

THE CATALYST

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Students Question Quality of On-Campus Healthcare

By HANNAH GLOSSER

In a survey conducted by The Catalyst, 60 percent of Colorado College students felt that Boettcher Health Center has not provided adequate healthcare, while 48 percent of students found that the Counseling Center has not met their mental health needs. 52 percent of students surveyed felt that Boettcher Health Center and Counseling Center do not meet their needs. CC health services and care on campus include Boettcher Health Center, the Counseling Center, the Wellness Resource Center, and the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC).

Boettcher Health Center is the most visible part of the healthcare provided on campus, which provides acute health care services to students. On the other hand, the Wellness Resource Center, the Counseling Center, and SARC focus on prevention and outreach. All four of these centers and services intersect and work with one another to foster a healthy community.

The Wellness Resource Center, Counseling Center, and SARC are all in-house services provided by the college. The Boettcher Health Center services are contracted to Colorado Springs Health Partners (CSHP). Boettcher Health Center was an in house operation until 2011. The school attributes the change from in-house to contract operations to the creation of the

Wellness Resource Center. This change also allowed for the reallocation of funds to the Counseling Center.

Since the change in service providers, there has been building frustration among the student body toward Boettcher Health Center.

"There seems to be a disconnect between a lot of the initiatives that the college is promoting and what Boettcher is doing especially in regards to race, sexuality, gender, etc," said Senior Eboni Statham. "I've talked to many female and queer students who have had awful experiences and I have as well. There also seems to be a huge issue with misdiagnosis that really ends up ultimately freaking people out and causing more anxiety than necessary."

Last year the student health center saw 1,717 distinct individual students, with 2,930 patient visits. Another 332 CC students visited the Colorado Springs Health Partners (CSHP) Urgent Care Clinic.

The 1,717 individual students seen was well above the four-year average, which is approximately 1,500. This report reveals that over 80 percent of the students at CC have visited the health center within the last year.

The prevailing student narrative is negative surrounding the healthcare provided on campus. Students' narratives include stories of misdiagnosis, frustration with wait times, and incidents

Continued on pg. 5



PHOTOS BY PHILLIP ENGH (TOP), MIKAELA BURNS (BOTTOM). Junior Christopher Birch spends a relaxing moment in the Wellness Center, focusing on schoolwork.

Political Strategist David Axelrod Inspires CC Students to Believe in Politics

By RILEY HUTCHINGS

"I raked him across the nose as he came passing by, and he went down holding his face and I'm thinking, 'I just broke the president's nose,'" said David Axelrod on Wednesday morning to a group of Colorado College students. "The secret service rushed over to see how he was doing and I really saw my whole career flash before my eyes."

David Axelrod was President Obama's Chief Campaign Advisor through his initial election in 2008 and his reelection in 2012. He went on to be Obama's Senior Advisor, and is now the Director of the Institute of Politics at University of Chicago and a commentator for CNN.

The above-mentioned incident took place during a pre-debate basketball game in Philadelphia during the 2008 election. On Tuesday night, Axelrod spoke to CC students and the greater Colorado Springs community on his life and his views on our current election. Wednesday morning, he ate

breakfast with a smaller group of interested students, and answered questions.

One theme Axelrod emphasized again and again throughout both of these appearances was the role of his family in his political career. The cost of his daughter's epilepsy treatment fueled his support for Obama's healthcare reform. The birth of his first grandchild re-inspired him to fight climate change, despite concern from the media about his misplaced priorities. Finally, his family is what brought him here to CC.

"We have you surrounded, David Axelrod," said Professor Tom Cronin, smiling in his direction on Tuesday night. Axelrod's wife, son, nephew, and administrative assistant went to CC. He is very much a part of the CC community.

Axelrod was critical of Hillary Clinton on both Tuesday and Wednesday, but supports voting for her nonetheless. He is confident that had it not been for "conscience

Continued on pg. 5



PHOTO BY TYLER SYM. David Axelrod hears a question from a Colorado Springs community member.

News

Sondermann Panel

Four experts convened to discuss Colorado's place in the national election. *Page 5*

Donna Brazile Speaks

The interim head of the DNC visits CC to talk about American political dialogue. *Page 4*

Opinion

The Value of Local Food

According to Rebecca Glazer, organic is noble, but local is human. *Page 14*



Sports

The Past and Future of CC Rugby

Athletes reflect on last season and have high hopes for this one. *Page 7*



Life

The Upright Citizens Brigade

How the touring improvisation group made it to the CC campus. *Page 12*

SpeakEasy and iSpeak

Behind the scenes of the first-ever CC spoken word group. *Page 13*

10 Questions

Cipher Editor-in-Chief and TWIT star Nathan Davis reflects on journalism, comedy, and his most formative experiences. *Page 6*

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Michael Sawyer Kicks Off Policing Dialogue

By TUCKER SMITH

“Policing in this country is completely broken. Period.”

Associate Professor Michael Sawyer’s blunt statement was met with a sinking silence Sunday afternoon during the Butler Center discussion, dialogue, and presentation titled “Police Violence: What’s really going on?” Everyone knew the truth: the U.S. policing system is fractured and has never in its history been functional. The afternoon session was not centered on individual cases, but rather what can be considered the biology of policing and what thoughts we can apply to the entire system.

This session was the first in a long series—a lengthy three and a half hours in order to do the topic justice and to build a community through discussion and open dialogue as opposed to a lecture.

The Sunday session was structured in a unique style. There were five square tables, each filled with various majors and years of students. It began with brunch and introductions around the table, discussing what brought people to this RSVP’d session. The answers shared a common thread: the topic is something everyone wanted to know more about, and there needs to be more talk of it.

From there Sawyer read to the room the introduction from his upcoming book, “Stop Resisting.” He focused on the ecology of policing: how it is a societal disorder poisoning western tradition since its conception.

Granted, most police officers are not out to commit crimes, yet no one is doing anything about the ones who are. Therein lies the problem.

For years, since the first colonial troops, the system has represented “unpredictability and dangerous forms of predictability” in our law to those considered “other” in society. These ideas are merely a sample of the deeply philosophical and historical thoughts Sawyer articulated. However, they dominated the discussion that followed where students asked Sawyer to expand on the nature of “dealing

with abstractions.”

It is a difficult concept, but the root idea is that in order to understand policing, people need to be able to study all cases on a broader scale and examine the system in which the policemen operate, not the policemen themselves.

People need to question why officers on trial for murder have paid administrative leave or where the audio recordings are located in cars and why policemen have automatic weapons.

The corruption within the policing system affects people of color overwhelmingly disproportionately than any other class of Americans. A study released over the summer by the Center for Policing Equity confirms through thousands of police reports across the nation that “African-Americans are far more likely than whites and other groups to be the victims of use of force by the police, even when racial disparities in crime are taken into account.”

“It’s kind of like, ‘Is water wet?’” said Aislinn Sol, organizer of the Chicago chapter of Black Lives Matter in response to this study. “The evidence is becoming overwhelming and incontrovertible that it is a systemic problem, rather than an isolated one.”

Sol and Sawyer make a common point: the policing system as a whole is broken. The country is only beginning to discuss it now because in the new age of media we finally have video evidence. However, the violence and horror has always been there.

The session continued with partnered dialogue concerning our own interactions with the police and how safe people feel on CC campus, followed by a much-needed moment of silent meditation led by Chaplain Holbrook.

The event did not reach full capacity and was attended predominantly by people of color, despite the fact that the campus is predominantly white. Police violence is an increasing and pressing problem and the community should have more open discussion and dialogue about it.

A New Club Combats Sex Trafficking: “Not For Sale”

By JOHN BORAH

Growing up in Houston, Texas, Sophia Skelly—the founder of CC’s new and only sex trafficking awareness club, Not For Sale—was always concerned about the world of sex trafficking. It is no small wonder considering Houston, a major port, contributed significantly to the \$40 million-per-year illicit sex industry earned in 2014.

That concern eventually culminated last summer with an internship with Children at Risk, a non-profit organization which, according to their website, “Seeks to improve the lives of children in the greater Houston, Texas area through advocacy, policy analysis, and research.”

Skelly worked under two lawyers who concocted new and innovative approaches, including utilizing the Deceptive Trade Practices Act (DTPA) as a weapon in the war against sex trafficking in the greater-Houston area.

In terms of sex trafficking, the DTPA can be used to shut down illicit massage parlors. “Lawyers will look up places that advertise body rubs and Thai massages and stuff like that, then cross reference them with health services to see if anyone there actually has a massage license,” Skelly explained. “So they’ll file a civil lawsuit on those grounds. 99.9 percent of the time this is sex trafficking and 99 percent of the time they are victimized (i.e. those giving illicit massages) are of a young age—usually less

than 18 years old.”

On a conference call with a sex trafficking expert from Denver, Skelly realized that, “CC advertises itself as a school brimming with social justice warriors and we don’t have a [sex trafficking awareness] presence on campus. It just seemed really crazy to me.”

Already, Skelly’s club has received an enthusiastic reaction. “The Human Trafficking Task Force in Southern Colorado, which is based in Colorado Springs...was super psyched to hear about it,” said Skelly.

Skelly is hitting the ground running. She is already searching for volunteers to help register people for the 7th Annual Human Trafficking Symposium hosted by UCCS, which is on Sept. 17th. The symposium will have speakers addressing one of the three P’s of human trafficking: prevention, prosecution and protection. In addition, she aims to bring speakers like UCCS professor, Dr. Aditi Mitra to campus and eventually to host a panel attended by FemCO, SASS, and Ponderosa.

Skelly is still actively recruiting for her club, including talented individuals interested in assisting with creative awareness campaigns. Not For Sale’s first meeting is in Palmer Hall room 25A on Monday, September 12 at 12 p.m. “There will be free pizza,” she adds. “Don’t forget to mention the free pizza.”

Frank Waters: From CC Dropout to Eclectic Novelist of the Southwest

By CINEA JENKINS

One of the most renowned authors of the Southwest was a Colorado College dropout.

Frank Waters, novelist and philosopher, was a first-year at CC in 1921 where he majored in engineering. During his junior year, Waters dropped out and went to Wyoming to work in the oil fields, but this was not the end for him. It was the beginning—the beginning to an illustrious life and equally illustrious literature.

Colorado Mesa University Professor John Nizalowski discussed the life of this inspiring author at the Cornerstone screening room on Tuesday. The lecture, titled “Pike’s Peak Drama: Colorado Springs in the Life and Work of Frank Waters,” covered the author’s life in Colorado Springs and at CC.

With 28 published books, three of which are considered classics, Waters’ literature has the unique ability of attracting the attention of not only the local community, but also the scholarly community.

Waters’ literature is appealing and intriguing to a multitude of audiences because Waters looked at the world differently. Theater Professor Andrew Manley said, “I think for somebody of that time when the world was smaller and much more broken, he saw more bigger pictures.” An audience

During his junior year, Waters visited the Devil’s punchbowls where a thunderstorm struck. The lightning of the storm gave Waters his revelation of illumination.

member even said during the lecture that Waters has this theme of “reconstructing a broken world.”

Waters was able to look at the world differently because of his insight, or what Manly called “inquisitiveness.” Manly said Frank was “a man of great inquisitiveness... inquisitiveness about the world around him...inquisitiveness about the people around him, beliefs, and what makes the human being.”

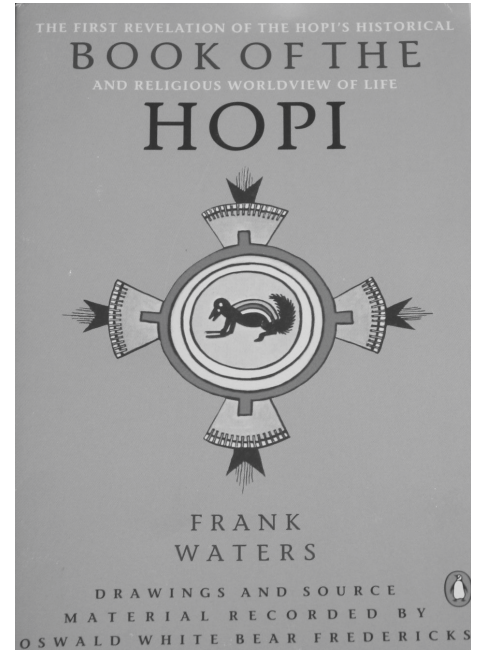
The roots of Waters’ inquisitiveness can be understood with a deep look into Waters’ life. Nizalowski delivered an in-depth glance into Waters’ childhood up until he dropped out and left for Wyoming.

Being of Native American descent on his father’s side and of Southern American descent on his mother’s side, Waters lived and understood life differently. Nizalowski shared a snippet of Frank’s life when he first encountered Native Americans at their camp where his father sat on his haunches cutting meat with the Native Americans and drinking creek water.

This history might attribute to Waters’ approach to culture, which is both enlightening and surreal. Visiting Professor Todd Frugia said that Waters “taps into the lyrical part of [Native Americans], but at the same time presents them as people with the same hopes, dreams, and problems.”

April 25, 1902, Waters was born in Colorado Springs where he would grow up biking around and eating ice cream. Nizalowski described this part of Water’s life to be a sort of “paradise.” It was during this time that Waters had his first revelation. While visiting a mine, Waters thought how the dead stone was alive and about the interconnection and unity of everything, spurring his first transcendentalist thought.

Years later, Waters’ father died, which tore this “paradies” apart. Along with the



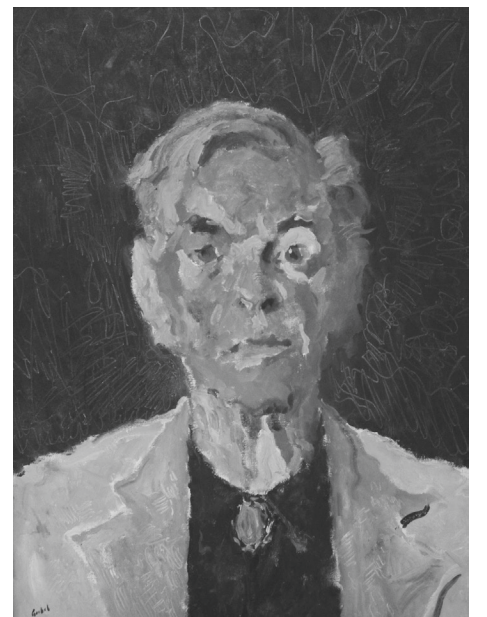
The original cover of “Book of the Hopi” by Frank Waters

loss of his father, his family also lost their main source of income, causing them to move in with another family in a house less than two miles from campus.

When an audience member asked how Waters knew so much of other cultures, Nizalowski pointed to this time in history. The previous owner of the house had a mass of cultural and classical literature in his basement, which Waters apparently hauled up to his room on the third floor.

This is how Waters spent his teen years, reading and working. Waters worked as a red cap at the Santa Fe Train Station all the way through college. Graduating from high school with a ‘B’ average, Frank then attended CC.

It was at this time in his life, right before he dropped out, that Waters had his second revelation. During his junior year, Waters visited the Devil’s punchbowls where a thunderstorm struck. The lightning of the storm gave Waters his revelation of illumination.



A portrait of the late Frank Waters, painted by Rod Goebel, known for paintings of the southwest and its inhabitants.

Two weeks later, he dropped out.

It was these experiences that created the revered author. “Frank epitomizes that liberal arts approach to life,” Frugia said.

Waters went out and did a little bit of everything after his time at CC. He wrote for Hollywood, he watched atomic bombs explode in Nevada, he worked for a bilingual newspaper, he lived with Native Americans—he did not do just one thing. He did what he loved. “He is a great example of what CC can be about, and I wish there was more of that at CC,” Manley said.

Finding a Community for Off-Campus Students

By CLARE ENDE

A majority of Colorado College students live on campus, which means that their longest walk to class is a whopping five minutes, so it's not unusual to forget about the smaller population of students who live off campus in the neighboring houses. But these off-campus seniors are just as vital to the CC community as the students who live on campus, and CC is working to make them feel included.

Some CC students and staff are concerned about the impact that the library renovation will have on seniors who would have used the library as a reason to stay on campus; a place to see their friends and get their work done.

Zachary Kroger is the Residential Life and Programs Coordinator at CC, and a large aspect of his job is creating programs and activities for the seniors who live off campus to make them feel connected to the CC community.

"Since I have been in this position, I just try to keep people in the loop of what is happening," Kroger said. "Often that is maybe like 'hey here is an event with free food,' because that is pretty important to the students off campus."

An example of Kroger's programming is the recent Old North End and off-campus student picnic that happened Monday, Sept. 5. This was the fifth time that CC

has hosted this gathering, giving community members and off-campus seniors the chance to meet each other.

