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# THE Catalyst

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF COLORADO COLLEGE

## Spring Break Kurdistan! A CC alum's adventure

September 11, 2009

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**Will the real Madmen  
please stand up:  
Barak Obama's  
outspoken enemies**

Ben Quam

Guest Writer

One man has dominated the news recently. He's a man who has been called many things. Somebody who is "obsessed with turning terrorists loose on America." A man who wants to create "re-education camps for young people," and, if given a chance, would "establish a Gestapo-like security force to impose a Marxist or fascist dictatorship." Who is this madman? Kim

**“A man... obsessed with turning terrorists loose on America... impose a Marxist or fascist dictatorship.”**

Jong-Il? Mahmoud Ahmadinejad? Osama Bin Laden? No, in fact, all of these charges are being leveled at Barack Obama, Commander in Chief, President of the United States, and leader of the free world.

People have always made ludicrous accusations against the President. Proponents of conspiracies have a long and storied history in America, but in recent weeks and months the rhetoric has taken a unique and troubling turn. A random crazy did not say the quotes mentioned earlier, they are all quotes from elected, card-carrying, Republican members of congress: US Senator Jim Inhofe (R-OK), Congresswoman Michelle Bachmann (R-MN) and Congressman Paul Broun (R-GA) respectively.

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**Perceptions and realities clash in American's Middle East Experience**

Eli Mechanic

CC Alum

The peshmerga soldier was confused. Two Americans in a taxi were trying to pass through his checkpoint and both claimed they weren't journalists or working in Kurdistan.

"Are they Kurdish-American or Arab-American?" he asked the taxi driver. Best to stick to what one knows in a situation like this. Standard checkpoint protocol is to find out whether someone is Kurdish or Arab and then act on that information.

"I don't know," answered the driver. "They're just American."

"Well what does it say in their passports?" The soldier inquired, adjusting his Kalashnikov irritably.

"It doesn't say," replied the driver, throwing up his hands.

"Then what are they doing here?"

"They claim they're just tourists!"

Tourists? The peshmerga soldier dragged heavily on his cigarette with a pained look that said, I always get the difficult ones. "Yallah, move along," he waved the taxi forward into the night. Let the next army post deal with it.

\*\*\*\*

A normal spring break vacation was out of the question this year so a friend and I decided

**“The opportunity to see history doesn't often come around, plus April was supposed to be a nice time of year to visit.”**

to visit Kurdistan. This involved travel from my apartment in Lebanon into Syria and across to Turkey, ending in Iraq. Though not yet officially a state, the Kurdish region of Iraq is quickly de-

veloping into a new nation. The opportunity to see history happen doesn't often come around, plus April was supposed to be nice time of year to visit.

Travelling to Kurdistan as a tourist is surreal. From the get go you know you're on a different kind of trip. As a Lebanese co-worker of mine asked before I left, "you know there is no such

**“It's true, there is no such nation, officially... am I in northern Iraq, Kurdish Iraq, or Kurdistan?”**

thing as Kurdistan, right?"

It's true, there is no such nation, officially. While on spring break, I was often confronted with this existential state question; am I in northern Iraq, Kurdish Iraq, or Kurdistan? To the border guards I dealt with in Syria and in Turkey, I was very much visiting Iraq. No such thing to them as Kurdistan or even Kurdish Iraq. To admit so would be to acknowledge the millions of Kurds living in Syria and Turkey and their right to independence, an absolutely explosive political issue. To some Iraqi Kurds and Iraqi Arabs, I was in Kurdish Iraq, an important and semi-autonomous region that nevertheless is very much part of the Iraq state as a whole. Finally, to many Kurds, I was definitely in Kurdistan, a soon-to-be independent state that will one day include large swathes of Turkey, Iran and Syria.

Beyond the whole nation versus region issue, one is confronted with the reality of being a tourist in Iraq. There is no guide book. No Lonely Planet to tell you how to find the taxi station that goes to Kurdish Erbil and not to insurgent-run Mosul. All you know is that Kurdish-controlled Iraq is safe, the rest ... well we've all seen the headlines. The thought "oh my god, I'm in Iraq. What am I doing here?" should and did often pass through my head. Also, "what will my poor parents think?"

More than I ever questioned myself, I heard from others "what are you doing here?" so frequently it became a sort of mantra. Tourists don't go to Iraq. If you're not a journalist, then you must be a contractor. Or probably a soldier.

Me: Have you seen many tourists here?

Hotel Proprietor: Today?

Me: Ever.

Hotel Proprietor, after a long pause: I cannot remember any.

I do know there are at least some other tourists who've been to Kurdish Iraq because I perused a handful of blogs with helpful travel tips like avoid taxis with Baghdad plates and experience the Sulymania torture museum. Actually, I did see two tourists, who were both at the torture museum. Maybe they read the same blog.

\*\*\*\*

Living in the Middle East for the last several years has often been depressing as the US government has screwed up here on so many levels that it's downright embarrassing to be American at times. Not so in Kurdish Iraq. There are billboards advertising cologne named after the American General Schwartzkopf and I bought some shirts at a store named "Barack Obama's Men's Wear." Every Kurd I talked to for more than a minute or so was sure to point out how wonderful America is and how thankful they are. Loqman Mohamed was fairly typical. We were in a car going literally 160 kilometers an hour right after a hail storm and Loqman, a mustachioed public relations officer, was pontificating on Bush's greatness. "Bush was the only man

**“Every Kurd I talked to for more than a minute or so was sure to point out how wonderful America is and how thankful they are.”**

strong enough to kill that animal Saddam," he declared. "For this we thank him and America. For otherwise we would still be dying." I nodded my head, trying not to selfishly think only about dying in an automobile pile-up. Earlier we had passed countless fields with rocky mounds that were once villages. Saddam's tanks, bombs and bulldozers had obliterated them and their inhabitants.

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# Comment & Debate

## In response: the hidden turmoil of the Colorado College football team

Joeseh Karwin  
Guest Writer

When approached by Mr. Patterson to do an interview for an article about CC's decision to cut our storied football program, I was both excited to share my opinion on the issue and hopeful that perhaps more exposure would be given to the situation. Upon reading his article, however, I must be blunt and say that I was disappointed in both Mr. Patterson and the Catalyst publication as a whole. Yet while my

**“ We feel completely betrayed by Colorado College. ”**

feelings towards the inaccuracies printed are strong, I feel I must stress the forces that this response will attempt to question. Those in the wrong in this situation are the administration and those responsible for budgetary matters. Now, please allow me these words to amass a larger audience to the situation at hand and, more importantly, the effects of the situation.

First, let me highlight the mistakes of Mr. Patterson's article as well as some facts regarding the situation of which most on campus might not be aware.

Mr. Patterson states in his article that I feel “somewhat betrayed by Colorado College” because of their decision to cut the football program. Let me properly rephrase (and, in fact, allow me to speak for all my fellow teammates): We feel completely betrayed by Colorado

College. To the non athlete it might be hard to understand, but the taking away of one's sport is to take away (and excuse my sentimentalist

round you train and fight to get stronger, faster and better and when July becomes August and all your offseason work is done, you feel at

**“For some of my teammates that tradition has gone on since they were little kids. The sport you devote yourself to, and football more than any other, is like a second pulse to an athlete. ”**

cliché here) a part of one's soul. For the past six years I have spent my falls devoted to nothing but my sport and my teammates. For some of my teammates that tradition has gone on since they were little kids. The sport you devote yourself to, and football more than any other, is like a second pulse to an athlete. All year

home and at peace and ready to dedicate the next three months to proving that all the work you did was for something special. To reach August and September and not be wearing shoulder pads is like being stood up by a friend who I have not seen in years.

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## Who cares about health care, anyway?

Nick Hawks  
and Matthew Rubin  
Catalyst Staff

It doesn't take more than a quick glance around campus to see that the political atmosphere here at Colorado College has changed drastically from just one year ago today. Gone are the canvassers, the mass movements to register voters, and the thousands of leaflets littered around that outlined Obama's policies

**“ Now, with the economy on a slow path toward recovery, the political focus has shifted toward health care reform. ”**

for CHANGE; gone is the political fervor and participation that was reminiscent of a

generation that has since cut its hair and traded political protests, acid tests, and free love for steady incomes and 40 hour work weeks. What is truly unfortunate about the decrease in

**“ Based on these statistics, it is very clear that the U.S. health care system is far from perfect and in dire need of reform. ”**

political activism here on campus is not that it has occurred, necessarily, but that it is reflective of the broader political atmosphere nationwide. The intent of this article is not to condemn the student population, but rather to inform it and ask it to focus its attention once again on the current political issues that our nation is facing.

