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# THE CATALYST

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF COLORADO COLLEGE

## Technological transformation: CC soups up network, bandwidth

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### New student fee encourages participation

Mariegrace Veres

Guest Writer

This year, for Campus Activities events, hockey tickets, Outdoor Recreation Club (ORC) Trips, or Center for Service and Learning BreakOut trips, students can keep their cash in their pockets and leave their Gold Card dollars untouched because unlike last year, all campus-wide events and ORC and BreakOut trips are now paid for by the new student activities fee.

"I absolutely had no idea that these events and trips were now free," said junior Lillian Shan. "How is this possible? Does CC love us more?"

The increased "love" that CC now has for students is credited to the new \$350 "student activity fee" that was established at the beginning of this year and is incorporated into a student's tuition fee. The new activity fee has allowed for an increase in intramural and club sport budgets, the CCSGA and the Campus Activities budget, as well as the Arts and Crafts, Outdoor Education and the Center for Service and Learning departments. However, exactly how the money will be allocated is still being worked out.

The student activity fee was vetted through the college's budget process. The college standing budget committee, chaired by Dean of the College Susan Ashley, and CCSGA, saw that by having a student activity fee, student leaders were able to have more control, and greater access to, the funds available for distribution among student groups.

"The overarching goal is to allow for students to attend and participate in activities with no regard to economic circumstances," said Mike Edmonds, Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students.

Prior to the budget committee considering the fee, CCSGA, led by last year's Student Body President David Carlson, surveyed the student body to get reaction to the fee proposal. The

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Phoebe Parker-Shames

News Editor

Over the summer, CC's IT office was busy making changes to technology at CC, including increased bandwidth and upgraded email. Nearly 30 projects were completed or worked on during this time, upgrading a sector of CC life that affects all at the school. However, upgrades to technology are not always well publicized and not always as straightforward as they seem.

"It's all behind the scenes; it's not like building a wall," said Randy Stiles, Vice President for In-

formation Management. "It's a very, very important part of campus operations, and increasingly important...It's pervasive and affects everything that faculty, students and staff do."

#### Internet Bandwidth (Mb/sec)

2000	2.88
2001	4.32
2002	5.76
2003	12
2004	45
2005	45
2006	45
2007	100
2008	100
2009	100

formation Management. "It's a very, very important part of campus operations, and increasingly important...It's pervasive and affects everything that faculty, students and staff do."

Over the past nine years at CC, demands on technology have increased dramatically. Help Desk calls, Media Service Events, ResNet connections, Internet bandwidth, and campus servers have all increased. More and more students have their own laptops (72% of which are now Macs), and 98.2% have cell phones, according to IT Metrics and Trends published in a draft of the Trustee Committee on Information and Technology. Technology at CC continues to be an increasingly important factor of life for all those at the college.

One of the biggest changes made was an increased bandwidth from 100 mb/s to 250 mb/s, which will more than double capacity at specific

points. Additionally, e-mail has been upgraded following a decision not to move the email client off site.

Chad Schonewill, Director of Educational Technology Services, explained that the increase is mostly to control the flow of Internet traffic coming to or from the campus from the outside at "choke points" where all traffic goes through the same place.

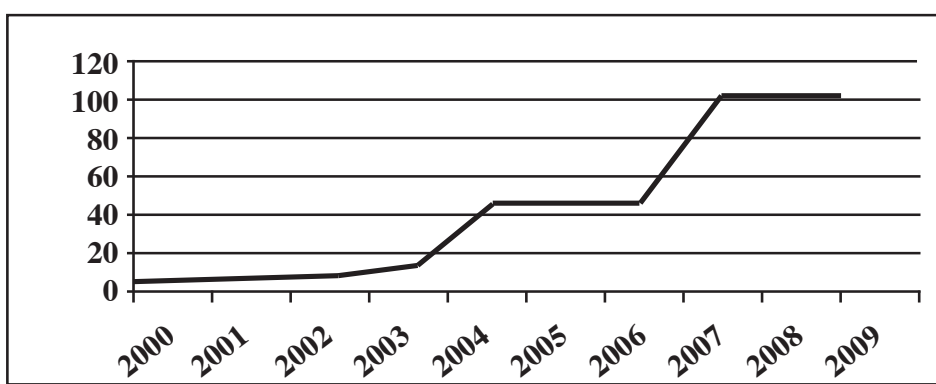
"No one can tell the difference until it's full," Schonewill said.

He further explained that the improvements are already noticeable. "We've seen it peak up but it still hasn't filled up."

revisited. She added that even with the new bandwidth upgrade, "[the system] will definitely fill up in the next two years."

Additionally, this upgrade will not solve all Internet connectivity problems. Schonewill said that the dorms will always be a difficult place to get a consistent wireless connection because of compounding factors.

"Water is the number one thing that blocks signals, and human beings are bags of water," he said. In a dorm, where you are surrounded on both sides, above and below, it's hard for the signal to get through. Add in microwaves, which interfere with the signal, and it's not surprising



The increase will cost the school an extra \$400 per month, as well as a \$110,000 upgrade cost to replace the 12-year-old internet router. Terri Akse, Director of Network and System Services, said that this was the most cost-effective method the school could find for the necessary bandwidth upgrade.

"We looked really hard at whether we wanted to get on the state-run Southern Colorado Optical Network or look at commercial vendors," she said. "The most cost-effective solution was to upgrade our current bandwidth with our current provider [TW Telecom]."

Akse said that the \$400 was a fairly reasonable price for a more-than-doubling of capacity. "The good thing about bandwidth is that as demand increases, the price per megabit decreases."

However, Akse said that the contract is only for two years, after which the issue will be

that many students have a hard time getting online in the dorms. "You're literally surrounded by things that block the signal," Schonewill said.

Akse added that rogue wireless access points have also been a problem in the dorms. These are situations where students set up their own wireless access points through an outside provider. There is nothing that the IT staff can do in these situations except request that the student take the access point down out of courtesy for their fellow students.

The best option, both Schonewill and Akse explained, is still to plug in an Ethernet cable.

The groundwork was laid this summer for another big upgrade for the CC e-mail. These upgrades will come after a two-year-long study that looked into the possibility of moving the email client off site. Randy Stiles explained that

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# News

## Students become a vital part of the Ally Program

Marta Trippe  
Guest Writer

On Sept. 25, the Office of Minority and International Students will host the first Ally workshop of the year. This event is focused on training students, faculty, and staff who want to support the LGBTQ community at CC.

According to Kristina Lizardy-Hajbi, the Interim Director of the Office of Minority and International Students, "An ally has many definitions, but it is primarily thought of as someone who is a support for members of the LGBTQ community."

Duke University's Website for the Center for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Life gives a more concrete definition, describing an ally as "a person who is supportive of LGBT people. Allies are people who work to end oppression in their personal lives through support of, and as an advocate with and for, oppressed populations."

When asked why students have been reincorporated as facilitators, Lizardy-Hajbi gave two primary reasons. Lizardy-Hajbi said, "Serving as an ally offers a great leadership and learning opportunity for all students." She continued, "It is important that students listen to other students. When an LGBTQ person sees fellow students becoming a part of his or her cause, it adds an extra boost of support."

Another one of the program's goals for this year is to expand the ally program. Instead of having just a few workshops, Lizardy-Hajbi hopes to create more detailed workshops in the future to allow current facilitators to continue their ally education.

## Student activity fee

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response was favorable from students who took the survey.

When asked about their opinion of the new student activity fee, many students were in favor of it.

"I'll admit – when the idea of the fee was first introduced, I was hesitant because I thought it just meant paying more money without having some tangible proof of benefit," said junior Leah Fugere, one of two students who sat on the budget committee. "But this isn't money that you pay in and never see again. All of the funds from the student fee go back to the students, whether it be through tickets to homecoming and hockey games or CCSGA or bringing musicians to campus or intramural sport equipment."

But other students were wary of the fee. "I feel like the activity fee was a rash decision," said junior Alexandria Song. "Even if events are free I would not go to a majority of them. They should have made the fee optional. At my high school students get to choose to pay the student fee. If they do, they get a discount to all school events. Otherwise, they don't pay the fee and only pay for the events they attend."

This year, the student fee makes money not a reason to opt out of doing something on campus. The cost of virtually all campus events and many opportunities on campus has been either reduced or eliminated entirely. And the most important thing about this student fee is that it is covered by financial aid. The fee was taken into consideration when deciding the financial aid packages for students this year.

After the budget committee unanimously approved the fee and proposed to the President, the deliberation process of who was going to get the money took place.

Although exact numbers have yet to be defined, Campus Activities received a large amount of money in order to provide free tickets to Homecoming, Winter Ball, and most likely Llamapalooza this year.

The athletic department also received a large amount of money as well. The money increased their intramural budget. Last year 1,520 students played intramurals (the average for each of the 1,520 was 2.3 sports per year), making it one of the most popular co-curricular activities. The money also increased the club sports budget. Most of the money will be used

The training takes place over the course of one day (Sept. 25 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.) and will cover a wide range of topics concerning the challenges that members of the LGBTQ community face.

Some important questions that trainers will have participants explore are "What should I do if I think someone is lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or questioning?" or "What kinds of things might a person who is lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or questioning go through when coming out?" or "How do I respond to homophobic attitudes?"

Discussion topics will range from "Hints for the Heterosexual to Approaching a LGBTQ Person" to issues concerning HIV and AIDS. Trainers will also conduct various exercises on how to rationally and safely handle certain situations, such as a verbal or physical attack on an LGBTQ person.

After completing the workshop, the new facilitators will receive a "safe zone" card that they can place on a dorm room or office door to indicate that they are a safe and supportive person to talk to about these issues.

The card that went out to Allies last year reads, in part, "This is a message to all that I am an ally. I welcome all...to approach me and know that I am committed to supporting you in every way that I can...I value you."

When asked if she believed that Colorado College has a problem with homophobia, Lizardy-Hajbi happily responded, "I believe that Colorado College has an open and welcoming environment."

If this is true, one may ask why our school needs to conduct these workshops if Colo-

for health and safety measures for the 17 club teams sponsored by the college.

"The sports budget was woefully underfunded and this money will allow us to present the sports better," said Ken Ralph, Director of Athletics. "But note that none of the student activity money fee is going to support varsity sports."

That being said, after discussing access to campus events with students, the administration decided to provide free hockey tickets. The admission fees for hockey games made it a barrier of entry for low-income students. Now, the student activity fee allows all students to attend the game free of cost.

The Center for Service and Learning also received a small portion of the student activity money. With the money provided, the center was able to make all BreakOut trips free.

"A \$45 deposit is still required to hold a spot on a BreakOut trip" said Tonita Lopez, Assistant Director in the Center for Service and Learning. "But this money will be returned if a student attends the trip."

ASB (Alternative Spring Break) trip fees will also be reduced as a result of the Student Activity money, but the actual cost will be determined as site locations are chosen. This reduction in cost will affect over 150 students who will participate in these service trips.