Kroger is also hoping to schedule a few block parties this year, where whole neighborhood blocks of students living off campus are sectioned off, as well as barbeque parties, picnics, and more.

Kroger designs a lot of the senior programs with the idea of "something to make them feel like they are not forgotten."

"It can feel very isolating off campus, and you can feel out of the loop. So, I don't want people to feel that, I want them to feel like there is someone out there for them," said Kroger.

Senior Natalie Shishido, lacrosse player and Sociology major, said, "I think playing lacrosse keeps me on campus a lot more than I might be normally."

Some CC students and staff are concerned about the impact that the library renovation will have on seniors who would have used the library as a reason to stay on campus; a place to see their friends and get their work done.

"I feel like that's where I would see people all the time...you just go to the library and see a bunch of people, which is really nice," Shishido said. "I think it served a different purpose rather than hardcore studying."

Since the library is currently out of commission, seniors are learning to find new places to study and see friends. Not everyone plays a sport like Shishido, but most students have at least one activity that brings them onto campus after classes are over.

"I'm trying to figure out where to study and see everyone at the same time," said Shishido.

Although the loss of a library as a communal space has its challenges, CC is working hard to provide activities and programs for seniors living off campus in order to incorporate them into the broader CC community and daily life.

International Perspectives on the American Election

By HANNAH GLOSSER

Talk of Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton permeate national and local media, as well as conversations on campus.

International students have a unique perspective on the upcoming controversial election.

Students on our campus are encouraged to vote, however, Senior Michael Wu from Shanghai, China is unable to participate in the upcoming election.

"Most people here support Hillary, but back home it is very different. What China does focus on is how the new president can affect the Chinese economy in many ways. My voice does not represent everyone, but from some of the programs I've watched on TV, I would say more people like Trump, since he would not impact Chinese society in any way or culturally" said Wu.

Wu has been immersed in the Colorado College community and been surrounded by fellow students discussing the election.

"Everyone is talking about it, and it is such an important right to people within the U.S.," said Wu. "It is also something we don't get to do in China. Coming from a background where we don't get to vote, I don't really feel left out in away because I have never voted."

For students who are studying here on student visas, the election's outcome has a large role in their life.

"We really care about who is going to be the next president because the policy could get worse for people who wanted to stay and work in the U.S.," said Wu. "It could be really bad, especially from what we heard from Trump. I don't think it's going to get better. Hopefully, I will still be able to get a working visa after school and work here for 2-3 years and then go to graduate school."

Senior Raidell Moreno moved to the U.S. from Cuba in 2005 and became a U.S. citizen in 2013.

Moreno said of his recent visit to Cuba, "Everyone was talking about Trump and what he was saying about Mexicans. I think even though the relationship between Cuba and U.S. is being reestablished, there is still this mentality that whatever they are doing doesn't affect us."

Wu and Moreno both expressed concern over future policies that the next president would shape.

For many students at Colorado College, this is the first presidential election that they can participate in.

"The Cubans that are here, we are worried about the policies that could be implemented because throughout history when there has been a Republican in office travels become more stringent. So, it's harder for people to go back and visit their families because of the new policies that come in place. At times, there have been a cap on the amount of times you can go back" Moreno said.

Moreno explained that him and his mom are citizens of the U.S., but he is concerned if Donald Trump gets in office that his father, who is still in Cuba, will be unable to come to the U.S.

For many students at Colorado College, this is the first presidential election that they can participate in.

As the future of these students materialize, the outcome of the upcoming election will affect the lives of many of the students on campus.

News Brief

LABOR DAY CELEBRATION CULMINATES IN HOT AIR BALLOON LIFT OFF

For the 40th year in a row, Memorial Park hosted a hot air balloon festival in honor of Labor Day. However, on Monday, the direction and variability of the wind made some organizers decide not to fly. Organizers were concerned that balloons would go over Fort Carson or the Air Force Academy. These winds prevented the Sunday night Balloon Glow event from happening. The Monday morning lift off was the largest event in attendance of the weekend celebration. Organizers of the event expected that over 150,000 people attended throughout the weekend.

NEW PETITION ON PESTICIDE USAGE

Citizens of Colorado Springs have created a petition to call into question the use of the herbicide, 2,4-D. The herbicide is used in Colorado Springs parks that are frequented by families and pets. One citizen, angered by the use of the herbicide and that no one notified the local residents

of its use, started an online petition. The petition asks the Colorado Springs' Department of Parks and Recreation and Cultural Services to use alternative pesticide that is non-toxic. The petition has earned over 170 signatures. The National Pesticide Information Center reports that 2,4-D is an herbicide that kills large weeds and is harmless to most grasses. The herbicide is also available to the public, therefore, a person could buy 2,4-D in a store.

NEW PIKES PEAK SUMMIT HOUSE TO OPEN IN 2020

A new Pikes Peak Summit House will open in 2020. The House will feature a main building with three levels, a dining option, a few overlooks, and a station that will provide historical context for visitors. The new complex will cost between \$20 and \$30 million. The current Summit House was built in 1960 and is deteriorating, since it was built on land that caused the House to sink.

Crime Brief

Police reported that a 27-year-old man was kidnapped from an adult sex store over the past weekend. He was eventually returned home to his family, after they paid a ransom of \$200,000. Hostage negotiations lasted four days, with the ransom demand beginning at \$500,000. Three men have been arrested in connection with the crime. The three suspects admitted to involvement in the crime, however, one of the suspects kept altering his story. In addition, there is a fourth suspect still at large.

A 15-year-old in Colorado Springs stole a vehicle and got involved in a police chase. Police answered a call about a suspicious vehicle parked in a Colorado Springs neighborhood. Police ran the license plate and found that it was a stolen vehicle. Due to the teenagers' erratic driving, police officers stopped pursuing the teen in a standard, marked police vehicle. The driver was followed by an unmarked car until the 15-year-old could be pulled over safely.

The perpetrator was taken into custody after forcing a vehicle over the side-

walk and into the parking lot. The chase reached 60 mph and the teen hit a police car. The driver has three outstanding felony warrants and faces many charges. The teen's name is not being released because he is a minor. Following the chase, the teen was taken to the hospital for minor injuries.

On Wednesday morning, Sept. 8, a man was arrested after waving a knife at people, threatening them, and then trying to get into various vehicles. Police responded to calls at 10 a.m., where 24-year-old Freddie Cazarez was still holding a knife. Cazarez did not comply with the police when they asked him to drop his weapon. The intersection between South Nevada Avenue and St. Elmo Street was temporarily closed.

The suspect walked through the intersection holding a knife to his own neck. A police officer used his taser and he dropped his knife. Cazarez was brought to the hospital to undergo a mental health evaluation and treat minor injuries. He was later charged with a separate warrant.

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Letters and inquiries: catalyst@coloradocollege.edu
Advertising: ads.catalyst@gmail.com
Subscriptions: caleb.cofsky@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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DNC Interim Chair Calls for More Civility and Better Dialogue: Donna Brazile Kicks Off the 2016 Sondermann Symposium

By SHIYING CHENG

Donna Brazile, the interim chairperson of the Democratic National Committee, spoke at Colorado College on Thursday, Sept. 1. As the first speaker of the series, Brazile kicked off the 2016 Sondermann Symposium by calling for civility and better dialogues in American politics.

The Sondermann Symposium was named after Professor Fred Sondermann, who taught in the Political Science department at CC from 1953 to 1978. Sondermann came up with the idea of a presidential symposium and organized the first one in 1968. Since then, the Political Science department has made a commitment to organize presidential symposiums in subsequent election years. The 2016 symposium is the 13th in a series.

As one of the main organizers of the 2016 Symposium, Professor Elizabeth Coggins is satisfied with the overall success of the event. "I could not be more pleased with the Symposium thus far," she said. Donna Brazile drew hundreds of students, faculty, staff, and Colorado Springs community members to CC's Kathryn Mohrman Theatre.

"As a department, we believe that Ms. Brazile's work with young people made her a great person to kick off our event," Professor Coggins said. "We knew her message would resonate with our student body, and she would invigorate the students for the upcoming election season and set the right tone to approach the elections."

A big supporter of Hillary Clinton, Brazile rarely mentioned the names of either Clinton or Donald Trump in her 40-minute speech, although they were implied on a couple of occasions. During her speech, the veteran Democratic political strategist emphasized the need for more civil political discourses and better dialogues in polarized American politics.

"I don't know why they're screaming at each other. I agree. People are whispering what we should be saying out loud, we want a better dialogue, we want a conversation," Brazile said. She emphasized that people should always be respectful towards their opponents, even if they have different opinions. Brazile also encouraged young people to vote and seriously considered the consequences of not filling out a ballot this November.

Coggins believes that Ms. Brazile's message about civil discourse comes at "an incredibly important time" in American politics. "Understanding and practicing how to talk to each other, especially those on the other side of the aisle, is critical," Coggins said. "The political science literature demonstrates that polarization in Congress is at an all-time high. While these same levels are not evident in the public, there's no denying that Americans are divided on some cultural and social issues—and these are the most difficult issues to discuss, especially in a civil manner."

Sophomore John-Henry Williams, the head of CC with Bernie, commented, "Overall, I thought Donna Brazile is a very good speaker. I think that she would be a better candidate than Secretary Hillary Clinton."

Williams also expressed his frustration about Brazile's talk. "There was not a lot of substance to what she had to say. She didn't talk about a lot of policies, what Democrats were dealing with as a party. I understand that she was trying not to be partisan, but she just kept making vague Hillary Clinton statements. Other than that, most of [the speech] was just joking." He added that Brazile's responses to many questions raised in the Q&A session were political, but not satisfactory. He expected Brazile's talk to be more informational about American politics.

At the end of July, WikiLeaks released 20,000 internal DNC staff emails, which openly favored Hillary Clinton over Bernie Sanders in the primary. Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz was forced to resign, and Brazile became the interim

chair of the Democratic National Committee.

On July 25, Brazile apologized on behalf of the Democratic Party. "I sincerely apologize, my friends, for those of you who took offense and were offended, for those of you who feel betrayed and were betrayed by the ridiculous and insensitive and inappropriate emails released from the Democratic Party," she said in a statement. Brazile added, "Those words do not reflect the spirit of this party, this party of Franklin Roosevelt, this party of justice and peace and Lyndon Johnson, this party that made sure that I had a head start ... this is not the party that would write emails like that."

However, as the head of CC with Bernie, Williams was not satisfied with Brazile's responses. "It is very good for [Brazile] to have made the DNC apologize. The apology and five staff members stepping down is a good start, but I don't think it's enough. I speak on behalf of lots of Bernie people that it was not satisfactory."

"The DNC had a fundraising commitment with Hillary Clinton all throughout the primary that raised millions of dollars for her. [The fund was used] to actively undermine Sanders' campaign, which had 30.6 million votes. So that is far more than an apology and five resignations." Williams called for a full-scale investigation by an independent party to ensure true transparency.

After her resignation, Wasserman Schultz beat Tim Canova and won the Democratic primary for the 23rd Congressional District in Florida on Aug. 30. Williams stressed, "The Democratic Party helps to re-elect Debbie Wasserman Schultz with Obama campaigning for her, the DNC sending her resources, Vice President Biden campaigning for her, Hillary Clinton campaigning for her. Debbie Wasserman Schultz was also invited to Hillary Clinton's campaign

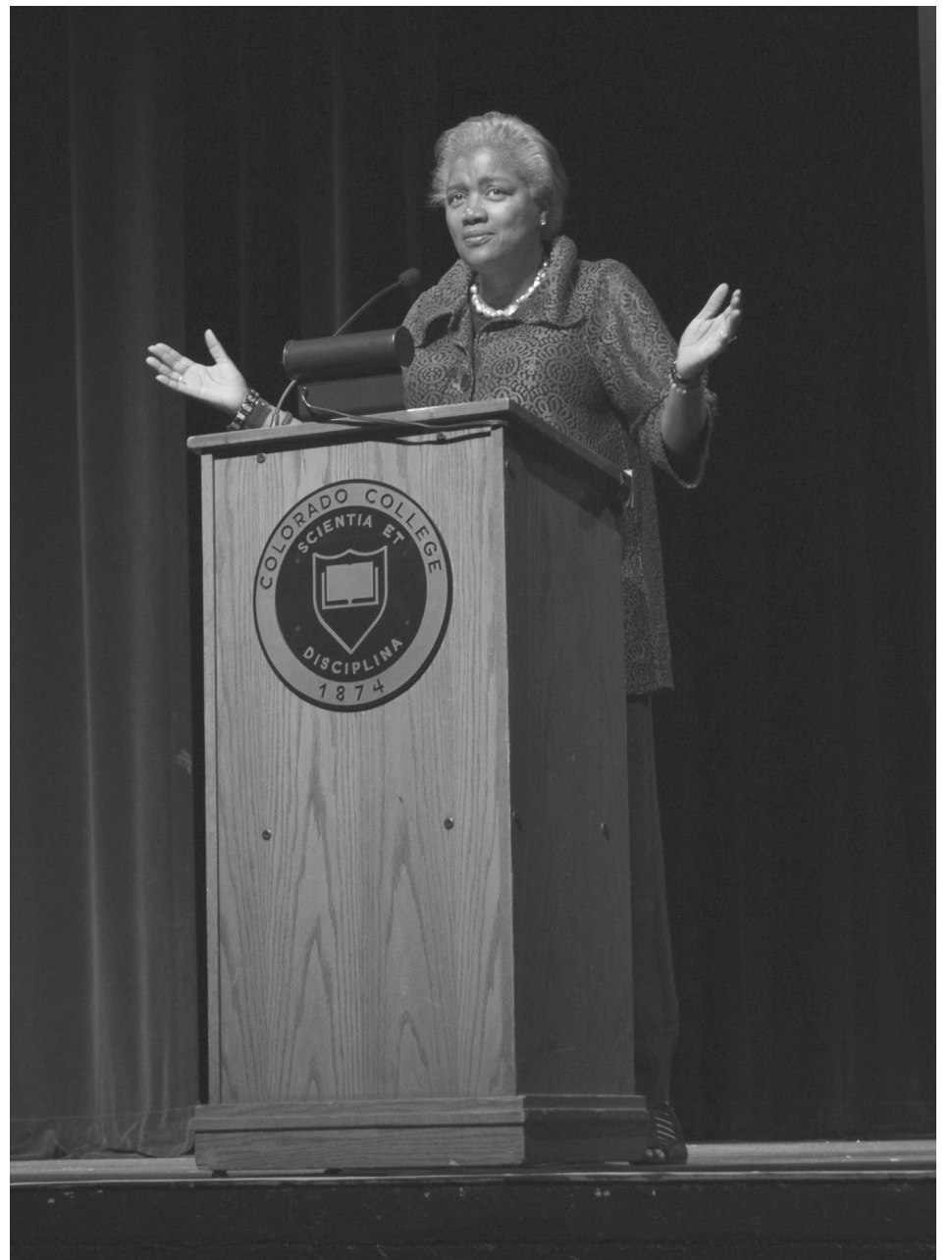
"The DNC had a fundraising commitment with Hillary Clinton all throughout the primary that raised millions of dollars for her. [The fund was used] to actively undermine Sanders' campaign, which had 30.6 million votes. So that is far more than an apology and five resignations."
—John Henry Williams, '19

the day after she was fired. If Wasserman Schultz is too corrupted to run the Democratic Party, she is also too corrupted to be a congresswoman."

As Williams points out, Brazile was also implicated in leaked emails. On May 13, when a Washington Post reporter asked Brazile to comment on the "fight between the Sanders camp and DNC over adequate representation on the platform committee and others ahead of the convention," Brazile forwarded the press inquiry to DNC officials and wrote, "I have no intentions of touching this. Why? Because I will cuss out the Sanders camp!"

Brazile called for more civility and better dialogues in American politics. Instead, Williams emphasized, "The biggest problem of American politics is that we don't hold politicians accountable. If you can be kicked out of the DNC and be reelected, I would feel safe as a congressman to do whatever the hell I wanted, because I know I would get reelected again if I told people what they want to hear."

Next up in the 2016 Sondermann Symposium is the moderator and managing editor of "Washington Week," Gwen Ifill, who will be on campus today.



PHOTOS BY TYLER SYM. Top, Donna Brazile speaking at the first talk of the 2016 Sondermann Symposium. Middle, a standing ovation for Brazile's talk. Bottom, students and community members lining up to ask Brazile questions.

