

THE CATALYST

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Mod Pod Stands in for Tutt During Yearlong Renovation

By TUCKER SMITH

Renovation of the beloved Tutt Library started accordingly this summer and is on its way to opening in August of 2017.

"The summer was very busy and we had overall good progress," said Traci Freeman, Director of the Colket Student Learning Center. "We [Team Tutt] have a powerful incentive to be on schedule."

The school has been planning Tutt Library's renovation for a few years now. The new library will have four floors, including a café on the third floor, an auditorium on the second, and a large array of study spaces for both collective and individual work. It will also include a plethora of patios and outdoor spaces to enjoy the fresh air.

"The idea is that it will be the Worner of academics—a vibrant space that draws people in for more academic interaction and collaboration," Freeman said. Additionally, it will be a net-zero building due to the impressive geothermal heating system.

Currently, students will have to get creative with study spaces until the new library opens. For many, this can be quite a stressful transition.

The Mod Pod was named by recent graduate Elizabeth Lund and sophomore Emma Gonzalez, and is located on the east side of Cascade, north of the Interdisciplinary House and south of Breton Hall. It is a lively orange and has a geometric mountain range up the sides. Aesthetically, the inside is not as exciting, however the exposed black piping does give it a bit of a modern edge. The services within the Mod Pod include the Writing Center, thesis and fellowship support, coffee and snacks, printers, and computers. It also includes a nice patio.

An alternative to the Mod Pod is the Gates Common room in Palmer. This space is geared towards juniors and seniors, housing thesis carrels, but underclassmen may be able to snag a space.

To further aid the transition, Worner has extended its hours Monday-Thursday from 8 a.m. to 2 a.m. and East Rastall will be open for use. The south side of Tutt will also be open to house a few study spaces and resources, however the primary method to check out books will be online checkout and next day delivery.



PHOTO BY NATE MONGA. Tutt is gutted in the early stages of a large renovation that will be completed by the beginning of next fall semester.

Richard Mee and Reconnecting with the Roots

By BECCA STINE

At this point in time, it seems important to ask some questions: Are we having too many babies? Is population control something we really need to worry about? Or is this all just crazy talk, and will our planet naturally evolve as we do? Have we reached the point where the only method of feeding the population is through GMO use and "non-ethical" farming? I mean, we are humans and we need to eat—so naturally we begin to alter our condition and experience of food if and when we feel threatened. Regardless, it all begins with food.

For Richard Mee, a Colorado Springs local, food was the motivation for starting his Community Supported Agriculture group, or CSA. Robb Wolf, a former research biochemist and New York Times best selling author of "The Paleo Solution," describes a CSA as "a way for consumers to buy local, seasonal produce directly from a farmer in their community. It is basically a farm share. A farmer offers a certain number of 'shares' to the public."

Mee has transformed his backyard space into what is now a flourishing garden with both outdoor beds, and a beautiful greenhouse—a space he calls Paradise. Mee

uses an aquaponics system in his greenhouse, where plants and produce grow larger, faster, and with a higher potency, thanks to the nutrients excreted by around 20 catfish and pacu. Upon realizing that his produce was more than enough to feed the mouths of himself and his partner, Mee started his CSA. Consisting of 14 members, the CSA was started early spring of this year. As part of the formation of the CSA, there were two initial meetings to define the needs of the people and the garden itself. "We didn't like the idea of rules," Mee said, but decided to enforce four essentials:

1. No guns
2. No cellphones
3. No dogs
4. Don't come to the garden if you don't absolutely wish to be there.

It was fair. And so the CSA began.

Although an abundance of food was the initial motivation for Mee, the purpose of his CSA soon became much greater. Mee speaks about the concept of the "spirituality of food," upon reflecting on the issue of a man-made disconnect—the fact that the produce we buy at King Soopers comes concealed in excessive packaging, with ingredients we can't even decipher, and

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Admissions Fellows Shape CC Behind the Scenes

By ABI CENSKY

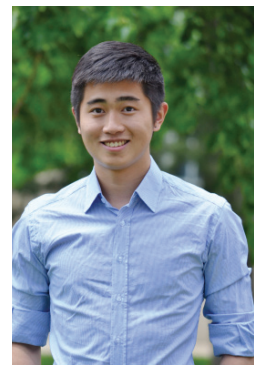
Admissions Fellows are one of the highest paid positions students are eligible for on the Colorado College campus. Alongside compensation comes prestige.

Admissions Fellows are charged with learning the interview process, a rating system, and more about the admissions process before being turned loose to interview students applying to CC. This is one of those quirky CC things—allowing students to make recommendations for admission. It places a high level of trust in students to shape the culture of the school.

When asked if she felt uniquely qualified to shape or form the next generation of CC students by being granted the right to interview them, senior Nia Abram said, "No not really, unless I get someone..." she trailed off.

Abram paused to explain the grading scale of the interview process. The grading scale for interviews is 1-5. "One being like 'I don't want this student to ever come to this school' to five being 'I would give up my spot at this school so this student could come here,'" Abram said. A lot of her interviews end up in the 3 range.

Abram admitted to granting some 4's and 2's, but mostly 3's. "That three doesn't really push that persons' application one way or the



Clockwise from top left, Will Baird '17, Joel Fisher-Katz '17, Maya Williamson '17, Deaira Hermani '17, Jacqui Adler '17, Michael Zijing '17, Madelene Travis '17. Not pictured: Liz Forster '17, Paige Harari '17, Nia Abram '17, Anubrat Prasai '17, Anjolenna Lutz '17, Beck Shea '17, Toan Luong '17.



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The Foundation for Individual Rights in Education put CC on its list of censored colleges. Page 2

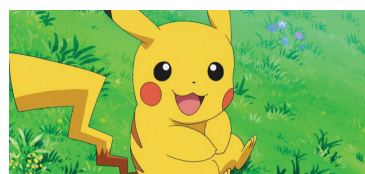
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Unearthed Mammoth Tusk

CC student Elizabeth Baker makes a unique discovery while at an Alaskan archeological summer camp. Page 12

10 Questions

CC Cycling Club co-chairs, Xan Marshland and Tasha Heilweil discuss goals for the club and their favorite places to ride.

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Colorado College Among “10 Worst Colleges for Free Speech,” Says FIRE

By PATRICK GLASTONBURY

Over the years, Colorado College has steadily grown in prominence as it has gradually moved up in lists ranking the best institutions for higher education.

However, CC has also earned a place on a much less laudable list: the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education’s (FIRE) annual ranking of the “10 Worst Colleges for Free Speech.”

The ranking is due in large part to the Yik Yak scandal that roiled campus last year, amid nationwide turbulence over racial tensions. During the 2015-2016 academic year, a CC student responded to a Yik Yak post that said, “#blackwomenmatter” with the comment: “They matter, they’re just not hot.” (For a more in-depth description of the event and its context, refer to Candalaria Alcat’s article in the Catalyst’s online archives, dated Dec. 1, 2015).

CC Administration coordinated with Yik Yak to identify the student, after which the student was sanctioned with a 21-month-long suspension. While most would agree that the comment was distasteful, insensitive, and inflammatory, some outside commentators and members of the campus community thought the punishment was excessive.

The punishment received nationwide attention, appearing in many publications including The Huffington Post, The Daily Caller, and The Washington Post. Many of these commentaries were critical of the extent of the punishment, and in the face of mounting pressure, the college commuted the 21-month-long suspension to a length of six months.

FIRE released its list of the “10 Worst Colleges for Free Speech” on Feb. 17 of this year, and calls CC a “red light institution.” The website explains that a “red light” institution has at least one policy that both clearly and substantially restricts freedom of speech. A “clear” restriction is one that unambiguously infringes on what is or should be protected expression. In other words, the threat to free speech at a red light institution is obvious on the face of the policy and does not depend on how the policy is applied.



The Yik Yak scandal last year is not the first time the school has attracted negative attention from free speech advocates. In 2008, the administration placed disciplinary letters in the files of two students who parodied the on-campus feminist publication The Monthly Rag. Their parody, titled “The Monthly Bag,” presented a sort of hyperbolized masculinity, with features like “Chainsaw Etiquette” and “Toughguy Wisdom.” The punishment was justified on the grounds that the fliers’ “juxtaposition of weaponry and sexuality” represented a kind of violence.

These controversies illustrate the challenge facing campus communities nationwide. The need to establish an inclusive and safe atmosphere in which diverse voices can dialogue with all members of the campus needs to be balanced with the tenets of free expression.

The Admissions Office at the University of Chicago distanced themselves from this dilemma, declaring that they “support academic freedom,” and in the process will reject “safe spaces.”

The question ultimately comes down to the role of the administration in intervening in campus discourse. While the need for safe spaces on campus is certainly legitimate, insulating all conversations occurring within the campus’ orbit from those opinions deemed unsavory or unpopular runs the risk of constructing dogmatized echo chambers; a dogma constructed on liberal or inclusive values nevertheless carries its own potential for dogmatic violence.

At the same time, open-ended free speech poses its own problem of allowing disrespectful and hateful discourse to masquerade as potentially valid stances that effectively disrupt meaningful discussions.

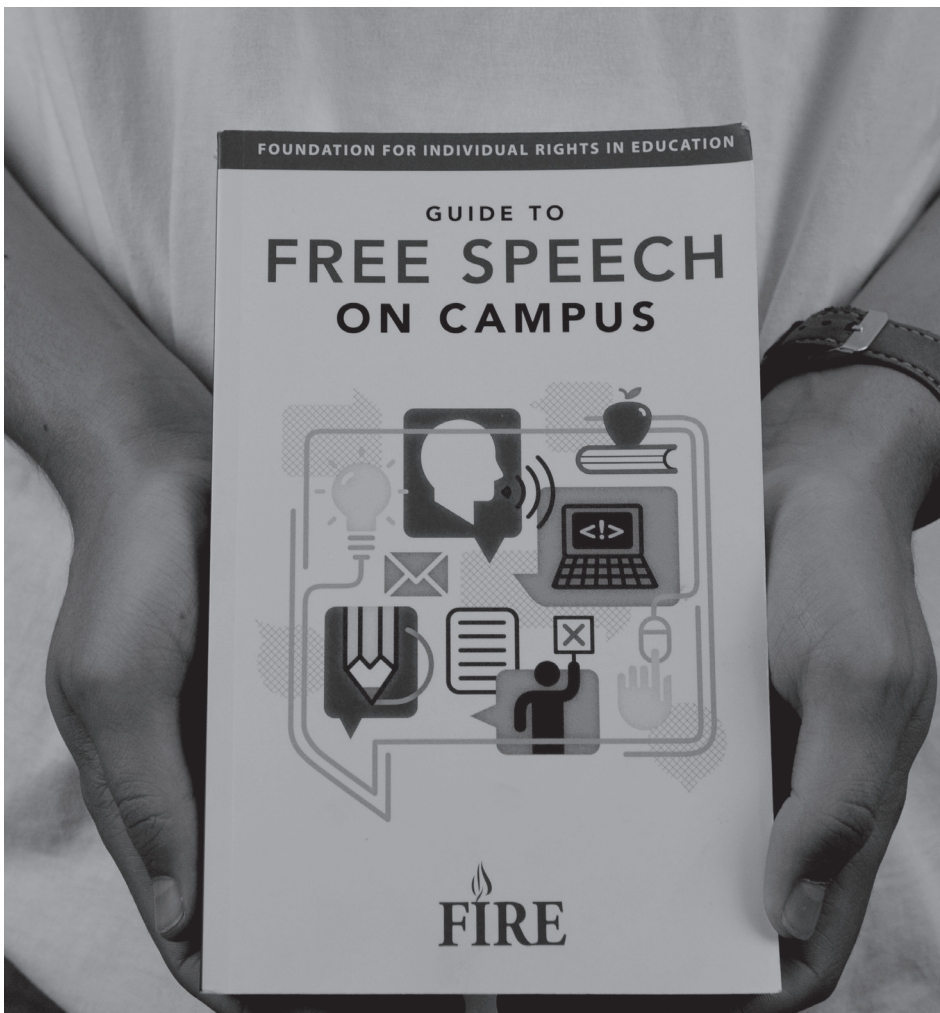


PHOTO BY PHILLIP ENGH FIRE’s “Guide to Free Speech on Campus,” sent to the Catalyst out of concern for free speech issues at Colorado College.

Colorado College Joins Forces with Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center

By RILEY HUTCHINGS

In 1936, the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center was founded with the purpose of displaying and teaching art. As of 2020, Colorado College should legally control the nonprofit.

Professor Kris Stanec has been on board with the project since talk of it started last year. She is now serving on the Strategic Planning Committee with President Tiefenthaler to begin the transition. Thus far, the committee has yet to set up an initial meeting.

The collaboration between CC and the Fine Arts Center will educate us further on the Southwest through art. Stanec has been teaching a class called Power of the Arts since 2004, which looks at how nearby elementary students learn in a museum setting.

Stanec hopes that this project will help CC students abstractly learn and also provoke deeper thought by allowing them to do this research at the Fine Arts Center.

