

# College Avenue

volume four: issue three spring 2009

## now what?

students, meet the recession

## economy 101

the recession breakdown

## big problem, little culprit

local efforts to stop  
mountain pine beetles

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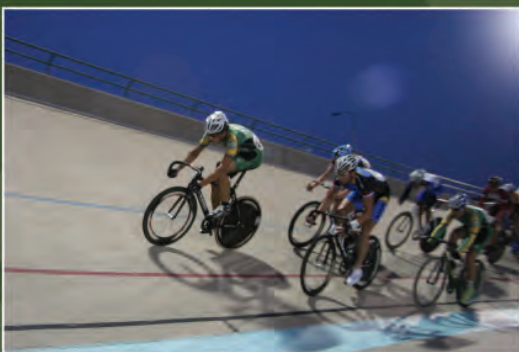
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# letter from the editor



self-portrait by makayla braden

## Nickel 'n' Dime It

We all have been affected by the recession in one way or another. Whether it's drinking one less Long Island Iced Tea per week, or more severe problems like losing a job, not being able to acquire loans from private lenders, or worse yet, not being able to pay for school.

The important thing to remember is to not let it get you down. There will be tough times and there will be good times in life, this recession is merely a bump in the road. So do all you can to nickel and dime it. Spending all your loose change in times like this isn't wise, save all you can and you will be glad you did.

*College Avenue* magazine has seen first hand the reality of this recession with the loss of one of our four issues this year. We decided not to dwell on this setback but rather focus on other aspects of our publication that needed work. We will be launching the first phase of our new Web site with this issue. After this semester we will be revisiting the first phase of the Web site, the redesign, and begin constructing the site to allow us such possibilities as hosting blogs, forums, and possibly even an interactive calendar. Check us out at [collegeavenuemag.com](http://collegeavenuemag.com) and stay tuned for more interactive capabilities.

While the future of our magazine seems slightly hazy, one thing is obvious: going online seems to be a viable option for us. As I step down after a year of difficult obstacles I trust our magazine is in the right hands for the tough road ahead. One thing is for sure, *College Avenue* magazine isn't going anywhere! We may be the baby of Rocky Mountain Student Media Corporation, but we are going to fight through the rough times ahead.

For our last issue in the 2008-2009 school year, we decided to go out with a bang and produce an issue about the economy. I know what you're thinking, how is that a bang? I don't want to read about economics and statistics, blah blah. You will!

Inside we have stories outlining what caused the recession and how students have been affected. We also have a great story about what to expect graduating into a job market that isn't necessarily ready to welcome us. We even have tips from the Career Center and other professionals on campus about what to do after graduation and how to go about searching and applying for jobs during hard economic times. If anything, we have given you the tools to seek more information about the present state of our economy and how to deal.

In hindsight, we hope this issue will serve as a great resource for students to educate themselves on the current economic realities of our nation. It is important for students to understand how we got here because it didn't happen overnight. This issue will serve as a resource for graduates preparing to move into an unwelcoming job market.

It's been my pleasure being the editor in chief of this publication. I owe a huge thanks to my dedicated staff members for busting their butts for me all year long! They are all truly amazing and they do great work. Best of luck in your future careers!

Also best of luck to all graduating seniors, I wish you the best in your future endeavors. As always thanks to our readers, stay true!

Peace and Love,

Makayla Braden

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# Helping students clarify the issues

Look for upcoming exciting events, and get involved in our various departments by visiting ASCSU at the Lory Student Center or online at [www.ascsu.colostate.edu](http://www.ascsu.colostate.edu).

# College Avenue

## letter to the editor

I read with great interest the articles in your recent (Winter 2008) edition ... It's the first time (at least in these past eight months or so) I felt that more than just one side of the issue was getting the press!

Though I did vote "Yes" on Amendment 48, I realize there are other perspectives on this issue. Life at the moment of conception is a hot button, but I believe every life is valuable ... even the Down syndrome baby that some would choose to abort. I do not advocate for "safe sex" because I think it comes dangerously close to becoming the nation's most celebrated favorite sport (whatever the age). I am, however, happily married and enjoy a healthy sex life!

What are my thoughts on the election? I think the outcome is what seemingly everyone was clamoring for, although it may not be what we actually needed. The bail out is another thing I didn't endorse (and why didn't McCain show his true colors by voting against it?). Nor do I want my tax dollars used to bail out the Big-3 automakers ... acknowledging that their situation has certainly been exacerbated by the regulations, stipulations, mandates, and whatever else congress chose to shove down their throats!

The problem, it seems to me, is that we have difficulties owning up to the decisions we make!

Yes, I have some post-election regrets. Now, I'll pray for President Obama and hope that he (and his administration, and congress) do better than anticipated.

Thankful for an opportunity to vent!

Sharon K. Baker

*\*all letters to the editor must be typed in a word document and attached to an e-mail, which should be sent to [csumag@lamar.colostate.edu](mailto:csumag@lamar.colostate.edu).*

## mission statement

*college avenue* is a magazine produced and operated by csu students. our mission is to serve the csu and fort collins community with innovative and engaging coverage of relevant issues. our staff is dedicated to providing balanced and accurate reporting as well as visually stimulating design and photography to a diverse audience. above all, we strive to maintain our integrity through professionalism and this standard of excellence.

## on the cover

photo illustration by katie stevens

design by katie stevens and makayla braden

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# Finding Faith

## Forgetting Fear

### communities unite during hard times

As the nation is bombarded by economic crisis, there is an ominous cloud of fear that hovers over our heads, while stress and worries grip and twist at the stomachs of millions. It's not until that cloud finally pours down the disheartening news of unemployment or home foreclosure that fear becomes reality and people become bankrupt of more than just their funds – they become bankrupt of their options, and even of their hope.

It's during these times when citizens cannot turn to their wallets for security and support. It's during these times where people pick up the phone to turn to an empathetic ear, and on the other end are people such as Plymouth Congregational Church's senior minister Hal Chorpensing.

"It is really a privilege to be with people when they are most vulnerable, not to fix the problem, but to respond with empathy and compassion," Chorpensing said. "We want to give members a sense of hope, a place to go to express their thoughts and feelings."

Like many churches, Plymouth Congregational, located on West Prospect Road, is the hearth of its community; the place where people can turn to for comfort, help and support. When credit cards and loans cannot give a quick solution, people turn to their faith as well as others who understand.

"We do have some members who have recently been laid off from work, and we have started a support group for them at church," music director Carrie Hansen said. "Plymouth is a refuge for many who come needing to be 'filled up' spiritually, emotionally, and socially."

There is no denial in the fact that the economy is taking a turn for the worse, and is a fact that cannot be swept under the rug, thus for members of Plymouth Congregational, such a

crisis must be met with an optimistic outlook.

"No one is under the illusion that the economy is just fine," Chorpensing said. "Instead, people are really using their heads and responding out of a sense of faith than fear."

In the recent months, the church has seen an increase in attendance, possibly correlated to the economic hardship that the country has recently felt. And in 2008, pledge support increased by 2 percent.

"We had to stretch to meet budget, but we are doing better because of the support of the church community," Chorpensing said.

The church's resources extend past words of prayer, they provide assistance from cheap movie nights to support groups, and ultimately, they provide a sense of connection with fellow members. The amount of help in these cases can prove to be irrelevant, for every little ounce of compassion goes a long way.

"I try to connect people in need with other members and families who may have helpful resources at their disposal," Reverend Sharon Benton said. "Plymouth has also convened a group of members from various backgrounds that have knowledge of ways to support members who lose their jobs. That group has begun brainstorming means of practical support for members facing financial difficulty."

For over five years, Plymouth Congregational has teamed up with the non-profit organization Neighbor to Neighbor, as well as other churches, in trying to keep people off the streets and sustain a roof over their heads. Trying situations, such as not being able to make rent or being uncertain of whether or not one's family will have a home to go to, can be too difficult to handle alone, thus places like Plymouth Congregational and N2N are there to provide assistance.

"It can take quite a bit of a mental shift but the more we work together and are open with one another, the closer we get



plymouth congregational church

photo by katie stevens



↳ photo illustration by katie stevens

to individual and community solutions,” said Tracy Schwartz, the N2N resource development director. “Anyone can talk about these issues and help remove shame or fear about asking for help.”

N2N assists people in Larimer County with maintaining and securing their homes through housing education and counseling. They offer support for those who are struggling financially and who meet certain guidelines, through programs such as emergency rent assistance, which helps people stay in their homes when rent cannot be paid because of a dire circumstance. In 2008, this organization was able to prevent 106 out of 115 households from foreclosure.

“There is help available and the sooner you reach out, the sooner there will be a solution,” Schwartz said. “Neighbor to Neighbor provides empathetic assistance where we can help people take the steps to make savvy housing decisions.”

The people of N2N and Plymouth Congregational are a testament to the power of a community willing to help, and in the 6 ½ years at Plymouth Congregational, Chorpenning emphasizes the importance of community support in the face of this economic situation.

“During these times, people tend to pull back and try to help the people in the community that they themselves turn to,” Chorpenning said. “The upside to this economic season is that people learn to rely on each other a little.”

This economic crisis will test the people of this country, but by finding a sense of unity and security through fellow man, there are lessons we can gain even though so many have lost so much.

“I’m hopeful that each of us begins to look at our own understandings of our culture and values around wealth because we live in a wealthy nation where God has provided so much,” Benton said. “I hope we come to recognize the abundance that surrounds us in creation and learn to care for our interdependence.” ■ Ca

## neighbor to neighbor

since 1970, neighbor to neighbor has been a non-profit organization that has helped thousands of Larimer County residents keep roofs over their heads and alleviate the concerns that come with owning a home. n2n provides education for homeowners and renters by counseling them through tough financial situations. they provide affordable apartments for residents and also help find homes for the homeless.

n2n emphasizes how important stable housing is for the health of individuals, families, and the community. the organization, with the help of donors and volunteers, offers three key services:

- **renter program:** these services help renters work toward self-sufficiency through rental counseling, emergency rent assistance, and first month’s rent assistance.
- **affordable housing program:** n2n offers 149 apartments in 14 communities around the fort collins and loveland area.
- **home ownership program:** in 2008, over 90 percent of the households they counseled were able to avoid home foreclosure, thanks to n2n’s home buyer education and foreclosure prevention program.

without the help of the community, n2n would not be able to successfully help people find or maintain their homes, thus volunteers and donations are in constant need.

to lend a hand or find help contact  
neighbor to neighbor at:

n2n.org  
in fort collins:  
renter program  
neighbor to neighbor at the murphy center  
242 conifer street  
fort collins, co 80524  
970.494.9940

home ownership & affordable housing programs  
fort collins office  
1550 blue spruce drive  
fort collins, co 80524

# Economics 101

## the recession rollercoaster

**A**t times cash flows; other times only pennies jingle in one's wallet and couch digging for change becomes a habit. Students may have already assimilated to the inconsistency of their cash flow, which at times can be only a trickle, but what about now, when rock bottom looms?

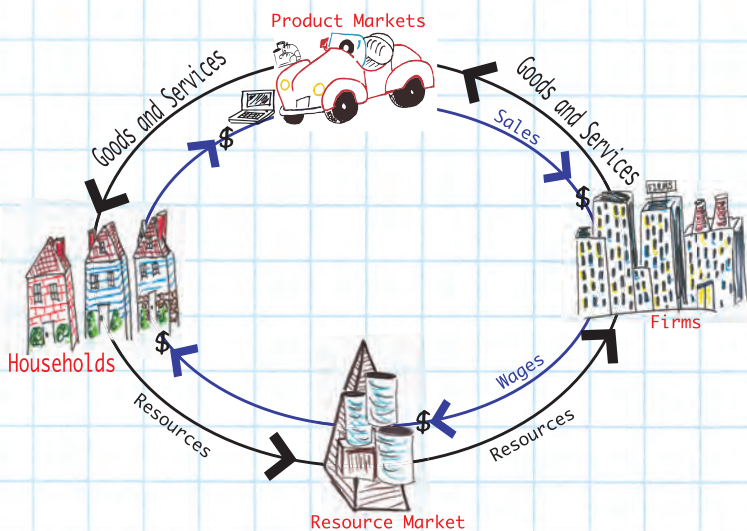
As the economy heads into a recession, jobs dwindle and less money circulates in the system, but why? The complex explanation demands more than a graph showing unemployment at an all time high. And it goes deeper than Wall Street and stimulus checks.

### economics 101: the basics

To start off, the economy is about supply and demand, and goods and services. These four factors are intertwined, and according to assistant economics professor Deepankar Basu, they are the key players that cause a recession.

"Everything is down," Mr. Basu said. "Demand is down, which leads to a fall in profits, and this cuts down on hiring. More unemployment means less income, and less income means less demand. It is just a downward spiral."

Because the economy constantly shifts and due to the complex parties involved, the likelihood of harder times looms, to put it simply, Mr. Basu explains. Here is a snapshot of how the economy works:



original graphic courtesy of unc.edu, graphic recreated by amanda lesh

Mr. Basu said that in order to fully understand what caused the current recession, people need to take a broader view and look further in history to analyze more than the current, simple version of the economy.

### economics 102: the causes

Whether it was politics, bad planning or a crash in the financial market, there can be no one blame for the current economic hardship. Associate economics professor Martin Shields, who is also the regional economist for northern Colorado, pointed out that all of the local economies are a part of the national economy, which is connected to the world economy.

"The national economy affects the local and vice versa, so this financial crisis affects all households and facets of society," Mr. Shields said.

One of the biggest causes that contributed to the recession was the crash in the housing market in 2006 to 2007, which was caused by economic imbalances starting 30 years back.

Mr. Basu explained that in the 1970s a change was made by politicians to decrease control over economic regulations, so firms made a profit. What happened, he said, was that consumers' wages stayed "stagnant," and consumption went up, increasing the debt because they had to borrow more money.

"There were no checks and balances, which creates more debt," he said. "When the debt amount is up, this is cause for a fragile economy."

During this period, it became easier to get loans, and at the same time, the Federal Reserve Bank was trying to lower the interest rate on these loans, so the mortgage market went up. But in the long haul, housing prices raised drastically, which resulted in more loans and debt; thus, resulting in a financial market crisis late last year.

Economists and those who study politics, finances and such, also investigate the political arena during hard economic times. According to Dimitris Stevis, a political science professor, politics and the economy, though close, are often discussed in too close of a relationship to each other.

"In a broad sense, politics and economics are very closely related," said Mr. Stevis, whose research focus is the international political economy. "They both reflect the choices of particular groups of people at particular moments

“a recession plus a financial crisis only equals a bigger recession. we have to care for the financial crisis and do something big.”

- deepankar basu, assistant economics professor

in history. Politics affect the economy so much because politics are about democracy and choices.”

Mr. Stevis explained that political leaders, current and past, determine economy regulations and such, so at times, they can be, and to some, should be held accountable.

“It would be deeply undemocratic if the economy, with its important implications on our lives and democracy, was outside the purview of political choices,” Mr. Stevis said. “This of course does happen, resulting in major problems. While political choices are not a guarantee of success, we should expect our elected representatives to be good stewards of our economy.”

