

THE CATALYST

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WEEK 2
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BENJAMIN'S

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Photo by Emily Kim

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Tutt Library to unveil renovations for the upcoming year

EMMA MARTIN
Staff Writer

"Our vision is to be the finest liberal arts institution, but to do it our way," said Lyrae Williams, Assistant Vice President of the Office of Institutional Planning and Effectiveness. "We must build on and support our strengths, and our strength is the Block Plan."

The unique advantages and de-

mands of the Block Plan have underscored every aspect of the Tutt Library renovation.

Construction is slated to begin directly after Commencement of the 2015-2016 year, and so marks the apex of several years of careful listening, creative planning, and critical organization revolving around the revamping our library.

The Tutt Library renovation is currently in its third phase: design development. The design development phase drills down into the mechanical, electrical, and structural details of the building, exact specifications of floor plans, and final architectural features.

The locations of doors and win-

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American Sniper and American democracy: A conversation between CC and USAFA

HELEN GRIFFITHS
Staff Writer

On Sunday, Aug. 30, almost 100 students from the Air Force Academy and Colorado College came together for "American Sniper and American Democracy," an event organized by the Democratic Dialogue Project where students were invited to watch American Sniper, share a meal, and debate ideas on American foreign policy, democracy, and the changing role of the

military in conflicts abroad.

Christopher Dylewski, from USAFA, and Helen Griffiths, from Colorado College, planned the event, which was the launch of the Democratic Dialogue Project.

"The goal of the Democratic Dialogue Project is to encourage substantive exchange between future civilian and military leaders on matters of importance to the U.S., in order to enrich the health of our democracy,"

said USAFA Professor Gregory Las-ki. "College is in part a preparation for democratic dialogue, and so we feel this exchange really matters for building a robust citizenry,"

Students were drawn to the event for a variety of reasons.

"The opportunity to interact with students from the Air Force Academy is what attracted me," said Louisa

AMERICAN SNIPER: Page 2

Sexual safety and wellness on the rise as CC recovers from losing SARC

CANDELARIA ALCAT
News Editor

The 2014-2015 academic year concluded a busy year for Colorado College's Wellness Center and the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC). This time was filled with climate surveys, a myriad of fun and educational programs, and an abundance of student feedback.

Coming into this school year, however, Colorado College was not prepared for losing beloved SARC Tara Misra, a staff member who had earned credibility as well as likeability among students.

Although the Wellness Center and other programs plan to continue what they started with Misra, they see that their plans may be delayed as a consequence.

Fellow staff members Gail Murphy-Geiss, Associate Professor of Sociology and Title IX Coordinator, and Heather Horton, Director of the Wellness Resource Center, are excited for Misra, but they acknowledge that there is no way to replace her in the short term.

However, Pam Shipp, CC Alum and counselor at Boettcher Heath Center, has stepped in for the interim position. Due to her experience with CC, sexual assault, and trauma, many believe that she is well beyond prepared for this position.

Shipp volunteered to be on-call as well as to deal with emergencies and work with Horton and Murphy-Geiss for pro-



Photographs by Emilia Whitmer

Pam Shipp, the interim SARC, will be working with the Wellness Center, pictured above, to provide services and programming for students in lieu of Tara Misra's departure.

gramming.

"She was willing to be on-call so that we can maintain what we thought was a high-level program so we don't fall back too far, but it's inevitable," said Murphy-Geiss. "Without a full-time SARC who is loved and trusted, it's not going to be the same for the first semester. However,

we've begun planning a search for this semester."

Ideally, the new SARC will begin on Jan. 1. Both students and faculty will be part of the search committee.

"A key thing though certainly is that, in terms of the response and advocacy piece, that is definitely in place," said Murphy-Geiss. "There's not a change in terms of what is being offered and students at CC have already engaged with Pam and know her so she's not an unknown entity." Despite the fact that having a new face in such a powerful position could be detrimental, Horton sees this as an exciting time nonetheless for sexual health and continuing the difficult conversations that the White House Climate Survey sparked.

Last semester, CC made a modified version of the White House Climate Survey. The anonymous survey reached out to students to inquire about sexual safety, how they felt about CC's procedural policies, and many more questions pertaining to sexual assault and Title IX. The survey had over 1,000 responses.

"There's this wonderful opportunity for students to be engaged in the pro-

cess," said Horton. "As it has been in the past, there will be students on the search, there will be an open session for students for hopefully lots of students to meet candidates and attend their presentations."

Murphy-Geiss echoes her strong regards toward student input in this search.

"In the past two searches, for Tara who was the last SARC and Heather who was the SARC before her, it was the students' voices that really carried the candidates and I plan on that being the same this time," said Murphy-Geiss.

Murphy-Geiss and Horton, alongside Rochelle Mason, are spearheading the search for the new SARC.

"One of the things that I think is pretty exciting about the moment that we're in is that it feels like there's increased student energy around sexual assault, intimate partner bounds, and all kinds of things," said Horton. "I think with all of the stuff that we're planning for the year, what an exciting time for students to be really engaged and to be talking about those things that we want to address from the survey."



American Sniper: AFA and CC start the conversation

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

McKenzie, a CC student.

"The subject of the military, its role and funding are very important and interesting," said sophomore Theo Hooker, explaining why he went.

The event began by screening American Sniper, a movie about the deadliest sniper in US history. The audience followed his multiple deployments to Iraq and his struggle with PTSD.

"When the students from the Air Force Academy watched the movie, it was not an abstract depiction of a faraway phenomenon, but a possible portrait of their futures and the realities they will have to confront," said Isaac Radner. "One of the Air Force cadets told me that the movie made him scared of what he

might be like when he comes back from a tour."

"That is a perspective I could never have really understand other than intellectually," he said. "Speaking with the cadets was a chance to put actual faces and names to the people that these issues directly will affect."

The movie was also a chance to discuss a wide range of topics. During the dinner that followed, a group of students discussed the war in Iraq, terrorism, and ISIS, while another debated ideas of humanitarian intervention, universal human rights and cultural relativism.

Katherine Nelson, a CC student, was part of a conversation on the role America should claim (or relinquish) on the global scene.

"The most interesting conversation I had was about the psychological evalua-

tions the military does and doesn't have. The discussion was brought up because of Chris' mental health issues and how many times he was deployed," said McKenzie.

According to many students, the opportunity to interact with those beyond CC was the highlight of the event.

"As an outsider looking in at the Air Force Academy, there were a lot of things I didn't understand," said Maya Patel. "To me, the whole first year just seemed like continual hazing but for them it was extremely important. The intensity taught them to be responsible for other people in subsequent years."

"The best part of the event were definitely the conversations afterward. I left feeling like I could have talked for hours," said Hooker. "My conversation about the role and extent of the military in foreign

affairs was very interesting."

"I really enjoyed making connections with the cadets," said McKenzie. "CC can not only be a physical bubble, but a social bubble. Even one evening interacting with students my own age coming from very different social and academic backgrounds was enriching."

"I felt that just seeing the CC and USAFA students together unsettled assumptions about the sorts of students who attend each institution," said Professor Laski. "I heard lots of important revelations: some CC students did not know that USAFA considers itself a liberal arts college."

The Democratic Dialogue Project will continue to hold events involving CC and USAFA students throughout the year in efforts to provide a space for differing opinions to be heard.

NEWS BRIEFS

An ode to Benji's Past

LIZ FORSTER
Editor-in-Chief

With the help of my roommates over the past two years, I have categorized all the dining options at Colorado College so that when the most specific of cravings arise, I know exactly where to go. The Preserve is my go-to health meal, especially when they feature the kale and orange special salad. I reserve Rastall for brunch only, ensuring that my track record of three-hour long brunches continues. Benji's is for pure indulgence, whether for a stringy grilled cheese with mushrooms or an udon noodle bowl smothered in peanut sauce.

On days I felt the urge to rebel against lactose intolerance, I had tunnel vision towards what Benji's classified as a quesadilla, but what Taco Bell refers to as a quesarito: an 18-inch tortilla smothered in melted jack cheese with as much

pulled pork and grilled peppers as I can bribe the Benji's servers to stuff in.

For my overly confident days, I could order my quesadilla with the hottest salsa and jalapeños, and then of course drown the entire thing in Cholula green pepper hot sauce. I was saved from my own ego only by the iced horchata I initially hesitated buying.

But now, that's gone. Granted, I am no longer on full meal plan, but I feel guilty spending the \$300 of my commuter plan solely on Rastall brunches. And there is absolutely no way I could ever replicate the shrimp and avocado bowl I would drop \$9 on without blinking an eye.

For bold first-years and transfers who have dared to venture to the pandemonium of Benji's this early into Block 1, Benji's used to have a full Mexican station for both lunch and dinner where they now serve udon noodle and rice bowls.

Due to profit issues, as explained in length in this issue, the Mexican station has closed for the remainder of the 2015-2016 year.

The length of the line for noodle bowls might shrink an indistinguishable amount, and a couple more people might opt for the make-your-own-sushi, but neither of those can ever replace the sides of guacamole I always forgot to pay for the first time I waited in line at the cash register.

As someone who's off the full meal plan, my memories of Benji's will forever remain the glorious trifecta of what I consider the three most reliably delicious types of food from around the world. But, for the Class of 2019 and the classes following, the gluttony of a Benji's quesadilla with churros and horchata and the masterful craft of a shrimp and avocado bowl will (hopefully not) forever be as allusive of a memory as VDP.

► ► **Phone app hookup ends in murder of Colorado Springs man.**

After having some drinks at a local bar, Grindr users Fernando Rosales, 23, and Sean Crescentini, 30, headed back to Rosales' house where what started as a consensual hookup ended up as a case of second-degree murder, reported the Gazette.

The two first made contact with each other on Aug. 15 via Grindr, an app for gay hookups, and continued to talk for almost a month before the incident. After leaving the bar where they met up, they began to engage in oral sex. Things escalated after they exchanged harsh words and Crescentini "lunged" at Rosales in attempts to intimidate Rosales before punching him in the face. Rosales then stabbed him with a kitchen knife, leading him to his death.

Rosales has been charged on the count of second-degree murder and is out on a \$50,000 bond. A trial date has not yet been set.

► ► **Colorado mandate to label marijuana edibles on the rise.**

According to The Gazette, the Marijuana Enforcement Division debated implementing a new standard for labeling all marijuana edibles: the new identifying mark would be a diamond shape, enclosing the letters THC. The goal of this project would be to make this symbol universal.

In 2014, House Bill 1366 mandated the explicit labeling of marijuana-infused edibles in attempts to prevent more accidental ingestion incidents. The diamond labels would be mandatory on both recreational and medical marijuana products. The new delegations will be easy for most, however some products cannot have the label on the item itself. These products will need each serving size to be labeled instead.

The diamond shaped label is the second proposed label for House Bill 1366. The Marijuana Enforcement Division will make a decision after gathering public comments.

► ► **Seized horses given new home.**

Last year, the El Paso County Sheriff's Office seized eight horses from Sherri Brunzell, 63, in Black Forest after she was charged for animal cruelty, according to The Gazette. The horses and their custody were immediately handed over to the Sheriff's Office.

On Aug. 13, Brunzell was sentenced to 60 days in prison after being found guilty. The Sheriff's Office looked for a new home for the horses and, as of this past Monday, were transported and transferred to the Blue Rose Ranch. The Office ensures that the horses will now be receiving proper care.

The Blue Rose Ranch, located in Springfield, Colo., spreads 832 acres, and aims to rehabilitate horses that have been victims of neglect or abuse. The eight rescued horses were happy to be transferred, especially since Brunzell was found to have 14 other horses that she neglected to death.

Colorado Springs crime, in brief

STOP, HAMMERTIME

On Sunday, Aug. 30 around 10:30 p.m., a Colorado Springs woman was arrested after allegedly striking a man over the head with a hammer amidst a domestic dispute at 4 U Motel, located on 1102 South Nevada Avenue.

The woman was identified as 35-year-old Monica Cain and has been accused of domestic violence assault in the first degree, according to The Gazette. The man was taken to the hospital and has been given a positive prognosis: he will survive his injury.

Colorado Springs Police Department's Special Victims and Violent Crimes Unit responded to the incident. A trial date has not been released.

PIZZA PIE PASSING

On Monday, Aug. 31 at 8 p.m., an off-duty Colorado Springs Police Department officer found a man throwing a bike into traffic on the 3400 Block of Eisenhower

Boulevard in Loveland.

After responding to the call, police found that the man was armed with at least one knife; The Gazette reports that it is unclear as to how they found the weapon. It is also unknown whether 911 calls had also been made about the incident. One man is dead after the officer-involved shooting following the bicycle incident, which took place at a local pizza parlor.

Authorities refuse to release the name of the suspect until the family has been notified. No further details regarding the precedent shooting have been release.

FLEE AND FAILURE

On Sunday, Aug. 30, at 8:45 p.m., a man attempted to rob a local business on the 3700 block of Verde Drive between South Academy Boulevard and Fountain Boulevard.

The Colorado Springs Police Department reported to The Gazette that the unidentified thief went into the business and demanded money but fled the

scene after the employee told him that there wasn't any money. The man was described at a five-foot-7 Hispanic man in his 30s who weighed around 160 pounds and wore a blue and white shirt with khaki shorts. He got away on foot.