Panel Discusses Local Politics, Colorado's Place in National Election

By ETHAN GREENBERG

The second installment of the Sondermann Presidential Symposium featured four panelists with varying opinions who have been steeped in politics for decades. Yet all panelists seemed to agree that the presidential election is an “ultimately depressing race,” as Eric Sondermann said.

Colorado College Political Science Professor Tom Cronin moderated a panel composed of Sondermann, Vince Bzdek, and Rebert Loevy. Sondermann, who is the son of the symposium namesake Fred Sondermann and a CC grad, has worked in Colorado politics for four decades. Bzdek, also a CC grad, just returned from working for the Washington Post to become editor-in-chief of the Colorado Springs Gazette. Loevy is a Professor Emeritus at CC and continues to be a respected political observer.

The discussion initially addressed Colorado's ballot measures, then moved to predictions for how Colorado votes in November, and finally featured a rundown of national politics. Cronin framed the first segment by talking about whether Colorado should be considered a blue (Democratic) or red (Republican) state. While Colorado has voted for Democratic candidates in the past two presidential elections and has elected Democratic governors since 2006, Cronin noted that local politics are still Republican dominated. County commissioners are 2:1 Republicans to Democrats.

The most important ballot measures include legalization of assisted suicide, a raise of the minimum wage, a Colorado version of universal healthcare, and increasing the difficulty of amending the state constitution.

Increasing the difficulty of amending the state constitution found support among the panelists and audience members. Colorado Springs resident Judy Finley said she supported the measure because “Colorado's Constitution is a hodgepodge of ridiculous things.”

The three panelists who gave predictions all forecast a Clinton victory in Colorado. Cronin said that he sees Hillary winning

all nine Colorado electoral votes, and Loevy even projects a “Democratic sweep.”

Although the lunch was billed as a Colorado politics panel, the conversation eventually centered exclusively on the national presidential race. “It would have been good for there to be more about Colorado politics because that's something I need to learn about as a new Colorado voter,” said first-year Alana Keiser. Keiser noted that there was little talk about the U.S. Senate race in Colorado.

The national political discussion mostly focused on Donald Trump's rise and the effects of his candidacy. Bzdek talked about the media's role in Trump's popularity, and he said, “Trump is a creature of the media.” Loevy said that this election “is flawed because of the nominating system.”

For the last 20 minutes, the floor was opened for questions. Senior Abe Mamet asked about the viability of third parties and why people are so afraid to support them even if they align with their political views more than the two major parties. Sondermann said that one of the reasons third parties do not get traction is that the two major parties will incorporate some of the third party's ideas into their own platforms to attract third-party supporters. So in that sense, third parties still play a role in American politics.

For all of the knowledge and experience that the panel represented, it did lack diversity. “Everyone on the panel was an older, white male,” said Keiser, “I would have really liked a woman or person of color [on the panel].”

Since the panel was made up of two CC graduates, CC involvement in the community was evident in the discussion. However, Bzdek stressed that political involvement in local issues should not wait until after graduation. “I wish CC would get much more involved in this town's politics,” said Bzdek. “There is great experience for the students to get in this town ... the town is hungry for more intellectual capital.”

Political Strategist David Axelrod Inspires CC Students to Believe in Politics

By RILEY HUTCHINGS

Continued from front page

voters” voting third party in the 2000 election, Al Gore would have won the nomination. “I think that a conscience vote in this election may require a different decision,” Axelrod said. He made it clear this decision is Hillary Clinton.

Looking towards this election, Axelrod foresees an extremely negative campaign. “You have two candidates who are the least popular candidates in American political history since we've been measuring them,” he said, “The obvious place to go is to make the case against the other person.”

Sophomore Anna Brent echoed a similar thought, although she voted for Sanders in the primaries and her ideals don't perfectly align with Hillary Clinton's. “I am fully behind Hillary,” she said.

Axelrod referred to Trump with disgust. At one point, he went so far as to compare

Trump to a dancing bear. “The demands on him [Trump] are less than on her [Clinton] because the expectations are so low. That's the reality,” he said. “When a bear dances, people don't say ‘Gee, he doesn't dance very well.’ It doesn't matter; the bear can dance.”

Though Axelrod was critical of Trump himself, he was sympathetic towards Trump's voters. “It's no accident that Trump's core support is the mob of people who have been most disadvantaged in this economy, non-college-educated voters. He has exploited their loss,” Axelrod said. “He's taken that sense of loss and resentment and he has created false enemies like the immigrants.”

Looking towards this election, Axelrod foresees an extremely negative campaign. “You have two candidates who are the least popular candidates in American political history since we've been measuring them,” he said, “The obvious place to go is to make the case against the other person.”

Despite this unpopular election cycle, Axelrod passionately defended his involvement with politics, pushing the point that politics is the path to change, and, that above all else, people just cannot stop fighting. When asked Wednesday morning whether he has hope for the future, Axelrod responded, “I think there is hope in the future. I don't think there's hope in the near-term future. I look at you guys and that's one of the reasons I think there's hope in the future.”

Students Question Quality of On-Campus Healthcare

By HANNAH GLOSSER

Continued from front page

with counselors and nurse practitioners. From the data gathered in the recent survey, the student body was not as overwhelmingly disappointed as some would believe.

“When people have a negative experience, that tends to be the thing people talk about,” said Heather Horton, Director of the Wellness Resource Center. “So sometimes when we do surveys of student satisfaction at the health center, actually students are pretty satisfied with the services, but the narrative that is out there for students is often negative. So, figuring out how do we respond to negative experiences that students have because we don't want them to have negative experiences in their healthcare. Also, how do we help students understand how healthcare systems work and what you can expect from providers when you go in.”

“Obviously you don't hear the good experiences, so it definitely becomes biased, but I have heard a lot of stories,” said junior Leah Ciffolillo. “Someone was bit by a brown recluse and was told it was just a bug bite and was told to just ‘wait it out,’ another person was given a false positive TB test. I think the overall perception in the student body is that it's not great health service. That being said, I have had good experiences there and had helpful doctors. It may not be the best healthcare, but I've sat down with a woman there and googled my symptoms and tried to figure out what's going on. It's really person to person—the level of patient care students receive.”

CC is accredited by the American College Health Association. There is no requirement or law for colleges to provide on-campus healthcare or services. Colleges that are a part of the American College Health Association are required to meet certain guidelines that maintain a healthy campus community.

Horton believes the school is responsible for providing a way for students to learn how to engage in a healthcare system. “I also think that as an institution who has contracted with these folks [CSHP] to provide services on our campus, that we have a responsibility to be tuned in and listening to student feedback, so that we can ensure that the services provided are consistent with not only what students needs are, but also with the values and ways of operating that we have as an institution,” said Horton.

John Lauer, Associate Vice President for Student Life, supervises Bill Dove and Heather Horton, and manages the contract agreement for CSHP. “Healthcare is not a part of the college's mission, so we want to be able to ensure that students have access to appropriate healthcare and then we want to be able to exceed that,” said Lauer. “I think we, as a college, given our placement as an urban college, and next to two distinguished hospitals, we probably don't need to do anything on the healthcare provision side of things to meet our obligation. We are able to respond to students in crisis, through our counseling center and SARC, Maria. I think it's a privilege, but an important privilege, the ability to provide an acute urgent care facility on campus.”

Through the conducted survey, many students reported being tested for STDs at Boettcher Health Center. “I also felt very slut-shamed while being tested because I got tested more than once a year, which is something I feel like that is my responsibility to do and my diagnosis report told me that I should have sex in a monogamous relationship which is extremely inappropriate,” said Statham regarding her STD tests at Boettcher.

Statham continued, “For STD testing and other gynecology needs, I used to go to Planned Parenthood because I thought the people there were awesome and really positive and created a comfortable environment. Due to past incidents, I'm now a bit nervous to go there, which is unfortunate.”

Other students reported similar stories when they went to Boettcher Health Center to get an STD test. Following the Planned Parenthood shooting last fall, students such as Statham are searching for a safe place to

check their reproductive health. In addition to STD testing, mental health services factor heavily into student health on campus.

“In terms of the data we have collected from our students and our more anecdotal information from students, mental health challenges are definitely one of the things they would identify as priorities and one of the things we would identify as priorities too, since we know that would impact someone's well-being and safety,” said Horton. “It also impacts their ability to engage in an educational experience and we want students to be able to do that to the highest degree possible.”

The Counseling Center currently employs an LGBTQ specialist, an eating disorder specialist, an alcohol and drugs specialist, and just hired an African-American therapist, who is a specialist on African-American males. Two years ago, the Counseling Center increased their therapists by 30 percent.

A junior who declined to provide their name in the campus-wide Catalyst survey, said, “I have been disappointed by the lack of mental health services provided by Boettcher. CC has a very expansive mental health crisis on its campus that only gets talked about in an alarmingly surface-level, superficial manner. Mental health is a vital part of a student's life and they should be given the appropriate resources with which to aid healthy mental and emotional development alongside being a full-time college student, which is already stressful enough. Every time I have wanted to see a counselor I have to wait about a week and a half or up to two weeks. This is really upsetting because it sends a message that mental health should rank lower on a student's list of priorities when in actuality it should always come first.”

The Junior not only identified issues with the current mental health services, but provided some possible solutions. “Something that could help is hiring more counselors and making this the administration's priority, as it would strengthen students' abilities to be students and contribute to the overall health well-being and vibrancy of the Colorado College community. Not only hiring more counselors, but hiring more diverse counselors as in therapists that are POC, women, WOC, queer, etc. all that have been trained in trauma informed care. Please.”

“The greatest challenge for the counseling center is to provide adequate accessibility for the student demand, which has gone up,” said Bill Dove, Director of the Counseling Center. “It has doubled in the last five years. Trying to keep up with the demand is definitely a challenge. We have a greater availability, but we also have a higher demand than most schools.”

CC's Counseling Center enables a student to have six free sessions. The Center has four full-time counselors and four people who come in one day a week.

Dove confirms that the Counseling Center tries to get students seen within a few days and at most within a week. However, if a student asks for a specific counselor, there might be longer wait times.

“On a college campus, mental health is number one,” said Ciffolillo. “I think that the Counseling Center could have more availability. I know that students have struggled to be seen and there are two to three counselors that have good reputations and then a lot of counselors who don't. Students seem to be competing for the same people. For someone who needs that kind of help, they shouldn't be working so hard to get it because it's already a difficult thing for people to admit they need. I had a really bad experience with a counselor there and he is always available. I don't want to go back to him, so then the wait time is two to three weeks out.”

Students are welcome to email or drop in to see Heather Horton or Kenzie Mulligan-Buckmiller at the Wellness Resource Center to voice concerns and seek help. There will also be a newly instated Student Health Advisory Council (names of the members will be published early in the semester) to whom students could also share concerns. Additionally, CSHP has a patient advocate that students can contact.

10 QUESTIONS

Nathan Davis, A Renaissance Man



NATHAN DAVIS sports a goofy smile when he talks about the finer things he cherishes in life. Davis, a junior and the current Editor-in-Chief of CIPHER Magazine, enjoys finely aged charcuterie, walks, storytelling, and dancing. Of all the dance crazes that have swept across the nation Davis cites the “Hit Them Folks” as one of his favorites, “It’s the thinking man’s dance,” said Davis. He has a frenetic mind, and there are never enough hours in the day to soak up the intellectual and social worlds of Colorado College for Davis. In addition to leading the award-winning CIPHER, Davis is a member of TWIT, sits on the Honor Council, and edits the on-campus philosophy journal Anamnesis. The political philosophy major hails from Washington, D.C.

Q: What is humor and how do you create it on an improv stage?

I’m not sure. I guess humor is just whatever makes people laugh. On an improv stage I create humor by, well, I don’t know, I think just getting on stage and just saying whatever you think. Or saying the first thing that comes to mind can be funny just by virtue of the fact that that’s what you’re doing. When people know it’s coming off the top of your head it’s much funnier to them. I think a lot of times what people find funny is just watching me or us struggle.

Q: What can students expect from the CIPHER this year?

They can expect a lot. We’re gonna be publishing a lot more longform reported pieces. We’ll be holding ourselves to a higher standard than we ever have before, and that’s saying something because we’ve made some really high quality stuff in the past. We’re also going to be making a pivot toward the web, so our website will be more a centerpiece of the publication than an offshoot. You’ll see us being more engaged with the Springs, moving away from pieces that only affect college students and more on bringing the school into the community and bringing the community into the school. I have high aspirations and so does the rest of the staff.

Q: Which journalists or writers do you admire and why?

I like a lot of the people who have historically written for the New Yorker. John McPhee comes to mind as an old guard New Yorker writer. And more recently, I’ve liked the pieces by Peter Hessler and Jelani Cobb. I think the abilities to tie together complicated narratives, to shield what

the core of the story is almost until the end, to be able to zoom in and out and weave things together in a way that the reader doesn’t notice until it all comes together at the end of the story—that’s all so difficult. When I tried to do that in my writing, I realized how difficult it really is.

Q: Did you follow the Rolling Stone UVA incident? What lessons about journalism come to mind when you look back at this incident?

I think if I were in the reporter’s situation, I would have had the same impulses as she did. Just because when you’re face to face with someone and they’re recounting a personal experience, you’re inclined to believe them. So I guess it taught me that you shouldn’t try to report a story from which you don’t have the hardness to distance yourself. It’s made me think twice about an article before trying to write it.

Q: What is quality in writing and how do you know when it is present?

Quality in writing for me has to do with clarity, first and foremost. The first thing you should always be thinking about is whether or not your writing is saying what you need it to say. And that’s a lot harder than it sounds, in my opinion. And from there, well, it should sound the way that you sound in your head. Maybe if it doesn’t sound exactly the way your thoughts flow, it should be a facsimile of that to some extent. Writing always says something about the mind writing it. And that’s part of what’s frustrating for me, and I think for a lot of people—that you try to make it sound right and it just doesn’t.

Q: What is the biggest issue that faces Colorado College in 2016?

I think that community relationships would be a pretty big issue in 2016. All summer, the conversation around the election was about how it exposed divisions between different segments of the country. I think the difference between the CC population and big parts of the population in Colorado Springs are exactly the populations that people think about when they look at the divisions that have been exposed in the past few months. So it’s always an issue, but finding a way to exist in this city, in this state, being the population that we

are—that’s important right now.

Q: Offer one piece of advice to the Class of 2020

I would get involved early. Not that you should get involved with a lot early, but to think long and hard about what you’re interested in, and what organizations on campus are compatible with that and are really valuable organizations. Find ways to get involved because that kind of thing provides structure and is really nice socially. And those were things that were lacking when I first started school. Those organizations then became huge for me once I found my way into stuff I liked.

Q: What has been the biggest moment of clarity in your life thus far?

I think that my first several months of college—I was in a political philosophy class called Fundamental Debates on the Common Good, taught by Eve Grace—and we read a lot of thought that I was unfamiliar with before. I was also unfamiliar with the style of thinking that involved really systematically going through arguments and reading texts very closely. That adjustment in my brain was a pretty formative moment. Even if there wasn’t a single moment of clarity, those months were transformative in the way I read and talk and interact with people. It definitely shaped the whole way I approach college, too.

Q: What is your earliest writing memory?

I think like a lot of kids my age, my dad read me a lot of the Harry Potter books. That’s the earliest thing I can think of involving words and that was really special. I remember all of that. My parents were never talking down to my brother and I, so I remember having to spend a lot of time asking what words meant. They’re both smart, educated people so I guess they have wide vocabularies. I also remember writing a speech to run for class office where I totally just slandered my opponent. I just painted her as a conspiracy theorist and—well, it was humorous, but it was also really colorful and sort of not cool. But I remember feeling really confident on stage. In a lot of ways, my earlier memories of words have more to do with oral stuff than written stuff. I was always better at talking than writing.

CIPHER Editor-in-Chief and TWIT star Nathan Davis reflects on journalism, comedy, and his most formative experiences.

INTERVIEW BY DAVID ANDREWS
PHOTO BY PHILLIP ENGH

Over

Under

Nathan tells us what’s overrated and what’s underrated.

The Amish: Underrated, “They have good beards and good fashion.”

Lobsters: Underrated, “People don’t really know this, but they mate for life.”

Oprah: Well rated, “She’s the most popular talk show host of all time.”

Tom Cruise: Underrated, “Oh, I feel strongly about this one. The mission impossible movies are great. I think he gets a bad rap for being a scientologist, but I think all of us can sympathize with getting swept up in something that’s too good to be true.”

Cyberbullying: Overrated, “I think if you get too much pleasure out of cyberbullying you’re not getting enough pleasure out of real life bullying.”

Smoothies: Underrated, “Great way to get your fruits and it’s quick and delicious.”

