favorites to advance, but despite reaching the final in World Cup 2006, the French national team has been erratic recently, failing to advance past the group stages at the Euro 2008 and only qualifying for the World Cup after Thierry Henry's controversial hand ball against Ireland last month. The South Africans are considered underdogs, but host nations have historically fared well in the World Cup and their team is not without talent, as it includes five players from English Premier League clubs. Uruguay, although it barely qualified, cannot be dismissed either due to the presence of elite players such as Diego Forlan. Predictions: 1. France, 2. Mexico.

Group B: Argentina, Nigeria, South Korea, Greece

With manager Diego Maradona at the helm, Argentina stumbled through qualifying, losing to far less star-studded teams such as Bolivia. However, they still have to be considered the favorite to win this group.

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Phoebe Parker-Shames
Guest Writer

The first renovation of Rastall since it was built in the 1960's is under way, and getting hefty support from student designers. Consultants for the Rastall Renovation Working Group have met with more than 200 people per-

“Consultants for the Rastall Renovation Working Group have met with more than 200 people and collected 800 responses to the electronic Rastall survey as part of the first phase in the dining hall facelift.”

sonally and collected 800 responses to the electronic Rastall survey as part of the first phase in the dining hall facelift. The opinions collected in this “Programming Phase” will culminate in a report presented by the consultants on January 4. Student input has been important in the decision process.

“The CCSGA has been involved since the very beginning as the role of student voice,” said Angela Cobian, CCSGA Vice President.

The students in the Art Department and the Student Design Club especially have been singled out to help in the design process. The Block 3 Design class created visions for Rastall as part of their final projects.

“They were really exciting and awesome stu-

“The CCSGA has been involved since the very beginning as the role of the student voice”
Angela Cobian

dent projects,” said Chris Melcher, CC General Counsel, Director of Business and the Working Group Facilitator.



Photo: Sam Landsman

When the renovation moves to the architecture design phase, these groups will be consulted. Communication with the community has been a goal of the project, and interested students, faculty and staff still have more opportunities to voice opinions. Melcher said that anyone is welcome to contact the members of the Rastall Renovation Working Group with comments. “I’m very impressed with the amount of interest on campus,” Melcher said.

The Renovation Working Group, composed of student, faculty, student design, staff and

Bon Appetite representatives, has identified some key concerns for the renovation. One is to help improve the flow of traffic as students enter and exit the dining hall, especially during peak hours. This is key to the goal of making Rastall a more open and versatile space.

“We’re asking the question: how can we make Rastall feel more of a part of Worner?” said David Carlson, CCSGA President and a student representative to the working group.

The working group believes that opening the dining hall area would allow a new range of

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News

Want to work on the Obama team? A CC-degree may be the first step to getting you there



Harris Sherman



Lori Garver



Ken Salazar



Jane Lubchenco



Dr. Marcia McNutt

Hannah Wellman

Guest Writer

The number of Colorado College alumni appointed to the Obama administration continues to rise, bringing the total to five as of early December.

Most recently, Harris Sherman, class of 1964,

“The fact that Colorado College provided me with the opportunity and freedom to explore widely in the natural sciences prepared me well for leading an agency with a mission as broad as that of the US Geological Survey.”
Marcia McNutt

was appointed as agriculture undersecretary for natural resources and environment. Additionally, Ken Salazar '77 currently serves as Secretary of the Interior, Jane Lubchenco '69 heads the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminis-

tration, Lori Garver '83 is Deputy Administrator of NASA, and Marcia McNutt '74 serves as the Director of the United States Geological Survey.

How much has a CC education influenced these prominent politicians?

Immensely, according to McNutt. Scientifically, the college left her well-prepared to assume her position at the USGS.

“I was able to take courses broadly across the sciences,” she said. “Although I majored in Physics, I took a large number of courses in Geology, Math, Chemistry, and Biology.

McNutt said this variety gave her an advantage when she was appointed.

“The fact that Colorado College provided me with the opportunity and freedom to explore widely in the natural sciences prepared me well for leading an agency with a mission as broad as that of the US Geological Survey,” she said.

Outside of the classroom, McNutt said the most valuable thing she learned at CC was the honor code.

“With the current front page headlines about a group of scientists in the UK trying to suppress data that was not supportive of global warming, I hearken back to my CC days, the first time that as a student I was trusted with an honor code rather than being monitored by a teacher,” McNutt said. “It is so important for scientists and everyone else to know right from

wrong, and always choose right. There is never an excuse for not taking the high road.”

“I was hearken back to my CC days, the first time that as a student I was trusted with an honor code rather than being monitored by a teacher. It is so important for scientists and everyone else to know right from wrong, and always choose right. There is never an excuse for not taking the high road.”

Marcia McNutt

McNutt's advice for students aspiring to a political or scientific position such as hers is to always be accountable.

“I had for some unknown reason kept all of my calendars and day planners which made it easy to fill out the detailed paperwork required

to satisfy the lengthy FBI and other background checks required for government service at this level,” she said. “Keep records of everything and make sure that all of your taxes and other government documents are in perfect order. Live your life as though everything were being reported on the front page of the New York Times.”

For other students aspiring to hold a prominent position in the public sphere, political science department chair and professor Robert Lee said that students with political aspirations should follow the same advice as he gives to all students.

“Do what you find interesting,” he said. “If

“Do what you find interesting. If you do it well, you will find success. It's as true of politics as it is of science or theater.”
Robert Lee

you do it well, you will find success. It's as true of politics as it is of science or theater. It takes hard work, dedication, and self-discipline, in politics and in general.”

Students get involved in Rastall re-design

continued from page 1

dining hall area would allow a new range of opportunities for the space including hosting bands, providing study space or even acting as another classroom. However, tied into these goals is one hindering factor: the issue of theft.

“Opening the Rastall space [into Worner] requires a commitment that we will address the issue of theft,” Melcher said.

Theft of kitchen and dining items has become a serious problem in Rastall.

“Right now we've gone through a whole second set of dishes. One hundred percent of the things used in Rastall have been stolen already,” Carlson said.