As of today, Obama has been in office 235 days. In this time, the Obama administra-

tion has dealt with a number of issues, both foreign and domestic, that have truly tested its character and Barack's ability to act effectively as commander-in -chief. Internationally, he has had to deal with political turmoil in Iran as a result of blatant voter fraud, a new war front being established in Afghanistan, and pressure to decrease U.S. military involvement in Iraq. Domestically, having inherited a number of issues related to the current economic recession, he has had to make a number of decisions regarding both bank and automobile manufacturer bailouts and has also been faced with the challenge of constructing an economic stimulus package.

Now, with the economy on a slow path toward recovery, the political focus has shifted toward health care reform. This particular issue is not only an integral component to the success of Obama's presidency, but also to our development as a nation. Health care costs in the United States are approximately two times as much as in other countries such as Canada, France, and the United Kingdom,

yet the US has a lower life expectancy and significantly higher infant mortality. At 16.2 percent of gross domestic product and \$2.2

**“ The intent of this article is not to condemn the student population, but rather to inform it and ask it to focus its attention once again on the current political issues that our nation is facing. ”**

trillion dollars, the US is number one in the world for health care spending. Despite this

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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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# In response: fallen tigers reflect upon the legacy of their abandoned team

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Next, in response to my quotation on the football program bringing in diversity, I feel

**“The school has done, in simple estimate, hundreds of thousands of dollars in renovations to campus this summer, most of it being haughty and not of necessity.”**

like Mr. Patterson has missed my point. The football program did not just bring in kids who would normally not have thought of going to CC. Football also helped bring in a different class of person to CC. The football program, more than most or any other program on campus, represented a range of voices from different social, economic and racial groups. Colorado College prides itself on diversity, so what logic is there to alienating, separating and removing one of the largest contingents of diversity on campus?

Mr. Patterson mentioned that “overall, five players have transferred to pursue football at other schools.” This is simply not true. In my class alone ten players have left. The numbers only increase with the other two classes.

Now, on to the major issues I have with Mr.

bathrooms? New washers and dryers when the old ones were working just fine? Renovations in the Mathias courtyard, including pricey landscaping and new pavement? And what of the loads of cash the school dishes out to visiting speakers and luxuries? I ask where the priorities of this school are. I ask this school what it believes in when renovations such as the ones listed above come before the pride and tradition of the three sports cut, especially football which had been a staple of this campus since the 19th century. The absurdity of the situation is unfathomable.

Mr. Patterson mentioned the fact that the football program has struggled over the last few decades. A good point, as success is the measure of any team. However, why do the wins and losses even come up in this argument? The sense I gathered from Mr. Patterson’s insertion of this was that we at CC are

**“I have a completely deflated sense of school pride. I used to tell people I was a Tiger, and now I don’t and will not. To be blunt I’m just pissed. I’ve played for seven years and right now we should be in the season. We should be done with camp and into the first or second week. I should have made 20 new friends in the beginning of the season with the incoming freshman.”**

Ex Tiger linebacker Shane Strom

of a culture which gives up instead of fighting when things look bad. The biggest lesson I learned as a football player was to never give

linebacker last season and who played and led with leadership and passion, summed up the collective feelings of those of us affected.

“I have a completely deflated sense of school pride. I used to tell people I was a Tiger, and now I don’t and will not. To be blunt I’m just pissed. I’ve played for seven years and right now we should be in the season. We should be done with camp and into the first or second week. I should have made 20 new friends in the beginning of the season with the incoming freshman.”

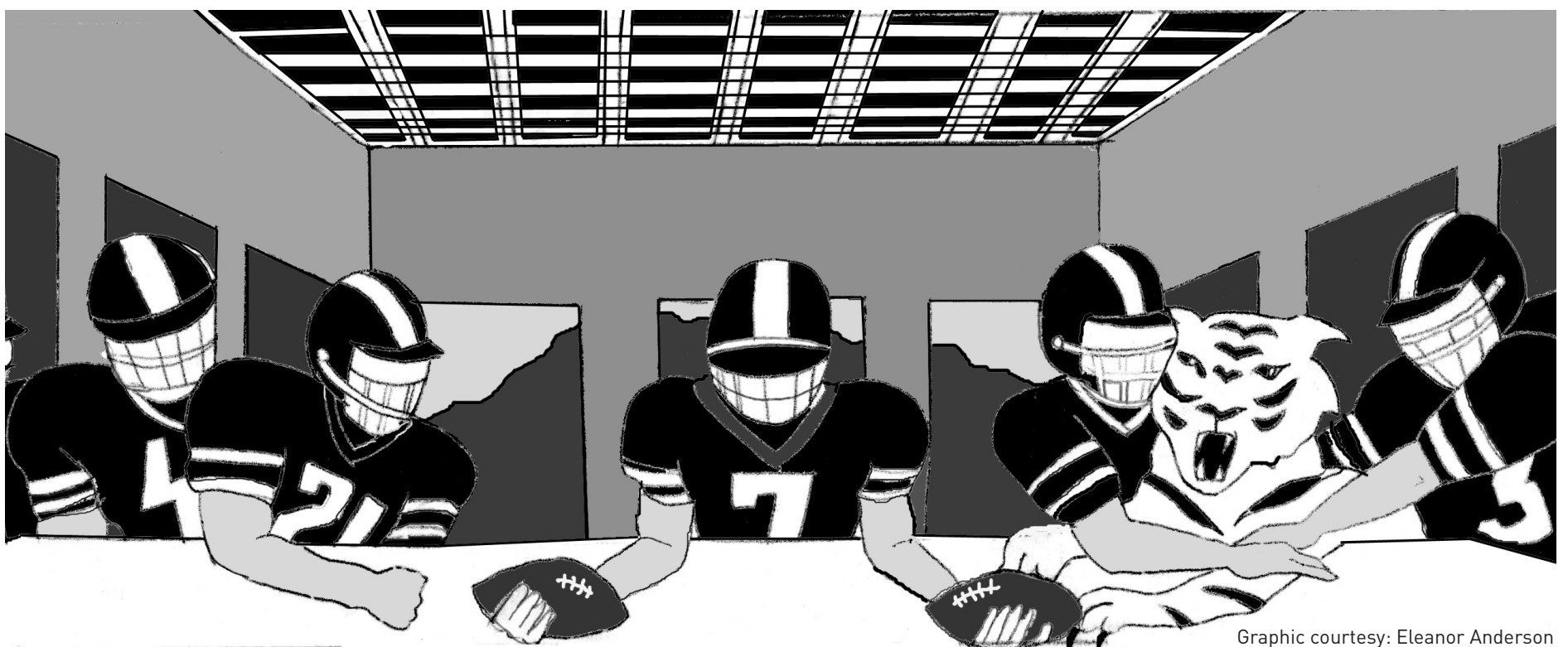
The frustration and disappointment evident, what else is there left to say but continue to question those involved with this decision. I ask all of them, was it worth it? Was there truly no other way? And as for the present, where is the compensation? I have not received anything more than, “We’re sorry.” Words are no payment for the taking of one’s love.

president. I see no honesty or respect in those responsible for this decision. To look forward

**“Was there truly no other way? And as for the present, where is the compensation? I have not received anything more than, “We’re sorry.” Words are no payment for the taking of one’s love.”**

to the time when I can move on from this frustration and deny letters asking for me to provide alumni donations is how I cope. As a

product of a football education I am bound to forget the loss of the past and move on to the next play, the next series and the next game.



Graphic courtesy: Eleanor Anderson

Patterson’s article. He mentions the financial reasons behind the decision and states, “Colo-

**“The biggest lesson I learned as a football player was to never give up and to keep fighting. Does this community not share that ideal?”**

rado College has ultimately benefited financially from the absence of the football program.” Without hesitation, I do not dispute this. But simply look around campus and ask where that money has gone. The school has done, in simple estimate, hundreds of thousands of dollars in renovations to campus this summer, most of it being haughty and not of necessity. Automatic locking doors? Plasma television screens for the desks in each dorm? New vanities in the

up and to keep fighting. Does this community not share that ideal? Do we look at the football program and simply say, “Well, they weren’t that good so oh well?” What does that say about the character of this school? We live in an America where struggle is predestined. The CC community, if it takes no offense to what has happened because of the team’s struggles, should be ashamed of itself for lying down and taking such insult and abuse. We as a community (especially a community of strong willed young men and women) should feel more passion and fight in regard to debates and situations which directly affect us and others in our community.

Finally, in response to Mr. Patterson, his mention of a possible club football team. An ambitious idea sure, but as compensation? And is it possible? I contend that it is not. First of all, where would the players be? Most have left. I believe the argument ends right there.

