

# College Avenue

Colorado State | Volume 8: Issue 4 December 2012

## Holiday Gift Guide



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for everyone on  
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# Letter from the Editor

As the holidays approach each year I must face facts and admit that I have a problem. Just as November was upon us, my urge to start looking for presents began. I'm obsessed. For me, finding the right present for each person in my family is something of a game. There are so many factors. I have to get something original, I strive to find something locally and, of course, I want to buy something that fits my tight college budget. But it never seems like an inconvenience. I push homework aside to browse through shops in Old Town and discuss different options with my roommates. The excitement that overcomes me when I finally find the right thing for everyone is only second to the day of Christmas when I finally get to give the gift.

I hold out hope that I am not the only perfectionist shopping for the perfect thing months in advance. Even if you are a last minute holiday shopper, check out our gift guide. It will give you gift ideas featured all over Fort Collins. Not only will you get some new ideas, but you will know exactly how much they cost and where you can buy them. It's as if *College Avenue* did your holiday shopping for you this year!

Also be sure to check out our Cache where we explore some alternative holiday celebrations and traditions that Colorado State students practice. And of course be sure to take a peek at a quarter past beer on page 15. We are breaking the rules just a bit this time to bring you all the best holiday cocktails to get you through a cold winter break.



Happy Holidays!

Kristin Hall  
Editor In Chief

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## letters to the editor

as the magazine produced by csu students for the csu and fort collins community, we would like to extend an invitation to our readers to submit letters to the editor ranging from 50 to 150 words with your feedback on the magazine. this is your magazine, and we would like to know what you think of the content, design, and anything else. all letters to the editor must be typed in a word document and attached to an e-mail, which should be sent to [kristin@collegeavenuemag.com](mailto:kristin@collegeavenuemag.com)

## 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 engaging and informative coverage of relevant topics. Our staff is dedicated to providing balanced and accurate reporting as well as visually stimulating design and photographic elements. We also seek to provide an outlet for entertainment with the opportunity for audience interaction and feedback. Above all, we strive to maintain journalistic integrity through professional excellence.

## opportunities for employment

college avenue is accepting applications for reporters, photographers, designers, and copy editors. pick up an application at the front desk of student media in the basement of the lory student center.

college avenue is a magazine produced and operated by csu students intended as a public forum.

this publication is not an official publication of colorado state university, but is published by an independent corporation (the rocky mountain student media corporation) using the name "college avenue" pursuant to a license granted by csu.

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# Golden Rules to holiday giving and the environment

**T**he holiday season forces college students out of their natural habitat of cheap food, simple amenities and an overall minimalist existence. This no-fuss way of life is often times not a conscious lifestyle preference, but comes by way of financial limitations. Concert tickets, road-trip gas and ski-lift tickets seem to become a priority over new socks, a full refrigerator and nice things.

Yet, as the December migration out of Fort Collins and into one's respected hometown for the five-week hibernation period rolls around, a shift must take place. One may find themselves being forced to wear polo's, engage in small talk with out-of-touch relatives and associate with high school friends not missed. And worst of all — trying to find and buy holiday presents.

Holiday shopping is never easy. One, financially; that extra dough spent on your sister could be used for a New Year's adventure. Two, what to get; it seems as if your mom doesn't need another piece of jewelry, yet the big stuff like the latest culinary device is out of your reach. Third, it seems wasteful; joining the hype of more stuff is fun, until wondering if any of those nick-knacks were

really needed.

As a way to decrease the initial and long term harm of the holiday-present-blues, there are basic rules for no-harm holiday presents — for you, and our landfills.

We all have things at our apartment, dorm or parent's house that we do not use. Something you can hand-off to bring happiness to someone else fulfills the golden rule of reusing.

For example, make a unique pen jar, coffee mug, or vase — all from your kitchen. Grab an old mason jar— this is the foundation. Then, in a mixing bowl add one part flour, two parts water, three tablespoons of salt and mix — this is your glue. Next, find some vintage magazine advertisements, awesome photos and black and white newspaper and hold them onto the jar. Paint the glue over it with your hands or a brush and let it dry. This is perfect gift for a mom who is sentimental, and it's virtually free to make.

For a unique present, make something old into something awesome, or to renew. Take that old pair of ear buds and use hemp, bright string or basically anything else you can weave together to cover the headphone cords. By following basic hemp rules, and the wonders of

Google to learn, you have created a unique, impressive, lasting gift for a sibling that loves music.

We all hear about recycling day in and day out. The basis of recycling is easy: one product being made into another product. All those beverages you consume of the 21-and-over categories — your beer caps and cans — can be made into a useful and creative table. For those lucky nights when you indulge in a bottled beverage, save the lid, then use a hot-glue gun and a magnet, both can be found for relatively cheap at a craft store, to create a fridge decoration for a friend or roommate.

After engaging the creative mind and impressing your family and friends, you can sit back and realize all of the holiday-waste you have mitigated.

One pound of plastic takes 24 gallons of water to produce, according to treehugger.com, and a single plastic cup takes 50 to 80 years to decompose, according to earthkorps.org.

Along with being on your way to a New Year's adventure, hitting the slopes or back in the good ol' Foco, you have also had a positive impact on water use and waste with these gift ideas. ■ **Ca**



**A**re you having trouble finding the perfect holiday gift on a college budget? Are you looking for gifts for roommates and friends? Here are 10 gifts each under \$10 that are sure to crack a smile without breaking the bank:

- 1) A mug and a box of tea or cocoa is a classic comfort of the season.
- 2) A scarf is sure to warm anyone's season. Nobody ever has enough scarves!
- 3) A warm pair of socks and a deck of cards is a good way to remind someone to take a holiday break.
- 4) A set of bangles or a survivor bracelet can be suited to the fashion forward or practical person.
- 5) A memo board, perhaps with its first memorable moment tacked on, is the gift for someone who has everything else!

6) A stationary set, whether prepackaged or personally assembled, is a holiday reminder to keep in touch.

