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Three CC students drive across world

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THE CATALYST

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF COLORADO COLLEGE

Departure from the CC bubble: greater perspectives



December 3, 2010

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Extending hand to homeless

Julia Sick

Guest Writer

Claire McCusker

Guest Writer

Colorado College is often referred to as a bubble, isolated and segregated from the rest of the Colorado Springs community.

We won't bother to elaborate the details of our enclosed environment here—we think it's safe to assume that we are all aware of what it's like to live inside the confines of our tight-knit campus. What we do wish to discuss, however, is a brief and rare departure from the CC bubble into the homeless camps of downtown Colorado Springs. Beyond the CC Soup Kitchen and volunteer work with non-profit organizations, CC students have little direct interaction with the homeless in Colorado Springs. We thought, why not ask the homeless what it's like to live on the street? We decided to individually interview homeless visitors at the Soup Kitchen. One friendly man, Pops, suggested that the best way to understand the experience of street life in Colorado Springs was to go downtown and visit the homeless camps with him.

Julia Sick's account:

That Tuesday afternoon, Claire and I met up with Pops outside of Shove Chapel for our tour. Pops walked with us all the way down to Acacia Park, over I-25, behind America the Beautiful Park and back up to the downtown public library. At first, I felt uneasy asking questions and was cautious not to prod about his life. I quickly realized, however, that he was eager to share his experiences and knowledge of living on the streets. He spoke candidly about where you could get free food in the Springs, what to do to warm yourself back up from freezing, and how difficult it is to find indoor housing. Along the way, he pointed out where he goes to get food, take a shower, and receive medical care. Pops is a veteran who fought in Korea during Vietnam and went through rehab for five years when he

returned. He subsists on disability payments from the government and benefits from the local VA (Department of Veteran's Affairs). Pops has been surviving on the streets of Colorado Springs for over 25 years. While his life may appear bleak to us from the outside, he is also part of a small but tight-knit community. As we walked, we bumped into several people who knew Pops and also opened up to us about their struggles.

One such man was riding on his bicycle and also quite willing to talk to us. Although he is homeless (he was kicked out of his home by his girlfriend), he plans on going back to school at Pikes Peak Community College to finish up a Bachelor's degree in Industrial Arts. He

“Although he is homeless (he was kicked out of his home by his girlfriend), he plans on going back to school at Pikes Peak Community College to finish up a Bachelor's degree in Industrial Arts. He also hopes to open up his own business and is looking for specific grant and loan opportunities.”

also hopes to open up his own business and is looking for specific grant and loan opportunities. This man was appreciative of our efforts to find out more about the homeless of Colorado Springs, but he urged us to keep coming back and asking more questions. The true diversity and character of his community would take

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On World AIDS Day, Swazi looks homeward

Sakhile Magagula

Guest Writer

Wed., Dec. 1, was World Aids Day and campus was painted red to commemorate the global event. Let me take this opportunity to thank everyone who participated in any kind of event that was organized to combat the spread of this disease.

This is an issue that affects a large number of people in the world, especially those from poverty-stricken countries. Seeing people organize events to commemorate this day made my day.

“If Colorado College were Swaziland, one in four students would have HIV,” read a headline on one of the posters that were posted around campus. That means out of the 33.4 million people with HIV in the world, 0.4 million (25 percent of Swazi population) are from Swaziland.

This is a country that has for a long time been considered being the Switzerland of Africa, the oasis between South Africa and Mozambique. Peaceful, high literacy rate (80%) and respectful, Swaziland is the worst country in the prevention of HIV. One can only wonder if the king of the country, boasting 14 wives and oblivious to the impact of the disease, has played a detrimental role in the country's current HIV fate. Moreover, we can only wonder about the impact of the culture, belief and practices of the nation in the prevention of the disease. The questions that I often ask myself as a Swazi is, “Do people learn anything from other people's mistakes?” or “Does the death of our fellow friends and relatives from the disease teach us anything?”

We have gone to funerals of HIV victims, we have slept at the bedside in hospitals of HIV-infected individuals and most importantly we have seen close friends suffer, deteriorate and succumb to the ruthless disease.

Why, why are we not learning from all this? I don't know, maybe having a house next to the cemetery enabled me to witness more coffins

and caskets brought to the cemetery than the average Swazi or maybe it has made me more sensitive to the HIV scourge.

As the day was coming to an end, I found myself wondering about my future as an African senior and more importantly as a young Swazi about to go back to Swaziland. Honestly speaking, it did not look good. With the high HIV

“This is a country that has for a long time been considered to be the Switzerland of Africa, the oasis between South Africa and Mozambique. Peaceful, high literacy rate (80%) and respectful, Swaziland is the worst country in the prevention of HIV.”

infection rate in Swaziland, one stupid mistake could land me in boiling waters. One stupid mistake could shatter my future and cut my life span in half.

I found myself counting the number of relatives and friendships that I have lost to this disease. The images of their frail bodies and the challenges that they had to deal with on their last few days of life left me paralyzed with shock. As much as they were drifting away from the world, one breath after another, their hope for survival was apparent. Their hope to see the next day and their regrets in wasting their lives (for those who contracted the disease through sexual intercourse) was clear for everyone to see.

Amongst all the people that I have lost to this disease there is one that has left me shocked even today – my former classmate and friend,

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News

FemCo making plans for upcoming Period (.) Celebration

Rosie Curts
Staff Writer

“When a woman has a discharge of blood that is her regular discharge from her body, she shall be in her impurity for seven days, and whoever touches her shall be unclean until the evening. Everything upon which she lies during her impurity shall be unclean; everything also upon which she sits shall be unclean,” reads Leviticus 15:19-20.

Whether or not the Bible created the stigma of menstrual cycles, the CC groups of FemCo and Advocates for Choice aim to change the idea that menstrual periods are either dirty or disgraceful. The two groups have collaborated with the Office of Campus Activities and the Feminist and Gender Studies Department to present a “Period Celebration” for all CC students next week.

The celebration will last from Dec. 7 through Dec. 12, the length of a typical menstrual cycle. The purpose of the celebration is to get rid of the shame often associated with periods and to try to give periods a more positive connotation. The groups also hope to educate students generally about menstrual cycles and common misconceptions associated with them.

“Not only is it just not a fun time of the month, there’s also a lot of shame around it. Women hide it, which is funny, considering most women have their periods for five days every month,” said Dorothy Haruyama, a leader of FemCo. “One of the major reasons why we want to do this is because studies have shown that people actually think less of women who are obviously on their periods, such as women who are seen with tampons.”

Haruyama pointed to a major study in which a woman deliberately drops her purse in front of someone, and sometimes lipstick or other common objects fall out, while at other times, tampons fall out. Surveys showed that the people who saw tampons fall from the woman’s purse consistently rated her as less likeable, less respectable and less appealing.

“We make it seem really unnatural,” Har-

uyama said. “It doesn’t have to be considered something different or unclean.”

The event will be held in Perkins Lounge in Worner Center and will be inside a giant red tent. The location harkens back to the days

“There’s...a lot of shame around it.... One of the major reasons why we want to do this is because studies have shown that people actually think less of women who are obviously on their periods, such as women seen with tampons.”

Dorothy Haruyama

when women were isolated in tents while they were on their periods. However, the isolation tents were also a place where women could come to be safe and relax, and the “Period Celebration” tent will reflect these sentiments. The red tent of CC’s “Period Celebration” will be open to both men and women.

The celebration is kicking off on Dec. 7 with a screening of “Red Moon,” followed by a discussion of the film, which centers around society’s perception of menstruation. Other events on the schedule for the celebration are a free yoga session on the night of Dec. 10 and possibly a tea party on Thursday. Haruyama says that there will also be beads and arts and crafts in order to promote an environment where students can simply relax and hang out.

There will also be displays of menstrual products through the ages and more sustainable menstrual products in Worner for the duration of the celebration.

“Pads and tampons get thrown away after one use. Imagine the number of landfills that could

be filled up with only non-biodegradable pads and tampons,” Haruyama explained. “These alternatives are not only more sustainable, but more economically viable too.”

Another display, one that could be of assistance to men as well as women, will be an educational display about common myths about sex while on one’s period or with a woman on her period. With this presentation, there will be a display of medieval contraception and how it has improved through the years.

In the red tent, there will also be a video playing of interviews conducted here on the CC campus with randomly chosen students speaking about their opinions and reactions to periods or about finding out a girl is on her period.

There will also be food and snacks provided in the red tent for those who come in

to participate in the “Period Celebration” to promote the idea that CC’s red tent will be an open place for people to go to feel comfortable with themselves.

“We have a lot of assumptions that periods are dirty, unsanitary,” said Haruyama. “There are assumptions that women have a lot of pain, and there’s the common problem of PMS. These may not always be true. Yes, women do get cramps sometimes, and PMS could sometimes come up, but maybe our assumptions are helping to create these symptoms.”

The celebration is from 7 a.m. until 12 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday; from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Thursday and Friday; and from 9 a.m. until 10 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.



Photo: Michelle Tribe

The Diva Cup, pictured above, is one of the eco-friendly alternatives to tampons that will be presented at the Period Celebration put on by FemCo next week.

Denver International Airport security watch notes

Ben Cronin
ComDeb Editor

In response to recent increases in airport security, I went to DIA to observe and interview passengers.