The Arts and Crafts department received a small amount of money as well. Last year, prices in arts and crafts classes were \$45 per class plus a materials fee, but now are only \$20 per class, which also includes the fee for materials.

"I can't believe it is only \$20; it's so cheap," said junior Emily Krakoff. "I am so jazzed and I love to be involved in artsy activities beyond pure academics."

ORC trips will also be offered for free and more information will come later on this year.

Later on this year, student organizations will be able to apply for funding from CCSGA's student activity fund, which will allow organizations to host free and exciting events on campus

"My hope is that the quality of student life increases dramatically," said Angela Cobian, CCSGA President. "This is a time where programming has the opportunity to think big and make the best of what we do on campus. Hopefully the fee will increase ownership of what happens on campus so that students feel engaged and bonded to the college."

rado College is such a supportive community. "The administration at CC takes homophobic incidents very seriously and all of our staff members, including all RA's, are trained to handle such incidents," Lizardy-Hajbi said.

However, she notes, "We still struggle with many of the same issues that other colleges around the U.S. face." One may recall a few

vandalism incidents last year in Loomis and around campus where posters advertising an event sponsored by an organization of the LGBTQ community were pulled down.

Members of the Ally program serve to put a stop to these situations, educate our college community on such issues, and support and embrace the LGBTQ community.

## LGBTQ (and A!)

Queer Queries: A little bit of LGBTQ Trivia

1. What first lady was commonly known to have a female lover?
  - a.) Lady Bird Johnson
  - b.) Eleanor Roosevelt
  - c.) Ellen Wilson
2. In June 1997, the Southern Baptist Convention boycotted which company due to "its promotion of homosexuality" and same-sex benefits?
  - a.) Nickelodeon
  - b.) Disney, Inc.
  - c.) PBS
3. Which place legalized same-sex marriage first?
  - a.) South Africa
  - b.) Norway
  - c.) Connecticut
4. What year did the American Psychological Association remove "homosexuality" from its list of disorders?
  - a.) 1982
  - b.) 1996
  - c.) 1973
5. What famous CC graduate (and political spawn) is openly queer and openly Republican?
  - a.) Mary Cheney
  - b.) Jenna Bush
  - c.) Maureen Regan

Answers:  
1.) b; 2.) b; 3.) a; 4.) c; 5.) a

Compiled by Kristina  
Lizardy-Hajbi



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# Prison to palace: Mathias transformed

## Mathias, Glass House undergo major renovations

**Kelsey Bergeson**  
Guest Writer

Over the summer, CC executed major changes to two of its living areas that promise to foster strong community building. Both the Glass House and Mathias Hall received substantial upgrades that will enable students to utilize common gathering spaces, new technology, and a refreshed atmosphere.

### Mathias Hall

Mathias has been drastically transformed. According to Justin Weis, Assistant Director for Housing Operations, the school allocated \$3.5 million to make several much-needed changes to the structure and appliances in CC's largest residential building.

"There was continual feedback from students that Mathias was dark, dingy and even maze-like," Weis recalled.

Underlying the focus of the renovations was the "21st Century Project," an initiative of the Association of College & University Housing Officers International. According to the ACUHO-I website, the goal of this project is to meet the needs of students and "reflect the ever-changing roles that residences play in the collegiate experience."

The tenets of this project are community, flexibility, innovation, technology and sustainability. Weis noted that all of the changes to Mathias were completed with an emphasis on these issues, specifically with regard to items discussed at a 21st Century Project summit held in May 2009, which included natural lighting, gathering spaces and places to study.

With these goals in mind, CC's Residential Life worked with local architecture firm Keys & Associates and general contractor G. H. Phipps to convert the labyrinth-like Mathias into a space that fits the needs of the 21st-century student.

Now, the building has been restructured so that sunlight can reach the core of the interior. Also, each room has four-foot florescent lights in addition to the smaller lights that already existed. Rooms previously used for student residences were converted into study lounges, the main desk was renovated, and the lobby was converted into a hub area.

Throughout the building, the flooring, light-

**“The best part of the changes [in Mathias] is the lighting, not only the new lights in each room, but all the natural light too. Also, the open community areas are a big improvement.”**

**Brett Bustos**

ing, and bathrooms have been improved, and each room now has a whiteboard.

"The whole building was touched," Weis said.

Weis also indicated that the renovation team placed "high priority on sustainable features," both during the construction process and with the installation of energy-efficient appliances. Whenever possible, the construction team used local, soy-based, water-based, recycled, recyclable, Greenguard Certified, or long life-cycle products. Additionally, they installed low dual flush toilets, low-flow shower heads, Energy Star appliances for the Living and Learning Community (LLC) kitchens, and efficient T8 light bulbs.

Student feedback about the changes has been overwhelmingly positive. Sophomores comment that they are happy to have chosen to return to Mathias and are even a little jealous of first-year students who get to live there immediately after such a drastic overhaul. "The best part of the changes is the lighting, not only the new lights in each room, but all the natural light too," commented sophomore Brett Bustos. "Also, the open community areas are a big improvement."

The community and study areas are proving

to be a popular place for students. Mathias RLC Bethany Grubbs reported that there is usually someone using a study space on every floor and that the study booths in the lobby are in constant demand.

In an environment with so many places to gather, students have found that it is easy to interact with their neighbors even in simple day-to-day activities in the common areas. "We do homework together," said Marley Hamrick, sophomore RA for the Gender and Sexuality LLC. "It creates a space where we can be together and really gets people out of their rooms."

The Living Learning Communities repre-

**“We do homework together. It creates a space where we can be together and really gets people out of their rooms.”**

**Marley Hamrick**

sent a large portion of the renovation project: Mathias now has four LLCs instead of one, and the existing LLC received an overhaul as well. Each LLC contains a full kitchen, flat-screen televisions that can connect to laptops or iPods, living areas, eating areas, whiteboards and chalkboard paint walls.

According to Weis, the Residential Life staff worked with the architect to allow for significant flexibility while planning the LLCs. Based on their success in meeting the needs of individuals and communities, the LLCs may be differently themed in the future. If they are successful and in high demand, they can also be expanded; three of the communities currently hold 16 beds and one holds 12. However, this one may be converted to fit 35 beds in upcoming years.

### Glass/Lennox House

The second major change to CC residential life is the addition of the Ellis U. Butler Jr. Center for Intercultural Leadership in the basement of the Glass/Lennox House. Scheduled to be complete by the end of September, this versatile space will be open for use to the entire campus. Described by Kristina Lizardy-Hajbi, Interim Director of the Office of Minority and International students, as a "place for all students, staff and faculty," this center is meant to be accessible for meetings, gathering and classes.

The new center is being constructed with funding from a donation provided by Ellis U. Butler Jr., who graduated from CC in 1940. He passed away in 2009, and in his will he left \$150,000 to the college.

Butler began donating annually in 1982 after his wife passed away. In a letter to the school, Butler explained that although he had been bitter about his experience as a student of color at the college, his wife had experienced much harsher racism in the south and had encouraged him to give back to CC.

When the school received Butler's final donation, there was some debate about how to allocate the funds. Last fall, Lizardy-Hajbi wrote a proposal for an Intercultural Leadership Center that was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Butler's legacy will live on in a space that is intended to encourage collaboration among all types of groups and individuals at CC. The addition of a Center for Intercultural Leadership invites the entire campus to participate in the community of the Glass House, deemed "a source of culturally diverse programming as well as a model of community living among students of various backgrounds, cultures and orientations," according to the CC website.

"What I am really excited about is how the house now becomes a multi-use space," Lizardy-Hajbi commented. The building will remain residential on the upper floors, but the addition of a multipurpose area open to the entire campus "brings the vision of this office and the Glass House to fruition."

The name of the space already denotes a



Photos: Paul Kohlman

Top to bottom: the new lounge downstairs in Mathias; a kitchen in one of the four new Living Learning Communities (LLCs); a view of the redone lobby.

shift toward greater diversity on campus. "It's important because it is the first space on campus to be named after a colored person," noted Lisa Ly, Program Coordinator for the

**“What I am really excited about is how the [Glass House] now becomes a multi-use space. [It] brings the vision of this office and the Glass House to fruition.”**

**Kristina Lizardy-Hajbi**

Office of Minority and International Students, who will move into an office in the space upon its completion. "I'm excited to be the first to occupy it."

In addition to office space, the area will feature a living space with couches, flat-screen TVs, tables and homework spaces, as

well as a kitchen. There will also be a study area with a library and computer area and storage for the minority and international student groups. The space will also include a smart classroom for 16 students that will hopefully be used for classes beginning Block 4.

The Ribbon Cutting ceremony and reception is scheduled for October 9 from 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. at the North Entrance of the Glass/Lennox House. This event has been scheduled during homecoming weekend, and alumni, parents, students, faculty and staff are welcome to attend.

While two of CC's residential communities underwent massive changes this summer, the college is always working to improve the residential spaces for students. Each summer, \$500,000 - \$800,000 is dedicated to upgrading living areas.

This past summer, McGregor Hall received new windows and heating, as well as a renovated basement. Montgomery Hall was adorned with a new first-floor kitchen, refurbished oak floors, and new wall treatments to brighten up the building's overall character.

McGregor, Blanca and Haskell, the French House, are scheduled to have upgrades during the summer of 2011.

# Building community one LLC at a time

Rose Curts  
Guest Writer

Interested in an International Dance Night? What about seeing Colorado Springs City Council member Jan Martin speak at CC? These are just a couple of the ideas for upcoming events from the Mathias Living Learning Communities.

The Grassroots Organizing LLC was originally the only LLC last year. However, based on surveyed student interest, staff interest and staff availability, the LLC idea was expanded to include the Gender and Sexuality LLC, the Spirit of Nonviolence LLC and the Grassroots Organizing LLC. Because of the new renovations in Mathias, the time was ripe for the expansion of the LLC program.

"I'm a strong supporter of nonviolence, and I just thought it would be really cool to live with people who think similarly to how I think," said freshman Chinmay Mungi from the Spirit of Nonviolence LLC.

Using money from the Student Activities Fund, the four LLCs plan to create projects, generally open to all students, around the campus and the Colorado Springs community. Both the Gender and Sexuality LLC and the Grassroots Organizing LLC will be splitting students up based on their interests to form projects on their own. The budget for each LLC is still in the process of being worked out.

The Global LLC (GLLC) is in the process of planning, in addition to the International Dance Night, an International Film Festival, an International Peace Day, and even a Global Summit, complete with guest speakers.

"The Global LLC is an intercultural living learning experience. It's for people who are interested in foreign languages, foreign affairs, politics," Achini Wijesinghe, the Community Advisor of the GLLC hall, explained. "...[It's for] people who want to live with those of different backgrounds. We help people improve their knowledge of intercultural relations."

Freshman Sarah Robbins agreed and said, "The reason I decided to apply to the Global LLC is because I wanted to be in a community that was similar to the ones that I had grown up in." Robbins has lived in El Salvador, Egypt and India but never the United States until now.