7) A desk calendar will certainly inspire hope or laughs on New Year's and beyond.

8) A jar of the recipient's favorite candy. If you don't know their favorite candy, pick chocolate or a candy that reminds you of them.

9) A coupon for an "I'll buy" coffee date is the gift for that person you wish you could simply give some time.

10) A chocolate bar and a heartfelt note or letter— because sometimes, it truly is the thought that counts. ■ **Ca**



| by kendall greenwood, victoria hawn

# Holiday Gifting, without all the spending

**T**he holiday season is here. Snow is on the ground, the lights are hung in Old Town and the careful calculations of your bank account commence. If snow or lights is not your thing, there is not much you can do to avoid them, but Pinterest, a hub for do-it-yourself projects, can help ease your bank account.

Here are five easy and affordable do-it-yourself gift ideas from Pinterest that will give you extra hot chocolate money.

## Rein-beer

For this you get a six-pack of beer, or any other drink of your choosing, and decorate each bottle with pipe cleaners, googly eyes and a little nose. When you are finished, the six-pack will look like a gang of reindeer. At Wilbur's Total Beverage, the average craft beer six-pack is around \$9.99 and the crafty items are all available at Dollar Tree, making this an affordable gift costing you \$12.99.

## Manicure in a Jar

This gift needs a mason jar, available at Walmart for \$6.97; nail polish, \$3.97 at Walmart; nail polish remover, \$2.96 at Walmart; and a manicure set from the Dollar Tree. Arrange these items in the mason jar in a manner of your choosing and decorate. The nail polish color and your choice of decorations allow you to specialize this to your loved ones' tastes. Your complete gift totals to \$14.90.

## Nutella Cookies

All you need to make these cookies is a cup of Nutella, one whole egg and one cup of flour. Combine these ingredients and bake at 350 degrees for six to eight minutes. A 26.5 ounce jar of Nutella is available at Walmart for \$6.56, making this a very affordable gift idea.

## Painted Wine Bottles

For the craftier, try the painted wine bottle gift. You will need empty wine bottles (or an empty bottle of some kind) and chalkboard paint, available at Michaels from \$1.99 to \$5.99. Paint the bottles with the chalkboard paint and wait to dry. Gift with chalk and your loved one will have a new kind of message board.

## Hot Chocolate and Baileys

This gives a twist to the traditional holiday drink. Pair hot chocolate with a shooter of Baileys for \$2.99 at Wilbur's. Hot chocolate mix can be purchased at Walmart anywhere from \$1.28 to \$7.71 or you can look up your own recipe. With hot chocolate from the store, this present could cost as little as \$4.27. There are limitless ways to package this.

These are just a few ideas that have been posted on Pinterest for the holidays. Liana Guerin, a freshman apparel and merchandising major, enjoys Pinterest for the variety.

"It gives me ideas for my hair and clothes, but also things you normally wouldn't look up, like recipes and gift ideas," Guerin said. "[I am on Pinterest] about an hour a day." ■ **Ca**

photos by | khristian gilham



## White Elephant Gifts

**T**he holiday season is about giving, and what better way to give than with a gift your friends will never forget?

White elephant gift giving is a popular way to exchange inexpensive, humorous gifts with absolutely no sentimental value.

It's an exchange where one might receive inappropriate things, like a thong if you're a guy. Others might receive just plain weird things like a bathroom rug that turns red when wet. And still others might receive surprisingly functional things like a Chihuahua shaped trinket with molded insets in its back to hold one's hard-shell tacos.

Here are just a few gag gift ideas (apart from the ones mentioned above) for the white elephant season:

- **Anything bacon related: bacon candy, bacon bandages, a pound of bacon, etc.**
- **A weird animal mask: unicorn, horse, rat, etc.**
- **Stick on mustaches or beards**
- **Beer bottle wind-chimes**
- **Funny notepads**
- **Sock sandals (they're socks that look like sandals)**
- **Facebook like and dislike stamps**
- **'Wait — was that slutty?' hand sanitizer**

These are just a few ideas for white elephant gifts. If your creative juices aren't flowing, you can go to the dollar store and pick up several random things that will make people's faces distort into looks of confusion and wonder. Also, great gift ideas can be found on Pinterest or Stumbleupon by searching gag gifts, or at Urban Outfitters, on prankplace.com or on mcphree.com. ■ **Ca**

# Old Town Offers Gifts for Everyone on Your List

**D**o you have a special someone on your shopping list? Do you want to one-up your sibling and get your parents the better gift this year? Do you want to share a piece of your life at CSU with someone else? There is no denying the stress you feel around the holiday season to get the best of the best for your loved ones. Fortunately, *College Avenue* has compiled this list of go-to items for everyone on your shopping list. From your mom, to your brother, to your dog, there is something special for everyone. All of these items can be found in Old Town, Fort Collins and will make this year one to remember.

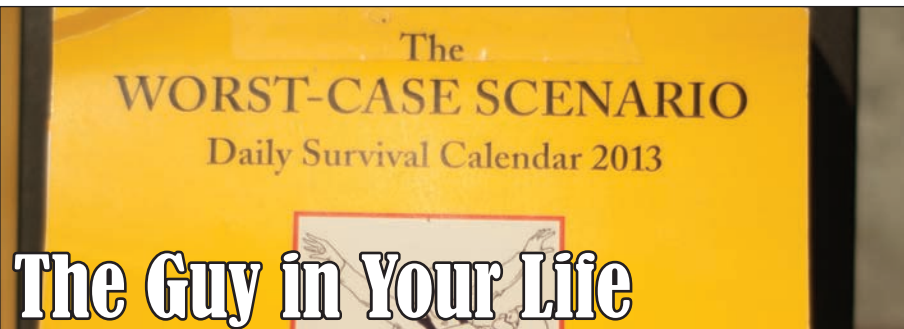


**Mom**



**Dad**

**Mom:** Specialty Olive Oil from the Rocky Mountain Olive Oil Company; \$18.50 to \$33.50; **Dad:** Fudge from Kilwin's; \$15.95 a pound