Let me end with a few words on the effects the decision to cut our sport has had on the players. Shane Strom, a junior who played

the administration went about their decision, their lack of communication with alumni and other groups who could have raised money, and the administration’s rejection of all possible attempts at recovering the program by the

**The football program did not just bring in kids who would normally not have thought of going to CC. Football also helped bring in a different class of person to CC.**

alumni and others is despicable. The efforts of the alumni have been ignored by the board of trustees and Dick Celeste and for that I stand by my resolve to, upon graduation, forgo the traditional hand shake with the school’s

For me there is no next season, no next year. However, there is still my resolve to succeed and, just as importantly, there are my teammates, who I have battled with on the field and who now share the same disbelief, frustration and anger as I do.

# Your Grandmother is safe: Obama and the truth about health care

Continued from page 2

enormous investment, the United States ranks much lower than many industrialized countries in most indicators. A recent Commonwealth Fund study found that in comparison to other countries across 37 indicators for quality, access, efficiency, and equity, the US received “an overall score of 65 out of a possible 100 when comparing national averages with benchmarks of best performance... On those indicators for which trend data exist, performance compared with benchmarks more often worsened than improved... between the 2006 and 2008 scorecards” (Hawks et. al). Based on these statistics, it is very clear that the U.S. health care system is far from perfect and in dire need of reform.

Despite the absurd and damaging rumors generated by the opposition, ranging from socialism to death panels, it is our goal as your peers to provide you with a basic outline of what Obama is actually proposing. Obama's proposal for reform is nothing new, health care reform has been in the works for over 70 years—slowly working its way to the position it is now in today. Besides Medicare and Medicaid, the health insurance industry has been completely privatized. Contrary to liberal economic theory in regards to the efficiency of privatization, we have seen nothing but the opposite in the health care industry. Both Repub-

**“ Besides Medicare and Medicaid, the health insurance industry has been completely privatized. ”**

licans and Democrats have reached consensus that health care reform is necessary—now the debate is in the details.

Basic agreements between the two parties on how to reform this corrupt oligopoly have been made, and we will begin by highlighting those agreements. To start, strict regulations would be implemented on private insurance companies. They would no longer have the ability to deny coverage over pre-existing conditions, drop clients if they are too sick, and charge higher premiums because of a person's medical history or current illness. These have

too often been tactics used by insurance companies to maximize profits and finagle their way out of contractual agreements. Outcomes of such practices often result in a person's coverage being dropped when they need it most, and lives being lost that could have very easily been saved.

Insurance companies would also be required to provide an affordable package of coverage outlined by the federal government. For those who could not afford these basic government

**“ Change is scary, but it's what Obama promised and it's what the health care system needs. ”**

outlined packages being provided, subsidies would be given to help cover the cost. In addition, an expansion of Medicaid eligibility would allow more people to attain coverage if the government subsidies could not suffice. These new insurance packages would be made available to the public in what would be called a health insurance exchange. These exchanges would provide an easy way for people to compare prices and policy while shopping for their new health care plan.

Now that we have explained to you the areas in which consensus has been met, we will begin to explain those juicy details where all the debate and disagreement lay. Majority of this debate revolves around the idea of Obama's public option plan. The public option is an alternative that would provide a non-profit government run health care plan to compete against the private insurance industry. As Colorado College sociology professor Wade Roberts points out, “The public option was explicitly designed to slowly but surely assume more and more of the insurance market over time. As it grew, the power and influence of the health insurance industry would shrink, weakening a key opponent to national health insurance. In a sense, liberal Democrats see this as their moment to plant the seed of a single-payer system.” It is this idea of an eventual weaning out of the privatized health insurance industry and a movement towards a government run program by which the Republicans are increasingly threatened.

According to traditional conservative Republican ideals, more government is a bad thing. That, being paired with the threat of a major corporate sponsor being taken away, the Republicans are making their defense. Professor Wade Roberts notes that, “the August recess dealt a significant blow to the reform effort. Opponents of reform were successful in mobilizing vocal protests and cultivating public doubt over the Democrats' plans. That kind of demonstration only emboldens Republican opposition and makes more conservative Democrats skittish.” These defensive tactics have successfully placed major roadblocks on the idea of a public option. However as Obama made clear in his address to congress Wednesday night, he is open to alternatives. One of these alternatives under proposal is what is being called the “trigger” plan. This plan would implement the public option only if the insurance companies failed to meet the standards being presented to them.

It is however very significant for Obama and the Democrats to write some characteristic of public option into the final legislation. If the public option can in some way be incorporated, it could act as a catalyst to build upon in future reform efforts. Having the public option take to the sideline behind something like the trigger plan would not create the immediate change that many may hope for, but “it would, in essence, take us further in the direction of making health care more of a social right than a privilege” (Roberts).

In the words of Washington Post reporter, Ezra Klein, “Change is scary, but it's what Obama promised and it's what the health care

**“ I agree with you. I want to do it. Now make me do it. ”**

system needs.” Even though the majority of us are all technically still dependents of our parents, the importance of health care and health insurance is only going to increase throughout the years, not only for us, but especially for the nation as a whole. The effort put forth by our generation to get Barack Obama elected was remarkable. It was a beautiful demonstration of a politically conscious youth working together at

the grassroots level to fight for the change that we all so desperately wanted to see. In order to ensure that our collective effort in the 2008 election was not in vain, it is absolutely necessary that we re-mobilize and once again prove

**“ I merely wish to suggest that some students seem dismissive of the academic and social isolation of the hockey players without much understanding of the challenges they face. ”**

to ourselves and to our democratically elected leaders that our generation is indeed a force to be reckoned with. So perhaps during a break from your homework, take 5 minutes to call up your state representatives and tell them exactly how you feel. Ask them where they stand on the issue and discuss with them your personal opinions. Let your voice be heard. With this in mind, we leave you with a quote from Franklin Delano Roosevelt that was in response to activists within his own party who wished to see real change: “I agree with you. I want to do it. Now make me do it” (Roberts).

Colorado's 5th Congressional District

Sen. Mark Udall at 202-224-5941.

Sen. Michael Bennet at 202-224-5852.

Rep. Doug Lamborn at 202-225-4422.

# Blood is drawn as President Obama's heralded vision meets an overly partisan congress

Continued from page 1

There has been a lot of uniformed and dangerous rhetoric directed at the president,

**“ People have always made ludicrous accusations against the president. ”**

but its origins aren't an accident. Prominent elected Republican officials are legitimizing and provoking it every step of the way. Consider this summer's main media storms.

The “Birther” movement, as the media calls it, charges that Barack Obama is an illegitimate president, because he is not a natural born citizen, thus constitutionally ineligible. Although

the president's Hawaiian “Certificate of Live Birth” has been released online (as well as an announcement of birth in a the Honolulu Paper dated August 4, 1961), these conspiracy theorists will stop at nothing to prove him illegitimate. The allegations have much more to do with racist undertones (i.e. how could this black man have been born in America?) than with facts or the real world. Surely Republican members of congress think their own president is legitimate, right?

Wrong. Or at least most of them haven't said. When asked on Capitol Hill by reporter Mike

**“The “Birther” movement, as the media calls it, charges that Barack Obama is an illegitimate president, because he is not a natural born citizen, thus constitutionally ineligible. ”**

Stark whether Obama was constitutionally eligible, Republicans as diverse as Roy Blunt (R-MO), Cathy Rodgers (R-WA), and Thaddeus McCotter (R-MI) either refused to answer or openly questioned the president's citizenship. And then, just last Monday, in the sort of smoking-gun video that's almost too insane to be true, Representative Jean Schmidt (R-OH) was caught at a town hall whispering to a birther, “I believe you, but the courts don't.” If Republican leaders won't acknowledge the president's ability to even be there, how can we expect them to compromise and work with

**“ Surely Republican members of congress think their own president is legitimate, right? Wrong. Or at least most of them haven't said. ”**

him on something as important as health care reform?

Health care in this country needs reform, most everybody agrees on that. But the debate over reform has taken several bizarre turns this summer. Town halls have been taken over by angry yelling constituents alleging that the

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## A Letter from the Executive Council of the Colorado College Student Government Association

Fellow students-

The financial crisis tested our strength as a community, forced us all into valuable self-reflection and demanded us, as a school, to reevaluate our priorities. This process ended in several disappointments and collective sacrifices, but also helped us to appreciate how each part of our campus contributes to defining the Colorado College that we love.

Every spring, the Student Government Association allocates over \$150,000 to student organizations to support their role in creating the CC experience. While this process always demands careful thought and difficult choices, last year's financial crisis forced us to plan for cuts up to

25%, a reduction that would have been passed on to the student organizations we fund.