John Stamos: Overrated, “His stand-up is all sex jokes, but not like Louis C.K. sex jokes but like Dane Cook sex jokes.”

Hummus: Underrated, “At least in America. I don’t know what the hummus culture is like in other countries.”

Guy Fieri: Underrated, “He’s a man of the people and I think that frosted tips have typically been reserved for the skinnier people and I think he makes them work for those with thicker builds.”

Threesomes: Overrated, “I’m saying that out of bitterness.”

Underwear: Well-rated, “I like to wear it.”

My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy: Well-rated, “That was Kanye saying ‘You guys don’t think I can make these sorts of albums, but I can make them whenever I want.’”

Condoms: Underrated, “There are far too many people having babies in the world. Believe the hype on condoms.”

Wes Anderson: Overrated, “I like watching his movies, they are pleasing to my eyes.”

Leashes for kids: Underrated, “Way underrated. I don’t know when they were invented but I think the advent of the child leash has been so helpful for a lot of people.”

Turtlenecks: Overrated, “They’ve come back a little too forcefully. I get irritated when things are touching on my neck.”

The Catalyst Newspaper: Underrated, “Vastly underrated. I think the work that The Catalyst does is thankless and I don’t think it’s properly appreciated.”

Amid Changes, Rugby Enters Fall Season as “One Family”

By DAVID ANDREWS

Beneath rugby's raw power and outward brutality lies a deeper and more tender connection for many of Colorado College's rugby players. Leah Ciffolillo, junior and current president of the women's team, said, "Rugby as a sport has taught me a ton, but the biggest thing for me is the community it creates and fosters. I've played sports my whole life but I've never been a part of something as family-oriented as rugby."

Prior to the women's spring 7s season last year, the team made the switch to the National Small College Rugby Organization (NSCRO). The team had previously been competing in the DII Western Division. Head Coach Mike Windle proposed the conference switch to the team as a strategic move to compete with similar-sized schools. In the DII Western division "we were competing against schools that had more faculty than we have students," explained Ciffolillo. "We had a lot of team meetings and a lot of team discussion about it, talked to alums about what they thought, and ultimately decided to go for it. So far, it's been a really good decision for us."

If the conference switch made the women's team nervous at first, these feelings were quickly dismissed by an impressive run to the NSCRO Championships in Charlotte, N.C. Recent graduate Naya Herman as well as current team captains Elizabeth Baker and Emilia Delgado led the team in a tournament stint that ended in a second-place finish for the Tigers. Nora Holmes, a sophomore at the time, also factored heavily into the team's success in North Carolina, bringing home all-tournament team recognition.

The women's team enters this season with a comforting sense of stability after having to scramble to fill the head coach position entering the 2015 fall season. Windle and his wife Amanda, who joined the team late in September 2015, are now full-time with the women's squad. One game that the women's team is itching to play is scheduled for Oct.



PHOTO BY DANIEL SARCHE
Members of the CC Men's Rugby team practice drills at sunset.



PHOTO BY NOAH WEEKS
Women's Rugby player and one of the team captains, Elizabeth Baker '17, tackles fellow player Nora Holmes '18, during practice.

14 when the Air Force Falcons will visit Washburn Field for a Homecoming night battle.

While the women's team has endured with poise a year of upheaval that included a coaching and conference change, the men's team is looking to find success and cohesion in the midst of some ongoing changes in the program. The current coach for the men is Sam Harrison, a Colorado Springs resident and Fountain Valley math teacher who also coaches multiple sports at Fountain Valley. Team captain and scrumhalf Mike Sorensen said, "What we're finding out now is that he's so young so he's sort of questioning his commitment to the team. He's saying 'Do I really want to spend 40 hours every week coaching rugby?' He knows he's not going to be here long-term." With less dependable coach involvement on the men's side, the senior leadership on the team has taken an active role in mentoring younger players and developing talent for the future of the program.

Sorensen called the fall season of 2015, Harrison's first with the team, a "struggle" for the team. Going into the season one year

ago the team had just switched divisions to the DII Western Division that included perennial DII Colorado powerhouses such as Colorado School of Mines and Western State. As the men's team enters their 15s season this fall, they will look to draw on the lessons that were learned during last spring's 7s season. As junior and head of recruitment Augie Nuszer explains, "[7s] puts a bigger focus on individual fitness and requires more team cohesion, at least in my eyes all seven of you must be able to play more efficiently. Everyone needs to pull their own weight." Similar to the women's team, the men's team is eagerly awaiting their homecoming matchup against Air Force on Oct. 14.

Both the men's and women's teams pull from a unique group of athletes at CC. According to Sorensen and Nuszer the vast majority of players that are joining CC Rugby have never played a game of rugby before in their lives. "For me, the first game of rugby I ever saw was the first game I played in my freshman year," Nuszer said. For the women's team, Coach Mike Windle will be important in coaching young players.

"We've never had Coach Mike before at the beginning of a season, so he's really taking us to square one and as we move forward we can prevent injury and have a higher level of play," Ciffolillo said.

Along with seniors Andrew Sanger and Matt Chang, Sorensen has taken a leadership role this year to bring the new stock of freshmen into the fold. "For me, watching the young guys play their first game and score their first try, that's the value of rugby at CC," he said. The men's team competes in a particularly physical division and according to Sorensen are often undersized against their opponents. When asked if there was a unifying characteristic among the rugby squad, Sorensen said, "All of the players are sort of willing to put themselves in challenging situations, to basically be physically abused." Rugby has become a tight-knit club sport at CC and Nuszer spoke to the culture that keeps him coming back to the same sport. "Rugby is a brotherhood of people that will always be there for you on the field, off the field, it doesn't matter. It's about being a part of something bigger than yourself."

Men's Soccer Opens Season with a Win and a Draw as Defense Prevails

By MIGUEL MENDEZ

The Colorado College men's soccer team opened their 2016 season on the road against Concordia College and the University of St. Thomas. The Tigers took on Concordia in a nail-biter that took a full 105 minutes and nine seconds to finally come away with the 1-0 win. The match against St. Thomas was another defensive battle that ended in a 0-0 draw.

The Tigers started the first match of the season with a slow start. The first half of the game saw a lot of shots in CC's favor but less than half were on target.

"We didn't bring that killer instinct in the first half," said Head Coach Scott Palguta. "It was definitely lacking. That was something we addressed at halftime. I think we had a slow start to the game so we were really disappointed in the first half of the game. Yes, we had most of the ball and made some chances but they weren't clear cut."

It took the Tigers until the second half to finally get into the groove that they needed to dominate the game. The Tigers possessed the ball most of the game and outshot their opponents 24-8. The Tigers were able to get 12 shots on

target throughout the game, compared to Concordia's four.

"It was a huge difference from first half to second half," said Palguta. "Big improvement in energy, enthusiasm, commitment from the group collectively. And we thought from the second half on that we did play well and grew into the game and at the end got the goal that we probably deserved to win the game."

The Tigers finally scored in the 106th minute in the second overtime period when senior Caden Mackenzie crossed a ball to freshman Ben Green who scored his first goal in collegiate play to give the Tigers their first win of the season.

"I'm just happy to help the team win in any way," admitted Green. "I wasn't expecting to play on this trip, let alone score. I was over the moon to score such an important goal and get the team off to a great start and it was a great personal moment for me just to score in the first game."

CC took on St. Thomas two days later fresh off the win against Concordia. In another very defensive matchup, the Tigers were unable to break down the

St. Thomas defense. With the shot count at 10-9 in the Tigers' favor, there wasn't much of an advantage for either team. CC struggled to get the final shot in transition to put them ahead and give them two wins to open the season.

"A goal!" joked Palguta when asked what was missing for the Tigers in the match. "We possessed the ball very well. I thought we were excellent in building out of the back and transitioning into the middle third. But once we got to the edge of the middle third we were a little short on ideas."

This weekend showed that the CC defense is not to be trifled with. This is the first time since 1995 that the men's soccer team has started the season with two shutouts. The defensive performance by junior goalkeeper and captain Theo Hooker has been recognized as he was named the SCAC Defensive Player of the Week for his two clean sheets this weekend.

"Three out of our four defenders played almost every minute last year so they're really cohesive with the addition of [Alex] Makic and Henry [Schuler] who were

around last year so they knew what they had to do coming in," said Hooker on his defensive backline. "Communication has been a big improvement this year... I think everyone is always talking, always looking around for information we can give each other."

The Tigers are looking to improve on their performance from this past weekend to carry into the next challenge as they take on the University of Dallas and Pacific Lutheran University this weekend at home.

"The next game is always the biggest game so we're focused on University of Dallas," said Palguta. "They have been a tough nut to crack these last few years as we've had a couple of draws against them. We're preparing for Dallas and in the process, see if we can sharpen up in the final third."

The Colorado College Men's Soccer team takes on the University of Dallas on Friday, Sept. 9 at 3 p.m. and Pacific Lutheran University on Sunday, Sept. 11 at 1:30 p.m. Both soccer games will be played on Stewart Field.

Upcoming Fall Sporting Events

Men's and Women's Cross Country
Saturday, Sept. 10: Colorado College Invitational at Monument Valley Park North, 8:45 a.m.

Men's Soccer
Friday (today), Sept. 9 vs. University of Dallas, 3 p.m.
Sunday, Sept. 11 vs. Pacific Lutheran University, 1:30 p.m.

Men's Tennis
Saturday, Sept. 10 vs. Texas- Permian Basin in Pueblo, 12:30 p.m.

Volleyball
Saturday, Sept. 10 vs. Whitman College, 12 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 10 vs. University of Texas at Dallas, 6 p.m.

Volleyball Stud Holtze Attributes Her Success to Team Spirit

By SAM GILBERT

Volleyball is more than just a sport to team captain and tournament MVP Abbe Holtze.

Last week, the women's volleyball team went 4-0 in their tournament against Hardin-Simmons University, Susquehanna University, and Lewis and Clark College, with big help from Holtze, who was named MVP of the tournament. "Abbe was that steady player on the court," said Head Coach Rick Swan. "She led the team, provided that sparkle when we needed it, and had all-around consistent play."

However Holtze, a senior, was very humble about her contributions on the court. "Honestly, volleyball is truly a team sport," she said. "You can't have one person be the star of the show because at least three people need to touch the ball for it to go over the net." While Holtze was excited to receive the MVP title, she was much more excited that her team won the tournament. "It wasn't just me. My team really gave me the opportunity to succeed," she said.

Holtze was eager to give her teammates credit, which says a lot about the person and player she is. Having grown up in Manhattan Beach, Calif., Holtze spent her childhood watching Misty May-Treanor and Kerrie Walsh Jennings play beach volleyball every day, which is what initially inspired her to start playing volleyball. "They were like my idols," Holtze said. "I'd walk down the beach and see them practicing and shag balls for them, so that's how my love for volleyball started."

When Holtze was nine, she decided to try out for a club volleyball team. She showed up for the last tryout for the last available team, and was overjoyed when she got a callback a few days later telling her she had made the top-ranked team. "That was awesome, I had no idea I was going to make it," Holtze said.

From there, Holtze's love for volleyball grew as she continued playing on high-level teams. When she entered eighth grade, she and several of her friends switched leagues where they began their five-year journey playing together up until college. "We weren't just good at volleyball, but we had incredible team chemistry which is a huge part of volleyball in my opinion," Holtze said. "I always say it's 60 percent skill and 40 percent mental because you can really get in people's heads."

Because of the genuine connection that team shared, Holtze knew she wanted to play college-level volleyball on a team that was going to be equally as close and supportive. "When I started the recruiting process I was looking for how teams bonded off the court as well as on the court," Holtze said. "And that was a huge appeal of CC—those girls loved each other and enjoyed each other's company so much."

That loving dynamic is still going strong. "This year all the returning players welcomed the freshmen in with open arms," Holtze said. "We genuinely love to hang out with each other and all of us are best friends and family."

From day one at CC, Holtze has been a key player on and off the court, and it was her goal to be team captain her senior year. "This has been a dream of mine since freshman year and it's a huge honor," Holtze said. As a captain, Holtze brings leadership, enthusiasm and a calm presence to every practice and game, according to Swan.

Sophomore teammate Reagan Folaron adds that Abbe's enthusiasm boosts the team's dynamic. "She really strives to promote an environment that is founded on working hard, encouraging each other, and maintaining a positive attitude whatever the situation is," Folaron said.

Holtze's enthusiasm was palpable when she reflected on her favorite volleyball memory over the past four years. It was her sophomore year when the team played Christopher Newport University, a team that was ranked nationally ahead of CC. "We came out and there was a huge crowd and we crushed them!" Holtze said. "They walked in with their heads held high, thinking they were going to crush us, but then we crushed them. That was so rewarding and I'll never forget that game."

Looking forward in the season, Holtze explained that the team's upcoming games and tournaments should be a challenge, which excites her. "It's good for us to play difficult teams, it keeps us in a serious mindset throughout the season," she said.

Holtze has just one goal for the season. "The seniors and I haven't won a SCAC conference championship and we want to win one so badly!" she said. "That would be the perfect way to end my senior year."

Swan realizes that volleyball means a lot to Holtze. "I think it's one of the most important aspects of her life next to her family and her education," Swan said.

And it's true—being a volleyball player has seriously shaped the person Holtze is today. "Being an athlete has given me leadership skills, teamwork skills, organizational skills, and time management skills," Holtze said. "I had an internship this summer and I was able to excel at it because of what I've learned through being an athlete." As Holtze gets ready to enter a new life chapter, she claims she will look back on her volleyball career for the rest of her life.

Holtze is admired for her skill, but more so for how she prioritizes her teammates, showing them compassion, empathy, and unconditional support. "Not only does she bring a great deal of talent and effervescence, but she relentlessly pushes everyone on the team to perform their best," Folaron said.

With a national ranking of #8 in the country, the Colorado College women's volleyball team has a lot to look forward to this season. Holtze will be expected to bring the intensity she brought to last week's tournament to every game for the rest of the year, and she is definitely up for the challenge.

Pukes vs. NARPs Navigating the Locker Room Hierarchy of Freshman Year

By MARIEL WILSON



In this column, notorious NARP Mariel Wilson dissects aspects of sports that come across as puzzling to those of us outside the inner world of CC athletics.

It's the start of a new school year and hundreds of Colorado College students are reciting "new year, new me" under their breath. Just walk into any freshman dorm and you'll hear the sad murmur of fresh anxiety. But, fortunately, this gal is here to say: new year, same NARP. (Editor's note: NARP stands for non-athletic regular person.)

That's right, fans, my three-month break did not lead to any athletic breakthroughs or a decrease in regularity, so I'm back and ready to report from the bleachers, non-athletic as ever.

Today, we take a look at the nervous and confused bunch that is the freshman class of 2020. The trials of a freshman's first few weeks are ones that we have all experienced and chosen to forget. Whether you walked into the wrong FYE, or you were publically shamed for your banana theft in Rastall, we all had to learn the hard way during our first year. And while it's true that being a freshman isn't easy, there is one role on campus that is even tougher: being a freshman athlete, or, as the soccer team so endearingly calls them, pukes.

Because my team experience is limited to intramurals and memories of community house basketball, I set out this week to ask the questions that had to be asked for the pukes' sake: why are the freshmen treated differently than the rest of the team? And more importantly, why is it in our nature to pick on the weakest link?

On Monday evening, freshman men's soccer player Josh Raizner arrived to the athletics ice cream social in a shirt and tie. This is one of the traditional pranks played on the soccer freshmen, the upperclassmen convincing them that dress clothes are required at what is actually a very informal event.

"I didn't really mind but some of the other guys definitely would have preferred to not be overdressed," Raizner explained. It's small pranks like this that make up the freshman "pukes" welcome to the men's soccer team. Raizner went on to explain that the prank wasn't necessarily successful.

"We kind of figured out we were being

pranked," the athlete said, "but we figured we still had to dress up anyways because it's just what the freshmen soccer guys do," according to Raizner, even when the prank is known and unsuccessful, the new athletes play along because it is part of their role on the team. As a NARP whose nearest experience to hazing is pretending to throw my dog's toy across the room, I couldn't help but wonder, what is the point of these premeditated pranks? Raizner seems to think it's all about hierarchy.

"It certainly establishes a hierarchy in the locker room," Raizner told me. "A locker room hierarchy definitely makes everything more simple. Though I'm a freshman and would probably benefit if it was not the case, I have no doubts I'll appreciate it in a few years. With a locker room type hierarchy, it establishes who has to pump the balls before practice, who has to sit closest to the showers, etc."

According to Raizner, despite the laughs at his expense this year, he will be sure to continue the tradition in the future.