**The Guy in Your Life**



**The Girl in Your Life**

**The Guy in Your Life:** The Worst Case Scenario Daily Survival Calendar for 2013 from Killer Rabbit; \$12.95; **The Girl in Your Life:** Texting gloves from White Balcony; \$26.95



**Dog**



**Grandma**



**Grandpa**

**Dog:** Hide a Squirrel Toy from Wagz; \$14.99 to \$21.99; **Grandma:** Recycled Newspaper Picture Frame from Ten Thousand Villages; \$18; **Grandpa:** Tea in a Jar from Happy Lucky's Teahouse; \$20



**Aunt**



**Uncle**



**Friend**

**Aunt:** River Stones for Massage from Nature's Own; \$20; **Uncle:** Six-pack of beer from O'Dell Brewery; \$8.99; **Friend:** Any book from Old Firehouse Books; prices vary; To see the full story visit [collegeavenuemag.com](http://collegeavenuemag.com) ■ Ca

# Holiday Gift Guide

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# A Christmas Story

## REBORN

**T**here is no better gift than a genuine Red Rider BB gun. For everything from leg lamps to stolen turkeys, head to the University Center for the Arts. This holiday, the UCA is presenting “A Christmas Story” — a play by Philip Grecian based upon the 1983 film of the same title. The play stays close to the original film, but has some adaptations and modifications.

“You can do different things in live theater than you can do in movies. The movie has so many different locations and quick shots and we had to work around that,” said Tim Werth, a junior economics and theater major who plays the Old Man. “It definitely is different but I feel like it lives up to the movie, or at least gives people a twist.”

The most iconic parts of the story are present and create a similar atmosphere to that of the film while presenting the story in a different way.

“The audience will recognize many of their favorite moments from the film, such as Ralphie’s obsession with the official legendary Red Ryder BB gun everyone is sure he’ll use to ‘shoot his eye out’ — as well as his translation of Little Orphan Annie’s secret code after receiving his mail order decoder pin,” said Laura Jones, the production’s stage director, in a press release. “And of course, when his father wins the infamous leg lamp, much to his mother’s chagrin, and not to mention the theft of the turkey by the Bumpus’ hounds who live next door.”

The audience who filled the house on opening night received the play warmly, seeing the actors offstage with

a rousing ovation.

“It’s hard to compare it to the movie, because the movie is one of my favorite movies. It would have been a good play, to me, without the movie, but it was hard for it to live up to the expectations of the movie,” freshman history major Fisher Ankney said. “My favorite part was when he was with Red Rider fending off Black Bart and the bandits.”

The cast, except for the character of adult Ralphie who is physically represented by guest artist and CSU theatre alumnus James Burns, is made up of CSU students and youth who have participated in CSU’s summer children’s theatre program, Kids Do It All.

“The adult cast has been preparing for about three and a half weeks and the kids have been in a class and they’ve been working for almost two months,” Werth said. “This is one of the biggest shows I’ve been a part of, and the hardest part for me was keeping track of all the props and hand things and all the tiny details.”

Overall, the play has been a great success, allowing the actors to interpret and embody their characters.

“It’s truly been exciting to watch these now-classic characters be re-enacted by our cast of college students and child actors from the community,” said Jones in a



Ralphie, played by Nate Wozniak, is blind in a daydream as his dad, junior theatre major Tim Werth, and mom, freshman theatre major Annie Booth, weep to him. A Christmas Story runs Thursday through Sunday until December 15 at the University Center for the Arts.

press release. “They have all both embraced traditional interpretations and created their own personal takes on the characters.”

Whether you are a die hard fan of this holiday classic or experiencing it now for the first time, this is the show to see this holiday season.

“I absolutely loved it, but I didn’t see the movie, so there was really no expectation,” said freshman Tiffeny Phair. “The kids were absolutely amazing and so cute and talkative. My favorite part is the soap scene, that was classic.” **Ca**

### Showings:

**7:30 p.m.**

Nov. 15-17, 23, 24,  
29, 30

Dec. 1, 6-8, 13-15

**2 p.m.**

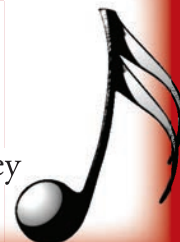
Nov. 18 and 25  
Dec. 2 and 9

# 10 Best Holiday Songs

1. Christmastime Is Here – Vince Geraldi Trio
2. The Christmas Song – Nat King Cole
3. All I Want for Christmas is You – Michael Bublé
4. It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year – Andy Williams
5. Sleigh Ride – Relient K



6. You’re a Mean One, Mr. Grinch – Thurl Ravenscroft
7. Let It Snow – Dean Martin
8. Happy X-mas – John Lennon
9. A Holly Jolly Christmas – Burl Ives
10. Wonderful Christmastime – Paul McCartney



# Holiday Gift Ideas

For everyone on your list!

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by cassandra whelihan

# *To Snow or Not to Snow...* **that is the question**



*“How full of the creative genius the air in which these are generated!  
I should hardly admire more if real stars fell  
and lodged in my coat.”*

*Henry David Thoreau, 1856*

**A**h, winter in calling; I hear her. A time when the days become shorter and the nights grow colder. When frost begins to make its way back into my mornings, nipping at my lungs. Fall transforms its magical colors into a white palate mixed with sparkling greys and majestic blacks.

Fall marks a time of wintery anticipation as I pack away what little summer attire I own. Winter lovers everywhere begin to mark their calendars with potential ski dates, anxiously awaiting the first snowfall.

The question on all our minds: will this be the year of epic snowfall or bust?

Weather reports render a divided nation.

Unfortunately, the Farmers Almanac for the 2013 winter has predicted a snowier than usual winter for the eastern states, leaving the western states in a less than snowy state. This past spring and summer, the country has experience some of the worst drought conditions in over 50 years.