During the summer, however, the administration underscored the importance of student leadership, organizations and events on campus by shielding the Student Government budget from any cuts. Therefore, we as the Executive Council are pleased to announce that we have decided to maintain the operational budgets of the majority of student organizations for this school year. Without the threat of an overall cut, last week, we were able to evaluate student organizations' budget requests in the same manner we have in years past, requiring us to make the tough decisions that are always a part of this process.

In the coming days, the fifty-six student organizations

chartered by the SGA will be informed of their budgets for this year. We appreciate your patience with this extended process and we hope you're excited as we are at this unexpected affirmation of the value of student initiative on our campus.

We look forward to working with all of you this year. If you have any questions or concerns about any part of the SGA budget process or would like to discuss your student organization's funding options, do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,  
The SGA Executive Council

David Carlson  
*President*  
Angela Cobian  
*Executive VP*  
Becca Spiegel  
*Student Concerns VP*  
Connie Jiang  
*Financial VP*  
Marie Blanc  
*Constitutional VP*

“Therefore, we as the Executive Council are pleased to announce that we have decided to maintain the operational budgets of majority of student organizations for this school year.”

## Slander and mud-slinging in the Legislative Branch of the United States of America

Continued from page 4

president plans to institute “death panels” to decide who lives and who dies. Panels that would have the ability to “pull the plug on grandma.” Where did these allegations start? They started with the always-quotable Sarah Palin, former governor of Alaska and 2008 Republican Vice Presidential nominee. Palin, who is rumored to be in the running for president in 2012, has stuck by the claim despite its alleged falsehood. In fact, the easiest way to find out which Republicans are thinking about

“Town halls have been taken over by angry yelling constituents alleging that the president plans to institute “death panels” to decide who lives and who dies. Panels that would have the ability to “pull the plug on grandma.” Where did these allegations start?”

Arkansas Mike Huckabee claimed that, under

and reasonable Senators like Charles Grassley have refused to deny the “death panel’s” claim

“a dozen provocateurs with guns, at least two of them bearing assault weapons, showed up for Obama’s V.F.W. speech in Phoenix.” Since June, “a neo-Nazi who subscribed to the anti-Obama “birther” movement has murdered a guard at the Holocaust museum in Washington, and an anti-abortion zealot has gunned down a doctor in a church in Wichita, Kansas.” No sooner had protesters showed up with guns to Obama’s venue than Republicans were already defending them. Phil Gingrey (R-GA) said he “saw no reason to discourage Americans” from being armed at public meetings. And it was Michelle Bachmann (R-MN) who originally encouraged her constituents to be “armed and dangerous” over President Barack Obama’s cap and trade proposal “because we need to fight back.”

Republicans appear incapable of denouncing anything. If we are to solve today’s most pressing problems we need to stop talking about the President like a mad man, but for that to happen, we need our leaders in Washington to do the same.



Graphic courtesy: Catalyst Staff

running for president is to see who’s making the most absurd claims about Obama. Not to be outdone by Palin, former Governor of

tor Ted Kennedy would have been told to “go home to take pain pills and die.” The rhetoric has gotten so bad that even the normally calm

in town hall meetings.

This kind of rhetoric is dangerous. As Frank Rich has chronicled in the *New York Times*,



# News

## As always, Freshman return from NSO trips elated and geared up for a standout first year

Greg Collette  
Catalyst Staff

“By far, one of the best,” was Sierra Fleenor’s, Coordinator of Campus Activities and 2008 CC Graduate, assessment of this year’s New Student Orientation week. Fleenor’s sentiments were not alone. Across the board, the class of 2013’s orientation seemed to go off without a hitch. Starting with Friday night. Unlike year’s past, some freshmen and transfer students were allowed to move into the dorms Friday night. A little more than a quarter of the five hundred and eighty new students moved in early. When eight the next morning rolled around, the hallmark utter confusion and disorientation of move in day was much more subdued from years past. Slocum Resident Advisor Emmanuel Chan felt that early arrival was a great idea on the part of Residential Life and Housing. As a sophomore this was Emmanuel’s first year as an RA, but he was impressed how smoothly the moving in process went.

Early arrival allowed for new students to move in at a much slower pace, which as Emmanuel pointed out, kept him from becoming so preoccupied with one student that he would miss others.

With that great start, things continued to

**“Early arrival allowed for new students to move in at a much slower pace, which as Emmanuel pointed out, kept him from becoming so preoccupied with one student that he would miss others.”**

go well for the class of 2013 as they started to settle in to their new home for the next four years. All of the usual NSO meetings from years past took place from the honor council meeting on Sunday to the “How to Succeed at CC: What I Wish I Had Known” student panel on Monday.

On Tuesday, Barbara Ehrenreich, a former regular columnist for Time Magazine and a contributor to many well-known newspapers and magazines, gave the Capstone Lecture. Over the summer, the incoming freshmen and transfer students read her work *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America*, an undercover investigative report of the welfare system and its effect on the working poor. Feelings were mixed about the effectiveness of the speaker. Some freshmen felt that because Ehrenreich’s came from a socioeconomic background far different from the one she embedded herself in, her message was not as poignant as it could have been if she had grown up in poverty.

The highlight events of many students’ own NSO week made their return this year. On Monday the big white tents hosted the Video Dance Party. When asked about the party freshmen Annie Ireland and Halsey Landon summed it up in two words, “Incredible” and “Awesome.” Fleenor commented on how amazing the turn out was, saying, “The Video Dance Party had the most people I had ever seen.” Also returning this year was the outdoor movie on the quad. Seemingly, this was one of the few events that week that had any kind of problem. But despite a nine o’clock rain shower, a surprisingly large number of students still headed down to the Armstrong quad to enjoy a showing of the Robin Williams and Dustin Hoffman classic, *Hook*. With everything going so well on campus during the first week, it is no surprise that the events off-campus went



Photo: Bridgette Shephard

smoothly also. The Priddy Experience, one of the most memorable events of NSO week, was an overall success. Although minor, there were a few differences this year.

The first, and one that was not noticeable to the student population, was this was the first year that the Priddy Experience was fully

transportation were mixed. Some felt that the buses took stress off of the NSO leaders, and allowed for students to be in closer quarters and interact with a larger group of other new students. Kasi Carter, felt differently about the new transportation.

“[Buses] didn’t allow for bonding like the

and eighty admitted, the acceptance rate this year was under twelve percent.

Kasi and Hank were both impressed with the new class. Kasi said, “students were much more into the volunteer aspect.” This feeling was expressed by many of the freshmen. Nate Pearson, a freshman whose Priddy trip was backpacking and trail maintenance in the San Juan Mountains, said, “the work was hard, it was a lot of fun.” Nate was also enjoyed the fact that the group they were helping, the National Forest Service, interacted with them far beyond just the volunteer work. He related how one night the head of the Forest Services came to their camp and played the ukulele by the campfire. The volunteering part of the Priddy Experience also saw change this year, with every group doing some kind of volunteer work during their week.

No matter whether they were at the Santa Fe Children Museum like Kasi’s group, staying at the Watermelon Ranch in New Mexico like Hank’s, or hiking in the Colorado backcountry, every group spent sixteen hours doing contributing to the surrounding community. A total of fifty-four groups were sent to different parts of Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas. Forty-three groups, like Kasi and Hank’s groups, did front country and urban volunteering. Some whom volunteered worked with Dalhart Animal Wellness Group and Sanctuary, also known as DAWGS, in Texas, were planning on returning last week when the Oprah Winfrey Show’s Nate Berkus came to Dalhart and helped hold an auction to raise money for the shelter.

According to ProNews 7, the local Texan news station, “There is not a set date yet for when the auction will air on Oprah, but the date will be posted on Oprah.com when it becomes available.” The remaining twenty-one groups headed into the backcountry to do trail maintenance and help with the national park upkeep. Ten groups assisted in Rapid Assessment Surveys, or RAS for the Forest Service. The groups were able to provide the Forest Service with information vital to continue conversation of the national parks. Without the help of CC students it would not have been possible for the Forest Service to collect anywhere near that amount of information. According to Steve Crosby, Director of Outdoor Education, and Elizabeth Pudder,



Photo: Bridgette Shephard

funded by CC. Initially, the Priddy Experience was funded by the Priddy Foundation, a general purpose foundation. Their website (<http://www.priddyfdn.org>) states the foundation’s purpose best, “dedicated to the support of programs in human services, education, the arts, and health, which offer significant potential for individual development and community improvement.” The Priddy Foundation gave CC a ramp grant. With each year, the Foundation would provide less money, while CC would provide more. Ahead of schedule, CC took over full funding of the program this year.

Another noticeable change, also having to do with finances, to the Priddy trips involved transportation. The company that insures CC, no longer covers fifteen passenger vans for the school. So many of the groups, instead combined, and were transported by Greyhounds to their locations. Feelings about the new

vans did.” She also missed driving, expressing more than once that she hoped to be able to next year. A junior, this was Kasi’s second trip as a leader. And like everyone else, she noticed a marked difference in the attitude and level of excitement of this new group of students. She noted that the new students were filled with positive energy.