Stanec is excited by the prospect of deter-

mining how the average museum-goer processes the information presented to them. “When you go to a museum, some people know how to access the information, right?” asked Stanec. “They maybe read the wall text—they go on a guided tour.

She wants to enhance the experience for those that simply go in and enjoy looking at the art.

In pursuit of that goal, Stanec hopes that students will be able to set up displays in the Fine Arts Center and look at how visitors interact with them to confirm or correct their education theories.

The center will help students while maintaining its original purpose of educating the greater Colorado Springs community on art and theater.

So far, little progress has been made on actually conjoining the two missions of CC and the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center. By July 2017 there should be a mutually agreed upon plan for how this merging will take place.



PHOTO BY MORGAN BAK Heather Oelklaus recently presented a ‘Gallery Talk’ at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center.

Off-Campus Houses Become Targets of Crime

By HANNAH GLOSSER

As seniors and juniors flock off campus to alleviate Colorado College's housing shortage, student homes have become the target of a recent slew of burglaries and break-ins. On Tuesday, Aug. 30, at 3 a.m. a man broke into the home of five senior CC students. The man entered the home through an unlocked door while the students were sleeping and proceeded to take some of their belongings. The man entered two rooms that were inhabited by sleeping students. After one roommate was awoken the students called the police and they arrived shortly after. The Colorado Springs Police Department reported that the suspect was still inside the home when police arrived on the scene and was taken into custody. Police had to break down the front door of the home to enter the scene. In order to subdue the intruder CSPD pulled their weapons. The suspect is being charged with Second Degree Burglary and Unlawful Distribution of Schedule II Controlled Substance. All students involved were not hurt.

Senior Lily Benjamin, whose 300 block Cache La Poudre St. home was broken into, said, "It shouldn't take a strange man walking into your bedroom in the middle of the night to make you think about how you can make your home safer. We are so lucky that our situation ended up the way that it did,

it could have been a lot worse. We hope that security and patrol around campus can be improved, but also that students take the proper precautions to ensure that their house is secure."

Associate Director of Campus Safety Nick Calkins said, "After everybody moves back, people know and there are crimes of opportunity, which is a subset of crimes characterized by a small degree of premeditation, and that generally happen in the heat of the moment when a criminal sees the chance. Most normally, those are unattended belongings, open doors and windows, and for our campus community, the theft of improperly secured bikes. Though we statistically see an increase in these sorts of crimes at the beginning of each academic year, it does not mean students should not take a proactive role in keeping themselves and their property secure."

In addition to the Cache La Poudre home break-in, someone broke into a car belonging to two senior CC students. In both situations, the door to the driver seat was propped open, however, the car had been locked. The contents from the passenger seat and center console were scattered throughout the car. The students were unable to determine if any of their belongings had been stolen.

"After everybody moves back, people know and there are crimes of opportunity, which is a subset of crimes characterized by a small degree of premeditation."—Nick Calkins, Associate Director of Campus Safety

Professor Sarah Hautzinger Exposes Brazilian Violence Against Women and the American Effects of PTSD

By RILEY HUTCHINGS

Since her introduction to ethnography at Reed College in Portland, Ore., Professor Hautzinger has completely immersed herself in Brazilian culture and American military culture, and published written accounts of both.

To her, being an ethnographer means "trying to bring a kind of analysis to also being immersed," though Hautzinger does not see a clear line between deep investigative journalism and ethnography. Most important, she says, are the relationships she has made that allow her to get a deeper look into communities.

Hautzinger published her most recent book in 2014, after years of research. While investigating in 2008, she had the eye-opening experience of interviewing 43 soldiers returning from Iraq. "We got access to something that could be extremely sensitive with almost no bars," she said of the opportunity.

Just days after the interviews she was asked to return the data she had collected on the men. "The battalion that we were interviewing was going to be disproportionately responsible for a big share of a whole cluster of local murders that soldiers had perpetuated here in Colorado Springs," explained Hautzinger.

Hautzinger helped as much as she felt journalistically responsible, but kept the information a secret.

In addition to her work on American soil, Hautzinger has taken many trips to Brazil. For most of her visits, she has stayed in a neighborhood that started as

a community of escaped slaves. While there, she ended up getting close to one family, who she then focused on in her research and ultimately her recent book.

Within one close-knit family was a grandmother who acted as a matriarch to the entire neighborhood, a daughter who resented women who had never allowed themselves to be dominated by men, and a sister-in law who was abused by her husband.

In her book "Policing by and for Women in Brazil and Beyond," Hautzinger delves into the power-relationships between women and men in Brazil, focusing both on this family and on female-run police stations that help female victims of violence.

Hautzinger has primarily lived in Colorado since she was young, but feels that doing research here "was almost harder because I do live here full-time." In Brazil, despite being the godmother of the above-mentioned family's grandson, she said, "I don't think I ever just fit in like one of the family."

Much of the work Hautzinger has done has been in collaboration with Colorado College students. "It [working with CC students] was one of the most transformative experiences I've ever had, professionally or otherwise," said Hautzinger. Watching students from a school like CC interact with other young people from completely different tracks of life returning from service is part of what inspired her.

News Brief

U.S. ARMY TO EXTINGUISH CHEMICAL WEAPON STOCKPILE IN PUEBLO

Next week, the U.S. Army will start running a \$4.5 billion chemical plant to destroy remaining mustard agent, a chemical weapon. This is in compliance with a 1997 international treaty that bans chemical weapons. The plant is mostly automated and will begin destroying around 780,000 chemical filled artillery shells. The U.S. Army has already destroyed 560 shells and bottles of mustard agent that were leaking or had other issues at the plant.

The system can only destroy four to six shells of mustard agent in a day. Robots will demolish the shells and then the plant will utilize water and bacteria to make the mustard agent inactive. As a weapon, mustard agent can kill or maim human beings through the eyes, skin, or airways. The U.S. Army stores remaining mustard agent at Blue Grass Army Depot in Kentucky. This plant also stores other deadly nerve agents. Blue Grass is expected to start destroying chemical weapons next year and finish in 2023.

NEW BREWERY, LOCAL RELIC, RELOCATES TO DOWNTOWN CHURCH

Local Relic is purchasing the historic Payne Chapel located in downtown Colorado Springs. Local Relic is a local brewery headed by Jeff Zearfoss, Melissa Lof-ton, and resident brewer Grant Goodwiler.

Originally, Local Relic was going to open a commercial space on Lincoln Avenue in a former elementary school, however, plans fell through in May.

Colorado Springs Public Market had planned to open in Payne Chapel during Labor Day, but they backed out creating an available space for Local Relic. The Payne Chapel has 6,500 square feet with two levels and an outdoor space that previously was intended to be a biergarten. The grand opening of Local Relic is planned for next year.

CDOT GRANT GOES TO EL PASO COUNTY

A grant valuing \$139,000 from the Colorado Department of Transportation will go to El Paso County. The grant aims to "enhance safety in high-traffic crash areas." The \$139,000 will go towards equipment and overtime for deputies, who will be supervising the areas where the highest number of crashes occur. The Sheriff's office will purchase speed-detecting equipment including a new speed-monitoring trailer.

Six areas that have had significant crashes within the last year will be targeted through this grant: Palmer Park Boulevard, the area of South Academy Boulevard and Highway 85, Highway 24 and 31, Pikes Peak Community College entrance, Waldo Canyon, and Highway 24 at Cascade. There have been more than 250 crashes in these six areas, so high-visibility traffic enforcement will be enacted through September.

Crime Brief

ARMED MEN ROB POPEYES RESTAURANT

Late Saturday, police reported that two armed men stole money from a Popeye's Restaurant in the northeast side of Colorado Springs after it had closed. The two men entered the restaurant at around 11 p.m. and demanded that the store manager open the safe. The two men took an undetermined amount of money and fled the scene. Police reported that one of the men had a handgun and the other had a stun gun.

COLORADO SPRINGS AREA AMBER ALERT

On Saturday, Aug 27, police were searching for a man who left his home with his three-month child after threatening to kill the mother and child. At 9:15 a.m. police arrived to the scene to examine a domestic violence dispute. Later that day an Amber Alert was issued. Police believe the 39-year-old man was engaged in a physical altercation when the threat was made. The mother left to report the incident to the police and the man escaped with their child in a white Chevrolet pickup truck. Police asked people to notify the police if they spotted the father and son. The Amber Alert was cancelled on Aug 27 at 4:15 p.m. The child is safe and father is in police custody.

POLICE ARREST FOUR YOUTHS FOR STRING OF THEFTS

The Colorado Springs Police arrested four youths in connection with a series of break-ins, thefts, and joyrides. The police arrested them after a month-long investigation and charged them with Burglary of Motor Vehicles and Aggravated Motor Vehicle Theft. Some of the teens arrested were runaways and the others had warrants out for their arrest. In July, CSPD concluded that the teens would steal cars and take them on joy rides and then crash the cars. Since the teens arrest, the police have found firearms in connection with the crimes. Three vehicles they stole have been retrieved.

MAN ACCUSED OF 2013 MURDER ENTERS PLEA DEAL WITH EL PASO COUNTY

A man involved in a 2013 murder investigation has entered a plea deal with El Paso County prosecutors. 34 year-old, Thomas James Guolee pled guilty to one count of attempted murder of a police officer. Guolee will receive 28 years in prison. However, the attempted murder of a police officer is typically a maximum sentence of 40 years. Guolee is a member of the 211 gang.

THE CATALYST

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Screenshots from CC students' films, top to bottom: *Movement for Movement's Sake* by Thomas Crandall '16, *On Track* by Robert Mahaffie '15, *Life by the Horns* by Jillian Banner '17, *Labor of Love* by Francesca Mastrianni '18, *Turning Point* by Charles Theobald '17, *The Duke of the Chutes* by Daniel Levitt '15.

Colorado College Film Major Reflects on Producing Documentary Aired on Rocky Mountain PBS

BY BRITTANY CAMACHO

The Colorado Documentary Project, a two-block summer course put on by the Film and Media Studies department, is collaborating with Rocky Mountain PBS to air students' final films in a documentary series titled "In Short". Colorado College junior Francesca Mastrianni was a member of the class in the summer of 2015 whose documentary "Labor of Love" premiered in the inaugural episode.

Though Colorado is not a major hub of film, Mastrianni's experience in the Colorado Documentary Project opened her eyes to the opportunities for film that make her stand out. Her experience with film on the Block Plan is something that she says "pushes her to work" and is something that she could not get in a big city film environment.

A Film and Media studies major and Journalism minor, Mastrianni found her way into filmmaking through her First Year Experience. She had no film experience prior to college, but with the Block Plan offering flexibility during a major life transition, a chance to explore was refreshing.

The Film department called to Mastrianni in her first-year as the opportunity to learn about films and television shows, two luxuries that her parents steered her away from, for the first time on an academic and personal level. "As kids we never really were allowed to watch TV, we were always pushed to go outside more by our parents," she said.

She has vivid memories of playing outdoors with her older and younger siblings, but when film entered her life in the fall of 2014 she'd found an unquestionable passion for being behind the camera. The opportunity to blend her time outdoors and newfound passion for film came during the Colorado Documentary Project in the summer of 2015.

The Colorado Documentary Project, taught by Assistant Professors Clay Haskell

and Dylan Nelson in the Film and Media Studies department, is designed to "promote gripping storytelling, original research, and community-building," as reported by the CC Office of Communications. The program includes boot camps of one-minute clips, volunteer opportunities in regional Front Range organizations, and a final documentary short produced with the potential to be aired by Rocky Mountain PBS.

Mastrianni's volunteer ships and subjects for her film changed as the program went on. She was initially assigned to film and work at Venetucci Farms, but at a local farmer's market she met two ranchers whose work ethic and demeanor inspired her to shift gears and document them instead.

While working on the farm, Mastrianni was struck to juxtapose the life of a new rancher and a more experienced rancher, because, "their lives overlapped in a way—one was young and one was older and had been ranching for a long time, but they both worked their lives for their families."

Mastrianni's work day began alongside the ranchers at 5:30 a.m. and ended at 5 p.m. The long work days helped her reflect and compose her shots, shape her questions, and understand her subjects as dedicated ranchers, Coloradans, and compassionate human beings. The immersive nature of the program was "so important to knowing the ranchers and knowing the right way... to tell their stories."

Over the course of the project, Mastrianni worked with her professors and Rocky Mountain PBS to turn their feedback into results for television. "My work had never been on TV before, so that was really exciting." The first episode of "In Short," which included "Labor of Love," aired on Aug. 18, and is set to air again sometime in October.

Though Colorado is not a major hub of film, Mastrianni's experience in the Colorado Documentary Project opened her eyes to the opportunities for film that make her stand out. Her experience with film on the Block Plan is something that she says "pushes her to work" and is something that she could not get in a big city film environment.

In the following year, Mastrianni has had her work featured in the Rocky Mountain Women's Film Festival, and went on to intern at Fox Searchlight this past summer. To those interested in the Colorado Documentary Project and the Film and Media Studies department, she advises that, "you should just take the chance. I did."