Fort Collins can attest to this fact after spending the summer battling traumatic wildfires, which left our beloved Horsetooth Reservoir at pitiful depths. Last year marked the fourth warmest winter since 1985, with over 24 states experiencing less than average rates of precipitation.

So what will be the fate for us Coloradans?

As of right now, it's looking like a mild winter with average precipitation.

However, let us not lose faith in Mother Nature quite yet. Meteorologists have been known to get it wrong and the weather is forever playing tricks on us.

So I recommend breaking out the old snow dance moves and shaking your tail feather because snow is a-coming; I can feel it in my bones. ■ **Ca**

| by nicole beale



# Dani Odelson *sews on* Precious Pocketz

Instead of freaking out last minute because you don't know what gift to get someone on your list, try something different. Everyone loves the usual gifts, but something handmade, something made with love, is always better.

Colorado States' very own Dani Odelson is making a name for herself around campus by designing pockets. Odelson creates custom pockets for just about anything you can think of with just about any fabric you can think of. Odelson has pocketed boxer briefs to tank tops and everything in between. She says she just "loves pocketing everything."

What started about a year ago turned into a booming business. Odelson says she started the company, called Precious Pocketz, for herself and now loves making them for other people.

"So many of my friends love wearing them, which also helps spread the word," Odelson said.

She said recently that she received nine orders in a single day. Soon she may need to hire an assistant.

"I am selling so many on campus — I made enough to pay for a three week vacation to San Francisco last year," Odelson said.

Odelson also has some friends representing her pockets at other Colorado campuses, getting her some extra advertisement. While she isn't trying to make this a career, it certainly is a great way to make some extra spending money.

Some may think with her talent that she would be studying apparel and design, but she is studying communication with a minor in women's studies.

"I've just always loved crafting," Odelson said.

Odelson was born in Los Angeles, but has called Colorado home since she was five years old. She knows Colorado and tries to aim her

company towards gear that is popular and suitable for Colorado weather.

It's a great gift idea simply for the fact that you can customize it anyway you want. Some of the most popular styles to pocket are sweatpants, tank tops, sweatshirts and T-shirts.


When asked where she picks up the funky fabric for these pockets Odelson says, "Everywhere! Anything ugly and weird I see, I pick it up. The most elaborate design I have ever done is a sweatshirt pocketed with a wolf fabric — something that is really popular today." Odelson describes her style as "the weirdo seventh grader that everyone loves."

Prices are within reason, with most of the items costing around \$20 and the sweatshirts costing a little more at \$45 because it includes two pockets; this cost includes both the clothing and the pockets sewn on.

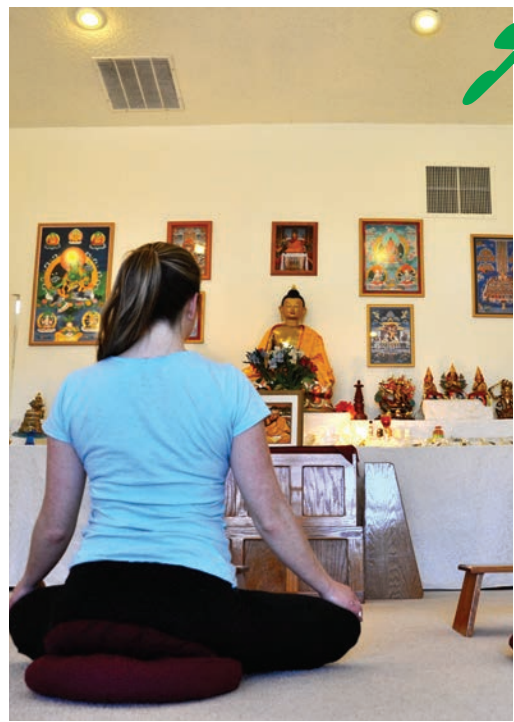
Here is how Odelson breaks it down: first, she purchases the garment by customer specifications. Then she finds fabric to create a pocket. For sweatshirts she must take off the pockets and replace them with the new precious pocket. After that, she sews the precious pocket to any clothing item you want.

Odelson has recently set up an Etsy account, so she will be selling her products online.

"I want them to still be super customizable," Odelson said.

Etsy allows her to put her company online, but still allows customers to customize their purchases. To place an order with Odelson, go to the Precious Pocketz Facebook page or check her out on Etsy under the Precious Pocketz company name. Then anxiously wait for your customized pocket apparel to arrive. 

by mary willson



# Celebrating CSU student's diverse and colorful beliefs



All of humanity lives on a single planet, yet through cultural divides, it can feel as if the seven billion inhabitants of this seven-continent globe are disconnected by galaxies.

Through the religious divides based on morality, upbringing, culture and political pressure, society and religion can easily become intertwined. The melting pot of the United States and a very diverse campus blurs these lines and creates an accepting atmosphere. Despite the commercial Christmas trees and the overwhelming Christian symbolism throughout the winter months, diversity is celebrated — a unique asset in the grand scheme of the world.

"I feel like I can practice my religion freely here in the U.S.," said Fares Alotaibi, freshman computer engineering and computer science major, who is here from Saudi Arabia. "You can see that in Arabia they say that Muslim is 100 percent of the population, but I think that is impossible. I think you need to accept that there are other people and religions."

Alotaibi will work for an oil company in Saudi Arabia when he graduates, an opportunity only the top 3 percent of citizens who take a national test get to do. His main objective for a U.S. education is for the degree, yet the accepting culture is something that has changed his own perspective on the way people view each other. Which, as a practicing Muslim, comes as a pleasant surprise.

"A different country means different culture, so you get used to it," Alotaibi said. "That was a big change, I love the U.S. in the way that everyone can practice their own religion and people respect all religions — I respect that. If you people respect my religion, I will respect yours."

Culture, family roots and society are three main assets to the formation of personal spiritual beliefs. Yet, within the realm of college and a fresh slate for personal growth, new paths can be shared creating new belief systems.