Whether it is the large political decisions, or the smaller individual markets in the economy, many areas are held responsible to keep the economy functioning. Mr. Shields pointed out that “shocks to the economy affect everyone when the economy goes bad.”

## economics 103: what's next

In early 2009, a stimulus package made its way through the new political administration and was put into effect, but will it be enough to restart the failing economy, is a question on many economists' and citizens' minds.

Mr. Basu explained that because labor demand is low, obviously unemployment will rise, leading to even more consumer demand, and thus a recession. Currently, the United States is at a high unemployment rate of 8.1 percent in February, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics as a part of the U.S. Department of Labor on March 6, 2009. And many predict that the unemployment rate could still go up more in the coming months of 2009.

“A recession plus a financial crisis only equals a bigger recession,” Mr. Basu said. “We have to care for the financial crisis, and do something big.”

Mr. Basu and Mr. Stevis are not sold on the recent stimulus package's ability to jump-start the economy. The package was signed by President Barack Obama on Feb. 17 for \$787 million.

Mr. Basu explained that little measures will not work, and the nation will only recede deeper into a recession, and he stressed the necessity of a major action, such as nationalizing banks to allow for more government control of big bank spending. Mr. Basu said that at the moment, government spending is the last stop for the economy, and the government is the only

consumer left that can fix it.

“The current administration is trying to respond to a crisis that it did not produce,” said Mr. Stevis, agreeing with Mr. Basu. “There is no doubt that the stimulus package will have an impact, but it strikes me as too small for such a huge economy as the USA.”

As for the impact on northern Colorado, Mr. Shields presented a more positive position and outlook, especially for Fort Collins. He pointed out that the local economy is researched based, and fewer layoffs have occurred. Also, he said, in economies based in human capital – that is knowledge, innovation and skills – the advantages of weathering the recession is much better off here than nationally.

The BLS reported that Colorado has a 5.8 percent unemployment rate as of February 2009, and historically, that is not the highest that Colorado has ever seen, and the BLS shows that Fort Collins only has an unemployment rate at 4.9 percent.

“The university [CSU] is going through tough times, but it is a stable presence,” Mr. Shields said. “It doesn't lay off workers on a grand scale because it grows and processes things at a slower pace. It is still generating money, and that is what makes a difference.”

It will take time to determine how the U.S. economy weathers the bad times, but Mr. Basu is still hopeful that there will be an up flux in the economy. He said that this economic situation has been seen before, and given the whole world suffers along with the United States, change will take time, but will occur.

“There is no guarantee that this will not happen again in the future, and our current situation might even worsen,” Mr. Basu said. “All we can do as individuals are to help the stimulus plan go through, and support each other.” ■ **Ca**

### current unemployment rates

united states- 8.1 percent  
colorado- 5.8 percent  
fort collins- 4.9 percent

# Behind Closed Doors:

local business owners get honest about the recession

Near the intersection of Prospect Road and College Avenue, an 85-year-old house still stands. It has survived blizzards, floods, and most recognizably, the Great Depression; now, it's up against the current recession. The bricks look weathered and aged, yet somehow is still charming and inviting. Just outside is a sign that reads, "Wild Boar Café." Owner Susan Curiel sits inside, cradling a coffee mug with both hands. She smiles as the light glares through the windows and settles on her back.

In March 2008, Curiel started a family business with her sons, Brandon and Eric, despite entering into a yearlong recession. Although she feels like she has escaped the tight squeeze of the economy, she's still optimistic and working hard to bring in business by advertising in the *Rocky Mountain Collegian* and negotiating with customers.

"The coupons are good for a

*"we are facing increased wholesale pricing from vendors, even given the recent fall in fuel prices. we sometimes increase our retail prices accordingly."* - justine reed, owner of white balcony

dollar off of something different every week," she says. "But I tell the cashiers that if they have a coupon for a soup and they want a salad, give it to them."

Justine Reed, owner of White Balcony, also maintains a hopeful attitude about the rest of the year, claiming it's the owner's attitude that really makes the business. Reed says that she and her staff put in an effort to make people feel happy when they leave the store.

But her survival tactics have increased, as well. The Old Town business, which offers knick-knacks like little rubber duckies, journals and fridge magnets, has increased its prices, but according to Reed, sometimes she feels the need to "absorb the increase so our customers don't feel it as much."

But sometimes when vendors increase prices, the store must also raise their's to keep up with the costs, Reed says.

A few blocks away, Dwight Hall, head brewer and managing partner of CooperSmith's Bar and Pub, also feels the pressure. "The costs are way up for us [with] things like energy, food, beer, suppliers and delivery charges," says Hall, adding that the popular brewpub occasionally raises prices when necessary.

Despite higher prices for some items or services, college students remain both loyal but cautious. Jenika Howe, a junior history major, says there's an attraction to go to the local businesses, but if prices rise she, "might reduce the times I go, but I'll still pick that spot."

Aubrie Robinson, a senior journalism and technical communications major agrees with Howe. She admits to being a shopper but not a shopaholic. "I don't really notice the price increase unless it's 25 percent higher," she says.

Martin Shields, the northern Colorado regional economist and associate professor in the economics department, says it might not be the best plan to raise prices. "S o m e t i m e s , businesses raise prices in an attempt to boost revenues. But with demand declining, price increases are not a good way to increase profits," he says.

Catalyst Coffee, a five-year-old espresso bar and tasting lounge located at Shields Street and Horsetooth Road, temporarily closed its doors in January for 10 days because of a \$20,000 debt. Owner Fade T. Wall held a fundraiser before



susan curiel, one of the owners of the wild boar cafe, sits and enjoys a cup of coffee as she explains how the falling economy is treating her family's business. photos by clinton brewer



Ming Lee, owner of South China restaurant works in the kitchen to prepare food for restaurantgoers. Lee is also the head chef at South China.

the closing and raised half of what they owed. It was enough to keep from permanently closing, and to Wall's surprise, the vendors were willing to work with her.

"My landlord took \$1,000 off the rent," she says. "Before we moved in, this place was unoccupied for a year, so to the landlord, some money is better than none."

Jim Risser, owner of Finest music store at the Campus West shopping center on Shields and Elizabeth streets, hasn't been as fortunate. He had three locations: Greeley, Windsor, and Fort Collins, and in the past year, he closed Greeley after 36 years of business, and then closed in Windsor shortly after.

In addition to the recession, Risser's been battling technology since 2004. Risser says sales have declined 60 percent with the popularity surrounding iTunes and downloading music; the competition is hard to keep up with. Risser has a plan though, they have a downloading center in which you can download and burn a CD right there in the store. But with this commodity, sales are still down.

Meanwhile, Ming Lee sits in his restaurant well after it's closed, the lighting hitting the features of his face. His hands are clasped together and a sigh escapes him. Business isn't good for South China, located on South College Avenue and Harmony Road, and he's worried about the economy getting worse.

"I hope the new year will bring change, but I don't know," Lee says. "When Wal-Mart was here, 10 years ago business was good. Now, nobody comes."

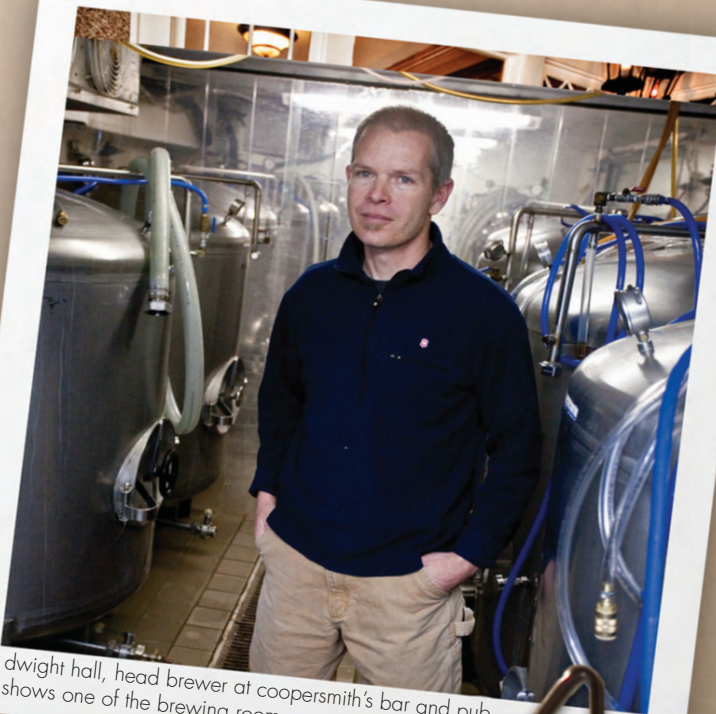
Lee has already done what other businesses have by raising prices; all items on the menu increased from at least a quarter to as much as \$2.

"I was so scared to change them. I didn't want to lose business, but suppliers have raised their prices," he says.

Back in Old Town, a live theater of 49 seats located on Pine and Walnut streets called Nonesuch is having companies cancel their reservations after a month of being booked, managing partner Nick Turner says. He says since people are spending less money, they're cutting out unnecessary purchases and reducing entertainment spending, and "it's [getting harder] to convince people that this type of entertainment is worth their time and money."

While many business owners are counting on a new president and Democratic Congress to refuel the economy, there is a worry sweeping through businesses about increased taxes. According to Jeremy Reese, the revenue manager for the city of Fort Collins, the number of businesses that have closed or relocated in 2003 totalled 306, and since then, there have been up to 755 closed businesses. In addition to that, sales tax continues to climb. In the past five years, the total sales tax collected is \$8.3 million.

"I'll start branching off [if they're too expensive], and I'll try to find better deals somewhere else," says Tyler Clark, a senior construction management major. "I feel sorry for [businesses] because they don't choose to close. It's just the market these days." ■ Ca



Dwight Hall, head brewer at Coopersmith's bar and pub, shows one of the brewing rooms.

## Degree in Pocket, Now What? job market stale during recession

**S**pare change worked when you were younger. Only a blink ago, the curb-side lemonade stand, stocked with only the finest of refreshments from concentrate, was the pinnacle of enterprise. After you grew a few feet, you plowed a few feet of snow and you mowed a few lawns. This is where expertise in door-to-door marketing came naturally to you, a master solicitor. A babysitter. A budding entrepreneur.

Blink again to college and skip your food service, customer service, and retail jobs. Emerging from the glamorous life of mooching food, borrowing money and somehow walking out with a degree, you now wonder what comes next amid the big-league world.

Walking door-to-door to businesses in northern Colorado, you won't be surprised at what's on the mind of the neighborhood. If you hope to knock on job opportunities, beware – you might not recognize them immediately. Have the hedge trimmer handy for what's behind that door, or as the political catchphrase goes, "It's the economy, stupid."

### the outlook: national vs. local

Headlines scream all over the country. Housing values plummet like consumer confidence ratings. A corporation announces another mass layoff, and access to credit gets tougher and tougher. But to what extent does the local economy mirror what's happening nationally?

Although Colorado economically fared well in 2008 when compared to other states, the last few months indicate that our luck is shifting. Colorado is also in jeopardy of suffering from national blows.

Colorado's unemployment rate has fallen under the national average through the worst of times: it was 5.8 percent in February, 2009, compared to 8.1 percent nationally.

In fact, "We've actually had job growth in the state," said John Kefalas, the state representative to Colorado House District 52. "In northern Colorado, we have been somewhat isolated from the worst aspects of this recession."

Since 2004, job growth in Colorado has exceeded the national average, according to a report distributed by the Colorado Legislative Council.

So what happened?

Colorado ended 2008 on "a down note," with unemployment rising 7,800 in December to a total of 167,600 for 2008,

contrasting the 2007 total of 109,000, according to the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment.

"Although we have weathered the myriad of economic woes afflicting the nation better than most states, mounting evidence suggests that Colorado entered recession in the last quarter of 2008," said Donald J. Mares, the CDLE executive director, in a press release in December 2008.

In January 2009, Martin Shields, an associate professor in economics at Colorado State University and northern Colorado's regional economist, and his colleague David Keyser, revised the 2009 Northern Colorado Economic Outlook, which was originally released in October 2008.

They predict a sluggish economy. Rather than a 1.9 percent increase in job growth for 2009, as was originally predicted, the revised total is only estimated to be at 0.1 percent for the region. That translates to the creation of a mere 230 jobs in Larimer and Weld Counties.

"While we knew the national recession would affect northern Colorado, our earlier numbers did not anticipate the sheer magnitude of the problems that have emerged over an incredibly short time," said Shields in a press release in January 2009. "If there's a bright side, it's that the region is doing significantly better than most other places."

Keyser agreed that conditions in the region could be worse.

"At this point, zero employment growth is pretty big," Keyser said.

Corporate folks, legislators and laypersons alike can't help but fear "uncertainty." People fear it in Fort Collins, as others fear it around the country.

Kefalas said many constituents have expressed concern for job losses, whether around town or in the private sector.

Students, too, are expressing this fear as they search for jobs.

### be ready for anything

There will always be churning of the economy – and jobs, too. People will leave jobs no matter how daunting the economy seems, whether to quit, relocate, retire, give birth, you name it. But with a forecast of only 0.1 percent job growth for the region in 2009, it is harder to squeeze into a job this time around.

This means that students landing a job won't come easy.

You might have to endure many setbacks, too, in the process. “When there’s a downturn, you have to try harder, and there aren’t going to be as many jobs available,” Keyser said. “Regardless of the economic outlook, it’s always hard for seniors at CSU to get a job here in northern Colorado.”

He said a lot of hiring “depends on things you got involved with before you graduated – like doing internships, and getting hands-on experience with companies around the area.”

Keyser and Shields regularly communicate with area employers. Keyser stressed the importance of networking, establishing relationships and knowing which occupations are in demand. He predicted job growth in health care, natural resources and mining.

He also offered students the tip of utilizing resources within CSU, since the university is the largest employer in Larimer County and has “a huge stabilizing effect on the economy.”

“A lot of the employers around here have experience with CSU,” he said. “So if you’re trying to get a job in Colorado, I’d really recommend to start out going for employers who have a relationship with CSU, for example by going to the Career Fair, or going down to the Career Center.”

Mark Durand, an instructor in the College of Business, said that students can reshape how they think about uncertainty.

“Most people don’t embrace uncertainty as an opportunity,” he said. A consultant to companies around Colorado, Durand said that the economy could help weed out weaker companies and, subsequently, jobs that students ultimately wouldn’t want.

He also sees the graduates’ plight as a matter of “retooling to slot into the new environment.”

“Be prepared for digging-digging-digging, network-network-network, dead end-dead end-dead end,” he said. “Persistence and perseverance are going to be some of the top tickets. Might it be lean in the short-term? Yes.”

Renee Welch, the assistant director of the Career Center, agreed that students must creatively and proactively adapt to an uncertain economy.

“In the past, students have had the liberty to have a much more focused job search,” Welch said. “Now, we have to help students be much more creative in how they understand opportunities that are being presented to them.”

Students can “eventually get to the ideal career,” Welch said, “but it may not be in the exact kind of process or direction in which they originally thought that they’d get there.”

## contingencies and alternatives

Of course, not all students are concerned about the immediate hunt for the perfect – or shabby – job. Some students prepare for economic hardship by planning contingencies, as if drawing specifications to a fire escape route.