November 24. 1300 to 1500 hours. Observational Notes:

On November 24, I went to DIA. I noticed a steady stream of people flowing through security, although at no point did it seem congested. Personally waited 10 minutes before I was sent through security. Noticed 15 to 20 Transportation Security Administration agents and two body-scanning machines at the A Concourse. When I initially went through, no one was being sent through the machines, but as the stream of people started approaching critical mass, they began randomly selecting people to go through the machine. I observed 10 to 15 people opt for the machine (most were middle-aged, Caucasian). One elderly man refused the scanner and received the full body search instead. The TSA agent searching him was a middle-to-older-aged man. Both parties looked uncomfortable. The elderly man refused to comment.

Other passengers were more willing to comment:

Michelle Black, destination unknown, Caucasian female, middle-aged.

Were you selected to do a body scan?

“No, my bag was held over on our first flight.”

Did you notice the new measures?

“Haven’t really seen anything different.”

Do you feel safer with the new security measures?

“Haven’t seen anyone have to do it, don’t

know that it makes a difference.”

General Feelings?

“I think if you’re a regular traveler the scanner would probably not be a good thing. I guess I don’t have a huge problem with it.”

How do you feel about the resistance to the new measures?

“I wouldn’t be too happy about that. I don’t think it makes a difference. When you’re dealing with the TSA here, it doesn’t make a difference.”

Anonymous male traveler, middle-aged
Have you noticed any delays with the new security measures?

“It seemed a lot shorter. I flew this time last year and it took much longer.”

Do you feel safer?

“No, not in the slightest. If someone’s absolutely determined to take down an airplane, they’re going to do it.”

How do you feel about the resistance to the new security measures?

“One elderly man refused the scanner and received the full body search instead. The TSA agent searching him was a middle-to-older aged man. Both parties looked uncomfortable.”

“I think anyone that’s chosen today to hold a protest of the TSA is a selfish idiot. No one wants to hear about your little points. It’s not

dangerous, it’s not that much slower.”

Darcy Beard, traveling to Germany, Caucasian female, elderly.

How do you feel about the new security measures?

“Well I was really concerned about them initially, but obviously it was nothing. I thought it was going to be very invasive.”

How do you feel about the new pat-down versus the machine?

“I think I would prefer the machine. I don’t think I want strangers touching me.”

Have you noticed any delays?

“No, actually. I’m surprised. We got here four hours in advance in anticipation of having difficulties, but now we’ll have to go eat or something.”

How do you feel about the resistance to these new measures?

“I heard this morning that it was not causing any delays. We did see a guy wearing a t-shirt that said ‘Ask me how to end the TSA’...I would have been unhappy if it had caused a lot of delays, but I think people want to get where they’re going today. With this being the busiest travel day of the year, people would be less inclined to do that today.”

Raul Ponce, traveling to Las Vegas, middle-aged, Hispanic

How do you feel about the new security measures?

“I don’t care. It doesn’t bother me.”

Did you notice any delays?

“No. I got here three hours early, and I’m flying.”

Do you feel any safer?

“I don’t know. I don’t feel any more safe, I don’t feel any less safe. I just kind of go with the program.”

“I think that anyone that’s chosen today to hold a protest of the TSA is a selfish idiot. no one wants to hear about your little points. It’s not dangerous, it’s not that much slower.”

How do you feel about the resistance to these new measures?

“I think they’re knuckleheads. The guy whose coordinating it is not flying today. He wants to cause a big problem for people that are flying. If he had really believed in it he would be flying today.”

Jennifer Tenorio, en route to San Francisco, middle-aged, Caucasian.

Did you notice new measures?

“No I don’t think I had to walk through that special thing. Well, maybe I did. I don’t know.”

How do you feel about the resistance to these new measures?

“I would be a little irritated. I don’t feel like it’s a violation. I feel like I would rather be safe on the airplane than whatever they need to do to make sure that’s the case, I think is better and the lines were shorter than I expected today.”

Do you feel safer?

“I would say yes.”

Painting the campus red: World Aids Day 2010



CC Students for Global Health, along with many other student organizations, organized an all-day celebration last Wednesday for World AIDS Day to raise awareness on campus of the ongoing fight against HIV/AIDS around the world.

Many student groups collaborated on the event, including CC's sustainability group EnAct. "EnAct believes that environmental degradation and scarcity of natural resources play a central but often overlooked role in the spread of HIV/AIDS," wrote Mallory Lee-Wong, co-chair of the club. "As stewards of the environment we hope to collaborate with the CC community and CC Students for Global Health to educate as many people as possible of the direct and indirect threat that the spread of HIV/AIDS poses to regional and global social, economic, political, and environmental security."

"In recent years Western mainstream media has become quieter in the conversation concerning the continuing global HIV/AIDS crisis as if it has decreased in relevance to the West," she said. "We as individuals who have the opportunity to be college-educated must step up. We must be the leaders who call for the degree of attention that this complex security issue deserves. Spread of HIV/AIDS is and will continue to be among the most consequential global issues our generation will have to address throughout our careers."

Compiled by Phoebe Parker-Shames. Photo by Phoebe Parker-Shames.

CC's email system getting updated and revamped

Sarah Hutcherson

Guest Writer

Colorado College's e-mail system is being revamped. CC's seven-year-old e-mail system was in serious need of more up-to-date security measures and a more accessible network for both Macs and PCs.

Information Management is currently testing the new system on a small number of users. If the test is successful, Information Management will upgrade the e-mail system for the rest of campus over winter break. Exchange 2003 is being upgraded to Exchange 2010.

Joseph Sharman, System Administrator, said that the school decided to update the application after CC students completed a survey in 2008 about how they use their e-mail and if they were interested in a more limited e-mail account.

The survey found that students "overwhelmingly wanted a full, ColoradoCollege.edu account, not just a CC address that forwards to another account," said Sharman.

The school responded by buying a new server storage to keep all student e-mail on-campus. Sharman said that since the school invested in

able to use Windows and Internet Explorer to fully benefit from all features. For example, it will now allow you to use click-and-drag e-mail and right-click option in the Microsoft application. Cool features like online storage space for documents, instant messaging and online access to Microsoft Word will also be available.

According to Sharman, Exchange 2010 also has built-in controls to block spam sent from on-campus accounts. E-mail will be less vulner-

“The application will no longer require students to use Windows and Internet Explorer to fully benefit from all features. For example, it will now allow you to use click-and-drag email and right click option in the Microsoft application.”

“Mac users in particular have a reason to cheer. Sharman explained that the new Microsoft Outlook Web Application will be easier to use on Macs.”

the storage and servers, Information Management decided to update the application to make accessing e-mail a more enjoyable experience.

Mac users in particular have a reason to cheer. Sharman explained that the new Microsoft Outlook Web Application will be easier to use on Macs. This application is part of the Office Outlook program. Mac users have this application in their current e-mail accounts, but it is difficult to use on Macs in browsers such as Safari and Firefox.

The application will no longer require stu-

able to pestering scams.

The switch in e-mail quotas from 100 MB to 1,000 MB means students will be able to store 10 times more e-mails in their accounts than they currently can.

"It is just like having a larger hard drive," said Sharman. "Students will have more space available to store old messages."

Those who use Mac Mail or Outlook Express may have to change some of their settings to make the software be compatible. The address used to access the server will need to be changed to "e-mail.coloradocollege.edu" but instructions will be sent when that change is necessary.

Sharman warned that each individual's mailbox will be offline during the switch to the new system. But since the switch will take place over Winter Break, Sharman hopes this problem will not be a great concern. The move should take 10-15 minutes on average for each user.

Sharman is optimistic about the upgrade. "There may also be some -- hopefully short -- disruptions to e-mail service, but we're hoping to avoid them."

Colorado State Government and Forests: Controversy over Health, Climate and Roads

Presentation by:

Mike King: Executive Director, Colorado Department of Natural Resources

Nolan Doesken: State Climatologist, Colorado Climate Center, Colorado State University

Monday December 6th

7:30 PM Gates Common Room, Palmer Hall

Sponsored by: The State of the Rockies Project and the Environmental Program

Features

Road trip across the world

Three CC students to drive Subaru across Asia, Europe, North America

By Carola Lovering
Staff Writer

"We've heard that Mongolians are the nicest people in the world," Siegel said. "Apparently if you drive by their house they come outside



Photo Courtesy of Jack Naito

Richard Swift, Jack Naito, and Ezra Siegel will begin their global road trip in June

This coming June 2011, three Colorado College seniors are turning their dream into reality. Jack Naito, Ezra Siegel and Richard Swift are going to drive around the world in a Subaru, covering 20,000 miles over a period of six months. They have spent two years researching the trip and have created a detailed website at www.theroadiswest.com.

The trio will fly to Japan in June, where they will begin their 20,000-mile adventure. They plan to buy a Subaru in Tokyo, where they will spend a week prepping the car and organizing their gear. "In Japan, after three to six years, the government requires you to buy a new vehicle. Cars older than six years are typically exported to South Korea," Naito said. Because of this, it is much cheaper to buy a car in Japan than in the United States.

The team is excited to spend that first week exploring Japan, especially Siegel, who studied abroad there last year. Next, they will ship the car to the eastern shore of Russia to Vladivostok. The boys will there travel by plane. After meeting their Subaru on shore, they will head north to the Trans-Siberian Highway.