"It kind of started out with not necessarily agreeing with everything that came with the Catholic or Christian religion in general," said Darrel Suer, junior marketing and CIS business major.

Suer started the Meditation and Buddhism Interest Club on campus last year after becoming passionate about the Buddhist belief system from a series of CSU religion classes. He was raised Catholic.

"The Catholic Church is very hierarchical. I don't think

that's the best way to practice religions because then it feels almost like government rather than spiritual. At the end of the day, we're all the same," he said. "You're a person, I'm a person, we should be treated that way."

Within the worldwide pie of major universal religions, Christianity makes up 33 percent, Islam makes up 22.5 percent, Hinduism makes up 13.6 percent, Buddhism makes up 6.7 percent, Judaism makes up 0.3 percent and other beliefs make up the remaining 29.3 percent, according to britannica.com, an online encyclopedia.

As Dec. 25 comes around the corner, Christian churches see their pews fill, and a week-long shift in participation many times takes place. This is just as prevalent as ever, even with different religions and in difference practices.

Mac McGolrick, a religious studies professor, is focused on teaching eastern religions; he personally practices Buddhism.

"Religion and culture are extraordinarily important, and the religion and expression there is similar to the practice and expression here," he said.

**"I love the U.S. in the way that everyone can practice their own religion and people respect all religions — I respect that. If you people respect my religion, I will respect yours."**  
— Fares Alotaibi, freshman from Saudi Arabia

Through the hype that is depicted from the societal-made holiday, Black Friday, and onward through New Year's, commercialism and present giving is ballooned into an economical monster. Yet, when pulled back inward it is structured on the practice of giving, a universal act.

"It's just a matter of keeping it in perspective, I mean this was one holiday that used to mean something else. It's not a bad thing, I just think sometimes people miss-prioritize what is going on," Suer said.

Suer's mother is Catholic, but feels her spirituality within herself, and it is not based on going to church or other societal practices.

"She feels so strongly that there is a god — she believes in that so strongly. I have a lot of respect for that," Suer said. "She has just as strong of a faith as anyone else — I think that's more about the emphasis, the family sides of things."

Although within the U.S. an attitude of acceptance is practiced and felt overall — the logistical side of a diverse practice of religions can ignite issues in time off for the holidays — different religions have different holidays.

Michael Lichtback, senior mechanical engineering major and president of the Jewish club, had an engineering exam on Hanukkah last year, and regularly has important schoolwork due on equally important religious holidays. His family is culturally and religiously Jewish.

"We just have to negotiate all kinds of things. It really bothered me when I was younger and classmates would say 'Merry Christmas' and I would respond with 'you know everyone doesn't celebrate Christmas, right?' — I would be really bitter," he said. "And now I've kind of come to peace and it doesn't bother me as much because they have good intentions."

Through the explorations of Christianity, Judaism, Islam and Buddhism, which have been taken on at CSU with confidence, the spiritual journey seems universal.

"It's not about this practice or that practice because someone said so," Suer said. "It's about what is most affective for the person. There might be really great facets of all religions for human beings living in all different ways, but it's about incorporating and not divisive in any way."

Through the search for fulfilling spirituality, exploring out of one's culture can be revealing, whether to commit yourself to the roots personally, or to grow within a practice that has been within oneself all along.

"I think there's a negative mentality where we need to appease everyone," Lichtback said. "There's

this binary idea where you're either religious or not. I think of it as more of a continuum where you can just do whatever you want."

And for some, a path for change motivates pride in religion. Through the world of college, a melting pot of religions, ideas, ages, life stages and places are mixed together. With acceptance as a goal, there is always progress to be made.

"In the last 10 years there has been a big bad idea about Islam. I know there are bad Muslims, but there are a lot of good ones," Alotaibi said. "I think it is kind of going away, I am very grateful for that. You never know what a person is or who people are unless you go and talk to them. That's the thing I want to bring to this conversation."

In a diverse world full of seven billion unique and differing personalities, minds, souls and hearts, just as many belief systems manifest themselves. The key is that the importance of our colorful world is never lost.

"I am learning diversity and, actually, when I get back to my country I will try to change the point of view," Alotaibi said. ■ **Ca**

**Bottom Right/Middle:** Michael Lichtback lights a menorah at the Chabad Jewish Center located in campus west shopping area. The menorah is part of Hanukkah, an eight day Jewish festival also known as "the festival of lights," which falls over finals week this semester. **Bottom/Top Middle:** The Fort Collins Islamic Center is the leading congregational center for the Muslim population of Northern Colorado. The New Masjid, a larger site is being built on West Lake Street. **Top Right/Left:** A student meditates at the World Peace Cafe, on South College Avenue, which holds Buddhist gatherings and meditation circles. **Bottom Left:** The gold dome of the Temple on the Mount shines in Jerusalem, Israel. Known as one of the earth's holiest sites, and as one of the most fought upon holy land.

# local artisan Andi Rose

creates handmade gifts from recyclables

Three years ago, Andi Rose was inspired by the Colorado sunshine and a pile of junk to start making beauty out of what would otherwise have been considered trash. That inspiration led her to become the "resourceress" and owner of Blue Sky Above.

## How did you start Blue Sky Above?

I was inspired by what most people consider junk. I see things like scratched vinyl records, bike tubes, scraps of wood and beer cans as blank canvases.

## What is the meaning behind the name?

Blue Sky Above is a tribute to the 300 days of sunshine we have here in the great state of Colorado. It's also a commitment to keeping our sky blue by reducing pollution, using what already exists and creating things out of what would otherwise be considered trash.

## What is Blue Sky Above's mission?

With a serious appreciation for our handsome Colorado environment, it's our mission to be creative while being mindful in preserving — and sometimes shakin' what our mamas gave us.

## How did you come up with your products?

By excess. Believe me, I'm not one to shy away from consumerism — shoes are my weakness — but a lot of consumerism is based on virgin materials and overseas production. I'm not perfect, there are materials used in Blue Sky Above created items that come from overseas — no escaping it — but I source 75 percent or more of materials used to make items from what would otherwise be trash.