According to Melcher, Bon Appetite staff has to ask five to six students to stop stealing food at each meal.

“I think the students could help us expand the design options if we had more commitment to preventing theft voluntarily at Rastall,” Melcher said, also explaining that dealing with the issue of theft is not something that design alone can solve. “It's obviously a big issue...but that's not our primary concern. It's more of an issue for the students and the community to talk about and discuss.”

However, along with new issues to fix, there are a few things that won't be changing. The buffet style of Rastall will not be abandoned, as the committee had considered.

“We heard in the survey, students like the cur-

rent mix of buffet and a la cart,” Melcher said. “[So] we're going to keep that the same... We think we have the food right, now we just have to get the space right.”

Outside programming consultants will be on campus on December 15 to collect input from


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Chris Melcher

various campus groups as well as the CC public. All students, faculty and staff have the opportunity to meet with the consultants in Rastall on December 15 during dining hours.

“Chas” says...

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Tutt Library Tips

Camping ordinance put on hold due to concerns for the homeless

Ashely Mayo
Staff Writer

The temperature was a chilly 8 degrees last Monday when the Colorado Springs City Council gathered to debate concerns of pushing the city's homeless farther out into the cold.

At the December 7 meeting, the council postponed decision-making on a proposed ordinance that would make camping anywhere within city limits illegal.

The Colorado Springs Police Department presented the ordinance proposal, which is

“We are not under the illusion that this issue is going to be solved by creating another ordinance, however it does provide another tool for law enforcement to try to gain some level of cooperation”
Kurt Pillard

intended to reduce the city's growing number of homeless camps, especially along Monument Creek. The proposal was met without support from most of the council members, who instructed the police department to revise the bill and present a new version at a council

meeting in February.

While some council members simply felt that the ordinance was too vague, others were vehemently opposed.

“Where else do they go?” exclaimed councilman Tom Gallagher, recalling that he too once lived under a bridge. “The gauge of a community is how it treats its least fortunate. I'm more compassionate than this ordinance, and I'm a son of a bitch.”

Gallagher's comments prompted loud applause from the many homeless people and homeless advocates in the audience.

Vice Mayor Larry Small, who also revealed that he had been homeless as young man, rejected the ordinance as well, adding that the community should try to help the homeless, rather than turn them into criminals.

“If we could outlaw homelessness and make it go away, then we could outlaw murder and make it go away,” he said.

The police department maintained that the driving force behind the ordinance was concern for public health and safety, but said they realized that the ordinance would not be a cure-all.

“We are not under the illusion that this issue is going to be solved by creating another ordinance, however it does provide another tool for law enforcement to try to gain some level of cooperation,” said police commander Kurt Pillard.

Police Department Public Information Officer David Whitlock said that homeless camps have become a public safety and health concern due to the large amounts of trash, feces, and

other waste, as well as large drug and alcohol usage. He said at least one person has been murdered in the homeless camps in the past year.

“[The ordinance] would be one tool in a toolbox of many that we have to deal with in-

“The Colorado Springs Police Department presented the ordinance proposal, which is intended to reduce the city's growing number of homeless camps, especially along Monument Creek. The proposal was met without support from most of the council members, who instructed the police department to revise the bill and present a new version at a council meeting in February”

dividuals that are homeless,” he said, but added that it needs to go along with other efforts, saying: “There needs to be a much more holistic approach to homelessness.”

Passage of the no-camping ordinance is also being pushed by downtown area business owners, who say that the presence of homeless camps deters customers. Council members agreed that this was a legitimate concern. However, they felt in its current draft form the ordinance could give police free reign to force hundreds of homeless citizens out of their camps overnight.

“We do have some concerns about implementation,” said Police Chief Richard Myers. “We bring this draft forward to start a discussion.”

That discussion ended at about 7:00 with the council's decision to put the ordinance on hold, instructing the police department to meet with advocacy groups and come up with a better solution to the problem of homelessness.

Tim Warren, a homeless man who attended the council meeting, was satisfied with the council's reaction, stating that he did not understand how they could have passed such an ordinance.

“It's just would have been ridiculous,” said. “We're already living in tents; that means we have nowhere else to go. What do they expect us to do if they tell us we can't even camp?”

In the end, said councilman Bernie Herpin, it all came down to the issue of basic human rights.

“We want to make sure we are respecting the rights of all of our citizens,” Herpin said. “Those folks, like it or not, camping by our creek, are citizens of Colorado Springs.”

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Comment & Debate

Battle of the bands: Livesounds' heart is in the right place, what about its head?

Jeff Hester

ComDeb Editor

I don't know about you readers, but after spending numerous afternoon hours in the library, when it comes to about 8 o'clock or so, I need to get the hell out. It's usually

classic CC event; held in the famed rock venue The Carriage House throughout the course of the week, student bands strutted their stuff for the preliminaries of LiveSounds' annual "Battle of the Bands." Playing only fifteen minute sets, each band vied for the love of their voracious, weekday audiences in order

the Battle, this format seemed to put lesser-known bands at somewhat of a disadvantage. By the end of the week, votes were counted and, although they may not have been thrown to the wayside, their importance was greatly diminished in the selection process.

The democratic system that LiveSounds attempted to integrate into Battle of the Bands this year may not have worked out quite as it was explicated to the public, perhaps leaving some bands and their loyal fans to feel cheated, the gesture behind it was noble and rational. Unfortunately, some ideas just don't work out as well in practice as they do on paper, just like Communism and the tube top.

At the beginning of this year, LiveSounds, staring down the barrel of impending budget cuts, made it clear that this year their persona on campus would change. After mixed feelings across the campus regarding SOJA's spot as last year's headliner at Llamapalooza, the club vowed to take a more student-oriented approach, sending out surveys in an attempt to find out who people *really* want to see at Llama. But not only is LiveSounds now serving the student body in a better way, they are also involving the student body in order to entertain us on a more intimate, local level.

