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College Avenue

volume one: issue three spring 2006



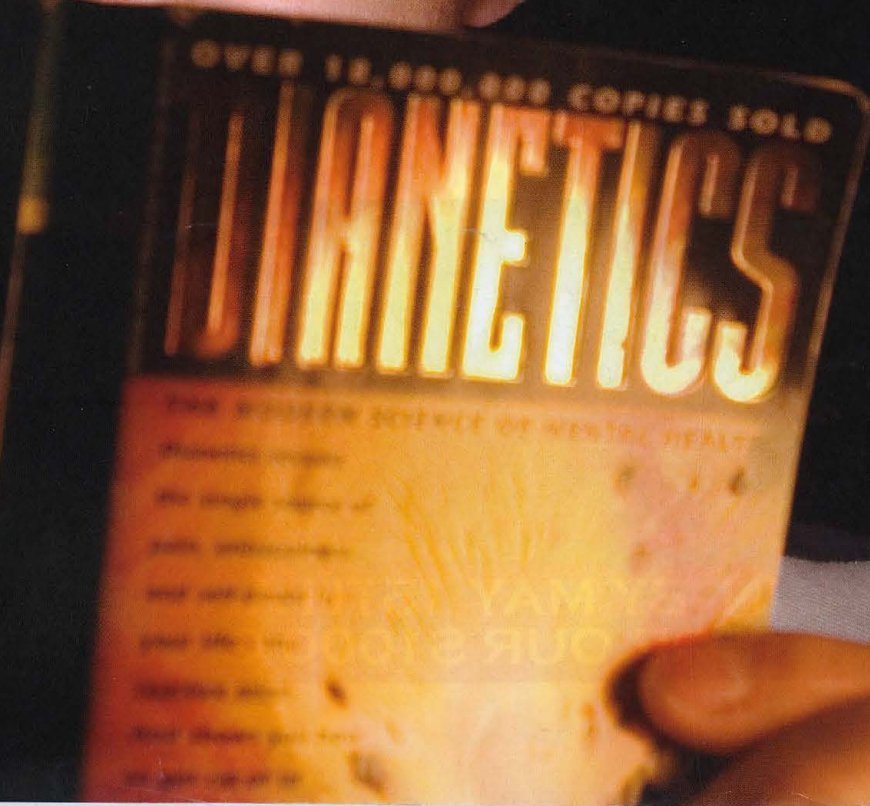
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science or science fiction?

the future of food
food is headed in a variety
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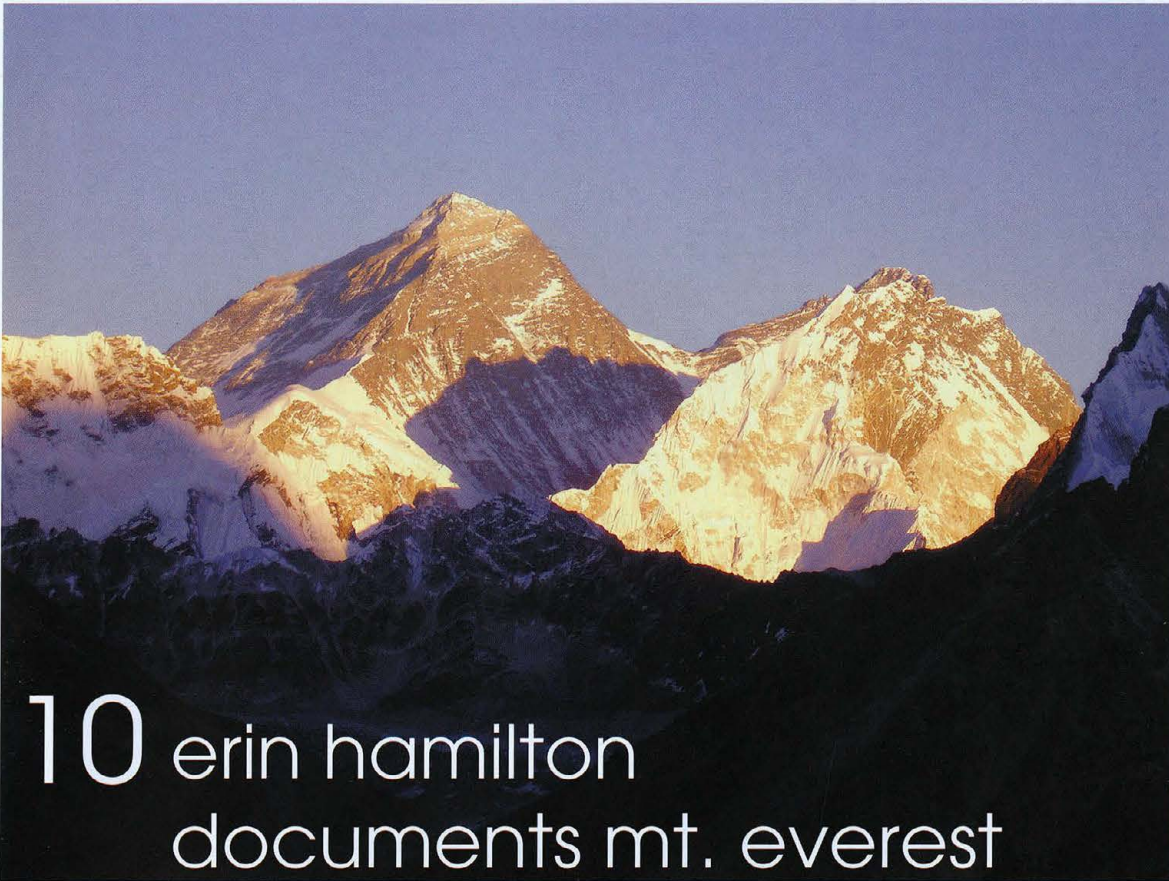
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letter from the editor



Sometimes, I'm convinced this magazine has a mind all its own. Just when I think I have everything under control, it acts up and one thing becomes clear: we have a love-hate relationship.

I love the opportunity to create a glossy, full-color work of art, and to watch everyone I've worked with explore and push his or her talents to the brink of creativity and back again. I love the final stages of production as ideas manifest into reality. And most of all, I love the aftermath – the thousands of copies resting in racks both around campus and town, and held in the hands and minds of the students that College Avenue was initially created for.

But that's just the fluff.

I hate the late nights that, by the end of, my staff and I clearly exhibit signs of insanity. I hate the computers with all their quirks and picky programs that always seem to fail or erase something at the last minute. I hate the advertising and budget problems that plague College Avenue and could eventually lead to either its demise or takeover. And I hate the countless unforeseen hurdles that the magazine consistently sends my way, as if it's challenging my legitimacy as its editor and questioning if I'm truly good enough.

But that's just the harsh reality.

When all is said and done, it becomes clear that my love for College Avenue far outweighs my hate. After all, hating something that's such a constant presence in your life and that you've poured so much of yourself into is a lot of hate to harbor.

That being said, I must add that College Avenue is not only a work of love by me, but also by the 30 or so staffers who have all voluntarily dedicated their time and talents to its creation – without which College Avenue would fail to exist. And now, as this final issue of College Avenue's first year is complete, there is only room for a continuation of the improvement it has seen throughout the year. This magazine has the potential to thrive and become one of the most anticipated publications in Fort Collins.

So sit back and enjoy what you read today, tomorrow and in the months to come and look forward to the next issue of College Avenue, created with all its fluff and reality, hitting the racks the first week of the 2006-2007 school year.

Until next year,

Amanda Schank

Amanda Schank
Editor-in-Chief

P.S. For Katie, Jake and Ryan - you guys are ultimate clutch and all that is good and happy in my life. Many thanks.

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College Avenue

Correction

In our previous issue we ran a profile story on Greg Sun as the "Athlete Extraordinaire." It appears a misprint was included in the story. Greg Sun is not 5-foot-6-inches, instead he is 6-feet tall. We apologize for the misprint.

Letters to the editor

As CSU's very own magazine we would like to extend an invitation to our readers to send in 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 csumag@lamar.colostate.edu.

Opportunity for employment

If you are a self-motivated individual who enjoys breaking out of the box creatively, then College Avenue is looking for you. If you are interested in working on the hottest new Student Media project, pick up applications at the front desk of Student Media in the basement of the Lory Student Center. Please include a resume and a portfolio or samples of work.

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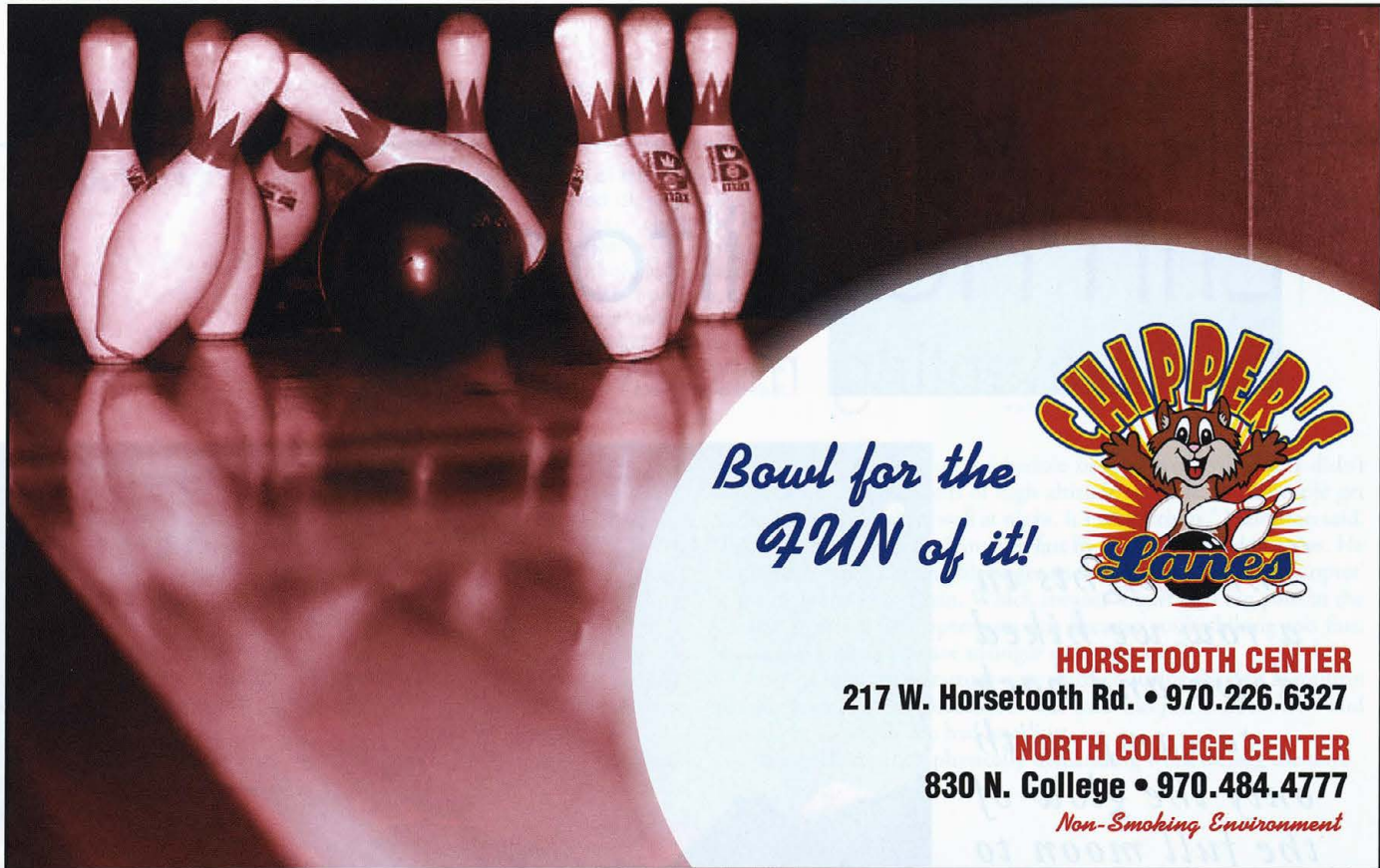
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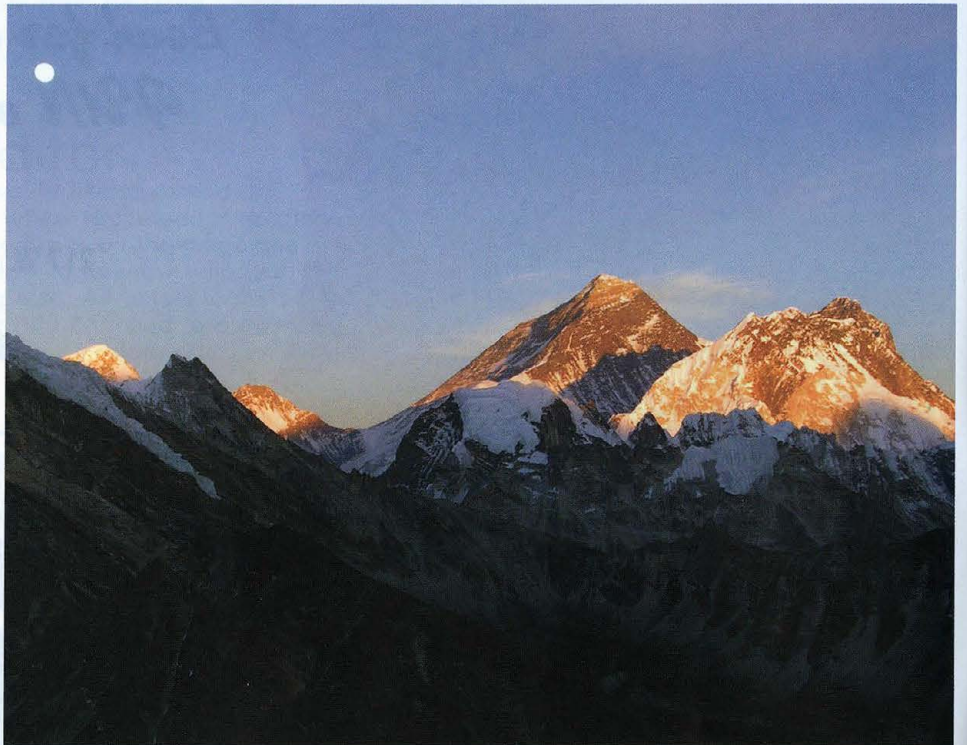
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Erin Hamilton