Hank Vogel, another junior and NSO leader, leading for his third time, having led last year both in the beginning of the year and winter start, also commented on the enthusiasm of the class. He pointed out one particular aspect of this new class; stating that they’re “a lot more curious about learning about the school.” From his experience on the trip he felt that the incoming class really wanted to be at CC, and as he pointed out, this was one of the most selective class. And he is quite right. With almost five thousand applicants and only five hundred



# State of the Rockies lecture series commences



Photo by Sarah White

## Ashley Mayo

Catalyst Staff

There was talk of “pig waste and politics” in Palmer Hall last Monday night, as community members and CC students gathered for the first talk in this year’s State of the Rockies series. Each year, Colorado College sponsors the State of the Rockies Project, which selects a research team of six students to conduct ten weeks of research on problems facing the Rocky Mountain West. The research these students gathered is then used to prepare an annual State of the Rockies Report Card which, “seeks to analyze, evaluate, and insightfully comment on critical issues such as economic growth and decay, energy use, habitat conservation, cultural development, and civic engagement.” The Report Card is then presented in a series of conferences, alongside talks given by various experts on pertinent issues. Dr. Bill Wieda, a former CC economics professor, gave the first of these talks on September 7th in the Gates Common Room. His is one of six scheduled conferences, which will take place once a month through next February.

The theme of this year’s project is “Food and Agriculture in the Rockies: Current Challenges and New Trends”. Weida’s lecture addressed the economic, political, and health impacts of Confined Animal Feeding Operations, or CAFOs. Weida is the president of the Socially Responsible Agricultural Project, an organization which lobbies against CAFOs and

factory farms to promote conventional farming practices. After serving for some years as an anti-nuclear activist for Greenpeace, Weida became interested in the agricultural industry. In the early 1980s, he visited his first factory farm. “It was what they called a closed cycle operation, which means that all sorts of things walk in the front door, but nothing walks out, except for meat,” said Weida. Since then, Weida has been committed to the opposition of factory farms, which he believes “damage the environment, threaten human health, compromise animal welfare, and have devastating effects on the social and economic fabric of surrounding communities”. The conventional farming model, says Weida, is represented by “the typical old-fashioned farm that you can picture in your head.” Conventional farms are generally privately owned, and are based on low fixed costs. This means that conventional farmers do not make large investments on things like expensive machinery, which they could not afford to pay for in unfavorable market conditions. When agriculture prices fall, conventional farmers scale back production to survive.

This school of farming, however, is rapidly being replaced by the industrial farming model, which runs on extremely high fixed costs. Industrial farmers buy large barns, mass amounts of pricey machinery, then, when prices fall, they expand, rather than scale back, in order to spread out costs. “What this leads to,” said Weida, “is situations like one I came across in Idaho. This factory farm had 50,000 sows,

who produced over a million piglets a year, on 810 acres. All those pigs together generated as

**“This factory farm had 50,000 sows, who produced over a million piglets a year, on 810 acres. All those pigs together generated as much waste in one year as the entire human population of Idaho”**

Dr. Bill Weida

much waste in one year as the entire human population of Idaho.” Not only are conditions like these harmful to animals, they are a threat to human health as well. In order to cut costs, factory farms often use liquid manure systems. “Because liquid runs downhill, this stuff often ends up in our drinking water.” Further, re-

search now suggests that highly contagious flu strains like Avian Flu and the H1N1 virus are the result of CAFOs. So why, in spite of all their hazards and ill effects, do factory farms dominate the American agricultural industry? According to Weida, it is a matter of incentive. “When some people have to bear the cost, and other people don’t, there is very little incentive for the folks who don’t have to bear the cost to do anything about it.” “My solution,” joked Weida, “is to fill up some planes with manure, and just fly across the country, and spray it everywhere evenly. That way everyone will bear the cost equally.” Although this plan might prove to be unpopular, Weida did put forth several, more practical solutions. He advocates a return to conventional farming by ending government subsidies for factory farms, enforcing existing agricultural regulations, and above all, educating young people about sustainable farming. “The average conventional farmer is 65 years old,” said Weida. “That’s something we have to change if conventional farming is going to survive.” According to Weida, the best thing that consumers can do is to be conscious of what they are buying. Both individuals and large institutions, like colleges, must be encouraged to buy local, sustainable food. “It’s as simple as that,” said Weida, “if you have somebody you trust, buy from them.” “It goes back to something I was told when I first got to CC, ‘don’t worry about the class, take the professor.’ Its the same principal: don’t worry about the food, get to know the grower.”

Continued from page 6

Service Coordinator for the Center for Service & Learning, the amount of volunteer work accomplished by CC participants in just the few days of their experience was staggering. With five hundred and eighty first year and transfer students, one hundred and twenty leaders, all contributing sixteen hours of volunteer work, CC put in 11,312 hours of service. With an estimation from independentsector.org of the value of one hour of volunteer work coming in at \$20.25 per hour, Steve calculated that CC during the Priddy Experience contributed almost a quarter of a million dollars in volunteer work. Steve discussed the uniqueness of CC’s Priddy Experience, commenting that the college is the only one in the country to have a service orientation trip that is free for the students working it.

While the Priddy Experience is only for a few days, it is hard to argue that it does not leave a lasting impression, as evident by the facts that nine of the NSO leaders were CC alumni and that ten CC alumni work for nonprofits or institutes that Priddy trips helped. The only problem that the Priddy trips had this year, like almost all of New Student Orientation, was superficial. Apparently Bon Appétit had packed an overabundance of cheese. With NSO over and the second week of the block coming to a close, the new students’ orientation to CC is almost complete. If the rest of their career as CC goes as well as their first week then they are bound to have a great experience here!

## Intolerance surfaces on CC campus

### Sydney Felton

Guest Writer

When students around campus were asked to describe the CC community words like “accepting,” “open,” “friendly,” and “inclusive,” were most frequently used. This is why it comes as such a shock when actions are taken to disrespect and negatively target specific groups of students.

Recently, posters promoting Queer Straight Alliance social events and advocating for acceptance of gays and lesbians on campus were torn down in the Loomis dorm. In addition, derogatory messages targeting the Queer community were written on message boards and community space. Similar instances of public discrimination and vandalism were seen in some of the dorms last year, and residence hall faculty continues to fight to stop it.

Matthew Sullivan, The Loomis RLC, sent an email out to Loomis residents earlier this block, urging them to take a proactive role in preventing discrimination on campus. He has encouraged students to come forward with any information about who was responsible for the vandalism, and asks that anyone who took

down posters return them to an RA. At the end of the email to his residents, Sullivan reiterates the importance of helping to maintain acceptance on campus; “It is YOU, as a community member that can make a difference and help people feel safe. Messages of hate and/or discrimination are absolutely not acceptable at Colorado College. All individuals in our community should be able to feel safe living here.”

While some of the Loomis residents were “surprised and a little upset” that this damage occurred, many students seemed unperturbed by it; “It didn’t really have any shock factor. It’s kind of typical CC behavior,” one sophomore Loomis resident stated. Other sophomores living in the dorm had a similar perspective, but another resident further explained why students were, for the most part, not bothered by the vandalism; “CC kids sometimes do things that are not meant to be disrespectful as a joke, even though it could be hurtful.” A freshman in Loomis also said that they believed that the posters “were not ripped down to be hateful or malicious.”

While it may not have been intentionally hurtful, it seems as though some students are

taking the matter too lightly. When asked if people in Loomis had been talking about what happened one resident said, “I heard people in my hall joking about taking the posters and putting them on people’s doors”. But she is still optimistic about the student body and believes that most students on campus

**“It didn’t really have any shock factor. It’s kind of typical CC behavior.”**

Sophomore Loomis Resident

are “definitely very accepting and inclusive”. Whether it was intended to be a declaration of discrimination or a meaningless prank, hopefully this type of vandalism will not occur in the dorms again.



# Sports

## “Everybody plays Intramural Sports;” students look forward to the start of Intramural Sports at CC

Aaron Patterson

Catalyst Staff

As fall approaches and the summer comes to a close, the anticipation for the beginning of Intramural sports is palpable among the students at the Colorado College. Praised for its competitive yet laid-back nature, CC's Intramural sports program allows students to compete in and play the sports they love while still being able to dedicate their time to academics. There are no practices, and games are played only on weekday afternoons and usually no more than twice a week.