Once they get to China, they will turn south, heading for Mongolia. They will meet their translator in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia's capital. He will ride in the car with them while they are in the country. Along the way to Moscow and St. Petersburg, the team will stop in the Republic of Tuva. Crossing the border from Russia to Finland will mark the end of the eastern section of the journey.

Next they will drive from Finland to Sweden and then down through Europe, stopping in Copenhagen, Berlin, Poland, Prague and Vienna. They will drive through France, and then up into England and Ireland. The trio will continue their journey back down to Marseilles, and then drive through Spain, finally ending their European tour in Portugal.

The Subaru will be shipped from Portugal to the United States, and the boys will fly across the Atlantic to meet their car somewhere on the East Coast. The next segment of their trip will be across North America, up through Canada and the boys will finish their journey in Alaska.

Where will they stay along the way? Though they will sleep in hostels in Japan, they will otherwise stay in their car, except when they can camp. They are going to try to camp as much as possible, especially in Mongolia and Russia. Another option is sleeping in the homes of hospitable individuals.

and offer you a meal and a bed."

This well-thought-out plan began as just an idea between three friends, who originally just wanted to drive across Russia. "One night we made dinner together and sat around throwing out ideas, and this is what we came up with," said Naito, who has been deemed "The Mechanic" of the group. Swift is called "The Historian", and Siegel is nicknamed "The Cultural Connector." Naito is an Economics major, Swift an IPE major, and Siegel a History major. Together they make the perfect team.

The trio is extremely excited about this adventure, and they have worked hard to get sponsors. "This trip is the culmination of two years of dreaming and planning," explained Naito. They have partnered with www.dirty-impresza.com, whose website is based on a trip similar to that of the CC students. "They are going to help promote our trip and we are going to help promote them," said Siegel.

The students are going to apply for grants through Colorado College as well as outside resources. In addition to their website, they have Twitter, a blog and a Facebook page. They are looking for all the support they can get, and would love as many people as possible to click "like" on their "The Road is West" Facebook page. They already have 535 fans. Their project also has support from the Subaru forums, which consist of 250,000 members worldwide. The Subaru forums have been a great way for the team to make connections with interested parties in other countries. "People belonging to these forums want to meet up with us and drive with us for the portion of time that we're in their country," Naito said.

A great resource for fundraising has been www.kickstarter.com, a third party program online. The boys have used this website to set a fundraising goal and find different funding options. Inevitably, money is an obstacle. However, the team plans to do the trip no matter what. "If worst comes to worst, we will take all the money we have, fly to Japan, buy the car and make it over to Russia. Then we'll take it from there," Siegel said.

As the school year continues, the team plans to do more on campus to raise money and promote their trip – which is for a good cause. "This trip is adventure, exploration, and some helping out," said Siegel.

The boys have connected with CC alum Betsy Gaines Quammen, who started the Tributary Fund in Mongolia. The fund sup-

ports environmental sustainability through religious groups. The team will help out at this organization while in Mongolia. They plan to do other charity work as well, but are still in the process of determining where and what.

Although they have already done much work, there are still many details that need to be figured out before the trip. For example, they need to do more research on car insurance policies abroad. "We need car insurance in Russia and Mongolia where they're pretty strict, but Europe shouldn't be a problem," Naito said.

Another obstacle is figuring out which roads to take, especially as U.S. citizens crossing foreign borders. The roads are particularly tricky in Mongolia. "There are supposedly three or four main roads in Mongolia, but once you get off those, the other roads start to deteriorate, especially during rainy season," Siegel said.

They will also need to get visas for their time in Russia and Mongolia. Tourists traveling under 90 days in Japan and Europe don't require a visa.

Over the six-month period of their journey, the boys will be filming and blogging their experiences. They hope to share their unique experience of a lifetime with others. Their website declares, "For all of you recently graduated 9-5 workers out there, we invite you to live vicariously through us!"

Has a trip like this ever been done? "Every segment of our trip has been done before, but not our exact route," said Siegel. Their aim is to start on the Pacific and end on the Pacific—a kind of latitudinal expedition around the globe. They have their route specifically planned out, but may end up throwing in some extra countries in Eastern Europe.

"This is the kind of trip where people say, 'I always wanted to do something like that, but I never have,'" Siegel said. "It's easy to get sucked into a career right after college and stay

there, and this is the perfect opportunity to travel. We're putting in a lot of time and effort to be able to do this."

The Road is West already has a large support

"Sometimes you should just go for it because you're only young 'til you're 23. When someone asks, 'Whats something cool you did?' I can respond, 'Well there was this time my friends, and I drove around the world, how about you?' Kinda hard to top that you know? Richard Swift

system. "People I've never met from home and school have come up to me and asked me about the trip. People know about it," Naito said.

"Sometimes you should just go for it, because you're only young 'til you're 23," Swift said. "When someone asks, 'What's something cool you did?' I can respond, 'Well, there was this time my friends and I drove around the world, how about you?' Kinda hard to top that, you know?"

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**RECYCLE
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CC Foreign Dispatch: South Africa

Sam Landsman

Photo editor Emeritus



In the last five months I've jumped off bridges, been chased by an elephant, witnessed extreme poverty, met amazing people and made lasting friendships. I've swum in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans and the Zambezi River and thankfully avoided encounters with sharks and crocodiles. I've been within petting distance of leopards, cheetahs, elephants, and rhinos. I've been uncomfortable but never unhappy, frustrated but not angry. And I've seen some of the most spectacular scenery in the world. These are just some of my memories of my time in Cape Town, South Africa.

To many people, Africa may seem like a land of big animals and big problems. Violent crime is an everyday occurrence and education is lacking. Poverty is rampant, AIDS rates are soaring, and civil wars are raging. Of course, for many tourists, a visit to Africa means bouncing around in a Land Rover for six hours a day looking for wildlife and sleeping in \$2000-a-night "tents." Yet there is so much more to



this beautiful continent.

A caveat: all but three of my days in Africa were spent in South Africa, perhaps not the

most representative African country. But let me rewind for a moment. I arrived in Cape Town on July 12, right on the heels of the World Cup—one of sport's most esteemed events.

The 12-hour flight from Amsterdam didn't get into Cape Town until after dark, so I couldn't get a sense of the place right away. Still, I was immediately impressed by the airport. Clean and modern, it is much nicer than many of the airports I've been to in the United States.

On the shuttle ride to the University of Cape Town, I was similarly impressed by the quality of the roads. They had new blacktop, were well lit and well marked. Driving through the city streets I was greeted by familiar signs: McDonalds, Shell, KFC.

Throughout the following weeks and months, however, I noticed plenty of differences between my life in Cape Town and my life at CC. A metal-reinforced wooden fence, topped with electric wires, surrounds the house in

which I live. At night, a guard watches over the property. Metal bars are installed on nearly every window. Guards, armed with automatic weapons and covered in body armor are quickly summoned by the touch of a panic button. Security in Cape Town is a big deal, certainly much more so than in Colorado Springs. All of this was a bit disconcerting at first, but I quickly grew accustomed to it. As I write this, with just a few days left in Cape Town, I have yet to personally encounter any crime. On the contrary, I've found that people are generally helpful, polite, and caring.

Reminders of the tough economy are everywhere. Thursday is trash day here, and each week a half dozen people dig through every trash can on my street looking for anything of value. Beggars wait outside of stores and on street corners for any passerby willing to give up a few coins. Kids stand outside of bars and clubs, often into the early hours of the morning, with their hands outstretched. Cape Town is a land of contrasts. Its stunning natural beauty contrasts sharply with the sea of shantytowns that lie on the outskirts of the city. Ostentatious displays of wealth—Bentleys, Aston Martins, and Ferraris—share the

highways with crowded and crumbling minibus taxis, so stuffed with people that their modest engines cannot propel them to highway speeds. Modern skyscrapers, adorned with names like LG, light up the night sky, while 20 percent of South Africans still lack access to electricity. Despite its challenges, Cape Town must be one of the most beautiful cities in the world. 3,558-foot tall Table Mountain rises out of the sea and towers above the city center, offering stunning views and great hiking. Sandy beaches abound, offering great places to relax in the sun, go for a swim, or try out surfing. Just 45 minutes away, the rolling, grape covered hills of the winelands await weekend wine tastings. And the spectacular Cape Point National park, home of the Cape of Good Hope, lies about an hour away. In terms of natural beauty, Cape Town blows Colorado Springs away.

My semester in Cape Town has been filled with great adventures and misadventures, great opportunities and new challenges. I've enjoyed meeting fellow students and local Capetonians, seeing new sights, and learning a thing or two about South Africa. And I've even managed to find time to go to a few classes. My semester abroad has been a truly unforgettable experience.



All photos of the South African landscape courtesy of Sam Landsman

Profile of the Week: Sue Chapin

Erika Valko

Staff Writer

Anyone who has ever bought a drink or muffin at Colorado Coffee has encountered Sue, the friendly bobbed and bespectacled barista. Born and raised in Lima, Ohio, she married a Methodist minister and frequently moved with him to little country churches throughout the United States.