documenting mt. everest

“three nights in a row we hiked down and back to camp with only the glow of the full moon to guide us.”

-erin hamilton



At 6 a.m. on Nov. 16, Erin Hamilton received a phone call. Luckily, it was not an emergency, but it was a call that would change her life.

On the other end of the line was David Breashears, a well-known documentary filmmaker. Breashears invited Hamilton, a CSU senior English major, to Nepal to work on his production team for his second documentary film on Mt. Everest, and he needed an answer by 6 p.m. that day. Hamilton had only 12 hours to arrange missing school and finals and decide if this trip of a lifetime was a possibility.

Breashears is best known for his IMAX piece, “Everest,” which he co-directed, co-produced and photographed in 1996; in 1985 he was also the first American to reach the summit of Mt. Everest twice. Hamilton met him in 2001 at the Telluride Mountain Film Festival – Breashears was on the board of directors and Hamilton was stage managing. Hamilton received exceptional reviews for her work, impressing Breashears, and he wanted to get her involved in his projects.

With only a few hours to pull everything together, Hamilton met with her professors. Every one of her professors worked to make time available for her.

“I was overwhelmed by their kindness and support,” Hamilton said. “I really felt that all of my professors supported me without compromising the goals of the classes I was taking, without compromising the end of my semester and still requiring me to complete my work for the classes. They were just amazing in helping

me ... I wouldn’t have the same experience going into it had I not had that from the CSU community.”

Hamilton left Denver on Dec. 2. Packed with her were a down coat, wool sweaters and a 30-below-zero sleeping bag. From Los Angeles, her first stop was Bangkok, Thailand, with a connecting flight to Kathmandu, Nepal. After one night there, Hamilton took a prop plane to the small village of Lukla, Nepal, where she met Dendi Sherpa, her guide and a member of Breashears’ crew. Hamilton and her Sherpa guide hiked the next five days from Lukla to their final destination of Gokyo, Nepal, where Breashears and the rest of the crew were already camped.

“It was a whirlwind getting there, and I mostly received directions as I went, banking on the fact that someone would always know more than I did, someone to pick me up, get me where I needed to go next,” Hamilton said. “And it all did work out.”

Hamilton said she and the crew were in the northern Khumbu region of Nepal filming Mt. Everest and mainly stayed in Gokyo at an altitude of approximately 15,600 feet. The documentary project is about the tragic disaster that occurred on May 10, 1996, when eight climbers perished while attempting to summit Mt. Everest. Breashears was not a member of that tragic climbing team, but he was on the mountain that same year, filming his first movie.

right: one of the six holy lakes located along the khumbu glacier. clockwise from bottom right: a yak alongside a holy lake. nepalese children. hamilton, in the green jacket and nine layers, with the sherpa camera crew. opposite: the full moon rises over mt. everest



▶ photos courtesy of erin hamilton

Hamilton served as a production assistant on the crew. Her duties consisted of tracking items easily lost when working under extreme physical and weather conditions.

"The three days before the full moon we climbed 18,000-foot peaks every single night and staying at that high altitude, people become forgetful. We were working under harsh conditions and strict time frames," Hamilton said. "It was my job to keep track of equipment, making sure the loads were always ready to go. I helped as the camera operator, both on the peaks and in the tents. I helped take notes, helped with press releases and type, which was so weird sitting at 14,000 feet working on a Mac laptop."

Hamilton said the lodges where they stayed in Gokyo were plain, with plywood bunks and everyone huddled around a single fire in the kitchen.

"I quickly learned to fill up my Nalgene water bottle with boiling water before bed, which I would take into my sleeping bag with me and provide some additional heat," Hamilton said. "By morning, the water would be cold and would serve as drinking water for the day's trekking."

Every day, Hamilton was out with the film crew hiking in the Himalaya Mountains. Hamilton called the Himalayas "simply indescribable." She saw the "top of the world" view, which includes four of the world's 10 highest mountains: Everest at 29,035 feet, Lhotse at 27,940 feet, Makalu at 27,766 feet, and Cho Oyu at 26,906 feet. These peaks were all visible from a climb she did with the crew above Gokyo.

"It became an almost absurd task to photograph the scenery along the way ... Each picture seemed to be able to capture only one one-hundredth of what you could actually see before and all around you," she said.

High altitude sickness was a major concern for Hamilton; nothing could prepare her for the first time at elevations of 18,000 feet. Anyone can travel to a high altitude numerous times and still have one trip with altitude sickness.

"I went up on an accelerated schedule, which I was very worried about because it's almost irresponsible to go up too quickly. I just listened to my

body and drank water on a schedule to stay over-hydrated. I didn't have any of the symptoms of high altitude sickness; most people get headaches or don't sleep well at night. It's very serious," Hamilton said. "I got reprimanded for hiking too fast by one of the head Sherpas. He was pointing and shaking his finger and saying 'helicopter, helicopter' to me over and over again. Which meant, 'Don't be a big pain in the ass and make us helicopter you out because you're hiking too fast, because you think you are stronger than you are.'"

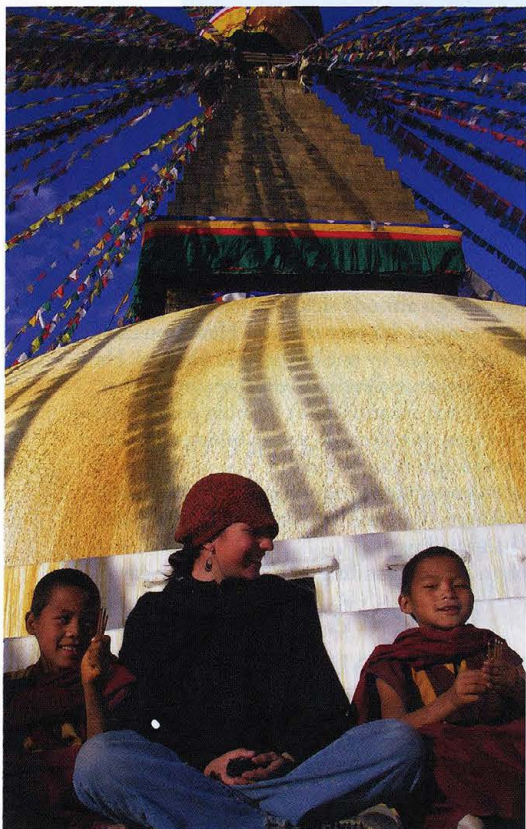
Surprisingly, temperatures were warmer during the day. Hamilton said she learned from Breashears that cold was just a discomfort and something to which she had to adjust.

"You're doing such physically demanding work during the day,

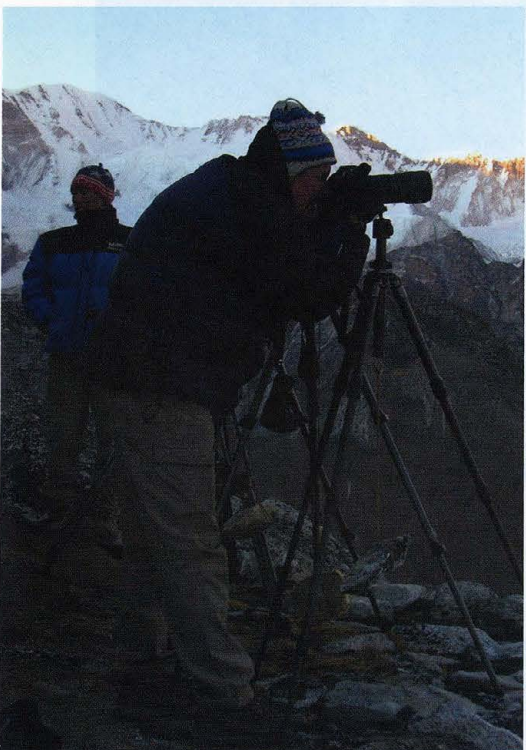


"it is the kind of place that gets deep into your heart, and you miss being there even before you are gone."

-erin hamilton



▶ photos courtesy of erin hamilton



left: hamilton at the boudhanath stupa, a notable buddhist temple. **bottom left:** david breashears setting up one of the four cameras in preparation for the rising moon. **bottom right:** the village of gokyo with mt. cho oyu in the background.

you're hiking, and it's such hard hiking during the day. It's not particularly steep and it's not far, but you're gaining over a thousand feet of elevation every day, and it's just slow walking," Hamilton said. "And when you get to the lodges you're soaking wet with sweat. It's learning to change your clothes the minute you get to the lodge and be drinking tea at the tea houses along the way."

One of the shots Breashears needed for the documentary was the full moon rising over Mt. Everest, which rises over the mountain about every nine years. Hamilton said the moon was exactly where Breashears wanted it to be, considering the variations in the lunar cycle. A complete lunar cycle is 18 years, and Breashears has been tracking the lunar latitude and longitude for about that long, Hamilton said.

The group hiked to the nearby mountain of Gokyo Ri a few days before the full moon was to rise. Hamilton said Breashears was excited to film the full moon rising over the South Col of Mt. Everest.

"It was spectacular being on those mountain tops for the sunsets, and three nights in a row we hiked down and back to camp with only the glow of the full moon to guide us," Hamilton said.

One of Hamilton's favorite aspects of the trip was the people. On her last afternoon in Nepal, Hamilton traveled from Kathmandu to Boudhanath Stupa, a prominent Buddhist temple.

"People in Nepal are amazing – it's a whole different culture," Hamilton said. "They are the nicest people you could imagine. You don't ever want to generalize about a whole society, but I didn't meet a single person who wasn't worth being friends with."

Hamilton also became very fond of the 12-person Sherpa crew that helped carry the film equipment.

"The Sherpas that we traveled with aren't servants and they're not children, and a lot of Westerners, I think, who travel to Nepal treat them as such," Hamilton said. "That, to me, is totally inappropriate. They are a deeply religious culture – they are kind." On her last morning in Kathmandu, the Sherpa guides surprised Hamilton by coming to say good-bye and see her off.

"So many who we came into contact with exuded an air of joy and exuberance, it was contagious," Hamilton said. "It is the kind of place that gets deep into your heart, and you miss being there even before you are gone."



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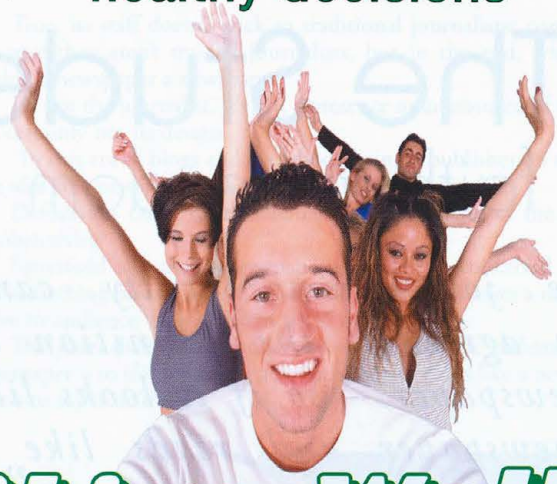
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The Student Voice

faith in freedom of the press

“the journalism faculty can’t even agree on the definition of a newspaper – so if it looks like a newspaper and reads like a newspaper who’s to say it isn’t?”