## What do you enjoy about making your products from recyclables?

I love that each item turns out a little different. It makes items just as unique as the people sporting them and is indicative of handmade. I also love the process. When I come across a material that I like and that there's a lot of it, I study it, like any artist would a subject. I deconstruct it, and push the

limits of what keeps it together as a substance to learn what does and doesn't work.

## What is your favorite product? Why?

It depends on the context. My favorite to make is record cuffs. They require so many steps and are very rewarding when done. My favorite to wear is the bike tube flower necklace. I have never not received compliments when wearing mine.

## What do you have in mind for the future of Blue Sky Above?

That's a good question. Blue Sky Above is so small right now that it's super nimble, and could swerve in several directions without taking a bunch of employees on a wild ride. There's no doubt I'd like to keep fostering and growing it, as has been done in the past three years, but not at the expense of the mission. A specific goal for this year is to start working on distribution outside of Colorado.

## What are you making for this holiday season that is different from your normal products?

Beer angels! Made from local brewery six packs and more, beer angels are the perfect way to gift beer lovers in your life.

## Are you having any holiday promotions?

Yes. If you go to the <http://blueskyabove.com/shop>, and then check out through Etsy, you can enter the coupon code GORAMS to receive 20 percent off from now until Dec. 31.

Products created by Rose can be found in local shops, such as Kansas City Kitty and New Belgium Brewing Co., or online at [www.blueskyabove.com](http://www.blueskyabove.com). ■ Ca



**Top:** Andi Rose, 'resourceress' of Blue Sky Above was inspired to start creating products out of recyclables. **Left:** Instead of throwing out old bike tubes, Rose cuts them up and creates necklaces and bracelets. **Right:** Rose crafts cuff bracelets from vinyl records.

# College Avenue's Guide to Holiday Cocktails

If you like

Hot Chocolate

Try

Mexicocoa

## Ingredients:

- 4 tbsp unsweetened cocoa (not hot chocolate mix)
- 1 tbsp cinnamon
- 2 tsp chili powder
- 2 tsp cayenne pepper
- 3 cups milk (almond milk preferred, can also substitute Irish Crème)
- 1/4 cup agave nectar, honey or maple syrup
- 4 oz silver tequila
- Paprika
- 4 cinnamon sticks for garnish

## How to make it:

Toast cocoa powder, cinnamon, chili powder and cayenne pepper in a saucepan over low heat until spices release aromas (about 2-3 minutes). Slowly stir in milk with a whisk or wooden spoon. Raise the temperature to medium-high and bring to a simmer. Stir in agave nectar and remove from heat. Dip the rims of four mugs into a saucer of hot water, blot and dip into a saucer of paprika. Pour in one ounce of tequila to each mug. Add one-fourth of the hot cocoa mixture to each mug. Stir with a cinnamon stick and serve.

Serves 4

If you like

Punch

Try

Poinsettia Cocktail

## Ingredients:

- 4 cups (1 quart) vodka
- 4 cups (1 quart) champagne
- 8 cups (2 quarts) cranberry juice
- Crushed ice
- 1 orange peel sliced into 1/4 inch wide strips about 2 inches long

## How to make it:

Combine the vodka, champagne and juice in a large punch bowl. Add crushed ice and stir until well chilled. Twist orange strips over bowl and drop into punch. Pour into glasses and serve.

Makes one big bowl of punch (16 cups)

If you like

Fire

Try

S'mores Shooters

## Ingredients:

- 12 large marshmallows (or 35 mini marshmallows)
- 1 cup half & half
- 8 oz bittersweet chocolate finely chopped
- 1 1/2 cups whole milk
- 3/4 cup amaretto
- 1/2 cup graham cracker crumbs (to rim shot glasses)
- About 12 tbsp Bacardi 151 or other flammable liquor
- A lighter

## How to make it:

In a small saucepan, bring the half & half to a boil. Place the chocolate in a medium bowl. Pour the hot cream over the chocolate and stir until melted. Return the chocolate to the pot and whisk in milk. Over medium heat, bring to a simmer and stir in 1/2 cup of amaretto. Pour the remaining amaretto into a small bowl. Place graham cracker crumbs on a small plate. Dip the rims of shot glasses into the amaretto, then the crumbs. Transfer the hot chocolate to a measuring cup with a spout and fill the shot glasses. Top each with one large marshmallow (or 3 mini marshmallows) and pour a tablespoon of liquor over each glass. Ignite with a lighter to toast the marshmallow. Blow out before drinking and serve.

Makes 12 shooters

If you like

Beer

Try

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Available in 12- or 24-packs

# DIY Edible Holiday Gifts

Nothing says “Happy Holidays!” like the taste of a homemade treat. For a simple, but delicious, gift or party platter, try these recipes.

## Hot Cocoa Mix

### Ingredients:

- 2/3 cup cocoa powder
- 2 cups sugar
- 1/4 tsp cinnamon (optional)
- 1 cup marshmallows

### Directions:

Layer the above ingredients into a decorated jar for a perfectly festive gift. When ready to use, the recipient can separate out the marshmallows, mix the cocoa, sugar and cinnamon together, and add two or three tablespoons to a cup of hot water, milk or eggnog. Add marshmallows as preference.



Give adorable little gifts people can enjoy like hot cocoa mix in a jar.

## Homemade Chocolate Turtles

### Ingredients:

- 2 dozen candy caramels
- 2 dozen pretzels
- 1 23 oz bag of chocolate chips
- 2 dozen pecan halves (optional)

### Directions:

Put the pretzels out on a microwave-safe plate. Unwrap the caramels and place one on each pretzel. Microwave the caramel-pretzel plate for 30-60 seconds, until the caramels start to get soft. Melt the chocolate chips in the microwave (following the instructions on the bag). Put a spoonful of melted chocolate on each caramel-pretzel. If desired, press a pecan half onto each one. Put in the refrigerator for 30 minutes or until the chocolate hardens. Package them nicely and give them as a gift, or put them on a plate and enjoy!



