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THE CATALYST

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF COLORADO COLLEGE

Lack of endowment transparency puts blemish on CC's Sustainability Report Card



November 6, 2009

catalystnewspaper.com

Broncos face first defeat of season to Ravens- NFL finishes critical 8th week

Gregory Siegel
Guest Writer

Its over. The previously undefeated Denver Broncos (6-1) were handed their first defeat of the year, at the hands of the Baltimore Ravens (4-3) pounding defense, losing 30-7. Kyle Orton was sacked on the opening play of the game, leading to the first of many three and outs. In 11 possessions, the Broncos punted eight times, committed 1 turnover, and scored one touchdown. The Broncos, who were riding a six game winning streak, could not get into any semblance of an offensive rhythm.

CC Sophomore and Denver Native Matt Valeta, a die-hard Bronco fan had this to say:

"The Broncos last performance showed the limitation to the Broncos current style of play. A very conservative offense simply cannot beat a defense that is that fast, aggressive, and dominating. The Ravens, despite their now 4 and 3 record, are one of the best offensive and defensive teams in the league. That being said, I predict right now that Broncos finish the season at 10-6 at the worst. Josh McDaniels has shown that he is an excellent coach who prepares his team well. With the loss of Jay Cutler and all the turmoil that ensued from that along with the Brandon Marshall situation, I would have been happy with 6 wins for the whole season. I think people failed to realize that the offense was loaded with talent even without Cutler. That's why McDaniels has been able to call such a conservative game plan, because the weapons on the team are good enough to make big plays out of safe throws.

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Sydney Felton
Guest Writer

The terms "environmentally conscious" or "eco friendly" are often used to describe the Colorado College student body in place of less politically correct terms such as "hippies" or "tree huggers." However, the question is, when it comes to living in an environmentally conscious way, does the CC community live up to its reputation? Not really, says a report

"when it comes to living in an environmentally conscious way, does the CC community live up to its reputation?"

card that gave CC only a B+ for sustainable campus living and a poor evaluation of its investments and endowment transparency.

The College Sustainability Report Card is a research project conducted by the Sustainable Endowments Institute that collects data from hundreds of colleges every year on their sustainability efforts. Each school is given a letter grade

"Each school is given a letter grade in the following categories; Student Involvement, Shareholder Engagement, Endowment Transparency, Investment Priorities, Transportation, Climate Change and Energy, Food and Recycling, Green Building, and Administration."

in the following categories; Student Involvement, Shareholder Engagement, Endowment Transparency, Investment Priorities, Transportation, Climate Change and Energy, Food and Recycling, Green Building, and Administration.

The scores received in each of these categories are averaged to determine each school's overall score.

The "report cards" are posted on the web site greenreportcard.org, an interactive resource that provides extensive information on the ranking system and tools for comparing colleges.

Out of the 300 schools that received sustainability evaluations, 26 received awards for achieving an overall grade of A- or above. These schools included University of Colorado, University of Vermont, Middlebury College, and Pomona College. Several of these schools are also known for their environmentally conscious student body.

"what was it is that kept CC from being among the top ranked schools in sustainability?"

Despite CC's perceived sustainability, the school did not receive a distinguished award. While CC received the relatively high overall grade of B+, on par with DU and ahead of UCCS, one may wonder what was it is that kept CC from being among the top ranked schools in sustainability?

Our school received A's in all but the following categories; Green Building, Transportation, Investment Priorities, and Endowment Trans-

"Our school received A's in all but the following categories; Green Building, Transportation, Investment Priorities, and Endowment Transparency. Indeed, Endowment Transparency was the only category in which CC received a C."

parency. Indeed, Endowment Transparency was the only category in which CC received a C.

The webpage greenreportcard.org provides this description for what Endowment Transpar-

ency really means and how it is measured: "The Endowment Transparency category evaluates how schools control information about endowment investment holdings and shareholder

"Access to endowment information is needed within a college community to foster constructive dialogue about opportunities for clean energy investment, as well as shareholder voting priorities."

proxy voting records. ... Access to endowment information is needed within a college community to foster constructive dialogue about opportunities for clean energy investment, as well as shareholder voting priorities. Points are awarded to schools for providing proxy voting records and lists of investment holdings to the campus community or to a wider audience, and for the ease with which they make this information available."

Put simply, endowment transparency measures how effectively the leaders communicate to the school community how they invest school funds- CC's biggest failing, according to the report.

Student Involvement, however, is one area in which CC excelled. Student activist groups, the CC community garden, and Synergy house are all cited as reasons why the school received an A in this category.

So is there anything that the student body can do to improve this ranking? According to the 2010 review, those categories in which the student body had a profound impact were the ones in which the school scored highest.

In contrast, categories such as Investment Priorities and Endowment Transparency, the ones that lowered the overall score, are categories that the student body cannot directly influence.

News

Rastall renovation intended to facilitate “flow”

Ashley Mayo
Staff Writer

A year from now, when you walk into the Rastall buffet there may not be any walled area to walk into, and it may not be a buffet. Both aspects of the dining hall are among the features being debated by a committee as Rastall gets set to undergo a major makeover.

Although no major decisions have yet been made, Chris Melcher, one of the staff members in charge of the project, emphasized that a main goal of intended renovation will be to open up the Rastall space. This will probably include taking down the brick wall, so that the dining area will “flow into Worner.” It is likely that the fence around the patio will be removed, so that the area can be utilized as a student space as well as a food space, at all hours of the day.

The committee is also considering making Rastall an a la carte rather than an all-you-can-eat dining space. However, such decisions will depend upon the outcome of a student survey and ongoing deliberations.

Two years ago, CC switched food service providers from Sodexo to Bon Appetit. As part

of their deal to get the contract, Bon Appetit put up a 3.5 million dollar fund specifically intended for food service renovation. Last year, the college spent \$500,000 on updates to The Preserve and Local Goods. In the coming year, CC plans to use the rest on a complete overhaul of Rastall.

As Bon Appetit is footing the entire bill, students need not worry that their tuition is paying for the changes. The project will not cut into the college budget and the money available must all be spent on food service facilities.

The last Rastall renovation was over twenty years ago and, according to Melcher, it's about time for another one.

“Rastall is a critical part of our campus community,” he said. “It's where students and faculty and staff can break bread together, where they can share and develop relationships outside of class.”

The renovation project is being supervised by a newly formed committee called the Rastall Working Group. It is composed of five faculty members, five students and five staff members.

The project is in its preliminary stages and what the renovation will entail has yet to be determined. A few weeks ago, the working group

sent out an online survey asking the college community what improvements they would like to see. According to Melcher, student opinion will be greatly taken into account.

“This is a chance for the campus to design the main eating space for the next twenty years,” he said. “It's really very exciting.”

The working group refers to this process as the “programming” phase, meaning that they are gathering information in order to understand what people want from the space.