Six people recline in a room at 8:30 on a Sunday morning. A box of Lamar’s donuts sits on the coffee table; day planners are open; an accordion file lays flat at someone’s feet.

It would seem a normal meeting between editors and writers of a regular college publication – if not for the off-campus location and moving boxes.

The staff of The Student Voice meets in the home of Chris and Alyssa Erickson, and, more recently, at Summitview Community Church. Chris lays out the copy and Alyssa performs odds and ends, earning her the title of “empres.”

It’s a publication week for The Voice. Every other week, the four-page publication with a green and black masthead makes its way onto distribution racks across campus.

The paper covers issues that are at the forefront of Christian and secular debates nationwide: intelligent design, abortion and politics are only a few.

“I guess it reflects that people care about moral issues,” Chris said.

But despite the many things that need to be completed to prepare the next issue for print, this is not a normal meeting for The Voice.

The staff has gathered to methodically wind its way through the criticism that appeared in the campus newspaper, The Rocky Mountain Collegian, on Jan. 25.

And as the staff members introduce themselves and sift through the arguably harsh critique, what might be a familiar setting for a journalism student is filled with people who aren’t familiar with it.

These are people who don’t study journalism on a daily basis, who haven’t heard of The Associated Press stylebook and who just want to communicate a certain message to their audience.

It’s just that the audience is the entire student body at CSU.

And that the message isn’t, well, objective.

Perhaps that is where the problems begin.

The staff opens with prayer. They ask God to let them respond in a way other than mere irritation toward the editorial board of the Collegian – not a regular practice for journalists in formulating a response to an ethical issue.

Nathan Hrouda, one of The Voice’s regular writers and a senior chemistry major, steps up to the white board and pulls the cap off a dry-erase marker. As Chris reads the Collegian editorial, entitled “Publication misleads,” aloud, Hrouda jots down a detailed list of the criticisms.

The major points of the list include “deceives and misleads, method not message,” “standards of accountability, claim of no bias” and “‘Rock’ not expressly stated in paper,” each with details underneath.

Brandon Lowrey, the associate managing editor of news at the Collegian and junior technical journalism major, wrote the editorial endorsed by the Collegian’s editorial board. He compared The Voice to the 1938 broadcast of “War of the Worlds” by Orson Welles – referencing the hysteria that followed.

“They believed it because it sounded real. It sounded like a real



news report,” Lowrey wrote.

He claimed The Voice misleads its readers by presenting itself as a legitimate news source, sounding like it might appeal to everyone when, in reality, it might not.

It’s a “narrow-minded specific viewpoint,” Lowrey said of the Christian-based publication – definitely not something everyone can agree with.

When he says the “publication misleads,” he just means the method.

Or does he?

Despite the idea that a newspaper is merely an effort to say something to a certain audience, undeclared bias matters.

The Collegian’s claim that in The Voice “not a single article is free from intense opinion and bias,” is based on the fact that most of the articles include personal reflections on topics, usually from a faith-based position.

Patrick Plaisance, a CSU professor of media ethics, explained when a publication appears legitimate but fails to uphold the journalistic value of transparency, it undermines the credibility of all journalists.

Transparency means the writer is honest with the readers about whether facts or opinions, straight news or biased accounts, are presented.

But if the bias is intentional and obvious, wouldn’t a declaration of bias be redundant?

“You’d think the testimonies in back would tip them off,” a Voice staff member joked.

But does The Voice’s decision to not declare its bias truly insult “the intelligence of its readers,” as the Collegian article said?

Or, is the reader insulted by the speculation that he or she couldn’t possibly understand the difference between a non-biased and a biased news source, especially one in which accounts of faith in Jesus Christ flank the back page?

Having tackled two of three main issues, the staff begins to discuss the third: that The Rock is not mentioned on the front page, adding to what the Collegian perceived as a failure to disclose bias.

The Rock is a Christian student group affiliated with Summitview Community Church, located at 1601 W. Drake. The group and the address appear in the publisher’s box on the second page of each issue.

The name of the church does not. While the staff previously toyed with the idea of changing the masthead to name the publisher, they decided against it.

But Plaisance and Amy Satterfield, a CSU journalism professor, as well as Lowrey, agree that making this simple change will only add to The Voice’s credibility.

The staff decides not to formally reply to the Collegian article.

“Our response will be what we apply,” Chris said.

They will attempt to remove personal “I” statements in order to let the facts speak for themselves. The Voice will encourage its writers to leave conclusions unresolved, placing questions that make the reader think at the end of articles.

But so far, these are the only changes the staff has planned. They hold the opinion that the Collegian probably won’t like what they do, no matter how they do it.

“I’d rather hold ourselves accountable to the people who are reading it, not the Collegian,” said Mike Michaud, another writer.

Is The Student Voice a newspaper? Yes.

True, its staff doesn’t stick to traditional journalistic conventions because they aren’t trained journalists, but in the end, what really makes a newspaper a newspaper?

It’s not the journalist, it’s not a presence or an absence of bias, and it’s certainly not its design.

“In this era of blogs and everybody being a publisher on the Web, the idea of a newspaper is kind of elastic,” Plaisance said.

Definitions range from timeliness to importance of the material to objectivity.

Satterfield says that a newspaper is simply, “a concerted effort to say something on newsprint.” She added that it possesses a mission to serve its audience with a certain set of content.

The journalism faculty can’t even agree on the definition of a newspaper – so if it looks like a newspaper and reads like a newspaper, who’s to say it isn’t?



photo courtesy of the student voice

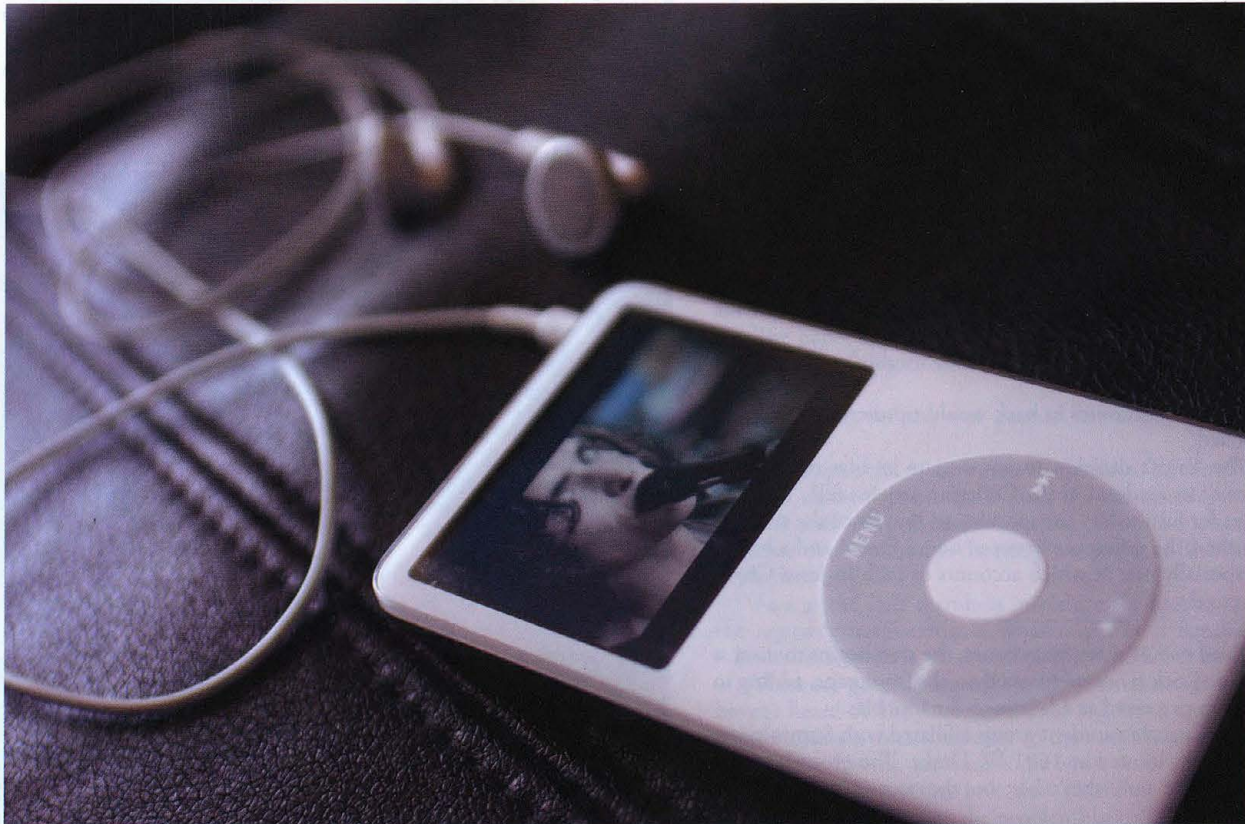


photo by jesse casanbon

far left: katie schultze reads the student voice inside the student center. top: a group of student voice members take a break from their day. bottom: mike michaud, staff member of the student voice, discusses plans for an upcoming issue sunday, april 2, at the summitview community church.

Hey there iPod listener, can you hear me?

by mike donovan



they are taking over campus.

they are in the library next
to you.

they are standing next to you
on the bus.

they are iPod headphones.

The headphones, known as earbuds, have become the center of controversy. Earbuds have been accused of leading to deafness in users. Most portable MP3 players have similar headphones, but since the iPod and its earbuds are the most popular, they are at the middle of the deafness debate.

On Jan. 31, John Patterson, a Louisiana citizen, sued Apple, the maker of iPod, claiming the company was selling a defective product that is too loud for consumers. According to the lawsuit, the earbuds are "inherently defective in design and are not sufficiently adorned with adequate warnings regarding the likelihood of hearing loss."

CSU students have varied opinions about these claims. Nelson Hevner, a junior soil and crop sciences major, agreed that listening to his iPod shuffle sometimes gives him a headache.

"I have a ringing in my ear for about five minutes after I listen to my shuffle," Hevner said.

However, Madeline Mosier, a sophomore English literature major, has not encountered these problems.

"I don't know why people's ears ring after listening to their iPods, but mine don't," Mosier said.

“... the maximum decibel level expelled from an iPod is about 110 decibels. that is the equivalent of the noise produced by a power saw or a baby crying.”

According to critics, the major reason for hearing loss is the number of decibels being released so close to the ear. Apple has not officially released the number of decibels that iPods can reach, but research completed by Boston Children's Hospital demonstrated that the maximum decibel level expelled from an iPod is about 110 decibels. That is equivalent to the noise produced by a power saw or a baby crying.

Depending on the length of the listening session, any level over 85 decibels can produce hearing loss over a period of time. Volumes of 120 decibels or more can have long-term effects even if the listener is only subjected to it once. In addition, earbuds can be about eight decibels louder than regular headphones.

Over 42 million iPods have been sold in the United States, and just by looking around CSU, it is obvious students love listening to them.

So what can be done for the students who are worried about their hearing, but don't want to rid themselves of their shiny new iPods? Deanna Meinke, an audiology professor at the University of Northern Colorado, said students need to take precautions.

“The risk is there but the risk lies with the user and where they set the volume,” Meinke said.

Experts suggest taking breaks when listening to an iPod for an extended period of time to reduce the risk of hearing loss. The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association says that listening to an iPod at 100 decibels for any amount of time over two hours is potentially harmful.

On March 29, Apple announced it was unveiling a software update for its newly released iPods. The update allows parents to set a maximum volume for their children's iPods. The update, which can be downloaded at www.apple.com, is not mandatory and does little to curb the high volume that most CSU students can listen to.

While the United States currently has no federal law dealing with the amount of sound produced by iPods, MP3 players or compact disc players, a congressman from Massachusetts is looking into that possibility. Edward J. Markey has written a letter to the National Institutes of Health asking them to research whether iPods and other devices contribute to premature hearing loss and determine if earbuds are significantly more damaging than regular headphones.

Some countries have already established laws limiting the number of decibels produced by portable audio devices. A French law states that no portable audio device may give off more than 100 decibels. The first batch of iPods released in France exceeded that number and subsequently had to be re-released.

In the early 1980s, when Sony Walkmans were released, similar warnings were issued by hearing experts. Americans continued to listen to their Walkmans, despite warnings of future consequences.