The Community Advisors (C.A.'s) run the LLCs, and are slightly different from a Residential Advisor (R.A.). "We are responsible to do lots of programs, so it's more of a learning experience than just disciplining students," Wijesinghe said.

"It's kind of a mix of a T.A. and an R.A.," added Marley Hamrick, the C.A. of the Gender and Sexuality LLC. "We're really focusing on community building, rather than just working the desk."

Over in Hamrick's domain the Gender and Sexuality LLC, they're accepting anyone who proves themselves interested in sexuality and how it coincides with different aspects such as

race, religion, culture and gender.

According to the C.A.'s, the most important quality an applicant can have is interest. "We're not necessarily looking for someone who has a lot of experience, but someone who is genuinely interested. People who really wanted to be part of a community and really wanted to build these friendships," Hamrick said. "For the Gender and Sexuality LLC, it can be anyone from someone who just has a gay friend to an FGS [Feminist and Gender Studies] major." Hamrick said that she welcomes all walks of life and different experiences in her LLC. The other C.A.s agreed, and said similar things of their own LLCs.

Many residents display the requisite quality. "I joined the Gender and Sexuality LLC because back in high school, in my junior year, we had something called advisement, like a homeroom," said Nate Bookout, a freshman in the Gender and Sexuality LLC. "That was where I started the Gay Straight Alliance at my school, and I really enjoyed having a home, almost, that I could go to every day that we had advisement. We could hang out and I could be around people who are interested in the same things that I'm interested in, and when I read the description of the LLCs, the GLLC sounded like a home I could go to, focused around gender and sexuality."

Likewise, at the Grassroots Organizing LLC, program coordinator Kira Pasquesi and C.A. Fransiska Donnemon (who was in the experimental GOLLC last year) were looking for a

variety of interested students.

"It was something that I didn't know much about, and I was looking for a way to get involved on campus and in the community," said Donnemon, about joining the original Grassroots Organizing LLC last year.

"This year, we wanted a diverse student group, and we wanted people who would represent different parts of CC, anyone who's interested," Donnemon said. The GOLLC puts lots of focus on taking field trips, and is currently planning a trip to a conference about ballot issues. Donnemon explained, "Our field trips are kind of spontaneous, when we hear about things students are interested in. We want to give our students the skills they can use later in their lives. The Grassroots LLC is not as project-oriented as process-oriented."

The idea for LLCs all started five years ago. The original thought was to make one LLC centered around civic engagement. It included an extended format class, two faculty members and program coordinators. As the idea evolved, the class requirement was dropped, but an optional internship was added.

The person in charge of reformatting the LLC was Kira Pasquesi, the program coordinator of the Grassroots Organizing LLC. "The purpose of the LLCs is to create intentional communities, for students to learn to live in communities, with their own kitchen and lounge. They can practice life-long learning, with a support system of like-minded students," Pasquesi said.

## Nicer network, better bandwidth

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theoretical situation, email would be hosted off site, but managed by CC staff.

The IT department had been considering a switch to Microsoft or Google, both of which host college email accounts for free. However, based on security concerns raised by the Faculty Executive Committee, Information Technology Services has chosen to remain with the current Internet provider for the time being.

Current Chair of the Faculty Executive Committee and Economics Professor Esther Redmount said that the committee was consulted last spring regarding their feelings on the switch. She explained that the committee felt like it needed more information before it could make the switch.

"Any time you do something that is very costly to reverse, you want to be very cautious," Redmount said.

A main concern of the committee was security. "Who would have access to these emails?" Redmount said these were some of the questions she wanted answered first. "Would the corporation want to look at these emails? Would the government want to look at these emails?"

A concern of both Redmount and Stiles was the possibility that the service would not stay free forever. "They were offering the initial services for free," Redmount said. However, she worried that once the school got rid of their old email client, it wouldn't be in a position to refuse an increase in fees.

Redmount said the committee was also concerned about fiscal issues. "It wasn't clear that it would be a cost savings."

However, to some others in IT the advantages seem clear enough. Many thought the switch would be a large savings to the school. Stiles explained that the "IT view" is that the switch will not save money, but will increase workload.

Shonewill added that the decision "surprised us in IT...we have spent some money to upgrade internally, but the upgrade is not as much as it would've been if we'd hosted off-site."

"I think any misgivings that faculty had about hosting e-mail off-campus were probably out of proportion with the actual risks, seeing as how both Google and Microsoft have huge well-maintained redundant banks of servers that many organizations have begun using for e-mail hosting," said Cobun Keegan, a student who works in the Keck and CAT labs on campus. "On the other hand, in the event of a major national failure of IT infrastructure, at least we'll still be able to e-mail each other on campus."

In order to bring the email client up to date now that CC is not going to switch, upgrades

were needed to improve capacity and functionality.

The mailbox limits were increased, because "the size limits were laughably small compared to what's available for free," Shonewill said.

The cost of the upgrade, according to the Information Management Notes for Senior Staff published on Sept. 9, was \$79,000 for capital equipment, \$40,000 for servers, and \$39,000 for additional storage software. Stiles added that they had to spend \$121,000 on new hardware and \$30,000 on spam filtering. "Had we moved to hosted email, we would not have paid that money," he said.

Stiles stressed that there would still be a number of security concerns around switching clients, however he does not think the issue has been finally resolved. "Personally, more and more campuses are moving to hosted email and I suspect that some time in the future we will have hosted email as well," he said.

Shonewill explained the timeline for the email upgrade. Originally, the plan was to implement the upgrade on the first day of school, but they decided to "play it safe" just in case anything went wrong.

"We didn't want it to be the first day of the first block and have 300 people's e-mails not work," he said. The plan now is to phase in the email changes over time. There will be a "batch test migration" over first block break, where some students, faculty, and staff will switch to the new system. If all goes well, the rest of the school will follow over second block break.

In addition to the upgrade to bandwidth and planned changes for email, all the major dorm labs as well as the Barnes, Palmer, and Keck labs have been renovated. There is also a pilot project in Loomis as well to test out a 24/7 lab.

Keegan explained that the new 24/7 lab in Loomis has been something students have been requesting for a long time. "One of the wishes that many people have had over the years has been a 24-hour computer lab for printing and studying. We actually got our wish this year and the Loomis lab has been completely revamped with new Macs, PC's and thin-clients (like the computers that were in there before, only functional). Everyone should be able to access the lobby of Loomis 24 hours a day now," he said.

It is a big year for renovations, and many of the computers were in bad need of replacement, according to Weston Taylor, Academic Technology Specialist for Students.

At a cost of \$800 per unit, the computers in the Barnes lab were replaced. The previous Barnes lab computers will replace the even older 7-year-old computers in the Palmer 2 Lab which had "certainly outlived their effective lifespan" according to Taylor.

Taylor explained that this process of cascading computers as they are replaced is central to his management of technological resources at CC.

"We do try to be sustainable, and we don't always request new machines." They reuse parts like screens and find uses for even the oldest computers. However, Taylor explained that the process of replacing technology at CC can be overly bureaucratic. "The process by which technology at CC gets upgraded is a little convoluted, or at least temporally long," Taylor said. A request is written and goes through committees, and if it is approved, the funds are not allocated until the end of the fiscal year.

Randy Stiles said that there are plans to assess the way technology is budgeted. An Inventory Based Budgeting study is underway to look at how CC spends money in IT. He said that in the past it has been budgeted as "end of the year money, pay what you can money." However, Stiles is interested in looking at a method more like the way CC budgets for construction, where there is a "flow of money."

Taylor expressed his frustration at trying to get CC students their "money's worth" of technology. "Even when [the old Barnes lab computers] were ordered, it wasn't as top-of-the-line as I would've liked it to be," Taylor said. There are additional concerns for teaching labs that are harder to fulfill, he explained, such as engineering the room and getting appropriate technology so that students can still see the teacher and engage in the lesson.

Another challenge to upgrading computers is student treatment of technology. Taylor explained that over the years he has had to replace countless mice torn from the computers, and keyboards that have had keys ripped off or stolen altogether. However, the computers in the major dorms, which have been "ancient" technology for some time (between seven to 10 years old), have finally been replaced with thin clients at a cost of \$400-500 each.

Thin clients have been a way for IT to get higher performance computers for less money. They use fewer components and, according to Taylor, are more sustainable. Shonewill described them as "glorified network cards" in that they have no hard drive of their own, but serve as a platform to connect to the server. "They don't break down or slow down as much and they're cheaper," Shonewill said.

The Keck lab in Armstrong was renovated to make it a more inclusive space. Sarah Withee, Academic Technology Specialist for the Humanities, conducted a study to find out what students wanted/needed out of the space. Taylor explained that "students want spaces where they feel comfortable to study in [and we wanted to build] a better space for faculty

to teach in."

There are also many other locations on campus that have received updates in technology. The Mathias renovations installed 14 new flat-screen TVs partly to enable students to work on multi-media group projects. The Lennox house received an AV system and installed a smart classroom. The Gates Common Room improved the sound and data system. 1131 North Cascade increased wireless service as part of a shift to student housing. McGregor Hall improved wired and wireless connections and renovated the data/telecom room. Music classrooms were updated to smart capacity. Armstrong Theatre's backstage and storage areas received a renovation. Olin got an upgraded sound system. As part of the first year of the \$300,000 Sherman Fairchild grant, \$100,000 worth of upgrades has been planned for Cornerstone Arts Center.

There were also new printers installed in Tutt Library to handle the heavy flow of traffic. According to Shonewill, the Tutt printers handle 75% of all print volume across the entire campus. Last year, 3 million pages were printed in Tutt Library. "Most printers are not designed to print constantly all day," he said. These newer models are designed to handle a higher volume of printing.

Finally, for students, faculty and staff who want to improve their technology skills, the Help Desk is continuing to offer workshops after limited success last year. The next workshop, coming up on Oct. 13, is entitled "Look both ways before you cross the street: how to avoid getting scammed," and is aimed at reducing the amount of phishing scams that have been occurring on campus.

Schonewill explained that "phishing" scams have become a problem at CC. An example he gave of a typical scam would be a message reading, "Your account mailbox is full. To reactivate it please enter your username and password." However, when the information is sent, the e-mail account is hijacked by hackers who send out millions of spam e-mails that cause CC to be blacklisted by other major e-mail clients. Schonewill said that new updates to CC e-mail are planned to cap the number of outgoing e-mails to a number high enough that no one would reasonably send in a day to prevent future blacklisting.

These workshops and many upgrades are part of the increasingly important IT at CC. With increasing need and demand for up to date technology, current systems of allocation and function are under review and we can expect more changes in the future with the Inventory Based Budget study to this often unnoticed, but vital part of student, faculty and staff life.

# Active Lifestyle

## Keeping it yogi: the physical & mental benefits of yoga

Bahman Batmanghelidj

Guest Writer

Walking into the room, I meet soft glances from fellow students. My mind is restless and frenzied, thinking of school, work and block one revelry. I breath in deeply, lay down my mat and vocalize on the exhale. I let the thoughts melt away and I am only here and now.