Despite what I had learned from the new player, I had to wonder why anyone would put up with these pranks for such delayed gratification. Talking with a senior on the same team made this a bit clearer. In his final year on the team, Christian Wulff has pranked and been pranked, but it was the latter that he will remember after his collegiate soccer career.

"In your first few weeks, it's nice to be a part of a tradition," Wulff said. "Just like in elementary school how the boys would pick on the girls to show they liked them, you know the team likes you if they're joking around with you."

I sat with some seniors as they reminisced about their days of being pranked. One particularly memorable prank included the team telling the then-freshmen that they had to wait on the field for the equipment manager Dougie to come talk to them. It wasn't until about an hour of hanging out on the field that they realized they had been fooled.

"More than anything it's about the attention," senior Caden MacKenzie explained. "Freshman year would've been a lot scarier if the team just ignored us. Messing with the freshmen is how we build a relationship and really get to know them."

Freshman year is nothing if not a year to look back on and laugh. It's scary, confusing, embarrassing, and one of the most memorable years of a college student's experience. My advice to the freshmen, NARP or not, is to know that we're not laughing at you, we're laughing with you, and above all, we're jealous. Wear your lanyards, ask for directions, and walk in packs because we've all been there, and deep down, we're all wishing we could go back.

Men's & Women's Cross Country Take Second and Third at Rust Buster

By EVAN HAMLIN

The first cross country meet of the year for Colorado College was marked by strong performances by two runners, one kicking off her final season at CC and the other performing well in his first collegiate race.

Senior Leah Wessler ran a 15:35:00 to secure fifth in the women's 4K. The women finished third overall, coming in behind UCCS and Colorado Christian University. Fellow senior Stefani Messick finished 10 seconds behind Wessler with a 15:45:00 to capture ninth overall. Wessler was pleased with her individual results and the team's showing overall. For the first race of the season, this competition was appropriately dubbed the "Rust Buster."

"This was my first Rust Buster, and I was surprised and happy to place how I

did," Wessler said. "I was abroad during spring semester and hadn't raced since last November. The race was also super early in the season, so our goal was to run between workout and race effort. I felt great about setting a goal pace and hitting it right on the mark, and it was so fun to tap into my competitiveness after such a long time."

Although Wessler was pleased with her results and the team's finish for the first race of the season, she stressed the importance of keeping her sights set on her ultimate goals for the season.

"Towards the end of the season I need to be running a lot faster, so I definitely need to work on my mental toughness," she said. Speaking on her goals for the season, Wessler cited her desire to improve her

individual times but also for the team to succeed as a group. "Personally I'd like to drop my 5K personal record by a lot, and make it to nationals again in the 6K. If I do make it to nationals again, I hope to finish with an All-American place. My biggest goal, however, is to make nationals as a team."

On the men's side, freshman Tony Calderon ran a 20:51:00 in the 6K to land in ninth overall in the competition. Sophomore David Elk took 15th overall with a time of 21:03:00.

Calderon was excited yet humbled by his strong showing in his first race as a Tiger. "It feels really cool, I really am still looking up to the leaders of the team for guidance, but it's cool that I can support the program as much as I can and help take the team to

a high level."

Like Wessler, Calderon saw the Rust Buster as a good way to get warmed up for the season. He reiterated her message about staying focused and working hard throughout the season in order to finish well in a number of competitions the team takes place in at the end of the year. Calderon said he is "looking forward to the Lewis and Clark invitational, that's a fast course at sea level, the SCAC meet, and the DIII regional meet."

Calderon and Wessler both have high hopes for the cross country program this season. You can catch both teams in action at the CC Invitational tomorrow morning. The men will start at 9 a.m. and the women will take off at 10 a.m. from Monument Valley Park North.

Colorado College Climber Maddie Miller's Skills Reach Their Peak

Miller First Female to Break Record for 50 Peaks Challenge

By CAROL NEWTON

For most, summitting 50 peaks would take a lifetime. In 2014, only 253 people had ever summited the highest point in every state, and only two teams (both all male) had summited all 50 in under 50 days.

In spring 2016, Colorado College student Maddie Miller and professional guide Melissa Arnot were determined to do just that.

A senior at CC, Miller is a Mathematical Economics major with a strong interest in music. She has participated in both the Collegium Musicum and Chamber Chorus on campus, and plans to do so again when she returns for Block 2.

Arnot was Miller's mentor and partner on the journey. Sponsored by Eddie Bauer and Whittaker Mountaineering, Arnot has climbed Mt. Rainier more than 90 times, is a certified Wilderness EMT, led a celebrity climb up Mount Kilimanjaro to raise awareness for clean water access, and had

"Miller had the chance to not only complete a physical feat, but also experience significant personal growth. More confident in her abilities as a mountaineer, she feels ready to go out on her own."

completed five summits of Mount Everest before 2012, among many other incredible feats. Her most recent and perhaps most incredible feat is her title as the first American woman to survive summiting Mount Everest without supplemental oxygen.

The two met by an incredible

coincidence. For her high school graduation present, Miller's father suggested a trip to Mt. Rainier, where Arnot happened to be the guide. Despite Miller's lack of knowledge of technical mountaineering climbing, she decided to go with her father, a decision that led to a fast friendship between Miller and Arnot and ultimately gave her the opportunity to get to all 50 high points in the U.S.

Coined by Arnot and Miller themselves, the "50 Peaks Challenge" began as a dream on top of Mt. Bora in Idaho. Two years later, "50 Peaks Challenge" was a brand name, and the two were off to complete their own challenge.

The high point in each state is not always a mountain peak. They range from Alaska's Mount McKinley (also known as Denali), the highest mountain peak in North America at 20,310 feet, to Florida's Britton Hill at 345 feet above sea level. This means that while some summits required days, technical gear, and many grueling miles of hiking; others simply required an hour, and miles of driving.

It was not only the terrain that was diverse. Experiencing everything from 50-mile climbs with as little as two hours of sleep a night, to summiting Denali in 14 days, to the "soul crushingly hard" days of spending hours and hours in the car to make it through five states in a day, Miller and Arnot faced grueling physical, mental, and emotional challenges along the way. And sometimes, it felt like they wouldn't make it. "I thought it would be impossible," admitted Miller at the beginning of the trip after Denali. "We were getting no sleep, eating gas station nachos... I thought, well, that was a good

try." Luckily, she wasn't alone.

In reality, it wasn't only Miller and Arnot that took the trip to the 50 high points, although they were the ones to summit them. Photographer Jon Mancuso from Eddie Bauer and driver Allyson Groeleer completed the team (although Arnot shared in the driving). And they had a few other friends: Marcus, the stuffed animal lynx, Norman the unicorn, and, of course,

"While some summits required days, technical gear, and many grueling miles of hiking; others simply required an hour, and miles of driving."

their trusty van Tiffany. Together, over the course of the journey, they took turns lifting each other up.

Somewhere along the way, Miller transitioned from being a mentee, to being a partner. They "sacrificed sleep, sacrificed comfortability, and just kept going." Together, they became the first female team to ever reach 50 high points in 50 days, and furthermore, set the record for doing so.

It wasn't all fun and games and record setting, however. A large part of the time was spent organizing this feat. In order to fund the trip, an incredible amount of time was spent organizing the budget, raising money, planning logistics, and mapping the road trip. The two visited Outdoor Retail (OR) and talked to different companies to pitch their project, obtaining the support of Lucky USA and GoalZero. Arnot's connections with Eddie

Bauer and Microsoft proved invaluable as well; both became interested quickly and ended up being primary sponsors. Miller, for her part, sent emails to friends and family for donations. Now, they have speaking events lined up as well as a small film in the works in order to simply break even for the cost.

In the end, even without thinking about the money aspect, the 50 Peaks Challenge wasn't only a chance to break records; at the risk of sounding cliché, for Miller, it was a life-changing journey. At 5'1" and 100 pounds, Miller now represents something much larger than herself.

Miller had the chance to not only complete a physical feat, but also experience significant personal growth. More confident in her abilities as a mountaineer, she feels ready to go out on her own and maybe even lead her own trips one day.

"If you like the mountains and want to see the 50 states, this is the way to do it," said Miller. Or, if students simply want a recommendation for one high point to visit, she recommends Granite Peak in Montana. Her first technical climb after the Eastern states, the peak holds a certain beauty for her. And for those animal lovers out there, she did in fact see a baby mountain goat as she rappelled off of the summit—always a bonus.

Her biggest advice for women and climbers?

"Set a goal for yourself," said Miller. "It doesn't have to be summiting all 50 high points in the U.S. It could be anything. So set a goal and follow through. Once you do that, you're capable of doing anything you want."



PHOTOS COURTESY OF EDDIE BAUER

Upper left: Maddie Miller takes on a glacial peak in the Northwest; upper right: Maddie Miller and guide Melissa Arnot embrace at the top of a climbing route in Colorado, lower left: Arnot teaches Miller mountaineering skills she will need to become a guide; center: Maddie Miller hikes through meadow in the midwest; lower right: Maddie Miller scaling Granite Peak in Montana.

Telluride Mountainfilm Festival Coming to Colorado College

By SONYA PADDEN

On Wednesday, Sept. 14, the Telluride Mountainfilm Festival will be on campus to inspire adventure, environmental activism, and understanding.

The annual documentary festival begins Memorial Day weekend in Telluride. The festival brings together an amazing and diverse assortment of films that touch upon environmental, cultural, and even political themes, fostering a community of activists, artists, and visionaries.

The festival then embarks on a six-continent tour, involving and presenting to more than 50,000 individuals in the process. This year, for the first time, thanks to the help of CCSGA, Colorado College Film Union, and Outdoor Education, this highly acclaimed film festival will be coming to campus, free

of charge for CC students.

Junior Cory Page has volunteered with Telluride Mountainfilm for the last six years. When he transferred to CC in 2015, he was very surprised to see that it had not touched this campus, seeing how closely the values and interests of the festival intersect with those of CC students.

After pitching the idea last semester, Page worked closely with Ryan Hammes, Director of Outdoor Education, to organize and compile a powerful and dynamic assortment of films. Out of the 128 films the festival offers, Page and Outdoor Education screened 50 to create a two-hour long program that, as Page says, aims at "being well rounded and not a one-dimensional purely sports adrenaline filled evening."

Apart from getting people excited about adventure, the festival aims to showcase the multi-faceted nature of adventure sports

"Thanks to the help of CCSGA, Colorado College Film Union, and Outdoor Education, this highly acclaimed film festival will be coming to campus, free of charge."

and culture by highlighting underrepresented people and places such as female-athlete profiles, and environmental and cultural di-

vides within adventure culture.

One of the featured movies will be "Walt," directed by Justin Clifton, which Page says was not only his favorite but also a deeply moving six-minute documentary. It follows a passionate, 85-year-old California raisin farmer, who is relentless in his goal to restore the San Joaquin River. The brilliantly crafted films also showcase the talent of filmmakers, one of which, Travis Rummel, who co-directed "Damnation", is a CC graduate. The viewing experience evokes tears, laughter, and a great deal of awe.

The festival begins at 7 p.m. in the Kathryn Morhman Theatre in Armstrong, and will include 10 short films with an intermission. Admission is free and attendance is highly encouraged.

Public Uproar Ensues as the City of Colorado Springs Trades Land with the Broadmoor Hotel

By MORGEN SEIM



PHOTO BY MARY MURPHY. A portion of land involved in the Colorado Springs City and Broadmoor land swap. Photo taken in North Cheyenne Cañon Park, featuring a view to the west of Pikes Peak.

In May, the City Council of Colorado Springs voted 6-3 in favor of a deal that authorizes the city to trade 190.05 acres to the Broadmoor Hotel in exchange for 371.21 acres of property and 115.4 acres of new public trails. The deal seems to benefit the city more than the resort, as the property the city will receive has an estimated market value of \$3,609,800 while the property the city intends to transfer is valued at \$2,161,000. Nonetheless, Colorado Springs citizens are outraged by the exchange.

The Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services department intends to use the deal as an opportunity to meet several goals laid out in the Colorado Springs Parks master plan. The department argues in defense of the deal by outlining the four objectives the negotiation may achieve. First of all, the exchange provides an opportunity to preserve and expand upon the city's current open space system. Ultimately, the new land procured by the city will enable the department to connect our currently severed trail system and allow trail workers

to secure public access to recreational trails that now pass through private property.

The city intends to use the traded land to create horseback riding trails and picnic areas that will enhance Colorado Springs' recreational opportunities. Included in the land the city will receive are various segments of the Barr trail, the Manitou Incline, Bear Creek, Chamberlain trail, and the southwest boundary of North Cheyenne Cañon Park. The city hopes to use the land to secure parking at numerous trailheads, to establish a north access trail to the Incline, to ensure public ownership of the Incline, and to procure trail easement for future trails located around the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo. While the council argues that the exchange will facilitate crucial connections throughout the city's trail system, many members of the Colorado Springs community still view this trade as a loss for the region.

Among the land the city plans to trade is the beloved Strawberry Hill. While the Broadmoor plans to use most of the 190-acre land to develop public trails, the hotel

also intends to use some of the land to build a private stable and picnic area for its guests. Strawberry Hill (or Strawberry fields, as some hikers call it), a secluded, overgrown meadow, is the intended location for this construction. Shocked hikers of Cheyenne Cañon have united against the deal, as demonstrated by a petition signed by over 3,200 people.

On Aug. 1, a local non-profit known as Save Cheyenne filed a suit against the city to try to stop the land exchange that would result in the loss of the quiet meadow. The group argues that the city of Colorado Springs has no right to trade the land because it was dedicated to the public, back in 1985. As a public park, the local group claims, the land must remain in the people's possession and therefore cannot be traded by the City Council.

Many councilmembers, and Mayor John Suthers, the defendant of the case, have argued that the city simply does not have the funds necessary for the upkeep of various areas such as Strawberry fields. They argue that the public-private relationship will

serve both the community and the trail system, claiming that the Broadmoor is much more financially capable of tending to the meadow. Members of the Colorado Springs Park department, on the other hand, argue that the team does a great job of maintaining the land and that the department just focuses on more populated land and leaves secluded areas alone.

For now, Save Cheyenne is patiently awaiting a response to their lawsuit from the City Council, which should arrive later this week. The lawsuit is being paid for by over 300 donors, all of who are appalled by the possibility of the city's charter being violated. While many are arguing that a vote of the people must be conducted in order for any action or transfer to take place, others believe that the deal is simply a violation of the city's zoning restrictions. Ultimately, the plaintiff is looking for a way to make the process much more difficult to complete for both the Broadmoor and the City Council and to prevent similar situations from transpiring in the future.

Falling in Love with the Art of Flight

A memoir from Labor Day Lift Off

By SOPHIA PRAY

I'm not biased, but I think it's the prettiest balloon on the field."

Sharon Hartshorn, a pilot from Albuquerque, N.M., described her balloon, "Seeking Nirvana," as a stand-out amongst the 40 something other hot air balloons scattered throughout the sky during the Labor Day Lift Off festival that occurred over the weekend.

"Everybody else tailgates at football games, but we tailgate at 10 a.m., you know, after early morning flying."

The 40-year tradition managed to attract thousands of visitors from across the country, as well as thousands of balloon-enthusiasts such as Hartshorn.

"I had always wanted to fly," she shared, "but it ended up being a balloon instead of an airplane." The pilot herself never expected to fall in love with hot air ballooning, but she became enchanted with the hobby as soon as she took her first ride in one when she was 30 years old. "Yeah, you get hooked sometimes," she laughed, as she recalled a common joke amongst ballooners that says your first ride is free, but your second one costs \$40,000. The measly \$150 charge for a first ride in a hot air balloon seems like nothing compared to the steep price of purchasing one. Although, due to the expensive costs of buying and maintaining both a balloon and propane as well as hiring a crew to help set it up, the sport of hot air ballooning is not very practiced, making the community close-knit.

Hartshorn said that she knew almost all of the pilots at Labor Day Lift Off, despite their varied geographical home locations. "The nice thing about balloon rallies is that instead of flying

with the same people in your home city all the time, you get to go out and fly different areas and meet up with friends that aren't from there." Balloon festivals are essentially family reunions for pilots, for they are given the opportunity to come together and share their common love, in this case, for hot air ballooning. "It's this big social thing," Hartshorn described, "where afterwards we all get together and hangout and tailgate. Everybody else tailgates at football games, but we tailgate at 10 a.m., you know, after early morning flying."