What a cheap and easy gift to give; homemade chocolate turtles are everyone's favorite!

## Rice Krispies Wreaths

### Ingredients:

- 6 cups Rice Krispies cereal
- 4 cups mini marshmallows
- 3 tbsp butter
- 3 drops green food dye
- Red-hot decorating candies

### Directions:

Melt the marshmallows and butter in a large bowl by microwaving and stirring the mixture every 20 seconds. When melted, stir in the food dye. Then stir in the rice cereal. Spoon onto wax paper and make into a wreath (donut) shape. Add red-hot decorating candies. Allow to cool and harden, then package or serve.

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# Start the New Year off Right

with fun and easy to accomplish resolutions

As the holiday season begins to roll around and the year gets closer to its close, New Year's resolutions start to pop into people's heads.

This year, let's make it different. Everyone has made the resolutions to lose 20 pounds, get straight A's or find your true love. Instead of making those extremely daunting and unrealistic resolutions, make it something to look forward too. Make it fun, make it something you want to do and make it an easy challenge.

Here are five New Year's resolution ideas that not only let you be creative, but are easy to achieve and allow you to feel accomplished and get you off to the right start for the new year.

## Become a Vegetarian

Are you an avid carnivore that has to have some form of meat with every single meal? Well try becoming a vegetarian for a few months or even a few weeks, just to test it out. Don't make it something that will change for the rest of your life (unless you discover you really like it that much), just take on the challenge of trying something new. Get out of your comfort zone and expand your horizons, but please remember to still get your protein into every meal.

## Think of Different Excuses to Why You Don't Have Something Done

Let's face it, 'the dog ate my homework' or 'I left it sitting on my desk at home' are excuses that are getting old. If you are someone who typically turns things in late, or just doesn't do some assignments at all, make it interesting. Don't come up with the same boring excuse; think of something new, plausible, but still enough to make your professor laugh, and hopefully get you that extension that you were aiming for in the first place.

## Do More for Yourself

We hear about self-care all the time, from many different sources, but they might be onto something. This year take more time for yourself, even if it's only for a half-hour a day. You will be surprised at how much better you feel. Do the things that you wish you had time to do, or something that you have never thought about doing before. As long as it makes you happy, you will feel like you can take on more of what the new year brings.

## Try a New Hair Cut/Color

Have you been rocking the same hairstyle or color for a while? Well for the new year, try mixing it up. Start with something that is not permanent. Hair is the perfect thing to experiment with because it can drastically change your style, but it also grows back so you aren't stuck with anything forever.

Dye your hair some weird color that you have always wanted to try, or cut it drastically short because you've had long hair your whole life. This is a fun, simple and obtainable resolution that can be fulfilled without the stress of it being permanent.

## Find a Better Job

This resolution may be harder than the others to accomplish, but if you get up every day, go to school and then go to a job that you hate, your year is going to last a lot longer than those who are doing something they love. As college students, crappy jobs are always in the cards, but that doesn't mean that you can't experiment with different lines of work, or make your way up to a manager position. This is the time of your life to experiment, so make it a goal to get you through the new year. ■ Ca



## CTV CELEBRATES FIRST EVER VIEWER

Mounting Pressure, "Maybe Too Much to Handle Right Now," Says CTV Staff

CTV, the student run television station that airs locally in Fort Collins, reached a major milestone this past week when it received its first ever viewer. The television station- which includes such inexplicably unpopular programs as "Frank Talk" which is literally just twenty two minutes of CSU President Tony Frank discussing beard maintenance- was founded in 1989. "We had all accepted that no one would ever watch us," said top reporter Susan Vasquez. "Towards the end of last semester, we were literally just reporting things like what we had eaten for breakfast that morning and what my Aunt Hildy was up to. I didn't blame anyone for not tuning in. Hildy lives an unremarkable life. She doesn't even play shuffleboard anymore."

The CTV staff was rocketed into alleged cultural ubiquity however, late last Wednesday when the news team received word that someone, somewhere had tuned in to watch them. The first to be notified was Seymour Worthington, an elderly control room operator who happened to be on duty at the time of viewership. "I had fallen asleep at my post when all of a sudden an alarm went off and our emergency lights started flashing red. I thought the Russians were invading." After being coaxed out of hiding, persuaded into putting down his shotgun and finally being convinced by several members of the Fort Collins Police Department that the Red Menace was not attacking, Worthington realized that the

impossible had happened- someone had tuned in to CTV, possibly willingly.

"We don't know who this person is, what they stand for or what they hope to accomplish by this strange, strange act," said Programming Director J.P. McGillicuddy. "For all we know they were forced into watching it, perhaps in some kind of sick Clockwork Orange-esque brainwashing attempt. Maybe it was left on to keep a pet company while no one was home. Maybe this is just some sick attempt to send a message. We have a disconcertingly small amount of information to go off of right now."

Though the news was at first received with tremendous excitement by the CTV staff, (Several reporters were quoted as saying, "Now who's career trajectory looks bleak, Dad?") the wave of euphoria wore off once reporters, writers and editors alike realized they were suddenly being watched by upwards of one CSU student. "Frankly, there was a lot of vomiting," Said Vasquez. "Work was rough the next day. Suddenly everyone was forgetting how to read the teleprompter or work the camera. More so than usual."

The lone viewer came forward two nights later as Aunt Hildy, who reportedly just enjoyed hearing her niece talk about her.

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# Regifting *without* Regret

**W**e college students are hard to shop for. Usually I end up getting rolls of cash instead of tangible items for the holidays, which is great. Other times I receive items that I would rather live without, such as girly smelling lotion, my fifteenth pair of sunglasses or jewelry that is not my style.

Since it's uncommon for gifts to come with receipts, these presents get thrown into my closet and forgotten about until moving day. Seems like a waste, but fear not, for there's a solution.