CSPD searched the area and could not find the criminal. The case remains open and under investigation.

HIGHWAY TO HELL

At approximately 6 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 1, a motorcyclist was found dead at mile marker 163 going northbound on Monument Hill/I-25 after attempting to squeeze between a semi-truck in the right lane and a truck in the middle lane.

After trying to make this dangerous pass, the man lost control of his vehicle and collided into the semi-truck. As a result, the interstate was closed for 15 minutes.

The unnamed man died after impact, and no other people were injured. According to The Gazette, the State Patrol has not released any further information.

CORRECTION: Last week, in our Liquor Laws article, the story chronicled the reprieve from sanctions of a first-year male. The Catalyst would like to redact this story due to improper consent to use the quotes.

The Catalyst

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

Letters and inquiries: catalyst@coloradocollege.edu
Advertising: ads.catalyst@gmail.com
Subscriptions: Isaac.Salay@coloradocollege.edu

The Catalyst
1028 Weber St.
Colorado Springs, CO 80946

Phone: 203.856.5791
Fax: 719.389.6962

Comptroller • Karen West
Legal Consultation provided by
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CCSGA: Reaching out and ready to expand

JACKSON PAINE
Staff Writer

Colorado College Student Government Association is making changes, both within the organization and around campus; however, this doesn't mean that they won't continue to do the advocacy work they've been responsible for in the past.

"Everything the student government does is to serve the student body," said Jake Walden, CC Senior and Student Body President of CCSGA.

With a team of 20 people (not all elected yet) and a committee for student concerns, CCSGA tries to make itself as accessible and effective as possible. All meetings are open to the public to facilitate a dialogue with concerned students as well.

"In many ways [the purpose of] student government is trying to act as an intermediary," said Walden. "We can

bring [certain issues] forward to the administration and say students really support this or they don't support this, etc."

That being said, Walden and others within the organization feel that there's more the CCSGA can do to improve its function serving the public. One of the ways they are hoping to do so is providing more education for its own members, including taking the student government members on retreats.

"Those are really important," said Walden. "This is a learning opportunity for students to know if [they] want to be in governance... and to understand politics and civics on a national scale and on a local scale."

CCSGA is also hoping to expand itself beyond the CC bubble in a variety of ways.

One of these is setting up a polling station to vote on campus for the student body.

Another is to promote campus-wide discussions on important issues, especially with the presidential election coming up in 2016.

"We want to promote discussions and work on educating students," said Hannah Willstein '16, the Vice President of Internal Affairs. "Give them the tools to educate themselves so that they can have opinions going into the election."

Another large platform for improvement is the Student Government's involvement in social media, which was lacking last year. They have a Facebook, an Instagram (@coloradocollegesga), a Twitter (@ccstudentgov), and are looking into getting a corporate Snapchat. The hope is with more students tuning into the CCSGA through social media, the group's general presence will be more easily seen and felt.

"I think in the past a lot of people have viewed CCSGA as this kind of group that meets, but no one really knows what they

do," said Willstein. "We want to make CCSGA more accessible so students understand what we do and also have a more active role in [our] programming."

There will also be some changes in the budget this year. Following Andrea More's article "Oy ve CCSGA," published last spring in the Cipher, CCSGA was criticized for a lack of oversight on their budget. It came to light that CCSGA had appropriated "discretionary funds" for some executive members to use on projects. However, the discretionary funds, once approved could be used without explicit permission by the rest of the council.

"There are no discretionary funds," said Walden. "Student Government has a budget, and it's approved in the same process that every other student group goes through."

With new policies implemented and new ideas on their minds, CCSGA is ready to take on the new school year.

TUTT: CC prepares to unveil innovative renovations

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

dows are being finalized, materials are being chosen; what has, since the spring of 2014, existed in ideas and models is finally morphing into a fully-formed building.

"The new library will expand beyond traditional form and function into the intellectual hub of the whole college," said Ivan Gaetz, the director of Tutt Library and member of the Library Renovation team.

Its most notable new feature is the Center of Immersive Learning and Engaged Teaching, a centerpiece where students, faculty, staff, and alumni can collaborate in an innovative space around a wide variety of resources.

The center will support everything from undergraduate research and thesis writing to faculty development and field study planning to in-residence programs for artists, scholars, social entrepreneurs, and other experts in their field.

"The center is a space that encourages students and faculty to experiment, play, study, collaborate, and create, both intentionally and accidentally," said Williams.

The Block Plan often condenses one's world; student and faculty are immersed in an intense environment with a small group of people for several weeks, and thus a space like the Center for Immersive Learning and Engaged Teaching

provides the space to engage with the rest of the college community.

The design and functionality of the new library reflects a larger trend among academic libraries on campuses throughout the United States. One of the biggest adjustments, in fact, will be the downsizing of the library's collection.

Much of the non-circulating material will be stored off campus—complete with a quick and easy retrieval system—in order to create more spaces for student and faculty interactions.

Space will also open up for library collaboration with other academic services, such as ITS, GIS Labs, and innovation areas and experimental classrooms, in addition to the traditional services such as the Writing Center and Quantitative Reasoning Center.

The seating capacity of the library will be doubled, natural lighting will be improved in strategic spaces, and versatile outdoor spaces and decks will be added. The new library will also boast an entirely new addition.



Photograph by Emily Kim

While the list of changes is extensive, much of the historic aspect of the building will be honored.

The firm that built the original Tutt Library in 1961—Skidmore, Owings, and Merrill—has a significant architectural presence in the world; the firm has built three of the ten tallest buildings in the world today, and recently constructed the Freedom Towers in New York City.

The renovation, in its entirety, is projected to cost over forty-five million dollars, and the college has committed to fundraising twenty-five million of that total.

There will be two more gifts announced soon, in addition to the five million dollars that was anonymously gifted towards the library project last year. Another portion of the funds are bonded out from the college's endowment.

The renovations are slated to be complete by Block 1 of 2017, a timeline that Gaetz describes as ambitious. Pfeiffer Partner Architects were hired under the charge that the renovation take two summers and one academic year, a truly stunning time frame that requires "a lot to be going on at once," according to Gaetz.

Williams shies from the word "chal-

lenge," but does describe the construction as a significant disruption.

"We will have to live without that space for an entire academic year, and the entire community is impacted," said Williams. "The entire campus will have to come together for that year and be supportive of one another."

The logistics of that transitional year are still being finalized, but the current plan is to move most library services into Tutt South, which now houses the Learning Commons, and to transfer much of the collection to a temporary off-campus storage facility. A retrieval system will be put into place to access the massive collection.

Various areas of campus will be converted into study spaces to ameliorate the loss of Tutt Library's 550 seats; the conversion of the Fish Bowl and Gates Commons are one option, temporary trailer units are another.

"Our objective is to make the transitional year as user-friendly and welcoming as possible," said Gaetz. "We're keeping our eyes on the goal of a new, amazing building that, in my view, will be one of the more remarkable buildings on campus, a building that people coming to Colorado Springs will want to see."



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Madelyn Santa sits down for 10 Questions with Jonathan from the Preserve to give us the scoop on fine dining and long-time BFF Patrick.

How long have you been working at the Preserve?

About a year.

Do you have to go through any kind of training to work here?

I mean, not particularly. We don't have any training classes. Just safety, meetings, things we have to learn about, policies, how to make sure we don't make allergic students have tree nuts and pine nuts and all that. We have to learn some safety stuff but most of us have worked food service before.

Who would you consider to be your Bon Apetit best friend and do you guys hang out outside of the Preserve?

Patrick Bright. Yeah, I mean he's been my best friend since high school, so I've known him for like nine years, and he got me this job.

How do you like being around so many college students?

I mean it's cool, it is just kinda strange. It's a bunch of people my age that I'm not allowed to fraternize with, so it's kind of like this odd disconnect of being around people that I normally would socialize with but really can't. So it's fun because there are a lot of intelligent people around here that I can have good conversation with, but then I can't really hang out with anyone. We're not allowed to hang out with CC students because if there are pictures of you at parties with students, or I mean anything like that, we will get fired.

Describe your favorite customer:

My favorite customer is...um, his name is Chris...I forget what his last name is. He just comes in and will like sit down and chat with us and go buy us things and bring us in stuff. He just talks to us about life in general. It's pretty cool.

What do you like to do outside the Preserve?

Play music primarily. Ride my bike, go for hikes, climb, usually play music though. Try to get shows lined up and stuff.

Are you in a band?

No, I have my own loop station and stuff. I can like record harmonies and loop my own voice and have rhythms. It's a midi keyboard controller so I can do like cello pieces so I kinda try and do the one man band thing.

Oh, what is it called?

It just goes by my name Jonathan. I was told by a psychic to use my own name so I was like "Ok, sounds good!" because I couldn't think of a stage name.

What do you think the Preserve have on Rastall and Benji's?

The crew, I've only heard about them up there, I've never worked there. Just from everything I've heard, [the Preserve] is spectacular. We all get along really well; there is not so much tension that I have heard that happens at a lot of the other places. And, the food is better in my opinion.

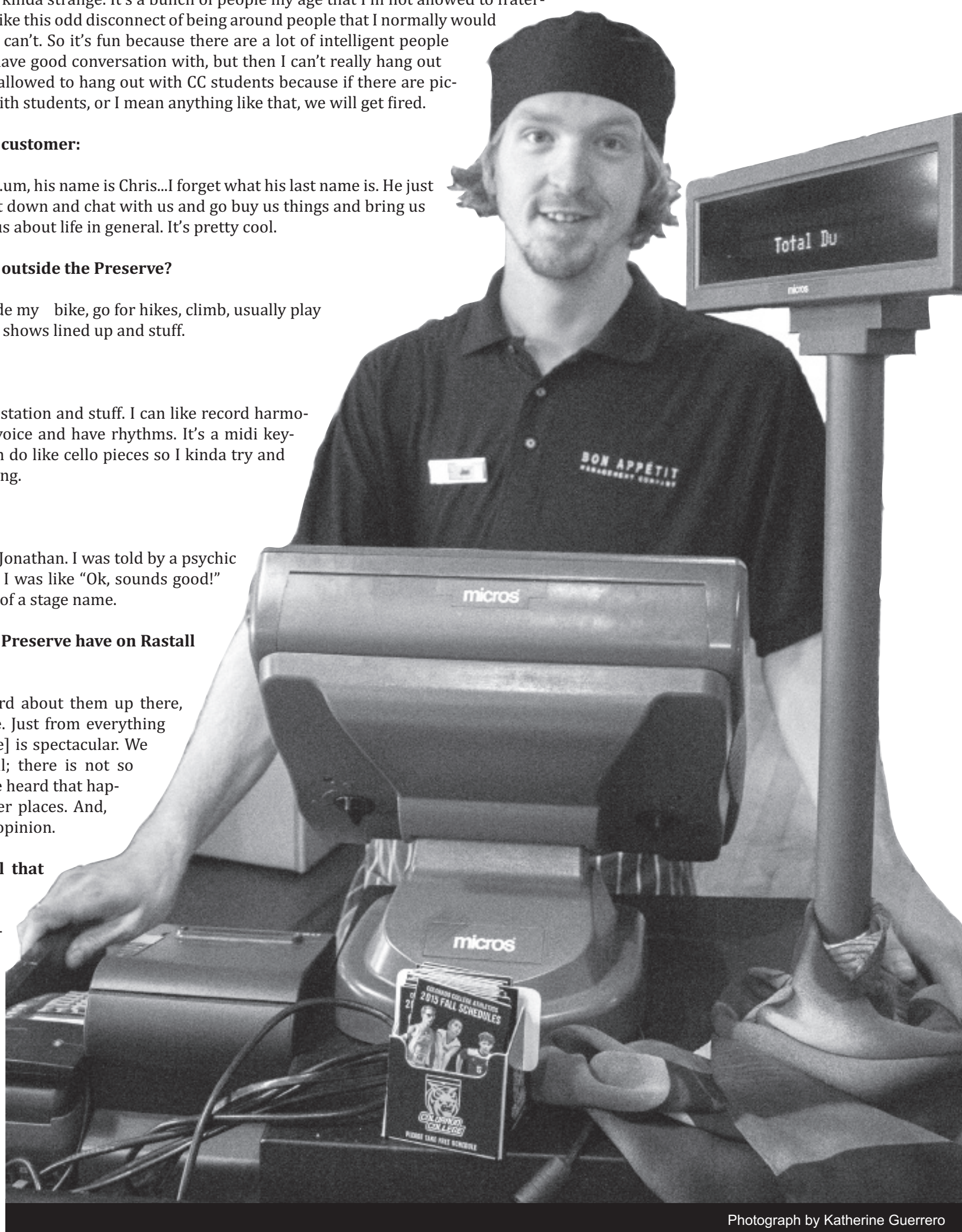
What is the best meal that you have ever eaten?

Best meal I've even eaten was in Dublin, Ireland at the Red Bank Inn. The chef had competed on Iron Chef and I guess won so it was, like, this seven course meal. That was pretty fantastic.

10

QUESTIONS
...with Madelyn Santa

STAFF
WRITER



Photograph by Katherine Guerrero

Where, oh where did the taqueria go?