“In other words,” said Melcher, “how do you design a space if you don't want people to just grab food and go? Or if you want them to stay together, rather than breaking up into a lot of little groups?”

The goal, according to Melcher, is to create a space that works flexibly according to different user desires.

This programming phase will continue through fifth block, at which point the design phase will begin. CC will hire an architect, who along with the committee, will come up with a plan that includes solutions to the issues addressed during programming.

The actual renovation will begin either the day after 2010 graduation, or at the end of

the fall 2010 semester and will take six to seven months to complete. During that time Rastall will be closed. The working group is considering several options for the interim period, including expanding the options in The Preserve, utilizing the kitchen and dining area in Bemis, and even renting a climate controlled semi-permanent tent.

Love it or hate it, you've probably spent a good portion of your college career in Rastall: standing in the never-ending omelet line, vainly attempting to separate the plastic cups, stashing a few pieces of fruit in your bag on the way out the door. There's no doubt that Rastall is a fundamental part of the CC experience, and the committee wants to keep it that way.

“No decisions have been made yet,” repeated Melcher. “This is the time for input and comment. We are very excited- we really just want to make Rastall better.”

If you would like to take the Rastall survey, please check our web site for a link.

Where does your money go? Academics and Scholarships

Elizabeth Findell
News Editor

When you're shelling out some \$48,000 each year to attend Colorado College, the question is inevitable: where does the money go? Answering that question was the focus of a Monday afternoon “Root of All Money” forum in McHugh commons designed to kick-start CC's Annual Giving Week.

According to the seminar, 55 percent of each student's tuition money goes to paying salaries and providing benefits to CC faculty and staff, and 17 percent of it goes to financial aid for other students. The third highest tuition expenditure is supplies and materials, which account for about 14 percent of student money spent.

Tuition and fees fund only about 60 percent of the school's budget, with the rest made up by the endowment, private gifts and grants, government grants, miscellaneous income (including Boettcher services and hockey ticket sales), and “auxiliary enterprises” that include money made off of housing, dining and parking.

Of the school's total expenditures, which are budgeted at \$131 million for this school year, 30 percent goes to the cost of academic

instruction. The next largest chunk of the budget, 20 percent, goes to financial aid. About half of the student body receives some form of financial aid or scholarship from the school.

Director of Financial Aid Jim Swanson said

“According to the seminar, 55 percent of each student's tuition money goes to paying salaries and providing benefits to CC faculty and staff, and 17 percent of it goes to financial aid for other students.”

that though the college lost a few returning students last year for financial reasons, his office made a mostly successful effort to ensure that all students could afford to return to the school, regardless of increased economic difficulties.

Because of the increased aid needed to keep existing students at the school, there was less financial aid to offer to the incoming freshman class, thus a smaller percentage (about 40 percent) of students in the class of 2013 receive aid. CC practices “need sensitive” rather than need-blind admissions, meaning that they take financial information into consideration when deciding whether or not to admit someone into the school.

Lyrae Williams, Director of the Budget, noted that in spite of economic difficulties the school has in the past year increased funding for academic support, instruction and scholarships while decreasing how much money they use to physically run the campus.

“There have been dramatic changes in how we use our money,” said Williams.

GIVING TO CC

The “Root of all Money” forum also addressed CC's efforts to encourage alumni and others to donate annually. Steve Elder, the Vice President of Advancement for the college, described his pitch to potential donors as “very personal,” a face-to-face conversation describing the school recipient in all its glory.

“It's a way to tell the story of Colorado College,” he said. “What we emphasize depends on who we're talking to.”

Always however, the talk will include discussion of the school's mission and its “Three Buckets” of financial priority- the students, the faculty and the campus. Much emphasis has been placed on three major campus projects: Cornerstone, which has now been finished, and upcoming redesigns of the Health and Fitness Center and Tutt Library. The school hopes to start the fitness and library renovations within three to five years, pending donations.

“Our alumni are very generous- they love it here,” Elder said. He did, however, acknowledge that, as percentages of participation go, CC alumni donation rates are low compared to other schools.

“There's something there that's been disconnected,” he said, adding that many alumni intend to donate and think that they have donated when they haven't actually gone through with it. He said the school is working to better how they ask for money, including starting the pitch to those who haven't yet graduated.

“That's part of why we're here, doing this,” he said.

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Climate Change Discussion

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***Dinner provided*
Tuesday, November 10
5:30 pm, Gaylord**

Reading Tea Leaves: Political Analyst Charlie Cook Visits CC

Alex Kronman
Editor in Chief

On Monday November 2, esteemed political analyst Charlie Cook visited the Colorado College campus to give insight into the post-Obama political climate. Brought to campus by Professor Tom Cronin, Cook spoke to students in Cronin's "The American Presidency" as well as to the public later in the evening. He noted

“Sixty-three percent of Americans do not believe that Obama’s stimulus package has helped himself/herself or his/her family.”

the economic recession as well as the debate over healthcare as particularly telling entrées into the Obama presidency. Pointing out the dual nature of Obama's increasing ownership of the U.S. economy he commented, "the things that we had to do to keep our economy from going off a cliff are things that no human being would ever want to do." However, Cook maintained that Obama deserves more credit for keeping the economy on the right side of that cliff; our "great recession" has not become the Great Depression. He predicted that unemployment would stay at ten percent or higher through at least December of 2010, which complicates any sort of economic

“The bank bailouts have done nothing to reinforce President Obama’s once strong populist credentials. The bailout was executed not because lawmakers loved the idea but because it was necessary to stabilize the system.”

recovery. The unemployment rate had not hit ten percent since the Great Depression. As that affects voters, it will also affect the ruling Democratic Party. Sixty-three percent of Americans do not believe that Obama's stimulus package has helped himself/herself or his/her family. The bank bailouts have done

nothing to reinforce President Obama's once strong populist credentials. The bailout was executed not because lawmakers loved the idea but because it was necessary to stabilize the system. Cook culminated his point by remarking, "every single day that you're president, the economic situation belongs a little more to you. After two years, it's yours." He uses this idea in analyzing elections and in making predictions for the future.

On healthcare, Cook argued that now isn't the time to be pushing reform. The American people, while generally pretty generous, feel less inclined to subsidize others when unemployed or under financial duress. And Obama's assertion that his healthcare plan won't cost anything? Cook says the public isn't buying it. Although he acknowledged the necessity of drastic reform, Cook contended that healthcare was not a major part of Obama's campaign and if he comes up short on his big promises such as the economy and Iraq; there will be consequences. While a healthcare reform bill

“While a healthcare reform bill will most likely be passed, Cook said it will end up looking like the proverbial ‘baby so ugly only a mother could love.’”

will most likely be passed, Cook said it will end up looking like the proverbial "baby so ugly only a mother could love." Although he noted that the democrats are now committed to passing something, their plan seems to win ugly now and clean up the mess afterward. Cook said that if he was president two or three months ago, he would have changed that plan and switched priorities.