More than anything else, though, Hartshorn loves taking people up in her balloon. The same excitement she felt more than 20 years ago when she took her first ride reignites as she takes new riders up for their first time. "They start out being really nervous, but then after about 10-15 minutes they realize that they are okay, and that they're not going to die, and that they're actually having fun. By the time that we land, they have this big grin on their face that

"They start out being really nervous, but then after about 10-15 minutes they realize that they are okay, and that they're not going to die, and that they're actually having fun. By the time that we land, they have this big grin on their face that doesn't come off for an hour or two or four—that's fun."

doesn't come off for an hour or two or four—that's fun."

For Hartshorn, the name of her beloved balloon seems quite fitting: "Seeking Nirvana" is exactly what the adventurous pilot does while flying 2,000 feet in the air.



PHOTOS BY MIKAELA BURNS Top: Sharon Hartshorn unloads her hot air balloon from the trailer. Left: Hot air balloon pilot solos his flight while attached solely to a chair. Right: Spectators enjoy the view from the field.

Album Review: *Blonde* by Frank Ocean

By GABRIEL FINE

Though released five years later, *Blonde*, Frank Ocean's second studio album, could have received the same name as his debut 2011 mixtape: *Nostalgia, Ultra*. The hour-long album is a somber, often heartbreakingly beautiful reflection on the struggle to retain one's sense of self while battling time, heartbreak, faith, drug use, and social realities.

The album appears to move through several distinct phases: opening with "Nikes," an initially puzzling but catchy song that features Ocean's auto-tuned falsetto over a slow rolling base beat. It takes us some time to realize the song's muddled lyrics actually serve as a sort of overture to the rest of the album. We are welcomed by stream of consciousness into Ocean's confused and conflicted mind, the medium through which we will move more esoterically for the rest of the album.

Songs like "Ivy" and "Pink + White" address a common source of nostalgia: growing up and learning the painful lessons of reality in the process. "I ain't a kid no more," Ocean sings with a cracking voice over an echoing electric guitar on the hook in "Ivy." In "Pink + White," he laments, "Remember life/ remember how it was," as if his past is symbolically dead. The melancholy lyrics often reflect the feel of the songs on *Blonde* in general: mellow, pensive, and melodic. These songs are far better at inducing late-night candlelit reminiscing than anything but a slow-dance at a party. The only truly energetic song is "Pretty Sweet," which

draws more comparisons to the Beatles' cacophonous bridge in "A Day in the Life" than anything on Channel Orange.

Other songs turn toward the use of drugs and the contradiction inherent in taking them: they are used as much to contemplate reality as they are to escape it. Playing with words in "Solo," Ocean explores how loneliness often makes one feel "so low," to which the only recourse is often drug use. "Inhale, inhale, there's heaven," he suggests on the chorus, conjuring the image of both calming oneself in the face of panic, but also taking drugs to find peace. The song also includes one of the more beautiful and poetic choruses, bolstered by a melodic Oh-ing that feels like a bittersweet call of anguish on a rainy day. "Nights," on the other hand, is one of the first and only songs that might induce some serious hip-swinging. "Every night f*cks every day up, / every day patches the night up," he lulls, wavering between the joys of nighttime antics in the catchy verses, and the later come-down melancholy that is mirrored in the song's decline in mood.

"Self Control," however, may be the best (and saddest) song on the album. Featuring an Atmosphere-like guitar riff, "Self Control" is a look into those brief encounters that are scattered all too often throughout our lives, in which we meet someone and feel a spark but realize the "time is [not] right." Though Ocean firmly asserts his subjective longing by calling out the triple exclamation of, "I, I, I," he knows

he is not strong enough to keep the object of his desire from departing. Additionally, though most of *Blonde*'s features are weaved so seamlessly into the production that they often slip our attention (Kendrick Lamar and Beyoncé, for instance, each offer sonorous, but indistinct, backing vocals on different songs), singer Austin Feinstein and Swedish rapper Yung Lean each contribute notably to the tender chorus in "Self Control."

Lyrical, Ocean is his strongest and most profound in later songs like "Siegfried" and "Godspeed." "Siegfried," for example, explores concepts of identity by sampling lines from Elliott Smith's "A Fond Farewell" (a song that was not coincidentally about Smith saying goodbye to himself as he was overcome by drug use). "Been living in an idea/ an idea from another man's mind," Ocean also writes, delving into his muddled sense of self and mental state. "Godspeed," on a slightly different turn, is a beautiful song about a love that defies death. In fact, it may even be Ocean's attempt to emulate Smith's fond farewell, as he releases himself to the comfort of faith. "White Ferrari," however, contains the album's most profound line: "You dream of walls that hold us in a prison/ it's just a skull, least that's what they call it/ and we're free to roam." Here, finally, Ocean acknowledges that the mind is both limitless and confined: the very quality that is the source of all the conflict we face as people in a dynamic, unquantifiable world. "Futura Free," in the end, grounds Ocean

back in the real world of the equally confusing but more tangible problems of celebrity, family, and friendship. The second half of the song features various interviews that slowly become overpowered by sonic dissonance until we can barely make out anything but the final question: "How far is a light year?" It is a microcosm for the entire album: how sense and reality are overpowered by the blurring, distorting nature of time, love, drugs, and fame, and leave us in the end incapable of asking anything but cosmic questions.

Blonde is neither an upbeat nor wholly uplifting album. Most songs are atmospheric and make us feel as though we are floating in the space of Ocean's mind, encountering all the sad, beautiful, and confusing thoughts that make up the substance of his (and our) psyche(s). By the end, despite meticulous production, the album feels too long. We delve so deeply into Ocean's struggle for selfhood that, regardless of any conclusion the singer may have reached, the listener ends up feeling like pieces of themselves may have floated off in the process. (That, however, may very well be the point). But, if taken in doses, the album is made almost entirely of exceptional, though bittersweet, songs, each of which addresses a salient, sincere issue. Just as contemplating all the problems of the mind at once can lead to neuroses, so too is *Blonde* best taken piece-by-piece, each song an approach to distinct slices of the body of psychic struggle we all face.

UCB and TWIT: Live from Taylor Theatre

By CHANEY SKILLING

Big names brought big crowds and big laughs to Taylor Theatre Saturday night, as Colorado College's TWIT comedy group welcomed the Upright Citizens Brigade (UCB). A nationally recognized improvisation team based in Los Angeles and New York City, the UCB was founded by comedians Amy Poehler, Matt Besser, Ian Roberts, and Matt Walsh. Since its inception in 1990, UCB has been home to comedians who went on to star and write in such productions as Saturday Night Live, Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt, Bridesmaids, The Daily Show with John Stewart, and Inside Amy Schumer.

Thanks to Alec Sarche, senior member of TWIT, CC Campus Activities department was able to streamline the booking process from months to mere weeks. When asked by Senior Student Life Specialist Bethany Grubbs about potentially bringing an improv group to campus, Sarche immediately recommended the UCB Touring Company. A Theatre major and co-artistic director of Theatre Workshop,

Sarche's recent summer internship at the Upright Citizen's Brigade Headquarters in New York allowed CC to bypass the extensive booking process and bring UCB's Los Angeles touring group to CC's center stage.

"CC is pretty barren as a campus in entertainment names," said Sarche. "But the money is there; all you have to do is be passionately dedicated to getting them here. That's how we brought UCB to campus. And the L.A. TourCo is the cream of the crop."

Made up of four performers, the UCB group not only performed for CC students and staff, but conducted a workshop for TWIT's eight members. The package deal allowed TWIT to experience an up-close and personal interaction with professional improv performers and prepared them for their 20-minute opener. As Sarche said on the event Facebook page, "[UCB] set the bar high!"

As curtain call approached, however, it remained unclear as to which 250 students

would get the chance to see UCB perform. "We left 200 tickets at the Worner desk, and they were sold out within 16 hours," said Sarche. A little more than an hour before show time, groups of students began gathering outside of Taylor Theatre in hopes of getting their names high enough on the wait list. Some made it; some were turned away.

"I didn't know how intense this ticketing process would be," said one student who was the only one of her friends to snag a ticket. Advertised by word of mouth, Facebook, and Campus Activities email blasts, and the addition of UCB drew more people to the student-run theater than a typical TWIT performance.

"I've been a TWIT fan since my first year, and I know some of the names they dropped so I'm really excited for tonight," said a sophomore. "It should be a great show."

And it was indeed. Promoted as free but not family friendly, UCB took the stage to much applause after a short set by TWIT.

Throwing jokes as they went, the group interviewed Theater major Soren Walls, and then proceeded to improv a comedy set based on his life. From college campus tours to the theaters of London, UCB took on a multitude of roles, illustrating their ability to think on their feet and create a spontaneous, unpredictable improv show for a welcoming audience. Taking quite a few comedic liberties, UCB finished up the night with many laughs and a few tears from students and staff alike, showing CC the atmosphere a big name group can bring.

"I hope it sets an example for people to pull to get their heroes on campus," said Sarche. "The funding is there, you just have to know where to find it."

The Theater department certainly found it, providing one of the highlights of first weekend and showing CC students just what they can do with a little dedication and the right proposal. Who knows who the next headliner will be? Let's just hope it's a big one.

"How it works?": Redefining Green

A closer look at what we call variety in our food choices

By BECCA STINE

"Right now, you can get a banana at 7/11, you can get a banana at Tesco in London, or at a market in Kathmandu... they're everywhere!" said Synergy House resident Peter Berzins as he munched on a green apple from the house's garden. As a synergist, Berzins is aware of the abundance of apples grown just outside his front door; however, he was not aware of the great threat that today sits upon banana production across the world.

Once upon a time, the weather app did not exist and neither did indoor farming or even the distinct role of the farmer: we were all farmers. Once, we all relied simply on the food we could grow ourselves in the season and climate we lived in. Before the weather app, our food was completely wiped out by storms or shriveled by an unforeseen drought. Before we imagined modern technology and conceptualized mass production, we ate only corn or yams, everyday, for an entire season, and felt content.

Then, humans invented the grocer: a dealer of only dry goods such as spices, sugar, coffee, and tea. This, we assume, is also when humans coined the term "bulk," as these goods were often sold in large quantities. As time went on, and a certain love grew for the existence of the grocer, staple foods began to appear more regularly available to the people, and for the perishable foods we invented vessels that we now refer to as cans. This was an exciting time for humans, a time where suddenly one didn't have to rely on their own crop growth. Not only this, but one suddenly had access to foreign goods, of new and exciting tastes.

In the U.S., the invention of the grocery store descended from trading posts. Humans suddenly realized that they were not limited to the food and produce in only their space or their neighboring farms, as trade opened up a whole new world of variety. This, however, was not the end or even the extent to which variety could exist. Eventually, the year 1916 came, and with it the opening of the first self-serve grocery store: Piggly Wigly, in Memphis, Tenn. And as we know now, it was a hit.

We invented variety and accessibility for ourselves, and have become so accustomed to it, that when walking into King Soopers or the C-Store, we don't find ourselves surprised to see a pineapple sitting in the fruit buffet, or a ripe avocado stocked up on the shelf.

"Having experienced food at other schools, CC is pretty good," said sophomore Beau Burns. "The variety is good...but because the same selection is always available, I become accustomed to the variety that is always avail-

able." Burns and many other CC students expressed an appreciation for the variety our on-campus food has, but there is one situation Burns just cannot stand. "How do you feel when Rastall runs out of bananas?" I asked.

"I feel sad," said Burns after a deep breath. "Deep from my core, I feel emotional banana withdrawal... it hurts deeply." I can safely say the majority of CC students would agree: apples just aren't good enough sometimes. Bananas are of a high demand on the CC campus, simply because people love bananas. Today, however, this love has come at a cost.

There exist nearly 1000 varieties of bananas, the most popular of which is the Cavendish, which makes up 45 percent of the global crop produce. The Cavendish banana now makes up around 95 percent of global banana export, and is likely the only kind of banana sold in the average grocery store. What many may not know is that this species of banana is currently under great risk, as it is dying from what is called Panama (otherwise referred to as Fusarium) disease. This disease stems from fungi that finds its way into the crop, and has been around for decades, also acting as a threat to other crops such as tobacco and tomatoes. As it appears, however, bananas may be the first to go.

In accustoming ourselves to such constant variety, we as consumers have allowed this one species of banana to become 95 percent of our banana export, as we have rejected the other 999 varieties of banana. In limiting ourselves to the Cavendish banana, we now stand at risk of losing bananas in our lives altogether. Ironic, isn't it? In our increased exposure to variety overtime, with the growth in imported and exported goods, we have in fact limited our diversity of produce. What appears to be even more ironic, however, is the fact that bananas are not meant to exist in Colorado anyway, and yet they seem to be the fruit most students at CC yearn for!

So, what is sustainable? How can we sustain variety upon realizing a prominent threat and an incredible irony? In an ideal reality, we could all become farmers once again, growing and eating varieties of our own creation—not limited to the production of some strange external source, and without threat of species extinction. This, however, is unattainable, and instead we are left to appreciate the diversity in our own local produce. Colorado is home to an extensive variety of squash, tomatoes, apples, peppers, plums, pumpkins, and other greens; this beautiful array of produce beats an endangered banana any day.

Colorado College Visiting Writers Series Schedule

Charlie Anders

Monday, September 12 at 7 p.m. in Gaylord Hall

Charlie Jane Anders, author of All the Birds in the Sky and co-founder of io9.com, reads her work and reveals the secrets of universal domination, and unlimited donuts. Funded by the NEH Professorship.

Chris Bachelder

Thursday, September 15 at 7 p.m. in Gaylord Hall

Novelist whose works include Bear v. Shark, U.S., Abbott Awaits, The Throwback Special, and the bestselling e-book, Lessons in Virtual Tour Photography.

Marlon James

Monday, September 26 at 7 p.m. in Kathryn Mohrman Theatre

Booker Prize-winning author of A Brief History of Seven Killings reads from and discusses his acclaimed novel. Sponsored by the Demarest Lloyd Lecture Fund.

Mike Love

Tuesday, September 27 at 7 p.m. in Richard F. Celeste Theatre

Beach Boy singer and music icon reads from his memoir Good Vibrations: My Life as a Beach Boy, which tells the story of his five-decade tenure in the famously fractious band. Funded by the NEH Professorship.

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Fresh housemade tuna, mixed with celery, onions, and our tasty sauce, sliced cucumber, lettuce & tomato. (My tuna rocks! Sprouts* optional)

#4 TURKEY TOM
Fresh sliced turkey breast, lettuce, tomato & mayo. The original (Sprouts* optional)

#5 VITO
The original Italian sub with genoa salami, provolone, capicola, onion, lettuce, tomato, & a real tasty Italian vinaigrette. (Hot peppers by request)

#6 THE VEGGIE
Layers of provolone cheese separated by real avocado spread, sliced cucumber, lettuce, tomato & mayo. (Truly a gourmet sub not for vegetarians only, Sprouts* optional)

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Write Your Own Truth, and Perform it Too

By ZASCHA FOX

Senior Film and Media major Eliza Mott had never participated in spoken word until she took part in the “I Am” poems, a portion of the 2015 New Student Orientation program. From the beginning, she was hooked. Together, she and Hollis Schmidt, a junior Creative Writing major, have founded SpeakEasy, Colorado College’s first official spoken word organization.

“The campus lacked the availability with spoken word that it really needed,” Schmidt said.

The “I Am” poem event was the impetus, and the project has only gained momentum from there. “Hollis and I were both very much in a place where we saw the impact that the event had. We understood that there are a lot of great writers and there are a lot of important truths to be spoken that aren’t at CC,” said Mott. “The project could create a space where people who aren’t in the majority can be heard.”

Yolany Gonell, Director of Residential Life and Campus Activities, was a huge driving force behind the conception of SpeakEasy. After Gonell directed the “I Am” poems, both Mott and Schmidt were struck by the impact it had on NSO leaders. People saw those individual speakers as people that they could talk to.

Spoken word has been building at CC for a while. There have been multiple performances, but almost always within a smaller group, such as BSU or FemCo.

“We wanted to make all sorts of people come together who wouldn’t otherwise hear each others’ experiences, or be able to have a vicarious encounter with them,” Schmidt said. “There is not another space on campus like it. You can write your own truth, and perform it too.”

iSpeak, which premiered Friday night in Cornerstone Arts Center, was SpeakEasy’s first formal event. “It was really the event to facilitate excitement,” said Schmidt.

Mott and Schmidt were anxious to see how many people would show up. They’d done some tabling in Worner and created a Facebook page, but really had no idea what the turnout would be like. When they saw that the theater was completely full, both girls were pleasantly surprised.

The performers at iSpeak all came together with their diverse and unique styles to create a night that eased from one speaker to the next.