Lance Collette, a December graduate in liberal arts, follows the plan of playing it safe and having a relaxed attitude. He said he is keeping his job at Uncle’s Pizzeria, a joint at College Avenue and Prospect Road, for the next six months to a year before he will “maybe get a little more career-oriented.”

“I think that as long as I have a secure position there, I can make end’s meet,” Collette said. “Right now, at my age, I’m not worried about becoming wealthy.”

Collette, a native of Dallas, Texas, said he hasn’t given too much thought to his long-term career objectives. He said he might, however, eventually start up a business back in his home state. But before then, he might also move back home, as a safeguard to economic woes.

“I know that my parents would welcome me back to their house at any time,” Collette said. “With possibly having to move back in for a year, I’m not as stressed out as some people might be. I think that causes me less anxiety.”

Collette reasons that the economy will bounce back, and that this interim presents a fine opportunity to enjoy whatever he wants to do, like travel.

“I feel like it’s better to travel while I’m young, instead of selling my soul to Satan and just doing the 9-to-5 grind,” he said. “Right now, I’d rather just get by, and be able to have a little free time – do what I want to, do what I choose to – instead of being forced to do a 40-hour work week where you can’t get a break.”

A little free time, a little travel, a little time to relax and enjoy? This is what Collette and some seniors look to do. This is an option in even an uncertain economy, an option that only requires a shrug and a free spirit. And spare change. ■ Ca

## by the numbers breakout:

598,000 jobs were cut in the united states in jan. 2009

26-year high for first-time unemployment benefits in Dec. 2008

5.8 percent: colorado’s unemployment rate compared to 8.1 percent: nationally reported on March 6, 2009

dec. 2007 is the official start of the current recession

*\* according to the national bureau of economic research*

2.3 percentage points: how much the national employment rate rose since Dec. 2007

3.6 million: job loss since 2007 as of Feb. 2009

*\* according to CNNMoney.com*

3,377 national mass layoff total in late Dec. 2008

## 5 tips for job searching in an uncertain economy.

1. **network.** your connections are an important part of the process, welch said. use any networked connections you have and know the value of meeting people.

2. **don't look in one place.** they're only one place to look, and that's only if a company chooses to post to job boards, or announce job openings period. "generally organizations will post things internally," welch said.

3. **find what's unique about you.** "if you don't find the thing about yourself that sets you apart from all of your other peers who are graduating with the exact same degree," welch said, "the employer's not going to know why they should hire you." you should also know how to creatively market yourself to an employer to show the value you add to an organization.

4. **get a watch.** a student's timeline for job hunting doesn't always match an employer's timeline for hiring. "a smart student is going to understand that an employer can start making offers much, much earlier than you think that they can," welch said.

5. **the big one.** a timeless piece of advice for students of all ages: "it's never really too early to begin the job search process," welch said.

\* for these and other tips, or for guidance on how to follow through, consult the career center at [career.colostate.edu](http://career.colostate.edu) or 970.491.5707

\* information courtesy of renee welch



## Enhancing Your Job Search Strategy in an Uncertain Economy:

■ Create a focused resume to match each job description you apply for.

■ If you experience a gap in employment take action

Volunteer  
Obtain part-time employment  
Consider an internship  
Take the opportunity to learn something new and build your skill set

■ Meet people through networking

Stay in touch with people you meet  
Update your Facebook status to reflect what you are looking for ( ex. graduating and looking for advice on \_\_\_ industry; relocating to Texas and would like to meet some new people...)  
Become active in CSU's Alumni Association  
Become active in community groups related to your hobbies and sports  
Get involved in a professional organization related to your field

■ Don't rely on job boards

Research companies within the industry and region you would like to live (check out Career Shift at [career.colostate.edu](http://career.colostate.edu))  
Contact companies you are interested in working for

■ Set yourself apart

Find something about yourself that sets you apart from peers with similar degrees and experience

■ Offer to work for an employer on a trial (payment free) basis

■ Don't hold out for your "ideal" job, be open to opportunities that are presented and develop skills and become more marketable for the future.

■ Think, innovative and sell the skills that enable you to think and create

■ Explore options beyond your major

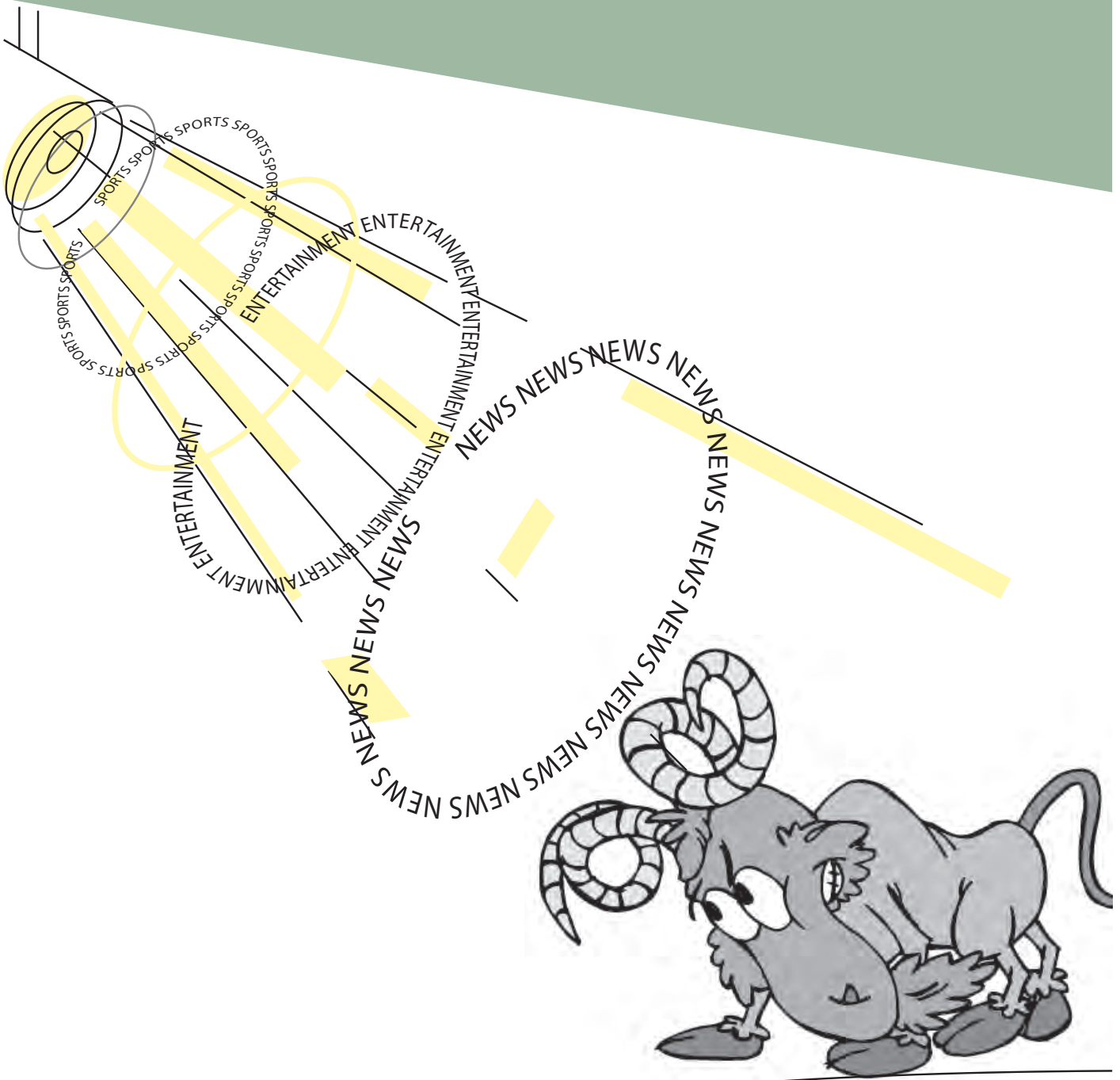
■ Work with Friends

Share an apartment  
Brainstorm what you can do with your skills

■ Meet with a CSU Career Center Counselor/Liaison

LSC, Lower Level - Rm 26  
[career.colostate.edu](http://career.colostate.edu)  
970.491.5707

# Spotlighting CSU news since 1891



THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN  
**COLLEGIAN**

# Gluttonous for Gluten

## wheat awareness rises in community

For the most part, I can't remember a moment in time from childhood through freshman year in college that I didn't have a stomachache. And not just your run-of-the-mill upset stomach, but a perpetual, nagging pain mixed with the feeling one often gets after eating their weight in food.

My mom is the same way.

It was always the two of us, lying on the couch after eating and wondering what we could have possibly consumed that pushed us into the fetal position just hours after.

Now we know we're both gluten intolerant, and we both laugh at the fact that we used to say, "All I had was a piece of toast," or "All I ate were a few crackers. Why are we so sick?"

The answer? Being gluten intolerant, and not knowing at the time, means we are allergic to most forms of gluten, including wheat, soy, rye and oats, among a list of dozens more.

My mom and I were lucky enough to escape the extreme form of gluten intolerance known as Celiac Disease, an autoimmune disease where the body attacks itself to eliminate gluten in the system.

### living with the disease

Twenty-year-old Fort Collins' resident Kristen Trujillo, however, was not as lucky, and as a result, was forced to transform her entire lifestyle to accommodate her severe food allergy.

As a result of her premature birth, Trujillo's stomach tract never fully developed and she lives with a persistent state of stomach pain and sickness.

As the situation grew worse over the years — sometimes elevating to a point that prevented her from getting out of bed — Trujillo's physician began to suspect she had Celiac Disease.

Trujillo, much like the doctor's daughter, exhibited some of the common symptoms of Celiac Disease including bloating, nausea, vomiting, migraines and mood swings, after eating foods containing gluten.

"Even the smell of [gluten] makes me sick," said Trujillo, as she described her story of living with the disease. "I have to watch out — the smell of beer or walking into a Subway would make me sick.

If someone is cooking bread, that strong of a scent makes me feel ill. It brings back the feeling as if I ate [gluten]."

Trujillo's physician spared her the discomfort of invasive endoscopies, where a biopsy of the small intestine is taken and examined, and instead confirmed his earlier suspicions with positive blood results.

After her diagnosis, Trujillo had to revamp her lifestyle.

Initial shopping trips for gluten-free foods lasted hours because Trujillo and her mother had to read every label and check the ingredients with a list of about 50 off-limit ingredients.

Living in Monte Vista at the time, a small town in southern Colorado, Trujillo did not have access to health stores like those in Fort Collins from Whole Foods to Vitamin Cottage to Sunflower Market, which sell gluten-free products. To compensate, Trujillo's mother bought rice flour and prepared pizzas, pastas and other foods to satisfy the culinary hole in Trujillo's life.

As if eliminating vast numbers of food from her diet was not enough of a challenge, Trujillo said she later discovered her gluten sensitivity was more severe than anticipated.

In her senior year of high school at cheer camp, Trujillo borrowed a teammate's lotion and developed a severe rash across her arms, legs and stomach hours later. After doctors took a skin graph from her stomach, they determined the lotion contained gluten.

From that moment, Trujillo had to replace her shampoo, conditioner, lip balms, lotions, makeup and hairspray with gluten-free products.

"Anything you could think of, I had to change," she said. "I went from having to change one lifestyle to changing to another lifestyle."

Trujillo's mother had to "gluten-free" the house, getting rid of foods and laundry detergents that contained the protein and enforced a house-wide, gluten-free diet — something Trujillo's brother and sister were not happy with.

Kristen's mother Janette Trujillo said Kristen was in denial after she was first diagnosed with the disease but said she came to terms with her situation because she was constantly sick.

"Once we were able to get her away from things with gluten it was better," Janette said. "She is more healthy now that she can absorb nutrients again."

At the present, Kristen is thankful for the increased level of Celiac



photo illustration by lisa streeb

## northern colorado restaurants with gluten-free menu options

### csu dining halls

beau jo's colorado style pizza  
100 n. college ave.  
college & mountain  
fort collins, co 80524  
970.498.8898

biaggi's ristorante italiano  
5929 sky pond dr.  
loveland, co 80538  
970.663.0100 \* [biaggis.com](http://biaggis.com)

carrabba's italian grill  
1212 oakridge dr.  
fort collins, co 80524  
970.225.6800 \* [carrabbas.com](http://carrabbas.com)

outback steak house  
807 e. harmony rd.  
fort collins, co 80521  
970.229.0889 \* [outback.com](http://outback.com)

mug's coffee lounge  
261 s. college ave.  
fort collins, co 80524  
970.472.6847 \* [mugscoffeelounge.com](http://mugscoffeelounge.com)

spoons soups & salads  
172 n. college ave., fort collins, co  
970.493.6800  
1118 w. elizabeth st., fort collins, co  
970.493.8808 \* [espoons.com](http://espoons.com)

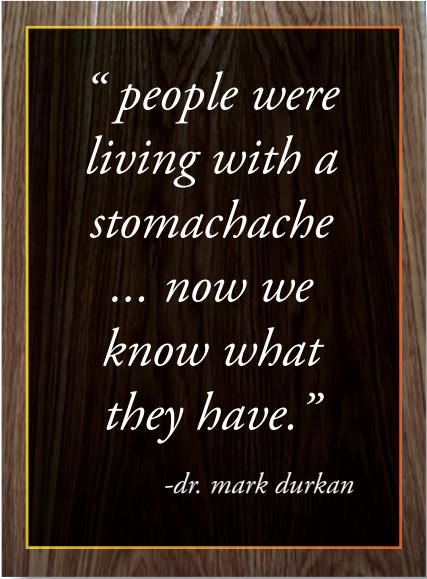
mimi's café  
1450 fall river dr.  
loveland, co 80538  
970.461.9888 \* [mimiscafe.com](http://mimiscafe.com)

Disease awareness in society because she doesn't have to explain her condition to people at length anymore and isn't counted off as a "psychological nut."

"No one had any idea what I was talking about and thought I was making it up," said Kristen, about telling restaurant waiters and friends about the disease. "At first, I had to explain to people in detail ... now, I just say I'm allergic to gluten and people say 'OK.'"

As far as her advice to people who are diagnosed with Celiac Disease, Kristen said to take advantage of the number of gluten free options available and to stick to the diet no matter what.

"Don't ever cheat on it, it's not worth it," she said. "With the long-term effects, it's definitely not worth the taste in your mouth at the moment."



*"people were  
living with a  
stomachache  
... now we  
know what  
they have."*

*-dr. mark durkan*

## at the root of gluten and celiac disease

In our fast-paced, fast food nation, on-the-go convenience is packaged in boxes of breakfast cereal bars, pre-made sandwiches, pizzas, crackers and other quick and delightful goodies. And while these culinary conveniences save the average person time and energy preparing meals, for people with Celiac Disease, they are no more than a one-way ticket to a series of medical problems.

Gluten is a water-soluble protein that is found most commonly in grass-related grains such as wheat, rye, oats, triticale - a hybrid grain made of wheat and rye - and barley. Because of its binding and thickening qualities, gluten is used in more than just bread and crackers. According to the Web site [Gluten-Casein Free.com](http://Gluten-Casein Free.com), gluten comes in many forms including: malt, grain starches, soy sauce, grain alcohol and flavorings.