MONTANA BASS
Guest Writer

On the first day of school this year, many Colorado College students strolled over to Benji's after class, hoping for an oversized burrito or cheesy quesadilla to fill their grumbling stomachs, only to find that one of their favorite on-campus grub locales was no more.

The Taqueria, which had been a popular lunch and dinner option for years, has closed, causing an outcry among much of the student body.

"The main reason we closed the Taqueria," said sous chef Matthew Butler "is that it was our least-selling station. The quesadillas were really popular, but the other items weren't bought nearly as much. Last year, the noodle and rice bowls were a big hit, and the sushi station wasn't nearly enough space to make those and individual sushi dishes when someone wanted that, so we spread them out."

Because of the new arrangement, the sushi station and the noodle/rice bowl stations have expanded considerably. At the sushi station, there are now three different types of hosomaki (the smaller rolls), four different regular rolls, added a la carte options, as well as a unique

daily special roll. Students may not realize it, but the expanded sushi station adds an outlet for employee creativity, and ultimately the possibility of an enhanced dining experience for students.

"This is the most fun cooking job I've done," said Brad Garcia, new Bon Appétit employee. "And Charles, the head sushi guy, taught himself. He just went on YouTube and figured it out. So he's super creative and gives it his own spin."

On the bowl side, there are two different kinds of rice and noodles each, and four different sauces available for toppings, which doubles the options when compared to last year. Additionally, new specials are soon to come.

"Once we're in the swing of things we'll have specials at the bowl station as well," said Butler. "We're hoping to do some fun ones, like sweet and sour chicken."

Despite these intriguing possibilities, students have been slow to warm up to the new system. One employee answered an upset student looking for a quesadilla by saying that students are welcome to fill out a comment card regarding the issue.

When asked his reaction to the Taqueria closing, sophomore Colin Monahan said that he was deeply saddened by this news because he considers himself

a "burrito guy."

He is also concerned about the environmental impact of importing more fish for sushi, where more of the food used at the Taqueria could be bought locally.

"If it has to be transported, that's a lot more carbon in the air," said Monahan.

Still, students will have to accept the Taqueria's closure for now. According to Butler, there are no plans for reinstatement in the near future. Die-hard quesadilla fans, however, shouldn't lose hope. Butler did mention the possibility of quesadilla nights as a dinner special at the grill.



Photograph by Emily Kim

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CAMPUS SAFETY BLOTTER

THURSDAY 8/20

Theft was reported in the afternoon in the Worner Center. The case remains open and under investigation.

SATURDAY 8/22

A Drug Law Violation was issued at 9:29 a.m. in J.L.K. The case was closed and referred.

A Noise Complaint Violation was issued at 11:30 p.m. on the 1100 North block of Weber. The case has been closed and referred.

A Liquor Law Violation was issued at 11:15 p.m. on the 800 North Block of Tejon Street. The case is under investigation.

SUNDAY 8/23

Theft was reported at 1:12 a.m. in Slocum. The case was closed and the thief was arrested.

A Noise Complaint Violation was issued at 11:58 p.m. on the 900 North block of Weber. The case was closed and referred.

Theft was reported at 10:00 a.m. in Slocum Hall. The case was closed and referred.

MONDAY 8/24

A Drug Law Violation was issued at the Elbert House. The case was closed and referred.

WEDNESDAY 8/26

Theft was reported at 1:00 p.m. in the Jackson House. The case remains open and investigation is pending.

A Liquor Law Violation was issued at 10:00 p.m. in Mathias Hall. The case was closed and referred.

THURSDAY 8/27

Trespassing was reported at 12:30 a.m. in Mathias Hall. The case was closed and referred.

A Drug Law Violation was issued at an unknown time in Mathias Hall. The case remains open and investigation is pending.

THURSDAY 8/27

Trespassing was reported at 12:30 a.m. in Mathias Hall. The case was closed and referred.

A Drug Law Violation was issued at an unknown time in Mathias Hall. The case remains open and investigation is pending.

SATURDAY 8/29

A Liquor Law Violation was issued at 12:12 a.m. in Slocum Hall. The case was referred to another agency.

Trespassing was reported at 2:10 a.m. in Colorado College Inn. The investigation is pending.

Why do women join the Islamic State and other jihadist organizations?

JACKSON PAINE
Staff Writer

You can find just about anyone or anything represented on social media these days, and the Islamic State in Syria is no exception. From the soldiers of ISIS to their wives and daughters, a great deal of members are active online. Tweets and Tumblr posts are flying out of Syria and Iraq every single day. This abundance of posts has allowed anyone with Internet access to gain unprecedented insight on the day-to-day lives of extremists and their families. The participation of women sympathetic to the cause is especially shocking.

“For many, the idea of women as violent extremists seems paradoxical,” wrote Nimmi Gowrinthian, an expert on female extremism. “After all, why should women want to join a political struggle that so blatantly oppresses them?”

Analysts and researchers have been studying this question of what causes anyone, particularly those from Western nations, to abandon their homes and join ISIS. One factor is the group’s social media campaign. ISIS is quite active across Tumblr, Facebook, and Twitter, meaning that anyone has access to the firsthand accounts from jihadis, ISIS writings, and propaganda.

Each of these modes of communication could catalyze a disgruntled citizen into joining ISIS or supporting them financially. In January 2015, a 19-year-old nurse from Colorado was convicted and pled guilty to providing material support to ISIS. The nurse was attempting to flee the country to Syria to marry an ISIS soldier she had met online, as well as provide medical care. She was a recent convert to Islam, and connected with the Islamic State online.

Another factor is the allure of creating an Islamic nation run by a religious leader, or caliph. According to the Quran, a

caliph is God’s chosen representative on earth, and it is written that he will create a kingdom (caliphate), which will provide “security and peace after their fear.” The idea that a caliphate could spring up in modern-day Syria and Iraq gives



Illustration by Rachel Fishman

many Muslims religious inspiration for joining the cause. ISIS Tumblr user Umm Layth posted that she and others migrating to Syria see it as a place they can live “honorably under the law of Shariah.” Indeed, creating the caliphate is enough justification for some to support ISIS. The use of airstrikes certainly hasn’t endeared Americans in their eyes.

These factors are all pull-factors, tac-

tics that attract individuals to a life of radicalization, as opposed to the often-overlooked push-factors.

“Western analysts and media uniformly emphasize pull factors...when discussing female motivations for joining ISIS, ignoring the life histories that are continually pushing them forward,” said Gowrinthian.

Alienation and marginalization typically cause many people to seek the life of an extremist, including women. For Muslim women, alienation can serve as an extremely powerful push-factor, as they tend to be more oppressed than their male counterparts. Muslim women in Western nations might experience alienation due to lack of understanding, sympathy, representation, or acceptance of their religious practices. In 2014, the European Court of Human Rights upheld the French ban on the niqab, or veil, in the case of a 24-year-old French-Muslim woman. She argued that the ban “violated her freedom of religion and expression.” While some argue that the hijab is by its very nature oppressive to women, the woman who brought this case to the court stated that she chose to wear it because she was a devout Muslim. However, under the current law in France, anyone who covers their face in public spaces can be fined 150 euros. This means that zero of the approximate 2.5 million Muslim women in France are able to follow a religious custom that might be essential to their identity as a Muslim.

Overall, the push factors alienate and separate the women from the society they live in, while the pull factors make

life in the Islamic State seem more attractive. While this is a powerful combination for any alienated Muslim, when combined with the anxiety of adolescence, it becomes even stronger. There are many references to Western teen movies and books by many of the Western girls who join ISIS. The blogger “Birds of Jannah” posted a photoshopped Tangled meme with Rapunzel in a burka, one girl who emigrated to Syria in 2013 left behind a copy of *The Hunger Games*. Another woman tweeted: “I wonder if I can pull a Mulan and enter the battle field.” These references to Western media and cartoons show the adolescence of many of these new recruits. They are feeling alienated and angsty, and suddenly ISIS becomes not just an extremist group but also an avenue for camaraderie, solace, and adventure.

The Mulan reference is fascinating beyond the surface level of wanting adventure, as Mulan is fighting illegally in an army run by men. Ubaydah knows that if she were to fight in this conflict and achieve jihad as she wants, it would be in secret and against the principles of ISIS. As male ISIS fighter Abu Fariss so eloquently posted online, “apparently, head military of Sham said women are not allowed [to fight]... if u wanna be a dr here or anything just come, u can do it all inshallah [God willing]. Loll!” It is out of the question for women to fight, but not because they are less aggressive by any means. Many of the women of ISIS loudly vocalize their anger and desire to fight via the Internet. Umm Ubaydah wrote, “my best friend is my grenade ... It’s an American one too Lool. May Allah allow me to kill their Kanzeer [pig] soldiers with their own weapons.” The only thing keeping her from fighting is the reservations of the patriarchal systems of oppression that exist within ISIS.

Writer goes nuclear: Throwing a pebble into a polluted pond

JOHNATHAN WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

The rhetoric will be decisive, and the point of this article made explosively clear. The goal of these incendiary words is to rattle around your heads far louder than fallout alarms; that somehow letters can make the world hear what convenience has made unheard. I throw into the pond a pebble, the story of the reactor meltdown at Fukushima, in simple hope that while we have ignored a reactor falling into the sea, someone might notice a pebble being tossed.

On March 11, 2011, a 9.0 magnitude earthquake hit the island nation on Japan and sent a shock through the world both literally and physically: the island reportedly moved several inches from its foundations. Part of this shock, though, was in fact a nuclear one. At the onset of the disaster, newspapers had not yet lost their tongue or perhaps their nerve, and it rang clearly over the airwaves that there were serious issues with the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Plant. Over the next couple days, it became known that the tsunami had made the reactor unable to keep the nuclear fuel rods run-

ning the plant stable. The cooling systems failed, and heating and melting not only the fuel rods but also more than 115 fuel rods that were decommissioned and waiting for disposal. Without the water to keep them cool, radioactive material began to leak from the plant with an initial dispersal of at least 20 percent of the impact created by Chernobyl. That was day one of a disaster that till this day has yet to fully be contained.

Surprisingly, it took until 2013 for the Japanese government to begin to remove the spent fuel rods out of the containing pools hanging in the top of the fourth reactor. This process lasted until Dec. 20, 2014 when the New York Times reported that all the 115 spent fuel rods had finally been removed to another containing pool on the plant’s grounds. But the human race doesn’t actually know how to neutralize nuclear materials, we just stick it somewhere out of the way and let it sit. Out of sight is out of mind thought Japanese officials in the wake of the Fukushima accident, not only in the cavalier “disposal” of the radioactive material, but also in the more than 100,000 families that had to be evacuated from the area.

However, the clean up is not through

yet. Experts still have no idea of the conditions of the fuel rods in Reactors One and Three on the site, and furthermore have no idea how to remove the radioactive material. Best plans at the moment include sealing the entire contraption in a concrete sarcophagus much like what was done with Chernobyl.

The difference between the two is that people actually cared about Chernobyl. It could take decades more to fully clean up the Fukushima accident, as well as hundreds of billions more dollars just to stop the current leak of radioactive material. This leak is made all the more complicated to stop because someone with infinite wisdom built the reactor on top of a large amount of groundwater. This groundwater collects the radioactive runoff, and it is yet unknown if some of the radioactive rods have burned through the bottom of the reactors and now sit cooling themselves in this same aquifer. This would be scary enough if not for physics deciding to get involved. The groundwater necessarily flows into a nearby bay, and then into the ocean. The end result is four years worth of radioactive fallout not only being carried across the world in air currents, but also poured out into the world’s ocean.

No concrete evidence has been linked to this, but radiation is detected in dead whales on the West Coast in far larger quantities than it was before the incident, additionally all manner of marine organisms on the West Coast have been dying inexplicably. It may be a stretch to claim this as the work of the Fukushima disaster, but with decades more of leaking water, the possibility becomes far more real.

With such slow cleanup processes, and, at best, dodgy recognition of the situation, it is no wonder the story of Fukushima hasn’t merited the long monotonous war drums that media tends to lend to top stories. The story continues to unfold while even now the United States pushes to expand nuclear efforts. The costs of Chernobyl in one day counteracted all benefits it ever gave and the same is likely to be Fukushima, yet we still don’t seem to get it. Perhaps it will take a hundred more reactors to make people care and take action against nuclear energy. Perhaps though, it will only take one well placed pebble, a couple ripples, and a writer gone nuclear; maybe then, the world will notice the toxic water at its feet.

Forget Russia; China is the number-one threat to the United States

WILLIAM KIM

Opinion Editor

"[Russia] presents the greatest threat to our national security," General Joseph Dunford stated, the man slated to become the next Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Years before the current Ukraine crisis, Mitt Romney deemed Russia the United States' "number one geopolitical foe." Such statements bring back memories of the Cold War, when the United States and Russia were at each other's throats. Indeed, after a brief thawing in Russo-American relations under Yeltsin, 1980s-style geopolitics has returned with a vengeance under the Putin administration.

A closer look at Russia reveals that it is not the biggest threat to the United States. That honor goes to China, a nation far more powerful than Russia ever was. While Russia's military budget is only \$70 billion (less than Saudi Arabia's and only a sixth of the United States'), China's is \$129 billion, or about 22 percent of America's. And that's just official numbers; the Chinese are notoriously opaque about how much they spend on their military. The actual number may be as high as \$216 billion, more than a third of the United States' military spending. China is already the only country besides the United States with a triple-digit defense budget. To make matters worse, China's military spending is rapidly rising, growing by double digits since the early 1990s while the United States on the other hand has recently begun cutting its defense budget. If trends continue, China's defense spending could race ahead of America's within a decade.