Perhaps of most interest to the audience, Cook attempted to help their understanding of the finer points of Barack Obama's meteoric rise to power. A number of times throughout the day, he pointed to the Jerry Reid song "When You're Hot, You're Hot" (and When You're Not, You're Not) to explain that throughout political history; "no one is hot for four or eight or twelve years." If Obama wanted to win the Presidency, he had to run while he was hot, not when it was practical or when he was best prepared. "No emotion in politics is stronger than hate," Cook noted, and Obama was best positioned to feed off hatred

felt towards former President George W. Bush. There was a unique support level for Obama that came from the youth vote and from demo-

“Although he noted that the democrats are now committed to passing something, their plan seems to win ugly now and clean up the mess afterward. Cook said that if he was president two or three months ago, he would have changed that plan and switched priorities.”

cratic die-hards. Young people came out to support him in droves and democrats "never loved Bill Clinton [let alone Jimmy Carter] the way they loved Obama." When asked if Obama's poll numbers will plummet with democrats, Cook answered in kind saying, "[no,] I think it's true love."

However, in predicting the general political climate in the midterm elections, Cook warned

“Looking back to the reelection wins of Reagan and Clinton, their individual landslides were preceded two years by substantial party losses. ‘Midterm elections tell us absolutely nothing’ and ‘if anyone wants to sextrapolate from 2010 and 2012, wow, they’re nuts.’”

of a disconnect between the fortunes of Democratic congressmen and congresswomen and the Democratic President. Looking back to the reelection wins of Reagan and Clinton, their individual landslides were preceded two years by substantial party losses. "Midterm elections tell us absolutely nothing" and "if anyone wants to extrapolate from 2010 and

2012, wow, they're nuts." Cook projects some but not extensive Democratic losses and rejects the notion of trying to predict the whirlwinds of party change many Republicans are talking about.

Cook also views this past week's gubernatorial races and special congressional election as just plain "strange." "Both sides are spinning the hell out of this," and it isn't really indicative of anything. As far as the political tides are concerned, three GOP wins don't offset the Obama Presidency or predict what will happen in the hundreds of elections next year. He acknowledged, in terms of trends, the fact that the youth population, that so strongly supported Obama, is increasingly becoming the majority demographic of voters. The young people of today are the people of tomorrow.

The audience responded enthusiastically to Cook's insight and intellect. Senior Ellie Wood engaged the well-regarded analyst about the shaping of Obama's economic policy as the administration looks ahead to the Climate Con-

“Cook projects some but not extensive Democratic losses and rejects the notion of trying to predict the whirlwinds of party change many Republicans are talking about.”

ference in Copenhagen this coming December. Another audience member asked Cook for his opinion and forecast of the future of the press. He admitted to being deeply troubled by the apparent free fall in the quality of journalism as well as the bleeding over of ideology into the news media. At a time when the need for responsible journalism is higher than ever, news outlets are suffering from a lack of competition and declining standards.

Trying to end on a positive note, Cook reminded the audience that "we've lived through worse than this," and although some of his outlooks are bleak, things could be worse. While his metaphorical crystal ball might have scared Uncle Sam, the Colorado College community benefited from Cook's political acumen.



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Comment & Debate

Colorado College and the real world: Life isn't all frisbee and Bristol kegs

Nicholas Hawks
Staff Writer

After spending over \$200,000 and going to four years worth of classes, has Colorado College aptly prepared you to go out into the infamous "real world"?

She was dressed in black and wore a lot of jewelry. Flashy objects – things I wasn't used to after a summer spent in the wilderness of Yellowstone and on the streets of small towns in Wyoming and Montana.

Having been upgraded to the exit row after arriving to the gate with only minutes to spare, I was basking in the pleasant novelty of the situation. The conversation began in a very polite and enjoyable way (as most chats with strangers in confined, socially elite places tend to be). We shared our respective feelings regarding the local weather and eventually began to find out more about one another.

She looked to be in her mid 50s and was currently living in Arizona working as a real estate developer; she was travelling to Colorado Springs to visit a friend before they went up to Denver for a mutual friend's funeral. I told her that I was travelling back to Colorado Springs to start my junior year at Colorado College where I was a sociology major.

As soon as I mentioned Colorado College, she told me her niece was a CC alumna. From there, our conversation immediately focused on the block plan and the nature of the college.

While it was clear that all she knew of the college was that it differed from others in that it was run on the block plan schedule, she still made a point to discredit the school based on its inability to prepare students for the "real world."

I was taken aback by this, but kept my composure as I politely asked her to elaborate. She continued by explaining to me how she felt that such a system was impractical because no other work setting functioned in this kind of simple, one-subject-at-a-time way.

I half-heartedly offered a few points of rebuttal, but her comments had so taken me by surprise that I had little to say. I also wasn't trying to start a debate with a woman I hardly knew and, at the time, she had somewhat convinced me of her point. The conversation eventually faded and we each re-directed our focus to our reading material of choice – for her, a novel, for me, SkyMall.

Since that conversation I have spent most of my time on campus and I have been unable to go a day without looking back and asking myself, "Am I really going to be aptly prepared to handle myself in the real world after four years at Colorado College?" I must admit that for a while I thought the answer was no – that my time here has been fun and mentally explorative, but ultimately I didn't feel as if what and how I've learned here was applicable to that fast-approaching and ever-daunting "real world"

that so many of my elders insist on reminding me of.

Thankfully, I'm neither that naïve nor that easily influenced by the opinions of random strangers I meet on airplanes.

After a considerable amount of time spent observing and pondering, I came to the realization that Colorado College, in fact, does do an exceptional job of preparing its students for the "real world," whatever or wherever that may be. I feel I can say this with confidence for the reasons listed below.

The Practical Applications of Living and Learning on the Block Plan

In a word, the block plan is... intense. We are subjected to copious amounts of reading and writing, frequent labs and it all has to be completed in a time frame that is painfully condensed. Our deadlines are closer together; our attention spans are challenged five times a week by three-hour classes; we are required to absorb and retain a semester's worth of information in under a month. Frankly, it's fairly impressive.

In the real world (which I interpret as the world in which we must work independently in to pay our bills), while one may be required to work on multiple tasks at any given time, the subject matter tends to be focused as most people find themselves working in a specific field. I cannot think of too many occupations where one would be reading and writing about

18th century literature while simultaneously working on chemistry research, political theory analysis and metal sculpting.

Not only do we prove our competency to deal with unhealthy amounts of work on a daily basis, but we also find time to recreate quite regularly and participate in a number of extracurricular activities, many of which benefit the local community. To me, this is exactly what one strives to do as a productive, mentally and physically healthy member of society.