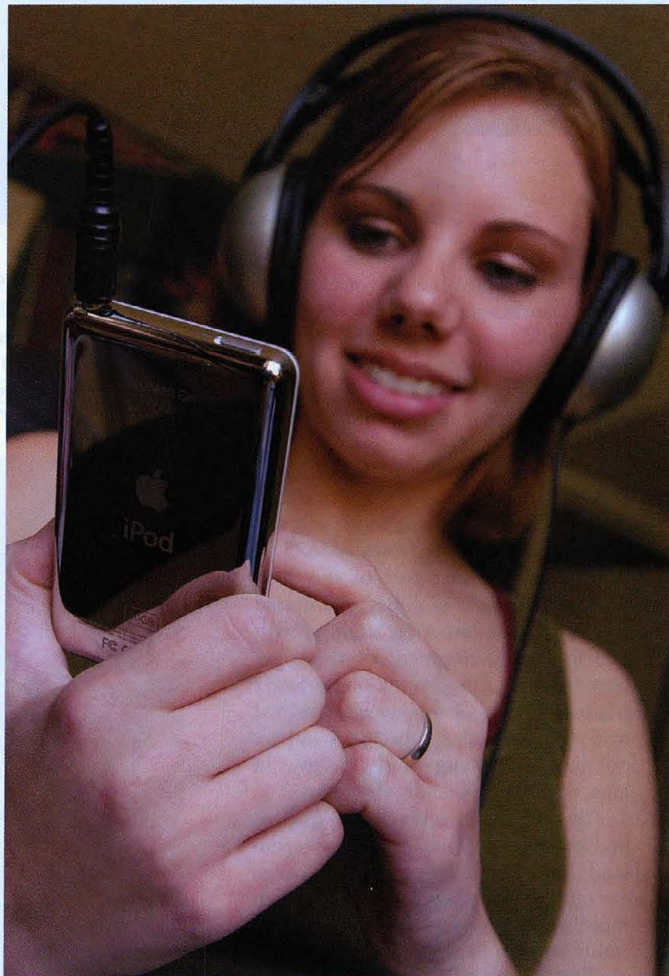
Approximately 30 million Americans have considerable hearing loss, according to the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. That number has increased substantially from the approximately 13 million who suffered from hearing loss in 1971. While the Walkman is not the only reason for this, the invention of portable music players is certainly a contributing factor.

Famed music writer Norman Lebrecht believes that Walkmans had a lasting impact on the American people.

“A generation's ears were physically wrecked,” Lebrecht said.

Could the generation of iPod listeners eventually see the same hearing loss as the Walkman generation did? The answer seems to be yes. Hearing loss will rise significantly, according to the National Institute on Deafness. The NID believes that by 2030, as many as 78 million Americans may have hearing loss.

So the next time you are listening to the Black Eyed Peas on your iPod and you feel the urge to “pump it louder,” think about the consequences. Because by listening to an iPod at its highest volume now, you may not be able to listen to anything at all later.



► photos by ryan maier

Fort Collins:

Then...



black and white photos courtesy of csu photo services

above: college avenue, 1910-1920

Fort Collins is a city of beautiful landscapes, great weather and a rich history. From its establishment as a town in 1873 to the present, Fort Collins has become a place that many are proud to call home.

Let's start from the beginning... Fort Collins originated as a military outpost for the U.S. Army in 1864. It was formally established as a town in 1873.

During the first part of the 20th century, Fort Collins witnessed unparalleled prosperity and growth due to the development of the sugar beet industry. The Fort Collins Sugar Manufacturing Company was formed in 1904 and had a substantial impact on the city, leading to an increase in jobs, population and development.

By 1909, downtown Fort Collins had expanded to 74 acres of commercial land; in 1916 the first block of College Avenue was paved with concrete, which rapidly progressed with the increasing traffic and population.

The Agricultural College of Colorado welcomed its first students

onto campus in 1879, and in 1957 the university officially changed its name to Colorado State University. During this time, sororities and fraternities became popular among students and grew in membership.

Since the university's development, much of Fort Collins' culture has centered around the students of CSU. Due to the college-age demographic, the city began to flourish in arts and entertainment, among other things.



above: pine street, 1923

The CSU Oval

The Oval, perhaps one of the most familiar places to CSU students, was designed in 1909. Sixty-five elm trees span across an expansive lawn area where students and community members can spend time in a peaceful and relaxing environment. The Oval is representative of the university's history as students continue to enjoy its serenity year after year.



Old Main

On May 8, 1970, intense student activism during CSU's anti-war movement led to the burning of Old Main – completely destroying the 92-year-old cornerstone and first academic building of the campus. CSU was able to overcome the tragic event and began taking important steps toward addressing the demands of affirmative action by expanding opportunities for women and minorities. The campus also began to flourish in development during this time.



► black and white photos courtesy of csu photo services

Fort Collins Museum

The original building served as the Fort Collins Public Library in 1904 and became a pioneer museum in 1941. The museum has evolved into a regional center focusing on the town's history and culture. Since 1976, the museum has been known as the Fort Collins Museum, but the chiseled words "Public Library" can still be seen over its west entrance.





left top: csu oval, 1910-1920
right top: csu oval, 2006

left middle: old main, 1878
right middle: old main, 2006

left bottom: old town, 1926
right bottom: old town, 2006



► color photos by ryan maier



Today, Fort Collins has a charm and beauty all its own. Although the city has changed and developed immensely from its days as an early pioneering and farming town to the home of the CSU Rams, Fort Collins has, and will continue to be, a historically-enriched town.

To Grow Or not to Grow

the pros and cons of genetically modified food

How much does the average consumer know about the food they're eating? In the past, it was a simple answer of whether or not the food was healthy, organic or grown in America. But today the answer to that question has become much more complex with the introduction of genetically modified organisms in the past generation.

A genetically modified organism is an "organism in which the genetic material (DNA) has been altered in a way that does not occur naturally," according to the World Health Organization Web site. The genetically modified crops on the market today are insect resistant and herbicide tolerant to increase the level of crop production.

The debate surrounding genetically modified organisms regards the growth and consumption of genetically modified food and crops. It stems from a simple question: should genetically modified crops be grown? Genetically modified food, also known as biotechnology or gene technology, was first introduced in the mid-1990s. Today, there are several genetically modified strains of maize, soybeans, cotton and rice.

Before anyone can answer whether or not genetically modified foods should be grown and distributed to consumers around the world, several health, economic and political issues must be sorted through. These include the health and safety consideration of genetically modified food for humans and the environment, the economic effects genetically modified foods will have on developing countries and the politics of regulating and distributing genetically modified food internationally.

Numerous activist groups opposed to genetically modified food production like Friends of the Earth and Genewatch have formed, challenging its supporters. Both pro and con sides of genetically modified food have strong arguments supporting their stance. In the end, the decision over genetically modified food will fall in the hands of you – the consumer.

The Effects on Humans and the Environment

The first issue of debate focuses on health and the effect of genetically

modified foods on humans and the environment. Opponents argue there is a large gap of uncertainty concerning the impacts genetically modified food may have. Is a generation of research enough time to determine long-term effects?

Specific concerns for humans include allergic reactions and gene transfer. Modifying genes can cause unintended changes, which could produce potentially allergenic toxins and proteins, according to a Genewatch report. In 2000, millions of packages of taco shells were recalled by Kraft Foods after tests showed that some shells were made with corn known as StarLink, according to CNN. The StarLink corn contains a bacterium gene that makes it toxic to insects, and is approved for use only in animal feed, as it could cause allergic reactions in humans.

Gene transfer is a health concern because there is a small chance that genes from the genetically modified food could transfer to cells or bacteria in the body, according to the World Health Organization Web site. This would be a serious health problem if the antibiotic resistance genes, used in genetically modified organisms, were transferred. Proponents refute allegations of risks, and maintain that genetically modified food has undergone continuous tests and risk assessments and passed. In addition, no side effects have been recorded as a result of consuming genetically modified food. This food is also examined in more detail than regular food



photo by jessica douglas

to find any potential problems.

"In the last 10 years, how many people have died from genetically modified foods versus how many have died from starvation or malnutrition?" asked Vernon B. Cardwell, morse-alumni distinguished professor of agronomy and plant genetics at the University of Minnesota. "We need to maintain a perspective of the magnitude of impact. What is having a greater impact on the environment and the future, genetic erosion caused by genetically modified organisms or global warming due to human activity?"

Opponents are also worried about the impacts genetically modified crops will have on the environment. There is a list of concerns, according to the World Health Organization Web site:

cross pollination, the chances genetically modified organisms escape and are introduced into the wild, the weakening of insects that are not targets of the genetically modified organisms, the loss of biodiversity due to the reduction of other plants and a greater use of chemicals.

Cross pollination between normal crops and genetically modified crops is a concern because it is uncertain if the two will mix. "There's probably no way to guarantee zero percent cross pollination if you have the same crop growing in reasonable fronts, but at least you could keep it at a low level," said Patrick Byrne, associate professor of soil and crop sciences at CSU. "Zero is hard to predict, hard to guarantee."

Byrne also noted that the U.S. Department of Agriculture's standard for bio farms is zero, but he believes in a practical sense that zero is almost unattainable.

"People, for example, have asked me how far crops have to be separated to get zero cross pollination. Well, zero is tough. I'm not comfortable saying it's not, I just can't," Byrne said. "You could have some weird updraft or hurricane-strength winds come through and take the pollen or even some freak accident that will cross pollinate three miles away."

Economic Considerations

Genetically modified food research and production wouldn't be continuing if it weren't successful, however. In 2005, the billionth acre of genetically modified crops was planted. In 1996, there were only six countries growing genetically modified food and today there are 8.5 million farmers in 21 countries growing it, reflecting the trust and confidence farmers worldwide have for new biotechnology, according to a 2005 report by the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications (ISAAA). The United States, Argentina, Brazil, Canada and China are the main adopters and supporters of genetically modified organisms and biotechnology.

Genetically modified food was initially created to improve crop production. A report by the World Health Organization concluded that genetically modified foods can "increase crop yield, food quality and the diversity of foods which can be grown in a given area." For supporters, genetically modified food is a hopeful answer to global hunger. Production of drought-resistant crops in desert areas of Africa, for example, helps those in developing countries by creating job opportunities and crops for farmers and food for the people.

"I am most interested in how genetically modified crops can help the nutrition and overall health of impoverished peoples," said Jeff Miller, assistant professor of agricultural communications at the University of Arkansas. "Imagine a new variety of rice engineered to contain more protein and more essential vitamins and minerals. Such potential benefits are a cornerstone of the pro-biotech platform ... Millions of HIV patients in Africa could literally improve their quality of life by eating foods made more nutritious through biotechnology."

Supporters want poor farmers to be able to take advantage of this new technology because of its benefits. Biotechnology can help food security, boost the incomes of farms, save labor costs and create more rural farm jobs.

"Genetically modified crops are already beneficial for producers and for the environment," Miller said. "Soybean farmers now could not imagine their world without RoundUp Ready soybeans. Such technology saves loads in production and labor costs and is easier on the environment because less input is now required to grow soybeans, though yields per acre continue to increase."

Several developing countries, like China and India, have already developed the ability to take their own lead in biotechnology research. The most advanced countries in commercialization of genetically modified rice are Iran and China, according to the ISAAA report. Rice is grown by 250 million farmers worldwide and is the main food of 1.3 billion people suffering from extreme poverty. The advances in

Why does the European Union refuse to accept genetically modified food?

Since the introduction of genetically modified (GM) food a decade ago, the United States and European Union have had different views of the production, regulation and trade of GM food. While the United States has continued to produce and test GM food, there have been few products approved in the European Union.

European consumers do not see the introduction of GM foods as a direct benefit – the food is not cheaper, it doesn't last longer or taste better. Generally, Europeans have been focusing more on the risks of GM food than the economical benefits. Although both the United States and European Union share similar economies, the European Union remains unconvinced of GM food because of consumer attitudes and farm operations, according to a report by the AgBioForum.

Production policies have also affected the attitudes of European Union consumers. For example, all food containing or produced from genetically modified organisms must be labeled. This strict policy has not put GM food in a positive light. In the United States, labeling of GM foods is only required if the product has been significantly altered or if a risk of allergic reaction exists. The policy of labeling in the European Union also impacts the cost of GM food.

Another negative attitude held by the European Union stems from past experiences and problems with food. "Unlike Americans, Europeans are not trustful of the safety of their food supply," said Jeff Miller, assistant professor of agricultural communications at the University of Arkansas. "In addition, they do not trust their government regulatory agencies like Americans do. This distrust was heightened by the crises caused by Foot and Mouth Disease and BSE (Mad Cow Disease). In the United States, if the FDA or USDA says it's safe, it's safe," he said. AgBioForum reports 76 percent of American consumers have a "great deal" or "fair amount" of trust in regulators like the FDA.