In some areas, the Chinese People's

Liberation Army (PLA) has already surpassed the United States. The PLA has over 2.3 million active-duty personnel compared to the U.S. military's 2.4 million and Russia's 766,000. Vice Admiral Joseph Mulloy recently told Congress that the Chinese Navy has more submarines than the United States. Unlike Russia, China will always have a quantitative advantage over the United States due to its massive population (Russia's population is about 33 percent smaller than America's).

The most worrying numbers involve economics. As Thucydides said, war is less a matter of arms than of money. Russia's economy is roughly the size of Italy's at \$2.1 trillion, compared to America's \$18 trillion. On the other hand, China is the second largest economy in the world at \$12 trillion. While it is unlikely that China's economy will surpass America's (especially given recent events), China has already come closer to matching the United States' economic strength than any other potential adversary in a long time. The GDPs of Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union were never more than half the size of the United States', while Imperial Japan's GDP was only a tenth. China's GDP is already two-thirds the size of America's.

In industrial production, China has already surpassed the United States. Chinese manufacturing marginally edged out the United States in 2010 and is now 20 percent ahead of American industry. Manufacturing is arguably the most important economic factor in any competition between nations; wars are won through materiel, not services.

But it is not just China's capabilities that are worrying; China's behavior has

also grown increasingly aggressive in recent years. While much of the world's attention remains focused on Russia's actions in Ukraine, the Chinese are steadily asserting dominance over the South and East China seas, which are strategically important regions that house lucrative trade routes and natural resources. The most recent wave of Chinese advances has been a blitz construction of artificial islands that have been nicknamed the Great Wall of Sand. These islands are meant to help China assert its territorial claim as well as serve as military bases for the PLA to project power into the region. The Middle Kingdom's assertiveness has caused disputes with several of its neighbors, including Japan, Vietnam, and the Philippines. These tensions threaten to ignite a conflict in a key region through which \$5.3 trillion in trade passes through, of which the United States accounts for \$1.2 trillion. Since the Asia-Pacific region accounts for 40 percent of U.S. trade and at least 10 percent of U.S. GDP and employment, Chinese aggression in that part of the world has far greater implications for American interests than Russian aggression in Eastern Europe or Central Asia.

Some argue that China is simply too economically interconnected with the United States to be a serious threat. These people argue that it would be irrational for the Dragon to challenge the Eagle and upset the world order that it has benefited so much from. However, many scholars, such as Christopher Coker of the London School of Economics, have pointed out that in many ways the various European great powers were even more interconnected in 1914 than China and America are today. That didn't

stop a world war then and we shouldn't expect it to stop one now.

Others argue that China simply doesn't want a war. Chinese rhetoric often centers on its "peaceful rise." However, China's behavior from its military buildup to its assertiveness in the South China Sea indicates that the Middle Kingdom's rhetoric does not reflect its actual thinking. Furthermore, even if China doesn't want war now that does not mean it will grow more placid in the coming years. New leaders come into power, old leaders change their minds, and circumstances change. The Japanese expanded at a calculated rate meant to avoid upsetting the existing international order in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Whenever other great powers protested their actions, the Japanese were quick to back off, as they did with the Twenty-One Demands against China. However, in the 1920s and '30s new and more militant leaders like Hideki Tojo emerged, and Japan ended up attacking China, Britain, and the United States. The same could happen in China, especially since, as Masahiro Matsumura of the University of St. Andrews points out, the PLA lacks proper civilian control just like the Imperial Japanese military.

Perhaps China will temper its behavior as a result of its recent economic downturn. Then again, perhaps economic woes will cause China to grow more aggressive in an attempt to distract its population from domestic issues or to boost the economy with the resources of its near seas.

Either way, China is not just a greater threat than Russia; China is the greatest threat the United States has faced in a very long time.

HAVE AN OPINION TO SHARE?

Send your comments to William Kim at william.kim@coloradocollege.edu

The Pope is speaking in symbols about women

KATE MCGINN

Staff Writer

This week, Pope Francis shocked the world once again with the announcement that women who have had abortions may now look towards their priests to lift their excommunication from their church rather than their bishop. This move seems at first minuscule—the priest is just one step down the hierarchy of the Catholic Church from the bishop. Women will also only benefit from the change for only the duration of the mercy year, which begins in December and ends next November. Though the women have been granted easier access to a religious mediator for their "sins," they must still rely on a male leader to control her membership to the church.

The significance of this change lies not in its effects but rather its symbol-

ism. Though I don't practice the religion, I grew up going to a Catholic church on most Sundays. I'm not a theologian or expert on the religion, but I do understand the effects of Catholicism on average, every day practitioners. The change initiated by the Pope this week holds a symbolic meaning. Despite the lack of longevity and productivity of the switch, its timing and its implications are worth noting.

Just a few weeks ago, Planned Parenthood came under fire from anti-abortion groups for allegedly selling aborted fetus tissue for profit. Planned Parenthood denies these claims and much controversy surrounds the issue at the present time. The anti-abortion group, the Center for Medical Progress, released videos that made it seem as though Planned Parenthood was considering illegally selling fetus tissue. The event has brought into question the murky waters surrounding laws about donating fetal tissue.

Pope Francis's declaration about the church's abortion policy occurred at an interesting time, a few weeks before he is scheduled to visit the United States. The timing of the leader of the Catholic Church's announcement must have some significance. The Pope has made his stance on the inclusion of traditionally marginalized groups: "No closed doors!" His liberal ideas (at least liberal in comparison to previous Catholic leaders) encourage mercy.

In relation to the conflict between Planned Parenthood and the Center for Medical Progress, this mercy could be granted to either of the parties.

The timing of his announcement suggests he may make comments about this debate. I'm interested to see what he has to say. The Pope has stated that he is "aware of the pressure" that has led some women to abortion, thus acknowledging the women as victims of social pressures rather than demonizing them

for their actions.

Despite Pope Francis's statement, the Catholic Church still considers abortion a mortal sin. The Pope has made strides in speaking for groups ostracized by the religion and has encouraged flexibility regarding the enforcement of rules. Though the Pope advertises a theme of mercy and forgiveness, the decisions and actions of every-day Catholics has not necessarily changed at a universal level. The changes and suggestions offered by the Pope symbolize a move towards inclusion and tolerance. However, the Church has a long ways to go. In an era of inequality based on race, class, gender, and many other identities, symbolism is not enough to bring about significant change in the ideals of the Catholic Church. Nevertheless, direct words and comments about the Planned Parenthood-CMP conflict might turn some heads in both the religious and the political sphere.

Bud Selig, you've got a problem

DAVID ANDREWS
Sports Editor Column

Baseball is a game of numbers. Rollie Fingers, Hall of Fame pitcher and Major League Baseball legend once said, "That's all baseball is, is numbers; it's run by numbers, averages, percentage and odds."

OBP, ERA, WHIP, RISP, SLG, the abbreviations are endless. One number that has raised eyebrows around the league as of late is the percentage of African-American players in the MLB. The numbers are striking. On Opening Day in May 2015, 7.8 percent of the MLB was comprised of African-American players. In 1986, the league was made up of 19 percent African-American baseball players. Black athletes are disappearing from lineups across the league, and Bud Selig needs to address this problem in order to keep baseball relevant in America.

There are a variety of explanations floating around that paint an inadequate portrait to explain the decline of black baseball players in the MLB. The first theory is that baseball is simply too slow and plodding of a game to attract athletes. According to a Baseball Prospectus' Game Report in 2014, the average game time has risen to 3 hours and 14 minutes. The average time it takes for a pitcher to face the next batter is around one minute. Why would young athletes choose to sit around and smack their fist into a glove when they could be

on the football or basketball field, places where it is rare to see 5 seconds go by without some exhilarating piece of action? Perhaps this is part of the puzzle.

A more compelling argument points to the lack of college scholarships available for baseball players. College baseball is not a profitable sport in the same way as basketball or football. Therefore, schools fund scholarships for baseball players much less than their more fan-pleasing counterparts. In 2014, 88 percent of college baseball players were white, black athletes accounted for 2.6 percent.

In an age where top-tier youth sports are geared almost exclusively towards getting a college scholarship, it simply doesn't make sense for young athletes to play college baseball. C.C. Sabathia commented in a 2014 New York Times article, "All that factors in. How are you going to tell a kid from the hood that I can give you a 15 percent scholarship to go play baseball, or a full ride to go to Florida State for football? What are you going to pick? It's not even an option."

The road to becoming an MLB player is much more difficult as compared to cracking into the ranks of the NFL or NBA. Players often must spend three to five years in the minor leagues, making a pittance, before they can potentially have a shot at a big-league roster. The appeal of basketball and football in the face of such economic arguments is un-

deniable. These financial realities begin to get closer to the true root of the problem for Bud Selig and the MLB.

Where the crux of the issue lies is at the youth level. Youth baseball has become a big business, raking in almost \$9 million annually for one of the largest organizers of competitive youth baseball in the country. According to an influential piece by Amy Shipley in the Orlando Sun Sentinel, published in 2012, the head executive of USSSA Don DeDonatis was paid \$729,600 in 2011. The USSSA is the anti-Little League of youth baseball. The league focuses on competition and brings in the most talented 12-15 year olds in the country. Shouldering the burden of this monolithic youth baseball empire is the parents and families of the league's players.

Tournaments often cost upwards of \$10,000 once all the expenses of airfare, hotels, and food have piled up. Anthony Russo, a coach of a South Florida USSSA team claims in Shipley's article that a season of USSSA baseball can cost upwards of \$100,000. Russo coaches 12 year-olds. The competitive travel circuit has become increasingly monetized for the profit of those that sit at the top of the food chain, such as executive director Don DeDonatis.

The exorbitant cost of youth baseball has pushed lower-income players out of the game and restricted access to a wealthy elite. A game that was once as

simple as having a ball and stick and heading out to the sandlot with neighborhood friends has turned into a hyper-competitive machine. The true source of the MLB's lack of African-American players may be best explained by how difficult it is to fund a talented young athlete's career on the diamond.

However, in the face of such a disheartening youth baseball landscape, there are some signs for optimism. In 2013, seven African-American players were first-round picks in the draft. This marks the highest percentage of black players picked in the first round since 1992. Bob Nightengale of USA Today also makes an astute point in his April 12 article when he states that a concussion epidemic in football may push more athletes to play baseball. 65 percent of current black athletes in the MLB are under 30 years old. The youth of this group of players could certainly lead to more exposure over the course of their careers and hopefully a positive image of the black baseball player.

When Jackie Robinson broke into the major leagues in 1947, cheers erupted across the nation. Sadly, today these cheers for black baseball players are becoming few and far between. However, a restructuring of youth baseball culture and an investment by the MLB in low-income athletes can serve to reinvigorate a new generation of Robinsons, Mickey Mantles, and Hank Aarons.

UPCOMING SPORTING EVENTS

Men's Soccer (1-0)

Friday, Sept. 4 @ Pomona-Pitzer Colleges, 4 p.m. PT
Saturday, Sept. 5 @ University of Redlands, 7 p.m. PT

Women's Soccer (1-2)

Friday, Sept. 4 vs. Iowa State University, 4 p.m.
Sunday, Sept. 6 vs. University of Cincinnati, 12 noon

Volleyball (1-0)

Friday, Sept. 4 vs. Franklin College, 3 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 4 vs. Carleton College, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 5 vs. University of Texas at Tyler, 6 p.m.

Men's & Women's Cross Country*

Saturday, Sept. 4 @ UCCS "Rust Buster" Invitational, 9 a.m.
Saturday, Sept. 4 @ Joe I. Vigil Invitational (Adams State University), 9:15 a.m.

***Men's & Women's Cross Country will split their rosters between the UCCS and Adams State meet.**

***Men's Soccer has one official win against Carthage College. However, the team has one two exhibition games against Concordia University and UC-Colorado Springs.**

All times are MTN unless otherwise noted



TIGERS MAKING HEADLINES

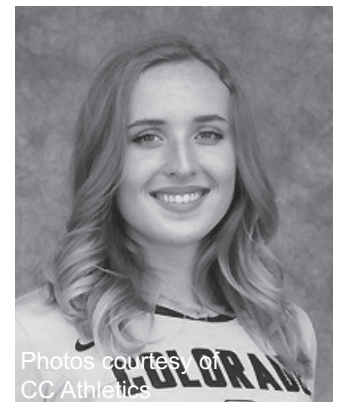


Jack McCormick, Junior, Defender:

Jack McCormick, a junior hailing from Hudson, Ohio, put the final nail in the coffin of the visiting Carthage Redmen on Tuesday, Sept. 1st. The Tigers fell behind in the 67th minute of the second half following a Carthage goal. However, a goal from sophomore Tim Huettel in the 87th minute sent the match to a sudden-death overtime. A mere two minutes into the overtime period the Tigers were awarded a free kick about 20 yards from the Carthage goal. McCormick stepped in and slotted a dagger into the bottom right side of Carthage's goal. Pandemonium ensued. The goal was the first of McCormick's career as a Tiger. The Tigers had played two exhibition games against Concordia University and UC-Colorado Springs, but the game against Carthage marked the Tiger's official season-opener. The junior defender will provide for consistency for the Tigers in Coach Scott Palguta's first year at the helm. McCormick started all but one of CC's 22 games last season and will be a constant presence shoring up the Tiger's defense, anchored by sophomore goalkeeper Theo Hooker.