Colorado College's Institutional Emphasis on Writing

All FYE programs and the majority of CC classes (with the exception of a few math and natural science classes) emphasize the importance of writing in that they require students to complete various subject-specific writing assignments each block.

An individual's ability to effectively communicate through writing is an important life skill that is translatable to every field and profession. Good writing is always appreciated, if not demanded.

The Effect of the Liberal Arts Education

We are encouraged to dabble and it is this dabbling that is what makes a liberal arts education so exceptional; it allows us to cultivate a broader understanding of the world around us and to think independently. This development of independent thought then contributes to

Continued on page 5

Health care public option publicly opposed

Baker Arena
Guest Writer

The public option has been a focus in the media in recent months. Yesterday, Senator Roland Burris from Illinois publicly stated that he would not support a bill unless it had a public option. This partisan and polarizing support for the public option will be the downfall of healthcare in America. A healthcare reform bill must do three things, lower prices, expand coverage and actually become law - the public option will allow for none of these things.

Under Medicare, the current public option for seniors coverage is guaranteed. Because of the program's massive size it is able to pay far lower prices with doctors than private insurers can. The low payouts from Medicare force private insurers to pay even higher payouts which lead to higher premiums and thus partially subsidize Medicare payments. The public option will use the same massive bargaining power

of the United States Government to expand coverage to the uninsured.

The expansion of the public plan will require new taxes to pay for it and the government will continue its same low payouts further increasing private insurance premiums. In effect there would be two tax increases, direct taxes from the US Government and the hidden tax of higher premiums that would be shared by both private businesses and individuals.

The biggest problem with health care is the lack of competition among private insurers. The insurance market is so concentrated that healthcare providers are not subject to market forces to provide better products. The American Medical Association states that 94% are so highly concentrated that there is not a competitive marketplace. This is where the US government can affect real change in the immediate future.

While the public option does expand cover-

age and may control some (but not all) costs, there are more effective ways to control costs and increase enrollment. Health Insurance is currently exempt from anti-trust lawsuits. By repealing this over fifty year-old provision private insurers will be able to be broken down into smaller companies. These companies will compete among consumers to deliver the best product.

The problem with the public option is that it will not increase competition among private insurers but it will compete directly with them. This will force private insurance companies to consolidate even further to compete with such a program. Instead of freeing the invisible hand, it will constrain it even more.

In addition to these regulations, Congress should pass healthcare consumer protection proposals already popular with both parties. To increase enrollment, the National Government should authorize States to form pools of the

uninsured or underinsured to use the collective bargaining power of citizens to purchase private insurance. The National Government would subsidize the States to purchase plans for those who cannot afford them. This will allow individuals and small businesses to save on healthcare costs by using collective bargaining tactics.

State governments will run these programs because purchasing health insurance is not a one-size-fits-all deal that the public option requires. The flexibility of this plan not only saves money but allows for Americans to choose the best plan for their individual needs.

Healthcare reform is a necessity to the American people. There is an immediate need to reform it and instead of reform devolving into stale and polarizing ideological debates, it is time for smart and pragmatic policy. These are some ideas that have the potential for broad bipartisan support and effective reform.



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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CORRECTION

Last week a story on the front page entitled "Obama taking attention away from Health Care by aiding and abetting Fox News" was credited to Ben Quam. This article was written by James Zilenziger. We apologize for the mistake.

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2009 Election? What? Didn't we just vote?

Ben Quam
Staff Writer

"The Republican renaissance has begun!" Cried Republican National Committee Chairman Michael Steele as Republicans took control of the governorships in both Virginia and New Jersey last Tuesday. It was a good day for Republicans indeed; in Virginia, the Republican Bob McDonnell won with nearly sixty percent of the vote, and Republican Chris Christie of New Jersey was first Republican to win statewide election in over a decade. The rest of the Republican chorus regarding the victories was in the same vein as Chairman Steele. But do two states signal a new beginning for the marginalized Republican Party? A look beyond the immediate results paints a much more intricate picture, and one that doesn't add up to Steele's.

Like I said, there is no doubt that Republicans have reason to celebrate from this past week. The Democratic candidate Creigh Deeds in Virginia was trounced in areas Obama won in 2008, including parts of Northern Virginia and the suburbs of Richmond. The New Jersey race, which had been billed as the race where Democrats might hold on, went to the Republican by more than most polls predicted. The coalition of voters that swept Obama to power didn't come to pass again. Voters between the age of 18 and 29, as well as minorities, made up a much smaller portion of the electorate than they had just one year ago. These are certainly not good signs for Democrats.

At the same time, below the immediate

surface are several indications that the elections weren't as bad for Democrats as it has been said. "The biggest misreported part of this election is that you have large numbers of independents who went for Obama now going for the Republicans. Not true," said Larry Sabato of the University of Virginia. Professor Sabato argues that it simply wasn't the same group of independents showing up last Tuesday as the year before. Politico reported, regarding those saying moderates were fleeing Obama, that "there is little evidence in exit polls to support that." "Of Obama voters who showed up in Virginia Tuesday, only 12% slid to Republican Bob McDonnell, according to exit polls. With John McCain's 2008 voters defecting to Deeds at a 5% rate in the same surveys." That's some movement, but not enough to account to McDonnell's near 20 point thrashing of Deeds. Independents who voted for Obama didn't switch whom they voted for - they stayed home.

Similarly, in New Jersey, a majority of voters said their vote was not a reflection on Obama or national issues. Nate Silver, the statistician and pollster of fivethirtyeight.com, said "Obama approval was actually pretty strong in New Jersey, at 57 percent, but 27 percent of those who approved of Obama nevertheless voted for someone other than [the Democratic candidate] Corzine. This one really does appear to be mostly about Corzine being an unappealing candidate, as the Democrats look like they'll lose just one or two seats in the state legislature in Trenton." As well, exist polls indicate that

more people were basing their vote off of local issues like property taxes and corruption, over national ones like health care reform or the national debt. Democrats took two tough losses in important states but the numbers show that Democratic congress people shouldn't start worrying yet.

Also lost in the "Republican renaissance" rhetoric is the fact that Democrats picked up a federal House seat that had been in Republican hands for the past 120 years. Democrat Bill Owens defeated Conservative party candidate Douglas Hoffman by a little over four percent in the upstate New York district. The race had gained serious national attention after the Republican candidate, Dede Scozzafava, suspended her campaign amid a revolt from conservatives who said she was too liberal (she supported gay marriage, abortion rights and the Obama stimulus package). Hoffman, however, could not capitalize on the conservative energy that flooded in from across the country.

Hoffman's support came from a variety of especially conservative grassroots organizations, including, FreedomWorks (think Tea Parties), the Club for Growth (Anti-tax group), and the National Organization for Marriage. Despite the loss, these grassroots organizations and tea parties everywhere have been emboldened by their ability to undo the moderate Scozzafava. Dick Armey, Director of FreedomWorks said, "He just got there late, that's all. We think small-government conservatives had a big victory last night." If conservatives take up arms against moderate Republican candidates elsewhere it

could have dramatic implications.