With funds scarce among CC clubs, LiveSounds is still doing their job of maintaining a strong presence on campus. By encouraging up-and-coming student bands to perform of campus, LiveSounds is able to create exciting shows that are cheap to produce and chock-full of friendly (and often free) fun. I truly hope LiveSounds continues to promote the impressive student music community that we have here on campus, even at cozy venues such as the Carriage House. With times like these, when we can no longer afford Dan Deacon, it's up to us as a community to entertain ourselves and make our own music, and thank God LiveSounds is giving us a warm place to do it.

“Playing only fifteen minute sets, each band vied for the love of their voracious, weekday audiences in order to receive votes that would be tallied up to decide which six bands would make it to the real show on Saturday night in Gates Common Room.”

around this time that I slump back home and plop down in my Thinking Chair only to bum around long enough to reach a respectable hour in which to go to sleep, still anxious and uneasy from the pestering toils of academia. I'm a man who needs a full on, cathartic study break when I am freed. Many nights I am left unsatisfied, but last week, I found my saving grace.

Last week, something new was brought to the CC scene, or rather, a new twist on a

to receive votes that would be tallied up to decide which six bands would make it to the real show on Saturday night in Gates Common Room. Well, at least in theory.

As prelims went on throughout the week, concertgoers became skeptical of the system LiveSounds had put in place. Voting depended almost entirely on the attendance at each bands performance. While it is true that, by this token, bands who are more popular within the student body would be those to make it to

“By the end of the week, votes were counted and, although they may not have been thrown to the wayside, their importance was greatly diminished in the selection process.”

Drug-fueled violence & instability in Mexico creates uneasy image across the border

Ben Quam

Staff Writer

President Obama's speech last week to West Point Cadets about the war in Afghanistan was a pivotal point in his still-young presidency. Obama acknowledged the importance of the war and included in his speech a thorough discussion of its background and significance. Afghanistan in the following days and weeks

“The Chamber of Commerce for the City of Juarez has called for a United Nations peacekeeping force to be deployed to end the violence.”

has dominated news coverage, and not without reason, thousands of American men and women are about to be deployed to some of the most dangerous places in the world.

But there is another war taking place right now, and I'm not talking about Iraq. It's a war that is no less dangerous, no less destructive, and has the potential to inflict consequences no less great than the war in Afghanistan. The U.S. government is heavily invested, having committed millions of dollars over the past several years to see it through. However, there is one important difference. Unlike Afghanistan, this war is much closer. It is being waged right at our own border.

In December 2006, upon coming into office, Mexican President Felipe Calderon declared all out war against drug cartels operating in Mexico. Many think he did this to bolster his own legitimacy after his election was contested for months by the opposition. Whatever the cause, the results since have been disastrous.

Parts of northern Mexico, including major cities, are functionally war zones. The Chamber of Commerce for the City of Juarez has called for a United Nations peacekeeping force to be deployed to end the violence. When asked, President Calderon sees the conflict in no uncertain terms, simply responding, "It's a war."

Some simple math shows that the violence in Mexico is equivalent to the violence in Afghanistan. The Cato Institute, a public policy think tank, estimates that 6,300 people died in 2008 from drug war related violence and, so far, over 7,000 people have died in 2009 for a total of 13,300 deaths due to the Drug War. Compare this to the total number of coalition deaths in Afghanistan, over the course of eight years: 1,464. The number of civilians directly killed due to the war in Afghanistan is estimated to be somewhere between 5,317 and 8,109 (although, those who have died because of indirect effects is much higher). Clearly, Drug War related deaths in Mexico are on par,

if not greater, in the past two years than loss of life in Afghanistan over the past eight years.

The origins of the Drug War don't just

“But even beyond the simple issues of supply and demand, the U.S. plays a key role in why these markets have become so violent.”

begin with Calderon's election in 2006, much of the violence has been between competing drug cartels. Mexico has always had drug cartels, but in early 2008 a major rift between two northern groups turned the whole region into a powder keg. Sinaloa Cartel kingpin Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman and Juarez Cartel

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THE CATALYST

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Taking a step back to survey the touchy structure of Iran and the Middle East

Nick Hawks
Catalyst Staff

The American public has the attention span of an electronically savvy adolescent male that just realized his balls dropped. While scandal mongering may be entertaining, if not a damn good way to kill time, America is too easily distracted by the all too real (and painfully common) behavior of celebrities.

What I am getting at is this: there are more important things going on in the world than whether or not a man who happens to be very good at golf is a good role model for our children – things that may have faded away from the media spotlight, but are still as important and on the world stage as they were three months ago – you know, like Iran.

I suppose the controversy surrounding the Iranian Presidential election that occurred in June is old news by now, but that doesn't change the fact that that event was a harsh reminder that authoritarian dictatorships are still committing grossly inhumane injustices against its people under the flag of pseudo democracy.

Everything may be all hunky-dory here on our little CC campus, but across the world, things are a little different. University students in Tehran are still protesting the fraudulent election of a dangerously anti-Semitic dictator, who is heading the progress of a nuclear program that is getting increasingly closer to

enriching weapons-level uranium. The issue of Iran getting the nuke is not worrisome because Ahmadinejad would immediately use it to destroy the entire state of Israel (which I guess is always a possibility, but more of a concern generated by a mistranslation more than anything), but because if Iran gets the nuke, the whole balance of power shifts in the Middle East – moving Iran to the top as a regional hegemon.

Sounds like a juicy drama, right? That's because it is.

So now, six months later, I can't help but ask myself "Why didn't the U.S. do anything?"

It didn't take too much time to figure out the answer – we simply couldn't. We couldn't six months ago and we especially can't now.

Why not? Because to do so would be political suicide for the U.S. and its involvement in the Middle East. I say this based on the following reasons: (1) our relations with the Iranian government, and, more importantly, the Iranian people, have been exceptionally volatile and complicated (if not underhanded) throughout the entirety of the twentieth century; (2) between Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, we really don't need to be getting ourselves involved militarily/confrontationally in yet another Middle Eastern country; and (3) we must make an effort to maintain our shaky and delicate alliances with the Arab states in the region.