Amelia Muow, Sophomore, Outside Hitter:

Amelia Muow, a sophomore and Austin, Texas native was a critical component of the Tiger volleyball team's season-opening victory against Johnson & Wales. Muow made a triumphant return to the team after missing the entire 2014 season to a knee injury. In the three-set victory over Johnson & Wales, Muow had 11 kills on 19 attempts. The sophomore also played a key role on the defensive side for the Tigers, picking up five digs. Muow also had one block to add to her impressive statistical night. Muow will figure prominently in the Tiger's 2015 campaign. Coach Rick Swan's squad is ranked 15th in the latest AVCA preseason poll.



Photos courtesy of CC Athletics

Travel guide to local C. Springs parks

EMMA WILSON

Guest Writer

For those looking for a quick break from the relentlessly busy days that have already accumulated over the past week, look no further than Palmer Park.

A short 12-minute drive from campus, this little park rises right out of the city to provide impressive views of Colorado Springs and Pikes Peak.

Park your car right at the entrance and find yourself climbing towards the sandstone that juts out the side of the hill. Or drive yourself all the way up to the overlook of Colorado Springs and our very own Pikes Peak to set up your picnic lunch and relax.

For our expedition, we left the car at the entrance and, after looking at a map, decided to completely ignore it. Following the trail right out of the small parking lot, we wove our way up to the sandstone bluffs that build themselves up against the hill.

As we walked along the open ridge, we found ourselves approaching an unlikely cave carved into the side of the rock. The overhanging stone hid how large our discovery would be, yet the opening was still big enough to allow for a fair amount of light to filter in.

At the top of the cave, I positioned myself in a little hole slightly bigger than my body, while the rest of the group perched themselves along a ledge beneath me. Here we were able to chat, discuss the true meaning of life, and obviously snap some Instagram-worthy pictures.

We picked our way along the trail, passing by spires of stone and trees that clung to the sides of the rock. The network of trails that snakes along the hill presents countless op-

portunities to explore in any direction.

We certainly took advantage of this, weaving our way in a general, upward direction. At the top of the bluffs, a larger trail extends across in either direction, while smaller trails continue to loop around below it.

Hanging our toes off the ledge of stone, we were able to look out across miles of Colorado Springs nestled at the foot of Pikes Peak as clouds passed by overhead. While we marveled at this we also met other hikers and mountain bikers exploring the area as well, suggesting there is much more exploration to be done.

While the lack of trail markers is a bit of a downside, it merely opens up the possibilities for where you may end up, and we found ourselves wandering wherever caught our attention.

As we explored what the park had to offer, I found myself in yet another cave we found alongside the trail. A narrow tunnel connected the two wider cavities, in which we were able to crawl and wave at each other on the opposite side.

Each little discovery suggested that Palmer Park has quite a bit to offer to the curious wanderer. The sandstone stretches along the hillside in either direction, and trails line the paved road that winds up to the top of the park, leaving much to be explored.

So, for the unlikely few that may have an hour or two between class, homework, clubs, sports, and socializing, Palmer Park awaits, just a short drive off campus.

Boasting 25 miles of trails that cater to various skill levels for hikers, bikers, and runners, it's another place for anyone to get lost and hide in caves in order to escape our rigorous schedules, if only for a bit.

Women's soccer drops OT nail-biter vs. Pitt

HANNAH WESTERMAN

Staff Writer

Sunday, Aug. 30 was a hot one. The sun was already strong by 11 a.m. However, the heat wasn't enough to stop dedicated Colorado College Tiger fans. They shielded themselves with sunglasses and umbrellas and filled the seats at Stewart Field with the smell of sunscreen. The fans were ready and eager to watch the CC women's soccer team take on University of Pittsburgh.

This was only the second matchup ever between CC and Pitt. They last played against each other four years ago on September 2, 2011. That game, hosted by Pitt during their Pitt Soccer Classic, ended in a 2-2 tie.

"Pitt is from the ACC, which is a very good conference, so we were ready for some tough competition, said senior midfielder and co-captain Sarah Schweiss. "We knew we would need to come out strong and compete with them from the beginning. We have to be able to put together a full 90 minutes against the hard teams we are playing."

Once Sunday's game began, it was quickly apparent that the two teams were still very evenly matched. Neither side held control of the ball for very long, chasing each other from side to side but some solid saves and near misses kept the teams fighting for the first goal.

The fans watched intently, letting out groans of disappointment when Pitt's goalie blocked all of CC's shots on goal, including a diving stop to prevent a bullet sent by first year midfielder Lauren Milliett early in the first half.

At the end of the first half, the score was still knotted at zero-zero. The fierce battle between the teams continued on in the second half. Midway through, Pitt's goalie stopped another CC attempt to claim the lead, on a shot sent by Schweiss from the top of the penalty area.

The anxiety in the stands grew as the

clock ticked through the last few minutes of regular time with no goals on the side board.

Finally, after another half of back and forth, the score remained 0-0, sending the teams into sudden death overtime. This was Pitt's second overtime game in a row. A few days earlier, they lost in overtime to University of Northern Colorado. In season opener, CC narrowly defeated UNC 1-0 in extra time.

Unfortunately for CC, this overtime went better for Pitt. Only 4:45 into overtime, Pitt shot the ball in just barely past the outstretched hands of sophomore goalkeeper Louisa Mackenzie. The loss against Pitt puts CC's record at 1-2-0. Adding to the bitterness of the loss, Pitt is the first team to leave Stewart Field with a win since University of Memphis in 2012.

Despite the loss, the team is still happy to be back representing on their home field. "It feels incredible to be back playing on our home turf after being in South Korea," said Mackenzie. "South Korea was such a wonderful experience, but nothing beats playing at home, in front of friends, family, and the rowdy CC fans".

Colorado College's season continues next week with two more home games against Iowa State University (Friday, Sept. 4 at 4 p.m.) and University of Cincinnati (Sunday, Sept. 6 at noon). The Tigers are intent on protecting their home field in these upcoming games.

"We hate losing at home, and we don't want it to happen again the rest of the season, so we're really taking that seriously knowing that we play two games at home this weekend," said first year midfielder Kelli Sullivan. "We have a lot of good practices, and we want to transit those to games, into a full 90 minutes. And we want to get some goals in. We haven't gotten as many goals as we would've liked."

Andrew Schwartz: The next big voice in CC athletics

DAVID ANDREWS

Sports Editor

Sporting events center around the action that occurs on the field or court, but in reality, each and every game is a carefully orchestrated production. Referees prance around the field, coaches pace the sidelines nervously, and countless people behind the scenes make sure the entire performance goes smoothly. At every Colorado College sporting event, there is announcer, hidden away in the press box, who adds to the grandeur of the game. Sophomore Andrew Schwartz has stepped seamlessly into the role of announcer for CC athletics and is on his way to becoming a crucial part of the Tiger sports family.

Schwartz is a rising star in his announcing role with the Tigers, but he does not carry the full load as of yet. Dave Reed, the Associate Director of Athletics Communications is the man in the press box for a majority of CC sporting events. Reed can be heard at men's soccer, women's soccer, and lacrosse games throughout the year. Andy Obringer, Assistant Athlet-

ics Director and the man that discovered Schwartz, said that Schwartz is "kind of filling in this year and we're trying to get him added more and more because he does a great job."

Schwartz is part of Colorado College's work-study program and initially sought out a job at the job fair in fall 2014 at the behest of his mother. Schwartz recounts his memory of the job. "I was just kind of walking around booth to booth, and I went up to the Athletic Department table and talked to Andy," said Schwartz. "I told him, 'I did the scoreboard for my middle school basketball team. Let me know if you have any openings.'" That introduction was enough for Obringer to bring Schwartz in for an interview.

"I asked him to come and meet and talk to me about the opportunities that I had for him," said Obringer. "I sort of said to him, 'Have you ever thought about announcing?' He's got a great...phenomenal voice."

Last year, Schwartz covered a men's lacrosse scrimmage and a men's soccer scrimmage, and was a constant presence at Schlessman Natatorium announcing for the men's and women's swimming and diving teams. Obringer said of Schwartz's work for the swim team, "They [the swim team] love him. They've never had anyone so good."

Schwartz's growth as a commentator has not been without some nerve-wracking moments.

"There's something about talking into a mi-

crophone when there are people around that just makes you nervous," he said. Schwartz admitted that the swim team has some challenging names that he had to "freeball" at some meets.

Obringer hired Schwartz for his distinctive baritone, but the sophomore can also be found in a variety of roles besides announcing at sporting events. Obringer has employed Schwartz in a variety of roles across the athletic department. Schwartz has been deployed on the soccer field as a ball boy, in El Pomar selling tickets for volleyball and basketball games, and even as an intramural basketball referee. Schwartz said, "Andy is a really nice guy, so I am happy to help him out with whatever he needs."

Ultimately, the goal for Schwartz is to step into a more permanent announcing role with the Athletic Department. He will retain his position from last year announcing men's and women's swimming and diving. Schwartz said that he is willing and ready to help out Reed with announcing duties. "If those positions open up then I hopefully I can step in," Schwartz said.



Photo by David Andrews

Local routes with OESIC: Scaling Shelf Road

SARAH LAICO
Guest Writer

After a rousing night of Greek gods, dad bods, and excessive midnight pancakes, 11 members of the Outdoor Education Special Interest Community (OESIC) mustered up the energy to embark on a sport climbing day trip at Shelf Road in Cañon City.

We departed at 7 a.m. and were led by Nick Crews '18 and Rob Balloch '18. The expedition proved to be informative and exciting for all and catered to all levels of climbing ability in the group.

The drive took approximately an hour and a half, half of which was spent on rocky dirt roads with constant hairpin turns (much to the dismay of several dad bod participants). We were relieved to arrive and the weather was absolutely perfect—sunny and mildly breezy.

Heading for the Cactus Cliff and Green Pillars areas, we made a short approach to set up some initial routes. These included a classic 5.7 called “Crynoid Cor-

ner,” consisting of several large cracks and ridges, and an initially over-hung and later pocket-y 5.10b called “Slicer.”

Nick easily led the 5.7, and Grace Ford '19 successfully led the second after much determination and a bit of innovation.

Following this warm-up, we made our way along the cliff to set up some equally chill climbs. “Kalahari Sidewinder” (5.8) proved an interesting climb, as you had to continually zig-zag along a crack that stemmed up a tall wall. A bit further on, in the Green Pillars section, we also set up “Ian’s Climb” (5.7), “Beef Cake Formula” (5.8), and “Totally Blonde” (5.10a).

We spent the rest of the day in this area and the trip became a great opportunity for learning. Grace and Nick in particular were excellent teachers for the members who had never lead climbed, set up an anchor, or cleaned a route.

Using Ian’s Climb, a short lead with a lot of bolts and continuous small ledg-

es, various members of the group got a chance to lead for the first time and also to set up an anchor. In addition, with a huge ledge at the top that several people could stand on, Ian’s Climb was perfect for teaching others how to clean a route.

With newfound climbing confidence, many members returned to Kalahari Sidewinder to lead it, as well as attempt Beef Cake Formula and Totally Blonde on lead. Beef Cake Formula was especially admired due to a gaping under-cling pocket perfectly situated below one of the bolts mid-climb. Totally Blonde, on the other hand, was more difficult. Though the route was mostly a 5.9, two bolts on particularly slabby areas with only a crack for foot placement bumped up the grade level.

After a lunch of PB&J bagels, Clif bars, and an heirloom tomato, the climbing mellowed a bit as everyone took some final attempts at the routes they had yet to complete. In addition, some set up a 5.9 between Beef Cake Formula and Totally

Blonde, “Ol’ 47.” Only a few got to climb the route, but the overall consensus was positive.

Nora Holmes '18 raved about it, as it was a mentally challenging climb—the overall direction to follow was unclear, allowing for the climber to be more creative in using its large cracks and slabs.

Exhausted, out of water, and sunburned, everyone headed back to CC by 4:30 p.m., ready to eat and sleep but also satisfied with the day’s accomplishments. Not only was the trip a wonderful first bonding session as a hall, it also stepped up the entire group’s climbing knowledge.

Almost everyone that came returned to campus having learned something new about climbing technique, safety, and set-up. Better yet, everyone returned with greater self-assurance in their abilities and stronger friendships. As cheesy as it sounds, that’s what CC is all about—earning new friends, memories, and knowledge.

Volleyball Class of 2019 looks to make immediate impact

SAMANTHA GILBERT
Staff Writer

According to statistics released in August by the National Federation of High Schools, Volleyball is now most-played sport by girls in high school. Combine that statistic with the recent increase in

Colorado College applications, and you get lots of ladies at this year’s volleyball tryouts. However, cuts had to be made and in the end, Head Coach Rick Swan

added seven new freshmen and one sophomore transfer to the team.