If and when the European Union fully approves GM food, farmers growing the crops will experience high costs to isolate their farms from others. Since Europe is already heavily settled, it will be difficult to create space to separate the GM crops from regular crops. It could end up costing European farmers more to adapt their farms for GM crops. Also, currently the main GM crops are maize and soybean, which are minor crops in Europe. Between 1998 and 2003, the European Union only produced 6 percent of maize and 1 percent of soybeans in the world.



▶ photo by scott liddell



genetically modified crops, especially rice, could ease hunger, poverty and malnutrition, the ISAAA report says. In 2005, 7.7 million poor subsistence farmers, from China, India, South Africa and the Philippines, benefited from genetically modified crops. The global net economic benefits from 1996 to 2004 were \$15 billion for developing countries and \$12 billion for developed countries.

Cardwell, University of Minnesota professor, also believes genetically modified crops are beneficial to farmers. "The farmers have voted with their money. The currently mass marketed genetically modified crops are primarily convenience factor items for farmers, i.e. more flexible timing for control of weeds and pests," he said. "There are other products on the market that will provide about the same level of control at about the same level of cost but without the flexibility."

Opponents, however, believe biotechnology is not right for farmers and agriculture in developing countries. They say benefits are only available to farmers who are already well-off, because those are the only farmers able to afford the high starting costs and risks if the crops fail. Biotechnology is "accused of distracting attention from pressing socio-economic and distributional problems that underlie poverty and malnutrition," according to the Science and Development Network. In addition, there is controversy over the motives of multinational corporations that push and fund the research, development and commercialism of biotechnology.

Opponents believe strong genetically modified food promotion by multinational corporations "undermines the food security of the poor and the economic interests of developing countries," the Science and Development Network reported.

Political Actions

A main problem with distributing genetically modified foods is the lack of international restrictions and regulations. Opponents want to know how governments around the globe will be able to develop the biotechnology so it is cost-effective, maintains ecological balance and is accessible to poor farmers. Right now there are no specific international systems to regulate the production and trade of genetically modified food. The World Health Organization Web site reports there are 15 international legally-binding instruments and non-binding codes pertaining to areas of genetically modified food. Developed countries have the capabilities to create regulatory systems and risk assessment cases, but developing countries do not have the means to create the same systems. Developing countries also lack the capacity to research, develop and commercialize biotechnology.

An international ruling could help regulation problems if leaders could all get together at one time, discuss specific issues and come to a consensus and then help developing countries through the difficult task of implementing those rulings.

Scientists in developing countries are also complaining that their

“millions of hiv patients in africa could literally improve their quality of life by eating foods made more nutritious through biotechnology”

- jeff miller



► photo by jessica douglas

skills are being used for simple capacity-building, rather than conducting their own biotech research and development, which they want to do, according to Science and Development Network. This leads opponents to believe capacity-building is only a method used by multinational corporations to pressure developing countries to accept biotechnology.

Byrne believes a regional system of regulation would be more effective. "To some extent, (regulation) needs to be evaluated, not country by country, but region by region. I would argue on that regional grouping, like all the Southern Africa countries, if they could agree on some common framework to share the expense," Byrne said. "I know that U.N. agencies are working with developing countries to develop reasonable frameworks because it is something really hard just to take on by individual countries."

Organizations like the World Health Organization and the United Nations are working together to help countries research and learn about the development and trade of genetically modified food. Broad regulations for genetically modified food are in place already, with more negotiations and agreements under way. The topic of labeling genetically modified organisms is also being discussed so genetically modified food in the future will be traceable from the farmer to the kitchen table. In the United States, regulations are formed by organizations such as the Food and Drug Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.



► photo by gracie stinson

The Future of Genetically Modified Food

While it is uncertain where biotechnology is heading, it is most important for the consumers to be educated about genetically modified food because they will inevitably decide its future. Genetically modified food has many hurdles to clear before it secures a permanent home on supermarket shelves.

Nutritious or Malicious?

the "organic" way



▶ photos by jessica douglas

When most hear the word “organic,” they immediately think “healthy.” They might picture new-age mothers shopping at Wild Oats, and all-natural, old-fashioned farmers and foods. Or they picture the earth the way nature intended – void of high-rise buildings and miles of endless interstates. What they might consider picturing, however, is E. coli, land waste and empty wallets.

No one can deny that organic food’s popularity is on the rise. With organic grocery stores, organic menu options and pro-organic publicity, it’s clear that eating “the way nature intended” is a current trend.

According to the 2003 Whole Foods Market Organic Trends Tracker, nearly one-third of Americans claimed to buy more organic foods than they did the previous year. Fort Collins is no exception.

“Everyone should eat organically. There is no reason for all the extra chemicals they put in foods. Unless you wash them, you’re eating pesticides and herbicides,” said Dan Hady, a service work coordinator and “general handyman” for the Environmental Learning Center (ELC). “If a chemical could kill a weed or a bug, it’s not something you should put inside your own body.”

The ELC is a natural area about three miles east of campus. It contains 212 CSU-owned acres used “to advance environmental stewardship among students and the community through opportunities for experiential learning, self-study and educational programs,” according to its Web site. The land space is also home to CSU’s 4,200 square-foot organic farm.

“We use certified organic seeds, and no pesticides or herbicides. I have to do the weeding by hand. I also use some organic fertilizers and compost,” said Hady about the growing process of organic food.

But what does it really mean to be organic anyway?

Star Miller, the director of community outreach for the Fort Collins Food Co-Op, explained, “(Organic means) to be grown and produced without man-made chemicals, the way nature intended.”

The widely accepted definition of organic is generally food that is not produced with herbicides, pesticides or genetically modified organisms. The National Organic Program, run by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), controls the legal definition. The program sets rules and guidelines for farmers to earn the official organic stamp of approval. Its regulations cover food production, processing, delivery and retail sale.

Because of the time and money involved in becoming certified organic, some farmers choose to never become officially approved, but still market their products as all-natural.

“I refuse to pay money for an adjective. It’s about sustainability,” said Sue Oberle, owner of Oberle Botanical, a locally owned farming business. “We try to leave things better than they were when we got here, and that’s not a part of being certified.”

Oberle said pests are not a large problem for farmers in Fort Collins, and she relies on using simple methods, like using soap, to keep her products pest free.

“There’s enough junk in our air and water as it is, you don’t need to add any more like pesticides,” she said.

Not only do organic farmers believe foods are safer when grown without chemicals, but many also claim other benefits of organic food.

“(Benefits include) improved health personally and environmentally sound practices,” Miller said. “There are lifelong payoffs for eating organically.”

Michele Thomas, a manager for Whole Foods in Fort Collins, said that the store, although entirely all-natural, hopes to provide all-organic products as well.

“We want to support the organic farmers so that they can continue to produce more, and eventually turn to complete organic products rather than conventional,” she said.

Whole Foods gets new organic products almost every day and also provides store brand organic options that are more affordable. They offer products ranging from macaroni and cheese to beans and everything in between, Thomas said.

Despite these options, organic foods are still generally more expensive than conventionally-grown products due to the smaller land yield, but some still feel it’s worth the price.

“It’s like investing. I cannot think of a more important thing to spend money on than food. It’s critical to the way we think and feel,” Miller said.

So they’re all-natural, free of pesticides and herbicides and some claim they even taste better, but are organic foods

really as healthy for one’s body and the environment as their producers say?

Alex Avery doesn’t think so. Avery, plant physiologist and analyst and commentator for think tank The Hudson Institute, recently wrote “The Politically Incorrect Guide to Organic Food,” a book due out this summer that takes a critical look at organic foods.

“The book shows the side of organic food the media doesn’t tell. It’s

“controlling pests with chemicals is like using a chainsaw to cut butter. it’s just not necessary.”

- sue oberle





▶ photo by jessica douglas

just the facts. It goes through the myths," Avery said.

His main concern is land usage. Organic food takes roughly twice the land to grow than non-organic. With the population growth, Avery sees this as impractical.

"Thirty-seven percent of all land area is used for agriculture. Organic farming is no better for the environment and uses twice as much land," he said. "It's like driving an SUV."

Because organic farmers use natural manure rather than synthetic fertilizers, their procedures take longer and use more animal products. To farm completely organically, the world needs to increase its cattle population by 4 billion to 6 billion, about five times more than are on the planet today, Avery said.

"I'm a nature lover," he said. "I want the land to go back to forest, not agriculture."

Avery's other major concern is food safety. E. coli is the number one food scare today, not pesticides. E. coli comes from manure. Because of this, most farmers use manure solely for field crops, not food. Organic farmers however, must use manure for all crops. E. coli can then get into plants' vascular tissues where it is unable to be washed out, making organic food consumers more susceptible.

"If I was worried about the parts per billion of pesticides in foods, I'd also be concerned about the significantly greater E. coli risk in organic foods," Avery said.

However, many organic farmers don't view this as a threat.

"E. coli is everywhere. You can't avoid it. Genetically engineered foods are not a good way to avoid it," said Miller.

E. coli isn't Avery's only health concern. Fumonisin, a fungal toxin, can also be found in higher levels in organic corn and has recently been linked to birth defects such as Spina Bifida, a birth defect where the bones of the spine don't properly form around the spinal cord.

The main threat Avery feels, however, is the limiting of farming technology that organic activists propose.

"Organic activists roadblock the access to the latest, safest and most sustainable farming technologies. There's no reason why they shouldn't be able to co-exist," he said. "It's like an intolerant religion."

He also believes that organic foods are politically favored because they're the "little guy," and many people have been left unaware of any risks associated with the products.

"My concern is that the organic utopian myth will guide regulators to tighten the thumbscrews on non-organic farming such that we'll shoot ourselves in the foot," he said.

His advice for college-age food consumers is simple.

"Buy food on quality, not on claims of process or environmental friendliness," he said. "If it tastes better, buy it. Don't buy on claims."

“if it tastes better, buy it.
don't buy on claims.”

Homegrown

csu could be next in line to serve food
grown next door



▶ photo by jessica douglas

These days, most people can't tell the difference between a potato and a yam, but arguably trickier is pinpointing where it came from. Colleges across the country have been doing their homework however, and the answer has been surprising: most of the time, no one really knows.

Fort Collins is known for its determination to support local, independent businesses. CSU, by reputation an agricultural school, is bringing that concept home with a new push to put locally grown produce on the tables of its students.

CSU is now home to a group that is keeping a watchful eye on where food comes from, known as the CSU Farm to College Coalition. The Coalition is modeled after a national movement dedicated to bringing fresh, local produce to school dining halls. In the past 10 years, groups at more than 200 colleges have started a Farm to College program to promote sustainable agriculture by making connections with local producers and related academic institutions.

The Coalition, comprised of CSU students, environmentalists, farmers and nutritionists, has partnered with Housing and Dining Services to make local and seasonal fruits and vegetables part of everyday residence hall cuisine. Together, they are joining forces with Colorado Crop to Cuisine, a local organization that promotes connections between small farmers, restaurants and stores to help the university purchase produce grown nearby like apples, peaches and tomatoes.

"Because producers are directly marketing their product to the consumer, more of the money goes to the farmer, as opposed to packaging, transportation, marketing and preservation," said Kitty Michelotti, manager of Colorado Crop to Cuisine. "For every dollar spent in a grocery store, less than 10 cents goes back to the farmer. Over 50 cents goes to transportation and marketing. Buying locally supports the farmer much more directly."

The Coalition's current mission is to gather as much student and organizational support on campus as possible to help move the campaign forward. CSU's Environmental Action Collective, an environmentally-minded student organization, has been working tirelessly to garner student support for the project. The group has already collected over 600 signatures on its petition and is hoping for many more.

The Residence Hall Association and the Associated Students of CSU are still considering the possibility of legislation to support the campaign. Members of the Coalition are also collaborating with Housing and Dining Services staff in an attempt to create an economical and feasible plan for the purchase of local foods.

One local cuisine-based program already calls CSU home. The Aspen Grille, located in the Lory Student Center, strives to use local products whenever possible. The restaurant functions as a

location and a semester of learning experience for restaurant management majors.