They lived in Columbus, Ohio for six years before heading to Georgia. After having two children in Georgia, her husband decided he didn't want to raise their kids there, so he made inquiries and found a church in the Denver area. Now, between her son and daughter, Ken and Jill, Sue has four grandchildren. A great-grandchild will soon join the family, she added excitedly.

After staying in Denver for three years, Sue moved to Fountain, Colorado and then finally Colorado Springs. When her family arrived in Colorado Springs, Sue began looking for a job; coincidentally, a member of her husband's church worked at CC and encouraged her to apply. So 32 years ago, Sue began work in the former Rastall building until its closure in 1985.

As Worner Center transformed from a thought into an actual building, she worked in Denver improving her cooking skills. After getting a divorce, Sue decided to return to Colorado Springs. "I've kind of come full circle. I started out here and I'm going to end it



Sue Chapin, barista at Colorado Coffee, loves getting to know CC students here," she said with a chuckle.

When asked to name the best thing about working at Colorado Coffee, she enthusiastically brings up the students. "I love the atmosphere," Sue said. "I like the creativity of it. Above all, I love the kids because I consider them my grandkids."

Sue loves taking the time to get to know the students – her daily customers. She notices when they look upset or stressed and likes to help. "When I see that they need a little tender loving care, I just come around and give them

a hug and just love them," she said.

Being able to provide this comfort makes Sue's job even better and she loves fulfilling the role of a missed parent or friend. Mentioning incoming freshmen, she talks about what several of us remember quite clearly: parents' difficulty with leaving their kids at college. Mothers are crying and fathers are trying not to cry. Sue says it's nice for them to know that someone is there to ease the transition and provide love when needed.

Sue's love has impacted several students, and she has even been in touch with graduates. "I

still get letters from kids that graduated two to three years ago. They still come in to see me, and that's what this is all about, carrying a lifetime thing with all the students," she said. Getting to watch students grow from "baby" freshmen to graduating seniors is one of Sue's favorite things.

Her favorite drink at Colorado Coffee? The raspberry mocha. She continually raves about its tastiness and laughs about how it has become her trademark. Upon walking into her regular grocery store, which contains a Starbucks, the baristas immediately begin working on her usual mocha and have it ready by the time she leaves. Has she perfected the drink? "Oh, yes," she said with a grin.

During her free time, Sue enjoys tending to her garden. It has 20 different kinds of mint plants and a multitude of herbs and flowers. Characteristic of her giving attitude, Sue makes sure to bag any unneeded vegetables from the garden and puts them on her neighbors' doorsteps. The mobile home park she lives in houses mostly senior citizens living on very limited budgets, so Sue helps in every way she can.

The next time you buy a pumpkin chai or a bagel, make sure you have a conversation with Sue. The friendly barista will make it worth your while and even give you a boost if you're down.

Photo courtesy of Josh Raab

Comment & Debate

Cry Swaziland, my beloved country

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Tenetile Magagula. The first time I heard that Tenetile's period was late, I wondered about the HIV status of my best friend who used to date her. I wondered if I could have helped her understand the devastating impact of the scourge.

She was only 22 years of age, the same age as some of our seniors here at CC. One lesson that became more clear to me from this loss is that no matter how beautiful, smart and rich you are, the epidemic does not give a s**t. Every death of a friend, relative, ex-classmate, etc., takes something from us with it. The loss of a friend leaves a gaping hole that cannot be filled with any kind of friendship or money. Imagine losing one of your best friends on campus to a disease that could have somehow been prevented. Think about the stigma that you will have to deal with for the rest of your life as people will only remember you as the friend of your deceased colleague. Think about the financial difficulties that your friend's family would have overcome to ensure that your beloved friend is well taken care of. What about the children that will become orphans and dependent on strangers for survival? These are some of the

predicaments that some of people had to deal with in their lives due to HIV/AIDS.

Being here at CC has taught me to realize a few things. As much as people know about the impact of the disease in the world, I feel like the school is not doing enough to curb the disease and educate the community. Alas, the average CC student is not acquainted with the facts of HIV. It's sad that some high school students are more knowledgeable about the impact of HIV than a college student from CC. Somehow, I have found myself in the situation in which I have become more oblivious to the impact of the disease than I have been in the past. I have found myself laughing at the South African president Jacob Zuma remark that you do not get HIV if you take a shower after sex instead of trying to analyze the effect of such a statement on the understanding of the disease amongst poor illiterate people. I have, for some reason, started to find the myth that HIV is a 'white man's disease' funny instead of trying to think of solutions that could be used to eradicate such a belief amongst Swazis and Africans.

If any of us, CC students, could take an initiative to educate our fellow friends and community members about the dangers of the disease, the world will indeed become a better

place. If all CC students could educate 10 non-CC people about HIV the world would be more informed about the virus. Sometimes the problem is not that we do not have resources but it's because we do not recognize the assets we have at our disposal.

For example, one of the most powerful weapons that we as CC students could use to

curb the spread of the disease is dialogue. We can educate our societies and friends about the epidemic. We could join forces with the community and other campuses and advocate for all those affected. Making a difference is not about donating millions but it's about being there and use what you have got to make a difference in other people's lives.



American flag made of condoms is displayed on World AIDS Day. Photo by Phoebe Parker-Shames

In defense of Obama and TSA

Sam Smith

Guest Writer

Having lived in Manhattan during the Sept. 11 attacks— seeing smoke rise from where the Twin Towers once stood, reading thousands of Missing posters on every surface of the city and cheering in the streets for the FDNY and NYPD workers who fought so hard to rescue strangers – I know firsthand what terrorism looks like. I may have been young, not even knowing what it was at the time, but I knew for the first time in my life that there were people out there willing to die in the name of dead Americans. I'm more than willing to sacrifice some discomfort at the airport in order to prevent losing more lives, here at home.

It is tremendously difficult for me to understand how sacrificing lives in the Middle East is keeping us safer at home. I feel like the massive and seemingly endless war in Afghanistan is only increasing discontent overseas and thus heightening our risk of a terrorist attack at home. Many European countries, such as Germany, are now weighing their involvement in the war as threats at home mount. Whether or not our efforts in the Middle East are worth the money and lives, there is no question we can give up something at home to keep our nation safe.

While I won't go as far as to say those who conscientiously object to the intrusive TSA pat-downs and strip searches are unpatriotic, I have no problem calling many of them selfish.

People simply put their own comfort above the safety of our country. I completely recognize the immoral nature of forcing a father to take the clothes off his 7-year old son so TSA employees can make sure he doesn't have a bomb in the public view of Salt Lake City's international airport. However, I would advocate against the elimination of important security protocols (except in extreme cases like the 7-year-old boy. The boy should have been taken to a back room with his dad present – a back room where nobody would have filmed the event with intentions of making a YouTube hit. I believe we can continue to enhance security while still maintaining the vital civil liberty of privacy.

As the press continues to cover the TSA with an unrelenting microscope, I find the attention-seeking outcry of conservatives labeling the Obama administration's call for heightened security to be incredibly overblown and hypocritical. They are willing to enlist men and women to die overseas in the name of national security, but suddenly when a Democrat's White House tries to ensure national security at the airports, it's criminally unconstitutional? In their eagerness to pin every ounce of public dissatisfaction in America on President Obama, the Republican Party is attempting to identify the security procedures as big government chewing on our rights. Mike Huckabee, suddenly siding with the ACLU, has taken on a rather unspoken voice on the topic calling pat-downs "a humiliating

and degrading, totally unconstitutional intrusion." It's funny hearing him say this because less than five years ago he defended the Patriot Act under George Bush, saying we needed to "use everything at the President's disposal to keep us safe." He also voted against Topic 14 – the liberal bill that targeted the law for harming civil liberties. Convenient that safety at the disposal of a Democrat is unconstitutional but a Republican's warentless wiretapping procedures are just fine.

The politicizing of the airport security issue

is yet another near-flawless example politicians addiction to partisanship. I find it disgusting that national security is being mishandled to take a populist stance against the president. I'm not a big fan of what Obama has done in office— it has been disappointing. At the same time, I'm not fishing for put-downs either. It's time we came together on something, and I ask, what better to come together around during the holiday travel season when we are all trying our best to be together than our safety?



Graphic by Max Bennet

THE CATALYST

The Catalyst is a weekly newspaper produced and managed exclusively by students of The Colorado College. Published for the benefit of the college community and the surrounding local area, the Catalyst aims to bring general interest and academic-oriented news, ideas, and opinions into greater collective view—to act as a catalyst for informed debate. The newspaper is published under the auspices of Cutler Publications, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit independent of The Colorado College.

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Reflection on departure from the CC bubble

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much more than one afternoon of brief interviews to capture.

Another veteran had moved from Maryland to be with his girlfriend until he discovered that she was dealing drugs. Not wanting to get caught up with the police, he left and has been on the streets for the past two months. He has been a forklifter his whole life but has been unable to find a job in the Springs. He wants to find work and make money in order to get back to Maryland to see his daughter. To him, it is downright “embarrassing” to be homeless.

His friend told us stories about working at the Marion House downtown. He hitchhiked with a girlfriend for two days from San Antonio to Colorado Springs, but hasn’t made it any further.

“If any of us, CC students, could take an initiative to educate our fellow friends and community members about the dangers of the disease, the world will indeed become a better place. If all CC students could educate 10 non-CC people about HIV the world would be more informed about the virus.”