“Decisions on making the final selections for the team were based on needs

of certain positions, team chemistry, and who was going to be the best fit,” Coach Swan said. Here are the newest additions to the women’s volleyball team:



SARAH LAWTON
Defensive Specialist

Coach Swan: “Sarah also is a defensive specialist. She brings a level sense to the floor, plays good defense, and has good ball control.”

Why CC: “I chose CC because of the small class sizes and the location.”

Favorite Volleyball Memory: “Senior night in high school [at Durango High School]”



REAGAN FOLARON
Outside Hitter

Coach Swan: “She is another effective hitter on the outside. She adds depth because of her years of experience and we needed that.”

Why CC: “I was really captivated by the outstanding academics, the coaching staff, the people on campus, and the drive to be successful and inclusive. I’m a sophomore, and I transferred here from McDaniel College. Everything is an upgrade here, from the student body and the faculty to the coaching staff; it’s awesome.”

Favorite Volleyball Memory: “Playing my first collegiate match.”



MYCA STEFFY-BEAN
Middle Hitter

Coach Swan: “Middle hitter, very quick, very fast, excellent blocker, jumps very well, can be a threat in the middle as an attacker. Strongest point is her block because she’s able to read attacks well. Very excited about what she can bring to the table.”

Why CC: “I came to visit here last fall and just fell in love with the atmosphere: the curriculum, the people, the teachers. Everything was something that I was really into right off the bat.”

Favorite Volleyball Memory: “Has to be today. It was my first official college match, so it’s pretty exciting.”



ANNA GRIGSBY
Middle Hitter/
Right Side Hitter

Coach Swan: “She’s a player that has a lot of versatility. She can play middle, she can play on the right side, and she’s got a lot of potential. She’s very tall and can reach high to block.”

Why CC: “I chose CC because of the Block Plan and because it’s a really good academic school. And the location is really beautiful; I live in Oregon so there’s similar geography. When I came to visit, everyone was really accepting to me and that was really cool. So I just really like the environment here.”

Favorite Volleyball Memory: “Playing in the state tournament my sophomore and junior year.”



MAKENA JANSSEN
Defensive Specialist

Coach Swan: “She’s from Hawaii and definitely played a lot of outdoor volleyball, so she has good ball control and court sense. She can bring a lot as a defensive player.”

Why CC: “On my visit, I really loved all the people I met. Everyone was really nice and I love the Block Plan. Plus it’s in a beautiful place.”

Best Volleyball Memory: “Playing in the state tournament in high school.”



AUDREY DERVARICS
Setter

Coach Swan: “She’s a setter. She’s got a great knack for the game, knows the courts, and delivers a nice hittable ball. We’re excited for what she can do for us this year and down the road in the future.”

Why CC: “For the academics and for the culture, and for the volleyball team.”

Favorite Volleyball Memory: “Beating our rivals in the district championship.”



ARIA DUDLEY
Right Side Hitter

Coach Swan: “She’s a left-handed right-side player, and we haven’t had one of those in a couple years. They can bring a different dimension in the opposite position. She hits hard, has smart shots, and is a versatile player.”

Why CC: “The beautiful campus, the academics and the coaching staff. They are so nice and helpful and I know they will help me improve.”

Favorite Volleyball Memory: “Playing in my first college game.”



JULES STANLEY
Outside Hitter

Coach Swan: “She’s very athletic, quick, has good platform and ball control. She could make a good libero.”

Why CC: “You can call me Jules. I chose CC because of the Block Plan, the really good academics, and the general vibes because everyone is so nice.”

Favorite Volleyball Memory: “I went to a volleyball camp at Penn State, and Russ Rose’s assistant coach told me I was an excellent player, so I was super stoked about that.”

Photos courtesy of CC Athletics

McCormick lifts Tigers over Carthage with OT blast

JARED BELL

Guest Writer

On Tuesday, Sept. 1, the Red Men of Carthage College traveled from Kenosha, Wis. to Stewart Field to mark the start of the regular season for Colorado College men's soccer, a season with expectations of a big postseason run.

The first 10 minutes of the game were dominated by hard pressure from Carthage as they were dictating the quick pace of the game; however, their man-to-man tempo led to a hole in their defense, which senior Max Grossenbacher exploited following a steal.

"He made a great stop then played me for an open finish that was deflected by their keeper into Soren's half-volley fin-

ish," said starting midfielder Brian Rubin.

CC was up 1-0, but Carthage, still energized, returned fire on a cross from the right side that caused a miscommunication followed by a sleazy finish from the Red Men forward. Now tied at 1-1 and carrying the spark from the tying goal, Carthage pressed on and dictated the rest of the half.

The second half was a different story. The Red Men came out gassed, finally feeling the effects of playing at 6,000 feet. The Tigers controlled the tempo and fired on all cylinders. CC had numerous shots on goal, and just as it seemed as if they might be able to sneak one in, an hour and a half lightning delay brought the contest to a halt with 26 minutes remaining.

"We were all pretty upset because we were controlling the game and had all the momentum in our favor," said Rubin. "Carthage was tired and out of position, and the lightning delay gave them an opportunity to recharge."

Some fans took advantage of the lightning delay. "I mean, dude, I

was starving," said Hunter Henniger, CC men's soccer aficionado. "Thanks to that lightning delay, I was able to snag some yogurt and granola and use the restroom without missing any of the game."

A minute and 30 seconds after the two teams retook the pitch, Carthage played a ball over the top, and the Red Men forward finished the one-on-one with sophomore keeper Theo Hooker. The rest of the game was a gritty push by CC to equalize. With five minutes left, sophomore Tim Huettel did just that off of a cross from the lone freshman back, Keenan Amer.

"It felt like, frankly, ineffable," said Huettel. "I guess you could say it was a combination of exhilaration and satisfaction. The second I scored I looked up at the stands and saw my grandpa. He gave me a sort of half-grin and thumbs-up. I mean, picture that—that's what soccer is all about. I knew, like my grandfather did, that we were going to score another one."

And that's exactly what they did.

In a 10-minute golden goal extra time period, with all momentum at their back, the Tigers were relentless. Unable to handle the heat, the Carthage Red Men took down freshman midfielder Rob Malone at the top right of the box. Lefty center defender Jack McCormick came

in to finish the job, placing the free kick around the wall and into the bottom left corner. Finally, the game, characterized by McCormick as "physical" and played in "less than ideal circumstances" came to a close.

McCormick reflected on the game and its impact on the season. "Expectations for the game were obviously to go out and get a win any way possible—to start the season right and improve as a team," he said. "I was pleased with the result and the persistence of our young team."

McCormick also added that, though there is room for improvement, this result reassured him of the team's capabilities.

"There are a few things we need to work on this week," he said. "But I was overall impressed and encouraged we were able to fight and get this win over a good team."

This weekend the 1-0 Tigers continue out-of-conference play in California for a pair of contests with Pomona-Pitzer and University of Redlands.

"The first four games are very important," said Rubin. "They are against four of our toughest opponents, are out of conference, and really set the tone for the rest of the season. These games will help determine a spot in the tournament."



Going solo: The attraction of escape

SARA FLEMING

Guest Writer

Imagine cresting a mountain pass, taking off a heavy pack, and looking at the view ahead: miles of wild expanse and rugged peaks without signs of human influence. If you're a Colorado College student reading this section, I probably don't need to convince you that being



Photo by Sara Fleming

in the mountains is incredible. But I do want to persuade you a less popular sentiment: that solitude in the outdoors is an even more powerful experience.

CC students tend to use the outdoors as an extremely valuable social venue: a place to relax and have fun with friends and engage in deeper conversation. However, this isn't the only way to get outdoors. Many of the most awe-inspiring and lasting accounts of nature experiences come from those who have ventured out by themselves (think John Muir, Edward Abbey, Thoreau).

This summer, I experienced extended solitude for the first time, on a three-day solo backpacking trip in which I had my first wilderness bear encounter, sat alone on the top of a high mountain pass, and experienced the liberating feeling of singing at the top of my lungs without being judged by human ears. I came back with a better understanding of my life.

It sounds like a cliché: a girl goes out into the woods and "finds herself." The cliché is founded, though, on a grain of truth. We are under constant pressure to be around people all the time and create a public identity characterized by "likes"

and "follows."

We define ourselves largely by our social circles. Being alone for an extended amount of time gives us a break from the constant influx of social pressures and a chance to begin to define ourselves not in relation to others. It also holds true that sometimes the best way to understand is to step back and gain a wider perspective; being far removed from the everyday concerns may offer you a different perspective on the problems that plague you.

Michael Cassan '19 spent part of his gap year hiking the 2,663-mile Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) from the border of Mexico to Canada, an endeavor which required spending long periods of time alone in the wilderness.

"Generally, if you get uncomfortable in 'real life,' you can pull out your phone and text someone," Cassan said. "On the trail, that doesn't really happen. You can't hide from yourself when you're out there for that long. You have so much time to think that eventually every little thing is going to come up."

Our society tends to convince us that being alone is degrading to our social skills, but Cassan found it was just the opposite; when he did encounter people on the trail, they were in the same mindset as he was, and it was much easier to get to know them. "I had deeper connections with people that I'd been with for a day and a half than with friends that I'd known for years and years back home," he said.

Though Cassan had setbacks, trials, and tribulations, including a broken foot and a near-death lightning strike, he concluded, "Just as general life advice, go hike a long trail."

Perhaps the PCT isn't the best stepping stone; trips of shorter duration and intensity are also a valuable experience. You will still be challenged to take full responsibility for your own decisions, potentially in tough or dangerous situations.

Before you embark on such an adven-

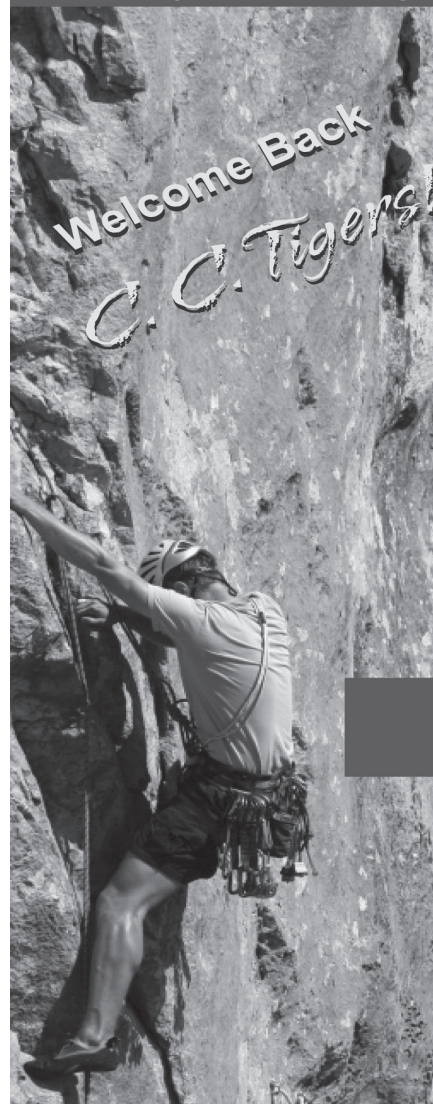
ture, you should have some experience in whatever undertaking you choose. Make sure that you feel comfortable with your route, have communicated a detailed plan to another person, and consider carrying a SPOT or satellite phone in case of an emergency.

Be prepared for loneliness. Three days isn't a long time, but sometimes I was scared, uncomfortable, and made very aware of the fact that I was in the moun-

tains without a soul within 10 miles. But learning how to be lonely is part of the process of knowing and understanding yourself.

If you've ever thought about hiking, backpacking, cycling, traveling, or embarking alone on a venture of any kind, I urge you to overcome your fears and try it. It will give you a new perspective on your own identity, life, and the world around you.

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Reel Talk: Meru



THOMAS CRANDALL
Staff Writer

Not many documentaries get theatrical releases, but the climbing documentary "Meru," directed by Jimmy Chin and Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi, has accrued considerable attention from both festivals and the general public. To call it just a climbing film doesn't give the filmmakers enough credit. "Meru" deeply explores obsession and drive. It follows Colorado College alum Renan Ozturk, Conrad Anker, and Jimmy Chin's attempt to summit the impossible Himalayan peak, the Shark's Fin on Mt. Meru. In addition to incredible reviews and the Audience Choice award at Sundance, "Meru" boasts incredible mountain cinematography while telling a visceral, beautiful story of loss and perseverance.

The first half of "Meru" introduces its three climbers: Jimmy Chin, Renan Ozturk, and Conrad Anker. Like a cast, each of the three brings a different emotional flavor; while Conrad appears the most raw and hardened in the film, Chin brings a humorous

brevity with Renan as the young prodigy, working to earn the older climbing pair's trust. Thankfully, the film does well to make clear the eccentric world of climbing for non-climbers. Although climbers

"Meru" deeply explores obsession and drive, following Colorado College alum Renan Ozturk, Conrad Anker, and Jimmy Chin's attempt to summit the impossible Himalayan peak, the Shark's Fin on Mt. Meru.

may connect with the story more deeply, terms like 'beta,' or information on a climb, are defined in general, non-climber speak. The team's first summit attempt actually feels abnormally easy, with beautiful imagery and jokes in the tent during a sub-zero snow storm cushioning the duress they must be feeling. It's almost as if I were waiting for someone to curse or yell or show some sign of emotion to remind me that they're human. The first half doesn't yet capture what is at stake for the climbers, or the insanity of their task.