"Labor of Love" can be viewed online at the following link: <https://vimeo.com/134246899>

Admissions Fellows Shape CC Behind the Scenes

BY ABI CENSKY

Continued from front page

fact that they have students on-board is really cool...so it doesn't become this power dynamic of Admissions Counselor and Student, it's more of like a student talking to a student."

Abram believes the interview process gives Fellows a better idea of where people come from and who they are in a more genuine way. As far as that "A-ha! moment" of meeting the exceptional student, Abram said she's still waiting, but she concedes she just started. "I'm still waiting to see that moment of change-making."

When asked if the cast of Admissions Fellows represent CC fairly and truthfully, Abram responded, "I think they did a really good job of picking people who come from really different places and are doing really different things, and...I think it's in many ways the ideal CC student body."

That being said, Abram did say the position is unique in the fact that it shows a shift in CC's focus on changing the admission paradigm. It's less about the students' academic prowess and more about their character, she explained. When they write-up a debrief of the interview, there are three sections that emphasize this pivot.

"One is the values and contributions that the student can give. Two is their willingness to engage with the campus, and three is their ability to critically reflect about their place in the world," said Abram. "I think the



PHOTO BY NATE MONGA

Honnen's Green Roof Completes Another Step in CC's Sustainability Plan

BY CLARE ENDE

While most students were gone over the summer, a few Colorado College students joined the facilities services to install a 2,650-square-foot live green roof on the Honnen Ice Arena. Thanks to the efforts of those students and faculty, over 12,800 succulent plants now cover the previously bare roof.

The project had been in development for roughly two and a half years before this summer's installation. After the idea came about, CC first had to install an adequate roof and make sure that it was waterproof and sturdy enough to support the plants. A year after that, CC began ordering the massive amounts of plants that would be needed

Important benefits of a green roof include reducing storm runoff reducing building costs for heat and AC and extending roof life by 40 or even 50 years.

for the green roof project.

"Some of the benefits of a green roof—I mean, aesthetically, it looks really good over there. It's a highly traveled area, so it brought life to the area right away," said Joshua Ortiz, landscape and grounds supervisor.

Although green roofs do provide beautiful decoration, that is by far not their only use. Other important benefits include reducing storm runoff (up to 65-90 percent in the summer and 25-40 percent in the winter), reducing building costs for heat and AC, and extending roof life by 40 and even 50 years. They also lower sound levels inside the building and create a natural air filtration system.

One square foot of CC's green roof can filter around seven ounces of smog and dust per year. Since CC's green roof is made of drought-tolerant succulent plants, it provides a low maintenance green space on campus.

"Also, it does help with heating and cooling. It keeps heat in during the winter and keeps it cool in the summer," Ortiz said.

The first step of the summer was to put the edging in, which lines the entire roof and plants. They then installed an irrigation system and brought in around six and a half tons of rock to do one of the borders. The installation date was Aug. 3, and a company out of Montana

named LiveRoof brought all of the plants down and gave the students and faculty a short training class. The students and the grounds crew took over from there.

The green roof on the Honnen Ice Arena has done so well that CC is planning on

installing two more green roofs in the next few years. Due to the weight of the plants and soil, few existing buildings are able to accommodate the green roofs, but CC plans on installing one on

the newly renovated library and one on the new housing building on East Campus. These green roofs support CC's commitment to sustainability, which is a part of CC's strategic plan.

The green roof on the Honnen Ice Arena has done so well that CC is planning on installing two more green roofs in the next few years.

Sondermann Presidential Symposium to Bring Political Insiders to CC

BY DAVID ANDREWS

The Political Science department and Colorado College are ramping up for the 2016 election by inviting prominent political pundits and campaign organizers to campus. The series of talks that will be held at CC, beginning on Thursday, Sept. 1 with Donna Brazile, is dubbed the Sondermann Presidential Symposium.

The 2016 election cycle has generated massive news coverage in the U.S. and abroad. Donald Trump's outlandish behavior has raised eyebrows in the media to say the least, and Hillary Clinton's campaign to the White House involved a primary battle with Bernie Sanders. Highlights of the Sondermann Symposium include visits from

The Sondermann Symposium features mostly Democratic speakers but will surely draw heated debate from all sides of Colorado College's campus.

the opposite side of the aisle from Axelrod. Gingrich has been a leader in the Republican party since his Senate days beginning in 1979 as a congressman from Georgia. Gingrich served as the Speaker of the House of Representatives from 1995 to 1999. In 1995 Gingrich was named "Man of the Year," by Time Magazine after working in Congress for a conservative agenda and gaining a Republican majority. Gingrich most recently made headlines as a presumptive short list nominee to become Donald Trump's running mate.

The Sondermann Symposium features a majority Democratic slanted speakers but will surely draw heated debate from all sides of CC's campus. At the opening speech in the series on Thursday, Sept. 1, the CC for Bernie organization attended and asked questions to Donna Brazile in the hopes of holding the newly appointed interim DNC chairperson's feet to the fire over leaked DNC emails. The slew of DNC emails showed a slanted desire from the DNC for the nomination of Hillary Clinton over Bernie Sanders. Stay tuned with the Catalyst for live coverage of the Sondermann events and the election in general.



Schedule

Symposium Panel, featuring Eric Sondermann, Vince Bzdek, Bob Loevy, and Tom Cronin 12 p.m., Bemis Great Hall, Bemis Hall	7 p.m., Kathryn Mohrman Theatre, Armstrong Hall
David Axelrod Tuesday Sept. 6th 7 p.m., Kathryn Mohrman Theatre, Armstrong Hall	Marc Hetherington Monday, Oct. 24 11:15 a.m., Kathryn Mohrman Theatre, Armstrong Hall
The W. Lewis and Helen R. Abbott Memorial Lecture Friday, Sept. 9 Gwen Ifill: "Washington Week at CC"	Newt Gingrich Wednesday, Nov. 2 7 p.m., Kathryn Mohrman Theatre, Armstrong Hall
Taping of "PBS Washington Week" Friday, Sept. 9, 1 p.m. Richard Celeste Theatre, Edith Kinney Gaylord Cornerstone Arts Center	Sarah Trey Tuesday, Nov. 8 12 p.m. (lunch served), Cossitt Faculty Commons, Cossitt Hall
Jamelle Bouie Tuesday, Sept. 27	Jason Robert Wednesday, Nov. 9 12 p.m. (lunch served), Cossitt Faculty Commons, Cossitt Hall

10 QUESTIONS

Xan Marshland, Tasha Heilweil



1. How would you describe the CC cycling community?

Xan: The community as a whole is a very loose knit group of friends and riders who all like getting together and riding bikes for different reasons. I say that because we have a huge variety of interests. That's anything from really high level, serious road racing to cross-country mountain bike racing, and we have a one-track rider this year as well, and a lot of people who love going on long, big mountain trail riders, block break adventures with some casual racing mixed in. So, we run the whole range of what people like to do and have fun on bikes. We try to be open to all of those interests as long it involves two wheels.

Tasha: Ditto.

2. What are your goals for this season?

T: Our goals for this season include having a really good showing at all the collegiate races and mainly having fun. Introducing new riders to both racing and riding

X: I want to see people get results, but even more so seeing people have a lot of fun, and especially see people who haven't raced bikes before get into it and keep doing it because they love it.

3. Can you talk a little more about the different communities within the CC cycling community?

T: I would say that maybe half of the people on the CC Cycling Team who participate ride both road and mountain. So, while we go on different rides for the two sports—we have a lot of road rides and a lot of kids training for road ride races and doing really well—there's a lot of crossover. It's really nice because the mountain bikers have a thing or two to learn about fitness from the road bikers. But, the mountain bikers can teach the road bikers a bit about technique going down and up hills while biking on something that's not flat road.

X: Also, even though we have so many people doing so many different things with bikes, we really do consider ourselves one very united community, definitely with how we teach each other and bring everything together. Also, due to how united we are, it always encourages a new rider to try a new discipline. A lot of our riders had never tried racing before coming to CC—mountain, road, cyclo-cross—and a lot of them are avid racers because they've had this great opportunity to jump in and

CC Cycling Club co-chairs, Xan Marshland and Tasha Heilweil discuss goals for the club, their favorite places to ride, and the best mountain biking phrase.

INTERVIEW & PHOTO BY LIZ FORSTER

try. So that's awesome. In addition, we have people who come to CC with strictly road experience, and then they try cyclo-cross, and then they get used to riding in dirt, and sometimes they try mountain biking. Or we have some mountain bikers who have experience with cross-country who realize they can ride bikes all year long by riding cyclo-cross and road. The way that we share with each other across disciplines makes us stronger athletes as a whole.

4. How did you all first get into biking?

T: I first got into biking because my dad wanted me to get into biking. But then I really fell in love with it at CC, where I was introduced to more technical trail riding.

X: I guess I owe it all to my uncle. He grew up in New Mexico, and was basically, in the late 70s and early 80s, one of the first people to mountain bike in New Mexico. Most people don't realize that mountain biking is actually a very young sport. When I was between seven and nine, my uncle started taking me on these mellow rides on really lame fire roads in the Bay Area. I don't know whether it was the first time I slid the bike or I got both wheels off the ground, but something totally clicked. Then, it was a lot of years in middle school jumping off of shit with my friends, which then turned into four years of cross-country mountain bike racing in high school. Then, I came to CC and really wanted to change my riding into adventure-oriented riding. We like to go on these long, epic, kind of pushing the limit rides of what we're comfortable with and how many hours of riding we can physically get ourselves to do. Tasha and I probably do too much of that, sometimes on top of that causal downhill racing, which I also fell in love with and was a new thing for me.

5. Where is your favorite place to ride in Colorado Springs?

T: Pike's Peak is pretty insane, but I'd say up in North Cheyenne Canyon there are some pretty sweet trails.

X: We like to do a shuttle run down Pike's Peak. That involves one of our buddies driving us to the top of Pike's Peak, and then we ride straight down the Barr Trail back to campus. That's a fun ride, probably more of an advanced ride. Also, really, anything in the front range is a ton of fun. You can get these really long, thrilling descents, where you pedal uphill for over an hour and get a really long, 15-minute decent. Descending for 15-minutes on a bike is a really good feeling. A long decent. So Captain Jacks, Section 16, a couple hidden stashes we like as well.

6. In the world?

T: I'm partial to Squamish, BC

X: Tasha just stole my answer

T: It's my favorite. I spend excessive amounts of time there when I probably should be working. But it's amazing.

X: Well, Tasha very rudely stole my answer, but she's right, Squamish, and really all of British Columbia is amazing. I got a Venture Grant this summer to ride in the Swiss Alps for two weeks. I have to say Zermatt is one of the best places I've ridden in the world.

7. What keeps you going during hour five of a long ride?

X: I personally get super weird. I get into a pretty weird headspace. Especially if I'm by myself, I'll talk to myself in an Austrian accent or something like that to try to keep myself entertained. Mostly, though, that and a lot of sugary food.

T: I'd say that if I'm on hour five of a ride, I'm about to go down something pretty cool, so I'm stoked on that.

X: That's a good answer.

8. What is your go-to meal after that long ride to refuel?

T: Well, the normal is a shower beverage.

X: A recovery beer.

T: But let me tell you about today's 6 a.m. finish ride snack, which was the normal CC granola chia oat pudding with some fruit mixed in. It was prime. I ate that dur-

ing class after the sickest 6 a.m. shred ever. X: As a lot of my housemates know, I'm pretty partial to burritos. Typically, my post-ride burrito is assembled in a very confused manner, usually very poorly. I usually have no idea what is going on, so whatever goes into the burrito is fine by me. I treat it as a nutritional tool rather than cuisine. So, it'll be some combination of eggs, quinoa, potatoes, sweet potatoes, peppers, avocados, beans, and, I don't know, whatever else I can find. Also, beer though.

9. What is your favorite mountain bike slang phrase?

T: Get fokkin' pinned. Not f***ing. Fokkin' With an 'o'.

X: Specifically it's done in a South Welsh accent. My favorite phrase, though, is "You can't fall off if you're in the air." Also said in a South Welsh accent. Also yelling huck to flat at a race is good.

T: There are quite a few. "If you're not railing you're sailing."

X: "We can get dirty in a minute thirty."

T: One from our meeting tonight is "You can do anything with a beer and full face." That is a quote from Hayley Bates, our third captain, about some people. Surprisingly not us.

10. If you could master any other extreme sport, what would it be and why?

X: Well, Tasha already did. She's already really good at skiing, so in my opinion she doesn't get to answer this.

T: Well, I do. My tinder profile says I'm a professional urban boogie border.

X: That's true.

T: That's actually a lie, so I should probably perfect that.