A few years ago, a sophomore friend convinced me to start attending yoga classes. Ever since, it has become an integral part of my life. For an hour or two a day, I get to slam on the brakes and reflect on my life and presence in the world.

Most people know yoga for its physical practice, known as Asana. However, there is much more to yoga. The physical postures involved in yogic practice are only one of the eight limbs of yoga's greater philosophy. Besides providing you with a chiseled body and rock hard abs, the Asanas are the stepping-stones for meditation and further self-awareness.

By controlling the body and breathing, one can come to find a stillness that enables one to become an active participant in life. I have found yoga to be an excellent tool in taking control of a life that seems to be running on autopilot.

Colorado Springs offers a variety of yoga studios to choose from. Pranava Yoga Center and Core Power yoga offer classes seven days a week for about \$89 a month for students. Each studio also offers a free week-long trial for people interested in trying out a membership.

If you're interested in something a little bit closer and cheaper, there are free yoga classes in Cossitt Hall six days a week. They meet at 7:15 a.m. Mon-Fri and 7 p.m. Mon-Thurs and Sunday. The classes are taught in a relaxed environment by Colorado College students at the end of the hall in upstairs Cossitt. Senior

Mariko Blakely is one of the instructors at Cossitt. "It's great that the school offers this service. It's a therapeutic outlet that people shouldn't have to pay for," said Blakely.

Core Power has two locations: one on the Intersection of Nevada and Monument and one on Garden of the Gods Road. They offer Hot Power Fusion, Vinyasa, and Hot Yoga. With a variety of instructors and classes of varying difficulty and focus, CorePower is time well spent for any student.

Most classes are heated, so expect to sweat a great deal. Their Vinyasa style yoga or flow yoga focuses on breath-synchronized movement. Core Power offers a faster-paced Vinyasa then Pranava and is more tailored towards those seeking aerobic fitness and strength. Also, Core Power's studio has front- and side-facing mirrors on its walls. The added benefit of seeing yourself enables you to correct your posture and stance. The drawback is that you may get caught up in what other people are doing and lose focus on your own self-awareness. Be sure and check out CC's very own Victoria Silver for a free Saturday afternoon class at Core Power.

Pranava Yoga is located on Weber between Dale and Monument. Mike and Charlotte Matsumura opened Pranava in 2009 in order to create a yoga community that did not overemphasize the physical practice. The Asanas are important but only insofar as they open up pathways to the other seven limbs of yoga.

Mike and Charlotte wanted to create a sacred space where people could practice in a spiritual and highly communal environment. They often begin class by asking all of their students to introduce themselves in order to foster respect and comfort in a friendly atmosphere.

Mike believes in the positive benefits of yoga. "Yoga is all about making you a better person, physically, spiritually and emotionally – taking care of the body in order to live as positively



Yogis stretch it out during class at Pranava Yoga.

Photo: Ben Mackall

as we can. In yoga the point of focus allows us to enhance our perception and foster a positive attitude," he said.

At Pranava, the weekend classes can become somewhat crowded. Signing up early is recommended. They recently began building a third studio room that will double Pranava's total occupancy to around 90 people.

At this year's opening convocation, Vincent Bzdek, news editor for the Washington Post, gave the keynote address. In it, he mentioned something we constantly hear: that college will be the most exciting time of our lives, but not for the reasons we usually assume. He explained that college is a period in our lives where we are primed to develop into the people we will become for the rest of our lives.

It's wild to think then that given our micro-managed time and packed schedules we are somehow solidifying into a kind of self-permanence. Its also bizarre to note that our schedule and activities seem to take on a life of their own in such a way that we become alien to ourselves, leading us to ask the question, "How did I get here?"

Practicing yoga helps me take a step back from the chaos of the block plan. It allows me to re-evaluate my behavior, relationships and the perception I have of the world around me. Yoga is only one kind of practice and might not be the kind of practice for you. Regardless, I urge anybody interested in greater physical and mental well-being to try it out a few times. Keep an open mind.

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# Underclassmen give men's soccer fresh kicks

Jenny Natelson

Active Lifestyle Editor

It was a triumphant end to the weekend after the men's varsity soccer team shut out McMurry University and Penn State-Behrend on home turf. Fans decked out in CC jerseys, bathing suits and ARC attire lined the stadium seating overlooking the field on Saturday, cheering the Tigers on as they dominated with a 2-0 win. The raucous feeling was palpable all the way

up to the Preserve, where meandering students could hear the roar of support as each goal was scored and each call was made.

The Tigers started the season in mid-August with preseason practices and scrimmages. They traveled to Oregon for the first weekend of school, and although they played aggressively, went home without a win. That would not be the case for them on their home turf. The Tigers came to the field prepared and finished with a win and a tie, adding to their shutout

home record.

Saturday proved successful for the Tigers. After an agonizing first half of several solid attempts on goal, the men left the pitch at 0-0. After the 15 minute halftime the pressure was back on. The Tigers returned to the field with the hope of a win. And that they did, solidified by freshman Andrew Salazar's first career goal assisted by junior captain Chris Lutz. Sophomore Matt Fechter finished the game with the second and final goal. Fechter scored from the top of the box off of a direct kick, the ball silkily gliding past the goalie's reach into the net behind.

The team came back on Sunday to play a tough game, finishing with a score of 0-0 against Penn State Behrend. The final shot-on-goal count was a whopping 28-12. CC's defense is solid, but after the number of missed shots-on-goal, it would seem like the forward offense needs some time to get it in gear.

Senior Andy McGhie stayed positive and gave credit where credit was due. "We've had three shutouts in a row now and our defense has really been our anchor," McGhie said. "We definitely need to work on our ability to put the ball in the goal."

Graduation left the team missing some key seniors, leaving large shoes to fill for the upcoming season. With almost 30 players and over half of them underclassmen, the team will have to get into gear quickly in order to compete with the returning vets that make up the competition. Said McGhie, "We have a good, deep freshman class. It's great that we

have some new faces that we can insert into our lineup right away."

I'm not saying the upperclassmen haven't been holding it down. The CC athletics website posted an article about senior captain Wil Nelp entitled "Where there's a Wil, there's a way". Coach Horst Richardson said in the article, "If we had 11 players like Wil on the field we wouldn't have to worry about anything." Additionally, senior goalie McGhie was named Defensive Player of the Week after his two shutouts from last weekend. So far this season, his record boasts a personal-record three consecutive shutouts during his 330 minutes of game play. He lowered his goal-against average to 0.95 and increased his saves percentage to .773. The returning juniors are ready to showcase their talents as well, filling in where the '09 seniors left off. With the team working together, anything is possible in the upcoming season. "Our mindset is that we have nothing to lose," said McGhie.

Reveling in the success of their home wins, the team looks forward to this weekend of home games against Carnegie Mellon and Wheaton College. The student body is a huge support system for the team. Energetic fans bring the level of excitement exponentially higher than if the stands were empty. Take it from McGhie, who said, "We play for the fans as much as we play for ourselves. We've traveled all over the last three years and I've never seen a place with better fans than we have here. The energy and spirit that they bring really elevates our game."



Senior Andy McGhie blocks a shot during the weekend, claiming his third shut out in a row.

Photo by Charlie Lengal

## SoCo crag chronicles: Newlin Creek

Ben Cronin

ComDeb Editor

Colorado College is chock-full of weekend warriors. Some like to do battle with river fish while others love to chuck disc. Some may go hiking to fulfill their athletic and spiritual needs, but when I venture forth into the expansive beauty of Colorado, nothing gets my goat like climbing rocks. There is a seemingly endless supply of beautiful rocks to get high on throughout Colorado, especially near CC. There's Ute Pass, Ute Valley, Garden of the Gods, Turkey Rocks, Sheep's Nose and Shelf Road, to name a few. All of these bad-ass climbing areas are within an hour or so of school. Whether you are fascinated with ropes or bouldering, you can shred rock with both rubber and chalk without burning through your wallet and gas tank.

A fascinating aspect about bouldering is the sheer number of boulders that exist in the world, and how problems are established. Whereas it can be hard to find unclimbed big

walls, countless boulders await first ascents around the world. A few years ago, Colorado College student Hayden Miller began exploring a new area south of school. Miller and his fellow climbers frequented the area and made many first ascents on boulder problems. This involves finding a line on a rock face, cleaning it, sequencing in the movement, sending it and then naming it. A few years later, Newlin Creek has become a well-established classic bouldering area with more than 60 climbs.

In my opinion, Newlin is one of the most beautiful places to boulder in Southern Colorado. It is dotted with towering pine trees and the rock is visually stunning. As you hike up the canyon to get to the boulders, you follow a little creek that flows down from the ridges above. Boulders litter both sides of the canyon as you continue your hike up trail.

Rock quality is exceptional. Geologically, the rock is about 1.8 billion-year-old granite and gneissic granite. Its crystals are finer compared to Pikes Peak granite, which tears your fingers apart. The rock is also highly featured to a

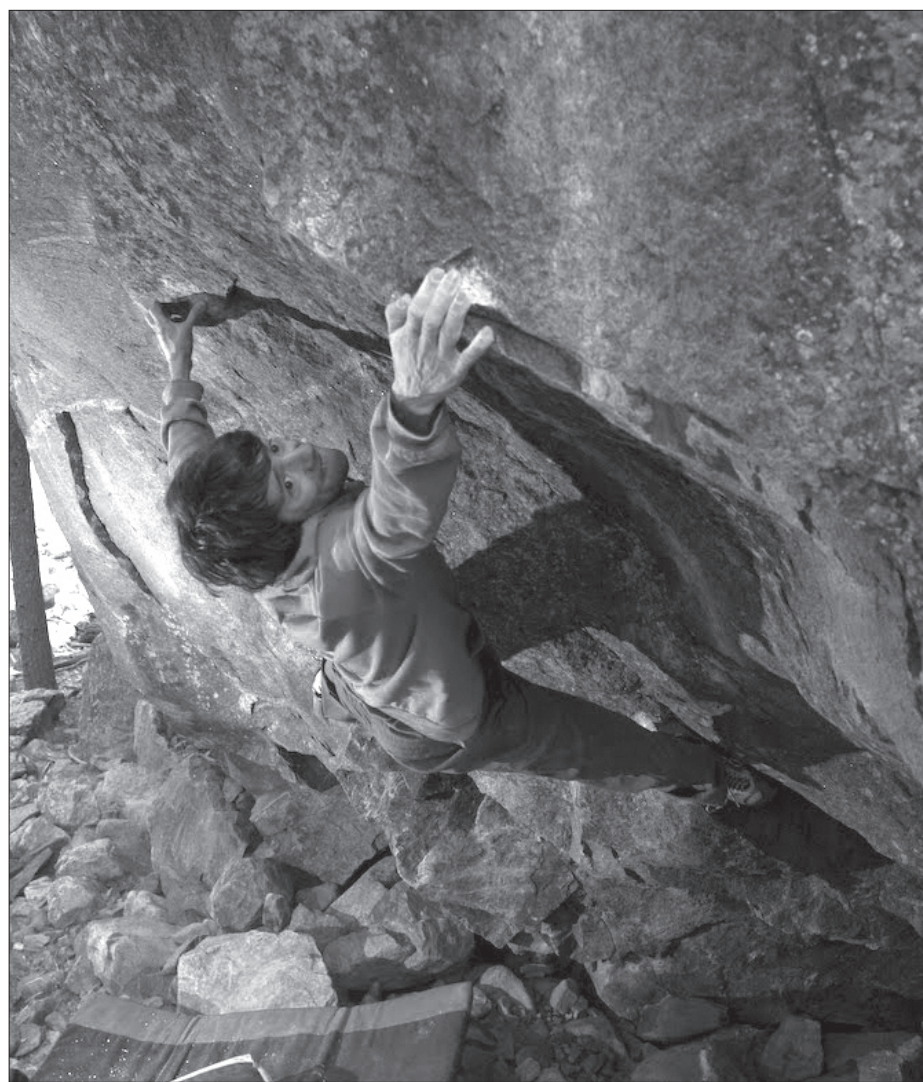
point where almost every hold has a thumb-catch to use. Perhaps my favorite aesthetic of the area is the drive out. Without fail, every time you drive out of Newlin you are guaranteed a beautiful western sunset. Brilliant hues of purple and blue paint themselves above the mountains. It is truly proof that the beauty of Colorado can be excessive.