Human's small intestines, working in junction with other digestive organs, are lined with microscopic, finger-like projections called villi, which absorb the nutrients in food.

Celiac Disease, also known as gluten intolerance, celiac spruce, or gluten-sensitive enteropathy, is a severe digestive allergy to a protein called gluten. If a person with the disease eats gluten, the body will try to reject it. Because Celiac Disease is an autoimmune disease, where the body attacks itself to eliminate threats, the immune system's reaction to the gluten damages the villi.

Dr. Mark Durkan, a gastroenterology expert at the Center for Gastroenterology in Fort Collins, said the body tears the tops off the villi, a scene he compared to a group of "chopped off" fingers.

As the villi become more and more damaged over time, the affected person is unable to absorb necessary nutrients like iron and vitamin D,

among others needed for maintaining a healthy system. People who do not get enough iron are prone to anemia — a condition that Web MD explained develops when your blood lacks enough healthy red blood cells resulting in an iron deficiency — and low vitamin D levels can lead to brittle bones.

Doctors have yet to determine what causes Celiac Disease but have formulated a few hypotheses over the years. They do know that the disease occurs commonly in Caucasians but rates remain low in the African American and Hispanic demographics.

According to studies by the Children's Hospital, it is estimated that one in 133 people in the United States has Celiac Disease. If a person has the disease, there is a 5 to 10 percent chance another member of his or her immediate family has it as well.

Durken said that doctors now believe people are "genetically predisposed" to developing Celiac Disease but have not nailed down a specific cause.

"If [the cure to CD] were fully known, I think I'd get the Nobel Prize," said Durkan, laughing.

When asked if more people have been diagnosed with the disease recently, Durkan said the Celiac awareness rate, not the diagnostic rate, has increased significantly in the last year.

"The number of people with the disease is not increasing," Durkan explained. "We are just finding it more and more often. Before, people were living with a stomachache all the time and didn't know why. Now they know what it is they have."

## living gluten-free at csu

In the 2008 spring semester, Colorado State University Housing and Dining Services added gluten-free foods to its dining hall menus to accommodate students with Celiac Disease.

"We just started getting more and more calls from prospective students and people who were coming in the summer who said they couldn't have gluten," said Cynthia Lategan, HDS' executive chef.

Students can now get gluten-free foods like grilled chicken, brisket and carved turkey at Corbett Marketplace, and specialty items like brownies, rice cakes and gluten-free salad dressings from the two "gluten-free" fridges in Braiden Residence Hall.

And while these gluten-free food stations are unique to Corbett and Braiden, gluten-free products are available by request at any of the dining halls.

Whitney Smith, a CSU graduate student and registered dietician at Harthshorn Health Services, said she often recommends students with Celiac Disease to talk to the HDS residence directors to learn what gluten-free food is available and where they can eat.

Smith said when meeting with a person who was recently diagnosed with Celiac Disease, the dieticians talk them through their frustration and let them know they have options.

"It's tough, because a lot of times you ask them their favorite foods and they say breads and pasta," Smith said. "You have to be willing to work with them and figure out alternatives. It's nice that there are more gluten-free options now as compared to five, or 10 years ago." ■ **Ca**

## definitions:

**gastroenterology:** is the branch of medicine whereby the digestive system and its disorders are studied. [righthealth.com](http://righthealth.com)

**celiac disease (CD):** is a lifelong, digestive disorder affecting children and adults. When people with CD eat foods that contain gluten, it creates an immune-mediated toxic reaction that causes damage to the small intestine and does not allow food to be properly absorbed. [celiac.org](http://celiac.org)

**villi:** one of the minute finger-shaped processes of the mucous membrane of the small intestine that serve in the absorption of nutriment. [merriam-webster.com](http://merriam-webster.com)

## foods containing gluten

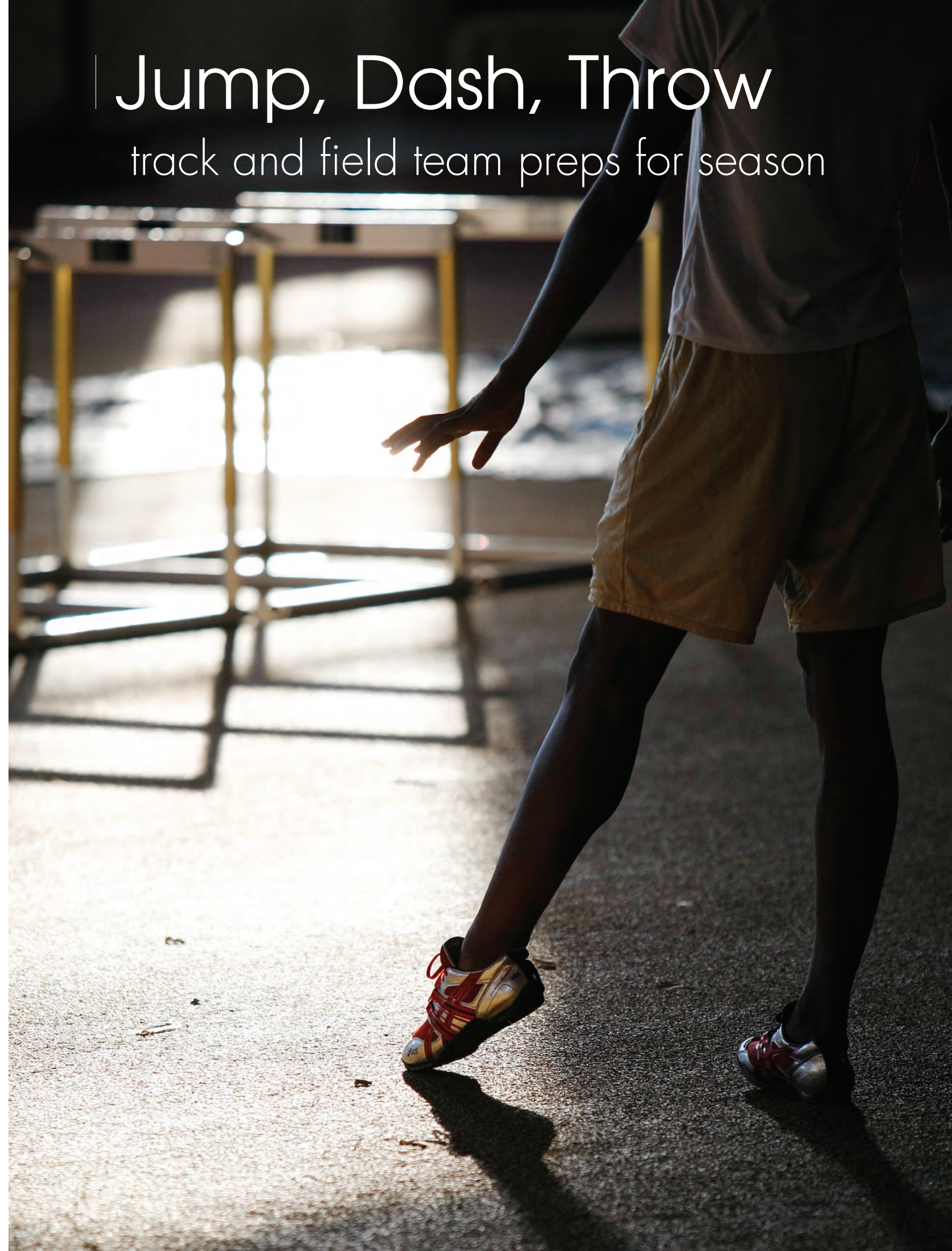
malt vinegar  
 malted cereal or farina cereal  
 prepared gravies or gravy packages  
 many types of soup  
 baked beans or chili  
 some salad dressings  
 certain brands of sausages  
 pate  
 stock cubes or bouillon  
 less expensive cold cuts  
 rye  
 unbleached flour  
 wheat, blugur  
 couscous  
 barley  
 bran  
 beer



\* information courtesy of [celiac.com](http://celiac.com)

# | Jump, Dash, Throw

track and field team preps for season



photos by katie stevens

caston mabin clears the bar for a high jump practice at the field house on jan. 27.



caston mabin, inches above the high jump bar at the field house on jan. 27.



a long jumper holds form mid air before landing in the sand pit at the field house on feb. 4.



tanesha johnson warms up using hurdles before her practice routine on jan. 27.

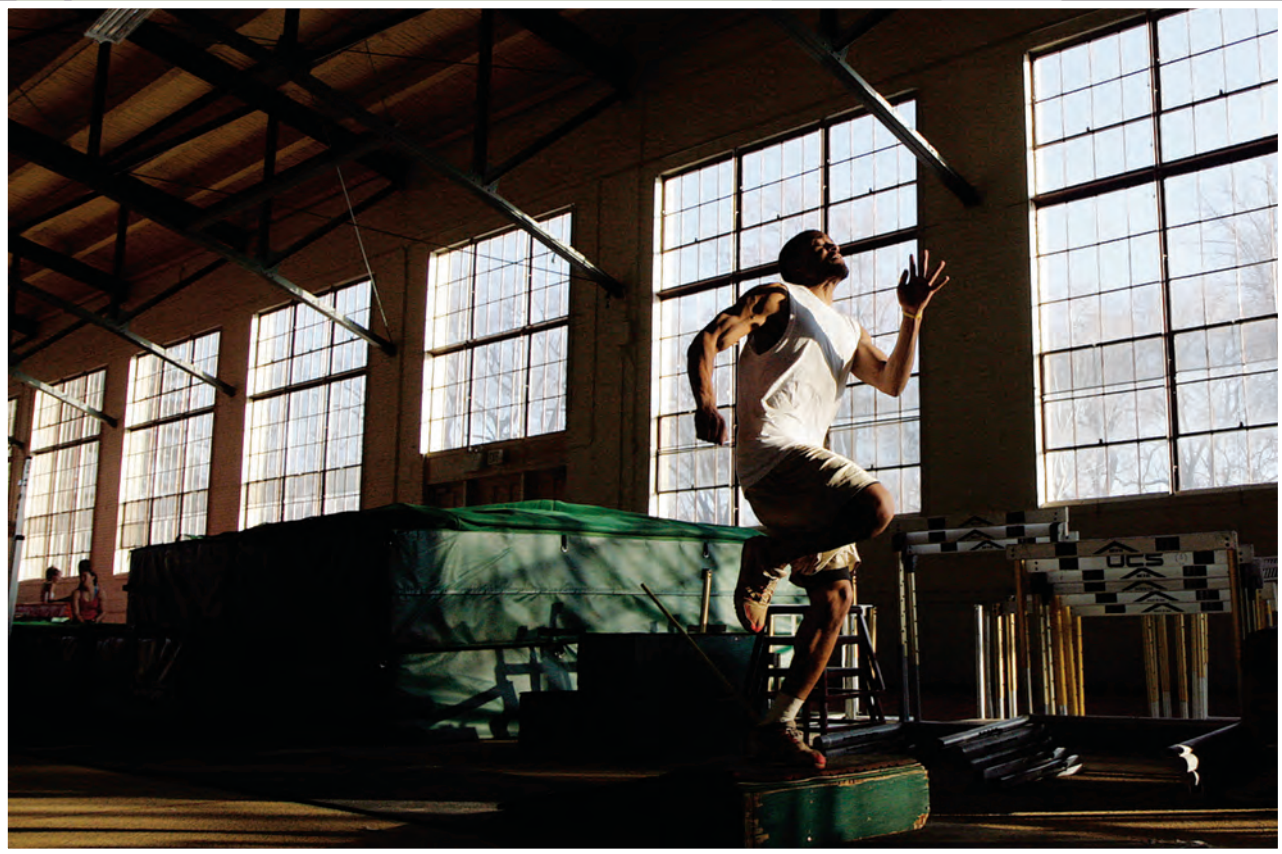


serena johnson practices a wieght throw at the fieldhouse as other shotput throwers wait their turn on jan. 27.

while a runner jogs a warm up lap, a weight thrower practices her throw feb. 4.



jason schutz, an assistant throws coach, prepares to release a discus.



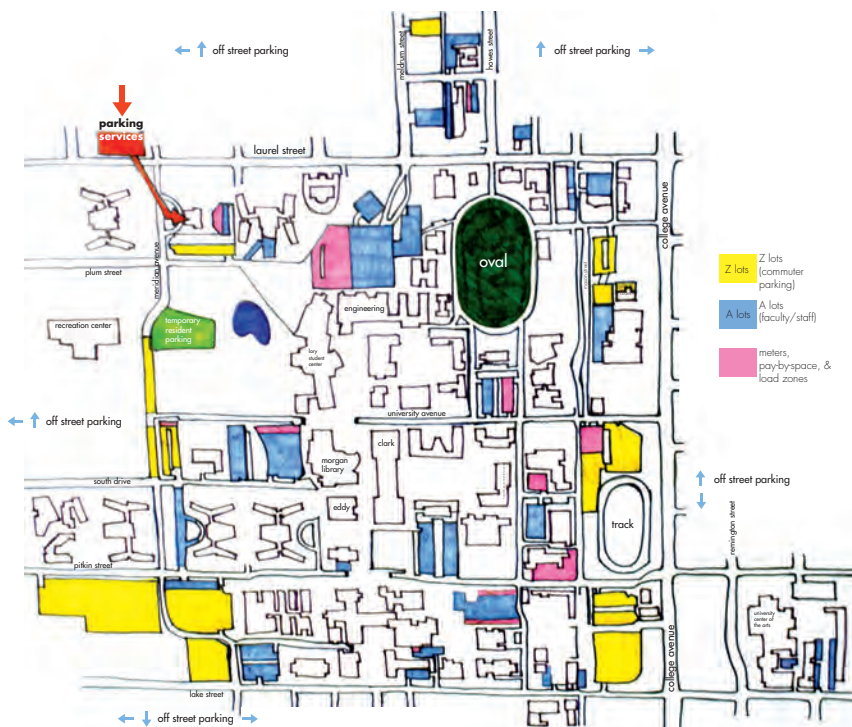
ryan billups is about to launch himself into the air for a long jump practice run at the fieldhouse indoor practice track on tuesday, jan. 27.



junior thrower meagan berg, with her weight at her feet on feb. 4.

# Commuter Parking Zen

## avoid tickets & find peace on campus



original map courtesy of parking.colostate.edu, map recreated by makayla braden  
\* for more exact locations, see map on parking.colostate.edu

**Y**ou're driving like a maniac, running late for class. Again. And ugh! Every space in your favorite commuter parking lot is full. The cars are circling like sharks around a kill. Do you whip through the lot, and race on to another? Or is it best to join the sharks and wait for leaving prey?

A little planning can take you off the shark circuit, as can patience, and knowing some rules of the commuter parking game.

### plan ahead

You might say Mary Wolber, a junior restaurant resort management major, is a parking expert because she has never been ticketed. And she always gets a space. Her secret? Preparation.

"If class is over at 10:50 a.m., I'll make sure I'm here at 10:50 a.m.," says Wolber of her favorite lot near Hartshorn Health Services.

Wolber says she also avoids the most popular lots, like Hartshorn and Green Hall, between 8 and 10 a.m. – the busiest times – and she pays attention to signs identifying each lot.