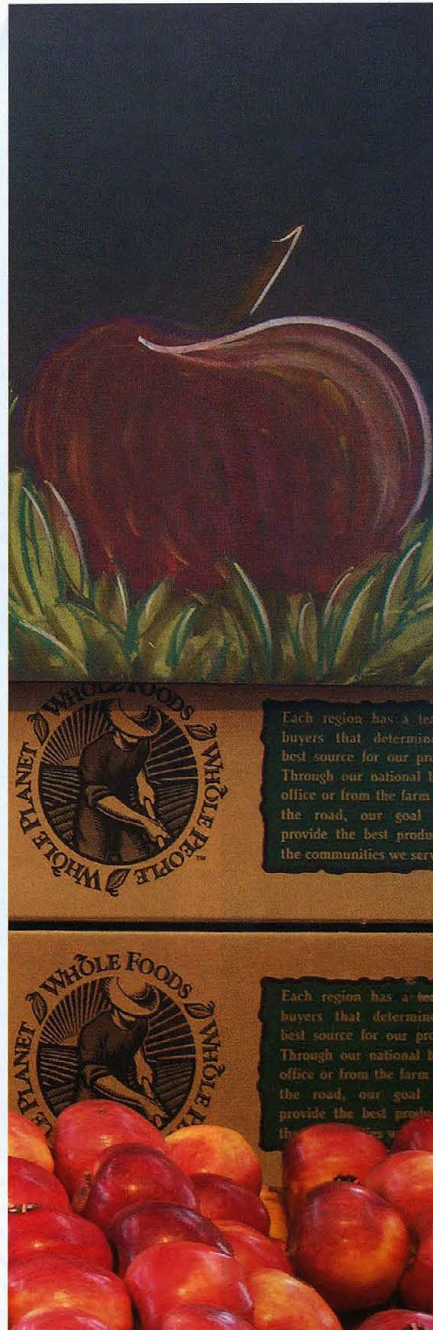
"I really wanted the students to be able to understand where the food comes from," said Ken Smith, director of the Aspen Grille. "In the conventional system, food may be grown in one place, shipped to another place for processing and then, only after all that, end up at the restaurant. Here I know the whole supply chain. You can really taste the difference. Plus, it's more fun."

Students in Corbett Residence Hall may also find themselves eating locally with food brought in by Tom Stoner, owner of the restaurant Spoons, Soups and Salads. Stoner said he buys most of his products from local farmers and offers a lot of support to Colorado Crop to Cuisine.

If successful, the Farm to College Coalition will contribute to a nationwide push for sustainable agriculture practices, which may be coming just in time. In the United States, family farming is at risk of becoming a thing of the past. Conventional agriculture methods are causing mounting environmental concerns. Consumers are increasingly disappointed by the quality of their food, which is often transported over hundreds of miles for up to three weeks, according to the Community Food Security Coalition Web site.

The adoption of a Farm to College program will continue CSU's tradition as a leader among "green" universities, complementing its innovative wind energy program and history of excellence in natural resources training. Buying local, sustainable food is one more way to bring out the green in the Rams' green and gold.

"Farm to College is important to me because I realize that I am part of a large food system. How my food gets to me is connected to many different aspects of life, from local economies, to the environment, to health, to gender issues and more," said Emily Hornback, senior spanish major and Coalition member. "I realize that I am invested in the system and if I want to benefit from it, I need to take an active interest in how it is working."



► photo by jessica douglas

The Benefits of Eating Local Organic Food

YOU'LL GET EXCEPTIONAL TASTE AND FRESHNESS

- Local food is fresher and tastes better than food shipped long distances from other states or countries.

YOU'LL STRENGTHEN THE LOCAL ECONOMY

- Buying local food keeps your dollars circulating in the community.

YOU'LL SUPPORT ENDANGERED FAMILY FARMS

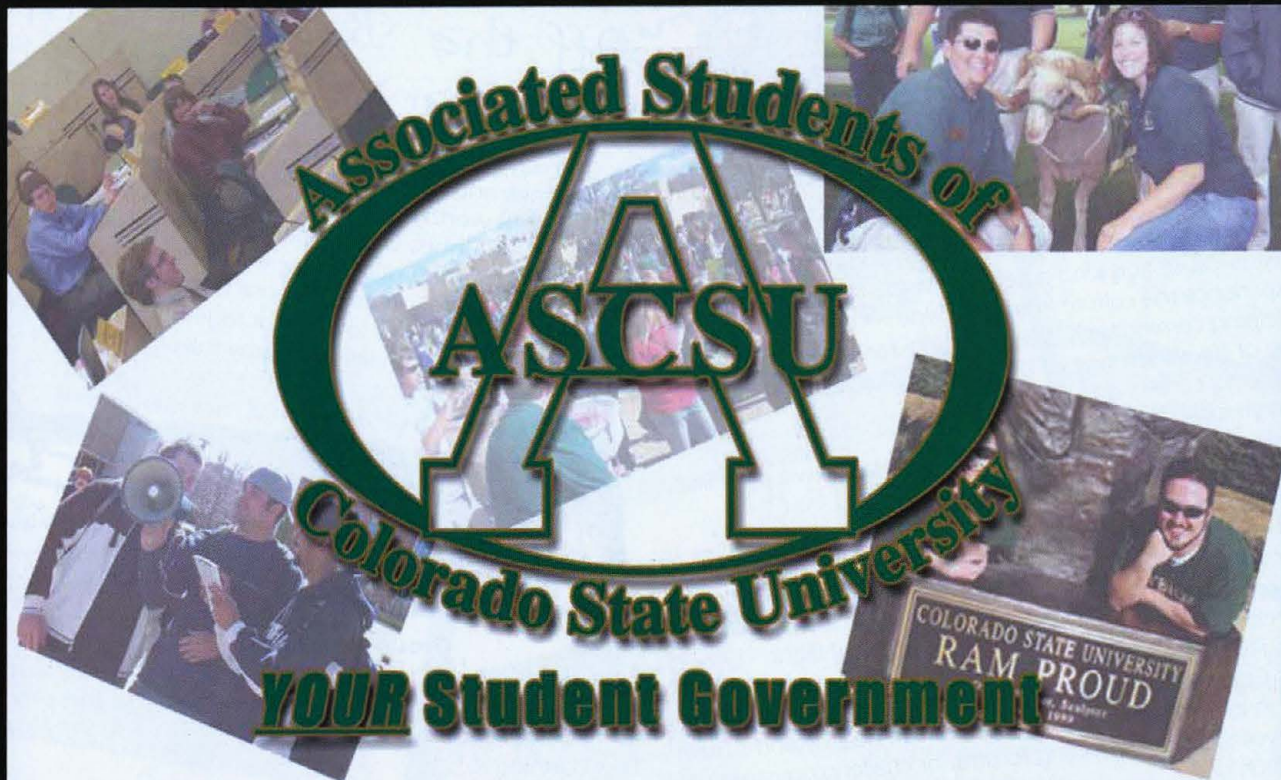
- There's never been a more critical time to support your farming neighbors.

YOU'LL SAFEGUARD YOUR FAMILY'S HEALTH

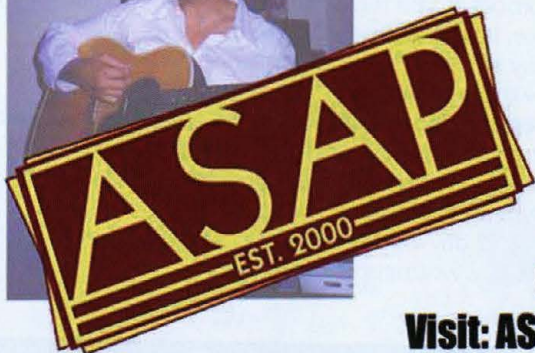
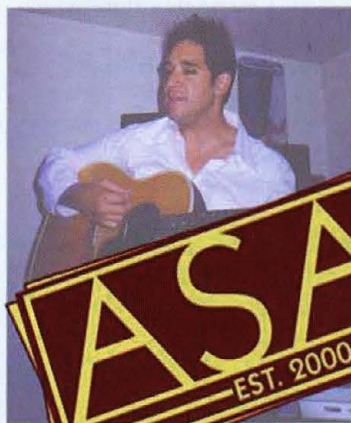
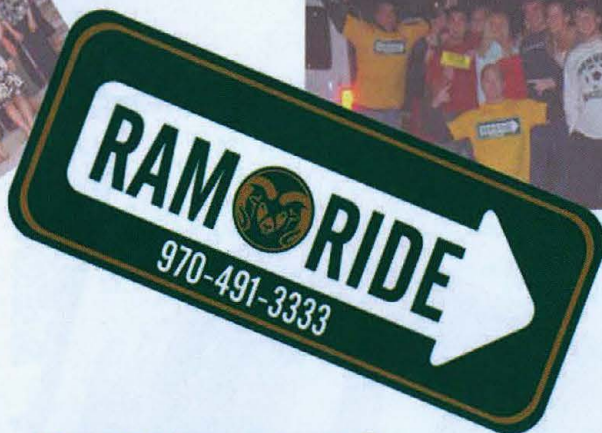
- Knowing where your food comes from and how it is grown or raised enables you to choose safe food from farmers who avoid or reduce their use of chemicals, pesticides, hormones, antibiotics or genetically modified seed in their operations.

YOU'LL PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

- Local food doesn't travel far, which reduces carbon dioxide emissions and packing materials.
(Source Food Routes, foodroutes.org)



Take a look at what we we do for YOU:



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Want to get involved?**

Call: 491-5931

Click: www.ascsu.colostate.edu

Visit: ASCSU Complex in the Lory Student Center

Off the Beaten Path Summer Travel Options

The days are getting longer, the weather's getting warmer, and it's all leading up to one thing: a summer vacation worthy of its own photo album and a year of bragging rights. One problem: your bank account isn't quite as enthusiastic as you are. But don't put down the sunscreen just yet, because College Avenue has searched high and low to put together trip ideas that will allow your wallet to be stay full of change.

by sarah bultema and megan read

Volunteer

Rather than work on your tan and spend \$10 on a souvenir shot glass, why not put your free time and money toward a greater cause and lend a helping hand?

- Experience the culture from the inside
- *Helping communities means getting involved with the local way of life, which gives a different perspective than resorts and shopping centers do.
- Everything paid upfront
- *All food, accommodations and transportation will most likely be included.

Examples

i-to-i – Community work with orphans in Argentina. Enrich the lives of abandoned boys and girls through education and compassion.

4 weeks = \$1,595 + \$225/extra week + cost of flight
www.i-to-i.com

Cross Cultural Solutions – Working toward women's empowerment in India. Help Indian women pursue healthy and sustainable livelihoods by providing forums for challenging issues they face each day.

2 weeks = \$2,389 + 261/extra week + cost of flight
www.crossculturalsolutions.org

Global Vision International – Work with Vervet Monkeys in South Africa. Get hands-on experience with orphaned and injured monkeys at the largest monkey rehabilitation center in South Africa.

4 weeks = \$1,470 + cost of flight
www.gvi.co.uk

Group Packages

If the idea of a guided trip conjures images of flowered shirts and Fuji cameras, take a blink and check out what these modern packages have to offer.

- Less Planning
- *Buy a packaged trip through an agent and leave the rest to your guide as he or she leads you through a planned itinerary.
- Upfront costs
- *Most packages include accommodations, transportation, excursions and meals, so instead of counting coins, travelers can sit back and enjoy the ride.
- Not your parents' tour
- *Many tours are designed specifically for students, with some even implementing age limits.
- *Not every minute of the day is planned out, so travelers have time to do what they want.
- Knowledgeable guides
- *By breaking the language barrier, travelers can truly experience the country without worries.
- *Guides know the ins and outs of the region, pointing out favorite local spots rather than cliché tourist traps.

Examples

Contiki Vacations † European Highlights

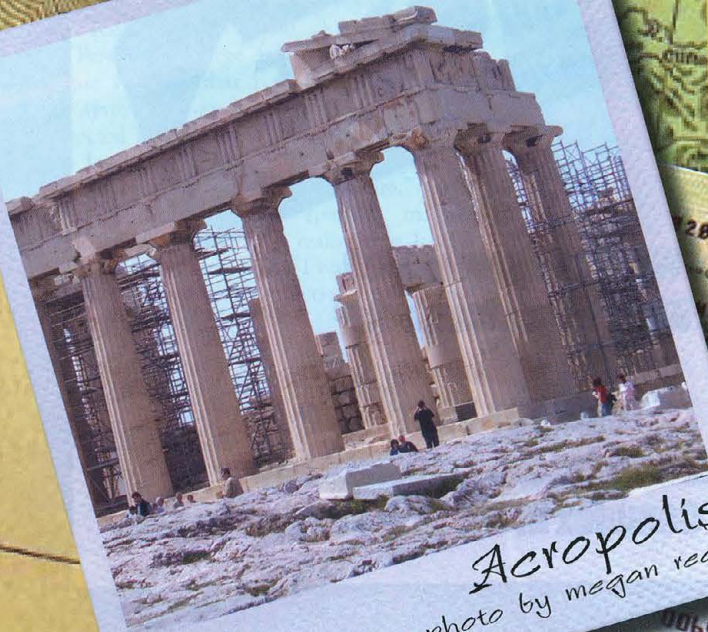
Tour the Dutch countryside by bike and see Venice from a motorboat as you travel throughout Western Europe including France, Italy, Austria and the Netherlands.