X: You probably should, otherwise you'd just be catfishing. I wish I could get as good at skiing as Tasha, but that is way less funny

***Third captain Hayley Bates could not attend due to last-minute personal reasons. If you're interested in learning more about the CC Cycling Team, contact Hayley Bates, Xan Marshland, or Tasha Heilweil at hayley.bates@cc.edu, alexander.marshland@cc.edu, or tasha.heilweil@cc.edu.*

CC Women's Soccer Welcomes New Player from Colorado

By MIGUEL MENDEZ

The Colorado College women's soccer team added eight new freshmen this year. Along with them, the team also welcomed sophomore transfer Tanner Haughn. Haughn plays at the center-back position, and is a local to Colorado Springs where she went to Pine Creek High School and played with the Pride Soccer Club, where sophomore midfielder Maddie Tominello also played before coming to CC. Haughn spent her first year of college at Texas Tech where she made the team as a red shirt, which essentially means she practiced and dressed to play for the team but did not play in games to extend her NCAA eligibility. She did not record any minutes in the fall season and decided she needed a change in scenery, so what better place than one with Pikes Peak always on the horizon.

"Haughn spent her first year of college at Texas Tech where she made the team as a red shirt, which essentially means she practiced and dressed to play for the team but did not play in games to extend her NCAA eligibility. She did not record any minutes in the fall season and decided she needed a change in scenery."

"I love it! It's very different than the 35,000 [student] Texas school that I was at," Haughn said when asked about her first impression of CC. "It's like that there's such a tight knit community. Like

school just started and I'm already friends with random people in my class. That would never happen at a huge school like that." Our small 2,000-student campus has already developed into a home for Haughn, who hopes to contribute to its values.

Being native to Colorado, Haughn loves hiking she described her favorite spots. "Lake Mohawk in Breckenridge is perfect!" she said. "There's a hike in Vail called Berry Picker which is amazing. But the Incline is great because you have Barr Trail and all the views along the way and the workout is crazy." Haughn is also a huge fan of peanut butter. "I make my own peanut butter...it's kind of random but I love it."

With the season only four games in for the Tigers, Haughn has already made an impact on the score sheet. The Tigers defeated their most bitter rival, the University of Denver, by a score of 3-0. Haughn crossed to sophomore Lauren Milliet, who recorded her first career goal with the Tigers. That put CC ahead of DU with 12 minutes left in the first half.

"I was really happy about that. I'm a center-back so I didn't really expect to get very many points," Haughn responded when asked about the game against Denver. "But one assist, that's a start. I'm hoping to have a few goals though off of Anna's [Gregg] insane strike so I'm hoping to get on the end of one of those."

Haughn already feels like she fits right in to the CC model and what the team is trying to do as a whole. "I feel like it's a really, really good fit already just because all the girls are such hard workers," Haughn commented when asked about how she feels when she's on the field with the rest of her teammates. "When you have that, it's really easy to

gel with people. You're not focused on personalities and fitting technique wise. Everyone just knows that they want to work for each other. So I love that about the team already."

"We always want to win the next game. We want to have a winning record this

"Haughn already feels like she fits right in to the CC model and what the team is trying to do as a whole. "I feel like it's a really, really good fit already just because all the girls are such hard workers. When you have that, it's really easy to gel with people," Haughn commented when asked about how she feels when she's on the field."

year. We want to win the Mountain West as well," answered Haughn when asked about the team goals. "I think we're a team that can make NCAA's this year. Not only make it but win some games because once you get to that top 25, it comes down to who wants to work and get that win."

The season is still young and Haughn is optimistic about the rest of the year. She's just as motivated as the rest of her teammates and coaches and hopes to make even more of an impact this year and in the future.

The Tigers have no games this weekend in preparation for next weekend when they go on the road to play against the University of Cincinnati on Friday, Sept. 9. They are back at home on Sunday, Sept. 11 at 11 a.m.



PHOTO BY LAUREN STIERMAN
Colorado native and transfer student Tanner Haughn, who plays center-back position on the CC Women's Soccer Team.

Criticism for Kaepernick is Unwarranted and Over-the-Top, but Bigger Issues are at Play in the Debate over Patriotism and the National Anthem

By EVAN HAMLIN

San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick has come under fire recently for his refusal to stand for the national anthem during an NFL preseason game. Kaepernick's actions, in his own words, are in protest of "a country that oppresses black people and people of color." His actions have been condemned as unpatriotic, disrespectful, and selfish. It's

"His actions have been condemned as unpatriotic, disrespectful, and selfish. It's easy to throw words like these around, especially from behind the comfort and protection of a computer screen, but the issues surrounding Kaepernick's protest aren't black and white."

easy to throw words like those around, especially from behind the comfort and protection of a computer screen, but the issues surrounding Kaepernick's protest aren't black and white.

Before passing judgement on Kaepernick's actions, think about a few

questions first. What does standing for the national anthem mean exactly? Why do we place so much importance on standing for the national anthem in the first place? Is it ironic to criticize someone for exercising their liberties in a way you don't agree with, even though they are protected by the Constitution? Is Kaepernick a hero? A villain?

Let's think about the ceremony associated with the national anthem itself for a second. Is standing for the national anthem a real display of respect if it happens thousands of times a year throughout the seasons of the four major professional sports leagues in the U.S.? Not to mention the countless minor league, amateur, college, high school, middle school, and youth level games that take place each year? A supposedly sacred pregame routine can only be so special if it is almost mechanically practiced at each game. Birthdays, holidays, and graduations are all important because they don't happen frequently, and they can hold special value to people. If Christmas was every day, it wouldn't be special or important. In that same sense, the playing of the anthem doesn't actually have the kind of importance that we like to think it has.

Now picture yourself at a football game. You've settled into your seat, you've got your snacks, you hear whatever pregame

introductions or announcements there are, and you get out of your seat while the national anthem plays. Maybe you take off your hat and put it over your heart. Two minutes later the anthem is done, you clap and sit down.

What have you accomplished? Have you actually done anything tangible to support the people in uniform that protect and defend our country? Kaepernick doesn't hate the U.S. just because he thinks that certain systems and structures that are in place in this country need vast improvement. You don't do anything real to support our troops by choosing to stand during the anthem. Kaepernick doesn't hate soldiers because he chooses to sit. In reality, Kaepernick and those who fight for our country have the same goals in mind: to protect the equal treatment of citizens here and abroad. While soldiers fight against injustices in the far reaches of the world, Kaepernick is making a point about the extremely real threats to the integrity of our nation that we face domestically.

I see remarkable irony in this whole situation. So many of the people criticizing Kaepernick are typically those that tout the Constitution as the cornerstone of democracy, an all-important document that has secured freedom and liberty for over two centuries. These people love their good ole' Second Amendment, and are eager to pinpoint political correctness

as the virus eating away at the fabric of our nation. However, when someone like Kaepernick exercises his rights in a way that doesn't align with their beliefs, they paint him as a traitor. People like this act as a kind of backwards "pc police"

"Kaepernick doesn't hate soldiers because he chooses to sit."

when they criticize Kaepernick and those that use peaceful protest. Someone like Kaepernick has every right to protest what he wants peacefully, and those that say his actions contradict the Constitution should actually pick up a copy and read the document.

Situations like the one surrounding Kaepernick are tricky to figure out, especially in today's highly charged social climate where it doesn't take much for even the smallest actions by those in the public eye to become politicized. At the end of the day, we are all free to sit or stand during the national anthem. And whether we like it or not, the song will continue to ring loud and clear before every major sporting event in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Meet the 2016-17 Men's Soccer Captains: Theo Hooker and Soren Frykholm

By MIGUEL MENDEZ

Theo Hooker

Grade: Junior
Major: Mathematical Economics
Position: Goalie
Favorite post soccer meal: When at school I'm a big fan of going to Rastall and eating until it hurts to move
Favorite TV show: [I] Don't watch much TV, but I love any nature documentary (Planet Earth, Life, etc.)
Top Travel Destination: New Zealand
Favorite CC Class: Ah so many! I think the class I'm taking this block will be awesome! It's called the Mathematical Economics of Addiction.

Soren Frykholm

Grade: Senior
Major: Romance languages with a Journalism minor
Position: Midfielder
Favorite post soccer meal: Chipotle
Favorite TV Show: Downton Abbey
Top Travel Destination: India
Favorite CC Class: I'd say Music Theory was my favorite.

Being a team captain means leading by example, both on and off the field. It means showing up early and putting in extra time. Most importantly, it means putting the team first. Thankfully for the men's soccer team, junior Theo Hooker and senior Soren Frykholm are unbelievably qualified for the job.

Both Hooker and Frykholm have played soccer all their lives, but neither planned to one day be the captain of their collegiate team. The rest of the team decides captains at the end of the fall season. Each player is allowed to cast two votes, and once the captains are chosen, they begin guiding the team throughout the spring and into the following season. According to Frykholm, it was an unexpected honor to be chosen.

Being team captain is a huge responsibility, and Head Coach Scott Palguta expects maturity, dedication, and responsibility from his captains.

"Obviously, as captains their words need to follow their actions," Palguta said. "I want them to continue to do what they've done since they got here."

According to Palguta, although both captains are nice guys, they are expected to be tough on their teammates. "We want them to be ruthless, read between the lines and call guys out if they see something that's not right," Palguta said. He is looking for the captains to set high standards for the team and then to confront players if



PHOTO BY EMILY MCBRIDE Junior goalkeeper Theo Hooker and Senior midfielder Soren Frykholm pose next to Washburn Field

they aren't performing up to par.

Frykholm admits that this is a challenge for him.

"I'm definitely not the fire underneath you kind of captain. I'm not the guy who is going to give a crazy emotional speech before we go out to battle," he said. "Quiet leadership is more my style." Frykholm, however, brings a lot to the table with his quiet leadership. He is always levelheaded, composed, and able to connect well one-on-one with other players.

Hooker echoes that Frykholm is great with relating to how the team feels.

"Soren is always emotionally in tune with all the players," Hooker said. "He is always very calm and levelheaded. It's really helpful to have that, especially if I'm getting carried away, he can always focus people."

Frykholm empathizes with and prioritizes his teammates because that's what he feels being a captain is all about. While having the captain arm band is pretty

sweet, it carries an added responsibility for someone who transferred to Colorado College. "Because I transferred here, the other seniors have been here longer than I have," he said. "It is extremely important to me to share the voice with the other seniors."

While Frykholm prides himself on consulting with the other seniors on the team, Hooker is proud of the analytical perspective he brings to the table.

"Being goalie, I am removed from a lot of the play, so I may only touch the ball 10-15 times a game, which isn't that much," Hooker said. "So I have this outsider perspective on what is going on on the field. I bring that analytical side to the game—how can we improve, how can we do better, just by observing."

Hooker also acknowledged that his role as goalie is making sure the team communicates. Hooker has always had an interest in being an active member of the team, and to his teammates, he is more

than just a team leader.

"Theo brings a lot to the table," Frykholm said of his co-captain. "He is probably the most valuable player on the team."

Senior Christian Wulff also emphasized Hooker's importance on the field. "Theo is hands-down the best keeper in the League and region," Wulff said. "The whole game changes when you have a great keeper."

Hooker is humble about his role on the

"They work together the best they can to lead our talented team, and they genuinely care about everyone on the team," Markin said. "People trust them and know that they will always have their back with whatever might come up. They are great friends of mine, and I'm proud to call them my captains."

team "It doesn't take that much talent to be captain, but it does take a lot of mental focus," he said.

Frykholm agreed that mental focus is vital, and added that being a captain is very much a challenge for him. "I've been a captain before, and it's never easy for me, I'm not sure why," Frykholm said. "But it's a fun challenge and I really enjoy it."

According to junior Sam Markin, the whole team highly respects and admires both captains.

"They work together the best they can to lead our talented team, and they genuinely care about everyone on the team," Markin said. "People trust them and know that they will always have their back with whatever might come up. They are great friends of mine, and I'm proud to call them my captains."

Head Coach Palguta and the rest of the team say they are looking forward to an incredible season led by Frykholm and Hooker.

CC Women's Soccer Kicks Off Season With Grueling Competition

By EVAN HAMLIN

The Colorado College women's soccer team kicked off its season with some intrastate competition against the University of Northern Colorado and the University of Denver in a series that took place a week before most students had set foot on campus for the beginning of the new school year.

Although the women dropped the first game when UNC converted on a penalty kick during the first overtime, the team rallied against DU two days later. Sophomore forward Clara Richter notched two goals en route to an eventual 3-0 shutout of the

Pioneers. Richter scored the only goal the Tigers needed in the fourth minute off an assist from senior midfielder Dana Gornick. Sophomore midfielder Lauren Milliet scored her first career goal as a Tiger, and Richter added another tally five minutes later to provide more than enough insurance for the Tigers to hold on for the win.

CC's defensive magic didn't stop following the DU victory as they headed east to face off against the University of Pittsburgh. Freshman goalkeeper Molly Hiniker recorded a shutout in her collegiate debut, stopping all four shots she faced.

Richter's boot stayed hot coming off a two-goal performance in the previous game. She recorded her second game-winning goal in as many games, putting in the rebound of senior midfielder Chanisse Hendrix's shot.

After two strong showings, the Tigers fell in a disappointing 4-1 loss to Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. Junior midfielder Rachel Corboz put the Hoyas on the board just 2:30 into the contest, and forward Crystal Thomas extended the lead to 2-0 less than a minute before the close of the first half.