He works on and off, but said that if you don’t find work by November “you are done for.” The “dead season” starts in December and runs until April - it is impossible to find a job in the winter.

We encountered a diverse array of stories



Graphic by Max Bennet

that undermined the idea of the homogeneous “poor”. The only way to get those personal stories is to be unafraid to step out of the CC bubble and talk to people, equal to equal. One thing we noticed was that most people were not offended or skeptical when we talked to them. We weren’t patronizing or trying to offer unsolicited assistance or advice. I think it was valuable to them that we were simply interested in listening to what they had to say. Why are we afraid of stepping out of that comfort zone? There are those nagging underlying fears and stereotypes about the homeless that are so ingrained in us: violence, drugs, mental illness, and social deviance. No matter what we may do to ‘inform ourselves’ or ‘raise awareness’, these images frequently pop into our minds when we see a man sleeping on the street. Although these assumptions are not always wrong, it is wrong to make the assumption that they are always true.

Theorists such as Ivan Illich (“To Hell With Good Intentions”) have argued against abroad programs, specifically service projects, which allow “culturally ignorant” North Americans to impose their hegemonic ideologies on developing nations. While I find some validity in Illich’s argument, I would also suggest a different way of thinking about rich-poor power dynamics. Illich urges us to ask some challenging questions about our privilege: What role can a middle-class volunteer, linguistically and culturally “deaf and dumb,” play in the impoverished villages of the Third World? Does our ignorance lead to more damage than good? Does our privileged responsibility actually entail “consciously and humbly” giving up the “right” to “impose our benevolence” on other countries? Illich suggests that we look to our own ‘ghettos’ as venues for ‘missions’ and ‘service projects.’ It is essential to keep these questions in mind not only while

traveling abroad for service purposes, but in our own community. What I think Illich is missing is that to many of us, the streets outside of our middle class comfort zones feel as foreign as a Third World village.

What I have realized throughout the process of planning this event and gathering stories from the homeless is that we all have a story to tell. When we think of “the homeless” or “the poor,” we often imagine a destitute, depressed, and hopeless population. Poverty is frequently depicted in shocking statistics and graphs, pictures from far away countries, or heart-wrenching images in the media. But when you actually go out and speak directly with the people living on the streets, a new image of the poor emerges. There is a different way of thinking about poverty—it is possible to paint a more positive face on a man sleeping by the bike path or a beggar on the corner of Bijou and Nevada. This is not to say that homelessness and poverty are undeserving of our attention and efforts, but that we can at least adjust the way we see the poor. We may not be able to fully understand the reality of someone struggling just to get by, but we might find a way to see eye-to-eye.

Social change and social justice is about mutual solidarity, not charity. All of us at CC have and exercise privilege and power. But this does not necessarily mean that we have it better. Normative judgments about disparities in quality of life are dangerously paralyzing and potentially overwhelm us into inaction. Rather, the questions we need to be asking are about how to find commonalities across difference, what can we learn and exchange through and with people, rather than to others. Poverty is not just about economic justice—it’s about people. We can sit in Palmer or Armstrong and talk about these issues every block, but if we do not experience the reality of poverty we are unlikely to build mutual and creative solutions.

China and the national debt

Abdoulaye Dabo

Guest Writer

It is common knowledge that the United States’ national debt is pretty huge. It’s also common knowledge that about 20 percent of it is owed to China. As Howard Gleckman of the Tax Policy Center’s pointed out, the only way to balance the federal budget by 2020 while making all the Bush tax cuts permanent is to eliminate the federal government. I’ve had numerous talks with faculty members from the Economics Department as well as friends, and quite frankly it’s tempting to think that someday the United States will default on China.

Argentina’s collapse in 2002 incited the largest default in history and yet the country is doing just fine as of today. Had Argentina continued to pay its debt off, it almost surely would have fared much worse. At first, the government was out of money and the Central Bank of Argentina’s foreign currency reserves were almost depleted. Still, growth was restored and the country was able to turn around its fiscal deficit. With the projections (by the congressional budget office) for the U.S. national debt expected to be around \$18.4 trillion by 2019, will the U.S. be just like Argentina, in 2020? It’s hard to answer that question as America is not yet on the brink of a liquidity crisis.

When asked whether or not the U.S. will default on China, Colorado College’s resident macroeconomist Professor Pedro de Araujo said, “the United States is not at a point where the only option is to default.” He went on to say that “there are other alternatives to reducing liabilities without having to default such as renegotiation and debt roll-overs.” The only benefit he sees in defaulting is that it would free up assets, but that should be very short lived as this is not a one-time game – it is a repeated game.

The U.S. government has tried several times to persuade the Chinese that a stronger currency would be in China’s best interest. That’s an absolute truth. Inflation and drops in wages could be avoided with a strong currency. While currency manipulation is bad for China as a

whole, it’s good for politically influential Chinese companies — many of them government-run. And as a result the currency manipulation goes on. In September the House of Representatives passed legislation that was approved by a huge bipartisan majority, sponsored by Representative Sander Levin, a Democratic representative for Michigan’s 12th congressional district. The legislation would potentially pave the way for sanctions against China if its currency remains weak.

In June, the Chinese supposedly agreed to re-evaluate their currency which, if the example of economies like Brazil is any indication, would have meant a sharp rise in the yuan’s value. But nothing happened. So what will the legislation that Levin sponsored be good for? It will give the U.S. government enough power to impose tariffs on Chinese goods. However, nothing like that will get done because they’ll continue to make excuses, to advertise imaginary diplomatic progress, and confirm China’s belief that US officials are paper tigers. In the meanwhile the national debt is still going up and China is accumulating a trade surplus.

So will the U.S. default on China? Or should America take on the weak currency of the Chinese?

As Professor de Araujo pointed it out, a default is likely to reduce ability of U.S. firms to invest because there will be less capital accumulation and thus slower economic growth. He also said that this could make the dollar very weak. In addition, lenders would be hesitant to invest in the U.S. market—which would constitute a major problem if liquidity problems were to affect the private sector.

Over two months ago, a Chinese trawler operating in Japanese-controlled waters collided with two vessels of Japan’s Coast Guard. Japan detained the trawler’s captain; China responded by cutting off Japan’s access to crucial raw materials. China accounts for over 90 percent of the world’s rare minerals that play an essential role in many high-technology products, including military equipment. It is no wonder then that Japan let the captain go.

China’s ability to retaliate with embargos is

pretty scary. A part of the blame should go on U.S. policymakers, who did nothing while an unreliable regime acquired a stranglehold on key materials. On the other side, the incident shows a Chinese government that is dangerously trigger-happy, willing to wage economic warfare on the slightest provocation (you can ask French companies after France’s president Nicholas Sarkozy sympathized with Tibetans). On Oct. 29, China ended its undeclared embargo of exports of crucial strategic minerals to the U.S., Europe and Japan, although shipments to Japan still encountered difficulties, the New York Times reported, citing four unidentified rare earth industry officials. No wonder nothing is being done in the U.S. to address China on certain things — monetary policies, mainly.

Over two months ago, Japan’s minister of finance declared that he and his colleagues wanted a discussion with China about the purchase of Japanese bonds. So why isn’t America doing the same? Chinese purchases of U.S. bonds won’t help the economy. They are digging a grave for the future of this country. China is intentionally keeping its currency unnaturally weak and the consequence is that China is taxing imports while subsidizing exports, thus feeding a huge trade surplus. You might have heard that China’s surplus has nothing to do with its artificially weak currency— this may be the biggest fallacy in modern economic thought. An undervalued currency always promotes trade surpluses, and China is no different.

America doesn’t want to be held hostage because of its manifest dependence on China. The truth is that U.S. policymakers have been incredibly and exasperatingly passive in the face of China’s bad behavior — especially because taking on China is one of the few policy options for tackling unemployment available to the Obama administration. The Levin bill probably won’t change that passivity. But it will, at least, start to build a fire under policymakers, bringing us closer to the day when they are ready to act.

Real Advice with KATIE RICE

In honor of World AIDS day, which was this Wed., Dec. 1, I would like to dedicate this column to information about getting tested for HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) and other sexually transmitted diseases. Based on the recent questions I have received about the hookup scene at CC, I want to encourage the entire student body to get tested. Here is a list of places to get tested:

1. Boettcher
-Pricing: HIV tests are \$30. Herpes (type I and II) \$52. Syphilis is \$12. Chlamydia and gonorrhea are \$40 each. If you are on the school health insurance you are covered up to \$150 for STD tests per year. HPV vaccines are covered by school insurance; otherwise they are \$190.
2. SCAP (Southern Colorado Aids Project)
Located at 1301 South Eighth Street, Suite 200. HIV tests are FREE Monday-Friday 9am to 4pm (call to schedule an apt.)
Call SCAP at 719 578 9092
3. InsideOut Youth Services
Located at 235 S. Nevada Avenue.
HIV and STD tests are priced on a sliding scale.
Call to make an apt. 866 488 7386
4. Planned Parenthood
Located at 3958 N. Academy Blvd. #108
HIV tests are around \$70. Comprehensive STD testing including Chlamydia, gonorrhea, and HIV is \$120.
Call to make an appointment. 719 573 8880.