16 day trip = \$1,449 + cost of flight
www.contiki.com

Intrepid † North Queensland Explorer (Australia)

Soak up beautiful beaches between dives in the Great Barrier Reef as you experience the untouched coastlands and ecosystems of Northern Australia.

9 day trip = \$930 + cost of flight
www.intrepidtravel.com



Acropolis
photo by megan read





Santorini
photo by megan read



Barcelona
photo by megan read



Little ways to save big money:

- Transportation:
 - *Buy after midnight: Many online airline servers reload computers at night, opening up any unpaid reservations.
 - *Give up your seat: If the flight is overbooked, postponing your takeoff will not only help out a fellow traveler, but also score you some money or even a free flight.
 - *Go for red-eyes: Traveling at night by bus, train or plane is often much cheaper than during the day.

Out and About:

- *Hostels: Hostels cost considerably less than hotels and are a great way to meet other like-minded travelers.
- *International Student Identification Card: The \$22 card can get you over 32,000 discounts all over the globe on everything from accommodations to excursions.
- *Buy beforehand: Food and drink often end up costing more than the plane ticket itself. Try buying food from the market and buying drinks from duty-free shops.

Stick Around

If the old spin-a-globe way of finding your summer travel destination keeps landing in the middle of the ocean, try rolling out a map of your own Colorado backyard.

- Close to home means more flexibility
- *You don't need to plan months in advance, just take the weekend off work.
- *More of your friends will be able to come along.
- *You don't need a plane ticket, only a tank of gas.

-Explore!
*Experiencing your own home can help you appreciate what we have in Colorado.

Examples

Lake Vallecito – Relax in a private lakeside cabin with friends after a long day of boating, horseback riding, or exploring the nearby Mesa Cliff dwellings in Southwest Colorado.
\$67.50 per person per night + cost of gas
www.bearpawlodge.com

Glenwood Springs – Stay at the beautiful Hot Springs Lodge and Pool where you can lounge in the hot springs, putt around on the mini-golf course or enjoy a deep-tissue massage at the luxurious spa.
\$73 per person per night + cost of gas
<http://www.hotspringspool.com/>

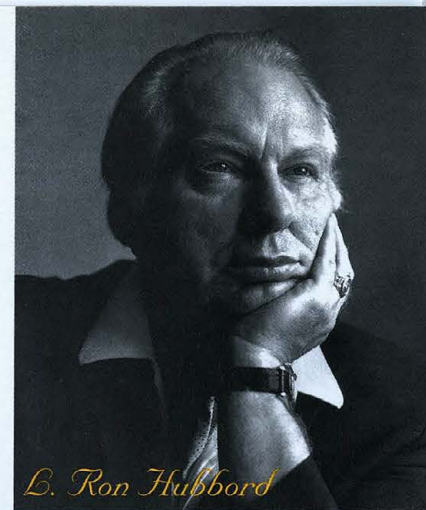
Denver – Crash at a swanky hotel after doing some shopping at the Cherry Creek Mall, catching a show at one of Denver's many music venues and going out for a night of clubbing at the 16th Street Mall.
\$37.50 per person per night + cost of gas
<http://denverregency.hyatt.com>



Scientology

science or science fiction?

by brandon lowrey and amanda schank



L. Ron Hubbard

photos courtesy of the church of scientology

Before his 10th birthday, CSU student Chandler Hoisington had taken his first Scientology course.

He used to fight with his sister, so his parents – both Scientologists – turned to their religion for a solution.

They enrolled Hoisington and his sister in the Church of Scientology's children's communication course. The equine science freshman said it worked, and he has since remained faithful to the church.

Like Hoisington's parents, Americans in recent years have increasingly turned to religion for answers and sought solace in spirituality.

"As our world has become post-industrial, we've lost community in certain ways," said CSU sociology Professor Lori Peck. "People are turning to these new religious movements ... to look for a sense of meaning and connection."

But this new religion in particular has become the subject of public wonderment and distrustful scrutiny.

Scientology.

The word alone evokes the image of Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes on tabloid covers. T-shirts have been sold reading "Save Katie," and some media outlets have been hinting at bizarre rituals and ideas behind Scientology. Cruise himself has been campaigning against what he calls the dangers of psychiatry – a philosophy central to the religion. In 1991, Time magazine ran a cover story on Scientology titled, "The Cult of Greed."

This hazy maelstrom of rumors about the self-help book-turned-religion created by L. Ron Hubbard, a prolific science-fiction writer in the early 1950s, has the general public guessing as to whether Scientology is an answer for some or a danger to all.

But for Hoisington, there was never any guessing involved.

Rather, the fevered speculation has more to do with ignorance than with truth, he said. Scientology isn't anything weird; it's just a logical philosophy and a toolbox for life.

"You get more and more into it throughout your life," Hoisington said. "It builds upon itself."

"Finding out about Scientology is very important because it's something that truly does work. People should not just take what they learn from the media – they should find out what it is for themselves and make their own opinion of it."

What is Scientology?

It started with a book.

"Dianetics" was Hubbard's self-help response to traditional psychological theory.

It operates on the theory that painful experiences are stored deep within the mind and continue to afflict their victims, keeping them from realizing their true potentials. The philosophy is fiercely anti-psychiatric.

According to its Web site, www.scientology.org, "The fact is, there is a single source of all your problems, stress, unhappiness and self-doubt. It's called the reactive mind ... Dianetics gets rid of the reactive mind. It's the only thing that does."

In Boulder, a nondescript door is set back between Pearl Street Mall storefronts. This is the Boulder Scientology mission, and Robert Anderson is its president.

"(Scientology) makes a difference to help people become more able or capable of their lives," Anderson said. "It changes how people start to view their lives because they're undoing the difficulties, the losses, the problems of the past."

Scientologists have three cardinal beliefs that their religion functions on: that man, in his native state, is basically good and a spiritual being; that the individual Scientologist determines

what's true for him based on teachings and research; and that salvation can be achieved within a lifetime.

The word Scientology originates from the Latin word "scio" and the Greek word "logos," which combine to mean "the study of truth." Through the process of studying, observation and application, Scientologists claim to reach their ultimate goals of spiritual freedom and clear conscience, Anderson said.

Its programs include course studies, auditing sessions – Dianetics' answer to counseling – and a chemical-free detoxification process. Anderson said he's seen people walking out of the purification room reeking of chemicals that have been drawn from their bodies. Hubbard called Scientology a "workable" system, and Scientologists believe the only way to a clear mind and body is through the actual application of its processes, Anderson said. Both Anderson and Hoisington claimed a main reason they remain Scientologists is because "it works."

All of Scientology comes "directly from what Mr. Hubbard wrote," said Patty Allread, director of public relations for the Church of Scientology of Colorado. "Nobody ever interprets it for you."

"(scientology) makes a difference to help people become more able or capable of their lives."

-robert anderson

However, psychiatry is one of the most taboo of practices among Scientologists. According to the church's philosophy, psychoactive drugs control the minds of men, which in turn fetter the spirit, or "thetan," and create even more problems. The benefits of these drugs are false, the church argues, only masking symptoms of problems without actually treating their physical sources. The church does not recognize schizophrenia or chemical imbalances, Allread said.

Scientology is also all-denominational, accepting people from outside religions and allowing them to practice both, Allread said. The ceremonial practices include a Sunday service during which the writings of Hubbard are recited. Hubbard has also written passages to be read during weddings and funerals.

Allread said that while Hubbard is revered, he is not worshipped or thought of as a god – just an insightful man. After Hubbard died in 1986, reportedly from a stroke, born-and-raised Scientologist David Miscavige became the organization's president.

The church had a rough start, particularly in the 1960s and 1970s, and members were convicted in strange conspiracies against the federal government. But since its restructuring in 1983, it's been clean, said Frank Flinn, a University of Washington at St. Louis professor who is an expert in new religions and has written essays on Scientology.

Flinn also maintained that Scientology displays all of the characteristics necessary to be considered a religion. He likened it to an early religion.

Scientologists "believe we came from another galaxy, kind of. (Our souls are) incarnated in bodies, to return to this other dimension. You know who that is like? Early Christian Gnostics."

Gnosticism insists that the world, as we see it, is not reality, and that only those who acquire divine knowledge can begin to perceive the truth.

Dispelling Myths

With the help of his Scientology training, Tom Cruise can fly. Well, in an airplane.

"I think he has his pilot's license," Allread said.

Cruise's alleged super powers are examples of myths surrounding the religion. Others have gained popularity as well. Hubbard allegedly lives on Venus and funnels down books, someone told Anderson. He said he doesn't know how to respond to outlandish claims like those. That's just not what Scientology is.

In the late 1980s, The Los Angeles Times reported court documents that revealed some of the religion's holy scripture includes a description about a 75-million-year-old catastrophe caused by a galactic ruler named Xenu.

Xenu brought billions of people to Earth, stacked them around volcanoes and blew them up with powerful hydrogen bombs, according to the documents. This caused their souls to cluster and cling to human bodies, where they remain to this day causing problems.

This story, when related to Allread and Hoisington, was met with bemused laughter.

"Xenu's story was made up by someone not in Scientology. It isn't part of my religion," Allread said. "I don't know what to say about it."

Said Hoisington, "Xenu vexes me. I've never heard about it."

Nonetheless, after Comedy Central pulled an episode of South Park lambasting Scientology, the cartoon's creators wrote a statement regarding Xenu to Variety magazine:

"So, Scientology, you may have won THIS battle, but the million-year war for earth has just begun! Temporarily anozinizing our episode will NOT stop us from keeping Thetans forever trapped in your pitiful man-bodies. Curses and drat! You have obstructed us for now, but your feeble bid to save humanity will fail! Hail Xenu!!!"

They signed the statement, "Trey Parker and Matt Stone,



above: a scientology volunteer minister helping a young boy after hurricane katrina hit new orleans in late august.

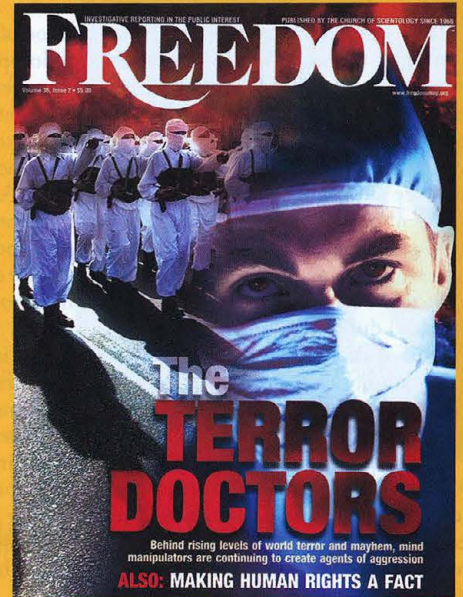
below: scientology volunteer ministers help unload supplies in gulfport, miss., in the aftermath of hurricane katrina.





above: scientology human rights day in 2005. on this day, scientologist's had an open forum panel discussion on human rights.

▶ photos courtesy of the church of scientology



above: freedom magazine is published by the church of scientology.

servants of the dark lord Xenu.”

While the church has denied the story of Xenu, Flinn suspects that Scientology does hide some of its beliefs, reserving them for its most elite members. Flinn has never found any sort of confirmation about the story of Xenu – just vague references – though he said he’s interviewed thousands of members. “A lot of religions have secret teachings,” he said. “They’re not sinister, they’re just secret.”

Such secretive religions date back to ancient Greece, when at least one group – the Eleusian Council – sent assassins after people who unlawfully discovered its mysteries, Flinn said.

So, if the Church of Scientology does in fact hide its highest-level beliefs from all but the highest-level members, it certainly wouldn’t be the first.

Helpfulness of Scientology

Scientologists have served as volunteers in disaster areas and helped teach in poverty-stricken areas. Boulder Mission President Anderson, for instance, was responsible for organizations in the Philippines and Nepal. Anderson said Scientologists have been called by the American Red Cross to help with such disaster situations.

The Church of Scientology has also maintained a multitude of programs, ranging from drug detoxification and criminal rehabilitation programs, to schools that utilize Hubbard’s “study technologies” that teach strictly secular course content, Allread said. There are at least three such schools in Colorado.

“I can’t think of anybody Scientology wouldn’t work for,” Allread said.

Scientology maintains a volunteer ministry program in more than 150 countries worldwide to “help people deal successfully with the upheavals of existence and restore order, dignity and happiness to their lives,” according to its Web site.