No one wants to turn into a hoarder and the holidays can be a stressful time with spending so much money. You can eliminate both these fears by regifting unwanted presents from years past.

For example, in the case of the girly smelling lotion I received to my dismay, I prefer softer, fresh scents, like oatmeal and vanilla. I recall that my roommate loves floral scents, so the lotion would be a perfect thing to regift to her this holiday season.

One of the keys to regifting is that you should still put as much thoughtfulness in it as you would if you were buying something new. If you got a punk CD you dislike for your birthday, don't give it to your friend who also

hates punk music — this is inconsiderate and doesn't show how well you know them as a friend.

Also, avoid regifting a present back to the person who gave it to you in the first place, unless you're prepared to pull-off the old "well I liked it so much that I thought I'd get you one too!" No one likes a liar. Keep it clean, people.

When regifting, be sure to consider the item's condition. Don't regift something that has been used or has missing parts. The gift receiver will know it's been used and won't appreciate your gesture.

While regifting is a perfectly practical way to 'shop' for the holiday season, it is better not to tell people when you are regifting to them. In addition, don't tell the person who originally bought the item for you that you gave it to someone else. No hard feelings are necessary in this practice.

If you own something that you don't need that doesn't qualify for regifting, remember that there are homeless shelters and donation spots in town that would be more than happy to receive gently used items, especially this time of year. So either way, the joy of giving is always an option. ■ Ca





by the college avenue staff

# Will You Survive the End of the World

**1** What is your primary mode of transportation?

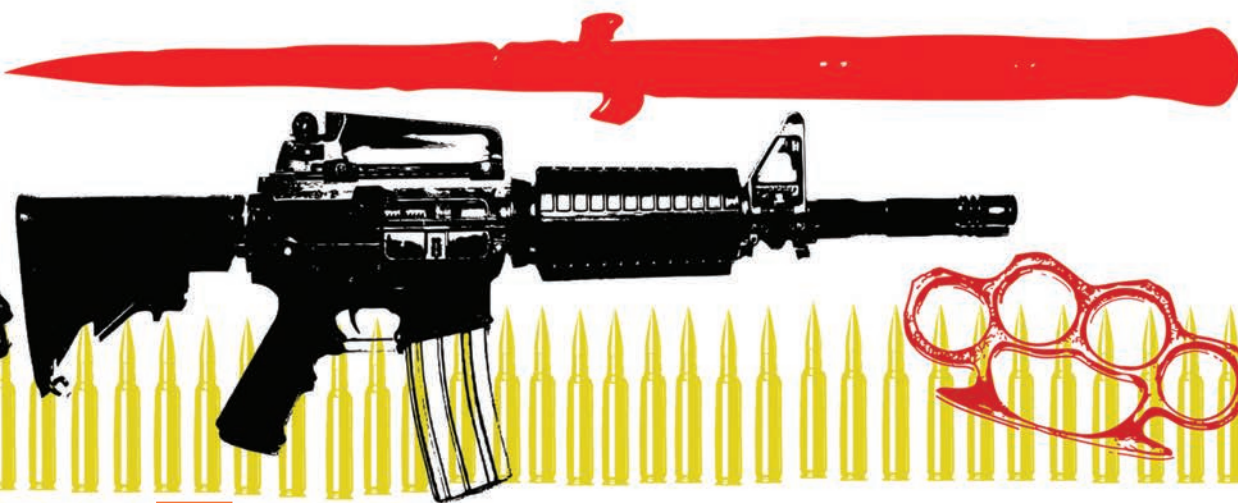
- a. Bike
- b. Car
- c. Public Transportation

**2** Do you own a shotgun?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Does a cap gun count?

**3** Who will you take with you?

- a. My red-neck friend
- b. Bill Murray
- c. The girls next door



**4** Where will you go first?

- a. My Cold War bunker
- b. Grandma's house
- c. My basement

**5** How will you stay hydrated?

- a. Water
- b. Beer
- c. Coffee

**6** What is your favorite action movie?

- a. Zombieland
- b. Does Titanic count?
- c. Karate Kid

**Mostly A's**  
**Yes**

**Mostly B's**  
**No**

**Mostly C's**  
**Zombie**

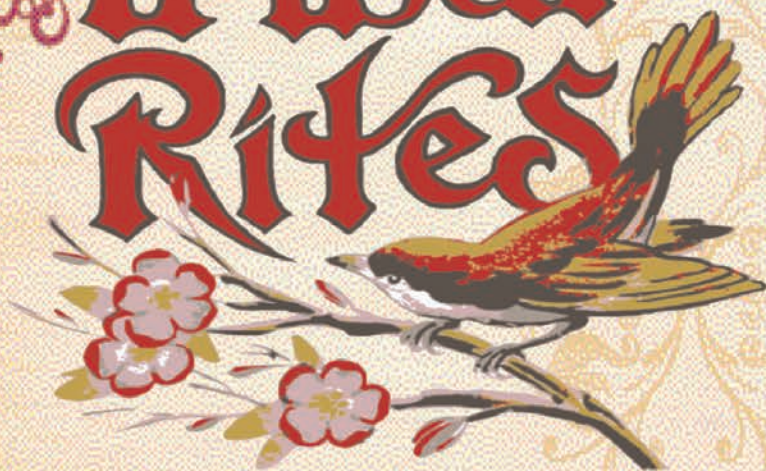
You have a plan. When the end of the world is upon us on Dec. 21, you will grab your pre-packed survival kit and rush to your Cold War bunker. You'll be able to quickly escape the city traffic by swerving around cars on your bike. Make sure to bring a friend, because you may be responsible for repopulating the world.

You believe the end of the world is just a silly myth. If you factor leap days into the predicted end of the world date, the world would have ended years ago. Logic is your best friend, but remember, a little superstition never hurt anyone. Good luck out there.

You won't truly survive the end of the world, but you won't die either. You'll be one of many among the undead. Chances are you're a social butterfly that likes staying in groups, but this will be how you'll get your face eaten off.

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