By getting tested you will not only help yourself but also the people you are most intimate with. Don’t stop there – you should ask your sexual partner if they are clean and if they have been tested. If they do not know what their status is then use a condom. I want all of us to be happy sexually and emotionally and this is the first step to a great sex life!

Katie Rice

AL: Snow Edition

F.U.C.C. YEAH! Calling all jibbers and park rats

Nicky Anastas

Guest Writer & FUCC Member

After spending three days flying on clouds of gladdened powder this Thanksgiving break, it's clear that winter is here. After the start of a season filled with friendship, laughs and falls, Colorado is primed to embark on a weather cycle known as La Nina. Many Colorado resorts are predicted to get as much as 178 percent more snow than average years. This means that the beautiful start of this season is just a taste of more things to come. If you are as excited as most us are at F.U.C.C. (Freeriders Union of Colorado College) you should not wait to get involved with our club.

F.U.C.C. has more events planned than any year before. This season we will be providing students with two buses every Saturday to one of the five Vail Resorts mountains and one to Winter Park/Copper as well as buses on Sunday. So don't let a lack of transportation or steep gas prices keep you from riding all the fresh snow with your friends.

Not only are we excited to invite all of you powder-lovers to the fresh snow, we even have upcoming events for all you jibbers out there. On Thurs., Dec. 9 there will be a Rail Jam from 8-11 p.m. right here at CC. The Jam is going to be held on the hill in front of the Preserve and feature loud music, burgers provided by the Carnivore Club, free soup provided



F.U.C.C. chair Ben Gardiner shows off his jibb-ability by frontside boardsliding a rail.

Photos: Jordan Yeager



Jordan Yeager slays a box on a bluebird day in the park.

by Relay For Life, amazing tricks and plenty of biffs. We welcome all you spectators and

“ Colorado is primed to embark on a weather cycle known as La Nina. Many Colorado resorts are predicted to get as much as 178 percent more snow than average years...If you are as excited as most us are at F.U.C.C. (Freeriders Union of Colorado College) you should not wait to get involved with our club. ”

athletes out there to come enjoy tunes, food and company together in the snow during this inaugural event. The snow will be imported to the hill at noon on Dec. 9 from Winter Park resort. We also welcome people to come help build the terrain and give input on the features. An informational meeting was held in upstairs Worner yesterday. So if you missed out and are interested in competing in the event or helping in any way, you can e-mail Ben Gardiner. This event promises to be a blast and we hope

everyone will come check it out!

If you're not quite ready to hit the jibs, F.U.C.C. is going to start having diving board nights at the swimming pool so you can hone in your tricks before you take them to snow. This will begin after winter break, so keep us in mind.

In addition, we would like to invite all skiers, snowboarders and telemarkers to our largest event: Winterfest. This yearly festival is a weekend-long CC takeover of Crested Butte, usually on one of the resort's last weekends. With our sweet setup, each participant is provided with cheap tickets to the mountain, offering you a different Colorado resort experience. Keep an eye out for more information.

Additionally we will be providing avalanche courses for those of you that want to start skiing and exploring out of bounds terrain safely and with the right equipment. This is a great opportunity for those of you to break out of the ropes and explore some untouched freshies. We encourage all levels of riding to do so safely, so if you're interested in expanding your terrain be sure to check out the course.

If you love the spirit of the outdoors and the winter, don't hesitate to come to our F.U.C.C. meetings, hosted the first and third Thursdays of the block at 5 p.m. in upstairs Worner. We encourage participation from all levels of experience and all ranges of winter sports. We believe we can unite the whole Colorado College ski and snowboard community.

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The steeze ain't safe: concussions on the rise

Gregar Chapin

Staff Writer

After falling hard off a jump while skiing during spring break his freshman year at CC, senior Thomas Stout thought he was fine. He had hit his head pretty hard, but was wearing a helmet and figured at worst he had a mild concussion. A week later, when he started to lose feeling in his right leg and was having trouble speaking, he realized that wasn't the case.

When he went to the hospital later that day, the doctors told him that he had a subdural hematoma and that he may need emergency surgery. For non-neuro majors, a subdural hematoma occurs when bleeding fills the brain after a serious head injury, and surgery can be required to relieve pressure on the brain. In Stout's case, he was lucky enough to avoid surgery, but the injury was serious nonetheless.

"I thought it was just a regular fall," said Stout. "People fall all the time while skiing, and sometimes might even acknowledge that they have a minor concussion, but they don't take it seriously."

Concussions have long been stigmatized throughout all levels and types of athletics as minor injuries that need only be taken seriously if the person is incoherent afterwards. During football games it is common to see a player motionless on the grass after a hard hit, and until recently the protocol for these situations has been pretty straightforward.

Players on both teams take a knee in respect, the trainers rush out with smelling salts to wake the player, and the crowd sits silently. After the trainers have determined there is no neck injury, and the player responds to a few basic questions, he stands up and walks off the field. Players applaud, coaches give him a pat on the back, he puts his helmet back on and the crowd cheers. If he can walk it off, he must be fine...right?

For years, in the NFL and throughout all levels of competitive football, this had more or less been the accepted practice. Big hits were rarely penalized and often encouraged, while concussions went unreported and players unprotected. Recently, however, in light of the growing research surrounding the danger and severity associated with concussions, the NFL and other leagues have adopted much more stringent rules.

Already this season, James Harrison, a 6-foot 240 lb. linebacker for the Pittsburgh Steelers, has been fined a total of \$125,000 for four separate hits that the NFL deemed unsafe. Not only are they cracking down on dirty tackles, but also on players who try to dumb down the severity of a hit. A concussion, once



Headed for disaster: a helmet-less skier risks it in the backcountry pow.

Photo: Monica Mueller

thought of as a minor injury that an athlete should be able to play through, is now taken very seriously, and it is rare to see a concussed player retake the field.

No one ever wants to be "sidelined", in whatever athletic endeavor, due to an injury. When you are injured, the initial reaction is to try and ignore the pain and trivialize the severity of the injury. Athletes want to get back in the game, and with a concussion, that is a very dangerous game to play.

"When you get hit hard as a player, you usually try and convince yourself that you are okay," said senior Brendan Shea. "When you are a competitive person, your natural instinct is to keep playing. You don't want to let down your teammates or the fans."

Shea has seen his fair share of head injuries while playing for the CC Club Hockey team, and says that in recent years players and coaches seem to be much more cautious regarding concussions.

Said Shea, "Just recently, a teammate of mine was hit in a game and got a concussion.

He wasn't allowed to play for a least a month. We take it seriously now."

Just about everyone seems to be taking concussions more seriously lately, including the administration here on campus.

"We are of course concerned about concussions on the athletic side of things, but we are much more concerned about how they affect students academically," said Bruce Kola, Coordinator of Sports Medicine at CC. "We take them more seriously now than we have in the past, everybody does."

As awareness surrounding concussions has grown, various safety precautions have slowly worked their way into daily life. Ski helmets, for example, once a rare sighting on the slopes less than 10 years ago, are now worn by practically everyone. Mouth guards have generally only been used in contact sports like hockey, football and lacrosse, but now many basketball players are wearing them as well. Wearing a bike helmet when you ride to Worner, or putting in mouth guard before your IM basketball game may seem like a nuisance at the time, but

it is well worth those five seconds.

With the multitude of intramural and Varsity sports, arguably the best skiing/snowboarding in the world mere hours away, and the entire outdoor playground that is the state of Colorado in our backyard, students at CC are constantly putting themselves at risk of concussions.

Whether you are riding a bike, playing IM hockey, tackling a climbing wall, or shredding some pow, you are always at risk of a concussion, especially without a helmet. (Note to the bros on the mountain – you do not look cooler with a hat on! Wear a ski helmet!)

"We are always going the mountains or playing club hockey. I'm sure a lot of concussions go unnoticed," said Stout. "I mean, I have had a few concussions, and probably should be more cautious, but I still ski and play hockey."

"I think it is a lifestyle change that is difficult to make for kids our age," he said. "We think that putting on a helmet is enough to protect us from a concussion, but the only thing my helmet protected me from was death."

Colorado Passes: season surprise

Vail acquires Cali resort, expects above-average snowfall

Katie Burns

Staff Writer

The Epic Pass and the Colorado Pass offer access to some of the best snow in Colorado at Breckenridge, Keystone, Arapahoe Basin, Vail and Beaver Creek. Additionally, this year, the passes give you access to Heavenly and Northstar-at-Tahoe in California.

A lesser-known fact about the Five Mountain Pass is that summer lift access is given to outdoor sports enthusiasts. Immediate summer benefits were applied to passes that had been purchased during the spring or summer.

In October this year, Vail Resorts closed on the acquisition of Northstar-at-Tahoe resort in North Lake Tahoe, California. This came at no small price; Vail Resorts dropped a cool \$63 million on the deal. Vail also has a long-term agreement operating Heavenly Mountain Resort in South Lake Tahoe.

Rob Katz, chairman and CEO of Vail stated: "We are thrilled by the opportunity to bring Northstar-at-Tahoe into our family of world class mountain resorts. With substantial and diverse ski terrain, a completely renovated and modern base village...Northstar-at-Tahoe has been one of the fastest-growing mountain

resorts over the past few years."