But, surely there must be less overt tactics

that the U.S. could employ to intervene in Iran and prevent Ahmadinejad from developing nuclear weapons (or, if you will, WMDs). Of course there are trade sanctions. Ultimately, though, these are ineffective as they are exceptionally difficult to enforce on an international level as European-based companies stand to benefit greatly from doing business with Iran.

Well then, if trade sanctions aren't effective enough to curtail the Iranian nuclear program, what about a CIA backed coup to play on the already agitated public that is ripe for revolution? We've already done that (albeit 56 years ago) and I really can't see that working out well in the long-run. Not to mention the fact that I feel that Obama isn't too inclined to follow in the footsteps of President Truman (See Iran 1953-1979, specifically... as well as Guatemala: 1954, North Korea: 1954-58, Haiti: 1959, Cuba: 1961, The Dominican Republic: 1963, Brazil: 1964, and Chile: 1973. Just to name a few before Funk really set in).

If we can't do anything, then who can? The answer: Israel.

Allow me to explain myself.

Israel is our strong arm in the Middle East – and it's a damn good strong arm, if I do say so myself. We give them military weapons credit and they maintain a comfortable position as a regional superpower. In addition to this, Israel has developed a reputation in the region as an unpredictable game-changer capable of effectively debilitating its adversaries and, put simply, that's just good business as far as the U.S. is concerned.

If Iran develops nuclear weapons, Israel's reign as a regional superpower ends and the U.S.' investment in the country becomes a loss, militarily speaking of course.

So, while all Obama can do is sit in negotiations and listen to the lies put forth by the Ayatollah's puppet, Mohammad Ahmadinejad,

Israel can launch a strategic airstrike against Iran and thereby substantially delay the progress of Iran's nuclear program. Such a move would not only demonstrate Israel's dominance in the region, but it would also eliminate Iran as a threat and the idea of an unavoidable Iranian nuke.

“Of course there are trade sanctions. Ultimately, though, these are ineffective as they are exceptionally difficult to enforce on an international level as European-based companies stand to benefit greatly from doing business with Iran.”

Consequences would inevitably ensue after this blatant show of power as the world community would react against Israel and the U.S., but there is one potential one that might not be so horrible – the creation of a Palestinian state. Such a consequence is fairly plausible and would ultimately be strongly supported by the surrounding Arab states. Almost everyone would be happy, except, of course, Iran (a non-Arab country) who would be sufficiently debilitated economically.

Think about it.

“University students in Tehran are still protesting the fraudulent election of a dangerously anti-Semitic dictator, who is heading the progress of a nuclear program that is getting increasingly closer to enriching weapons-level uranium.”

The war next door: Instability and danger in Mexico become increasingly real for the U.S.

Continued from page 4

boss Vicente Carrillo Fuentes began a deeply personal struggle for control over several drug routes that both groups had previously shared. The New York Times writes, “Both have lost family members in the fight, and have adopted increasingly brutal tactics as it drags on.” Calderon responded, sending over 7,000 troops and federal police to the City of Juarez alone. “The killings tapered off, but soon rebounded: As the drug seizures hurt traffickers' incomes, they turned to kidnapping, bank robberies and carjackings.” Since, Calderon has deployed tens of thousands more across the country.

It's impossible, however, to talk about the origins of drug violence in Mexico without talking about the United States. There is no doubt that the U.S. is committed to the Mexican governments efforts. The Merida Initiative, which passed Congress in June 2008 commits over \$15 billion to the effort, \$24 million of

“It's a well know fact that America is the largest market for drugs, we consume some \$65 billion of drugs each year. Cartels that can tap into that American demand make millions of dollars in profit per year.”

which has already been spent. But beyond that, the U.S. is responsible for many of the underlying problems that have made such

terrible violence in Mexico possible. It's a well know fact that America is the largest market

“The Cato Institute, a public policy think tank, estimates that 6,300 people died in 2008 from drug war related violence and, so far, over 7,000 people have died in 2009 for a total of 13,300 deaths due to the Drug War. Compare this to the total number of coalition deaths in Afghanistan, over the course of eight years: 1,464.”

for drugs, we consume some \$65 billion of drugs each year. Cartels that can tap into that American demand make millions of dollars in profit per year. At the same time, America has the largest supply of guns anywhere in the world. As Fareed Zakaria of Newsweek writes, “Two thousand guns cross the American border every day into Mexico. If the supply of weapons is coming from one place, and the demand for drugs is coming from one place, it seems self-evident that we are responsible.”

But even beyond the simple issues of supply and demand, the U.S. plays a key role in why these markets have become so violent. During Prohibition in the 1920's, when alcohol was made illegal, the mob took over the market. People like Al Capone make fortunes exploiting underground demand. The same has happened with drugs, but on a global scale. Jeffery Miron, a professor of economics at Harvard University writes, “The reason there are drug wars is because the drug trade is prohibited. Whether you think drugs should be legal or not, it's a fact that when you drive a market underground, it becomes violent. Why? Because participants cannot resolve their disputes with lawyers, or by complaining to the Consumer

Product Safety Commission, but only by shooting each other. Prohibition creates the

violence, and the U.S., far and away above any other country, has foisted drug prohibition on the rest of the world.” Jorge Castañeda, the foreign minister of Mexico from 2000 to 2003 wrote, “While every Mexican administration since the '60s has piously declared that it intended to intensify its drug enforcement efforts for domestic motivations, the real reason has always been American pressure.”

So, the U.S. is in a powerful position to influence what happens in Mexico's Drug War. Absent serious changes to U.S. policy and attitude the consequences of this war could be damning. Violence is increasing at a faster and faster rate. Of the 7,000 homicides committed this year, 1,000 of them have happened in the past 48 days. In Juarez, where the American city of El Paso is visible just across the Rio Grande, Oct. 29th was the only day in the past 10 months where there was not a single murder. Earlier this year the Department of Defense released a study, which “concludes that Mexico is at risk of becoming a failed state. Defense planners liken the situation to that of Pakistan, where wholesale collapse of civil government is possible.” The number one reason identified in the report was drug related

violence.