Races across the country for the Senate in 2010 could see conservative challengers emerge to unseat more Republican moderates. Already in Florida, the governor and senatorial candidate Charlie Crist is facing conservative opposition from former-speaker Marco Rubio. "The media's attention and the movement's attention are turning to Florida," said Club [for Growth] spokesman Mike Connolly. Other states with races that could be impacted include Illinois, Connecticut and California. The same Chairman Michael Steele who claimed a renaissance for Republicans said on Thursday, "[C]andidates who live in moderate to slightly liberal districts have got to walk a little bit carefully here, because you do not want to put yourself in a position where you're crossing that line on conservative principles, fiscal principles, because we'll come after you." The feud for control of the Republican Party certainly isn't over yet, and if the rhetoric is any indication, it won't be anytime soon.

The off-year elections this past week have been dominated by discussion of Democratic losses in two states that Obama had won. This is true, and it certainly presents challenges for Democrats to grapple with as the 2010 elections get closer, but the numbers on the governor's races don't show a true Republican resurgence. It's far too early, and misleading, to say Democrats are doomed in 2010. When last Tuesday's results are looked at as a whole, they make it apparent that both parties, have issues to work out going forward.

Obama, O'Reilly & us: Is news really "fair & balanced"?

Jeff Hester
ComDeb Editor

Alright America, I'm going to give it to you straight: as cliché as it is, the honeymoon is over. Now that the romanticism of Hope, Change and all that other business has faded after his first year as President of the United States, Barack Obama is now, more than ever, fair game. The Obama Administration has surely delivered on its promise to increase the transparency of the executive branch, but with such transparency comes inevitable criticism.

Consider use of personal pronoun in lede. At this point in his presidency, it is very easy to criticize Obama for not delivering on certain promises he made over the course of his campaign. We still need to find homes for our guests down in Guantanamo Bay, unemployment rates are still rising and Obama's coveted healthcare plan is still flopping around somewhere in Congress (but hey, that's bureaucracy for you). Lately, inactivity has not been a problem for the Obama administration but rather what they are choosing to spend their time and energy on.

Most recently, the Executive Branch has been utilizing the media in attempt to discredit Fox News as a legitimate news source by attacking their well-noted conservative bias. On numerous occasions, high-ranking members of the Obama Administration, such as Rahm Emanuel and David Axelrod, have bad-mouthed Fox News claiming that they are not really a news organization and that they function as "the research arm or the communications arm of the Republican Party". Granted, the Obama administration is not launching a

fully funded campaign against Fox, but I feel like they must have something better to do.

Ill-placed priorities aside, the Obama Administration's new media initiative is saying something worthwhile that deserves to be brought to attention. Most of us have witnessed the feverish rants of Fox bigwigs Bill O'Reilly, Sean Hannity or Glenn Beck at least once or twice and can recognize that if these programs leaned any further to the right, they might just fall off. Admittedly, these are not technically "news" programs; they are opinion shows, so bias is permissible. However, these are the names that people associate with Fox News, not Steve Centanni or Julie Banderas, two of Fox's top news anchors. Fox's opinion shows may not have to live up to the journalistic integrity of their newsy counterparts but they reach out to a much larger group of people with more radical ideas, generating a volatile influence on the public.

Even if we are only considering Fox's true news shows, many of them flaunt a thinly veiled conservative bias. The Project of Excellence in Journalism Report of 2006, an annual report on journalistic integrity in America, reported that 68% of news stories covered on Fox's news programs contained personal opinions, in comparison, MSNBC came in at 27% and CNN at 4%. I'm not saying it's bad to showcase diverse views on news topics in order to hash out a wide spectrum of ideas for the audience but, that is not news. Even more importantly, the report went into explicit detail about Fox's bias tendencies noting, "Fox was measurably more one-sided than the other networks". How, I ask you, can something described as "one-sided" be "fair and balanced"?

In an attempt to defend Fox, many conserva-

tive loyalists refer to a 2003 study conducted by Professors Tim Groseclose and Jeff Milyo. They executed the study by noting which think tanks certain media outlets cite and comparing them to those used by members of Congress. This allowed them to compare the media outlets to members of Congress to see which party they more closely align with, Democrats or Republicans. The study claims that all of news networks they studied, with the exception of Fox News, showed a significant liberal bias in their reporting. Fox, they said, did not show a significant bias at all. There are plenty of things wrong with this report, but I will touch on a few:

The Groseclose/Milyo study divides members of Congress into two distinct groups, Democrats and Republicans, which they automatically relate to liberal and conservative. Over the last year, we have heard a lot about "Blue Dog" Democrats, or Democrats that are fiscally conservative, mostly because of their influence on the health care vote. Just because one is a Democrat does not mean that they exhibit especially liberal tendencies. Without a larger political spectrum to work with, the study mislabels political position to a gross extent.

The study also falls short by not considering the integrity of the sources that are being cited. Centrist-left think tanks such as Brookings and the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities employ many more fact-checkers and departmental experts than their conservative counterparts, thus members of the media would be more likely to use them as reliable sources. On the other hand, the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank, employs far less fact-checkers and gives their information directly to mem-

bers of the Republican Party. That's how I distilled it but is this true? Naturally, a member of Congress would more likely use a study tailored precisely to the topic at hand rather than a general study conducted by experts, but media outlets should be expected to only use sources with the utmost integrity. If a news program were to choose to use information from one of these leftist think tanks, they would be unfairly classified with a liberal bias, as the less diligent programs would seem more centrist or conservative and thus veiling a probable bias.

The Obama administration's attack on Fox news is most definitely justified, but now is surely not the time to do it. There are much more important issues to deal with currently, issues that require immediate attention and the American people are itching to see action instead of petty fights on political talk shows. Ultimately, the administration's attitude towards Fox News is more than understandable. Most programs on Fox News do actually report the news; but, by adding a blatant conservative bias they perpetuate the overly aggressive partisanship that is crippling the productivity of our government, particularly the delayed passing of the healthcare bill.

One of our most important rights as Americans is the ability to openly question and criticize our government. Fox News goes beyond this right. They concentrate so intensely on the flaws of the opposing party that, within a Democratic administration, the nightly audience is exposed to a completely unfounded aura of fear. Fox News doesn't deserve to be Public Enemy Number One, but they do deserve attention from this administration. I'm sure they could rig up a wiretap or two.

Power of the Block Plan: You won't graduate homeless

Continued from page 4

our ability to interact and deal with problems using a multi-faceted approach that is unique to every individual.