Gornick netted the Tigers' only goal on

their only shot at the beginning of the second half, blasting in a cross from Milliet at the far post. Georgetown's two additional goals dampened the Tigers' hopes of mounting a comeback, ending their road trip at 1-1.

The women now hold a record of 2-2, heading into an off week with an even .500 record. CC women's soccer returns to action Friday, Sept. 9 at the University of Cincinnati. Their next home game will take place Sunday, Sept. 11 at Stewart Field when they square up against Utah Valley University.

Upcoming Fall Sporting Events

Women's Volleyball

Saturday, Sept. 3 vs. Hardin-Simmons University, 2 p.m.
Sunday, Sept. 4 vs. Susquehanna University, 11 a.m.
Friday, Sept. 9 vs. Occidental College, 2 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 10 vs. Whitman College, 12 p.m.

Men's Soccer

Sunday, Sept. 4 at University of St. Thomas, 1 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 9 vs. University of Dallas, 3 p.m.

Men's Tennis

Friday, Sept. 9 vs. Colorado Mesa University in Pueblo, 5 p.m.

Women's Tennis

Friday, Sept. 9 vs. Colorado State University in Pueblo, 5 p.m.

Mountains and Molehills: Colorado Transplant Takes to the East

By SARAH LAICO



PHOTO BY SARAH LAICO
A view from the Appalachian Trail in Bellvale, N.Y.

As I leisurely strolled through the rolling hills and winding, woody detours at the top of Hickory Hill Golf Course in my hometown of Warwick, N.Y., I couldn't help but feel my lungs fill with an abundance of oxygen. With each step I took, this rejuvenating feeling grew; I was back on the East Coast, hiking—albeit very moderately—in my own stomping grounds. And I appreciated how much joy the activity was bringing me, in spite of how vastly different it seemed

“I appreciated how much joy the activity was bringing me, in spite of how vastly different it seemed compared to the hiking I had been doing in colorful Colorado.”

compared to the hiking I had been doing during the school year in colorful Colorado.

I am fortunate enough to have grown up just minutes from sections of the Appalachian Trail, in addition to several state parks with countless hiking areas,

such as Sterling Forest to Wawayanda State Park. Though I had spent some time on these trails previously, I made a point this summer to explore them more in depth, and in the process, I discovered what set hiking on the East Coast apart from hiking in the west.

To start, as I mentioned previously, hiking in the east is devoid of serious altitude. While staying hydrated is still important, I never found myself with nausea, headaches, pathetic breathlessness, or bloated hands this summer. For an altitude hiker, this definitely boosts confidence in one's outdoor abilities.

In addition, the terrain and surroundings in each place are unique. While Colorado hikes present rocky, sandy paths lined by pine trees, these New York hikes are paths of muddy dirt, with some rocks but far more tree roots. I found myself wondering at the lushness of it all, having been exposed to only rugged views all spring. Subtle shades of green enveloped me as I made my way

deeper into the East Coast woods.

There's also something to be said about

“While Colorado hikes present rocky, sandy paths lined by pine trees... New York hikes are paths of muddy dirt...I found myself wondering at the lushness of it all, having been exposed to only rugged views all spring.”

the progression of the hikes in the two regions. In Colorado, hikes can boast hefty gains in elevation, which means that breaking past tree-line doesn't necessarily mean you've reached the summit. On the other hand, in New York, breaking past tree-line essentially means you're at the pinnacle of the hike—you've reached the gorgeous view you were after, or the hidden

lake—and you probably didn't have to strain yourself too much in the process.

Although I certainly don't miss the bugs or the humidity that New York can't seem to get enough of, what I will miss is the attitude I gained from hiking back home. Hiking with my friends and grandfather, I never felt the pressure to push to the finish; I never felt obligated to hike harder or faster; I never felt like I had to prove anything. Often when I hike back here in Colorado, I feel a need to demonstrate an imperviousness to altitude, an impressive hiking pace, and of course, a my-life-is-better-than-yours Instagram photo. I guess it simply stems from the ridiculously active lifestyle out here. Yet at home, it was different. It was all about taking in the fantastic greenery, enjoying meaningful conversations with my friends and family, and just being in the moment. I'll be hiking mainly in the west for the rest of my life, as far as I can judge right now—but that doesn't mean I won't yearn for those muddy, insect-infested trails in the place I grew up.

Construction Closure Poses Problem for Historic Manitou Incline

By CAROL NEWTON

The Manitou Springs Incline: not only a historical landmark but also a challenge suitable for even the fittest athletes in the world. Visible for miles as a vertical bald scar amongst the green mountains, the Incline provides an opportunity for all—from the likes of Apollo Ohno (who holds numerous records), to the innocent child unaware of the challenge ahead—to sweat and struggle to make it up 2,000 feet of elevation over the course of a single mile.

Few Colorado Springs residents—let alone students—know the history of this famous destination. It was not originally a staircase up into the sky. Back in 1907, the Manitou Incline was a one-mile cable tram that carried construction materials up and down the mountain during the construction of a hydroelectric plant. After the construction of this plant, the tram's boxcars were converted into a mode of transportation for people to

access ten miles of hiking trails. Claiming to be “the longest and highest incline on the globe,” the route has proved to be a highly popular tourist attraction, and in 1914 an elaborate house complete with a store was built at the top for tourists to take shelter from the occasional storms.

In 1990, a rockslide damaged the tracks, ending the Incline's period as a railway. Soon after, it was converted into the incredible staircase that it is today. Ever since then, the route has been filled with runners, hikers, Olympians, walkers, and crawlers at all times of the day, and most times of the year. According to the Gazette, buried sensors along the Incline have calculated that over 300,000 individual trips occur ever year. Understandably, this high amount of foot traffic leads to erosion. Throughout its history, the Manitou Incline has needed constant and costly maintenance, which

results in occasional closures. Beginning on Aug. 22 and continuing until Dec. 2, the Manitou Incline is closed to the public in

“While the closure is disappointing for those hoping to climb the Incline this fall, the repairs have been deemed necessary for the route in the long run, and both project managers and police have asked that people respect the fact that the Incline is, in fact, closed.”

order to complete the second phase of a stabilization project which began in 2014 that aimed to reinforce the Incline's upper 2,741 steps. According to the Gazette, the

second phase of the \$5 million project, which started about a week ago will focus on replacing the first 1,525 steps, clearing debris, and strengthening the retaining walls.

While the closure is disappointing for those hoping to climb the Incline this fall, the repairs have been deemed necessary for the route in the long run, and both the project managers and police have asked that people respect the fact that the Incline is, in fact, closed. Due to attempted climbs after its closure, there are now police patrolling the area and citing violators.

Therefore, as exciting as the Incline may be, it would be wise to save that satisfying summit for after the spring snow melt.

The Priddy Trip Effect: One Student's Perspective

By **SONYA PADDEN**

Amidst smoke wafting up into the star-speckled sky and stomachs uncomfortably full from an improvised alfredo pasta dish, a group of strangers sits quietly, attentively staring into the flames as if conversation would arise from the ashes.

Then suddenly, "What is your favorite animal.... and how would you kill it?"

The first question of my Priddy Trip hung in the darkness for a second before igniting a passionate confusion. "What the...?" "Who does that...?!" and, "That's seriously messed up, dude," were blurted out, but nevertheless we began answering and I found that not only do you get an immediate sense of someone's character when you learn about their elaborate plan to live in a panda suit for a year and gain the panda's trust until pushing them off a bamboo plant, but you also gain a shared experience that you can cling onto in the midst of the rapidly changing unknowns of freshman year of college.

"The seed of shared experience quickly grows beyond the inside jokes of a campfire..."

However, the seed of shared experience quickly grows beyond the inside jokes of a campfire to include new connections to peers and upper classmen, and to new physical, social, and sometimes even spiritual places you may find yourself in over the next four years.

The New Student Orientation (NSO) trips that go out the Wednesday before classes start are the first glance the majority of students have of not only their future classmates, but also of the beautiful Southwest region that is an integral part of education and student life on campus. The trips vary greatly. Some students worked at charter schools or camps, while others helped to maintain trails in different areas in the Front Range. As so much of the first year at Colorado College is focused on fostering

academic skills as one navigates vigorous course work and unexpected pressures, it can become difficult to remember the other part of college—the experiences that start with strange but forever-memorable conversations around a campfire. These evolve into unexpected connections with people you would never meet otherwise. The Priddy experience provides a glimpse of the wide array of passions that unite CC students, whether it be a commitment to service, the outdoors, or an agreement that alfredo pasta is not the best camping food.

This view of life at CC that extends beyond the important, but at times abstract, world of the Kathryn Mohrman Theatre lectures is cherished and valued by leaders and students alike. "It was so rewarding to see the visual representation of the work you had done from morning to afternoon," said sophomore Clare Ende, who led a trip rebuilding trails that had been flooded in the Leadville Ranger District.

A similar tangible result can be observed within the group's dynamics. Watching strangers bond with each other and a place is exciting and catalytic. The energy of giving back, exploring, and fostering deep connections, inspired by Priddy trips, lingers long after first-years return to campus and wash the dirt from their fingernails. It is evident in so many endeavors students undertake, and prominently in the cycle of leadership that the NSO program caters to so well. Many leaders have said their memorable experiences as first-year students were what inspired them to apply as leaders.

It is empowering to see the impact, however subtle, that this shared five days can have on campus life. "My sense of place has evolved to mean that I do actually feel connected here, which is something I really didn't feel until the Priddy trip," said a reflective first-year participant on Ende's trip, Connor Nolan. "I am here at CC, I am in a new place, but that's awesome".

What happens when a multifaceted,



PHOTO COURTESY OF CLARE ENDE

Colorado College first-years volunteer with local Colorado organizations to rebuild and restore trails on their Priddy Trip Experience.

Indoor Climbing's Olympic Debut Meets Controversy

By **JESSE METZGER**

niche sport built around a small community of athletes is elevated to the Olympic stage? The 2020 Olympic Games, to be held in Tokyo, Japan, will mark the debut of indoor rock climbing to the planned set of Olympic events. "Sports climbing," as the collection of climbing events will be called, is to join surfing, skateboarding, karate, baseball, and softball as recent additions to the Tokyo Games.

A unanimous decision by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on Aug 3 inducted the sport into the Olympics after an original 2013 conference had dismissed its proposal. As has been emphasized by both Tokyo Olympic officials and the IOC, the recent additions aim to further engage younger audiences and athletes. Instead of replacing existing competitions, this decision will add 18 individual events and 474 athletes to Japan's roster.

While the inclusion of climbing in the Olympics marks years of hard work from climbers attempting to promote their sport, support for the decision from the broader climbing community has not been universal. Many climbers have expressed concern over the possibility of a resulting influx of novice climbers to both indoor gyms and outdoor crags, citing anticipated accessibility and safety issues. "There will definitely need to be initiatives to educate newcomers," said sophomore Claire Bresnan, a nine-time USA Nationals competitor and five-time World Cup competitor. "It's good that climbing is getting this legitimacy, but there could be issues."

Further debate within the climbing community has centered on the competition's unique format. While only one set of medals is to be awarded for top finishers, the competition will be judged through a composite score combining three separate climbing events:

"A unanimous decision by the IOC on Aug. 3 inducted the sport into the Olympics after an original 2013 conference had dismissed its proposal. The recent additions aim to further engage younger audiences and athletes."

bouldering, sport climbing, and speed climbing. This integrated approach aims to reflect the variety of disciplines that are practiced in climbing, although the requirement for elite athletes to compete in such a diverse selection of events for a single prize is unprecedented in competition.

Critics accuse Olympic officials of assuming compatibility between the three climbing events that they claim do not exist. Indeed, high-profile climbers rarely compete in all three disciplines, and if they do compete in more than one, there is a traditional separation of the disciplines by season, allowing athletes to better specify their training for each.

The inclusion of the speed climbing component has been especially controversial. Unlike bouldering and sport climbing, speed climbing has no outdoor counterpart and has traditionally tended towards the domain of a relatively small subset of climbers focused on a highly specific and unique objective. In competition, athletes aim to complete a universally standardized route in as little time as possible.

This style of climbing is "looked upon unfavorably by many climbers," according to sophomore Kat Gentry, a long-time climber who has competed in all three disciplines that will be represented at the Olympics. "It totally changes what climbing is about." She describes the discipline as heavily reliant on memorization and repetition, rather than on footwork, finger strength, and strategy, and would prefer it to be separated in the Olympics from bouldering and sport climbing.

Sophomore Andrew Abbott, another competitive climber who is active within the Colorado College climbing community, shares a similar perspective on the competition's format. "Speed climbing is about as far away as you can get from the spirit of the sport while still being under the umbrella of 'climbing,'" he said. "And the other two [disciplines] are still very different from each other." Introducing viewers to the sport as the 2020 Olympics will do is "a bit of a misrepresentation of climbing," Abbott believes.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JIM COX

Colorado College sophomore, USA National and World Cup climbing competitor Claire Bresnan takes first at a bouldering competition in 2015. The 2020 Tokyo Olympics will mark the debut of sport climbing and bouldering into the list of Olympic events.