As far as climbs go, Newlin ranges from V0-V12. However, although there are plenty of warm-up blocks and mid-range boulder problems, Newlin is known more for its moderates and its harder problems. It is divided up into a few different areas such as the Wall of Despair, the Nickness and the New New Sector. Although each area contains a few different blocks and many different climbs, there are plenty of boulders scattered throughout the canyon. There are some true classics here, including one of best V5s in Colorado. "Pineapple Express" is a beautiful line that climbs from under a roof with good holds up to a dynamic crux – a large throw to a good crimp. Most climbs can be found trailside, but other areas require some searching.

Newlin was once an area kept under wraps by locals, but slowly word has spread throughout the climbing community. Sept. 18 marks a big day for the crag. The Forest Service and the

Access Fund are organizing an official Adopt-a-Crag Day for Newlin Creek. Due to a larger density of climbers in the area, both services will be meeting with the climbing community at the trailhead in order to clean the trails, clear debris, and construct better landings for rock climbs. This is a unique opportunity for climbers to give back to an area that has become a mainstay of Southern Colorado Climbing. Climbers will be provided with the proper tools to ensure that they can safely navigate the crag and cut back on erosion. For those interested, the Access Fund and the Forest Service will be meeting at the trailhead at 9 a.m. If you have been to Newlin before or are a veteran of the crag, please come down and help to maintain a beautiful Colorado climbing area!

Newlin Creek is about an hour south of school. Throw crash pads in the car, get out the jock jams and cruise down Nevada to 115. Stay south on 115 until you arrive in Florence, Colorado. Follow the road as it curves west and turn left as you approach the Carl's Junior. Mob down this road a little past a large prison until you see a turnoff for Newlin Creek. Follow a dirt road, staying right at most of the forks until you arrive at the bottom of a hiking trail. Take a much-needed piss and breathe in the cool air of the Wet Mountains.



Left: Ben Spannuth attempting to sequence a V12 boulder problem. Hayden Miller working a project frozen waterfall.

Photos: Hayden Miller, Ben Cronin

# Comment & Debate

## Ken Buck: Too extreme for Colorado. Or anywhere.

Ben Quam  
Featured Columnist

Ken Buck, the Republican candidate for U.S. Senate in Colorado, is too extreme to hold any position of serious power, let alone to be one of 100 in America's 'greatest deliberative body.' By extreme I mean he is a right-wing zealot, someone who has aligned himself with a tiny percentage of American public opinion to energize the Tea Party. He has demonstrated that he would be a walking disaster for Colorado both in his previous actions and in his policy positions. On Election Day this November, Coloradans and CC students will decide to vote for either Buck or his Democratic opponent Michael Bennett. I would urge every CC student to make sure Ken Buck is not our representative.

Even a brief overview of Buck's positions on important issues shows that he is against many of the cornerstone achievements of the 20th century. Buck has said about social security, (legislation passed in the 1930s that single-handedly keeps seniors out of poverty), "I don't know whether it's constitutional or not; it is certainly a horrible policy." Buck thinks the Department of Education, established in 1980, should be eliminated. Abortion has been legal in America since 1973 but Buck favors anti-choice policies even for victims of rape or incest. The 17th Amendment to the constitution was ratified in 1913 and began the direct election of senators. Previously senators had been elected by state houses, a system fraught with corruption. Buck has been seen on camera saying he supports eliminating the amendment, though now, apparently, he says he doesn't. Separation between church and state was

established in 1788 but the Colorado Statesman reported that Buck, at the Colorado Christian University Forum, "emphasized his conservative values, expressing his opposition to the principle of separating church and state."

Perhaps most directly pertinent to CC students, Buck is recorded, on record, saying he opposes federal student loans. That's right, no ambiguity there. Specifically, he said, "Over time, we have to

**"I'm not saying that Buck things desegregation was bad, but his views on education belie an utter lack of understanding about what our education system is..."**

wean the American public off [student loans]." Ken Buck would like to wean you off any federal student loans you might have, as if paying for a college education (especially CC) is easy these days. But that's to be expected from Buck, who has a view of education that is bizarre to say the least. While addressing a college Republicans group Buck said, "In the 1950s, we had the best schools in the world, and the U.S. government decided to get more involved in federal education... Well, since we've made education worse." In 1957 less than 50% of white children and less than 20% of black children graduated high school. Now it is up to 90% and 80% respectively. Obviously, Buck is ignoring the single biggest example of federal intervention in schools: deseg-

regation. Now I'm not saying that Buck thinks desegregation was bad, but his views on education belie an utter lack of understanding about what our education system is or where it's been. Needless to say, given that Buck believes our schools were best in the 1950s, when, again, under half of white Americans, and under one in five black Americans graduated high school, you can count on him to set the bar high.

In his previous job as the Weld County district attorney, Buck became convinced that illegal immigrants were stealing social security numbers from Amalia's Translation and Tax Service in Greeley. Buck's office executed a raid on the facility, seizing over 5,000 files. The ACLU sued, claiming that Buck had violated the privacy of the company's clients. When the district judge ruled against Buck, he took it to the Supreme Court, spending \$150,000 of county money. The Supreme Court ruled the raid unconstitutional, leaving Weld County out the money and a local business unnecessarily inconvenienced. This is the type of practical attitude you can expect Buck to take to the U.S. Senate.

The election this year is as important as ever. If we are going to stop extremists like Buck from getting into Congress for the next six years, every CC student needs to vote. Buck represents a strain of the Republican Party that would like to repeal, eliminate, or "wean the nation off" of almost every major program of the last 100 years. He has demonstrated this in his campaign and he demonstrated it in the past with work as a county attorney. Ken Buck is unfit for office. At CC, let's do our part to make sure that he doesn't get the chance.



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### Corrections from the previous issue:

"First block survival guide", in its entirety, is reprinted in this issue's Features section.

Elena Ketelson wrote "Rock en Seine" and Ben Cronin wrote "Chi city festival reaches fever "Pitch"; the text of the articles was switched.

Andrew Parks is the author of "Pbish concert phunks up Telluride".

## THE CATALYST

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# A letter to the management

## One student's Local Goods complaints; another's response

Dear Management,

Your student workers at the C-Store are consistently the rudest and most unfriendly staff on campus. Marie and another woman of color (I apologize for making this distinction, I just don't know her name), rarely say hello to people entering the store, have visibly present attitudes and often won't say a single word as you are checking out, "Nothing," not "did you find everything?" not "your total is \$6" not "have a nice day." They simply swipe your items, swipe your card and go about their business in the most impersonal way I've seen of any staff at CC.

This has been a problem since last school year and I would hate to deal with it for the rest of this one. Please, find some new workers or get this straightened out or I'll consider going elsewhere for chips, burritos and solo cups. On a positive note, there is another woman, possibly a Latina student (?) who is always pleasant, helpful, and personable. I'd love to see more people like that when I go to purchase my morning tea or late night energy drink.

Thanks!  
A nice, but fed up resident.

Dear Management,

Your student workers at the C-Store are consistently the rudest and most unfriendly staff on campus. Marie and another woman of color (I apologize for making this distinction, I just don't know her name), rarely say hello to people entering the store, have visibly present attitudes and often won't say a single word as you are checking out. Nothing, not "Did you find everything?" not "Your total is six dollars," not "Have a nice day." They simply swipe your items, swipe your card and go about their business in the most impersonal way

I've seen of any staff at CC.

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Thanks,

A nice, but fed up resident.

Dear "A nice, but fed up resident,"

I am truly troubled by the fact that you have had to face such horrible experiences at Local Goods (known formerly as the C-Store).

Having said this, I am pleased to hear that you are aware of the fact that I am indeed a CC student. With this knowledge should also come the understanding that like you, I too have papers to write and study sessions to attend. I'm assuming that this knowledge was not enough for you to sympathize. Instead, you demanded that my manager find "new workers." Along with scanning your items and swiping your card, I must also be aware of the other students who are shopping in the store. While some students are responsible, there are often those who are intoxicated to the point that they are breaking things and throwing up. We should not forget the overwhelming amount of students who steal — (this should address the frequently asked question, "Why are things so expensive in here?"). In the span of one of my shifts, an average of 300 students enter the store, and of those 300, at least 45% of the students fail to realize that it is rude to throw their cards or their money at me, as opposed to handing it to me. These are all things that student workers at Local Goods

endure. "A nice, but fed up student," I am sure that you would love nothing more than for me to sing your praises while you shop in the store. However, that is impossible. On the other hand, I apologize for my failure to ask, "Did you find everything?" in a store that is 30 X 30. I apologize for my failure to inform you that "your total is \$6," although it states just that on the screen which faces you. But most importantly, I apologize for my failure to tell you to "have a nice day." I was unaware that these failures of mine weighed so heavily on you.

Sincerely,  
Marie Blanc

P.S. Seeing as how you have been coming to Local Goods for over a year and have encountered the same faces for over a year, I imagine that you would take the time to glance at the name tags of these faces; doing so would allow you to avoid referring us as "another woman of color" and a "Latina student (?)."

*The letter on the left was posted on the door of Local Goods last week. The letter on the right is a response from Marie Blanc, a student who works at Local Goods.*

# First block calendar: Exploring senior-freshman dynamics

Lily Turner

Guest Writer

It's that time of year again. Classes begin, freshmen flood the campus and the senior party calendar is wiped clean and writ anew. To some, the senior calendar is the golden ticket. To others, it is a complete joke. As I began to receive e-mails about the calendar at the end of my junior year, I thought to myself, "Do I want to pay for a keg that will almost guarantee that I lose my deposit on my apartment? Do I want a permanent film of beer on every surface of my house?" After much deliberation, I passed on putting my address on the calendar. That is not to say, however, that I don't appreciate those who do. At this time of year many seniors bravely open their houses (and taps) to alcohol-fueled, hormonal 18-22 year olds and ask nothing in return. This posits many questions. First and foremost, why?