President Obama has a lot of his plate, including the war in Afghanistan, the war in Iraq, and the economy. At a recent “Jobs Summit” Obama took open questions from the audience. His first question came from a sophomore in college who asked, “I was wondering if you looked at the statistics for legalizing prostitution, drugs, gambling, and non-violent crime in order to stimulate some of the economy?” The president laughed along with the audience before saying “I appreciate the boldness of your question. That will not be my jobs strategy.” Maybe though, that should be the President's Mexico strategy, at least as far as drugs are concerned. Status quo drug policy has fostered violence so destabilizing that it threatens to turn the country immediately to our south into a failed state. Much is talked about the possible threats if we let Afghanistan succumb to the Taliban again,

“Violence is increasing at a faster and faster rate. Of the 7,000 homicides committed this year, 1,000 of them have happened in the past 48 days.”

but if Mexico is allowed to slide into violence and despair, the consequences could be much worse.

Features

The Brew Haha

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Jeff Hester

ComDeb Editor

Soon, you will be finding yourself in the company of your parents. And, chances are, you're going to have to prove to them that, after another \$22,000 spent on tuition, you actually learned something. We don't know about you, but we sure as hell learned a few things – a few things about fine mixtures of fermented malts and hops.

Sure, we've been called names – beer snobs, elitist pricks and a few others a bit too explicitly pejorative for publication – but, despite all of this, we just smile because we simply can't help ourselves. The beer is just too good and sometimes you need to close your eyes as you take that first sip and spend the next three minutes discussing the complexities and nuances of the flavors. If that makes us beer snobs, so be it – at least we'll be able to show our parents that despite whatever sloppy, beer-bellied, fratish lives they thought we'd be leading in college, here in Colorado, we do things real proper.

So as you're dressing yourself in the trendiest of warm outdoor gear, don't forget about the most important layer of all – the one you wear on the inside. The weather outside may be frightful, but we assure you that the beers below are oh-so-very-delightful.

Stay warm out there and remember, never fear the flavor!

Boulevard's Nutcracker Ale

This winter ale is a Winter Warmer by definition and is just right for the season, as it actually tastes like the holiday season. What do I mean by this? I mean the combination of flavors and aromas is similar to those you would experience during a Holiday meal: pine, candied fruits, nuts and holiday spices such as nutmeg, cinnamon and clove.

The beer has a cloudy, deep amber coloration and pours a smaller, tan head with minimal lacing. The aroma has notes of sweet citrus, piney hops, caramel, toasted malts, molasses, and a mix of spices.

The taste is initially sweet with notes of citrus and molasses and transitions into the full-bodied flavor of the freshly picked Chinook hops (unique to this beer). The wet-hopping of this ale also adds a crisp spiciness to the overall flavor that complements the others. Through-

out, there is a presence of nuts and spices that fades away as a not-to-dry hoppy aftertaste sets in.

As this is a stronger, fuller-bodied ale, it should be paired with more robust dishes such as red meat, dark chocolate, and/or strong cheeses.

Deschutes' Jubelale

When I think of a good winter seasonal, I think of this beer. It is definitely one of my personal favorites and it is the one winter ale that I spend all year looking forward to drinking. And the simple fact that it's from Deschutes means that it won't disappoint.

Like the Nutcracker ale, the Jubelale is a Winter Warmer, but it is one that is characterized primarily by its maltiness as opposed to its hoppiness. The ale is amber in color and pours a substantially sized tan head. The lacing is notably beautiful and the aroma is rich; comprised of toasted malts, candied fruit, toffee and caramel.

The texture is a little thicker, but certainly not too thick as it coats the palate well and disperses the flavors evenly. The foretaste is quite malty and has notes of chocolate and caramel. The flavor then rolls into stronger tastes of piney hops and rich fruits with a slight taste of alcohol. The aftertaste is mild and consists of the leftover hops, chocolate and a little roasted coffee.

This Winter Warmer definitely warms you up and is quite, quite drinkable.

Odell's Isolation Ale

This is truly a Winter Warmer of a different breed. It will sure as hell warm you up but in a much more refreshing sense, this brew is not one to sink you into the couch. And yet, for how surprisingly light it is, it seems to have numerous subtle nuances that are reminiscent of heavier Warmers such as the ones above.

Isolation Ale may not have the in-your-face spice and explicit flavorings of other winter beers, but it does utilize the bitterness of a more pronounced hop flavor than most. This was the first note I noticed upon catching a whiff of a freshly cracked bottle one blustery eve, a recognizably hearty, earthy tone.

The subtle malts in this beer give it a smooth taste of cake bread and other smooth, sweet characteristics such as milk chocolate and caramel, tied off nicely by the bite that the hops

drag to the back of the tongue, giving it a clean and refreshing finish.

Most definitely my favorite Colorado winter brew. Isolation offers something to fit the weather that doesn't knock you into hibernation after number two. A splendid choice for after the mountain.

Avery's The Beast

Alright, so I cheated; the Beast isn't a Winter Warmer. But I'll be damned if this one doesn't light a fire in your belly. At a hefty 14.9% ABV, The Beast is categorized as a Belgian Strong Dark Ale; so if you're the type of person who thinks their milkshake-thick black ales just aren't strong enough, and there are few, you might want to give this one a try. Drinker beware.

Not to dig us any deeper into our reputation as "beer snobs", but I had the privilege of drinking this one out of a snifter, a stout, wide glass often used for Brandy and Cognac. For I was dining at a fairly beer-centric establish-

ment, they brought the beer to me in this glass to allow the release of the dark, fruity aromas that explode from dark, Belgian ales, and explode they did. I was overwhelmed by the smell of cherries, robust grapes and, of course, alcohol, but not in an overwhelming sense as it seemed to tie in nicely with the thicker fruit flavors.