Rolling Out the Welcome Wagon: Another Year, Another NSO

By CHANEY SKILLING

While summer camps and neighborhood pools close their doors for the summer, Colorado College is just opening up for another school year. The last weekend of August welcomed a big crowd to campus as students flocked to residential halls, unloading cars and storage units alike. However, amongst the reunited friends, practiced farewells, and bustle of move in, incoming first-years trudged across Yampa field laden with mismatched tents parts, muddy boots, and camping supplies. For the newest CC Tigers, their college experience began a little over a week ago with New Student Orientation (NSO).

This year, CC ushered in approximately 600 first-year students to campus from all over the world. Over the course of three days, new students moved into their residence halls, became aquatinted with campus, were introduced to their FYE mentors and professors, and started forming relationships with their fellow classmates. Between programming, hall parties, and the traditional Midnight Rastall Breakfast, NSO works to introduce first-year students to CC's atmosphere. Come Wednesday, the new students move off campus temporarily for an exclusive CC orientation experience.

Developed as a result of the 2003 Priddy Grant, CC debuted the first-year Priddy Experience on Aug. 27, 2003. The incoming class of 2007 marked the beginning of CC's current NSO program, which not only includes the traditional

first-year orientation, but also an off-campus excursion. Priddy Trips, as they are known to CC students and faculty alike, are a combination of community service and self-preparation designed to introduce incoming new students to the culture and community of CC.

"Priddy Trips are a great way for incoming students to learn more about CC from their student leaders, build relationships and friendships, and prepare to be successful at CC and to find home here," said David Crye, assistant director of outdoor education.

With between nine and 12 first-year students and two or three student leaders per group, Priddy Trips allow new students to explore the surrounding areas, gain insight from upperclassmen, form relationships, and begin adjusting to life at CC. What began as a group of smaller trips to various parts of Colorado, has expanded into an orientation program that hosts over 60 NSO groups, employs 150 student NSO leaders, and provides CC exposure to the greater Southwest region.

Over the course of five days, participants travel across Colorado, Texas, New Mexico, and Wyoming to volunteer for two days of community service. Projects include trail maintenance in national forests, helping out in nursing homes, and working with children in local schools. After all is said and done, CC students perform over 8,000 hours of

volunteer work to 36 Southwest community partners—the equivalent of three and a half years of a full time job.

Interspersed throughout, NSO student leaders lead discussions nightly. Discussion topics include community engagement and citizenship, health and wellness, and academic and social life at CC. Delving into each discussion gives students the opportunity to ask questions and become familiar with the culture and values they'll encounter during their time at CC. It also allows participants to form relationships with their NSO groups that delve deeper than small talk and introductions.

Before heading back to CC, groups take an extra day for a cultural experience, designed by their NSO leaders. Activities include hiking, visiting local attractions, and exploring the surrounding community. "The purpose of the cultural day is to provide an intentional group experience that enhances the overall trip experience and immerses into the cultural aspects of the trip, community, or location," said Crye. One final day of exploration is the perfect way to wrap up orientation before heading back to Colorado Springs. Just as CC's unique block plan attracts students from across the world, the Priddy Trip experience ensures they are welcomed in the same manner—ready to take on the next chapter of their lives.



PHOTOS BY MARY MURPHY, SOPHIA PRAY, CHRISTIAN KENNEDY, MADELENE TRAVIS, CAROL NEWTON, ISAAC RUBINSTEIN From top, left to right: Easter Seals trip goes on a day hike; Jackson Livingood feeds piglets; Larga Vista groups pose together in truck bed; Mission Wolf trip enjoys Great Sand Dunes National Park; Coalition of the Upper South Platte (CUSP) B trip takes a break; CUSP B bonds; Oliver Round and Carl Anderson sledgehammer a bench; CUSP B stands in construction site.

Anthropology Student Elizabeth Baker Digs up Mammoth Tusk

CC senior makes a unique discovery while at an Alaskan archeological summer camp

By SABRE MORRIS

This summer, many Colorado College students found themselves among natural landscapes hoping to discover something about the world around them. Summer 2016 was a massively good one for senior Elizabeth Reece Baker, who found a mammoth tusk while studying at an archeological summer camp in Alaska.

Adelphi University runs an archeological field school in Delta Junction, Alaska. At the field school, students learn the basics of archaeology: surveying land for possible archeological sites, how to dig a unit, working with Geographic Information System (GIS), and keeping a field notebook.

Baker, an Anthropology and Spanish double major, decided to join the program after developing a recent interest in archeology. “Living in the woods and playing in dirt for a month sounded like an opportunity I couldn’t pass up,” explained Baker.

She expected to see at least one bear (which she did not), but she never imagined finding prehistoric remains. Baker found the mammoth tusk in Shaw Creek, Alaska, just southeast of Fairbanks. Her group thought they were done with the unit, but her professors ordered them to dig with shovels for a few more centimeters just to be safe. As she shoveled the last corner of the unit, she uncovered what seemed to be a bone fragment. Baker anticipated something below, so she switched to her bone tools and brought out her decontamination gear. “I worked around the edge of the fragment, trying to figure out where the piece started and ended. It quickly became evident that I was working with a huge piece—and then all of a sudden, it started taking the long and curved shape of a tusk.” After confirmation from her professors of her find, Baker and her class began to work together to remove the tusk from the ground carefully. “I was shocked and thrilled when I realized that this find was much more than just a bone fragment,” she stated.

CC’s Suzanne Ridings, chair of the Anthropology department, sent out an email to anthropology students about the amazing program. “Suzanne is very helpful about informing anthropology students about academic opportunities outside of CC,” said Baker. The communication is especially critical for seniors looking toward postgraduate plans. Along with faculty support, Baker said that the block plan helped her with the intensity of field school. “I was more comfortable with the amount of work required of us because of the block plan,” stated Baker.

What will happen to the mammoth tusk? “I thought about trying to smuggle it home with me to the Anthropology department at CC, but my professors were pretty intent on keeping it,” Baker joked. The tusk will stay in Alaska for a while so that it can stabilize and be less fragile. Then, it will be transported back to Adelphi University’s Anthropology department.

After reflecting on her trip, Baker recommends attending a field school if interested in archaeology. “One of the best parts about the trip was meeting other anthropology students from all different schools and hometowns. I made some amazing friends and really miss my dig crew!” Baker reminisced.

Despite her big find, Baker is not sure she will go into archeology after graduation. With a minor in linguistics, she hopes to focus her energy in that concentration of anthropology. “I really enjoyed the opportunity to understand the field of archaeology better, and I think this program contributed to my experience as a student of anthropology,” she said.

Baker’s summer of big finds and achievements will hopefully continue on through her senior year at CC. She will continue to play on the rugby team and serve as a member of Delta Gamma.

“I worked around the edge of the fragment, trying to figure out where the piece started and ended. It quickly became evident that I was working with a huge piece”



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELIZABETH REECE BAKER Baker sits over her archeological find.

Jenny Yoo Aims to Build Community as a Loomis RA

By ANA ORTIZ-MEJIAS

“I really like being a leader and building community, especially since I saw so many leaders and people my year who were helpful towards me when I was coming in as a freshman,” said Jenny Yoo, a sophomore from California. Yoo was one of the students selected to become a Residential Assistant (RA) for the 2016-2017 academic year. She has taken a hall of students under her wing to lead them to success this year.

During Block 8, Jenny received the news of her acceptance as an RA for first floor Loomis Hall. She was ecstatic. Finally, after all the hard work and hours put in, she made it! Only a short-lived summer later, she returned a month before school began to start training.

“Training was really hard emotionally because you were learning so many things and trying to prepare yourself so that you can help other people,” said Yoo. “We learned things that could be hard—dealing with how to understand and support students who might be considering suicide, or who suffer from eating disorders, etc. Those things can be triggering to yourself as well.”

After a long month of preparation, Yoo earned her title. Even though RAs seem to be the college version of ‘helicopter parents,’ they spend a large amount of time preparing and training for the job. They



PHOTO BY SAM WANG Jenny Yoo poses in her Residential Assistant uniform.

truly care about safety and want to see residents succeed.

As her first time as an RA, Yoo is looking forward to the upcoming year. Yoo explained that the only hesitation

she had was time: “...it is such a big time commitment. I know that they always say to take care of yourself but you are so invested in your residents—you just want them to succeed and be a part of the community

and feel like they are welcome here,” she said. She also plans to work extra hard on integrating the sophomores who are in her hall.

“As a sophomore, I totally understand that the sophomores might think they don’t need that person anymore, but it’s Colorado College, it’s crazy, and I think that everyone can use the support,” Yoo said. With life, it is a given that there will be challenges, but there will also be a fair share of bright moments. “This year will be very busy but at the same time something that is very rewarding as well,” Yoo said. “It’s a combination of things that I will learn to balance.” Nothing is stopping her excitement and willingness to be the best RA she can.

During fourth week, Jenny will be setting out cookies for a snack and will be willing to chat with other students. “It will be good so then they can come and hang out with their other friends from the hall and understand that they are not alone, fourth week is crazy for everyone and everyone is struggling, but they can have that time together and relax while they eat cookies.”

Jenny will be supporting her residents to grow as a group and individually throughout the year, in the spirit of her garden-themed hall.



PHOTOS BY BECCA STINE Richard Mee stands adoringly amongst his plants, which he has cultivated in and around his greenhouse.

“It’s Food for the Body, Food for the Soul” Richard Mee and Reconnecting with the Roots

By BECCA STINE

Continued from the front page

from an origin often unknown. This allows us consumers to distance ourselves from our primary life source. So how can we fully appreciate it?

“I think it’s very important for people to know where their food comes from,” said Mee. He and I then began to ask these questions: where does this disconnect start? What does it stem from? And what are the greater repercussions? Today we can walk into King Soopers in the midst of winter, surrounded by three feet of snow, and find ourselves drowning in a variety of produce that is not limited to the seasons harvest—Mee asks the question: “Are we grateful?” and upon considering this, we realize the answer is no... we expect it.

We can say the same about our own personal dining hall. For many of us on campus, an incredible variety of food lies only a swipe away, and how often do we walk into Rastall feeling gratitude? In the simple act

of swiping the magic gold card and walking into a land of choice provides a degree of separation between us students and the food we consume. Mee comments on the fact that most people don’t know what a cucumber flower looks like, or that squash have both male and female blossoms, or even that within the garden exists a complexity of communication and relationship between the plants themselves. “There is more to gardening than food,” Mee said. “The garden needs to be beautiful. It’s food for the soul, food for the body. Gardening is my form of meditation.” For Mee, simple caring for a garden extends further than the satisfaction of the harvest.

“I’m trying to build community,” Mee said. “How many people do you have to lean on when things go awry? Most people don’t have anyone.” For Mee, gardening, became a medium to reconnect people to a sense of community and to instill an appreciation of food. Mee talks about how today there appears to be an even greater level of separa-

tion than ever before between people and the food they eat, and the “no cellphone” rule in his CSA is henceforth a way to address this sense of disconnect.

Upon starting the CSA, Mee began to wonder, “do people care about community or do they just want good food,” but in creating his CSA, Mee connected 14 people on a very basic level. His goal is to “get people to care about each other without having to know each other,” and in sharing the CSA as their common core, Mee seems to have created such a reality. This same idea is what seems to constitute the living learning communities on campus—connecting a small community of people on one single level, whether that be the outdoors, art, or the environment.

The Synergy houses on campus address a common interest amongst students—as the two houses begin to form a unique kind of CSA. “Choosing to live in Synergy was one of the best decisions of my time at CC,” reflected Madison Perlick, a former Synergy

resident. “Moving in with a bunch of strangers never even struck me as odd because we already knew we were down to dig our hands in the dirt and make meals and keep the heat off through November.”

“I made a bunch of friends my first couple years at CC, but they’re scattered in different groups and Synergy became the tight knit community I sought,” continued Perlick. “It’s awesome moving in with people who have a lot of the same core values as me but carry them out in vastly different ways in their day to day lives.” Her safety net became her living community, and they remain connected on that basic level—they share a certain basic human understanding.

So we must ask the question: What is our responsibility to our fellow humans and what is our responsibility to our planet and ourselves? Human connection and food nutrition are two of our basic necessities, and as we begin to disconnect, we lose sense of ourselves. So where does this reconnect begin? In the roots.

Aiyu Zheng: A Season of Green Abroad in Nepal

By MEG DEMARSH

As students return to campus for the fall term, sophomore Aiyu Zheng reflects on a summer immersed in the spiritual enormity and natural phenomena of the Nepalese countryside.

A student in Professor Miro Kummel’s summer course entitled Himalayan Odyssey: Environment, Culture, and Change, Zheng explored the environmental instability throughout the multi-ethnic nation of Nepal. Although globally recognized for its cultural and religious significance, Nepal suffers from the effects of climate change and globalization leading to increased agricultural encroachment, deforestation, and air and water pollution.