I have a brother who is a freshman at the University of Michigan so I asked him about it. He seemed bewildered that freshmen would want to go to a party with a bunch of seniors that they don't know. At first I was confused, but then I remembered that he goes to a school with over 60 fraternities and sororities whereas we have— well, let's be honest, we don't have a Greek life. As a result, the burden of partying falls upon the shoulders of the seniors.

To further ponder this question let's take a step back in time. Many of us have blocked this out of our memories, or, more likely blacked it out, but think back to your freshman year. It's the first week. You only know your hallmates, your fellow NSO tripees and whomever we sloppily met at the video dance party. Suddenly the halls are abuzz with chatter. You run

outside your dorm room and it's chaos. Slutty pirates have been let loose and no, they do not sup on grog, but brazenly knock back pulls of Skol straight from the bottle. You quickly pose for a picture with your hall (Facebook profile pic!) and run to the party as a force of freshmen to be reckoned with. Fast-forward a few nights. Instead of party-goers decked out in team jerseys and trucker hats greeting you, the initials L.A. are scrawled across their fronts. Once again, the Skol is flowing. The Pirate party? I never felt feistier. Rep' your hood? Apparently it wasn't politically correct, but I never felt more proud yelling "DETROIT WHAT!" in people's faces, even if I am from the 'burbs. In fact, I even had some friends who managed to swipe the senior calendar off some seniors' fridge, an act that was undoubtedly met with praise and admiration. As freshmen, we were a pack of alcoholic locusts. We came, we drank and we were kicked out.

But the question remains, knowing what kind of havoc a swarm of Skol-thirsty freshmen can wreak, why invite them to your home? Andrew Parks, Sam Goldman and Mark Hammes, all seniors this year, agree that it's about passing the torch. "We partied at seniors' houses our freshman year, and we pay that debt back by buying kegs now," said Andrew. Mark and Sam agreed, but Sam also believes that "there has to be a mutual level of respect. Yes, we want you to have fun and yes, we did party at seniors' houses, but we left when they told us to. If a senior says it's time for you to go, then you gotta get out. Sometimes the seniors just want to party with their class and you have to respect that too." Liz Toner agreed and said, "Well, it's hard to be frustrated by their antics because I know I did the same things as a freshman, but

sometimes I get mad when I am at my friends' houses who are throwing parties and some of the freshmen don't seem to recognize that they are at someone's house. There needs to be a certain amount of respect for the host, and appreciation that they are throwing a party in the first place... They're letting a bunch of strangers into their home, ya know?"

Recently I was at a party with no keg and I heard a passing remark: "This party sucks, there isn't even any alcohol here!" At another party I was called a bitch because someone ran into my drink and it spilled on her. It's these kind of occurrences that make me think that there is some truth to the words of two tall, semi-lazy, anonymous senior boys when they say, "If freshmen are allowed, so should BB guns." I kid, obviously. We don't want to shoot you. Most of the time. But there is a level of mutual respect that needs to be attained if freshmen want to go to senior parties without being kicked out upon entrance.

I put this theory to the test recently while prowling for swipes outside of Rastall, a fine dining establishment. I begged, pleaded and batted my eyelashes but to no avail. One freshman told me that if he were on "meal plan B" he would "totally swipe me" but as he was only on "meal plan C" he "just like, totally couldn't." While I have no idea what language he was speaking, I understood by his head shake and eye avoidance that he wasn't going to help feed me — a sad, starving senior. Then, I had an epiphany. The word "keg" flashed across my retinas and I had my meal ticket. "Listen," I reasoned with a freshman girl, "you come out to the senior parties; you find a keg there. Now I'm not saying that you're drinking underage, but that keg just happens to be gone at the end

of the night. The next day, I, as a charitable senior, come to Rastall and just want one measly meal. Is that really so much to ask?" She and I both knew that my logic was infallible, and after a quick chat with Yun, I was feasting on the best garden burger loaf that I had ever tasted. (Something like this brings into question the nature of senior-freshman dynamics. At the end of the day who is getting the better deal—the festive freshman or the satiated senior? Is an occasional meal enough to make it alright to drop money on a keg?) It's a give and take, and at the end of the day you have to ask yourself: is a swipe at Rastall worth throwing down money on a keg and having your house trashed, all in the name of tradition?

The freshman-senior power dynamic, and the question of where to draw the line will always exist. Is the senior calendar necessary to a CC social life or simply an excuse for seniors to strut and the freshmen to run wild? Open this graph with something like: Seniors, Freshmen and everyone in between. Where do we draw the line of senior power dynamics— is the senior calendar something that adds positively to the social lives of younger people, or is it an excuse to flex? Either way, moral of the story, as always, is respect. With the turning of a new year we want you all to have a great time. Come to the parties. Engage in activities that I can't condone in writing. But keep in mind that you are in someone's house and that you will have to look back on your actions in three years with perhaps a bit of embarrassment. And when a senior comes up to you, begging for one measly swipe off of your Gold Card, think about swiping them in. Because if nothing else with any luck, someday you will be that senior.



# Features

## Ron Smith: the man behind the mustache

Carola Lovering

Guest Writer

PROFILE OF THE WEEK

“Spring is in the air with the flowers and trees budding out. Also, budding out during this time of year are the weirdos that hang around the Monument Creek Path.”

This is one of many amusing quotes that Colorado College students may receive in their e-mail inbox every few days. The man behind these quirky and creative messages is Ron Smith, Director of Campus Safety at Colorado College, and someone who many of us might take for granted as we sleep safely and soundly in our beds at night.

I am flustered when I walk into Ron’s office several minutes late, so I fail to look around before sitting down in a chair opposite the friendly man with the handlebar mustache. After asking about his past, I turn to the rest of the questions I’ve prepared for our interview. Beginning with the one I’m most curious about, I ask what he does with all the “paraphernalia” he confiscates from student dorm rooms.

Sympathetic to my obliviousness, he calmly gestures to my left. I turn and am astonished to see a collection of over 100 smoking devices on the bookshelf next to me. There are contraptions of every shape,

color, and style you can imagine—and that’s not all. Ron only keeps the “unique ones”. Those that don’t make the cut he destroys with a hammer during the summer. When asked what he does with the devices he saves, Ron replies, “sooner or later they may get destroyed.”

Students do ask for their confiscated items back. Ron admits that he once returned a bong to a graduating student who claimed it was a sentimental item passed down from her mother.

Born and raised in Hudson, WI, Ron graduated high school in 1970. Shortly thereafter, he



Ron Smith watches vigilantly from his campus safety vehicle. Photo: Josh Raab

received an unfortunately low draft number. In order to avoid being sent to Vietnam, Ron decided to join the Air Force. He was eventually stationed at the Air Force Academy and retired in the Springs after 20 years with the military.

At the time, his wife was working as a cashier

in the CC business office. In 1991 Ron applied for the college’s open position of Security Officer. He initially thought it would serve as a temporary job until he figured out his next step. Yet, Ron found himself on the right career path at a job he loved. In 1993 he took over as Chief of Security, a position now titled Director of Campus Safety.

Ron’s responsibilities extend well beyond bong and pipe confiscation. He is in charge of the department of 18 officers and dispatchers that work to make Colorado College a safe

out of their dorms at night to the occasional intoxicated partygoer who can’t seem to locate Safe Ride.

His strangest task? Taking care of a student’s pet hamster over Christmas break.

The student had accidentally left the hamster in her dorm room and called Ron in tears. He kindly offered to feed the animal every day over vacation.

And, of course, Ron is also in charge of sending out mass e-mails to the CC community regarding everything from local crime reports to basic safety reminders. In order to get more people to read his e-mails, he comes up with funny, eccentric ways to relay his messages. One of his latest e-mails was about the importance of locking up one’s possessions, which he wrote as a spoof on Wheel of Fortune.

Ron claims that less people read his e-mails if they’re boring. He tries to make them especially interesting in the beginning on the year in order to catch the attention of new students.

So what’s next for Ron Smith? Sadly for us, he plans to retire in 2012. He intends to do things he hasn’t had time for, such as coach for the Special Olympics and restore his new ‘68 Ford Torino—a tribute to the first car he ever owned. Ron and his wife plan to move back to a small town, perhaps a place similar to Hudson, WI. They are excited to have time to relax and visit their 36-year-old daughter. “I’m not old enough to be a grandfather yet,” Ron said.

A man with a sense of humor and a gentle, yet stalwart presence, Ron Smith will undoubtedly be missed by all when he moves on from CC. But he’s still here for the next couple of years, so stop by sometime and say hello to the man who does so much for our campus community. In any case, the massive bong collection is a must-see.

## The first block survival guide

Ben Cronin

Com Deb Editor

Students who have made it past their first year can recognize some striking parallels between Blocks 1 & 8. The first of these similarities is the exquisitely beautiful Colorado weather. We are all able-bodied, free-minded students here, right? The block plan predicated a high level of outdoor activity, and when class is over we can sprint towards the mountains—or Yampa—and run free. Another similarity between the first and last block is the level of alcohol consumption that goes on, because hey—what better to top off a day filled with academia and mountain-exploring than an ice-cold beer? There are several ways to make sure that we can balance these activities: first we must learn how to get drunk when we want (and/or need) to, and secondly we need to know how to sober up. Strap on your boots, let’s get after it.

### Getting Booze When You Need It

1. Jack Quinn’s, located at 21 S. Tejon, has a running deal every Wednesday on Bombs and Wings. For \$4, a waitress will bring you a shot of Bailey’s Irish Cream dropped into a half glass of Irish Stout. It’ll also buy you a relatively large plate of chicken wings. Wednesday is a grueling day, and with so many rowdy events scheduled for first block weekends, an Irish Car Bomb may be just what the doctor ordered. Just make sure that if you attend this boisterous affair, you wake up in time for class. Deals on bombs and wings starts at 10 p.m.

2. Hunan Springs, located at 24 E. Kiowa St, is your archetypal, grimy Chinese food. MSG hangs in the air like dust; it is not the kind of fine Chinese cuisine that leaves your stomach feeling settled. To their credit, Hunan Springs must be the quirkiest Chinese restaurant I have ever been to. Their dishes range from “Spicy” to “Super Spicy,” and, if you are daring enough, “Super Super Spicy.” They even have Spiderman

placemats. And they sell booze! Their mixed drinks are stiff, cheap, and big. What more could you want from cheap Chinese? Best of all, they are now on the Gold Card.