Doug Mayhew, assistant director of Colorado State University Parking Services, suggests that commuters have a backup plan, so that when their favorite lots fail, they know where to park. For instance, lot 240, which is merely 10 feet from lot 505 on Meridian Avenue and Pitkin Street, usually has open spaces, but people habitually park in the same place says Mayhew.

"Our lot surveys last fall show that spaces are available," Mayhew says. "But they're not always where people want to go."

### get smart

Ignorance may be bliss, but it could result in a fine.

For instance, did you know that parking over the line is a violation? Some spaces aren't big enough for Vespas, let alone SUVs. Still, take care to park within space markers, or risk a \$30 ticket.

When space is scarce, ticketing space-hogging parkers seems fair enough, but Parking Services enforcement supervisor Jeremy Dawson says this violation is tough to enforce and is at the discretion of ticket writers.

"You have to look at all the cars in the line," Dawson says. "Sometimes it's hard to see which car parked over first and caused the others to be off."

Permit violations, like parking without the proper permit or lacking a permit, account for 53 percent of tickets, says Mayhew. So pay attention. Every lot has enforcement hours posted and at 7:30 a.m. enforcers are on the job.

There's no break the first week of school either – ticketing begins the first day of each semester – but be aware of changes when you return from breaks.

Campus construction can change lot designations, too. Mayhew says Parking Services posts warning signs and postpones ticketing in those areas, but if your favorite Z-lot is no longer for commuters, and your first inkling of the change is the official document in government-yellow pinned under your windshield wiper, take the ticket to Parking Services in Green Hall and explain the situation. Unless you're a habitual offender, the ticket may be forgiven.

Also be aware that when you drive into a Z-lot, there may be other parking designations in the same lot, like a row or two of A-parking. Look for signs above your row.

Mayhew says signs occasionally disappear. If you swear there wasn't a sign, take a picture and file an appeal. The appeal

board will check out the situation, possibly overturn your ticket, and fix the sign.

### save money

Many people assume it's cheaper to purchase a semester permit than to buy a permit each month. But if you plan to pedal to class when the weather warms, consider saving money by purchasing monthly permits. A semester permit costs \$71 and monthly permits are \$20 a month. If you get ticketed because you forget to renew, visit Parking Services within 24 hours. As long as you buy a new permit, and are not a repeat offender, your fine may be waived.

Another way to save is to park in the lots that are free after 4 p.m., like the meters near Lory Student Center, and the Morgan Library lot. Others may be free after 7 p.m. It's all on the signs.

Ticket writers at CSU are students, so spring and winter breaks go unenforced. With planning you can save money by postponing your permit renewal until after break.

"Students get a break, from school and parking rules," says Mayhew of enforcement over breaks. "If there are safety violations [like cars blocking fire hydrants], we'll send out our one enforcer."

### park patiently

Spaces often come to those who wait. Most students rush through their favorite parking haunts, and if parking is not immediately available, they move on. This approach can take just as long as watchfully waiting for a departing car, and this lot-to-lot race fuels campus car congestion.

Slow down, even pull to the side, and watch for approaching students. To save fuel and reduce pollution, switch off the car while you wait.

Patience and a positive parking attitude will surely pay off, or at least reduce stress. Occasionally, you'll be late to class, whether you race from lot-to-lot or stay put.

Even if you get a ticket, it pays to be patient.

One ticket writer, who spoke on condition of anonymity, recommends that commuters behave graciously after receiving a ticket.

"Obviously whenever you get a ticket, you're going to be upset," she says. "But even the people at the cash register are more likely to be lenient with you if you're polite."

Are you beginning to sense a theme? The Parking Services employees are people, too.

"We're not out there to try to trick and fool," Mayhew says.

Ticket writers say they don't like to ticket other students. Some students have been yelled at, or even threatened while writing tickets. For this reason, student ticket writers don't wear uniforms and maintain a low-key presence while working.

With courtesy and knowledge, commuters can improve their parking experience and help enforcers, too. By noticing sign details, slowing the pace, and learning the rules, you can make commuting to CSU one less thing to stress over. ■ Ca

9487602049820486072048

## Parking Summons

citation #: 393859

### PERMIT INFORMATION

permits sold from July 1, 2008 - Feb. 11, 2009

faculty staff:	3,710
commuter:	6,508
resident hall:	2,818

### VIOLATIONS



-for complete descriptions of all parking violations, see csu parking regulations at [parking.colostate.edu](http://parking.colostate.edu)

### FINED

handicap stalls:	\$100
load zone 20 min:	\$50
overtime at meter:	\$20
parked in no parking area:	\$30
yellow curb/over yellow line:	\$30
wrong parking pass/no pass:	\$30
at red curb/over red line:	\$50

according to a permit rates press release housed on the parking services web site, the parking services division does not receive any tax or tuition money. all money collected from parking ventures supports the department. they use the money collected from permit sales, meter collections and fines to pay for their costs, such as new construction, maintenance of existing facilities, signage, and enforcement.

-information provided by parking services web site [parking.colostate.edu](http://parking.colostate.edu)

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fort collins, co 80523-6012  
970.491.7041



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# STUDENTmedia

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 focusing on issues related to  
 CSU students and  
 the Fort Collins community  
[www.collegeavenuemag.com](http://www.collegeavenuemag.com)



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FLIM FLAMMING WITH  
FOOL DISCLOSURE



photos by lisa streeb

from left: aaron burns, brien sponaugle, nick holland, todd giammo, and keegan hill, are members of the improv group fool disclosure.

Imagine that the Little Mermaid is a contestant on a dating show hosted by a koala in which bachelor No. 1 is the Cookie Monster and bachelor No. 2 is Harry Potter's nemesis, Lord Voldemort. This scenario is just one scene sprung from the minds of the members of Fool Disclosure.

Sitting in on one of the local improv group's weekly practice sessions in the Lory Student Center, one thing was immediately clear. From their plotting to give false and humorous information about member Aaron Burns, who was absent from the session, to the constant wise-cracking comments among each other, the chemistry that makes this group so dynamic could not be denied.

"It's just five friends on stage," junior speech communications major Keegan Hill said. "You guys are my friends, right?"

Brien Sponaugle said that the smaller size of their group creates a "tighter" performance overall, adding, "Every one of us brings a slightly different perspective and different characters."

The group, which includes both former and current Colorado State University students, has been making audiences laugh since July 2006. According to Sponaugle, one of the original members, Fool Disclosure got its start when a few students from CSU's improv program decided to branch out and do their own shows over the summer. They eventually got a

regular gig performing free shows at the Alley Cat Café in Fort Collins.

Since then, the group has lost and gained a few members. The group currently includes two other original members, Hill and CSU alumnus Todd Giammo. Burns, also a former CSU student, joined in June 2007 and sophomore English major Nick Holland got involved in October 2008.

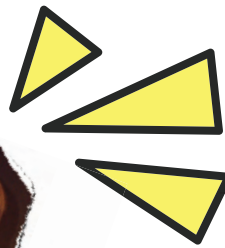
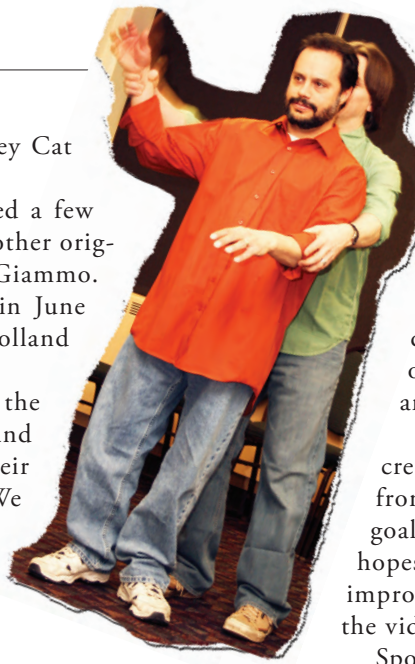
Aside from the CSU improv program, the group claims to have a very limited background in acting aside from the occasional play in their earlier school days. While the group claims, "We have no idea what we are doing," on their MySpace page, they manage to fit weekly practices into their schedules. There, they practice games and discuss what went right and what went wrong during previous shows.

While there are multiple improv groups in the area, Fool Disclosure has a few acts that the group considers unique.

According to Sponaule, their performances include more "all-out physical games," such as Most Foolish, in which two members act out a scene while blind-folded. The twist? The stage is covered in mouse traps, and both participants must remove their shoes and socks. The result of this game is an audible mixture of laughter from the audience and screams from the actors as they blindly but bravely venture across the stage in an attempt to remain composed throughout the scene.

When the group is not dodging mouse traps, their acts include, but are not limited to: singing, portraying odd-ball superheroes, and acting out scenes from movies that have never been made.

As far as live performances go, Fool Disclosure keeps busy by performing regular shows at two locations. The group puts on a Monday night show once a month at the Nonesuch Theatre in Fort Collins and make



their way down to Denver once every three months to perform in the Improv Hootenanny at the Bovine Metropolis in Denver.

As a side project, the group is also compiling improv games into a list for others to use in the future. In addition to a list and description of each game, the group is working on posting videos from their performances as examples for each game on YouTube.

The entire list is made up of games that they created, along with games that they have picked up from other groups. Sponaule said that the group's goal is to have a video for every game. Sponaule hopes that the list will help those who want to pursue improv by giving them an idea of where to start with the videos as solid examples.

Sponaule also advises those who are interested to look into improv classes such as the CSU Improv Acting club. The club, which gave Fool Disclosure its start, is free and open to anyone who wants to participate.

Most of all, Fool Disclosure simply wants to make people laugh, even though it requires making fools of themselves.

"We're not trying to make it an art form," Sponaule said. "We're more about being entertainment."

Giammo added that the fun thing about seeing an improv show is that you never know exactly what to expect.

"[Our shows are] always new and different," he said.

Sponaule added, if the promise of laughter, fresh comedy and the possibility of seeing them risk bodily harm by mouse traps isn't enough to convince you that Fool Disclosure is worth seeing, "We're cheap!" ■ Ca

CATCH FOOL DISCLOSURE'S  
NEXT LIVE PERFORMANCE:

**bovine metropolis theatre  
improv hootenanny**

1527 champa st  
denver, co 80202  
march 16, 7:30 p.m.  
\$5

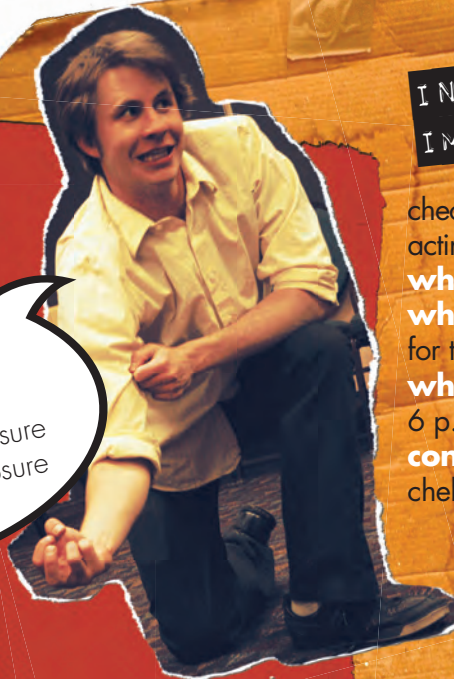
[bovinemetropolis.com](http://bovinemetropolis.com)

**nonesuch theater**

216 pine st  
fort collins, co 80524  
march 21, 10 p.m.  
\$5

[nonesuchtheater.com](http://nonesuchtheater.com)

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[chelbeth@colostate.edu](mailto:chelbeth@colostate.edu)

## GET OFF THE COUCH

College is all about having experiences, preferably ones that you can remember. Some are rites of passage, like all-nighters, drinking your weight in coffee, and suffering through classes taught by overenthusiastic professors. Others are more pleasant, like creating lifelong friendships, discovering a new passion or skill, and sleeping on the lawn of the Lory Student Center on a fresh spring day.

Some experiences cannot be avoided, but for others, it is up to you to have them. Great things are not achieved from the comfort of your futon. One of the most exciting things you can do is see a new place, especially in the company of friends. Braving Interstate Highway 25 to see a concert in Denver is admirable, but it cannot compare to a down and dirty road trip, or a trip across borders.

It can be as simple as a weekend spent camping, or an adventure worthy of an R-rated movie. It's up to you and your friends. But whatever you decide, take a hint from the VERB campaign, and DO SOMETHING.

Let's say, hypothetically, of course, you chose Colorado State University not because it was as far away as you could get from your parents and stay within the state, but because of its 300 days of sunshine, numerous wild areas and central location in the continental United States. That would give you a lot to choose from.

### the great outdoor

Let's start with baby steps in the world of travel. Colorado boasts 43 national parks, some of which you may actually want to visit, as well as dozens of other suitable camping refuges. Overnight camping permits can be obtained for less than the price of a hotel room, and they come with free fresh air. Drunken fireworks exhibitions are frowned upon, so be sure to check the regulations of each park. Everything you ever wanted to know about Colorado state parks can be found at their Web site [parks.state.co.us](http://parks.state.co.us). For those adventurous enough to get off of the paved camping slot, the Bureau of Land Management offices located in most cities can point you toward a more secluded destination.

background images courtesy of xsc.hu



### who's ready for a road trip?

Let's face it: camping isn't for everyone. Anyone who is afraid to part with their beloved Facebook feed and warm shower may need to consider a different sort of vacation. If you are broke as . . . uh, broke can be, a road trip may be more your style. Let's do the math on this one: most cars hold five people, and a hotel room split five ways is pretty cheap, after you deduct the price of personal space and gas. You could get really ambitious and rent a passenger van from Enterprise Rent-A-Car, but keep in mind that they are not allowed in all states, and carrying more than 15 passengers requires a commercial driver's license, which I'm willing to bet that most of you don't have. Contrary to popular belief, you do not have to be 25 to rent a car. Different companies and locations have their own rules, but 21 generally is accepted. The lucky 18 year old may be able to rent from some companies by paying an additional fee.

### colorado adventure

The Colorado Information Web site offers many compromises for campers and road trippers. The site features visitor's guides for many cities in the state (at least everywhere you would want to go.) It also hosts listings of cabins, bungalows, hotels and vacation packages around the state. Package prices are often cheaper in the off-season, especially in the mountain towns, though skiing is not included due to a lack of snow. There are five ski resorts that boast alpine slides, otherwise known as harrowing three-minute heart attacks. Hiking, biking, swimming, and sightseeing are also common attractions.



photo illustration by clinton brewer

### beyond the borders

If the razor-straight borders of Colorado cannot contain you, why not take advantage of the U.S. Interstate system and hit the road? Las Vegas is only 12 hours away, which is just five Red Bulls from Fort Collins. Los Angeles -16 hours (seven Red Bulls!) and New York- 27 hours (17 Red Bulls, one night in a hotel and five more Red Bulls!) The Web site [free.trip.com](http://free.trip.com), a free tool to help you plan your trip, is complete with speed advisories, steep grade warnings and accommodations. Hotel or motel choices can be sorted from 5-stars down to free hypodermics with every room. The Rand McNally Web Site also has a trip planner, and it includes local attractions. (Giant Elvis made of cheese, anyone?)