Zheng spent days enchanted by the beauty of the Nepalese environment while sobered by the physical effects of climate change and globalization on the terrain. The detrimental effects of the Gorkha earthquake are still ever-present to the Nepalese people.

“Nepal is so famous for its beauty and natural landscapes, but this kind of beauty is not paradise,” Zheng said. “The reality is that

it can be attacked by natural forces; that these natural forces aren’t always good.”

Predominately a trekking expedition, the class journeyed from the small village of Birethanti to the historical site of Lo Manthang. The distance totaled 113 miles with an elevation increase of 9,235 feet.

“The class is represented in walking,” Zheng said. “We walk on our feet. We’re trying to get our feelings and our understanding of nature through interacting directly with it, with the ground.” The trip combines the physicality of walking with the spirituality of the surrounding culture and people. Daily journals and supplemental readings guided this experience and encouraged continued study in a topic of interest.

Throughout the trek, Zheng pursued an independent study on a high-valued fungus and “miracle drug” native to the region. *Ophiocordyceps sinensis*, more commonly known as Yartsa Gunbu, is an herbal remedy abstracted from the germinated fungus found on select caterpillars in India, Nepal, and Tibet. The drug is commonly used to

treat lung and kidney failure and erectile dysfunction. Due to increased exploitation and environmental instability, the fungus is now endangered.

“Yartsu Gunbu is a very serious topic,” Zheng said. “Tibetan ethnic groups depend on this resource, as it is very expensive. If you have access to it, you can sell it and have money for your kids, their education, for everything. But now, due to climate change and government policies, people in the community are limited to these resources, and Yartsu Gunbu is not as plentiful.”

Zheng hopes to educate the local communities on the dangers of overexploitation by distributing a self-written children’s book on the subject, which she is currently editing. As an international student from China, Zheng understands the significance of Yartsu Gunbu and the potential benefits such a resource could provide.

Following her trip in Nepal, Zheng continued her studies in Beijing, working at a summer school teaching environmental education. The students were encouraged to create

their own connections with nature through interactive games and activities. Zheng only furthered her desire to educate children on the degradation of and respect for the natural environment through this experience. “Once children have set up their own connections to the natural world, hopefully they will care more about it,” Zheng explained.

Although the summer has come to end, Zheng plans to continue her study of Yartsu Gunbu into the academic year.

“Summer is a season of green. A time for trees to grow and for people to grow too,” she said.

She accredits the continued formation of her intellectual goals to this regenerative period but acknowledges that the spirit of summer is not limited to its traditional bounds.

“There is a more spiritual form of adventure as well,” Zheng said. “You’re still breaking through a lot of things, just within yourself, invisible things. I feel I gained strength through this spiritual adventure as much as the physical.”

A Sense of Place through Pokémon Go

By REBECCA GLAZER

Last week, 500 bright-eyed first-year students arrived at Colorado College to participate in New Student Orientation (NSO), a program designed to familiarize the incoming class with the place they've come to spend the next four years. Between the Sense of Place lecture at NSO and CC's new Sense of Place trips, the college is making a powerful effort to connect students with the larger community of Colorado Springs—if not physically, then at least emotionally.

You can't deny it's a good idea—honestly, how many of us venture far beyond Tejon Street, even as upperclassmen? How many students have attended a city council meeting, participated in a rally organized by “townies,” or made a true friend in the Springs who didn't attend CC? The answer, I don't hesitate to guess, is very few. Students readily acknowledge the reality of the “CC bubble,” but rarely stop to consider the impacts it has on our urban community as disengaged citizens.

This year, however, has the potential to be different. Not because of the Sense of Place trips—no, I'm talking about Pokémon Go.

Pokémon Go, an ongoing sensation that hit this summer, is an augmented reality phone app that allows you to catch Pokémon by exploring the city around you. The app has proved to be a polarizing issue; it's hard to find someone with a neutral opinion about the virtual reality experience.

People find plenty of ammunition for their arguments, both as promoters and detractors of the game. Some argue, rightly, that the game motivates people to leave their homes, explore their cities, and exercise their bodies. Others argue, also rightly, that cities deserve to be explored and appreciated for their own merits, rather than the artificial rewards of a gaming platform.

Both sides of the argument reveal the same troubling realization: people are really and terribly disconnected from any sense of place, from any familiarity with where they live. To play or not to play—that

is the question—and yet neither answer has a satisfactory solution to our disengagement with the world around us.

If you choose not to play, you might not get outside and experience the place you live. You may never venture outside your own neighborhood, see the other people who share your city with you, or encounter historic sites and memorials you may never have known about. In short, you may never have the motivation to come to terms with the place you inhabit.

But if you choose to play the game, do you truly experience that place either? Do the chain link fences and dried-up lawns of your fellow city dwellers register in your mind, or is your eye only on that Dragonite half a block ahead? Is it the homeless man on the corner of Tejon and Bijou whom you're looking at, or the Squirtle right behind him?

These may seem like unfair accusations to fans of the game, but many articles have already been published on the hordes of Pokémon Go players obliviously passing artistic masterpieces as they track Pokémon through the likes of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

It's an extreme case, to be sure, but even a close friend of mine tells the story of how he put away his phone quietly after finding a Pokéstop at a memorial for firefighters killed in the line of duty. Sure, he would never have found the memorial without Pokémon Go, but can we honestly call it a positive improvement if people start visiting memorials to win virtual rewards rather than to pay their respects?

It's certainly worrisome that people are turning more and more to their phones to fill silences and to mediate their interactions with the outside world. Yet in truth, Pokémon Go is merely the latest model of the kind of barriers we construct to insulate ourselves from the world around us.

We've long become accustomed to using our phones as buffers for social interaction, whether to facilitate it or avoid it. Pokémon

Go's only novelty is that it adds an extra layer of insulation, leading us around with neither a destination in mind nor a true sense of our journey.

As a new wave of students enter CC this year, I can't help but wonder how they will choose to explore their new city. Colorado Springs is an incredibly complex place. It's home to people who care deeply about the health and future of their community.

It's also home to an incredible disparity of wealth, with a rising homeless population living in close proximity to a neighborhood of million-dollar homes. Many parts of the city are classified as food deserts, yet there are dozens of inspiring people and organizations determined to nurture a vigorous local food economy which will increase food access, promote self-sufficiency, and boost the city's economy—and they're succeeding, as I had the fortune to discover this summer while living in the Springs.

To incoming first-year students and to all

the students of CC, I encourage you to get out and get to know Colorado Springs.

If Pokémon Go is the best incentive you have to do so, use it. But do me a favor. Every couple minutes, put down your phone. Stop, look around, and register what the city around you is saying. This city is beautiful, it's ugly, it's hurting, and it's helping itself. Colorado Springs is not just the city in which your school happens to be located. It is your home, you are its resident, and you can choose whether or not to be an engaged and active citizen.

Sometimes we need a buffer to make us feel safe in a new place. Let Pokémon Go be your training wheels, to cultivate a sense of place here in Colorado Springs. But once you know where you are, be there, experience it, and come to understand the complexity and intricacy of this place in which you live.

CARTOON BY CHARLOTTE WALL



Jason Bourne: Similar Plots and Nothing Innovative

By SHIYING CHENG

Nine years later, Jason Bourne returns to the screen after “The Bourne Identity” (2002), “The Bourne Supremacy” (2004), and “The Bourne Ultimatum” (2007) as “Jason Bourne.”

This anticipated return in the summer of 2016 is both exciting and disappointing—exciting because the film intensifies my nerves again for thrilling action, while disappointing because there is really nothing innovative about this film compared to the old ones.

In the first scenes of “Identity” (2002), Bourne was found under water and brought back to life; meanwhile, in the final scene of “Ultimatum” (2007), Bourne jumped off the CIA building and fell underwater. This perfect ending of “Ultimatum” signaled the completion of this spy franchise and a full circle of Bourne's life.

As Bourne told Pamela Landy earlier, “this is where it started for me. This is where it ends.” At the end of the trilogy, Bourne finally swam away in the water, which implies that Bourne regained his personal freedom and would start a new chapter of his life independent from the CIA.

In a capital-driven industry, however, it is extremely hard to end a film series completely if there is the potential to generate millions of dollars. As a result, after

an unsuccessful attempt with “The Bourne Legacy” (2012) to start a new series, Jason Bourne is pulled out of the water again.

On one hand, the reunion between Matt Damon and director Paul Greengrass successfully arouses nostalgia in old fans of the Bourne trilogy. As always, the new film's action views are thrilling.

Random yet thrilling events aside, the car chasing scenes between Bourne and the Asset (Vincent Cassel) are still spectacular and even remind me of “Fast and Furious.” In addition, this new film is set in a post-Snowden world and ties closely to a controversial debate between individual freedom and national security in current society.

The moral question of the film is very similar to the Apple vs. FBI case in February this year: whether the phone company should provide technical assistance such as a backdoor service to governmental agencies. Greengrass's film offers the more liberal answer.

On the other hand, the story line of “Jason Bourne” (2016) is extremely similar to the old ones: Bourne is suffering from his habitually traumatic experiences again. The CIA is attempting to hunt him down because he had access to some classified documents; Heather Lee (Alicia Vikander), the head of the CIA Cyber Ops Divi-

sion, helps Bourne beat the authority. The new boss of the Agency (Tommy Lee Jones) wants to kill Bourne to cover up his corrupted management and abuses of power. Of course, in the end, Bourne beats up all the bad guys and restores justice.

To attract as many new viewers as possible, this new Bourne film even flashes back—more than five times—to Bourne's memory with his father before a pre-planned car crash.

Moreover, Damon only says 288 words throughout the film. As film critic Kate Muir suggests, the fewer nuances the film has in translation, the easier to sell in the international market, especially in China.

After more than half a month of showing in North America, “Jason Bourne” finally hit the screen of Chinese cinemas on Aug. 23, 2016, but with an “exclusive” 3D-only version.

It is a common strategy to use 3D effects in Hollywood to boost ticket sales. According to Chinese media, the ticket sales reached 74 million yuan (around U.S. \$11 million) on the opening day. The Beijing News reported that only eight of 149 cinemas in Beijing offered the option to view 2D version as of Aug. 25.

Paul Greengrass shot “Jason Bourne” in 2D and released it worldwide in its original

format. Universal's decision to release it in 3D in China reveals how deeply Hollywood is trapped in its money-generating games, even though the film's violently shaking cinematography and fast-paced editing do not lend well to the 3D format.

According to Chinese news outlets, many audiences have reported feeling dizzy and uncomfortable after watching the 3D version.

Is it impossible to close the Bourne series if it still generates money? It might be true. After seven successful books and eight successful movies, “Harry Potter” starts its eighth story, “The Cursed Child,” through theater, a new format of storytelling. Yet Jason Bourne's largest problem is the latest film is a simple repetition of the old trilogy with nothing innovative.

Greengrass ended this new film with a particular vague message to the audience. If he wants, he can always pick up the story and film the next series.

Although he might risk destroying the previous positive reputation of the Bourne series, it is his call. Nevertheless, using a poorly made 3D version of Jason Bourne to target the Chinese market shows that Hollywood has gone too far in its money-generating games and has begun to lose its professional ethics.

The “P” Word: Privilege

By ELLEN ATKINSON

Privilege was once used colloquially as a word interchangeable with lucky or blessed, to acknowledge appreciation and gratitude for an opportunity or for a full and rich life. But the complete meaning of privilege has led the word to be a source of tension, even resentment or guilt.

So, in an attempt to understand these undercurrents, I asked a sample of Colorado College students about their interpretations of privilege: eight incoming first-years, to be exact, who have not yet been exposed to college dialogue concerning privilege.

“Privilege means given an advantage over other people from birth,” said Oscar Glassman. “Something that you haven’t earned necessarily, something that maybe your family has worked for but that you haven’t worked for yourself.”

“I think that privilege is something that is problematic but something that can’t really be changed, so I think that if someone does have privilege, instead of lamenting in it, they should work to spread that privilege across people who are less privileged,” said Glassman.

Walter Brose said something similar: “Privilege is what we are given as people when we are born, and it’s something that I think a lot of people take for granted. I think privilege is something really special that we need to appreciate more and something that we shouldn’t feel guilty about... if you have this privilege, don’t take advantage of it, but use it.” Some answered smoothly. Others balked at such a blunt question.

“Talking about privilege may often sound like hoity toity college talk—a buzzword to explain all inequalities—but not talking about privilege has far greater consequences.”

“Oh god uh, the word? Or to me? Well, since I’m a white dude, it means I have—that’s a hard word to define.” Noah Brodsky cleared his throat. “I have more opportunity given to me by birth than people born without the financial, racial, and gender profile that I have.”

“That’s tough,” said Ben Murphy. “I’ve never ever been asked this before.” Ben grappled for a moment with his thoughts, and then replied. “What it means to me is that certain people in our society are born into situations where social and economic factors contribute to them having some sort of advantage in our society.”

They hit the nail on the head. Systemically, a privilege is an advantage that one group of people has over another. Our time at CC is ripe with conversations about privilege, and for good reason. Without acknowledging both those who have and lack certain privileges, moving forward with equitable community initiatives, social justice projects, fair legislation, improvements in fair incarceration and rehabilitation, and just about anything else ranging from housing to employment is next to impossible.