The CC Drive

I can confidently say that the students here (with the exception of a handful) share one thing in common: a strong sense of motivation – a motivation to make something of themselves, to change the world and to take control of their futures because they know they can. Not only can this be seen by looking at the successes of past graduates, but also by looking at

the degree to which Colorado College students are involved politically and socially in the community as well as on the national level.

On the "Real World"

What is the "real world?" Really though, what exactly does that term mean? Realistically, it means something different to everyone because your world is the world that you construct for yourself based on what you deem to be most important in life. Success is relative and varies based on each individual's definition of it. I'm willing to bet that the woman who I sat down next to on the plane has a very different opinion of what is most important in life

than I do. And that's okay. Because at the end of the day, at the end of our four years here and at the end of our careers, whatever those may be, our lives are ours to live and we each need to do what makes us happy. If we don't, all that hard work, all that preparing and testing and suffering to get up that leering ladder of academia is for nothing.

I no longer question whether or not Colorado College has prepared me for the real world because I know that it has. I know this based on the skills I've acquired and developed in my time here and because of the fact that I know that I can create whatever future I want

for myself.

To the seniors and all others at CC who are worrying about what the future holds, while it may be intimidating to look off into the distance and realize that you have no idea what you want to do or how you are going to achieve whatever you may think you want to do, relax. Revel in your preparedness and the fact that you have the ability to succeed in whatever you want regardless of what you're majoring in as long as you are willing to work diligently toward a specific goal.

Features

Halloween: a two day costumed craze across the CC campus

Shannon Dunn
Guest Writer

Worried, perhaps, that Halloween has become less about the candy and more about drinks that taste like it, the school offered a two-day Halloween extravaganza this year.

Along with the usual Glass House Haunted House and the Worner party, there was pumpkin carving, live music, and grilling with the Carnivore Club—a welcome, omnipresent force at campus events this year.

These wholesome events were definitely valued in lieu of the grown-ups-only rager the holiday has become. The night began innocently with trick-or-treaters on my doorstep Saturday evening. My first thought was, “Why are there children on my porch?”, but my roommates and I gladly participated in this elementary fun, putting good use to our fully decorated house. After exhausting our pumpkin-carving and treat-handing-out skills, however, a good party was solidly appreciated.

The Saturday night Halloween party in Worner was the climax of Halloweekend, and, luckily, there were some new developments this year. Namely, Boriello Brothers delivered on the half-hour!

It was a genius move by our administration to simultaneously fulfill our drunchies and give the \$3 beer some sober padding in our stomachs. For those of you who did not attend, there were two (technically 3) music experiences to choose from. A rave satisfied our



Noah Haynes-Brooks feels his inner rasta and proves a picture really is worth a thousand words on October 31st.

Photo: Sarah Albert

“There are also reports of an Economic Stimulus Package [costume]-thanks, CC kids, for keeping it current.”

no-lust, a hip-hop video dance party satisfied our middle school nostalgia, and the last and least...karaoke. A great idea in theory (singing, fun!) but let's accept that this never works out. Drunkenly reciting an over-heard pop song from a teleprompter is not the best soundtrack for students getting their Bristol on.

Your intrepid journalist noticed a few major costume themes. They constituted two signs of the same coin: nostalgia for our innocent pasts and hope for a changing future. The first was evident in the bevy of Disney-type characters. Princesses, gnomes, mice, troll dolls, Things 1 and 2, of course Harry Potter and Co., and more than a few Wild Things roamed. Are we stuck in childhood, ironic, or maybe just cognizant that college is our last chance to be a slutty Snow White? Popular (CC) culture was also referenced in Lady Gagas and nods to energy efficiency. Among these I counted a solar panel and a wind turbine—I'm sure you saw more. There are also reports of an Economic Stimulus Package – thanks, CC kids, for keeping it current.

So was the holiday all we hoped it would be? In the words of one senior, “I don't remember much, but I had a great time.”

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The Brew-HaHa

Nicholas Hawks
Jeff Hester

Staff Writer and ComDeb editor

Because we at the Catalyst absolutely love nice beer and know that many of you do too, we decided it's about damn time that we made the otherwise underground discussion public. This Features section, to be known from here on out as the Colorado College BrewHaHa, is the first of many in a new weekly series that exists to promote the responsible consumption of the finest craft beer from around the nation.

Our aim in writing this series is to provide the campus with recommendations for the tastiest beer around as well as to recommend the best places in town to both enjoy good beer in a social setting and where to go to find the more rare styles and brands.

While some may be lamenting over the cooler weather and the fewer hours of daylight that accompany the winter season, we cannot help but to rejoice in the fact that, with winter, comes two of the greatest things know to humankind: powder and the rich, tongue-mystifying assortment of winter seasonals that are finally appropriate to drink (appropriate because, although we would love to, you can't drink an Old Rasputin when it's 80 degrees outside. It just wears you out).

Of course there are the winter ales, the stouts, the porters, and all the other variations of those, but in the spirit of novelty and in an effort to use this series to introduce something new to our readers, we thought we'd explore some recommendations that fared a little more

on the non-traditional side. Less malts, but you still get the warm fuzzies.

Lagunitas' Imperial Red Ale: This American Strong Ale is a limited release, so get off your ass and go. Lagunitas' Red starts and finishes with a sharp, almost earthy waft of molasses. This sweet bite sandwiches the savory hops, an amazingly complimentary taste of crisp citrus and pine, to complete an ale that comes together softly and still leaves that nibbling tinge on the back of the tongue.

Bear Republic's Red Rocket Ale: Remember that girl you had a crush on in third grade? The one that was really cute and held your hand and then threw woodchips in your face in front of everyone that one recess? No? Maybe that's just me. Anyway, the point is that this ale delivers a swift blow to the gut. Red Rocket lures you into a false sense of security with its light, caramel introduction, setting up the one-two punch delivered by the sheer gravity of bitter hops. But not to fear, the bite is gone as soon as it comes and leaves you with a delightful buttery cream finish atop your tongue.

Sierra Nevada's Harvest Wet Hop Ale: A little bit lighter than the previous two selections, the 13th edition of this annual ale has all the levity of a summer pale ale with all the sting of a lighter IPA, courtesy of the wet hop brewing process employed in this very special brew. The intro is reminiscent of Sierra Nevada's classic Pale Ale with its faint malt flavoring, but is followed by a robust, rounded flavor of luscious hops that decrescendos into a subtle, yet warming finish. A versatile beer, season-wise, making it a great beer for the fickle Colorado weather.



The Catalyst staff goes Gonzo: a journey into journalism and Texas culture

The Catalyst Staff

What? We can't stop here. This is desert country. What were the founders of Phoenix thinking when they started a middle-of-nowhere metropolis? When are we going to be in the Lone Star State? These are the questions we mulled over whilst sipping the finest an airport sports bar could offer and waiting for our connecting flight to Austin, Texas.

It was the 2009 National College Media Convention and a few of the Catalyst staff members bravely ventured into the world of super nerds to sample some educational workshops and the vivacious Austin night life.