When it comes to selecting a place to sleep on your intrepid journey, don't choose the parking lot at Wal-Mart. It's illegal. You might try a hostel, though. They are difficult to explain, so I suggest you Google them and read the descriptions they provide for themselves. As it turns out, they aren't just for Europeans and hippies.

The Web site [hostels.com](http://hostels.com) boasts that there are "26,802 hostels and other cheap places to stay worldwide." It allows patrons to sort by country and city for places to stay, complete with online booking tools. Different locations are rated by previous visitors, helping separate the horror-movie sets from happy, clean places to sleep. With the rates and services offered at many hostels, one wonders why pay for a prissy, bourgeois hotel?

Of course there are many hostels listed online, each belonging to different organizations. While some organizations require memberships, they are very inexpensive, and they do come with some perks. Members of Hostelling International even get flight discounts through American Airlines.

### taking the easy way out

If you are like me and don't want to be required to do anything at all to plan your vacation, an all-inclusive package trip should hit the spot. Any travel agent worth their frequent flier miles should be able to help you select a destination within your price range. All-inclusive packages typically cover roundtrip airfare, lodging, food, some activities, and occasionally adult beverages. Catering to the lazy world traveler, all-inclusives are almost always located in a tropical setting and are generally very laid back. I like to pretend I'm Hollywood royalty and can't take care of myself when at such resorts.

According to Heather Moss, a veteran travel agent at Fort Collins Bon Voyage Travel, Mexico and the Dominican Republic are the best values for all-inclusive resorts. She recommends using an experienced agent rather than an online site.

"Use us to be your advocate. We know little tricks to find something really good," she said.

Since there is not technically an off-season in many of the tropical destinations, Moss advises travelers to book in advance, to avoid the major holidays, and spring break, which begins in February through early April.

### making the most of a bad situation

Many destinations are feeling the pain of our diseased economy and are offering specials as a result. Check with a travel agent for deals abroad, and the commerce Web sites of domestic destinations for the latest deals.

For travelers on a budget, some resorts offer European packages, in which food and drink is a la carte. I don't know why anyone would pick this because it can be pricey. Also, there's a risk of not having purified water to prepare the non-resort food. They don't call it Montezuma's Revenge for nothing. Believe me.

### just go man, just go

When it comes down to it, it doesn't matter where you go, just that you finally saw a piece of the world. Things are nice to have, but it's the experiences that make life truly rich. Since 95 percent of you are poor college kids, getting something for your credit card debt is important. Wherever your journey takes you: have fun, be safe, take lots of pictures, and don't take your travel van to Florida. ■ Ca

### LEAVING FORT COLLINS . . .

LAS VEGAS	811 MILES	12 HOURS
LOS ANGELES	1078 MILES	16 HOURS
NEW YORK CITY	1782 MILES	27 HOURS
HOUSTON	1175 MILES	17.5 HOURS
SEATTLE	1253 MILES	18 HOURS
KALAMAZOO	1136 MILES	16.5 HOURS

SOURCE: GOOGLE MAPS

## Loan

# recession takes toll on csu students

**C**olorado State University students are feeling it. They're feeling the crushing weight of their tuition debt on their shoulders. They're feeling the looming pressure of finding a job in a weak job market. Like many Americans, they're feeling the effects of a weakening economy.

Christie Leighton, the associate director for Student Financial Services, said SFS has received about 16,000 more applications for financial aid for the 2008 – 2009 school year than they did for the 2007 – 2008 year.

In addition, the amount of money being allocated to student and parent direct loans is up from \$95 million in the 2007 – 2008 school year to \$107 million for the 2008 – 2009 school year. Leighton said students should not encounter problems with getting loans because CSU is a direct loan school, with the money coming from the government as opposed to coming from banks.

"We have not been notified of any cuts in the financial aid system ... yet," she said. "We really don't know [if we will see cuts]."

Trish Torrez, the accounts receivable manager at CSU, said students are saying it's harder to get credit approval for loans, but despite this, they are still getting loans. She said this is obvious because many unemployed people are returning to school, and many of them are receiving loans.

However, students who are seeking alternative loans, which come from banks, may be having a hard time getting approved because some banks – including Bank of America, Wachovia and Key Bank – have dropped out of the lending program for reasons unknown to CSU, Leighton said.

Although students are not having problems receiving loans, some are having problems paying their loans and semester fees back, which Torrez said has a direct tie to the poor state of the economy.

She said she doesn't have comparable data to the 2007 – 2008 school year, but that she can say there are less people who are able to pay back their Perkin's loans, which come directly from CSU, not the government, and are paid back when a student is no longer enrolled half the time.

"It's not that they [students] don't want to pay us [the school], it's that they can't," she said.

Torrez added that students who are unable to pay their Perkin's loans are able to work with her office to find solutions to their financial woes, which can include being granted a payment delay.

"There are more options if we can get the information to them out front," she said.

Currently, there are almost 400 students with payment delays out of 5,300 students who have a balance to pay back. Students can be on a payment delay because of their financial

## types of loans:

**direct loans:** given to students and parents from the federal government and paid back to the federal government when a student has graduated or is no longer enrolled part time.

**alternative loans:** usually given to students through a bank when the student needs more money than the maximum they are eligible for from the government. for most, alternative loans are sought after when a parent, for some reason, can't take out a direct loan.

**perkin's loan:** given to students directly from csu and paid back to csu when a student graduates or is no longer is enrolled part time. this is money csu has received from the government over long periods of time. *\*information provided by christie leighton*

situation or because they are enrolled more than half the time and are not required to pay their loans back at that time, Torrez said.

While some students stay on top of finding alternative payment plans, she said others will not contact the Student Loans Receivable Office, maybe because they are embarrassed about their financial hardships or unsure how, and if, the school will help them.

“Ya know when you owe someone money, it’s hard to call them and say, ‘Hey, I know I owe you money, but I can’t pay you,’” she said.

At the end of the fall semester, Torrez estimated that there were about 400 students who had not paid back their tuition and fees for the term.

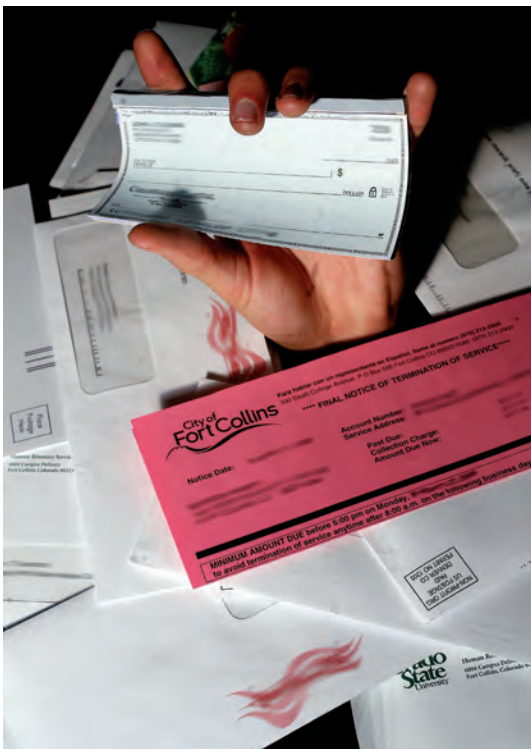
“When you look at that overall, with 30,000 students, including part timers, that’s really not that bad,” she said.

While some students are having a hard time paying for school, some are graduating into a job market that is not ready to welcome them.

Martin Shields, an associate economics professor at CSU and the northern Colorado regional economist, pointed out another effect that the bad economy is having on students.

“For people coming into the job market, I know it’s a hard time to be looking for a job,” he said. “People with and without a college degree are having a hard time because companies aren’t hiring.”

Janeen Sivon, the assistant director for student employment, said that while the variety of jobs isn’t at its best, the job market fluctuates with the times, not just with the economy. She said if the economy continues to worsen, employers may be less likely to hire, but on the other hand, employers always need help, even in an economic downturn.



▶ photo illustration by brandon iwamoto

## by the numbers:

**\$107 million:** amount loaned from the federal government for csu student and parent direct loans for 2008 -2009

**\$95 million:** amount loaned from the federal government for csu student and parent direct loans for 2007 -2008

**400:** the approximate number of students unable to pay their tuition and fees in full for the fall 2008 semester

*\*according to trish torrez*

**802,377:** the total number of layoffs in the united states between january and september of 2008

*\*according to the united states department of labor*

**16,000:** the increase in financial aid applicants at csu from 2007 -2008 school year to 2008-2009 school year

*\*according to christie leighton*

**137:** the number of jobs on ramweb job listings as of march 10

While in school, students can find jobs on RamWeb’s student job listing, which range from nanny positions to technicians to moving helpers. But now, students must put more effort into job hunting than in past years, Sivon said.

“You have to be very persistent to get a job right now,” she noted.

Shields also noted a few options for students who can’t find work.

“There’s always graduate school. The more education, the more pay you get. And volunteering. The Peace Corps. always sees an increase in volunteers [during bad economic times], and just volunteering in general. Internships and things like that are a good way to build contacts and network,” he said.

While many students are unable to gain experience in their field, Sivon said she doesn’t think there is a long-term impact involved because most jobs allow employees to gain skills and exemplify responsibility.

“I would just tell people not to get discouraged and to stay on top of their job search,” she said. “It may be a little harder to find a job right now, but they are out there.” ■ Ca



# future of learning

## new campus building will house innovative technology

photo illustrations by clinton brewer

**B**urn the transparencies, destroy the projectors, break down the blackboards and erase the boredom. Instead, mount the 3-D projectors, install High Definition sound systems, login to video conference instruction and get ready to learn like the Jetsons.

It's time to leave the monotonous classroom in the past, and make room for a more futuristic approach to attending school.

Among the dozens of construction projects on Colorado State University's campus, the Academic Instruction Building soon to be located on the once existing parking lot south of the Clark C building, will be the facility that harbors the technological tools that will change the traditional learning environment.

"I think it [the new technology] will definitely diversify and add to our learning experience," said Amanda Buck, a sophomore business administration major. "This will help CSU keep up with the curve and maintain their standards."

The Academic Instruction Building, which is expected to be completed in summer of 2010, is designed to accommodate the changing needs of a growing campus. Within its four stories there will be a 325-seat lecture hall with stadium seating, three classrooms, four seminar rooms, several group study areas, and a Wi-Fi café.

But it's not the extra space that makes this building impressive; it's the well-equipped technology within those walls that makes it worth mentioning.

Take a seat in what will be the largest lecture hall on campus, where students will not have to worry about desks smaller than textbooks or invading the personal space of a classmate. Massive enough to host a live performance or a motion picture, this classroom will become the Buell Theater of lecture halls at CSU and has a HD sound and projection system to match.

"Being the biggest lecture hall on campus, we want it to be the most comfortable," CSU Director of Facilities Brian Chase said.

Within this lecture room, students will be able to minimize their concerns about not being able to see what is on the board or hear their instructors. The projectors currently installed within classrooms will become the chalkboards of the past, for the high-tech projection system will be able to perform multiple tasks not provided in standard facilities. Instructors will be able to project on multiple screens and use old-school tools in a fresh way, such as transferring notes written on one of the three whiteboards automatically to the big screen.

"Technology for HD is becoming so advanced," Chase said. "We will eventually have IMAX quality."

But what is HD quality projection without an HD sound system? Within this same lecture hall will be two sound systems, much like ones found in high-end movie theaters, which are tailored to optimize the sound quality of an instructor's voice and presentations.

"This [full theater surround sound system] will be used with the HD projector and with movies or other types of presentations that are designed for this type of system," CSU construction consultant Norm Laurence said. "The second system is for lectures and other presentations that do not work with surround sound."

The lecture hall will not be the only tech-savvy room in the building, for other classrooms will be well-equipped with gadgets new to the university. Students will soon be seeing 3-D glasses on their list of materials, but they are not for a trip to watch the latest movie pop out from the screen, it is meant for educational purposes.

"Lucky for me, there's lots of things in geology that can benefit this treatment," said Jerry F. Magloughin, an associate professor in geosciences. "A lot of times the software is just as important as the hardware, and if I could create 3-D animations, for example, or show pseudo-3-D photos, that would be wonderful."

Professor and chair of the department of biochemistry and molecular biology at CSU Pui Shing Ho first developed a



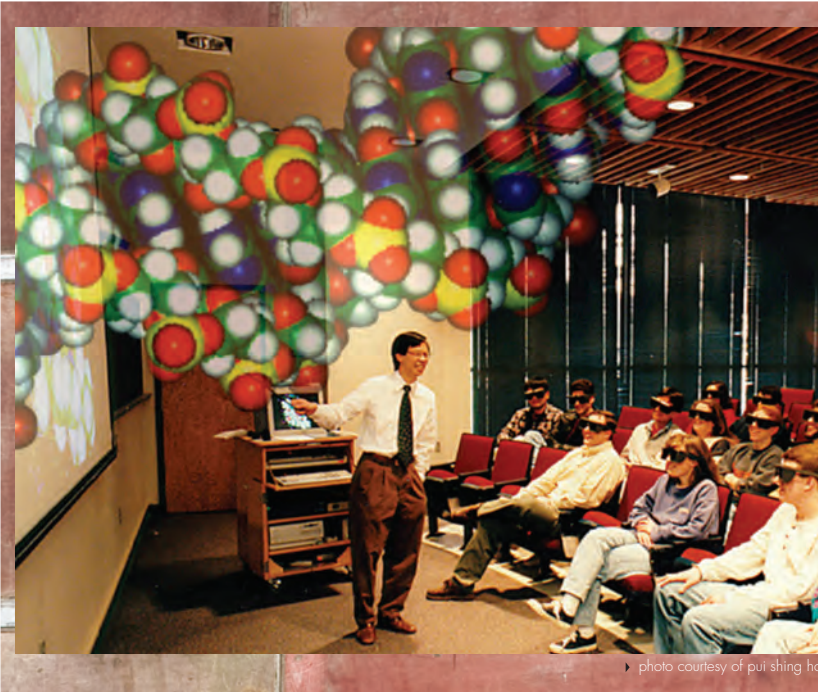


photo courtesy of pui shing ho

# 3-D stereographics

Being able to view a flat image in a completely different dimension holds more complexity than simply wearing cardboard glasses with dissimilar colored lenses. It requires the right tools and science to make an image go from 2-D straight to 3-D.

In the mid '90s, when Pui Shing Ho was teaching at Oregon State University, he took steps to create a stereographics classroom where 3-D projection can take place. And as a result, this technology allows students to learn the structural principles of subjects like chemical and biological science.

stereographics classroom at Oregon State University, where instructors possess the technology to project an image, and through special lenses, students will have the opportunity to see the object in 3-D. About a year ago, Ho originally proposed this project to CSU to add a stereographics classroom into the existing Molecular and Radiological Biosciences Building in order to give students a new tool beneficial for both educational and research purposes.

“CSU, a research intensive university, must distinguish itself from other options that students have to earn their college degrees,” Ho said. “This means exposing students to the most advanced technologies available for both teaching and research. The stereographics classroom uniquely merges the two, providing a teaching tool to visualize molecular structures, which was developed initially in research as a way to determine those structures.”