Upon tasting this beer, I was momentarily at a loss. No beer, I repeat, not a single beer I have ever had has tasted like this. The only striking characteristic I could point out was that it reminded me of heavy, dessert liqueur in a more dissipated, even form. I could find no hops in the flavor, just a thick, warming mass of rounded fruit flavors tied in with smooth, molasses-like hops. I don't know if I kept drinking because I liked it or I was just far too intrigued to stop. How could something this heavy be so sweet and rounded?

Hell, I don't even know if this is beer, but it will definitely give you something to do when it's too cold to go outside.

THE SCENE IS BACK



fashion, music, literature, art.

We know you've been missing the Catalyst's aesthetic articles this past semester, so we are bringing back the section that is *for you, by you, to you.*

Want to be in the scene?

Contributors needed.

email elena.ketelsen@cc.edu



LATE NIGHT
MUNCHIES

FRIDAY & SATURDAY

Corner of Bijou & Nevada
Across from Acacia Park

11 PM - 4:30am ish

Sports

2010 World Cup field finalized, predictions of favorites have already begun

Continued from page 1

Following their silver medal at the 2008 Olympics, Nigeria will try to move past the first round for the first time since 1998. They did not qualify for World Cup 2006. South Korea has not had much historical success in the World Cup apart from their run to the semi-finals as a co-host nation in 2002. They are unlikely to advance. Although they have not qualified for a World Cup since 1994, due to the relatively weak group, Greece has a fairly good chance to advance. Predictions: 1. Argentina, 2. Nigeria

Group C: England, United States, Algeria, Slovenia

England, who, despite being a tournament favorite is historically a World Cup under-achiever, will be difficult to defeat. Still, the United States has to be relieved by their group, which gives them a good chance to advance. In last summer's Confederations' Cup, the U.S. defeated Spain 2-0 and lost a close game to Brazil 3-2. At other times, the U.S. has struggled against small nations such as El Salvador. They have the potential to compete with an England team that includes some of the world's best, but whether they will ultimately be able to win is questionable. Predictions: 1. England, 2. United States

Group D: Germany, Australia, Serbia, Ghana

This is another group with one clear favorite (Germany) and three other teams who all have a reasonable chance of advancing. Germany, who hosted World Cup 2006 and lost in the Euro 2008 final, should be able to win this group. Serbia, with the strong defense of Nemanja Vidic of Manchester United and Branislav Ivanovic of Chelsea, will be a difficult team to score on. Serbia allowed only eight goals in ten qualifying matches. Ghana will try to match their surprising run to the final 16 of World Cup 2006. Ghana's Michael Essien is one of the most talented players in the entire group. Australia had several upset victories in 2006 and they will need them again in order to advance next summer. Predictions: 1. Germany, 2. Ghana

Group E: Netherlands, Denmark, Japan, Cameroon
The Netherlands are a big favorite to win

matches. If they are able to defeat Denmark, who will feature Liverpool's Daniel Agger and

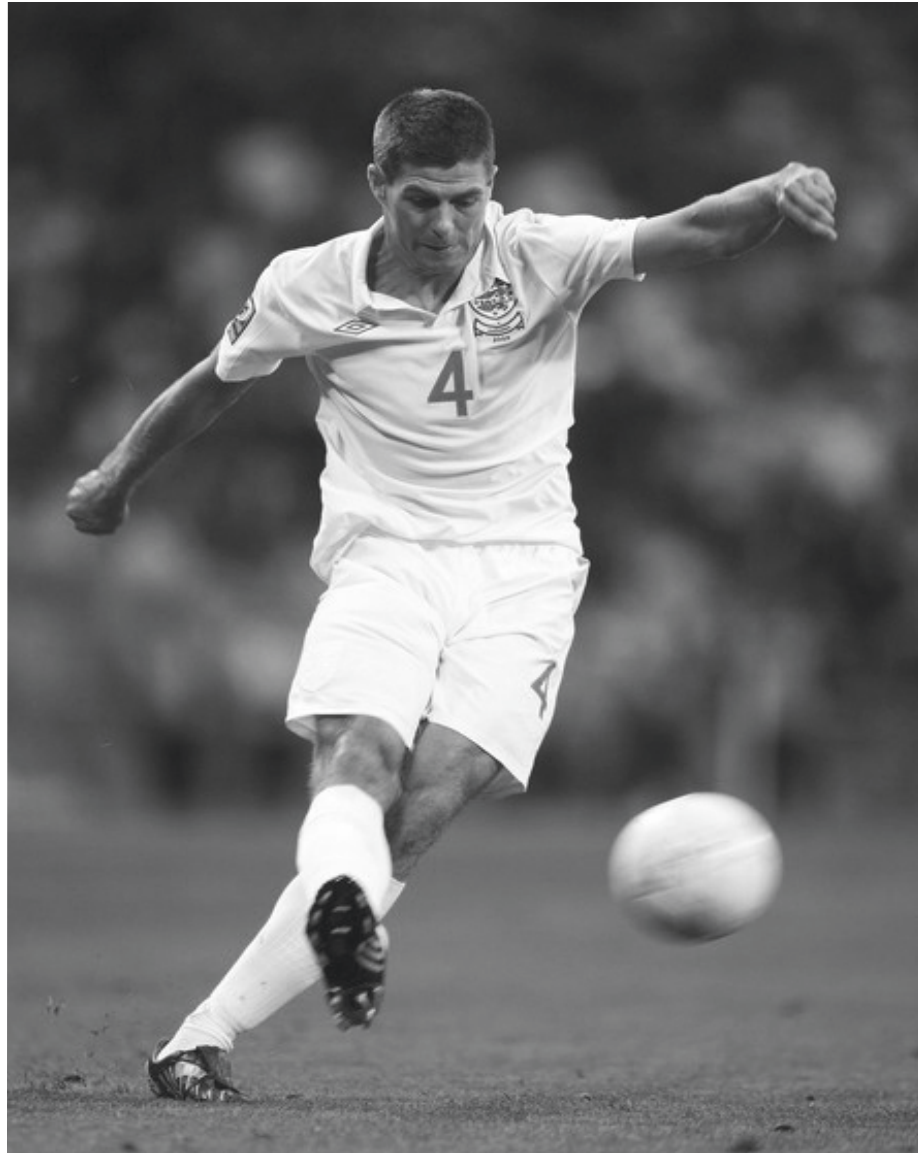


Photo: zimbio.com

this group. The rest is completely up in the air. Cameroon has a lot of young talent and several proven players like Inter Milan's Samuel Eto'o who know how to produce goals in important