For those who played varsity sports in high school but chose not pursue them at the college level, CC's Intramural program lets them stay competitive and participate in team based sports. Sophomore Sam Johnson, who played three years of varsity soccer in high school says, “I really enjoyed playing varsity soccer in high

school, but I knew I didn't want to play at the college level so CC's Intramural program was a perfect fit for me.” CC's Intramural sports program also allows students to try new sports that they otherwise would not have tried. Sophomore Ben Quam who captained an Intramural

football, indoor volleyball, and outdoor soccer, as well as beginner and intermediate ice hockey, all the sports are revealed to be co-ed.

CC's Intramural sports program kicks off after 1st block on September 30th with the start of outdoor soccer, indoor volleyball, and flag

tober beginner and intermediate ice hockey and dodgeball will begin with hockey being played in Honnen Ice Arena and dodgeball being played in the turf room at El Pomar.

As in most sports, bragging rights are commonplace on campus where T-shirts are given out to the winning team of each sport. Last year's winning teams include the Luggage Thieves and Peer Ownage, the defending indoor volleyball champions. The UWC returns to defend their championship title in outdoor soccer.

In all, CC's Intramural sports program boasts 12 sports at all levels as well as a number of tournaments. Since 2006, the Colorado College has been in the top ten in the Princeton Preview in the category “Everybody Plays Intramural Sports,” and this year looks to be no different.

**“In all, CC's [Fall] Intramural program will offer 6 sports including dodgeball, flag-football, indoor volleyball, outdoor soccer, as well as beginner and intermediate ice hockey, all sports being co-ed.”**

football team last year says, “I had never played organized football until I started a flag football team. It was a lot of fun. We even made the playoffs!” In all, CC's Intramural program will offer 6 sports this fall including dodgeball, flag

football. Outdoor soccer will be played on the quads in front of Armstrong and Slocum while indoor volleyball will take place in the big gym at El Pomar. Flag football games will be played under the lights of Washburn field. In late Oc-

## Prepare for “Total Domination;” Ladies' Soccer looks to pounce back after a shaky start to the season

Katie Burns

Staff Writer

The ladies of Colorado College Division-1 Soccer are back, back on home turf and ready to tear up their opponents. After enduring a few rough games on the road, the Tigers are touting a fierce comeback in their next six games, all of which—lucky for us—are on home turf.

This weekend's CC invitational sets the team up against Texas Christian University on Friday and University of Kansas on Sunday. TCU has started out strong—a 4-1 record—thus far, while thirteenth-ranked Kansas is 5-0. TCU and CC have met 9 times in the past, eight of

which have resulted in victories for CC.

The Tigers may be the dark horse this season, but the team isn't worried, says junior forward Tiffany Brown, “We like being the underdog at home.” The girls have won their first two games at home earlier this season, the first against Drake University and the other—a come from behind victory—as the underdog against Washington State University (2-1).

The Tigers were 8-1-1 at home last year, and have a ridiculously impressive winning home record of .822 since the 1970's. With 12 games of an 18-game season at home, the girls are in a good position for a successful season.

So far this year, the Tigers are 2-2, after battling Portland (3) and University of Wash-

ington(16) last week in Seattle. In their game against the University of Washington, the girls demonstrated fierce defense before halftime and literally pounced into the second half, when at the 70th second, freshman Brennan O'Connell made her first career goal.

Long story short, UW ended up winning, making three goals to beat the Tigers, yet Colorado College managed to outshoot UW with a 6-5 edge in shots on goal. Tigers don't lay down and lie; senior midfielder Kelly LaVoie and Brown have guaranteed that the Tigers maintain their power. Goaltender and sophomore Caitlin Hulyo has already shown great promise this season with a 65.2% saves percentage, which is continuing to escalate.

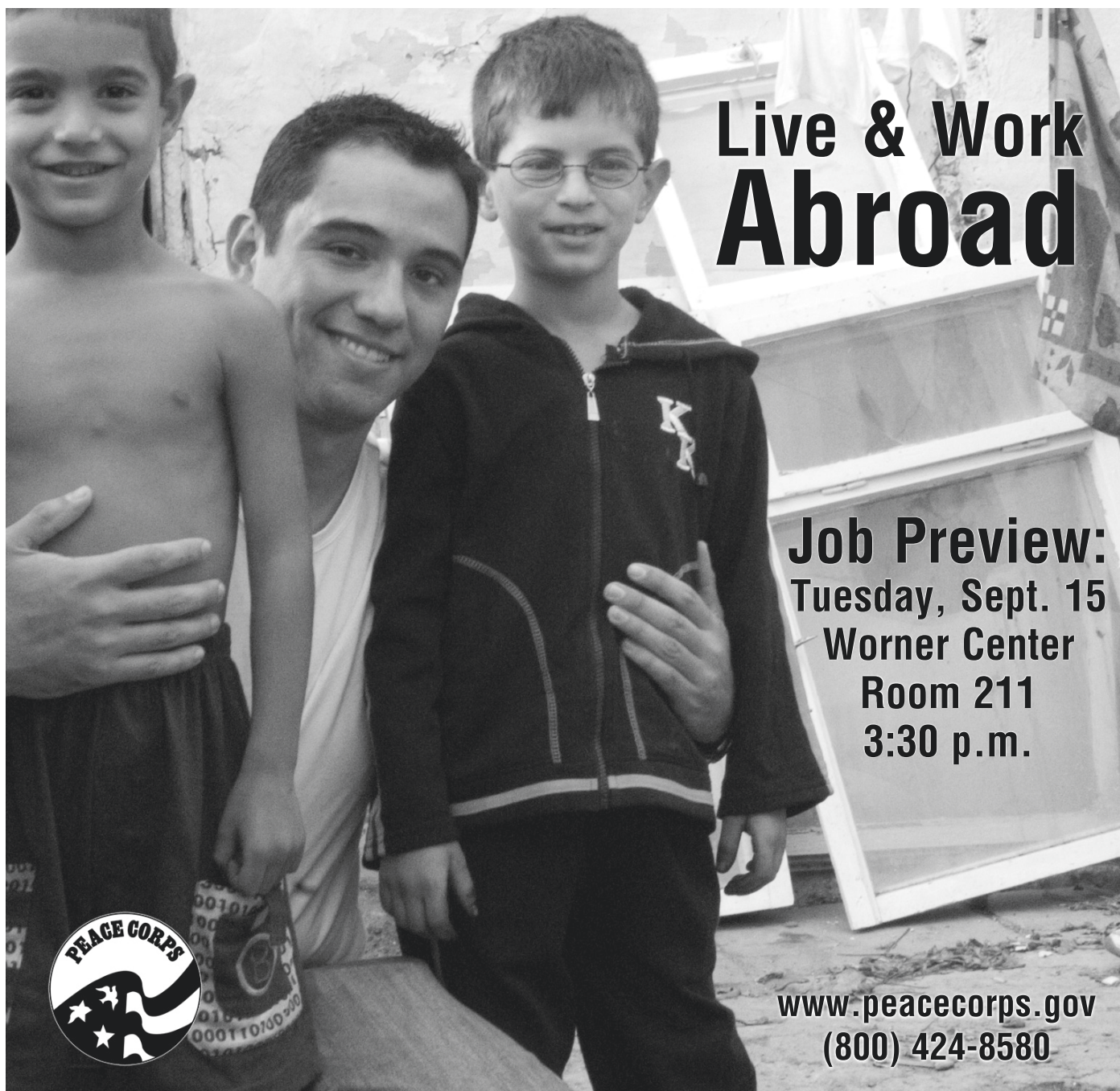
After a nail-biting loss to BCU last year at Conference, the girls are focused on getting to the NCAA championship tournament. The 2009 season is in full swing, and the Tigers are already making themselves known. The ladies have advanced from 10th to 9th in the Central Region Poll, which is compiled by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America. In their 25th season as an NCAA D-1 team, the

**“The Tigers were 8-1-1 at home last year, and have a ridiculously impressive winning home record of .822 since the mid-seventies.”**

Tigers have made nine appearances in the NCAA playoffs, their last being in 2006. With five semi-final appearances and two championship matches in their history, the Tigers are no strangers to the national championship, and then expect to get there once again this year.

The Tigers will close out the regular season in their only night game of the year against their archrival, the University of Texas El Paso, on Friday, October 30th. Don't miss it! The Lady-Tigers would love a big showing of school spirit to rally for their victory.


As for this weekend, the team is to play in a D-1 double-header series at Stewart Field. Early afternoon, the University of Denver Pioneers face off against the Kansas University Jayhawks, at 1:30. The Tigers will follow, in their first game of the tournament, against TCU at 4:00 PM. They will also be playing on Sunday against Kansas at 2:30 PM, which should be an intense match-up.