The new amenities offered at Northstar-at-Tahoe include a new base village that has over 35 new and unique shops and restaurants, a 9,000 sq. ft. skating rink and much more. The mountain has 19 lifts, 92 trails, and snowmaking machines that cover 50 percent of the trails. There are also seven terrain parks and snow sports that include alpine and telemark skiing, snowboarding, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and tubing. Last season, Northstar-at-Tahoe saw 700,000 visitors.

Heavenly Mountain is also located in Tahoe and offers beautiful views, great snow, and a great variety of trails, runs and terrain parks. The mountain is 10,067 ft in height, the highest in Lake Tahoe. With 360 inches of average snowfall and about 300 days of sunshine, Heavenly rivals resorts right here in Colorado. The terrain offers 94 trails ranging from cruisers to 1,600 foot chutes. Of those trails, 73 percent are covered by "the West Coast's largest and most powerful snowmaking system."

Heavenly also gives access to three backcountry gates that lead to intense backcountry terrain adjacent to the resort. Most importantly, you can ski in two states at Heavenly: California and Nevada.

One issue that all resorts are facing today is climate change, including increasing temperatures in the West. Looking at the resorts' websites, one sees more advertising of snowmaking machines and the amount of terrain they cover. Snow reports over the past five years have shown decreasing coverage. For instance, during the 2004-2005 season, Heavenly saw 480 inches of snowfall compared to this year's 360 inches. In the past few seasons, Vail Resorts mountains have seen less than ideal snow conditions as well.

However this season, La Nina is helping out the resorts snow problems. La Nina is the periodic warming of central and eastern tropical Pacific waters and occurs about every two to five years and lasts about 12 months. Expected La Nina effects include increased rain over the central and west-central Pacific as well as areas near Indonesia. Although La Nina does have some negative effects on ocean warming, there are some positive impacts for skiers.

This season, we will hopefully see above-average snowfall for most resorts – especially those in Northern Colorado. Meteorologists say that with La Nina there should be an abundant early snowfall followed by a dry period and then lots of spring snow. Even now, we

are seeing an increase in snowfall from last year in places like Winter Park and Keystone.

As for the mountains accessible with the Colorado Pass, you will see a few new additions this year that the mountains have imposed to make your skiing experience better. A-Basin has debuted a new high-speed quad chair lift and Vail opened a new lift called the High Noon Express that will cut the time it takes for skiers to get out of the Sun Bowls in half.

Heavenly offers a new mountaintop restaurant for those lodge moms out there that seats 750 people inside and outside. It is supposed to open in February and will be at the top of the gondola. Northstar-at-Tahoe has also added two new lifts and improved its ski school.

If you're one of the lucky recipients of the Colorado Pass, take advantage of the new additions. It's worth the trip to California and definitely the best deal around. If you don't have time or funds to get there, settling for Colorado cheddar ain't terrible. Get out there and catch the wrath of La Nina in full force – it's just around the corner.



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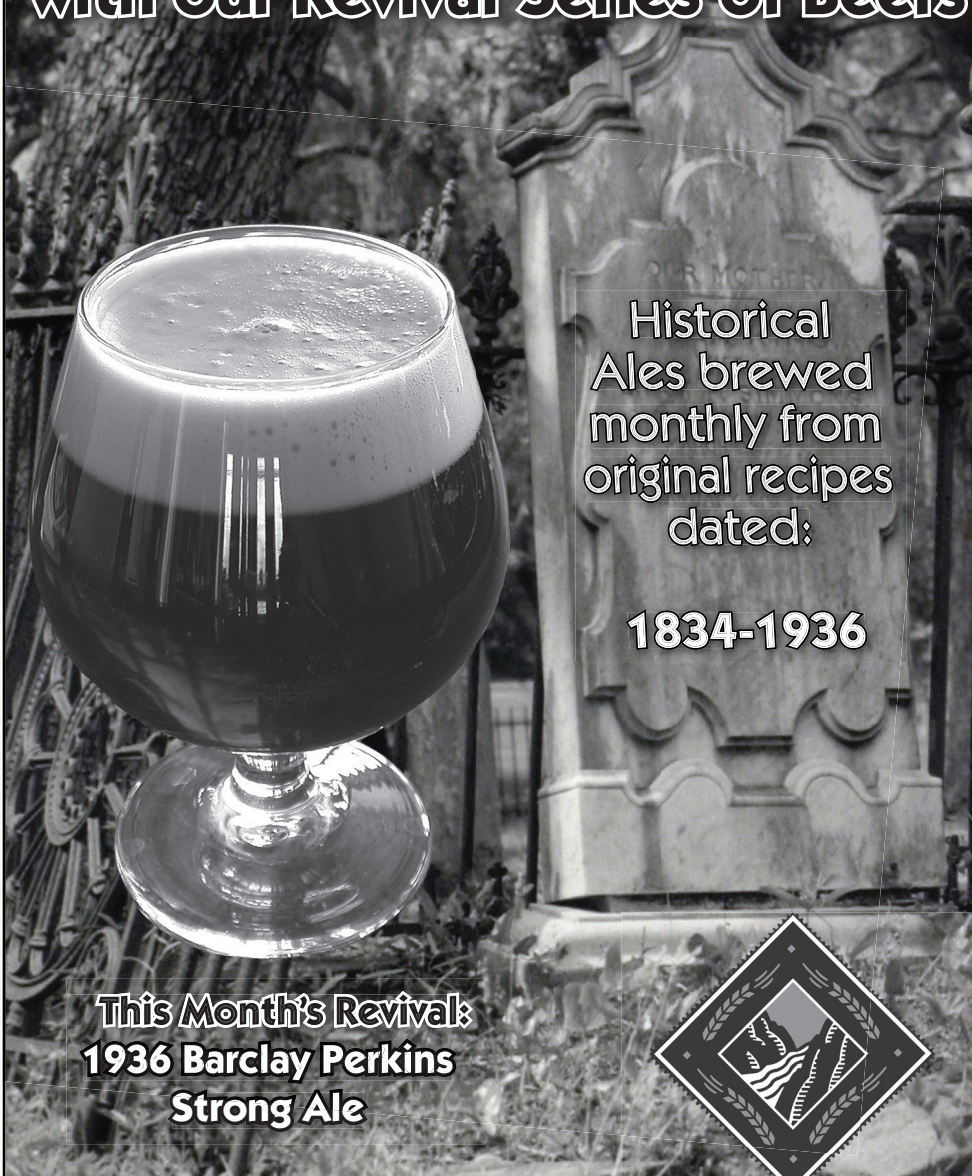


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Arts & Entertainment

The BrewHaHa

The tasting edition

Nick Hawks

Staff Writer

This week's edition of the BrewHaHa is less of a review and more of an invitation. And if you are 21 years of age and are either passionate or curious about delicious ales, this is for you. Next Wed., Dec. 8, we will be joining forces with Student Organization for Sexual Safety and Heather Horton's office to provide Colorado College with its first craft brew tasting. It will be held in Gaylord hall in the Worner center from 5 to 7:30 p.m. for a modest price of \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. All of the ticket proceeds for the event go toward the beer, so it's like you're getting a free five-course meal. We believe it is a humble price to pay because the event will not only involve eight of the most reputable ales sold in the world (although the amount of beer poured for each person will come to about two pints in total), but also because there will be five courses of food to pair with each style. Somehow, the two of us were privileged enough to select these ales and match them with some of the most delicious cuisine that Bon Appétit has to offer. We will also be hosting the event with hopes of shedding some light on the history of microbrewing, as well as the enormous steps that it has taken in the last 20 or so years.

The tasting will take the form of an ale survey – climbing from light to dark, with an exciting twist at the end. We have decided to solely cover ales for a variety of reasons.

First, they have been around far longer than lagers, which only came into existence with the technology of refrigeration, since lager yeasts only thrive in low temperatures. Second, there is a much larger range of styles within the realm of the ale, which we hope to fully explore. And thirdly, since the beginning of the 20th century, lager production has almost entirely surpassed that of ales (largely due to those macrobreweries that so many of us have developed a love/hate relationship with) and we would like to salute a tradition that is not only still alive, but doing better than ever. All that we can tell you now is that these brews are going to be big. And do we mean big. These beers are some of the world's finest and for the most part ones that you probably wouldn't seek out normally. We are going to be offering a pale ale, an India Pale Ale, a red ale, a Belgian dark strong ale, an American winter seasonal, an imperial stout and a surprise. But before all of this, the tasting will kick off with a Belgian Saison. While it is technically a summer seasonal, it is undeniably an ale with the crisp balance, lightness and substance to kick your taste buds into gear.

This ale is called the Saison Dupont, and has been in production in the farms of the Brasserie Dupont since 1844. It was originally produced as a thirst-quenching beer for the farmers in the fields, but has grown to be regarded as the classic of the Saison style. It is often said that Saisons are the most endangered of all the Belgian styles. While there are more and more American renditions, they have been tradition-

ally produced by five or six breweries in the province of Hainaut in Wallonia, Belgium. They were brewed each winter with hopes of making them robust enough to last until the summer but not too strong and therefore refreshing after a long day of work in the hot sun. They are not too weak or strong, hoppy or malty, but are usually spicy, fruity, sweet and delightfully straightforward. We hope you all can come enjoy this and seven other decadent beers this coming Wednesday. Tickets can be purchased at the Worner desk.