After journeying to the Denver airport amidst a growing blizzard and making friends with Kosha Dillz, a Jewish rapper who is currently touring with Matisyahu, the six of us managed to leave our beloved mountain state behind for what would become an epic four day stay in a crazy city to the south.

Austin didn't disappoint. We went completely sideways (to continue this desperate attempt to be as cool as Thompson), and enjoyed introducing ourselves to advertisement representatives, guest speakers and Coyote Ugly bartenders. Seriously, the folks we met on this trip were the most eclectic bunch: ranging from homeless men who offered to help us get acquainted with the city (one called himself Snail), to shuttle drivers dressed in Richard Simonsesque attire (I lost a bet and had to shave his eyebrows and dress like a fool), the company completed the faux block break.

Every morning started off with outstandingly well-priced breakfasts from a little hippie café called Arturos. The service was far below mediocre (how anyone could be so antisocial and sell delicious breakfast burritos remains beyond the realm of understanding), but the flavor was worth it. Post face-stuffing, we trekked the mile and a half walk to the conference, stopping only to play in the manicured lawns of the Capitol and a nearby park.

Despite the massive assembly of self-interested college journalists, the convention was actually a fairly enjoyable pedagogic get together. The downtown Hilton was packed with thousands of students, faculty advisers, and speakers, but the hotel managed to handle everything well. Entire floors of the establishment entertained the crowds with endless writing materials and space for meeting with fellow conference goers, but free pens turned out to be only one of many benefits. We learned subtle techniques to enhance a front page; presenters showed us how to make a headline pop; and a photographer hater from Florida taught us ways to tear apart an image and reformat an entire layout.

It was this very Floridian who was possibly the most intense workshop leader ever to

grace the North American college journalist scene: literally, these conferences are Michael Koretzky's steeze. This guy gets it, and he knows it. Clad in camouflaged pants, army boots, dog tags and a shirt with a quotation about the 1st Amendment, Koretzky topped it all off with a fat cigar and a flamboyant riding crop, which he used to point angrily at the giant PowerPoints he used to educate us less intelligent editors.

His presentation was excellently executed. After shouting absurd questions at the audience concerning headlines and photography layout, his newspaper minions handed out Mardi Gras beads and 1 dollar bills to those with the best answers. He continued to entertain us with short video clips (since our "generation's attention span is limited to the length of a YouTube video") and brief music breaks entitled "lightning rounds."

With every finished point, Koretzky delivered punchy jokes with stoic confidence. His diatribes consisted of messages like "pictures are not your children, you don't need to love them all equally," and "if she's naked, put it on the front page."

Unlike some of the other sessions, which were directed by droning professors and full of non-engaging conversation, the workshops he conducted were informative, enlightening, and amusing.

After the many hours put in at the conference, we spent our final afternoon exploring Austin. We decided to check out the University of Texas campus, the flagship Whole Foods, and finally, Soco (The South Congress district). It's a trendy place with vintage shopping galore, as well as cool restaurants and bars. We meandered through shops and wafted in the neighborhood's charm. The men split from the ladies when they wandered off to the richly populated thrift shops, and walked further from downtown and passed through Soco, making their final stop about five miles from the conference.

In the back of a live music bar was a quaint cigar and tobacco shop, complete with customers enjoying a nice cigar, pipe, large screen television and some time away from home. Four of us walked into the Habana Bar and were greeted by the man at the counter. It is not likely that you'd read about this shop in a tourist book, but it was a great place to have a relaxing afternoon with a group of gentlemen.

Nick and Jeff enjoyed a lesson on pipe tobacco smoking. They learned about different blends and flavors of tobacco, as well as pipe maintenance and etiquette. According to the aficionado, a pipe smoker should own six pipes, one for each day, Monday through Saturday. On Sunday, all six should be cleaned and ready for use during the upcoming week. After their lesson, the two distinguished gentleman enjoyed a smoke, a fine beer and a game of chess.

Joey was less interested in tobacco and decided to sit with the four gentlemen in the shop. He rarely had the opportunity to contribute to the conversation, but never actually had the desire to speak because listening to these men was pure entertainment.

One fellow boasted about his original gatling gun, while another talked about the high powered cars on the TV. They each had their crazy southern experience to share and they were each completely unique characters.

Meanwhile, Ellie and Sal, unsuccessful in finding Halloween costumes and tired from trying on the beautiful clothing that was too expensive to buy, decided to meet up with the boys and try some Austin cuisine at Ruby's BBQ.



The staff visits the state Capitol. From left to right: Nicholas Hawks, Sarah Albert, Joseph Wolf, Jeff Hester, Alex Kronman. Photo: Ellie Wood

The beer was cold, and the brisket was hot, but we had no time to linger. The hotel Jacuzzi and 6th Street called us back downtown, where flocks of drunken UT students and Austin citizens were taking over the pavement.

The mobs were dressed in elaborate costumes, ranging from slutty to sleezy, and it seemed as if the party really wasn't gonna stop 'till 8 in the mornin'. Unfortunately, an inebriated brawl brought the attention of four different mounted police officers, whose leviathan like horses (thankfully) seemed indifferent to the shouting, whistling, and lingering pepper spray.

On our flight home back to the awe-inspiring mountain country of Colorado, we couldn't help but revel in our successes in journalistic inquiry. Our employment of a gonzo-esque

style of immersion (the purest form of journalism, really) had been exceptionally fruitful, and we left Austin knowing we had fully explored the nuances of the city.

Strangers across the city were made friends. And our exposure to a different way of life and a myriad of different publications, journalistic techniques, and editorial skills was exceptionally beneficial. We have returned with some new approaches that will (hopefully) enhance our ability to serve you, the Colorado College community, with your favorite (if not only) school weekly.



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WHY: If you are in need of a pick-me-up, if you have to just dance it out, or if you need to hear a bumpin base, get this song. As Streeter says, "I've got a fever, and the only perscription is more Thunderheist!"

Sports

Tigers prepare to defend first spot in Conference against rival Duluth Bulldogs

Aaron Patterson
Staff Writer

This weekend at the World Arena, the Colorado College Tigers will play host to the visiting University of Minnesota- Duluth Bulldogs (5-2-1 overall, 2-1-1 conference). With the Bulldogs comes the opportunity for the Tigers to remain undefeated and stay at first place in the Conference, as well as the chance to avenge last year's season ending loss to the Bulldogs in the first round of the WCHA playoffs.

“With the Bulldogs comes the opportunity for the Tigers to remain undefeated and stay at first place in the Conference.”

Boasting a record of 4-1-1, the Tigers have silenced many preseason experts who expected them to finish at the bottom of their conference. Riding a three game winning streak, the Tigers are currently ranked 11th in a poll taken by USA HOCKEY MAGAZINE. Initially thought to be a weakness by most critics, the Tiger's freshmen have contributed immensely to the early season success, combining for seven goals and sixteen points. Freshmen



Photo: Colorado College

goalie Joe Howe currently ranks fourth in the conference with 9 goals against 130 saves and a .935 save percentage.