Having conversations about privilege is a privilege. Most of us did not have these conversations before college.

“I think we are all pretty lucky to be here at such a great school with so many opportunities,” said Hannah Runyon. “There are all different levels of privilege here, but I think at some degree we are all privileged to be here,” Murphy agreed. “Based on what I have seen, CC is a very selective school, it is an expensive liberal arts school, and everyone is privileged to be here.”

I remember my own days of ignorance, when I preferred to defend the ways in which my life had been a struggle rather than admit the extent of my own privilege: white, upper middle class, college-educated. It was not until a few hours of heated debate (and months of slow processing to follow) with my friend and Sociology major Genia Niemeyer, on a crowded bus weaving through rural Ecuador, that I developed the vocabulary and the tools to have an intelligent conversation about privilege and its social consequences. Talking about privilege may often sound like hoity toity college talk—a buzzword to explain all inequalities—but not talking about privilege has far greater consequences.

Far more often than not, I run into people who will do anything to deny their privilege, just as I had once done in that crowded bus with Niemeyer. Perhaps it’s human nature. Perhaps it’s also part of a greater issue: ignoring nuance.

Olivia Coleman, who came early to CC to join the Bridge program, said that among the Bridge Scholars at CC there was something of a competition over who was getting the most aid. A contest, if you will, over who had beaten the highest odds.

“Some of the bridge scholars were talking like, ‘How are you getting this much aid?’ and ‘Why do I have to pay this?’ and then we all compared it. It was like, well we’re all poor, but we’re all poor at different levels, and then I guess they didn’t get that, so it was really interesting,” Coleman said.

“Being a New Yorker I have the double-edged sword; I have the privilege of being

safe and being in a great area but at the same time, do I always feel safe, do I not always feel safe?”

Coleman, who experienced homelessness for six years of her life, even acknowledged her privilege within the category of those experiencing homelessness. “I know I do have some advantages, like being homeless in a city as opposed to being homeless in a back-country rural area.”

If ignoring nuance is dangerous, assuming privileged based on looks, skin color, or clothes is also dangerous.

This summer I had the opportunity to facilitate 10 students who had been selected to represent their schools at a statewide leadership conference in an exercise called the privilege walk. It is a powerful exercise; students stand holding hands in a line and take a step forward or backward depending on whether they had or did not have certain privileges growing up. I read out statements like, “If you grew up with more than 50 books in your home, take a step forward” and, “If your parents had to work overtime and weekends to support your family, take a step back.” It’s raw. It’s vulnerable. It’s hard.

Three of the students in our group were students of color. Two ended up towards the front, easily in front of most of the other white students.

About 15 steps behind everyone else, including the third student of color, stood a lone white student, a girl who identifies as queer and comes from an abusive and impoverished household.

It is impossible to look at someone and know much of anything about them. Skin color does not define where someone is from, what language they speak, or necessarily their socioeconomic status (remember that awful slur “white trash”). It is dangerous to make rash generalizations. Yes, white people in the U.S. have an enormous racial advantage systemically as a group that historically oppressed people of color. This is awfully undeniable, but we cannot also forget the oppression of groups like the Irish.

In our conversations about privilege at CC, it is important to give everyone the chance to acknowledge certain ways in which they are privileged and to also affirm ways in which people have been disadvantaged. Rather than having a contest about who has had the most or least privilege, these conversations should serve to more deeply understand each other, and that means listening to the ways in which people experience their own privilege and lack thereof.

Kelly Nguyen and Coleman exemplify the ways in which we all may encompass privi-

lege and the lack of privilege simultaneously.

“Rather than having a contest about who has had the most or least privilege, these conversations should serve to more deeply understand each other, and that means listening to the ways in which people experience their own privilege and lack thereof.”

“I feel like I wasn’t privileged because I had a single mother and she worked full time so we never had a mom in the house,” said Nguyen, first-generation Vietnamese, who, on the flip side, said, “and I feel like I am privileged because I had a house, I had a place to stay every night. I had food I had clothes, even though I wasn’t necessarily wealthy.”

“At the current moment, I’m able-bodied, so I don’t have a disability disadvantage so I’m privileged that way,” Coleman said.

She considers herself to be privileged to not suffer from disabilities, although having two disabled parents has certainly been a disadvantage.

“I am also American, I live in a first-world country, so I’m not struggling too badly even if I am struggling. I don’t suffer from mental illness and that’s something that a lot of people don’t take into consideration, so I have a normal, descent life where I don’t have too many obstacles,” Coleman said.

Coleman champions a rare optimism in the face of systemic barriers.

“Being female, black, and also a queer woman of color, all three of those things add interesting dynamics. Since I am asexual and there’s this stereotype that black women are promiscuous, I get more sexual attention, and it’s like, no, I don’t swing that way,” said Coleman, adding that when she dates a girl, she risks men threatening to “fix her” or “turn her straight,” and that she avoids certain areas of her city, state, and country because she knows that in “sundown” areas, being black and out at night means your odds of living to see the sunrise are slim.

“And of course being a female, it’s a triple whammy because this is a man’s world!” she added. We can talk about systemic privilege, and then we can talk about our lived experiences. And we should. We need to, if we’re going to connect with others different from ourselves.

Rename Fire Ants to Spicy Boys

By NATHAN MAKELA

While browsing the internet late into a casual Sunday night, I recently stumbled upon a particularly interesting change.org petition started by internet user “pupperg_small” from Chernobyl, Ukraine. The petition is titled “Rename Fire Ants to Spicy Boys!!!”

Currently, the petition has over 67,000 signatures, about 8,000 short of its goal of 75,000. The petition webpage states that once the goal is reached, the demands of the page will be sent to President Barack Obama, First Lady Michelle Obama, and Mark Zuckerberg, CEO of Facebook. “I’m signing because I want to be on the right side of history,” commented Ruth Hirsch, a

supporter from Bellaire, TX.

After carefully considering the implications of such a name change, I couldn’t help but wonder: why not change the name of fire ants to spicy boys?

Much like the firefly, the fire ants’ name proves extremely inappropriate. Neither animal has anything to do with fire. They can’t even breathe fire. Dragons breathe fire but they don’t have any mention of fire in their name. Have you ever been bitten by a fire ant? It’s spicy, like a pepper. It hurts like heck. Consider which phrase you prefer:

“I just got bitten by another damn fire ant.”

“I just gotten bitten by another damn spicy boy.”

The petition raises important questions about how animals are named. Who gets to decide what an animal’s name is? Why aren’t animal names updated when new, more appropriate names are invented? The scientific name for the fire ant is *Solenopsis*, though I have had trouble finding anyone who actually cares or even wants to know that fact.

When questioned about the petition, senior and CCSGA President Annika Kastetter stated: “Please stop asking me questions about ants and leave me alone.”

President Jill Tiefenthaler could not be reached for comment.

Who really has the authority? Could President Obama actually change the name of the fire ant? Could Mark Zuckerberg replace every mention of “fire ant” on Facebook with “spicy boy?” Could Michelle Obama have included a support for the petition in her inspiring Democratic National Convention speech?

Regardless, I urge every student and faculty member at Colorado College to sign the petition. This is not just about one ant or getting Obama to read a petition about ants, this is about starting a movement. If enough of us start calling them spicy boys, maybe it will just catch on.

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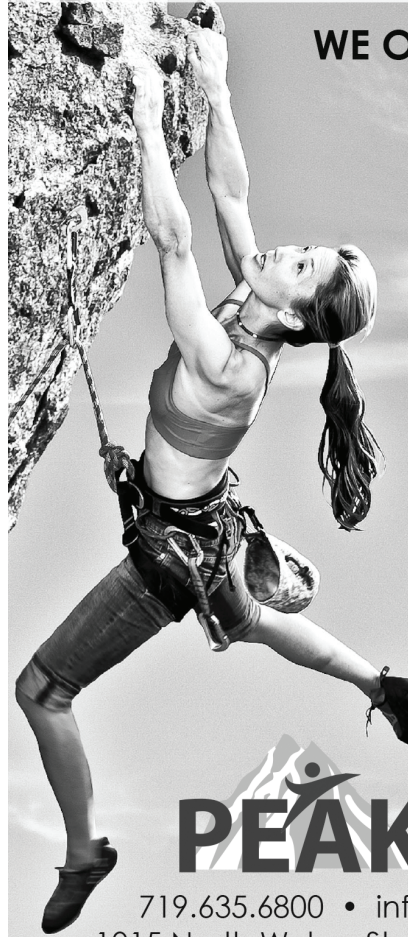
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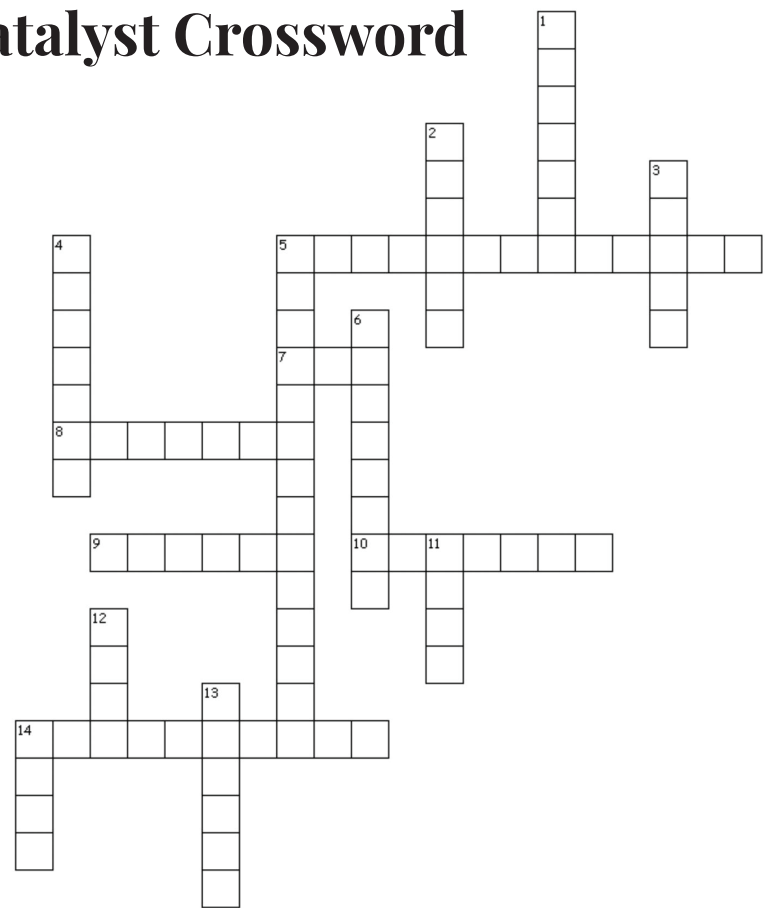
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Catalyst Crossword



Across

5. Upcoming event that was previously rained out
7. School kickoff program for incoming Tigers
8. Freebies from the newly redubbed SASS (Student Association for Sexual Safety)
9. New alternative for studying on campus
10. Direct competitor with block plan homework
14. R&B artist behind the long-awaited, soon to be third largest album release of 2016

Down

1. Mechanical sounding name of upcoming lecturer/politico in CC speaker series
2. "Humpday suit and tie"
3. Beloved CC house reduced to rubble, familiarly
4. Under a rock on tv, friendly face above the hill
5. Regal sounding company behind recent CC bookstore takeover
6. Creek, or men
11. Unearthed relic on Cascade, like mainstay of Egyptian New Empire
12. Virus behind spikes in nationwide insect repellent sales
13. Building on campus with new roof
14. Start of school season, also ouch!

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 occasionally, 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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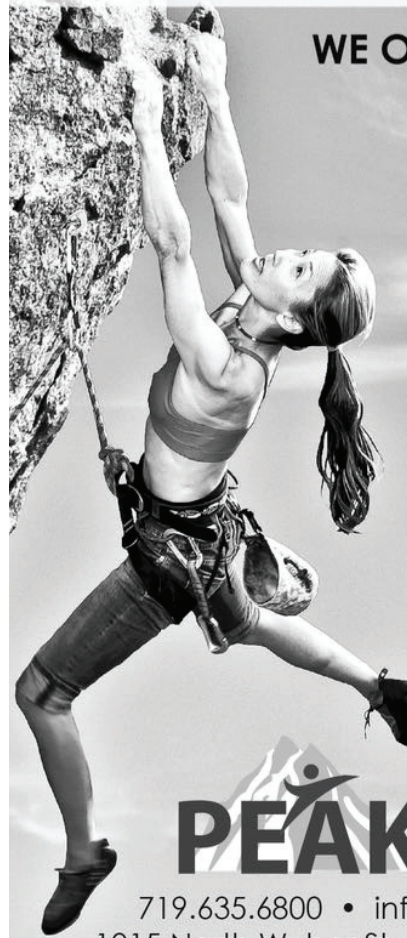
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Friday, September 9th

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