We're reminded of the elite status of these climbers when Jon Krakauer explains that "you can't just be a good ice

climber" to summit the Shark's Fin, coupled with a visual of the team's route. The image starts with a red dot as the camera slowly zooms out, following the dot wind up the mountain's face. Placing the team's progress on the climb becomes tricky; Chin and Ozturk are responsible for climbing and cinematography, so some moments seem missed on film, and locating the group in relation to the summit becomes difficult. Though particularly strong images, such as Renan's toes after the trip, resonate very viscerally, the documentary relies heavily on Krakauer and the climbers' home lives to contextualize the climb and raise their stakes in the attempt.

Chin and Ozturk's photography show the Himalayas beautifully, through video, stills, and timelapses, yet at times their visuals draw too much attention to the picture and away from the people. While the slow movement right to left on many shots and timelapses looks gorgeous, that beauty often highlights the scenery and distances the audience from the climbers. Chin does share funny "home video" footage from inside their tent, but I wish the film prioritized raw, emotional content over a pretty

picture, particularly as the climbers prepare for their attempts.

The film is still incredibly emotional; each of the men reveals his character very honestly, especially Conrad, a raw, mountain man, when during an interview when his voice breaks talking about his family and the team. Succeeding especially in uniting each climber's goal of summiting together, the documentary reveals poignantly both the strength and vulnerability of that contract. "Meru"

The film is still incredibly emotional; each of the men reveals his character very honestly.

grounds climbing universally in humans' drive despite suffering, but I just wish the film focused more on stillness and emotional content than capturing the perfect picture.

Watch "Meru" at Kimballs Peak Three Theater at 2:45, 5:15, or 7:45 p.m., and catch it Tuesday for a \$6.50 student ticket. Read again next week for the review of Jake Gyllenhaal and Rachel McAdams in the boxing movie "Southpaw."

NICK'S PICKS: 'THE BEAUTY BEHIND THE MADNESS' REVIEW

NICK DYE
Staff Writer

Two years ago, The Weeknd released his debut album, Kiss Land. It received a less-than-stellar review in this paper. Abel Tesfaye's first album lacked the creative firepower and surprise his original three mixtapes brought to R&B.

Last year, in a surprise move, The Weeknd appeared on Ariana Grande's incredible "Love Me Harder" off her album My Everything. The architect in creating "Harder" was pop mega-producer Max Martin, a Swede with an ear for creating uber-hits like Taylor Swift's "Shake It Off" and Katy Perry's "Roar."

Martin is the genius behind The Weeknd's monstrous second act. The producer clearly recognized an untapped superstar in Tesfaye from working with him on "Harder." During his mixtape

phase, the singer avoided the spotlight. He was largely faceless and unknown. On Kiss Land, he was present on his cover, but not forcing his way into the spotlight by any means. Martin's move for The Weeknd was to embrace his inner Michael Jackson, easily one of the biggest superstars of all time.

Vocally, comparisons between Tesfaye and Jackson are easy as both can reach incredible highs. (There was a cover of Jackson's "Dirty Diana" on The Weeknd's third mixtape, Echoes of Silence.) However, Jackson owned the spotlight while The Weeknd lived in the shadows.

At the debut of Apple Music on June 8, The Weeknd became the emo-Michael Jackson with the premiere of "Can't Feel My Face." The song became one of the biggest hits of the summer, scoring Tesfaye his first number one single on the Billboard 200.

"Can't Feel My Face" is a genius hit and easily one of the best songs of the year. It makes use of Martin's production and Tesfaye's skill for writing about drugs, love, and sex. "Can't Feel My Face" channels the entirety of the singer's vocal range from hitting incredibly high notes to low grumblings. With newfound firepower as a pop star, does the singer's second effort at a hit album, Beauty Behind The Madness, reintroduce us to Abel Tesfaye?

Undoubtedly, yes. Madness is light-years ahead of Kiss Land in terms of quality. The Weeknd worked on writing a truly accessible album. His key move was toning down the filthiness of his lyrics. With the mixtape trilogy, we were introduced to the singer as a drugged-out, over-sexed lothario. On Kiss Land, listeners had been bludgeoned with Tesfaye's promiscuity.

Madness turns down the drugs and filth to a manageable low, but keeps the love and sex at a powerfully strong level. He manages to find a strong medium to remain the same songwriter while keeping the grotesque qualities of his past work down.

The majority of Madness is new territory upon which Tesfaye strides proudly. He takes prideful claim over his success on the soul sampling Kanye West-produced "Tell Your Friends." He enters into a dubstep house-ish arena with UK singers Labrinth on "Losers," and finds his female counterpart of Lana Del Rey in "Prisoners."

The strongest song of the album other than "Face" is "In The Night." Once again helmed by Martin, "Night" finds The Weeknd in an 80-sounding Chromeo-styled funk groove.

This is not to say Madness is not without it's weak spots. The collaboration with Ed Sheeran, "Dark Times," seems questionable. One can hardly believe Sheeran and Tesfaye are cut from the same fabric. Sheeran has always come off as the nice guy trying to prove he's cool, while Tesfaye is a man of the night.

"The Hills," the second single from the album, is a poor vehicle for the singer. He is lowly wobbling or fuzzed out, which is a bad decision for a singer known for hitting rare highs. The song following it, "Acquainted," isn't a sharp variation and feels lazy.

Overall, Madness is miles in the right direction for The Weeknd after the poor musical display in Kiss Land. Two years ago it would hard to believe this artist could step to center stage and become a full-blown pop sensation, but the best place for Tesfaye to go is the one we never thought he could.



Photo courtesy of CZR-E

BREWHAHA: LOCAL BREWERY OFFERS MUSIC FESTIVAL

NOAH STEWART
Staff Writer

Beginnings are both thrilling and nerve-wracking, full of both excitement and unpredictability. In part, this is why the Freewheelin Festival holds particular appeal. With a widespread marketing campaign around Colorado College's campus and within Colorado Springs, there's hope that the publicity will garner interest in this new musical venture.

The Freewheelin Festival is unique in that winners of Colorado Springs' Independent Music Awards, plus other local and touring artist will perform on three separate stages on Friday, Sept. 11 from 4 p.m. until 10 p.m. and on Saturday, Sept. 12 from noon until 10 p.m.

Initially, it may seem a stretch that Bristol Brewery, a local microbrewery, became involved with staging a music-related event. Kristen Olson, Director of Events at Bristol Brewing Company, explained, "At Bristol Brewing Company, we believe in contributing to the community in a way that makes us proud. Oftentimes we are lucky enough to do that through the donation of beer to fundraising opportunities."

However, Bristol's involvement in mu-

sic goes deeper. "If successful," Olson states, "the Freewheelin Fest could offer residents of Colorado Springs a new experience that showcases an eclectic variety local and national talent. When the Colorado Springs Independent Newspaper came onboard to bring the Indy Music Awards to the festival, well, that really solidified what we are trying to accomplish."

Olson's words emphasize the importance of community partnership and growing interest in transforming Colorado Springs into a city that caters to the growing music and arts scene. In order to make this event even more accessible to college students, Bristol Brewing has also partnered with Colorado College.

According to senior Molly Scudder, Bristol has organized a shuttle that will be

"If successful," Olson states, "the Freewheelin Fest could offer residents of Colorado Springs a new experience that showcases an eclectic variety local and national talent."

leaving from campus that will transport students to and from the festival. With guaranteed live music and transportation, it's cut out to be a fantastic event. The festival will have a table in Worner on Wednesday, Sept. 9; tickets are also available online. In addition, the SOCC will be raffling a pair of tickets next week. Stay tuned!

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You're not as anonymous as you think you are: Tips for protecting your privacy online

ALYSSA ORTEGA
Staff Writer

In light of recent hacking scandals online, such as the Ashley Madison database, many Internet users are seeking ways to protect their identities and information on the web. For many of us, our online trails already extend far beyond what we may think.

Julia Angwin, author of "Dagnet Nation," interviewed with Sarah Childress of FRONTLINE about the year she spent trying to track her online presence and disconnect from it entirely. She was shocked to find out that Google had saved all of her web searches dating back to 2006. Every friend request she'd received was stored in various databases, and over 200 data brokers, companies who collect and sell personal information, had acquired information about her.

"That was just the tip of the iceberg," said Angwin. "[There are] people who are watching the data that comes out of my cellphone without my knowledge."

Sites we use every day, like Facebook, Google, and Amazon, undoubtedly store information on our preferences and demographics. But what about the other sites, like Acxiom and Experian, that we might not know are tracking our online behavior? According to Angwin, these companies are closely linked to government agencies.

Most states will sell information from your voting records—like your name,

address, and sometimes party affiliation—to commercial data brokers. These companies often sell the information back into the government, meaning that law enforcement and lawmakers can access it. The FBI and NSA use this data about us to investigate national security threats, solve crime, and potentially even to predict crime before it occurs, according to Hanni Fakhoury, a senior attorney with the Electronic Frontier Foundation who focuses on criminal law and privacy cases.

The harm of this, explained Angwin, is that information is power.

"If you're going on to a car dealership lot, you don't want the guy to know your income and what models you've been looking at, and what other deals you've been offered at other dealerships," said Angwin.

This information can be shared in a multitude of ways beyond government use, sometimes to the people you interact with daily. In "Dagnet Nation," Angwin tells a story of a woman whose sexual orientation was outed to her co-workers when they saw gay and lesbian ads pop up on her Facebook page.

So how are we supposed to protect ourselves from misuse of our personal data? Angwin, in a radical effort to completely go off the grid, unfriended every Facebook friend, deleted her LinkedIn and her Twitter, and put a sticker over her webcam so she couldn't be observed by hackers through her computer. She even went so far as to cover her cell-

phone in tinfoil, which allegedly blocks the signal, although she admits it was a rather extreme move.

There are, however, plenty of simple actions one can take to reduce the amount they are tracked online. Kara Brandeisky, a reporter and producer at Money.com chatted with Paul Stephens, Director of Policy at the Privacy Rights Clearinghouse to find the best ways to protect privacy online.

The first step, Stephens said, was to delete cookies from your browser. In Google Chrome, this action is under the "Tools" menu; in Safari, it can be found under "Preferences".

There are also privacy settings on most smartphones that limit data brokers' ability to see what you're browsing on

the go. Some people opt to use a search engine called DuckDuckGo, which, unlike Google, promises not to collect personal information.

Ultimately, experts recommend that you check your privacy settings on social media regularly and carefully read the terms and conditions for any site you sign up for. Users on Ashley Madison could have been savvy web browsers, but hey, maybe karma got the best of that situation.

Sources: "Podcast: How to Protect Yourself (and Your Data) Online" by Michelle Mizner on PBS.org and "7 Ways to Protect Your Privacy Online" by Kara Brandeisky on Time.com



Photo by Emilia Whitmer

Spiritual Life: Finding a new path?

MAYLIN CARDOSO FUENTES
Staff Writer

Leaving home and your culture can be a stressful experience, especially when moving away to college. At the same time, college can also be the perfect place to discover new cultures and religions that you may have not had the chance to be involved with before. Fortunately, Colorado College has a tremendous myriad of activities for most popular spiritual practices out there ranging from the subjects of Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, and more.

Colorado College offers a diverse selection of Christian involvement on campus. The First Congregational Church (UCC) is a place where Christians openly discuss religion while being accepting of others, including LG-BTQIA+ peers. UCC's worship starts Sept. 13 at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

The community is also starting the Student Christian Movement (SCM), which is a movement for Christians to pursue social justice and progression. SCM, like UCC, is also LG-BTQIA+ friendly. For more conservative Catholics, the Catholic Community and Catholic Campus Ministry provide weekly Sunday Masses at 4:30 p.m. in Shove Chapel and other churches within walking distance along with community dinners on Thursdays, Bible sessions, and semi-annual retreats to Baca.

The Chaplain's Office also provides Taizé, a Christian candlelight service held every second Monday of the Block. Other Christian fellowships include

Navigators, a group that aims to connect the Bible's teaching to our daily lives and to discuss them, and Revolution Ministries, a leadership organization that attempts to inspire fellow Christians to lead their communities and give them the skills necessary to spread their ideals, and many more.

For non-Christians, Colorado College provides services for Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, and other spiritual students as well as for Christian students. For example, the college offers many different adjunct classes such as DS243: Somatic Practices: QiGong, a Chinese meditative class, and HE121/221/321, which are adjuncts that allow you to learn Hebrew at elementary, intermediate, and advanced levels. For Jewish students, the Colorado College Hillel provides weekly Shabbat services and multiple social gatherings throughout the year like a Sukkot celebration and a Hanukkah cook-off.

Muslim Student Life supports Muslim students through Juma prayer at the Interfaith House and meal/holiday celebrations. Buddhist students can meet with Zen Buddhism or Tibetan Buddhism for a weekly meditation session in addition to the meditation sessions that are offered in the mornings and evenings. There are also spiritual events for other spiritualities like the Quakers.

For more information about Colorado College's spiritual practices, visit the Chaplains' Office in Shove Chapel, via phone at 719-389-6638, or online at <https://www.coloradocollege.edu/offices/chaplainsoffice/>.