Friday night will mark the 162nd series between the two teams who first met on January 4th 1961. Since then, the Tigers have won 81 of those games while the Bulldogs have won 74. Although the Tigers own the lead in the overall series, they have lost to the Bulldogs three of the last four meetings at the World

Arena. The two teams have tied six times in the 161 game span.

If the Tigers hope to remain undefeated in conference play they will need a strong performance from their defense. The Tigers' defense will face a stiff test against the Bulldog's offense which boasts the first, second, and third ranked scorers in the WCHA: Jack Connelly, Justin Fontaine, and Rob Bordson, combining for 16 goals and a total of 37 points. The

Tigers' defense, which is led by junior Ryan Lowery and sophomore Gabe Guentzel, must be in top form if they hope to silence the Bulldogs high-powered offense.

Last week, Tiger players Bill Sweatt (senior, Left-wing) and Ryan Schwartz (freshmen, Forward) were honored as WCHA Offensive Play-

“The Tigers have silenced many preseason experts who expected them to finish at the bottom.”

ers of the Week for their strong performance two weeks ago against Michigan Tech. This weekend, the Tigers demand a strong effort by Sweatt, Schwartz, and junior center Tyler Johnson who, as a trio, have combined for 10 goals and 25 points. If they sweep the Bulldogs this weekend and DU loses to Anchorage, the Tigers could be in sole possession of first place by the week's end. However, in a worst-case scenario the Tigers could be knocked down to third if the Bulldogs pull an upset and win the weekend series.

Faceoff begins at 7:37 pm Friday night followed by a 7:07 faceoff on Saturday night. Tickets can be purchased at the Worner desk or the World Arena.

Nearly half way through season, 8th week of NFL brings surprises

Continued from page 1

Seeing that Broncos are now almost a lock to make the playoffs, I think everyone is pretty excited about the Broncos season already and it's only going to get better. While I was extremely depressed about the Broncos in the pre-season, I am now more excited about the Broncos post-season outlook than I ever was when Jay Cutler was quarterback.”

Ravens' Second year running back Ray Rice torched the Broncos Sunday for 108 yards and a TD. Standing at 5 ft 6 inches, Rice now finds himself among the NFL leaders in total yards, as well as in early MVP discussions. Here are the thoughts of CC Sophomore, and former high school football teammate of Ray Rice's, CJ Smith:

“In High School, many people knew he was an incredible talent, but thought his height would hurt his chances at being successful in college and possibly making it to the profes-

sional level. After watching him this year, it's clear that his height is working to his advantage, as defenders struggle to get low enough to bring him down.”

Meanwhile, the world of the New York Giants (5-3) has been turned upside down. The G-men lost their third straight game, this losing 40-17 to NFC east rival Philadelphia Eagles (5-2). 4 weeks ago, the Giants looked like they were the team to beat in the NFC. They proceeded to lose their next three games by the combined score of 121-61. Meanwhile, the Eagles' win sets up a Week 9 Showdown with the Dallas Cowboys, who tie them atop the standings in the always tough NFC East.

Henry Marsh, CC Sophomore, argues: “The Giants solid start this season give them somewhat of a cushion in terms of the playoffs, but they have a bunch of tough games coming up. Eli (Manning)'s passer rating the past three games has been under 65 each game and the defense is sucky. Also it would help

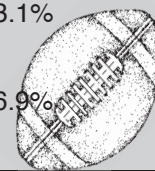
CC STUDENT POLL

Who will be the last undefeated team in the NFL?

New Orleans Saints 73.1%

Indianapolis

26.9%



if Eli Manning could man up and grow a cool mustache or something.”

After 16 seasons in a Green Bay uniform, Brett Favre returned to Lambeau Field, this

time as a visitor, playing for the rival Minnesota Vikings. The Vikings (7-1) were handed their first loss of the season last week, by the Super Bowl Champion Pittsburgh Steelers. The Packers (4-3) have been making minced meat of the NFL's worst teams, beating the Lions and Browns the past two weeks, with a combined score of 57-3. In their first matchup, the Vikings edged the Packers 23-20.

The Vikings started quick in this long-awaited showdown, leading by 14 at halftime, and then 21 after their first 2nd half drive. However, the strong-willed Packers scored 17 straight points, reviving the loud Green Bay fans. Like he did so many times in Green, Brett Favre threw well in the 4th quarter, burning the Packers secondary for 2 more TD passes, bringing his total to 4 for the game, in the Vikings Victory. The final score was 38-26, Vikings.

Guided by star Brittney Lyman, Ladies' Soccer annihilates competitor in Halloween weekend game

Carrie Markel
Staff Writer

Ghosts, witches, a random Teletubby, and CC women's soccer were all ingredients in a cauldron of festivities on Friday night, October 30th. Led by freshman Brittney Lyman's school-record of five goals, the women's soccer team dominated the field here at home against their rival, UTEP, and set the stage for a festive Halloween weekend on campus.

In what was arguably the women's most important game of the season, the Tigers rallied twice from behind to serve the University of Texas-El Paso a resounding 5-2 defeat. Lyman responded to UTEP's first goal with one of her own, and led the comeback from the Tiger's 2-1 deficit early in the second half. Lyman capped her first two goals with a hat-trick, setting a

new school record of five goals, all of which came in the second forty minutes of the game.

“Led by Brittney Lyman's school-record of five goals, the women's soccer team dominated the field here at home against their rival, UTEP.”

Lyman's record is even more impressive

given her status as a rookie on the team and the short span of time the goals were scored in. Her second and third strike came within just two minutes of each other, while goal four and five were only 84 seconds apart.

Emily Beans, a senior captain, also had an impressive game, feeding Lyman a ball that resulted in her third goal, which put the Tigers back in the lead. Other assists came from Sydney Petter, Ericka Baer, and Brennan O'Connell.

With the win, the Tigers regained the second place standing in the Conference USA and earned themselves a bye for the first game in the conference playoffs that begin this week. The Tigers go into the post season with a 12-5-2 record, their best yet. They will play the University of Memphis in the first round of

the semifinals held Friday in Dallas.

The win not only gave the women's team great placement in the conference but also led to string of awards for Lyman and fellow teammates. Lyman was named to the Conference USA all-freshman team, while sophomore goalkeeper Caitlin Hulyo and seniors Ericka Baer and Emily Beans received second-team honors. Baer and Beans were also placed on the 2009 All-Academic teams.

With such success in their regular season, the Tigers are sure to make their presence felt in the post-season, but they may miss the home-game spirit that was especially felt on Friday night. After all, you can't beat drunken, costumed college-students for fans.