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# Features

## Buy local goods, help yourself and your community

### Local farmers promote ethics and help retrofit United States food industry

Sarah Albert

Features Editor

Continuing the Features food theme, the section would now like to provide you with a basic low down on the farmers markets here in Colorado Springs. As State of the Rockies' speaker Dr. Bill Weida informed the community of on Monday, the only way to stop corporate farms from taking over the industry in America is by purchasing as much local, sustainably grown products as possible. "And why wouldn't you?" asks Sherry Safavi, class of 2010. "The food is fresher and you know you are supporting your community." Elizabeth Wood, also a senior, agrees: "I buy from the farmers market because I believe it is socially responsible and fiscally friendly—they give you great deals on bulk purchases." To encourage this practice, we have interviewed every stand at the nearby America the Beautiful Park, which hosts a market every Wednesday afternoon, and have compiled information on products that are available to you. So learn more about your local farmers, review the different foods and commodities, and plan a trip with your roommate to stock the fridge with some Colorado homegrown.

**Monday/Thursday:** Memorial Park  
**Tuesday:** Pueblo  
**Wednesday:** America the Beautiful Park; Manitou Springs  
**Friday:** Woodland Park  
**Saturday:** Monument; Old Colorado City; Woodman Road

#### Venetucci Farm

Community founded, oriented and served, this farm is best known for its annual student pumpkin picking, but it offers far more than

**“I buy from the farmers market because I believe it is socially responsible and fiscally friendly—they give you great deals on bulk purchases.”**

Elizabeth Wood

just autumnal produce. Pick up some fresh veggies, pastured pork, grass fed beef, free range eggs, and full bunches of herbs at any of their stands, or go visit the farm for an afternoon in the children's garden and some pick your own fruits. Venetucci is also a participating Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm, and sells shares so that you can pick up allotted amounts of produce every week or month. Although it is not FDA certified organic, this is solely due to the long, expensive process it requires for farms to obtain the accreditation; rest assured they use sustainable and natural methods of farming. Volunteer



and learn more at [Venetuccifarm.org](http://Venetuccifarm.org)

#### Larga Vista Ranch

If you are a meat connoisseur and desire truly tasteful pure milk and meat, head for Doug Wiley's stand and learn more about his dairy farm. Also a CSA organization, they sell shares for raw milk, butter, fresh vegetables and fruit of all kinds, store cuts of grass fed beef and jerky, pork, and eggs. They use all natural feed for their animals and rotate their fields so that the soil is replenished with nutrients every year, ensuring quality products that are never sprayed, altered or biogenetically enhanced. Look for lamb this spring, as they just added sheep to their herds, and be sure to grab a watermelon before the fall is over.

#### Mesa Winds

Mesa Winds farm is a certified organic establishment in the banana belt of Colorado, where it is warmer due to the lower altitude. They harvest grapes, peaches, apples, honey, raspberries and vegetables and boast freshly canned pie apples, peach chutney and cherry preserves. As part of the Valley Organic Growers, they are also a CSA farm, and deeply value their

relationships with costumers. The owner picks his own produce and develops community bonds by offering "farmstays," during which you can make your own cider or wine, bird watch, fish, help out with the farm work, sleep in a cabin or camp in the fields, and, of course, enjoy meals of fresh, organic food.

#### Yobel Market

Donavan Kennedy hosts this stand of international goods, which supports fair trade products that help women start businesses abroad. Their motto, "a global marketplace inspiring awareness, promoting justice," reflects how they operate: not only do they sell jewelry, coffee, hats, chocolate, and bags for these women, they promote their cause by supporting human rights issues like trafficking and slavery. Their uniquely beautiful selection of commodities changes from time to time, since they buy from a range of countries such as Mexico, Uganda, Thailand, Cambodia and Peru, but they always incorporate a sustainable process of packaging and shipping so that they "honor the people and the environment," says Kennedy.

#### Mexican Tamales "Brenda"

You know you always get hungry when you go food shopping, and no one understands this better than the local meal providers. They have a range of spicy tamales (made daily) and sell freshly squeezed lemonade to stop your tongue from sizzling out of your mouth.

#### Lotion Bar Café & Kitten Britches

Kirin, or, "Kitten Britches," as her mother used to call her, founded this organization after leaving her position as an elementary teacher. She now sews eco-friendly bags, dolls, and clothing accessories (for your child, not your kitten), and partnered with Lotion Bar Café so you can have a sophisticated shopping experience. All of the soaps and lib balms are Colorado

**“We pasteurize the milk hot so that it is closet to raw form, meaning it is creamier and sweeter!”**

Mike, of Mini Moos and Kids Too!

certified organics, and the flavors are pungent without being obnoxious. Plus, they use only fair trade companies with 100% recyclable materials for their plastic and paper packaging. Like Yobel, they also support women abroad by sending proceeds and extra products to Uganda.

#### Mini Moos & Kids Too!

This friendly goat farm from Canyon City provides fresh, all natural goat milk and cheese. Mike, the owner, spoke highly of his herd: "Goats milk is the healthiest dairy because it produces less oil, and it is lactose free. We pasteurize the milk hot so that it is closet to raw form, meaning it is creamier and sweeter!" He doesn't use any preservatives with his product and He ensures a consistent taste in his recipes by regulating the diet for his goats, and recommends you use the cheese for lasagna, bagels, pizza and hamburgers!

#### Styna Catering

Shirley, the woman in charge of this stand, is a master of freshly smoked salmon. She flies her fish in weekly from British Columbia and uses sugar and nitrate free, all natural spices in her recipe. Not into salmon? Try her homemade soups or pretzel dipping sauces, including lobster bisque, clam and corn chowder, and garlic spread.

#### Country Roots

Ryan and Betsy hail from Pueblo and bring naturally certified organic produce every week, including vegetables, eggs, pork and honey. They too are a CSA farm, and provide shares like Venetucci and Larga Vista.



LATE NIGHT  
**MUNCHIES**

FRIDAY & SATURDAY

Corner of Bijou & Nevada  
 Across from Acacia Park

**11 PM - 4:30am ish**



Yobel Market owners with their international jewelry displayed and worn

Photo: Sarah Albert



# Residential life: withholding information for profit? The high prices students pay for lost or damaged furniture in dorm rooms

Sherry Safavi

Guest Writer

No student could possibly imagine that her missing, used dorm chair would result in a \$135 replacement fee—at least until she was billed for it. As one of the fortunate few who has managed to lose her dorm chair (this is a long, complicated story that I don't believe needs to be retold), I can assure you that your dorm chair does indeed value at \$135. I lost the chair and Residential Life expected that I would pay for it; this much is only fair. However, I really wish someone had told me that it would cost me \$135. This I do take issue with.

The charge is unnecessarily excessive and so gross in nature—I never could have estimated a number that large. Because the college has failed to make known what is not readily apparent, this and similarly inflated fines and fees are unjust. Moreover, if the college continues with such fines and fees, now aware that such ignorance is prevalent amongst its student body, and makes no effort to educate its students accordingly, its actions are a betrayal of our trust and are willfully deceptive. But, as the college has the interest of its students at the forefront of its priorities, I am sure this problematic miscommunication will be swiftly addressed and easily clarified.

In other words, if Residential Life has deemed it necessary to charge \$135 for the replace-

ment of a school chair, then so be it. I guess that's the going rate for dormitory chairs in this economy. However, they need to make damage rates and furniture replacement fees explicit. The fines are so disproportionate to the face value cost approximation of the mishaps at hand, that students have no way of knowing them. The school authorities fail to make these figures known to students, thus making the charge for a modest but practical piece of furniture a total surprise. They could easily change this, yet Residential Life has made no apparent effort to dispel the mystery. Now, while it would be ideal that all students treat their rented furniture with the utmost respect regardless of its cost, it cannot be expected that one act in a room full of play furniture as one does in a room full of antiques. And where there lies the potential for accidents, as is the case in an average day, it's only fair that you know ahead of time which room you're in. Therefore, I recommend that a list of the most prevalent charges and fines be given to students alongside room inventory forms at the start and end of each school year. Where the damage charges and fines are unclear and contingent, I would suggest that students be made aware of those factors which are most critical in determining the fee. This would allow students an accurate appraisal of their environment and the behaviors which best suit it. Moreover, they will be aware of and prepared

to deal with the true costs of their accidents and mishaps. I am positive this would result not only in fewer damages, fines and lost furniture, but also in less resentment and distrust between students and Residential Life.