“We were honestly so floored with the

performances, and with the honesty and bravery of every person who got up on the stage,” Mott said. The subjects ranged from abusive relationships, unrequited love, sexuality, race, eating disorders, and even lingerie. In addition to the multiple students who performed, two speakers from Hear Hear, a spoken word organization in Colorado Springs, also took the stage.

“Versatility was so key,” said Schmidt of the wide range of topics and styles at the event.

“It was amazing that the speakers would trust the space enough to share it with us,” said Mott. Because of the highly sensitive and potentially upsetting topics that were being brought up, both Heather Horton, the Director of the Wellness Resource Center, and representatives from S.A.S.S. were available for anyone looking to talk to someone.

Although iSpeak was a huge success, Schmidt and Mott are already looking ahead at SpeakEasy’s next events. SpeakEasy is looking to develop a group of strong, talented writers to serve as a big part of the organization.

“It’s more about commitment than anything. A lot of people who will be on the stage are not Creative Writing majors. It’s more about who’s going to put in the time,” said Mott of some of the criteria for selecting troupe members. “At the end of every block, we’re going to have the same six person format [as there was at iSpeak], this time with a theme or a prompt that we’ve offered to them.” Mott and Schmidt also want to have a “featured performer” (or performers) at every event. In addition to the troupe, SpeakEasy also hopes to hold various workshops open to different people.

With both of the founders being upperclassmen, they’ve also been thinking ahead about the potential future of SpeakEasy. “I want this to continue far past our graduation,” said Schmidt. “Spoken word is something that everyone can feel an emotional draw to. The workshop aspect will hopefully make sure that there’s always a healing space available for anyone who needs it.”

SpeakEasy will be offering various ways to get involved, either as a speaker, an audience member, or both. Auditions for the next event are being advertised in Worner, and more information about workshops will be made available soon.



PHOTO BY PHILLIP ENGH Senior Brandon Marcus blows a luscious vape cloud at his home on Sept. 8

Vaping: A Potentially Dangerous Lifestyle

By JACKSON PAINE

Everyone is familiar with the sight of a “No Smoking” sign, but walk into a business or public space nowadays and you may see an added “Or Vaping” at the foot of the sign. While cigarette use is declining across the U.S., electronic cigarettes have become so prevalent that the FDA is now pushing to control this last unregulated bastion of the tobacco industry. Regulating the electronic cigarette market is done through the so-called “Deeming Rule,” which was put into practice in early August of 2016. The tobacco industry is pushing back against the FDA’s attempts to scrutinize the chemicals used in their e-cigarettes.

The Deeming Rule essentially makes vaporizers, electronic cigarettes, cigars, rolling tobacco, and hookahs subject to the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. The Deeming Rule gives the DEA the authority to require more health warnings on these products, as well as study the chemicals used in the liquid of e-cigs more closely. Also, for the first time in U.S. history, there is a federal ban on vendors selling tobacco to minors. Many companies with an interest in the e-cigarette market have recruited scores of lobbyists as well as several senators to help fight the FDA’s will in this matter. They insist that the pros of e-cigarettes outweigh the cons, which, to be fair to the tobacco industry, could be true. There are studies that suggest one of the highest consumer groups using electronic cigarettes is people who already have tobacco dependencies. They also argue that it could hurt small businesses that specialize in vapor pens and electronic cigarettes by forcing them to pay higher prices. However, by opposing the Deeming Rule, they are denying the FDA and the public the opportunity to know the truth about their product. This stubbornness against investigation is alarming, especially given what we now know about the health problems associated with cigarettes.

Tactics of diversion like this are nothing new for the tobacco industry. It’s easy to forget there was a point in time in the not-so-distant past that you could flip on the television and see men in lab coats smoking, while a confident voice told you “more doctors smoke Camels than any other cigarette.” Or see a hardworking, confident cowboy tell you that “this is Marlboro country,” while his horses galloped through shallow water behind him in the morning light. The tobacco industry was great at associating itself with images that would override fears about the potential danger cigarettes could have on health. They soothed the worries of the public through association with medical professionals, or people who worked hard all day long for a living. In the 60’s they even marketed to kids, with Winston Cigarettes featuring an ad with Barney and Fred Flintstone smoking behind a rock while Wilma mows the lawn with a dinosaur.

The blatant marketing came to an end in 1998 following the Masters Settlement Agreement; this agreement between

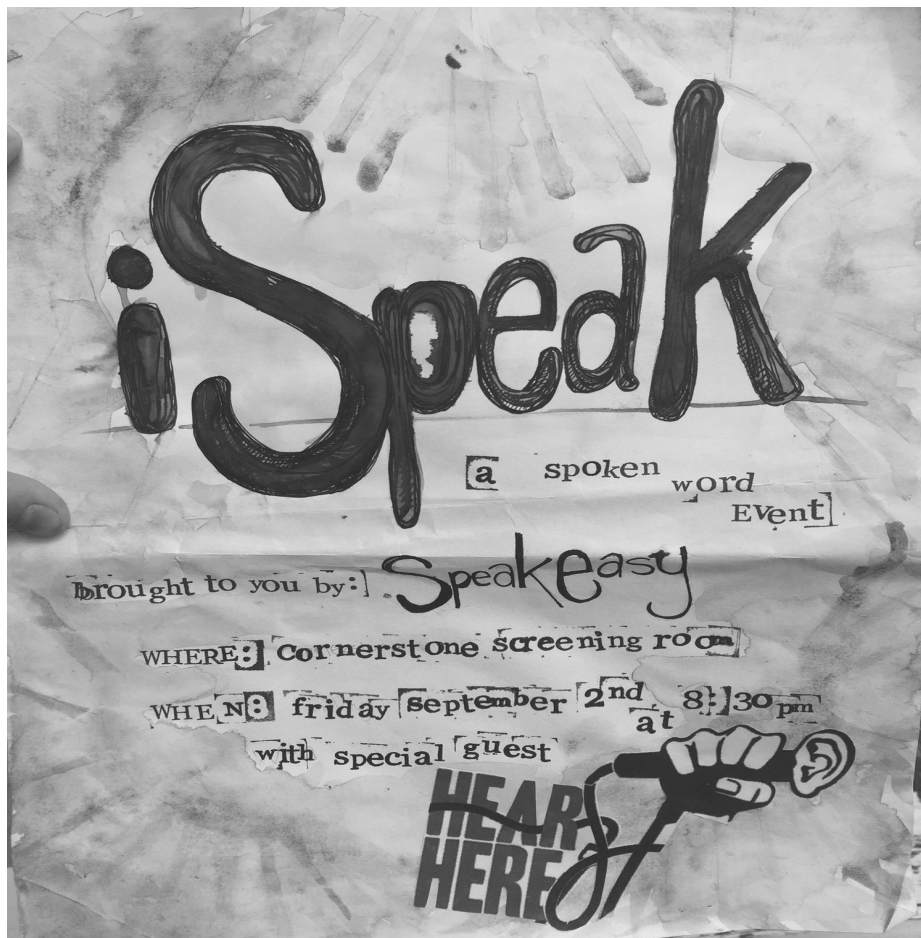
almost every state in the U.S. and the five largest tobacco companies forbid “cigarette manufacturers from directly or indirectly targeting youth,” as well as “ban[ning] or restrict[ing] cartoons, transit advertising, most forms of outdoor advertising, including billboards, product placement in media, [and] branded merchandise,” according to Public Law Health Center. In addition to restriction on marketing, this agreement obligated the tobacco companies to pay around \$10 billion annually to the states to help mitigate the cost of dealing with the tax burden of caring for sick smokers. This agreement was a huge step in the right direction, but the tobacco companies fought it tooth and nail for as long as they could.

Fiscally, this makes sense. According to a U.S. Surgeon General report published in 2013, in 1998 an estimated 500 billion cigarettes were sold in the U.S., and that number has decreased incrementally every year to an estimated 280 billion in 2013. The tobacco industries lobbying against the Deeming Rule are right to be worried, because what we may be seeing here is history repeating itself. The Tobacco industry knows that if the FDA finds reasons to increase regulation it will ultimately lead to less profit and less flexibility in creating new products for their consumers.

The irony of this argument is that, in a sense, these big tobacco companies are right. Electronic cigarettes could be volumes healthier for the consumer and at the end of the day, that should be the highest priority. Maybe the FDA will examine these vapor tobacco products more closely and come to the conclusion that nothing needs to be done, that vapor is a healthier alternative to cigarette smoke. Or maybe they won’t, and it is precisely because of this possibility that 75 lobbyists have been sent to the capital to oppose the Deeming Rule and protect the tobacco industry’s bottom line.

Fortunately for the consumer, the bottom line isn’t the criteria the FDA is looking to investigate. Especially given that some laboratory analyses of e-cigarette cartridges have already found red flags, most notably Diethylene Glycol, a chemical used in antifreeze. If the arguments that the lobbyists are proposing are true, if electronic cigarettes really are a healthier alternative to tobacco, how can they justify giving consumers a product that vaporizes antifreeze with their nicotine? How can they justify creating flavors for this poison that seem engineered for children, like cotton candy or gummy bear?

In the coming months, we are going to see a lot of lobbying against the Deeming Rule: whether its benefits outweigh its costs and whether it will be good for the public at large. But just remember that “healthy” is a relative term, and we weren’t even sure what problems cigarettes caused until a few short decades ago. Just remember that at one point millions of people were buying Camel cigarettes because it was the preferred cigarette of doctors.



PHOTOS BY HOLLIS SCHMIDT On Friday, Sept. 2 SpeakEasy hosted their first-ever event on campus.

The Hidden Value of Local Food

By REBECCA GLAZER

It was a sunny Sunday morning as I sat with my three fellow interns, representing the Colorado College Farm at Acacia Park's Downtown Sunday Market (DSM). It was a slower day, the last before the start of the school year, and we felt that the people of Colorado Springs, just like the bees, were starting to slow down for the fall.

It was an unusual feeling, watching Colorado Springs residents go about their regular Sunday business. I never had spent much time downtown, and never during the summer. I felt almost like an impostor, sitting with the other vendors as if I were a local, too.

They're a funny bunch, the vendors of the DSM, but they welcomed us warmly. The woman who sold homemade flavored lemonades gave us a discount and a smile every week, and never failed to ask us how our sales were going. The proprietor of Little Roman Farms always asked if we needed any advice on growing food, and his wisdom was always pearscent. I asked him one day why he'd given his farm the name Little Roman, and he admitted himself a huge classics geek—his kids all have names straight out of Roman history.

Just as interesting as getting to know the vendors was, chatting with the customers who stopped at our table. (Watching the ones who didn't stop was interesting, too, and a little bit amusing.) Some people dove straight into conversation, asking some



PHOTO BY MIKAELA BURNS

obscure question about our soil or telling us about the trials and tribulations of their home garden. Others seemed more hesitant; shy almost, as if they didn't know how to ask what they truly wanted to know. Faced with the overwhelmingly human experience of meeting their farmer face-to-face, they suddenly seemed to forget what it was they valued most about their food. A few of the most common questions we managed to coax from the minds of our bashful patrons: Is this organic? Do I know how to cook it? Can I buy it for less at King Sooper's?

Here are my answers, from a food-grower's perspective:

Don't know how to cook it? Ask the farmer! We've got plenty of suggestions—we even Googled a few extra, just to be prepared.

Is it organic? Ah. The answer to this question depends on your definition of organic, and why you hold the title of organic so dear.

"Most people choose organic for the environmental ethic it conveys," said recent CC alumna and urban farmer Sophie Javna. "They want to know their food is supporting the soil and promoting biodiversity. They want to know it's free of chemicals we have no knowledge about. They want to know they're hopefully supporting fair wages for farm laborers."

I would agree with her assessment, and I'm sure most readers at CC will agree, too. Many of us, myself included, choose to buy



CARTOON BY CHARLOTTE WALL

organic produce because we want to support a certain set of values; a food system that is also an ethical system.

"Buying organic is not a bad thing at all, but a driving force of organic is capitalism," Javna also pointed out. "It's a niche market. It started out as something that was very hippy-dippy and counter-culture, and it transformed into something that could be marketed."

She's right—the organic label has been largely co-opted by industrial scale producers, who dominate the market at retailers like Whole Foods. In fact, it's extremely difficult for the growers at your farmer's market to get certified organic. USDA regulations require a separate bathroom to be installed on farm premises for the exclusive use of an inspector. It doesn't take a conspiracy theorist to work out that such a ridiculous stipulation was slipped in by Big-Ag lobbyists to exclude many small, backyard operations from becoming competitors in such a high-value market.

Of course, many local farmers use organic methods of production anyway, just like the CC Farm. Some of them even identify as "beyond-organic." You can ask them what that means. "Talk to farmers and ask them what they're doing," Javna said. "The organic label is just a shorthand. The people who use organic methods are very proud of what they do and they want you to know about it. It's not an easy thing to do and it takes all their time. You just have to ask a couple

you can't ask the farmer directly. Ask, and if most farmers are like I am, they'll likely hold you captive for an hour or two if you really give them the reins.

To the next question: yes, you can probably buy your eggs for less than \$6 a dozen if you go to King Sooper's, even if you're buying organic. But do you really want to?

"There's no farmer who's going to get rich off of being a farmer," Javna told me. "But, they're proud of what they do."

It's true—I've never been more proud than when I harvested my first zucchini. All those hours of labor, those months of waiting, watering, and weeding... and then I sold it for a dollar. The people who devote their lives to growing food for us on their small parcels of land do so for a reason. They do it because they love it, and because they love us. They're not trying to make a big profit. They want to feed us, and they're proud that they can.

When you spend a summer growing food, you start to understand why food costs more when it comes from small farms. It's hard work! We hate to pay a premium on produce—though we don't hesitate to pay more for quality when it comes to items like electronics—but it helps to know that your dollars are supporting your neighbor's livelihood and that your money is sending their kids to school, rather than sending the CEO of Safeway to the Caribbean.

Suddenly, 50 cents an egg starts to sound like a pretty meager wage, and the values of the local food system start to shine their

people to learn about growing food if they are interested. "I don't want people to not have access to food as an educational tool because they didn't know that food could be an educational tool," added Javna. Having local farms creates a culture of openness around our food system, so that people understand that they have the right to look in and learn whenever they wish.

The culture Javna refers to also comes in the power of a farm to act as a community space. The urban garden where she works and lives, Prospect Farm, is located in a low-income neighborhood north of Fillmore Street. "We want people to walk down the street to buy food from our farm," Javna said. "We want to get people excited about living in our neighborhood." Prospect Farm hosts weekly potlucks and community workdays all in the aim of building community around the growing of food. They're not alone; the CC Farm hosts workdays open to the entire Colorado Springs community as well as students of the college, and many other farms in the area host both volunteer days and educational workshops. Local farms occupy the perfect position to become epicenters of community building and education. If these aren't values that can enhance and improve the ethics of organic, I don't know what are.

Like Javna said, it's not easy being a farmer. You don't make a lot of money, you're subject to the whims of weather and wildlife, and, all too often, your own communities don't return the support you seek to provide them, whether because of labeling, price, or convenience; but farmers are people with the deepest respect for human connection and relationships, and they will continue to feed us and support us whether we look them in the eye or not.

Ultimately, eating local is more than just a gastronomic choice. Its ripples have deep economic, sociological, and environmental effects. As consumers, we've all heard that we have the power to effect change through our choices, but supporting local farmers can go so much further. You can donate money to a farm like Prospect, whose goal is opening food access to a low-income community rather than making a profit, or you can volunteer on a local farm's workdays. You can even get involved in local food policy—there's a bill up for a vote in Colorado Springs which will determine whether Prospect and other backyard farms and gardens like it will be able to sell produce on their own premises, to their neighbors. The world of local food is vibrant, especially in Colorado Springs. I can name a dozen local producers off-hand, and I've met most of them personally. If there's one thing they've taught me, it's this:

While we often imagine we can change the world by converting our friends to organic or vegan diets, ultimately the power we have to make change lies in the connections we choose to make within our own communities. Organic is noble, but local is human. When we build relationships between people, whether they be growers or eaters, educators or policy-makers, we build a food system which strives to ensure sustainable, healthy, and equitable food access for all.

So, talk to your farmer. Ask them what they do and what you can do to help them succeed. Because we are not merely consumers; we are community members, too.

The CC Farm will be hosting its annual Harvest Banquet on Wednesday, Sept. 14, from 6:30 to 8 PM at the Stewart House. Tickets are on sale at the Worner Desk for \$15.



PHOTO BY MIKAELA BURNS Colorado College Student Garden

questions."

The most beautiful thing about a farmer's market is that it transforms the source of your food from the distant end of a food chain into a real live person. Labels like "organic" or "cage-free" were invented because when buying from the grocery store,

light above organic.