Photo by Philip Engh

BEER FESTIVALS COMING TO DENVER IN SEPTEMBER

ALLIE VERCHOTA
Guest Writer

On September 24 through 26, Denver will host the 33rd Annual Great American Beer Festival (GABF). The festival will be held at the Colorado Convention Center and promises to showcase more than 3,500 beers from over 740 breweries. Guinness World Records has recognized the GABF as having the largest selection of beers available at one time in history. This event is an incredible opportunity to try a mind-boggling amount of beers.

GABF began in 1982 and has grown incrementally each year since. The festival is hosted by the Brewers Association, a non-profit educational and trade organization devoted to making quality beer and brewing information available to everyone. The organization serves to pro-

tect American craft beer, brewing, and the community of brewing enthusiasts. The Brewers Association was largely responsible for lobbying states such as Alabama and Mississippi to become the final states to legalize home brewing.

Of the roughly 740 breweries featured (the number increases frequently), 155 of them are from Colorado, by far the largest showing from any state. Only one brewery from Colorado Springs is appearing, the beloved Bristol Brewing Company. Other Colorado favorites of mine include Great Divide Brewing Co. (Denver), Pikes Peak Brewing Co. (Monument), Epic Brewing Co. (Denver), Left Hand Brewing Co. (Longmont), Dry Dock Brewing Co. (Aurora), Odell Brewing Co. (Fort Collins), and Pug Ryan's Brewing Co. (Dillon). Not only will these breweries be showcasing their usual selection of beers, each company has also been

Drama tests the notion that #blacklivesmatter. Do black lives matter?

NIYAT OGBAZGHI
Guest Writer

#Matter, a play written and produced by Colorado College's Theatre and Dance Professor Idris Goodwin, made its debut Friday, Aug. 28 at 3 p.m. in the Cornerstone Screening Room. The thematic, pertinent drama lasted a total of 15 minutes and entailed the story of a racial conflict highlighted by a microaggression that flared on Facebook between two old friends—an African-American girl named Kim and a Caucasian boy named Cole.

Kim, played by senior Alexandra Farr, writes a post on Facebook about the black lives lost to the unjust police brutality against black people in America and concluded it with the popular, reinforcing slogan #BlackLivesMatter. After reading her post, Cole, played by junior Alec Sarchè, decides to comment on it and types a response claiming that #AnyoneCanGetBehind in America, not only black people. Feeling offended by Cole's attempt to dismiss the importance of the black lives lost in America and ignorance of racial profiling and targeting of African American people by law enforcement, Kim deletes her post.

After a few days go by, Cole decides to message Kim and asks her to meet up with him, so that they could discuss their differing views with each other and possibly reach an understanding. She gives her consent and meets with him at a local coffee shop. Throughout their entire conversation however, they argue back and forth about recognizing "white privilege" and acknowledging the systematic racism in the U.S. in contrast to "not seeing color" and using the phrase "white privilege" as an excuse to practice "reverse racism."

Cole tells Kim that there are bigger problems to solve than the #BlackLivesMatter issue. They fire off at each other back and forth, but eventually realize their interaction isn't producing any type of understanding between each other. They say good-bye and head home.

In the final scene, Cole calls Kim to

speak to her, but Kim's mom picks up the phone instead and informs Cole that Kim was involved in an accident and had passed away. As a result, Cole feels a crushing weight on his heart and remembers the conversation that he had with her in the coffee shop. Standing up from his stool on stage, Sarchè walks over to a podium and concludes the play with Cole's final line: "On her wall, I typed a hashtag and three words."

The drama, though short, left an effective impact on its audience and reminded everyone of the significance of the #BlackLivesMatter movement and the fight to end the cycle of systemic racism that structures this country.

Goodwin was prompted to create #Matter by an interest in the "chasm of misunderstanding between black and white progressives. I wrote the piece and sent it to the Chicago Theater, but thought it would work well here at CC."

The transition seems to have been a success. Farr (Kim) joined the cast of the socially-conscious production, because her lived experiences resonated with Kim's character.

"Kim is my lived experience," said Farr. "Kim is a black woman's frustration and anger; a black woman trying to be heard trying to keep it together; a black woman who wishes she had the privilege to just live as a human and an individual."

In terms of the type of message that the cast wished for their characters to leave on its audience, Sarchè said that he hoped Cole would remind everyone that "#AllOpinionsAreSubjectToChangeBasedOnGoodArgumentsAndWorldEvents."

"A political play should not provide answers," he said. "It should get people questioning what they thought the answers were in the first place. If someone who didn't understand the BLM movement before this show comes away in support of it, or if someone who refused to engage in constructive argument with an #AllLivesMatter proponent comes away feeling prepared to try it, then I've conveyed my message."

tasked with creating one or more new beers to be judged at the festival.

Whether you plan on going or not, other breweries worth checking out include: (512) Brewing Co (Austin, Texas), Deep Ellum Brewing Co (Dallas), Real Ale Brewing Co (Blanco, Texas), Boston Beer Co (Boston), Uintah Brewing Co (Salt Lake City), and Squatters Brewpub (Salt Lake City). I enjoy the beer from each of these companies. But if you go try as many 1-ounce samples as you can in order to bask in the diversity of beers offered.

If a beer festival sounds like your kind of thing, Denver is also hosting the Denver Beer Fest from September 18-26 to coincide with the Great American Beer Festival. The event will be hosted at 124 breweries throughout the Greater Denver Area and will include tastings and brewery

tours. In contrast to the GABF, Denver Beer Fest will host a greater amount of niche microbreweries from Denver specifically.

Tickets to the Denver Beer Fest are still available, but tickets to the Great American Beer Festival are officially sold out. However, tickets are still available on alternative sites such as Craigslist. If you truly love beer, these festivals are not to



Photo by Taylor Steine

WEEKLY WELLNESS: SKIN HEALTH 101

ABE LAHR
Guest Writer

Many of us are told by parents, doctors, siblings, and friends that the trick to healthy skin is an inside-out approach. These tips often include drinking plenty of water, limiting alcohol intake, avoiding sweets and white carbs, and consuming healthy fats. Although water is essential to maintain hydration and a youthful appearance, there are some practical ways to foster a healthy complexion.

Nothing about healthy skin has to be expensive. High-quality products like Proactiv or Clinique often provide roughly the same effects as drug store brands, or even natural food products that contain the same nutrients.

Understanding your skin type is fairly important in assessing which products to use sparingly and which to make a

part of a daily routine. There are three primary skin types: normal, oily, or dry. While some of us may be able to get away with minimal cleansing and a dab of sunscreen, many college students' skin care regimen needs a bit more attention. The most common skin issues are acne and eczema (dry skin), which can cause discomfort and a lack of self-confidence.

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Dry skin can happen seasonally or irregularly, depending on everything from climate to age. As you become older, your skin typically loses its natural moisture and becomes thinner. Dry skin is frequently associated with drier climates, such as Colorado's. Symptoms typically include itchy, rough, and flaky-feeling skin. If you find yourself needing to apply Chapstick often, your skin may be dry.

Great simple moisturizers such as co-

conut oil or products that contain lanolin are known to lock moisture into your skin. If you have oily skin or are prone to acne, be sure to look at the ingredients in your moisturizers. Most popular and highly rated brands, such as Cetaphil and Aveeno, make products that are specifically designed for oily skin. Look for products that are non-comedogenic (don't clog pores). Also, consider taking shorter, cooler showers and using a humidifier if your home is dry. Your skin should feel hydrated and clean, not greasy.

It's hard to diagnose exactly why acne may suddenly appear or not go away. Acne can be the result of hormonal imbalances, diet, anxiety, and stress, among other factors. Underlying habits and reasons are important factors to consider in why your skin may become inflamed, but in the mean time following proper skincare steps such as cleansing, toning, moisturizing, and exfoliating will help control your complexion.

Since the skin on your face is much thinner than the rest on your body, be

sure to avoid over-washing it; once in the morning and once at night is probably enough. Be sure to remove makeup, dirt, and anything else when cleansing with lukewarm water. Substances that contain sulfates and alcohol leave skin easy to damage and become irritating. Be gentle!

Toner doesn't necessarily need to be used in order to clean skin thoroughly. Cleansing and exfoliating should be enough to keep pores clean, but if you find your skin still feels sticky after washing, use a mild astringent before moisturizing.

If you feel like you don't need moisturizer and your skin does not experience wrinkles and lines after washing, then only use a little if any. Natural moisturizing foods include honey, avocado, salmon, oats, and olive oil. A simple face-mask to energize skin can be as easy as one spoonful of honey, one tablespoon of apple cider vinegar, and one third of avocado. Combine all ingredients, mix, and leave on for 15 minutes before rinsing off.

WEEKLY WORKOUT: PULL-UPS AND BURPEES

ALYSSA ORTEGA
Staff Writer

This week's workout builds on last week's by combining strength and cardio. When performing this workout, it is a good idea to keep a steady pace. It is often difficult to know the perfect pace, but that usually comes with repetition. Another great thing about this workout is that it is all body weight, so the only equipment you will need is a pull-up bar.

Pull-Up Technique:

- Provide appropriate modifications so that you can easily reach the pull up bar without jumping, as jumping and holding onto the bar can strain the rotator cuff. There are many different pull-up grips, but this workout will focus on a standard grip.

- Place your hands on the bar slightly farther than shoulder width. Palms should be facing away from you with every finger wrapped around the bar. If this is a new movement for you, you may want to practice just hanging on the bar so you get used to the grip.

- From the hanging position begin to engage your shoulders and core and pull yourself up. If you are a beginner at pull-ups, you may not be able to pull yourself up that far, and you will need to work on your pull-up strength. To complete a full pull-up, raise yourself up until your chest meets the bar. You may use your legs to help you up, as these are not fully strict pull-ups. You may also use a box or the ground to help you raise yourself up, but again, make sure you already have a solid grip on the bar before you begin to jump. You can also use a band. Thread the band around the bar by forming a loop and putting the entire band through the loop. Place one foot at the

bottom of the band and wrap your other foot around the foot that is in the band. This will give you a spring support and will help you raise yourself up. Modifying pull-ups will help you build up your pull up strength.

Burpee Technique:

Make sure to give yourself a large amount of space. Start by standing up straight. Begin to lower yourself into a squat position making sure that as you lower down your weight is in your heels.

After you are in a squat position, place your hands on the ground and make sure your entire palm is making contact with the ground. After this, kick back both your legs at the same time so that you land in a plank position making sure that your entire back is parallel to the floor.

Lower yourself to the floor until your entire body is touching the floor. Then, start to raise yourself up and then begin to jump your legs back to the initial squat position. Stand up and finish the burpee with a jump. One thing to keep in mind while doing a burpee is to make sure your shoulders never come forward and pass your shoulders while in a plank position. This is a movement that can be done at different speeds and the speed can be adjusted depending on your level.

The Workout:

Repeat this three times as fast as possible while keeping good technique.

10 pull-ups
20 burpees
5 pull-ups
10 burpees
3 pull-ups
5 burpees

WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THE KARDASHIANS?

MAYLIN CARDOSO FUENTES
Staff Writer

Don't pretend you haven't seen at least one episode of "Keeping Up with the Kardashians." They've been on E! far too long. Okay fine, maybe you live under a rock, but you most definitely know who they are. Each week, their faces and glorious behinds grace the cover of one or more gossip magazines. And, to be politically correct, we will define "the Kardashians" to include their Jenner counterparts.

While in line at King Sooper's the other day, I couldn't help but notice a Baywatch swimsuit-clad Kylie Jenner looking oddly like her step-sister Kim Kardashian, plastered on the cover of InTouch weekly. Pause. Kylie just turned 18. Resume. I couldn't help but wonder: 1) Why that iconic red one-piece? 2) How much money did she make from that picture? And just to clarify no, I did not purchase the InTouch. I restrained myself, for once.

Upon arrival home, I Googled Kylie Jenner's net worth, a whopping \$5 million, at 18 years old. You may be thinking, \$5 million is chump change. How much is your net worth? (No, not your parents, you.) \$5, okay, great, glad we clarified. After having a mini-heart attack, I thought, "These people [the Kardashian Collective] know how to capitalize on their assets (every pun intended)."

Upon further mulling and binge watch-

ing, I concluded matriarch Kris Kardashian was the sole entrepreneurial force. As an avid viewer of the show, we are constantly reminded that Kris is the brain of the Kardashian operation. There is rarely an episode where Kris doesn't either push one of her children into a new job or resolve the inevitable discovery of a family problem made public.

Regardless, the family somehow comes out on top and makes a million or two in the process.

I think we could all use a strategy seminar with Kris Jenner, especially as we begin to apply for jobs

and internships. Her class would mainly be self-discovery of your assets, how to use them to your advantage, and then exploit them. Can you imagine how good your resume would sound after she looked at it? To enjoy the seminar, you would have to be able to put aside your morals a bit. But what does that matter in the grand scheme of things? People may question your entire being, but you'll have that dream job, so who cares?

Whether or not you agree with the way the Kardashians conduct their affairs, one must agree they have made some savvy business decisions that have allowed them to lead a

life of luxury. They may be a little ditz, culturally ignorant, and scandalous, but you've got to giggle at it all. The most important thing we can learn from the Kardashian's empire is if you listen to your mother, she will achieve all your wildest dreams for you.

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