At the close of the 2009-2010 school year, there was a worry amongst students that the college, particularly in the present financial crisis, has turned such accidents and mishaps into an opportunity for financial gain and consequently seeks them out at the expense of its students. Consider the following: I chose to do express checkout against my original preference because I thought it would be helpful to my RA. However, I have friends who blatantly refused because they felt Residential Life would arbitrarily charge them in their absence. Such allegations are serious in nature and ought to be addressed. This sort of distrust greatly undermines the relationship between Colorado College and its students, and, in particular, Residential Life and the students it seeks to aid. Moreover, it breeds animosity and defiance where there ought to be support and cooperation. Making clear the costs of damages and furniture would be a positive step in diffusing the negativity. I am sure the College is supportive of such a procedural change as it is easily implemented, a mere attachment to the room appraisal checklist, and deeply beneficial to both parties.

## The Culprit!



Photo: Sarah Albert

# Kurdistan, making progress in the Middle East

Continued from page 1

Alan, a Kurdish Christian, told me while we sipped sweet tea that "The politics behind the US pushing out Saddam are unimportant. What's important is that Saddam, a man who killed both Kurds and Iraqis, is gone. For the American soldier who comes all the way from his home in Iraq and fights in Iraq, I am thankful." He added that before 2003, nobody knew about Kurds. "Saddam could drop chemical weapons on us, and nobody stopped him. Now, everyone knows about Kurdistan. One day we will have independence and nobody can stop us now."

The feeling that people were working together to create a new nation was palpable in Kurdish Iraq. What really struck me was the normalcy of the cities. I half expected soldiers and concrete blast walls at every corner; instead there was bustling activity from the smallest town to the Iraqi Kurdish capital. "We are living in a historical moment for Kurdistan," Mustapha, a business student, told me. "My

grandfather grew up here and there was no school beyond age sixteen. He went to Baghdad for education. Now Arabs come here for education." Another man, Cameron, said how thankful he was for the American "martyrs" who died in Iraq for Kurdish freedom. "They have allowed us to begin building something great," he explained. "Now Iraqi Arabs who come to Kurdistan are embarrassed, because everything is so secure, and they see how Iraq could be." He added that "we are all human, we all know good from bad, and when Iraqis think of here they are reminded that what they are doing in the south is terrible."

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Kurdistan is still the Middle East though, with all its inherent complications and contradictions. The last night in Iraqi Kurdistan I was talking to several men in my hotel, throwing out the few words of Kurdish I had learned. Really getting in the spirit I shouted in Kurdish, "long-live Kurdistan!" Three of the men cheered. But another man frowned and said in

**"Saddam could drop chemical weapons on us, and nobody stopped him. Now, everyone knows about Kurdistan. One day we will have independence and nobody can stop us now!"**

Alan, Kurdish Christian

Arabic, "I am an Iraqi Arab from Baghdad and what you say is not good." This immediately precipitated an argument between the Iraqi Kurds and Arab. They turned to us. "What do you think of Bush?"

Normally in the Middle East this is the easiest question to answer. But looking between the expectant faces of the two sides of the Iraqi divide I paused. The Kurds feel they owe

to America, and by extension, Bush, their freedom. To denigrate him in this context, as much as I hate his policies, would be to question the whole Iraqi Kurdistan I was just cheering. At the same time the man from Baghdad for all I knew had personal reasons to hate Bush.

As I scrambled for an answer, the Baghdadi interjected "He is a terrorist" while the others shouted "long-live America." Soon the questions were flying and voices rising. How about Iran? Nasrallah and Hezbollah? Israel? Obama?

The happy ending to this is all of us sitting together and drinking tea. Americans. The Arab from Baghdad. And the Kurds. We kept arguing, nobody agreed about anything but we shook hands and smiled at the end of it all. I left for Beirut the next morning satisfied that Spring Break had been a success.

# Cheers for beers: how to pair a lovely Colorado Springs or CC event with the most appropriate brews, lagers and ales

Jeff Hester

CommDeb Editor

With First Block in full swing, it's hard not to notice campus recycling bins bursting with colorful bouquets of empty cans of 5.4 alcohol content Americana. The likes of Keystone and Pabst seem to pepper our campus on weekday mornings as if strewn about by an inebriated Easter Bunny. Surely the act of consuming cheap beer has its time and place, and surely that time and place is college, but one must also consider the time one spends with his or her beer.

We attend a college that, whether directly or indirectly, acknowledges the pleasurable act of indulging in a casual beverage; and much like the administration, the Catalyst acknowledges the necessity for responsible drinking and

condones nothing else. We realize that not all students may participate in the activities stated below because while Colorado College does not allow open containers outside if the student is under twenty-one, the Pathfinder states that "students who are 21 years old and older may only possess and consume alcohol in the privacy of their own rooms/apartments."

This allows us to open a discussion regarding how to use this well-kept privilege to its full potential. This is not a paradigm shift; I am simply offering the basis for an altered school of thought. Pabst may be the duct tape of beer, offering a reliable fix-all at an affordable price, but believe me, some moments at CC are worth a ten-dollar six-pack.

First Nice Beer at CC  
New Belgium's Fat Tire

No one knows what it is but few CC students can avoid the siren song of the neon bike that seems to hang in the window of every liquor store in Colorado. This one goes out to you freshman, whether you grab one from a "buddy's" fridge or sneak into Weber behind your favorite senior comrade, these babies float around dorms among stray thirty packs like diamonds in the rough. If you haven't gotten a chance to treat yourself yet, get while the gettin's good. Guaranteed to impress any FYE or NSO crush.

Upon Returning from an Epic Block Break  
Odell's Levity

The name says it all. Levity will lift your mind, spirit and beaten, aching appendages after a long five days of doing god-knows-what to yourself. And what better to soften

the blow of the inevitable new block than the sweet cushion that this amber ale provides? Don't forget to head over to Woogie's for your welcome-back meal, one can only live off of stolen Rastall pastries for so long.

Frisbee on the Quad in the Heavy Summer Air  
Bristol's Beehive

Calm down folks, this applies to all those other sports too (campus golf, polish horse-shoes, dizzy bat etc.). Brew-lovers treat their wheat beers like Gatorade, and this local craft more than does the trick. It may not have MJ's face on it, but your dorm room is probably just as hot as it is on Yampa, and you've got to beat the heat somehow. Stick it in the fridge.

A Digit-Numbing Trek Up the Incline



# Perfect beers paired with pleasant occasions

Continued from page 10  
New Belgium's 1554

A wise man once told me "Beer is a sweater you wear on the inside." If this is true than 1554 is alpaca wool. This will truly put the warm, fuzzy feeling back into you. And when your belly's rumbling, there's nothing better than a soft, thick ale to line the stomach. Don't worry, the rich, creamy flavor of this brew will clean your mouth of the taste from that goofy looking cigarette your friend brought to the summit.

11 Mile  
Lagunitas IPA

Take a drive west on 24 and pair it with this Northern Californian craft (available almost exclusively at Weber) for a rather heady evening atop the hill. As you gaze upon the full trees and encroaching mountains, lost in your existential musings, have one of your friends recite Whitman, maybe play some African hand drum. Or just ramble at each other until the sun disappears behind the Rockies. That works too.

Back from the Mountain  
Breckenridge's Avalanche Ale

Let's face it: you're damp, you're sore, and you don't want to walk very far to get your beer. Constantly stocked at most ski-town shops, Avalanche slips down your palette like warm caramel, the perfect snow-day dessert. You'll spot this bottle more than enough in the Keystone parking lot this season, but if you've got the will power, leave this one in your condo...or, more likely your tent.

Washburn Benches: Facing Pikes Peak  
Boulder Beer's Hazed and Infused  
Sit with this bottle for a bit and let the smell of fresh grass blend with crisp, fresh hops.

I cannot stress this enough: take your time. Nothing's healthier than a moment of contemplation with an astounding view and this is the beer to do it with. Just because you're on



Photo: Sarah Albert

the Block Plan does not mean your life has to travel at Block Plan pace. Don't forget to grab a 24-ounce to buy yourself some time.

Bike Riding to Garden of the Gods  
Bristol's Mass Transit Ale

If you don't own a bike, borrow anything you can find with wheels—for the record—cars are considered cheating. The journey's half the fun and is integral in making your ale feel well deserved. When you get there, go climb a rock and catch your breath in the Rocky Mountain sun. When you get a chance, sit up and take a look around and realize, while drinking your Springs-brewed beer, how amazing it is to be here.

An Average Night Out to Dinner  
Pabst Blue Ribbon

A match made in hedonist heaven. Pabst is slowly surpassing the Tiger as CC's proud mascot, and where better to hold a spirit rally? As Colorado College students we are inherently bred with a taste for the Ribbon. Whether it is in a bottle, a can or your daily OJ, Pabst, much like the Café, is a cheap and simple pleasure we can all agree upon. And let's face it, you have to make your money last all year.

## Let us know what you think!

Write, type, morse code, paper cup telephone, telegram, messenger pidgeon- we don't care how it gets here- (although an email is probably most convenient) send a letter to the editor.

Catalyst@  
cc.edu

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