Saison Dupont

Saison / Farmhouse Ale, 6.5% ABV

Brasserie Dupont

Torpes- Leuze, Belgium

The order of the beers to be tasted at this event is in no way random. We carefully selected all eight beers and set their order very specifically. We're beginning the tasting with the Saison Dupont because, while it could be drunk quite quickly without the imbibers taking note of the beer's nuances, a slight attention to detail demonstrates the extent to which this seemingly simple beer is actually quite complex and exceptionally well balanced.

The cork pops of this bottle as if it were a bottle of Champagne that had been drunkenly shaken up on New Year's Eve. Upon pouring, the Dupont provides a generous 2 and 1/2 finger bright-white head that is best described as down-right billowy. The beer is a rich Champagne color, but is noticeably different as it has a great deal of yeast that can be seen swirling in

the glass at the mercy of the beer's carbonation. Its aroma is mild, but distinct as it is characterized by a strong presence of pale malts, a soft banana-like sweetness coming from the Belgian yeast, and a slight hint of lemony citrus in the background complimented by just a dash of clove and coriander.

Like we said, this beer seems quite simple, but it is actually just quite well-balanced and subtle in its presentation. The beer is light, fresh, and crisp in flavor; it is without doubt a delicate beer that must be drunk slowly in order to appreciate its complexities. Everything is perfectly proportioned with a balanced presence of fresh Granny Smith apples, lemon citrus notes, and a strong, pale malt body. The carbonation is gentle and is quite refreshing as the yeast flavors are combined with the slight whispering of the spicier Saaz hops which can be felt on the sides of the tongue in the aftertaste creating a delightfully dry finish.

Save the Date!

When:

Wednesday, Dec. 8th
5-7:30

Where:

Gaylord Hall

How Much:

\$10 in advance
\$12 at the door



photo: Josh Raab

Hair: America's tribal love rock musical

Brianna Traxinger

Guest Writer

The faint strumming of an electric guitar coaxes 25 motionless hippies to life. The paisley-clad performers begin groping, rolling and crawling their way across the stage, sliding down from their perches on the banisters, and emerging from hidden corners. The actors continue their amoeboid movement to the rhythm of the mystical instrumentation, converging to a writhing pile at the edge of the stage. An initially inconspicuous dancer in the balcony suddenly becomes the center of attention as the mass of waving arms and scarf-circled heads tilt upwards towards her. The indistinct introduction evolves into a true melody as the dancer begins serenading the mob below her before they all join in to the chorus of "Aquarius." Colorado College's production of "Hair: America's Tribal Love Rock Musical" has begun.

Under the direction of Sophie Herscu, William Walcott and Claire Jencks, almost 70 people, including a cast of 25 actors, 10 band members, 12 behind-the-scenes staff, a tech crew and the Student Musical Theater Group (SMTG) have been preparing for this moment since first block. Often meeting eight hours during the school week with additional weekend rehearsals, the large group of students involved in the musical juggle both a class on the block and the task of memorizing 50 songs and the corresponding choreography, preparing sets and technical aspects, and completing all of the other unseen but crucial work that goes into a massive theater production. Because the majority of the "rock opera" is expressed through lyrics instead of dialogue, the performers not only must memorize lines but also simultaneously be able to sing and dance the story. Adding to the complexity, the entire cast is almost always on stage at once. Amazingly, they learned the music during second block, leaving only one month to learn the choreography and other parts of the show. Although the band did not have to memorize lyrics, their rehearsals did not begin until third block and they had to learn to play and

synchronize 50 songs with the dynamic activity onstage. With the show opening next Friday, this rehearsal load has increased dramatically during this final week. LeeAna Wolfman, a sophomore who plays one of the lead roles, estimates that they have been rehearsing three hours a day, six days a week. Like most of the people involved, she balances this commitment with academics and several other extracurriculars. Even though the production creates a huge strain on her

connections with themselves and those immediately around them. Herscu, a senior and head director of the production, describes the characters' revolution not as a rebellion but an attempt to "make something beautiful" and stand up for the country in alternative ways, all while forging loving relationships with one another. Herscu chose to perform this musical for specific reasons. Looking at the musical superficially, "Hair" seems to be relevant to CC in regard to

cut from the time budget. She hopes "Hair" will reinforce the often-forgotten idea that the "first step" in making important changes in the community and world is to take care of yourself and to remember to ask the people around you, "Are you okay?"

Wolfman shared similar views about the musical's relevance to the student body. Even though she acknowledges that parallels exist between CC culture and the setting of the musical, she says the real correlation lies in how in both the musical and everyday life at Colorado College, "everyone is in love with each other" and is so incredibly passionate about their interests. "This is what brings us all to CC," she added. "We enjoy each other and what we do." Wolfman feels the themes in the musical are very relatable for college students; even though the 1960s in New York warrant a much different setting than present day in Colorado Springs, the choices that today's college students have the opportunity to make mirror the youth revolution of the characters in "Hair." Perhaps the most powerful aspect of this musical is that the sentiments in "Hair" can be extracted and applied to a diverse array of time periods and settings.

Despite its blanket relevance, "Hair" is definitely not the typical production. America's first rock and roll musical lacks a concrete storyline and features minimal props, creating a very visual experience and demanding complete attention to the movements, voices and emotions of the actors. However, it is this rawness that amplifies the powerful themes and intensity within "Hair". Nick Stephens and Phoenix McLaughlin, both freshman trumpet players in the pit orchestra, summed up the essence of the musical. "It's really thought provoking," said McLaughlin. "It's going to be a good show," added Stephens.

"Hair" will be performed in the Cornerstone South Theater and premieres Friday, Dec. 10 at 8 p.m., followed by performances on Saturday at 2:20 and 8:30 and Sunday at 2:20 and 8:00. Be sure to grab a ticket and your favorite tie-dye outfit and groove yourself over to this unique and exciting production!



Cast members lift fellow member during song

photos: Josh Raab

workload, she says that it forces her to manage her time well because she "can't even think about doing [her] homework" when she knows she has "Hair" practice. So what is so captivating about this story that it inspires already too-busy students to add hours of obligation to their schedules?

"Hair," written by James Rado and Jerry Ragni, originally premiered in New York in 1967. The story follows a group of young New York hippies during the 1960s as they venture away from societal conventions. Rejecting the war in Vietnam and the pressures and social norms imposed on them by their parents and society, they begin to explore their own sexuality, freedom with drugs, and the meaningful con-

nections with themselves and those immediately around them. Herscu, a senior and head director of the production, describes the characters' revolution not as a rebellion but an attempt to "make something beautiful" and stand up for the country in alternative ways, all while forging loving relationships with one another. Herscu chose to perform this musical for specific reasons. Looking at the musical superficially, "Hair" seems to be relevant to CC in regard to

The new coloradocollege.edu needs you. Yes, you.

The new Colorado College website will be a reflection of the CC community. And if you're reading the *Catalyst*, you're part of that community. Whether you're a **student, faculty, staff, alum, parent**, or anyone else who cares about CC, we hope you'll be part of the new coloradocollege.edu.

If you're a **writer**

We can't believe how many great student writers CC has. The new site should tell the story of CC student life in your voices, not anyone else's; so if you like writing, please do get in touch with us.

If you're a **professor**

We want the new CC site to be a resource for you—letting you maintain a faculty profile, highlight your research and teaching work, and connect with students and other faculty. And we know you've got more important things to do than keep a website up to date, so updating content will be easy and quick.

If you plan **events**

It's going to be *much, much easier* to promote your events on the new site. Enough said.

If you're a **photographer**

We'd love to put your photos on the new CC site. That could mean your big, beautiful photo on the homepage— or your cell phone photos in a Block Four Photo Gallery.

If you're in a **student organization**

The new site will allow student groups to post stories and events, and maintain profile pages for groups. If you're an officer or heavy hitter in a student group, stay tuned for more information about that.

If you're on **Twitter**

We'd love to follow you. Just tweet [#CCneedsme](https://twitter.com/CCneedsme) and we'll track you down. You can find and follow us at twitter.com/whitewhaleweb/staff.

If you make **videos**

Let's see them! There will be plenty of space for video on the new site. If you have videos on YouTube or anywhere else that you'd like us to see, let us know.

If you do **research**

The new site should make it easy to get a sense of what students and faculty are doing *right now* in CC's labs, classrooms and facilities. The only way to get that kind of content onto the site is if you help keep it up to date. We'll make the technical part easy.

If you **love CC**

Tell us why! (See below.)

Who's writing this?

We're *White Whale Web Services* of Oakland, California, and we're the company leading the CC redesign in conjunction with a Web working group at Colorado College. (The project manager for CC is Karen To in the Office of Communications. If you haven't met her yet, she's super nice.)

Next week on campus

White Whale's two designers, Jason Pontius and Janie Porche, are coming to campus to unveil our first round of designs for the CC site. **Don't miss it!**

We'll be on CC's campus Thursday and Friday, December 9th and 10th; the official public unveiling of the design is on

Thursday at 3:00 pm in the Cornerstone Screening Room.

To learn more about the Colorado College redesign, meet the people behind it, and contribute your stories, photos, videos, suggestions and crazy ideas, visit us here:

dearcoloradocollege.com



Janie from White Whale took this picture. It's impossible to take a bad photo of CC's campus!