3. Old Chicago, located at 118 N. Tejon, is a chain that most of us are familiar with. They are student-friendly and have many deals on beer and food. However, they are the only chain in the area with \$2 Tuesdays. Every single beer that they have on draft (a selection of 30!) is \$2. That means that getting drunk can be accomplished for something to the tune of 10 bucks. To supplement the high intoxication level, their appetizer menu pizzas are also only \$2. You can also prepare your liver to do battle with bombs at Quinn’s the following evening. \$2 Tuesdays start at 6 p.m.

4. Phantom Canyon, located at 2 E. Pikes Peak Ave., boasts a roomy billiard hall separate from the restaurant. In terms of deals on booze, they have some sort of price break almost every night of the week, including a happy hour every day from 3-6 p.m. and 10 p.m.-close Sunday through Thursdays. There is free pool every Tuesday night. However, their best deal is College Night on Wednesdays, where happy hour lasts from 6 p.m. until close. \$9 Pitchers, \$2.50 pints...how could you go wrong?

5.

Tall boys on the porch  
Inhaling cold mountain air  
half-drunk, we write poems.

It would be a crime to not discuss the best activity to share with friends on a 1st block afternoon: consuming tall boys. Weber Liquor, my liquor store of choice, has a wide selection of tall boys to choose from. For \$1.40, you can get a cold 24 oz. alcoholic beverage to enjoy on a warm afternoon in the sun. However, as far as alcohol content goes, the best deal at Weber Street Liquor is Crazy Stallion Malt Liquor. For \$1.25, you can indulge in a stylishly decorated can of malt liquor, with a 6% ABV. Take it from me—there is nothing better than enjoying

the sun and drinking tall boys, preferably on a porch (or Yampa).

### Getting Sober When You Need To

I should preface this selection of restaurants by saying that Colorado Springs is not great in terms of finding good food for cheap. After 10 p.m., most restaurants close, leaving only two or three options for late night food. My advice if you want great food all of the time for cheap? Transfer to CU Boulder, and God help your soul.

1. The Omelette Parlor, located at 900 E. Fillmore Street, is an ideal reintroduction to the world on a weekend morning. When you are not feeling like a human, load up on bottomless coffee and all sorts of exquisitely greasy food. For \$7.50, get the CC Special: French Toast, Pancakes or Waffles, accompanied by a choice of 2 eggs and a breakfast meat. My personal favorite? The Antlers’ Roast. Scrambled eggs, onions, bell peppers, and green pork chili wrapped in a warm tortilla and topped with cheese, for \$6.50. Yum.

2. Taco Express, located at 1455 S. Nevada Ave, is a black hole in the memories of most people who eat there. It is at least a 30-minute trek (round trip) for drive-thru Mexican food. Open 24 hours, Taco Express is far superior to its rival Taco Star. Its menu has close to 100 items on it, and everything is completely customizable. The prices never seem fixed, but you can drive away with a huge burrito for under five bucks. Definitely try the horchata – it is worth the 2 dollars. My go-to burrito: chicken, guacamole, and salsa with refried beans. Just make sure you have a sober driver.

3. Poor Richards, located at 320-4 N. Tejon, is not the kind of place to go when you are super drunk. It is also not as cheap as other Springs dining, but the food quality is much better. It is also another one of those places that has switched to the Gold Card, and spending your parents’ money covertly is always a plus. They serve beer and wine, delicious pizza,

and various sandwiches. Plus, their wait staff is cute. If you are looking for a place to study a bit while winding down from your wild weekend, I can think of no better place.

4. Smiley’s Bakery and Café, located at 323 N. Tejon, is another one of those delicious breakfast places, but steers away from the clutches of starch and grease to help you through the morning. Their pastries and baked goods speak for themselves, and their entrees are equally delicious. Giant breakfast sandwiches are made with house-baked bread and might include breakfast meat, avocado, spinach and eggs. All of their food is extremely tasty and you can fill up for under \$10. The delicious meals make up for the weak coffee.

5. Sunday Brunch. This last spot is reserved for good ol’ fashion home-cookin’. There is honestly nothing better than grabbing some beer, some eggs and whatever else your hung-over self desires than cooking with friends, listening to good music and gorging yourself on delicious breakfast food.

“Chas” says...

My coffee cart  
is open in the evenings  
from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m.



Tutt Library Tips

# A CC student's unique experience in Syria



CC seniors Graham Derry, Chandler Griffin and Matt Henderson stand atop Jebel Kassioun, the mountain overlooking Damascus, with their friends Nidal and Mae. Photos: Chandler Griffin

## Chandler Griffin

Guest Writer

### The Special Moments

On a hot afternoon in late May, I found myself wandering the narrow back alleys in the Old City of Aleppo, Syria. In the fourteenth century market (*souq* in Arabic), I walked past an endless string of merchants peddling everything from hand-made scarves to whole, butchered cows.

After squeezing past throngs of Syrians doing their daily shopping in the *souq*, I came across what appeared to be a mosque. I had been in the Middle East for hardly a month, but had already visited an innumerable amount of mosques. This one was probably no different. But because mosques are renowned as nice places to lie down and catch a couple Z's, I decided to give it a look.

As I approached the entrance, a traditional man wearing a headdress and robe came walking toward me. I began asking him—in Arabic—if the building was a mosque, when it was built, and by whom. After talking for a minute, he revealed that he was the Imam (religious leader) of the mosque. During the many years he had worked there, a Western foreigner had never approached him.

He was surprised by my use of Arabic, my curiosity, and my knowledge of Islam. He was proud to show me that he had a beginner's grasp of English, and insisted upon taking me on a tour of the mosque. After being served tea, the hospitable custom of the region, we read through a passage of the Quran together.

He immediately wanted to know if I was a Muslim. After explaining that I had been raised a Christian, the Imam's open mindedness and hospitality towards me only increased. We launched into a long discussion on religion concerning the differences between God in Islam and Christianity. Our discussion ended with us agreeing that we were both "brothers in humanity" (his words), and that mutual understanding was the most important thing we could seek.

Experiences like my conversation with the Imam are what I will cherish most about the time I spent in the Middle East. My ability to speak Arabic and my knowledge of regional politics or Islam occasionally came together to allow me to experience the Middle East in a unique way.

Such moments made me feel that I was living life in the Middle East to the full potential. I was interacting with my environment and the people in a way that a Westerner on a guided bus tour could not imagine. These special moments were validation for my adventure and proved to me that my unique study abroad experience had turned out to be a perfect fit for me.

### The Not-So-Smooth Setup

I began planning my trip to the Middle East in the spring of my sophomore year. After numerous meetings with Heather Browne (Study Abroad Coordinator) and Charlotte Blessing (International Programs Coordinator), I was made aware of the obstacles I would have to overcome to study abroad in the Middle East.

As a student on financial aid, the transfer of scholarship money was a main concern. I learned that financial aid money can only transfer to CC affiliated programs—those directly related to the College, taught by CC Professors, with a CC approved curriculum. It was incredibly disheartening for me to find that CC did not sponsor any affiliated programs in the Middle East. There was one approved

program in Jordan. However, because financial aid would not transfer, it wasn't an option. At this point I felt stuck and somewhat hopeless in my pursuit, but I soon discovered other possibilities.

While enrolled in my beginning blocks of Arabic, a CC student named Chris Robinson talked to our class about his experience studying Arabic in Damascus, Syria. The stories that he told opened my mind to an incredible world that sounded so wildly different from anything I had ever known, and I could not help but be amazed.

With Robinson's trip in mind, I petitioned to the college to grant me credit for studying Arabic at the University of Damascus. My petition was denied because I could not prove that the Arabic language school at the University of Damascus was up to snuff and because of State Department travel advisory warnings for Syria. Once again I found myself up against a wall

and Syria. Due to Syria's alliance with Iran and their support of Hezbollah, the United States has imposed sanctions on Syria. Relations have been strained for many years.

Additionally, Syria has technically been at war with Israel since 1967, when Israel captured the Golan Heights. The United States' continued support of Israel is what strains relations with Syria the most.

As a result of these tensions, the U.S. does not have an official ambassador in the country. This can pose difficulties for travelers. The Syrian border officials, in a show of power and intimidation, make Americans wait between three and 12 hours before stamping their passports.

Thus, it came as no surprise when it took eight hours and some questioning by a mustachioed and overweight five-star Syrian general before I was able to acquire the fabled Syrian travel visa. Syria has been ruled by one of the longest continuous dictatorships in the



The *souq* in Aleppo's Old City bustles with shoppers.

and wondering if all the effort was worth it.

A discussion with Dean Ginger Morgan was what led me to discover the plan that worked out so well in the end. In the winter of my junior year, I finally organized the trip. I decided to take off block 7 and enroll in an independent study for block 8, sponsored by history professor Jane Murphy. In conjunction with the independent study, I designed and received a Venture Grant to help pay for travel costs. After finishing up Peter Wright's 6th block course on Islam, I was finally ready to go.

### The Trip

Following a sunny Spring Break in Colorado, I flew to Istanbul, Turkey from Denver. I had my first of many couch surfing experiences in Istanbul, where I stayed with a Turkish college student named Onur. The campus at Bogazici University was beautiful and had amazing views of the Bosphorous Strait—the strip of water that separates Europe and Asia. Onur and his friends appropriately called these scenic lookouts "the drinking spots." Whizzing past an Ottoman castle on Onur's moped, a cup of Turkish tea in hand, I realized just how sick the trip would be.

I traveled through central Turkey, stopping by the magical land of Cappadokia before finally reaching the border between Turkey

and is well-known for utilizing massive amounts of secret police in order to impose fear upon the population. Friends of mine had encounters with the *Mukhabarat*, and I often felt like I was being followed. However, because secret police are everywhere, crime is basically nonexistent and the streets are very safe.

Upon arrival in Damascus, I moved into the apartment of CC students Graham Derry and Matt Henderson. They were living in Mukhayem Yarmouk, the largest Palestinian refugee camp in Syria. Each of us, with our differing levels of preparation, knowledge, bravery, and Arabic skills, had a great time sharing perspectives and anecdotes about living in the Mid-East.

I began studying Arabic with a private tutor named Yosra, a head-scarf-wearing woman of about 30 who lived in the neighborhood. At the first lesson in her apartment, she warned me that if anyone asked me why I was visiting the apartment I should say I was friends with her brother who also lived there. Throughout our many lessons, she never forgot to dawn her *hijab* (head scarf) and overcoat and offer me tea or snacks. In accordance with cultural norms, we never shook hands.