Within subjects such as biological sciences or geosciences, students and professors will be able to enhance their understanding of concepts by being able to view a physical model that cannot be found in the 2-D pages of a textbook.

“We are particularly interested in teaching students the relationship between the structures of molecules and their functions in a cell,” Ho said. “Traditionally, the structure of molecules and cells are presented in textbooks as figures on a flat page.”

Attending a lecture within these classrooms is an experience on its own, but what happens if a student cannot physically be there? Well, that is where distance learning classrooms become utilized, and students can use an interactive video conference to see and hear the lecture or presentation without having to be physically present. Distance learning classrooms will have microphones and cameras that will send images and sound to different regions of the state, country and even the world through networks similar to the Internet.

“The students in the classroom and at the remote locations can ask questions of the professor,” Laurence said. “It allows students to be involved in classes that may not be offered at their location and it allows the professors to reach a larger audience.”

These new features may be a rewarding incentive for students to attend class, but the acceptance of these new technologies by staff and faculty is still uncertain.

“It all depends on utility. Most faculty will not pour vast effort into radically revamping their courses merely to make it new and different,” Magloughin said. “Many of us have an eye toward sustainability – and that may require support from the university.”

The tools of yesteryear, like the overhead projector or the sound system installed into wooden podiums that sound mediocre, if working at all, will not be pushed into the shadows of the future. Instead they will continue to be used in classrooms throughout campus. And for some students, this is a troubling thought considering they may not be able to use those resources offered at the new Academic Instruction Building, yet, the \$45 million budget is funded by facility and student fees.

“I think we can spend money on more useful things, things that are more necessary for the whole campus,” Buck said.

How these tools are utilized and the extent of how complicated these systems are may be intimidating to some staff and students, but Chase is confident that through training and practicing these applications staff, will eventually feel comfortable and enjoy these tools. Yet, to some professors it is not the difficult level that is concerning, it is the benefits of those features that take priority.

“I’m a high-tech pragmatist, meaning if it’s a useful technology for teaching and learning, as opposed to merely the latest gizmo, I’m all for it,” Magloughin said. ■ Ca

# Party Tip #1:




**Pick up a FREE PARTY PACK at Off-Campus Student Services!**

**T-Shirt (shown above)**

**Neighbor Notice Sheets**

**Tape**

**Trash Bags**

**Sober Host Water**

**Party Recipe Book**

**Chip Clip**

**For any off-campus student!\***

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**Off-Campus Student Services  
Room 195, LSC  
(970) 491-2248**

\*One per household

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**List of City Ordinances**

**Party Checklist**

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## Enemy in Our Midst

### can the mountain pine beetle be stopped?

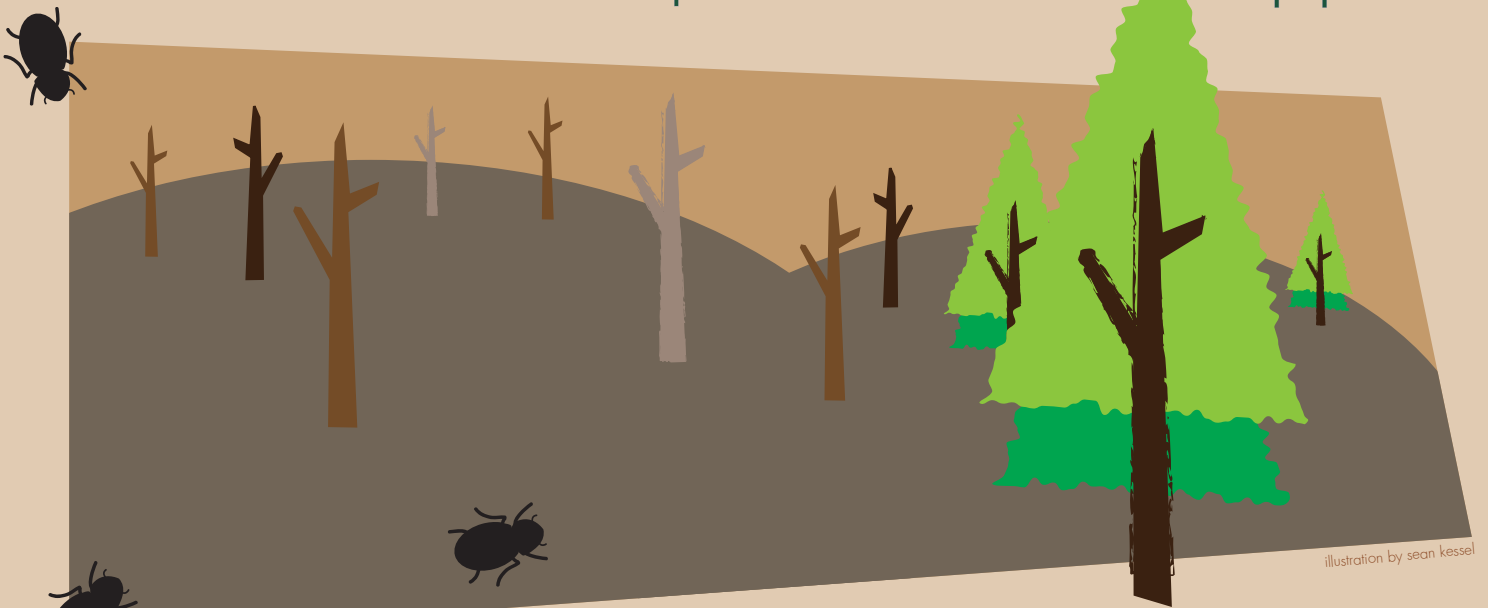


illustration by sean kessel

**P**rotruding from the soft bark of a lodgepole pine tree are hard globs of resin. The globs of resin, pitch tubes, which look like chalky pimples marking the ashen tree trunk, are actually entombments for the killers of western forests -mountain pine beetles.

The beetles, which are natives to Colorado, are thriving more than ever and are swallowing forests whole on the west side of the continental divide. This truth is confirmed by just one look at the western slope – instead of viewing an expanse of emerald lodgepole pine trees, mountainsides are cluttered and shrouded in red with dead and dying trees.

The beetles' destruction began in British Columbia and spreads to southern Arizona, destroying 1.9 million acres in Colorado. Fort Collins residents know how bad conditions are because they can see the shroud of beetles closing in on the eastern side of the divide – and in their backyards.

According to the experts, this epidemic is not letting up anytime soon, which leaves residents wondering what is next for their trees or if there are any solutions to the epidemic.

“It [the epidemic] can't be fixed,” said Monique E. Rocca, an assistant wildland fire science professor at Colorado State

University. “This is not in our control, either the hosts [trees] are going to die off or there will be so few left the population will crash.”

Rocca researches insect outbreaks and fire in Colorado's lodgepole pine forests, and in particular, the effects of the mountain pine beetle in the high elevations of Rocky Mountain National Park.

“Our study last summer found that 66 percent of trees in our area, on the west side of RMNP, have survived, and that includes trees that are 1.3 meters tall and up,” Rocca said. “If you go up there and focus on the green instead of red, you'll see green trees almost everywhere and they might be somewhat smaller, but they're there.”

Despite the U.S. Forest Service reporting that the beetle populations are rising, Rocca doesn't think it is happening across a wide scale – yet.

For Peter M. Brown, the president and director of Rocky Mountain Tree-Ring Research, he believes this epidemic is an unprecedented event in history because there is nothing of this magnitude to compare it to – not even the mountain pine beetle outbreaks during the 1950s and 1970s.



ingrid aguayo shows a diagram of a mountain pine beetle photo by katie stevens

“The mountain pine beetle is going to be a legacy in those forests for decades to come,” Brown said. “And the big problem right now seems to be that there’s no limitation to the beetles. If they get started here, they can go anywhere.”

And anywhere just happens to be Fort Collins.

According to Ingrid Aguayo, an entomologist from the Colorado State Forest Service, the beetles are on the Front Range infesting trees.

“We’re not trying to alarm anyone on the eastern side of the divide,” Aguayo said. “We’ve come together before things have gotten bigger and learned from some of the mistakes of the western slope. We can’t stop the beetle, but the Front Range has a more diverse forest than the western slope.”

However, it seems odd that Fort Collins is experiencing the beetles’ destruction because lodgepole pine trees typically grow in the high country, and not as much on the Front Range. But since every organism needs to eat, the beetles simply found new pines to feed on, namely ponderosa and Scotch pines.

“Exotic pines, like the Scotch pine, are similar to our native trees and that is why the beetles can be attracted to the Scotch pine,” Aguayo said.

While the beetles are killing so many trees, they’re not just damaging the aesthetic pleasure of a green forest, but the dead trees turn into fuel that waits for a fire, which is common in dry times – like now.

Since 2000, drought conditions have persisted causing not only dry lawns, but dry trees, too. In the last year, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor Web site, drought conditions have ranged from moderate to abnormally dry. However, in the last five years, Colorado has experienced moderate to severe drought conditions, particularly on the Front Range and around the continental divide – the breeding ground for the mountain pine beetles.

Wes Rutt, a volunteer firefighter and the biomass chair for the Colorado Tree Farmers, believes the biggest threat posed by the beetles is their potential to start fires.

“If we don’t have moisture, we’ll be fighting fires all year round,” Rutt said. “That’s why they say the pine beetle epidemic seems to be so bad, is that the weather is warmer and drier than it has been in the past.”

Rutt continued to explain that although fires are naturally occurring events, after many years of successful fire suppression and not enough thinning, the occasional ground fire to clear underbrush could turn into a raging crown fire or even worse, a ground fire, like the Hayman fire in 2002. A fire like this would burn away any potential of regeneration that it may take 100 years before the forest is fully functional again.

According to Rutt, a solution to possible forest fires is to clear the wood and use it as woody biomass, which is a heating alternative to fossil fuels. But he doesn’t know what to do with all of his beetle-ravaged trees now that CSU’s plans for woody biomass are currently on hold.

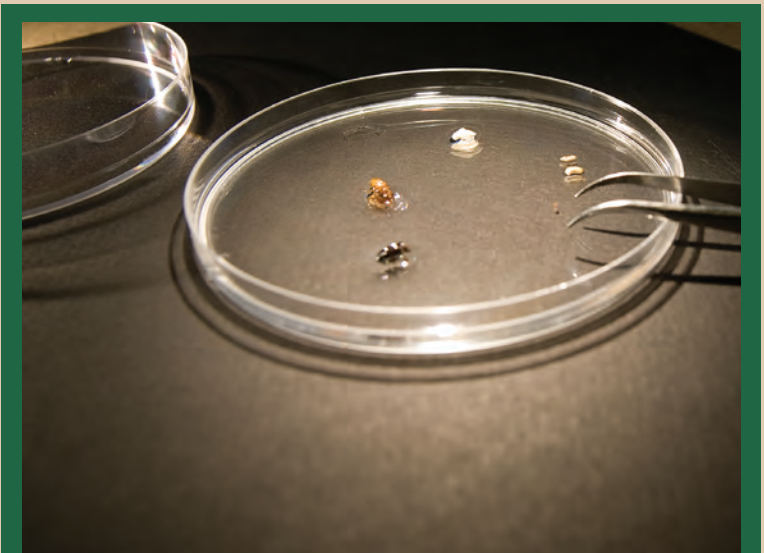
“I create these huge slash piles in my neighborhood and I burn it, thus I end up polluting the air and the wood is going to waste because it doesn’t have anywhere to go,” Rutt said. “But if we could chip that stuff up and use it, come on, let’s do it.”

Brown agrees that woody biomass is a possible solution, and so is salvage logging, but he said it is difficult because Colorado doesn’t have the capability of doing a lot of tree harvesting, but that it can be a solution for around people’s houses and selected areas – not whole mountainsides.

Although Rutt is still waiting for CSU’s biomass plans to resume, he’s not wasting his time. He and the Larimer County Tree Farmers are being proactive by clearing away dead trees on their land and offering to show others land owners to do the same. They offer tours and a manual with a plethora of information from how to identify a beetle-infested tree to how to write a plan for your forest.

“I think we can mitigate the damage some way or get enough people working on some area at the same time to do that,” he said. “It is hard work and maybe it’s going to be difficult, but I don’t see any reason not to try.”

For residents with one or two trees that could be in potential danger, Rocca recommends managing smaller areas and towns by spraying insecticides to repel the beetles. Spraying on a wider scale, like the whole of RMNP would never work because there is simply too much to cover.



the mountain pine beetle in various stages of life photo by katie stevens

According to Aguayo, insecticide sprays are only supposed to be used on a small scale as a preventative measures, because it is “a prophylactic” that wards off attacking beetles in non-infested trees. If a tree is infested, there is no saving it because sprays do not kill beetles, just repels them.



pine trees infected by the beetle turn a reddish brown photo by clinton brewer

“If you’re intoxicating yourself with these pesticides at the expense of having a green forest, [do a reality check] because in the long run, the trees will die because they are too old or stressed. But most people don’t want to hear that,” she said. “If you do have to cut your trees down, look around to see what grows and plant 10 trees in their place.”

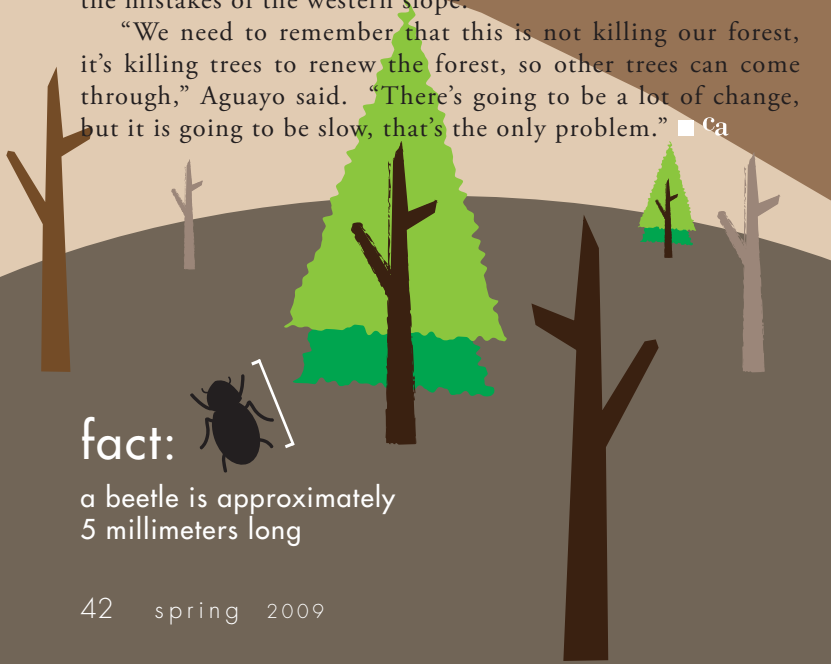
Rutt agrees that spraying should be used only as a preventative measure for ornamental trees because it is time consuming and expensive.

“I get people asking me, ‘Why don’t we just load up some planes and do some crop dusting with the spray?’ Well, the problem is that you can’t spray like that because the quality of that doesn’t work,” Rutt said.