"Local reflects all the values of organic," Javna said, "but it has the added value of culture."

This culture comes in many forms. It comes in the educational space that a farm can provide, the opportunity it creates for

Understanding Them: “They” as a Gender-Neutral Pronoun

By MARIEL WILSON

One month ago, I published an article entitled “How the Gender-Neutral Pronoun ‘They’ Halts Progress and Creates Isolation.” In this piece I spoke openly about how I have come to question the gender-neutral pronoun “they.”

I wrote about an article in the Washington Post entitled “Sorry, grammar nerds. The singular ‘they’ has been declared Word of the Year,” which detailed how more traditional rules regarding ‘they’ have changed. In the winter of 2016, the word ‘they’ was made officially grammatically correct as a gender-neutral pronoun. This change was not only meant to make a word usage technically correct that has always sounded correct, but also to incorporate into our language a pronoun for those individuals who do not identify with our binary genders and the correlating pronouns, he and she.

As I wrote the article, I could understand why “they” was thought to be the most practical pronoun to become widely used for gender-neutral individuals. It is a word that we already use hundreds of times a day without thinking twice about it. Unlike other attempted gender-neutral pronouns like “xe” or “per,” which were created, “they” is already existing and in use. But the truth was, no matter how accepting I wanted to be, I felt that using “they” to describe gender-neutral individuals was one of the least progressive steps we could take toward equality.

In my experience, I found that using this grammar led to clarifiers that became a constant reminder of the individual’s identity in ways that no other gendered person would experience.

This reminder completely undermines the purpose of gender neutrality as it only calls attention to one’s gender, or lack thereof, rather than allowing the person to exist free from the binary. The word “they” is not only isolating in the confusion it creates, but also in its connotation as a word on its own.

Just as “he” and “she” carry the weight of their imposed gender roles and responsibilities, “they” carries its own connotations. Though it may not carry with it the implications of a gender, it does carry with it a basis of otherness.

We use “they” neutrally all the time to describe an unidentified other, such as, “that’s what they told me,” or, “they say you’re not supposed to do that.” This word represents some

group of others that is distant and removed from oneself: the opposite of “we.” I thought that referring to a community of people who already struggle to be accepted with a word that implies difference and separation could do nothing but limit any progress toward acceptance and unity.

There are so many subcategories of gender neutrality, I argued, whether it is gender fluidity, identifying with different genders at different times, intergender, feeling somewhere in the middle of the constructed binary, and a dozen others. The common ground among all of these groups is a desire to be removed from the traditional and limiting gender binary. We already connect “they” to its synonym “he or she.” The whole point of identifying as gender neutral is declining to exist as an either/or identity. These people are not one or the other, and using a word that has only ever lived in a world on that spectrum will never allow them to leave it.

There have been many attempts in the past to add new words to our vocabulary that may serve as a gender-neutral pronoun, none of which have been as accepted as “they.” It is true that a new word will take ages to catch on and become common language, but that is completely necessary for true progression to occur.

Surely, as long as gender has existed, gender neutrality has too. The only part about this that is new is its relative acceptance, which allows it to be relevant—with newly accepted concepts comes the need for new language. New things are discovered every day, and we would never choose to label them with a word that already has a use and definition. So why would we do that with gender-neutral pronouns? To put it simply, when I wrote the article one month ago, I believed the community deserved a word of its own—one that described an identity that has never been accurately described before. I thought that as long as this remained an “us and them” relationship, there would never be a unified “we.”

When I first published the article, I received multiple positive comments, thanking me for sharing my opinion. It wasn’t until one month later that I saw the negative one.

“Yikes. Some people like the pronoun ‘they,’ and it’s not up to you, who I’m guessing is a cis woman, to decide what ‘prog-

ress’ is for non-binary individuals. This article was offensive and misinformed,” commented someone named Jodi.

I was taken aback. It was the first time I had received “hate” for something I’d written, and it hurt. It hurt to hear someone tell me I was misinformed. And it hurt more to hear someone call me offensive.

Most of all, the comment hurt me because it was true. I am a cis woman, who has never understood the struggle of identifying with anything other than the gender and pronouns I was born into and assigned.

I felt like an idiot for thinking it was okay for me to speak out on something that I have never personally struggled with.

I felt it wasn’t my place, and I was embarrassed. But now that I’ve had some time to think about it, I am proud of what I wrote. How long are we going to pretend we are comfortable with something we are completely unfamiliar with before we start really asking questions and actually trying to understand?

I was hoping this updated article would include an interview from a cisgendered person who has found issue with the pronoun “they” and with a gender non-binary person who would speak out about their preferred pronoun, but I could not find anyone who would come forward from either group.

Despite the comments I’ve heard time and time again in conversation, no cisgendered person wanted to be put down in print explaining their confusion and fear of slipping up, and no non-binary person wanted to explain why they feel better as “they” or why it offends them when their friends slip up.

This is the environment we have created and that we perpetuate every day by silencing our questions and our stories. I hope that one day, articles like this will not require anonymity.

So if I could go back, maybe I would change my article, add a disclaimer and soften the language. But I am happy that I spoke up.

Maybe it was offensive. Maybe it was misinformed. But above all, it was my attempt to bridge a gap between “us and them” that I feel has been ignored for too long.

Whether you like “they,” don’t understand it, or just have questions, it’s time we start the open conversation toward genuine acceptance and understanding.

No Room to Grow on Campus

By PAULINA UKRAINETZ

Picture (or perhaps remember) the morning of the first Monday of this block: you’re walking to class a little later than usual, but still earlier than the time you’ve had to get up for the last couple of months. As you walk around campus, you’re struck by the seemingly perfect way everything is conditioned to be: the grass is greener than you’ve ever seen it (most likely due to the incredible amount of sprinklers dispersed around campus), everybody’s walking (or skateboarding, or biking) with their matching Patagonia jackets and Tevas, swinging Nalgene bottles from side to side as they follow the never-ending, never-altered rhythm of a Colorado College day. Everything is perfectly set up for our convenience, which would have delighted me in the past, but after spending the summer working and traveling, I am sharply struck by the contrast between CC and the real world. Read the above as: CC does not simulate the real world.

A majority of us here (I say majority since I recently found out that 60 percent of current CC students are paying full tuition without any loans or financial aid) have been raised in a bubble. For some, the bubble manifested itself as not discovering the many ways the world can suffer; for others, the bubble can be as seemingly insignificant as not doing your own laundry, cooking your own food, or cleaning your own room, let alone filling out your tax return forms and dealing with rent and utilities. Some may have been perfectly happy in their bubble, and some may have felt suffocated, but nonetheless went down bubble-shielded paths, until their arrival at CC.

College is often romanticized by ‘oppressed,’ angsty high school students as ‘the real world’ – the world where you can party, hang out with your friends, or scroll mindlessly through Reddit until the early hours of the morning because, finally, for the first time in your life, nobody is here to tell you what to do. If the activities listed above are the way you prefer to spend your time, perhaps you are completely content with your surroundings. I, however, am deeply unhappy. I am unhappy because I feel sheltered in this en-

vironment, where the effort I put into a meal involves walking to Rastall and spending meal plan money that is equated, at a fairly inflated exchange rate, with real money that I didn’t earn.

Here, I can’t learn about how much I should expect to pay for water, gas, or heating, because that is already, conveniently, taken care of. Here I don’t get to interact with the 70-year-old lady that grows a vegetable garden next door, or with the somewhat friendly, somewhat scary NRA member from across the street, because the only people that live around me are other students—students that, undoubtedly, come from different backgrounds and different locations, but that fairly quickly morph into a homogenous mass of athleticism, friendliness, and occasional entitlement. Don’t get me wrong, the general traits of CC students are some that I greatly admire and appreciate, but the campus population is incredibly unrepresentative of the real world.

Last Monday, the student population received an email from Residential Life, which told students that juniors are no longer allowed to live off campus. For some, this might not present a problem, but I can honestly say I hadn’t felt this disappointed for a long time. At CC, we receive a fantastic education in the liberal arts, which is supposed to encourage us to think and act for ourselves.

I have little doubt that people here can think for themselves; the acting part, however, I’m much more unsure about. By living at CC, I feel like I am missing a huge, essential part of my education in becoming an independent, free-thinking adult; I do not know, from experience, what it is like to pay rent and utilities, how to buy and budget my groceries for the week, how far I am willing to commute every morning, how to coexist with potentially diverse neighbors.

I do not know how to live self-sufficiently in the world, into which I will be thrown in a few short years, and my chance at learning (as well as the ability to make that choice) has just been thrown away by the CC administration. I feel trapped by the lack of agency I am now left with.

Middle Eastern Studies: More Than Meets the News Cycle

By ELLEN ATKINSON

How do people respond when you tell them your major? When people hear that I am majoring in the History and Political Science of the Middle East and minoring in Arabic & Islamic Studies, their responses typically may be better off buried under some distant sand dune in the Sahara Desert.

“Ohhhh... timely.”

“Oh good, our government needs people like you.”

“Do you want to be a terrorist?”

Literally, someone has asked me that.

Hold up.

What audacious assumptions, not to mention offensive to both myself and the entire population of the diverse region, we Westerners have come to associate with “The Middle East.”

No, I’m not a terrorist. No, I do not want to fight terrorists. Has it ever occurred to anyone that the Middle East contains more than terrorists and camels? Or that a bajillion flavors of Christians, Jews and Yazidis, Zoroastrians and Pagans live within this territory branded “Islamic?” Or that the greatness of this region is not restricted to a “Golden Age” of Islamic expansionism? That the arts and science in the region flourish now, and not only in the 10th century? Few people realize that more women than men attend university in Saudi Arabia and Iran.

Few people have read the powerful resistance poetry of Mahmoud Darwish, or have heard the thoughtful rap lyrics of Omar Offendum. And anyone who has been to the Middle East can tell you that Fairouz is popular, while Osama bin Laden is not. It is the people of the Middle East who came up with a derogatory nickname for ISIS: Da’ish. We absentmindedly reinforce the idea of an Islamic State as legitimate, while the very populations ISIS attempts to suppress resist in language and spirit.

Furthermore, to reduce an entire region to one form of pseudo-religious, fundamentalist, violent extremism is the highest form of ignorance. That is like the word Colorado conjuring an image of pot leaves, and saying everyone in Colorado smokes pot. Forget the mountains, forget the blue skies, the thriving microbreweries, the ski resorts, and the differences between the East and front range, not to mention the

fact that I am from Colorado and I’ve never met anyone from Colorado remotely similar to myself... we’re all high, man! Utter nonsense.

What I’ve never had happen is someone just get why I love the Middle East—unless they are from the Middle East. The majority of Middle Easterners I have met are just trying to live their lives to the fullest: honoring themselves, honoring others, and sometimes honoring God. The culture of hospitality is authentic, and I have made life-long friends within five minutes of being strangers. Arabic is a language rich in nuance and poetry. I have not met a single unintelligent or “backwards” person during my time in Morocco, Israel, and Jordan. And not all people living in the Middle East are even Arab.

Our culture has some sick fascination with reducing people from the Middle East to the “other.” It is a convenient way to appear superior, especially morally, when the news is busy convincing U.S. citizens that the only newsworthy aspects of the Middle East are extremists setting off bombs. Never mind reporting on the thousands of charitable organizations furthering education and women’s opportunities in the region. And how about our government’s shady dealings with Saudi Arabia?

My point is, lots of people should be learning Arabic, and need to be learning Arabic. But this desire doesn’t need to stem from sympathy (I have to help the refugees!) or from animosity (I’m going to work for the CIA and take down terrorists).

Rather, the desire to study Arabic, for me, and hopefully for many others to come, stems from a deep respect of a culture that flourishes, despite being kicked down and scorned by the world.

I imagine I’m not the only student at Colorado College, or any college for that matter, whose motives for studying the Middle East are misinterpreted. What do we say to science majors who turn out to be Christians? What do we say to men studying Feminist Studies? To white girls studying the Middle East?

I am just saying we need to be sensitive as a population to the nuanced motives someone may have for studying a certain topic. No one’s academic journey should be assumed more than anyone’s life journey.



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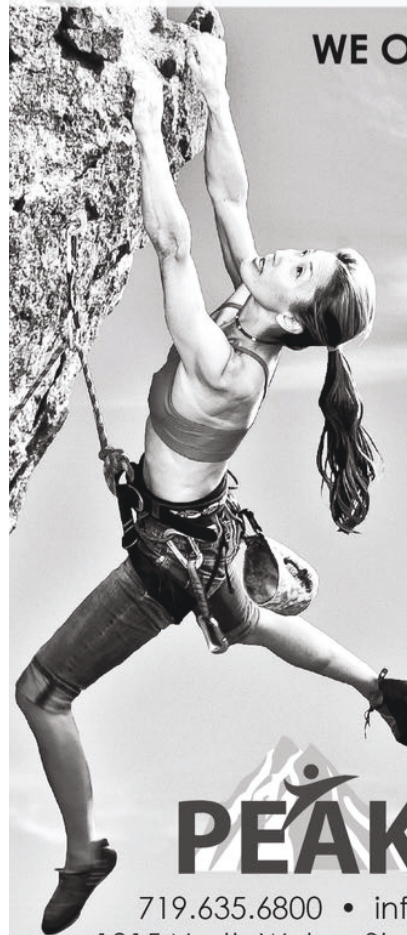
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CC Happenings

Friday, September 9th

Washington Week with Gwen Ifill: Colorado Edition
11:30 - 3 p.m., Celeste Theater

Fearless Friday Talk

Professor Matthew Whitehead will speak about deep learning methods for writing functions to detect cats in PNG images, and more. There will be pizza!
12 p.m., TSC 122 (Kresge Lecture Hall)

Double Movie Feature

A double movie screening of Finding Nemo and Finding Dory, along with popcorn and refreshments.
7:30 p.m., Worner Quad

Saturday, September 10th

The Historic Van Briggles Pottery Festival
Admission is \$12 with proceeds going towards the Women's Educational Society of CC. Tours of the historic building run every 20 minutes.
9 - 3 p.m., 1125 Glen Ave. (corner of Uintah St. and Glen Ave.)

Blues and Shoes!

A day of bluegrass music featuring the Bluegrass Ensemble, Spring Fever, Cosmic Mesa, and Whitewater Ramble along with food from Rudy's BBQ!
11 - 7 p.m., Tutt Science Quad

Sunday, September 11th

Symphony of Emotions: Indian Classical Dance Performance

Bharata Natyam choreographer Ramya Harishankar and CC Professor Anusha Kedhar will perform with live musicians from India.
5 p.m., Celeste Theater

Monday, September 12th

Who Knows: Medical Expertise in the Digital Era

Talk by Professor Kristin Barker, the Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of New Mexico.
12:15 p.m., McHugh Commons

Visiting Writers Series: Charlie Anders
7 - 9 p.m., Gaylord Hall

Tuesday, September 13th

EXCEL @ CC: Your Role in Responding to Lived Experiences of Trauma
9 - 12 p.m., Barbara Yalich Board Room (formerly Spencer)

Peach Fest!

Rastall will be serving many delicious and nutritious peach-focused dishes during lunch.
Lunch, The Rastall Cafe

Wednesday, September 14th

EXCEL @ CC: ITS- Behind the Scenes
1 - 3 p.m., Barbara Yalich Board Room (formerly Spencer)

Get Pickled: Educational Kitchen Class

Learn how to pickle food and take home two jars of your own creation!
4 - 5 p.m., Bemis Great Hall

CC, FAC Alliance Listening Session

Learn more about the CC and Fine Arts Center alliance.
4:30 - 6 p.m., Fine Arts Center Music Room

"Guyland" Film Screening with OrgasmiCC
6 - 8 p.m., Loomis Lounge

Thursday, September 15th

Latinx/Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration
1 - 3 p.m., Donald Autrey Field

"Writing in the Community"

A food truck and snack break event.
3 - 5 p.m., Mod Pod

Visiting Writers Series: Chris Bachelder
7 - 9 p.m., Gaylord Hall

Friday, September 16th

CC Refugee Alliance Kickoff Meeting
Learn more about how to be involved in the new CC Refugee Alliance. Open to students, staff and faculty.
12 - 1:30 p.m., Sacred Grounds

"Por Costa Rica de viaje, sus trípticos": A Poetry Reading
5 - 6 p.m., Cornerstone Screening Room

B-Side Collective Festival

Festival highlighting music, art, and performances of female identifying, lgbtqia+/queer, and non-binary artists.
6 - 11 p.m.

Stephen Aizenstat Lecture: Dreams and Environment
7 - 9 p.m. Gaylord Hall