Yosra was a very keen businesswoman with

## Chandler's Guide to the Middle East

- Swim on the Mediterranean coast of Syria and explore the limestone caves on the beach.
- March through the gate of the Krak de Chevalier in Syria, the most well-preserved Crusader castle in the world.
- Wander the passageways of the Old City in Aleppo and explore the oldest covered market in the world.
- Play beer pong wearing a traditional robe on a rooftop terrace with Palestinians, Syrians, German girls, Harvard grads, random old guys, Syrian ballet dancers, and other wanderers.
- Visit the wall that separates the West Bank from Jerusalem where political graffiti and artwork stretches on for miles. Famous graffiti artist Banksy is a featured contributor...
- Visit the Western Wall in Jerusalem on the Jewish holiday Shabbat when thousands congregate at Judaism's most holy site.
- Party on Germezzah Street in the party capital of the Middle East: Beirut, Lebanon. Then take a late night walk to the bombed out Holiday Inn that remains standing as an ominous reminder of the recent civil wars in Lebanon.
- Talk to Hezbollah members in the Hezbollah stronghold town of Baalbek, Lebanon. If you buy souvenirs, don't try to mail them back to the U.S.
- In Jordan, visit the ruins of Petra and remain inside the park until sunset even if they tell you to leave at 6 pm. Chill with the Bedouins because they are the true party animals of the Middle East.
- Go to the Whirling Dirvish performance in Cairo where men spin around in a trance for literally an hour to some really killer live tunes.

many clients who had found a way to earn money in an economy that employs women at one of the lowest rates in the world. My experience with Yosra was one of many reminders of the severe lack of gender equality in the Middle East.

Some argue that the difference in gender equality values is purely cultural; that because women are in charge of the domestic sphere and are the moral bearers of the society, they are not inferior to men. However, what I witnessed in Syria was far from gender equality.

During my entire time there, I saw only a handful of women who were employed. In many of the other countries I traveled to the situation was painfully similar.

The good times that I had living with Graham and Matt in Damascus were some of the most memorable times of my life. Standing on our apartment's rooftop deck at sunset, we listened to the *muezzin* belt out the call to prayer across the city, just as they have been doing for over 1000 years.

We would frequently ride the crowded minibuses that cross the dense metropolis into the Old City, which dates back over 3000 years. The mountain ("hill" to Coloradans) overlooking Damascus was where Cain allegedly slew his brother Abel. Damascus was also a stop on the path of the Prophet Mohammed. Many argue that Damascus is the longest-inhabited city in the world.

I also found that Damascus offered the most authentic Arab culture, best food, and friendliest people of anywhere I traveled in the Middle East. Though relations between the U.S. and Syrian governments are poor, Syrians were genuinely excited to meet Americans and were quick to realize that people do not necessarily share the beliefs of their governments.

While still in Damascus, I conducted research for my independent study project on how Palestinian refugees construct nationalist identities within refugee camps in Syria. I conducted interviews with nine Palestinians and am currently working on finishing my research project. When I left Syria to continue my travels in mid-May, I had completely fallen for the place, its people, and its way of life.

In addition to Turkey and Syria, I explored Lebanon, Jordan, Israel, the West Bank and Egypt. I have countless memories that stand out as highlights, and it would be impossible for me to tell all the stories in a day or a week. Above is a brief guide of experiences that should not be missed by anyone who plans to travel in the Middle East.

# Arts & Entertainment

## Rushmore: feed our high school nostalgia

Will Trousdale  
Guest Writer

Transitioning into college can be tough. We have to leave dear friends, loving parents, maybe a pet or two, and above all high school. Now, some people see life at CC as high school part two. Not me. I found my first few weeks here to be wrought with new pressures: strangers in my class, strangers watching me get out of the shower, and worst of all, more than one stranger wrestling in the bunk below mine every night. After a few years I began to sort these phenomena out, but those first few blocks were rough. I really missed those sweet simple years without politics, pubic hair, or

**“I really missed those sweet simple years without politics, pubic hair, or popular people.”**

popular people. Or rather, as the Boss lovingly referred to them, our glory days. So in light of this nostalgia, I've decided to take a look back at a charming movie that encapsulates all those beautiful things we missed about high school, or as Max Fischer calls it, Rushmore Academy. “Rushmore” came out in 1999, and like all great things in the 90s, it's offbeat and edgy. Written by Wes Anderson and Owen Wilson, the plot chronicles the fall semester of 10th grader Max Fischer, played by a fresh faced and side-splittingly stoic Jason Schwartzman. Max wastes little time in careening into love with a young, widowed, 1st grade teacher named Rosemary Cross, played by the beautiful Olivia Williams. Max also finds himself

befriending Herman Blume, a local 50-year-old steel tycoon, played by the ever-brilliant Bill Murray. Blume, however, soon becomes Max's romantic rival as both vie for Cross' heart. The story unfolds as Max's schools change, friendships evolve, and romantic pursuits ebb and flow.

The beauty of “Rushmore” does not simply lie in the quirky romances and unlikely friendships. The film delivers fresh imagery and sharp dialogue from start to finish. The production is delightfully whimsical, and more importantly, not overdone as Anderson has a tendency to do. The bright colors and snappy dialogue are paired well with some mildly dark and somewhat serious thematic shifts. There is nothing fake or amusing about the heartbreak suffered by Max and Blume. Sure, it's packaged in classic screwball Wes Anderson fashion; a disheveled Murray drunkenly stumbling out of an elevator, sucking down two lit cigarettes, saying, “Umm...I'm a little lonely these days.” Sharp understatement like these sprinkled throughout the film make Anderson and Wilson's script poignant and memorable.

Beyond Anderson's achievement in production, “Rushmore” falls on my list of all-time favorite high school movies because of the performance given by Jason Schwartzman. Schwartzman somehow manages to ground a completely outlandish blazer-toting prep-school caricature into a digestible and touching adolescent. Schwartzman successfully balances Max's complete

narcissism with the clumsy limitations that all adolescents deal with. It seems most teenagers struggle placing their narcissism within manageable boundaries, and Max's character captures this struggle very well. He feels entitled to Cross' love, and when lost he seems to lose control, yet manages to balance everything out.

**“It seems most teenagers struggle placing their narcissism within manageable boundaries, and Max's character captures this struggle very well.”**

His narcissism pushes him away from his dearest friends, yet he grapples with limitations and manages to preserve broken relationships and plant new ones. Sure, we must deal with love and loss throughout our entire lives, but they are uniquely difficult to handle in high school. Schwartzman's portrayal of Max trudging

through these dark corridors of adolescence stirs up some serious emotions.

To top everything off, the film is pushed along with the help of an outstanding soundtrack. If you're a fan of 1960s euro-invasion Brit-pop, the tunes narrating this film will blow the argyle right off your feet. To name a few, The Kinks, The Who, The Stones, John Lennon, and Cat Stevens all make appearances. And, above all, a tune from The Faces named “Ooh La La” fills in the final scene and end credits, leaving you with the warmest cinematic finale since The Graduate.

So, if you're feeling a little homesick and dying for some high school reminiscence, loan “Rushmore” from the library. Or if you're not feeling homesick at all but want to kick back and enjoy one of Wes Anderson's greatest accomplishments, give “Rushmore” a shot. Push off some homework, zone out and stimulate your mind. But most importantly, go out on a limb and ask your cute neighbor to watch it with you and heed Max's advice: “I should try harder to score chicks. That's all anyone really cares about.”

## Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Venue
9/17 - 9/18	Rocky Mountain Oktoberfest	Ute Pass Culture Center
9/18	Smashing Pumpkins	The Comfort Dental Amphitheatre
9/21	Colcannon Ensemble	Armstrong Hall
Now - 10/24	Kentridge: The World as Process	The Fine Arts Center
Every Monday 8PM	Trivia Night	Jack Quinn's



## After-School Supplies

- Camping
- Hiking
- Climbing
- Footwear
- Clothing
- Winter Sports
- Maps



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# Kentridge exhibits art as process

Christina Holmes

A&E Editor

For those of you who may not know, there exists an exquisite art museum just around the corner from our campus called the Fine Art Center. I stumbled upon it during my second year of college and I was pleasantly surprised to find a special exhibit by an artist from my hometown in New Jersey. After that, I vowed to return frequently, but school took me adrift and I wasn't able to return until this past Monday. Unfortunately the museum was closed, but fortunately the doors were open. I perused around the dimly lit museum with my partner-in-crime when a man in white approached us to inquire what exactly we were doing wandering around the museum while it was closed. I explained that I was a college student wanting to write a review of the special exhibit and

for a meeting to tour the special exhibit, which I had to come back for, but it was certainly worth the wait.

Art is a process. Whether it be preliminary sketches of a building, hunting for objects to display and deconstruct, or painting straight from the subconscious mind, a finished piece of art has undergone much thought, work and reworking. Many artists do their best to conceal the effort behind their art but some, like William Kentridge, revel in displaying their processes. For Kentridge, art's chief consideration should be the artist's process. This is exactly the theme for the special exhibit of William Kentridge's art at the museum entitled "The World is Process".

The exhibit, located on the second floor in the El Pomar gallery, features several drawings and sculptures as well as three animated films (one on display on the first floor in the

Kentridge draws an image, photographs it, then erases and redraws another image on the same page to be photographed. The result is an animation that features the "gradual accretion of marks". The animation illustrates the artist's process by showing every mark and erasure that went into the drawing. These drawings, on display previous to the movie they pertain to, are truly captivating images. The paper is marked and remarked with charcoal, creating a vivaciousness in his artwork that is quite visceral.

Several other pieces on display feature his endeavors into theatre, such as set design or a puppet show and directing and designing an opera. Kentridge worked closely with the Metropolitan Opera in New York recently to help with a production of an adaptation of Nikolai Gogol's story "The Nose". Two large paintings of torn paper collage with a massive black nose silhouette show his artistic process in producing this opera. Kentridge also helped design a production of Mozart's "The Magic Flute" in Europe. A chalkboard (by request of the artist) with animated images of the main themes in this opera is also presented.

Kentridge, a South African artist, explores themes of political oppression and apartheid in his art, but only ambiguously. Joy Armstrong, the very informative and enthusiastic assistant curator who facilitated the tour, called most of Kentridge's artwork playful, which it certainly is. Though some of his pieces may allude to



Photo: Christina Holmes A piece inspired by "The Nose"



Photo: Christina Holmes

The Fine Art Center

that the front doors of the museum were open. He thought this was a riot, so much so that he took us into the basement of the gallery to introduce us to several curators, the museum director, and showed us where the museum keeps art not on display. After this, I arranged

screening room) by the artist. The collection is on loan from Brenda R. Potter and Michael C. Sandler, collectors and close friends of the artist.

Kentridge's charcoal drawings display his unique process in creating animated films.

political messages, Kentridge's work seems to capture various intangible elements of human existence.

Kentridge is an internationally renowned artist and it is certainly an honor for the Fine Art Center to be displaying such an extensive collection of his work. I strongly encourage everyone to go see the exhibit, only on display until October 24th. Not only is it impressively enchanting but fantastically invigorating as well. One could sit and watch the animated movies for hours and explore his drawings and sculptures for a while too. The Fine Art Center is located at 20 West Dale Street.

## Is this student breaking the law?

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### He IS breaking the law if:

- \* He's under the legal drinking age.
- \* He's standing on a public street or sidewalk.
- \* He's making a racket and being a public nuisance.
- \* He tosses that cup on the ground when he's done.

### He's COOL if:

- \* He's old enough to drink.
- \* He's at a privately hosted party or bar.
- \* He's being mindful of his neighbors.
- \* He disposes of the cup properly.

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