According to Brown, there is no solution for large scale effects of the mountain pine beetle, and the beetle will simply run its course, whatever that may be. But as for the next generation of forests, he believes they won’t be all that different, just managed better.

Despite the grim outlook for Colorado forests, Aguayo believes this is not the end of our forests, especially because the CSFS and other agencies are working together to learn from the mistakes of the western slope.

“We need to remember that this is not killing our forest, it’s killing trees to renew the forest, so other trees can come through,” Aguayo said. “There’s going to be a lot of change, but it is going to be slow, that’s the only problem.” ■ Ca



**fact:**



a beetle is approximately 5 millimeters long

## protect your trees from mountain pine beetles:

- know what kind of pine tree you have, so then you can determine what is “normal”
- investigate your tree by looking for holes in the bark and hard globs or smears of resin
  - these are good indications of possible beetle activity
  - chalky resin usually indicates a successful pitchout
  - brown resin means trouble because the beetles may have laid eggs
  - red or brown sawdust on trunk or ground indicates boring holes
- chip into the bark to see if there are beetles
- if damage has been done, call your local forester to help you determine your next step



## what does a beetle do?

- beetles chew into pine trees to mate and lays inside the first layer of bark, which is the nutrient pipeline. afterward, the female dies and over winter to spring the eggs transform from larvae to pupae, slowly killing the tree in one year. in late july, they become adults and fly to a new tree to repeat the process. hundreds of beetles can infest a tree at once.

## if your tree has been infested:

- look at your other trees to see if they’re infested and call a tree remover because nothing can save an infested tree
- notify your neighbors, so they can take action
- after your tree is removed, look around to see what grows and plant those trees instead of pines

## get involved:

larimer county tree farmers: [treefarmer.com](http://treefarmer.com)

colorado state forest service: [csfs.colostate.edu](http://csfs.colostate.edu)

u.s. forest service: [fs.fed.us](http://fs.fed.us)



## buy blue-stained wood:



recycling is a great way to reuse dead trees. blue stain is a complex of fungi that attacks the water transportation, the xylem, of a tree. the stained wood is still as strong as “regular” wood – it just looks different. instead of wasting, recycle and use blue-stained wood.

buy local from:

[morgantimberproducts.com](http://morgantimberproducts.com)

- information courtesy of ingrid aguayo

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# Running Wild

novice & expert runners on one path

Circling the Oval, the group of 12 run in pairs as the sun beats down through the dormant, leafless elm trees while clouds gather surreptitiously overhead. Fort Collins is hinged on the brink of a snow flurry, but in that moment between the runners' huffs and grunts, all that matters is preparing for the city's Colorado Marathon on May 3.

Breathing deeply, 26-year-old Victor Mate Takacs from Hungary paces himself along with classmates in the Marathon Smart class, offered to students and community members through Colorado State University's Recreation Center. Takacs' class meets biweekly to talk about running techniques and to prepare for the upcoming marathon event. Takacs is more experienced than his classmates, having run in European races, including the Budapest Half Marathon, before moving to Fort Collins with his wife Eva Rozsa, a graduate student visiting under a biomedical sciences scholarship. The Marathon Smart class gives Takacs a place in the CSU community as an experienced runner in a sea of beginners.

"When I finish a race I get this feeling of accomplishment. A feeling of euphoria," Takacs said. "I don't know how to describe this feeling, but it's one everyone should try to feel through finishing a race."

Takacs is among hundreds of Fort Collins residents and students who have taken to running in the numerous 5K, marathon and half marathon races in the local area. When he exerts himself, his confident, graceful stride is only marred by a contorted face, and his body's sign of success is the burn all runners feel in their feet, legs and thighs.

"When racing, the worst feeling

is when I think I cannot finish," he said. "Hitting a wall at 10 miles in a half marathon makes you feel like you can't carry on, but it goes away if you continue pushing yourself. Runners must have patience, always patience. I always wanted to train too hard and too often when I first began and exhaustion came, and I had to take time off. Everyone should be patient, especially in the beginning."

His advice is most useful for the novice classmates around him. Alyssa Wayman, a freshman human development and family studies major, is among those in the class who have never ran competitively.

"I am in this to be healthier and learn something about myself," she said. "My parents were in marathons, and I've always wanted to accomplish this. Being the newcomer and approaching this marathon in May is extremely intimidating, but it's also a lot of fun. It's different, running with a group of people who are experienced, instead of running by myself. Their perseverance pushes me a lot, and in a way that is motivating."

Wayman is determined to join the ranks of her parents by putting a marathon under her belt. Having a father who has completed races like the Georgetown to Idaho Springs Half Marathon inspires her to give the 14-week class her best effort.

"I'm facing challenges in this," she said. "I've already injured my knee. And not being discouraged to give up half way through and trying to find motivation to keep going is an obstacle. I know [at the end of the race] I will feel great. I just want to finish it. I don't care what time I get, I'm just going to try and keep running the whole way."

Fort Collins is known a highly-engaged sanctum for athletes of all ages, and offers a wide array of running events including the



runners start their jog heading towards spring creek from the csu rec center to complete their training for the day

*“when I finish a race I get this feeling of accomplishment; a feeling of euphoria”*

*- victor mate takacs*

Fast and the Furriest, with pets, Horsetooth Half, Father’s Day 5K and the Wild West Relay from Fort Collins to Steamboat Springs. Fort Collins’ Runners Roost and co-owner Steve Cathcart sponsor many of these races, which Cathcart believes will continue growing in popularity.

“Almost all events are growing in size,” Cathcart said. “It’s not only the marathon’s popularity, but 5Ks have increased in participation numbers year after year, mostly on the women’s side. The No.1 growth spot in women’s sports is running.”

Cathcart has been actively involved in the Fort Collins’ running community for well over a decade and has been running all his life. Considered a local expert, his experience allows him to help runners of all ages through Runners Roost, a running resource store for all experience levels. A philanthropist and veteran runner, Cathcart has been able to see the world of running evolve locally since his days running in college at Western State College of Colorado.

“Even in the bad economy all the race numbers are up,” Cathcart said. “The Thanksgiving Day run in Old Town was up 20 percent in numbers. We are up 300 percent for the Fort Collins Marathon and half marathon.”

As the sport has evolved and grown, so has Cathcart’s passion for running evolved into a love of putting on races.

“When we reopened Runners Roost, I wanted to do it because all things in my life have come to me through running,” he said. “My wife, my kids, we have found each other through running. [Sponsoring races] is my way of repaying what running has given to me. Marathons completely change peoples lives. The confidence it can give someone – that’s my motivation.”

Even so, as Cathcart and his company work to help people come to know the joys of running, his advice is “conservative” for new runners like Wayman, who are just starting out on their own running lives.

“Two things I coach are moderation and consistency,” he said. “Beginners should slowly progress through the distance. When training, get a few long runs underneath you and then go through the marathon distance cautiously. Rushing it could cause injury, and we want to keep people healthy.

“Most of all, don’t worry about your racing time, just worry about crossing the finish line.” ■ Ca



photos by kevin farrel

a group of students, in the marathon training class, are leaving the csu rec center & heading towards the spring creek trail to further their endurance

## upcoming local events

fast & the furriest~ april 18  
[events.colostate.edu](http://events.colostate.edu)

horsetooth half ~ april 19  
[horsetoothhalfmarathon.com](http://horsetoothhalfmarathon.com)

father's day 5k~ june 21  
[downtownfortcollins.com/events.php/](http://downtownfortcollins.com/events.php/)

wild west relay~ aug. 7-9  
[wildwestrelay.com](http://wildwestrelay.com)

## marathon distances

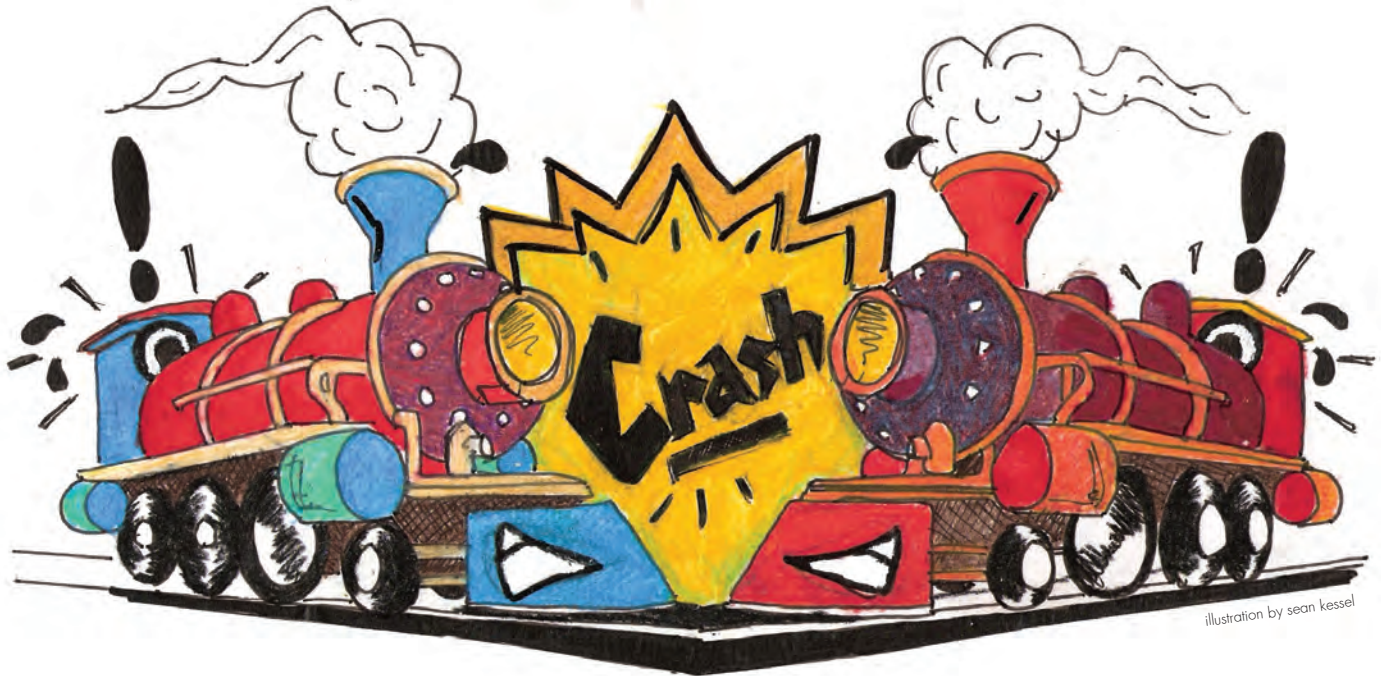
5K ~ 3.1 miles

half marathon ~ 13.1 miles

marathon ~ 26.2 miles

# The Train Wreck

## development of fiscal policy in colorado



**T**he development of fiscal policy in Colorado over the past couple of decades might make for good comedy were it not such a serious business. Beginning with the passage of the Gallagher Amendment to the state constitution in 1982, and running through this past election, which featured another gaggle of proposed ballot measures. It's been one policy on top of another, and then another, and then another, each making some sense at the time of enactment but cumulatively promising a train wreck.

The 1982 Gallagher Amendment was designed to reform state property tax policy. Among its longer-term impacts have been to shift the tax burden from residential property to businesses and, in combination with the 1992 TABOR enactment, handicap the revenue raising capacity of local governments while putting greater budgetary pressure on the state.

In 1992, TABOR went into the state constitution as a revenue and spending limit. It was modified some in 2005 by Referendum C, but remains today and constricts state revenues even in the face of no tax increases. Also in 1992, voters approved a constitutional change which essentially locks up the bulk of gambling tax revenues for outdoor programs. Colorado Great Outdoors does nice things for the state, to be sure, but it also prevents the legislature from touching the money and using it for any other purpose, no matter the circumstances and no matter other state needs.

In 2000, voters added Amendment 23 to the state constitution. Amendment 23 requires annual increases in state funding of the K-12 schools at a rate accounting for inflation and student population growth. In 2004, we raised the tobacco tax and restricted its use to smoking cessation programs and other health related purposes.

Then, of course, in this past November 2008 election, voters faced one ballot measure which would direct additional oil and gas tax money to higher education scholarships, another to divert oil and gas revenue to transportation projects, and a proposal for a small increase in sales taxes for programs for the developmentally disabled. These all failed, but one to expand gambling and push anticipated increases in gambling tax revenues to community colleges and other programs, passed – “free” money, as it were.

When these and dozens of other measures have appeared on our November ballots over the past decades, they often looked appealing given the political and economic circumstances at the time. Similarly, in 1991 when the legislature enacted a 6 percent increase limit in annual state appropriations, and in 2001 and 2002 when lawmakers cut over four dozen taxes, those decisions seemed to make sense.

So, in our collective wisdom, we voters have joined our lawmakers to limit revenues and limit spending while at the same time requiring spending. And we've stripped the legislature of fiscal authority and budgetary flexibility. Our law

*“our transportation system is in bad shape and getting worse, our colleges and universities are starved and our health care systems are inadequate.”*

*- john a. straayer*

makers may cut taxes, and they have; they may not raise or enact new taxes. Our transportation system is in bad shape and getting worse, our colleges and universities are starved and our health care systems are inadequate. We're putting more and more folks in prisons, and the federal government requires more state spending on Medicaid.

Three times in the past decade, Colorado has tittered on the edge of a fiscal cliff. In 2001 to 2002, a deep recession produced a steep decline in state revenues. The legislature mitigated damage to programs in health, higher education and other areas by raiding an extensive series of cash funds and leaving voters to wonder if there might well be secret money rabbits in the General Assembly hat.

By 2004 TABOR's "ratchet" had pushed the revenue base down and put the state on the fiscal cliff once again. With a mere 52-48 percent state-wide vote, Colorado stepped back from the cliff with the passage of Referendum C, a five-year temporary "time out" from the TABOR revenue choke-hold. Voters could heave a sigh of relief.

Now, in the context of the global and national economic downturn, Colorado again faces serious fiscal problems, which threaten vital public programs in higher education, transportation, and health care. The national "stimulus package" may soften the blow to Colorado's public programs and if it does, we're likely to view it as yet another rabbit in the government fiscal hat.

On a day-to-day basis, not much seems to change – people don't grow old; it's only when we compare the high school graduation photo with the retirement picture that we notice what has happened. Same with health – the knee hurts, but anti-inflammatories help. The back goes out but the surgeon fixes it. Can't read well any more, so now it's bifocals. One event at a time, one fix at a time – but in the end, it's all over.

Colorado's fiscal policy is much like that – one decision at a time, over a period of years, each in the context of its own unique economic and political circumstances. We limit revenue and then require spending. We manufacture an assortment of small revenue streams, then strip our elected representatives of their fiscal decision making authority. Fiscal crises come, and we get by with patches – raid cash funds, pass a short TABOR "time-out," and then take federal stimulus money.

The public enterprise in Colorado isn't going to pot over night. It's just a little each year, and it's easy not to notice. But the trains are coming, some from one direction, some from the other, and they are very close. ■ Ca



john straayer, political science professor

▶ photo by clinton brewer

for more information visit:

- the colorado fiscal policy institute  
[cclponline.org](http://cclponline.org)

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