Arsenal's Nicklas Bendtner, they should be able to advance to the second round. After a strong showing in 2002, Japan did not win a single game at World Cup 2006 and could easily see

a repeat of that performance in 2010. Predictions: 1. Netherlands, 2. Cameroon

Group F: Italy, Paraguay, New Zealand, Slovakia

Although Italy has not had their usual high level of success since they became World Cup champions in 2006; they find themselves in a group where they are the top team and should be able to finish first. Paraguay was third in South American qualifying and will be expected to be able to defeat Slovakia and New Zealand. New Zealand is the only representative from Oceania and is one of the weakest teams in the field. This is Slovakia's first World Cup qualification. Predictions: 1. Italy, 2. Paraguay

Group G: Brazil, North Korea, Ivory Coast, Portugal

With the three strong teams of Brazil, Portugal, and Ivory Coast, this is one of the most intimidating groups. Brazil is a contender every year and 2010 will be no different. They are coming off their win at the 2009 Confederations Cup and are one of the two favorites (along with Spain) to win the World Cup. Ivory Coast, with Didier Drogba (Chelsea) and Yaya Toure (Barcelona), could be a surprise team of the tournament. Standing in their way will be Portugal with one of the world's best players, Cristiano Ronaldo. It has been more than forty years since North Korea last qualified for the World Cup and, given their opponents, their long awaited return is unlikely to yield many wins. Predictions: 1. Brazil, 2. Ivory Coast

Group H: Spain, Switzerland, Honduras, Chile

Euro 2008 champion Spain is an early favorite to win the entire tournament, and they should have little trouble winning this group. Chile surprised many with their strong South American qualifying campaign, finishing second only to Brazil. Chile should be able to secure the second spot in the group. The Swiss had a good qualifying run, but will need to play much better than they did at Euro 2008 if they are to advance. Honduras is making their first World Cup appearance since 1982. Predictions: 1. Spain, 2. Chile

Who's hot and who's not in the NFL

Gregory Siegel

Guest Writer

With the NFL Playoffs a month away, a wild Week 13 proved that some teams are the real deal, and others just don't have it this year.

One of the most shocking teams on the decline is the once-legendary New England Patriots. These past eight seasons, the Patriots (7-5) have been 104-36 in the regular season, 14-3 in the playoffs, with 3 Super Bowl championships. However, many believe the seemingly

“One of the most shocking teams on the decline is the once-legendary New England Patriots. These past eight seasons, the Patriots (7-5) have been 104-36 in the regular season.. with 3 Super Bowl championships.”

invincible dynasty may very well be over. After losing 22-21 on Sunday to the Miami Dolphins (6-6), the Pats are 0-5 this year in road games. Additionally, New England lost two straight games for the first time since 2006 and 3 out of 4 games for the first time since 2002. Unstoppable QB Tom Brady has looked surprisingly human this season, and immortal coach



Photo: endzonebuzz.com

Bill Belichick has never been so criticized. The legendary 18-1 2007 Patriots were characterized by their surplus of offensive weapons and a fundamentally sound veteran defense. This year, the Pats are lacking receiver depth, their run game is sluggish at best, and their defense looks panicked and desperate. That being said, the Pats playoff spot is still intact; during the playoffs, rival teams will be unlucky to face them in New England. With a relatively easy schedule the rest of the way, the Pats are expected to get back on track. This week they face the Carolina Panthers (5-7).

Another team whose defense has disappointed is the Pittsburgh Steelers (6-6). The reigning Super Bowl Champs have lost 4 straight games, all by less than a touchdown. After losing Sunday to the abysmal Oakland Raiders (4-8), the Steelers are watching their playoff chances slip away. Their defense is not getting the job done without hard-hitting, 5-time Pro Bowl Safety Troy Polamalu, who has been plagued with injury since the first game. However, the Steelers will have the advantage of traveling to Cleveland this Thursday to face a miserable Browns (1-11) squad, who has lost 10 straight at home and 12 straight to the Steelers.

On the other side of the field, some lucky teams have been gaining serious momentum. The Denver Broncos (8-4) re-established themselves as playoff contenders with their Thanksgiving victory over the Giants, followed by a 44-13 win over the Kansas City Chiefs (3-8). It was their second win in Kansas City in their last 16 tries. This week, the Broncos travel to Indianapolis to face the undefeated Colts (12-0) in a game that will reveal how legitimate the Broncos' threat will be in the playoffs. In the current scenario, the Broncos will rematch the New England Patriots, a team they defeated in Denver during Week 5. This time, the game will be on the Patriots' dangerous home turf.

After losing 5 of 6 and embarrassing themselves against the Broncos on Thanksgiving, the New York Giants (7-5) beat down the division leading Dallas Cowboys (8-4) Sunday 31-24. Dallas outgained the Giants offensively, but a couple big plays allowed the Giants to edge the 'Boys. The G-men have their playoff destiny in their hands as they try to rekindle their magic from the past two seasons. Sunday night, the Giants host division rival Phila-

“The Denver Broncos (8-4) re-established themselves as playoff contenders with their Thanksgiving victory over the Giants.”

delphia Eagles (8-4) in a game that has huge playoff implications.

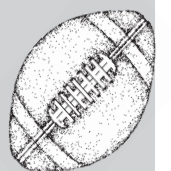
With four more weeks to go, the playoff race remains wide open. These final, critical weeks have brought underdog heroes and surprising losers.

CC STUDENT POLL

Is the Patriots Dynasty over?

Yes 36%

No 64%



CC Hockey hopes to regain first in conference in coming St. Cloud confrontation

Aaron Patterson
Sports Editor

This weekend, the second-place Colorado College Tigers travel to St. Cloud, Minnesota where they will face-off against the fourth-

and anything short of a win this weekend could easily send the Tigers to third-place in the conference.

With a 3-0-2 record on the road, the Tigers hope to continue that trend this weekend in St. Cloud. The Tigers last played at St. Cloud in

age. Lee has gone 4-4-2 as a starter and boasts a 2.38 goals-against average and 92% save percentage.

The Tigers will look to their offensive stars Bill Sweatt, Stephen Schultz, Ryan Schwartz, Mike Testwuide and Nate Prosser to penetrate

the looming Huskie defense. The four players have combined for 17 goals and 42 assists. Testwuide had a hat-trick last weekend including a penalty-shot goal in the last 40 seconds that tied the game at 4-4. The No. 2 ranked



place St. Cloud Huskies in a critical two-game WCHA conference series showdown. After splitting their series with the University of

“With a sweep of the Huskies this weekend, and a loss by DU to Minnesota-Duluth, the Tigers could move back into first place.”

Alaska Anchorage two weeks ago, and following last weekend's loss and tie to upstate rival DU, the Tigers look to snap their three-game losing streak against the Huskies who are coming in with a three-game winning streak.

With a 7-3-2 conference record and a record 10-4-2 overall, the Tigers are just two-points behind first place DU. However, both the University of Minnesota-Duluth and St. Cloud State University trail the Tigers by just a point

December 2007 when they split their two-game series. Friday night's game will mark the 76th meeting between the Tigers and Huskies. CC leads the overall series 40-30-5 and are 17-12-3 in 32 games played at St. Cloud.

The Tigers skate into this weekend's series ranked No. 6 in the nation, according to US-CHO.com/CBS College Sports. The St. Cloud Huskies rank No. 17. Despite their low rank, the Huskies have a talented roster that boasts seven NHL Draft Picks. The Tiger defense will have their hands full with the Huskies' duo of Ryan Lasch and Garret Roe who have combined for 12 goals and 13 assists. Lasch, a senior forward, leads the Huskies with 9 goals and 5 assists. Roe, a junior forward, has 3 goals and 9 assists. Junior forward Tony Mosey ranks third on the team with 6 goals and 4 assists, 5 of those goals coming on power-play opportunities.

Although the Tigers have faced more talented goaltenders in previous games, the Huskies' goalies are nothing to scoff at. Junior Daniel Dunn and freshman Mike Lee have shared goaltending duties throughout the season. Dunn has gone 4-2-0 and boasts 2.32 goals-against average and 93% save percent-



Photos: Sam Dexter

“This weekend, the second-place Colorado College Tigers travel to St. Cloud, Minnesota where they will face-off against the fourth-place St. Cloud University Huskies in critical two-game WCHA conference series showdown.”

Tiger offense will look to skate off to a fast start against the Huskies who rank 4th in total defense. With the No. 1 ranked power-play offense, the Tigers hope to take advantage of the Huskies who have only allowed 10 power-play goals all season.

With a sweep of the Huskies this weekend, and a loss by DU to Minnesota-Duluth, the Tigers could move back into first-place. However, if the Tigers are swept by the Huskies and DU sweeps Minnesota, the Tigers could very well be in third or fourth place by the end of the week.

Women's basketball season starts with fury- the hoops are high for young team

Carrie Markel
Staff Writer

After opening their conference season with two victories, the CC women's basketball team has increased their record to 5-1. The conference victories over the Millsaps College Majors and the Hendrix College Warriors on December 4 and 6 earned sophomore guard Becky Luetjen the honor of the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference: Co-Player of the Week.

The win over Millsaps came down to the final seconds, but the Tigers prevailed thanks to a clutch performance. Luetjen led the CC scoring drive in the first half with 15 points, and contributed 14 more in the second half to complete a career high 29 points. Yet, no matter how hard the CC women played, the Millsaps Majors kept rallying, putting the game within a one-point margin. Victory was decided in the last 52 seconds. Luetjen hit a pair of free throws, putting the Tigers within one until Emily Wattman-Turner stole the ball in the last three seconds, securing the 69-68 win.

“After opening their conference season with two victories, the CC women's basketball team has increased their record to 5-1.”

Luetjen was modest about her impressive performance and SCAC award, “It was a great honor but more than anything I was really excited to see my team get those two wins. I was just really proud of my team, and anyone could really step up,” she said.

While the Millsaps game was hotly contested until the buzzer, the victory over Hendrix on Sunday came easier but with an equally impressive performance from Luetjen. Her career-high 16 rebounds, 13 of which were on the

defensive end, proved to be a crucial component in the 93-82 win over the Warriors. Senior captain, Eliese Hansberry, also helped lead the Tigers with a 20-point game and 7 rebounds. The win marks the third-straight victory for the CC women.

“Sunday really came down to whoever came out the hardest. We had just come off Millsaps and were not very happy with how close it was, and Hendrix was a must-win not only to make ourselves a big name in the conference, but also because they are one of our big rivals,” Hansberry remarked after the game.

The Hendrix game showcased the depth of talent on the team; Luetjen and Hansberry were not the only women to score in double-digits. Four other players, including Alyssa Aldaz, Collier Clegg, Kalli-Anne Kemling and Emily Wattman-Turner, all contributed immensely with their double-digit games. Most impressive is how young the team is and the success they have already achieved. Of the six players to score in double-digits, four are underclassmen.

When asked how the dynamic of a young team affects their performance, the sentiment of the older players is that the youthful team is in no way a disadvantage. “I actually think, for our team, it's an advantage. All of our freshmen are coming out hard every day and all want to start,” Hansberry said. “Other teams also tend not to take us seriously seeing us as so young, but about half-way through the game they realize they have to treat us as a threat.”

The Tigers were not viewed as dominant force coming in to the season; they were predicted to finish as one of the last teams in the conference. They have certainly proved those predictions wrong and as Hansberry said, “When we come out as a team, we're unstoppable.”

The women hope to keep up their record this weekend with their first set of away games against Bethany Lutheran College and Crown College in Minnesota.