According to Freedom magazine, the Church of Scientology’s official publication, the church’s group of volunteer ministers is the largest volunteer force in the world, boasting 60,000 members. They were on-site at Sept. 11, 2001, and provided various services to firefighters – including Scientology’s “assist” techniques designed to calm victims, Allread said – and on-hand for the 2004 tsunami disaster in southeastern Asia. Freedom also highlighted that Scientologists were the first to respond to Hurricane Katrina and were on-site for the

survivors of the recent earthquake in northern Pakistan.

Scientology also has a drug rehabilitation and education program, Narconon, and a criminal betterment program, Criminon.

“Scientology is for people who want to change the current conditions,” Anderson said. “If you look out in life at this point in time around the planet, you can probably assume that it’s not doing so good.

“There are a lot of good people out there who want to do something about helping their fellow man and helping life. Scientology gives you tools to help you do that.”

Allread said that Scientology has also long been a friend of religious and civil rights, and said that some people will stop at nothing to defame religions that are just trying to help the world.

“Scientology definitely has things that are unique – obviously not like other religions,” Allread said. “But as far as what we are trying to accomplish on this planet, we are very much like what most religions are trying to do.”

Darker Suspicions

Critics have compared Scientology to the Mafia and the Ku Klux Klan. To be more specific, they call it a cult.

Carol Giambalvo, director of recovery programs at the International Cultic Studies Association (ICSA), refers to Scientology as a “self-improvement cult.”

“ICSA is very slow to classify anything as a cult, but given the situation of Scientology, we’re not afraid to call it one,” she said. “This is a dangerous organization.”

A self-improvement cult is a group that uses a reform program that has a drastic effect on personality and relationships, she said. Such a group’s leader is often self-appointed and good at manipulating people.

Hal Mansfield, the director of the Religious Movement Resource Center, went even further, calling Scientology a destructive cult.

“It never was a religion – it never intended to be a religion,” Mansfield said. “They filed (to be a religion) to get around tax stuff and it sprouted from there.”

Scientology has a long and turbulent history with the International Revenue Service.

In 1957, the IRS granted Scientology tax exemption as a non-profit organization, only to revoke its status 10 years later, claiming the church was in fact profiting. A series of defiant acts ensued, ranging from refusal to pay taxes to breaking into IRS offices and stealing government documents.

In 1979, 11 high-ranking Scientologists, including Hubbard's wife, were convicted on conspiracy charges and imprisoned. Hubbard himself retreated from the public, not to emerge again until his death in January 1986.

Of this turbulence, Allread said that these events could be linked to psychiatry – an industry that has allegedly plagued Scientology throughout its existence. Allread says that psychiatrists are afraid of losing profits if the religion's truth gets out.

Time Magazine, in an article about Scientology deeply disputed by the church, claimed the organization is extremely litigious and tends to sue its critics frequently. The article stated that it does not sue with the intent to win, but rather the intent to cause emotional and financial distress for the defendants.

Scientologists claim that this article was linked to psychiatry. A special issue magazine published by the Church of Scientology International claimed that Time Magazine was financially dependent on ads from a company associated with the makers of Prozac, a popular antidepressant.

"People try and say bad things about Scientology and Dianetics because we help them and they improve," Anderson said. "And the more they improve, (others) have less control over them."

The church runs organizations that battle drugs and psychiatry, including Narconon and the Citizens Commission on Human Rights

Though religion could offer

some benefits to the mind, psychiatrists insist that serious disorders must be treated by trained professionals, said Fred Reimherr, an associate professor of psychiatry at the University of Utah School of Medicine.

But the doctor did cede that use of psychiatric medication might stand to be curbed.

"They take a very aggressive stance that psychiatric medications are being overused in the field of psychiatry, and I think there's some justice to their position," Reimherr said. "Unfortunately I think it's a broad brush, everything-is-terrible approach that doesn't help take out where there are problems and what patients might be better served with another approach.

"I think when Scientology influences people with severe depression or schizophrenia to go off of their medications, they have really done people a severe disservice."

While some of his own patients may have suffered adverse reactions to psychiatric drugs, Reimherr said it is a tiny minority.

"I've never seen cases in which I felt like the person has been well-served by Scientology, but then again I might not have seen enough to really review them," Reimherr said. "With psychiatry and emotional problems, we make an assumption that everyone is like us. And some of the Scientologists very much extrapolate from their own life experiences and think that everyone is like them and should be approached the same way. I think that really does a disservice to some people."

Operation Clambake is a Web site dedicated to unflattering theories about Scientology. The site, at www.xenu.net, includes testimonials from alleged ex-Scientologists, theories about the religion's practices, an interpretation of current events and "uncensored Hubbard papers," along with links to various anti-Scientology Web sites.

Operation Clambake is run by Andreas Haldal-Lund, whom Allread said consorts with international terrorists and is vehemently anti-religion. Allread brought a packet to an interview with College Avenue

that contained offensive, anti-religious cartoons and a printout of a Web page detailing Haldal-Lund's alleged crimes and heresies.

"All of the people who say things are investigated," Allread said. "We know a lot about them.

"These are people who would like to destroy my religion and my church."

On Haldal-Lund's personal Web site, he had posted a link to the materials Allread brought in, and labeled it as lies propagated by the church to discredit its critics – a practice he insists is common among Scientologists.

Critics like Operation Clambake have also condemned the church's means of money collection, which has created labels such as Time's "The Cult of Greed." A level of hierarchy exists within the church called The Bridge to Total Freedom. Every Scientologist begins at the same bottom level, but moving up requires certain training and courses that, in turn, require a fee.

Anderson related the fee to money given to a collection plate in more traditional religions. He said that most courses cost \$35 to \$50, and the costs for auditing sessions vary.

Scientologists also use an e-meter – a machine that runs a harmless electrical current through a person and measures it – during the auditing process to monitor and pinpoint specific moments of distress in the individual's memory. The price for a one-time-use with the e-meter can be \$250, Mansfield said. Scientology officials would not confirm this figure. "A poor person could never be a Scientologist," Mansfield said.

Allread denied this claim.

"We run on donations, which is typically the way you run a church," she said. "There are some

fees required." But on average, she said it is equivalent to people donating in a church's offering plate. The only people who use e-meters are on ministerial training, and the students would have to purchase the device directly from the Church of Scientology.

Besides, poorer members could always become staff members and take courses for free, she said, though she added that free training is not a good motivation to take up such a responsibility.

"People always talk about freedom of religion," Mansfield said, "but it should be freedom from abuse. That's what this group is all about."

But while some might be quick to call Scientology a cult, Professor Flinn said that Scientology – like Mormons and Seventh-day Adventists, the "cults" of the last century – may be on its way to becoming a more legitimate religion.

Some, he said, might find Scientology to be a relief from the growing trend of what he calls neofundamentalism among mainstream religions – "You know, when they go after money, when they forget their message, when they forget their mission."

He cited "strange marriages between the corrupt lobbyists and the religious right."

"Whenever religions get into bed with politics, you know for certain who's going to get pregnant."

Flinn said that he'll give that to Scientologists – they stick to their message. He said he isn't a member of the church, and never will be, but that's a decision he made on his own.

When it comes to religion, he said, expert opinions may only take you so far.

"Don't believe anybody. Don't even believe me," he said.

"Go find out for yourself."

*"whenever religions get into bed
with politics, you know for certain
who's going to get pregnant."*

-frank flinn

CSU scientologist

discusses her beliefs

Hello, my name is Morgan Carey and I have been a Scientologist for 21 years. I was born in Phoenix, Ariz. and went to a private Scientology school for three years. My parents are Scientologists and all of the friends I had at that time were Scientologists. In short, everyone that surrounded me was part of the Church of Scientology. Then my family moved to an extremely small town in southern Colorado and I was shocked to find out that I was actually a religious minority. Another shock came when I realized that a lot of false information and misconceptions about my religion were floating around in the media and being passed on to the general public. Today I get the chance to tell you a little bit about Scientology and how it plays a role in my life.

Scientology is a philosophical religion designed to improve an individual's everyday life. It can improve communication skills, help you with your relationships, organization skills and even your ability to study. One thing that this religion has really helped me with is being more introspective and self-aware. It helps me to see when I am wrong, when I need to change my ways, when I need to apologize, when I need to concede and when I need stand up for myself. Overall, I have learned to be more aware of my actions and how they affect others.

Another fact about Scientology is that it is open to anyone, regardless of faith. In fact, this is one of my favorite things about Scientology: what's true for you is what's true for you. You can be a Catholic, Buddhist, Atheist, Jew, Muslim, etc. and be a Scientologist. No conversion is necessary because you can believe whatever you choose to believe. There is no set of rules or guidelines one must follow. For instance, my mother was raised Mennonite and my father was raised Catholic, so while both of them are Scientologists, each of them has very different opinions on certain issues. No two people are the same. Everyone has a different take and belief system, which

has taught me to keep an open mind to others' beliefs, even if I don't agree.

Scientology isn't just about improving individuals either; the Church is very concerned with improving the environment around us as well. One program that has had an enormous impact is the Volunteer Ministers program. Volunteer Ministers are trained to help people who have endured emotional and/or physical trauma. There are more than 60,000 Volunteer Ministers worldwide who have helped after all kinds of horrifying events such as the 9/11 attacks, the tsunami that devastated Southeast Asia, the London bombings, Hurricane Katrina and Rita and, most recently, Cyclone Larry in Australia. These people hand out supplies, dig out victims from the wreckage, assist in finding lost family members, construct tents, repair buildings and help with reconstruction. These selfless people help those who need it most when they need it most.

One movement going on right now in the Church of Scientology is an international human rights petition-signing campaign. The Church is promoting the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights. It is a grassroots action to get thousands of citizens to sign petitions to raise awareness and teach human rights. The Church in Denver has over 300 signatures so far and has been traveling to various towns and campuses around northern Colorado to get help in promoting tolerance and peace through human rights. If you would like more information on the petition-signing, you can go to www.youthforhumanrights.org.

In conclusion, I would hope that after reading this article you have learned a couple things about Scientology and realized that Scientologists are just as "normal" as any other average joe. Our goal as a group is to make the world a more peaceful place. In the end, isn't that what every rational person wants for humanity?

“another fact about scientology is that it is open to anyone, regardless of faith.”

Plasma Donation

selling plasma "pays the bills"

Some find it unnerving, reclining in a row of chairs void of any privacy and a needle protruding from their arm. Others however, find it a quick way to make some extra money.

Selling plasma serves as an additional source of income for many college students in need of a little extra cash. ZLB Plasma Services, at 1228 W. Elizabeth St., pays first time donors \$40 on their first visit and second donation within a week's time, and \$20 to \$30 thereafter depending on the donor's weight and number of donations.

For many, this supplements a meager income.

"It supports some bad habits," said 21-year-old Nick Collins of donating plasma for "drinking money."

Collins, a junior computer science major, started donating regularly during his freshman year as a way to increase his budget.

"It's the easiest money I've ever made," he said. "I sit there for an hour, hour-and-a-half, and watch movies, and they pay me."

Plasma is the liquid portion of the blood that contains proteins and antibodies that the immune system produces to fight diseases, said Sonya Williams, senior manager of communications at ZLB Plasma Services.

Donors only give the liquid portion of their blood, which is separated from the cellular portion that contains white and red blood cells and platelets. The cellular portion is then returned to the donor's body.

Approximately 3 million liters of plasma are collected annually, Williams said, in more than 60 collection centers nationwide and eight

in Germany. These 3 million liters go to developing "life-saving plasma products" that more than a million people depend on annually.

Some of these products include coagulation therapies, which are used in the treatment of bleeding disorders such as hemophilia; and critical care products, which are used to treat shock and burns, serve as fluid replacement therapies in hospitals and doctors' offices and to help facilitate the healing of wounds during and after surgery.

A plasma services center in Minnesota refused Kara Skipple, 23, because of one of her past surgeries. "I had some cadaver tissue placed in my knee, so they told me I'd never be able to give plasma," she said.

Donors are required to have valid identification and proof of their social security number present. After filling out a mandatory

questionnaire, the medical staff performs a health screening and physical exam. During the exam the donor's finger is pricked so that the level of blood cells and plasma proteins in his or her blood can be measured.

This information goes into the donor's file, which speeds up donation time later.

After all that, donors are hooked up to an automated plasmapheresis machine that removes their blood, separates the plasma, then pumps the red blood cells back into the body, Williams said. The whole process takes approximately 45 minutes.

The first donation is used for testing to ensure the safety and quality of the plasma. Only after a second donation is made can the first be used, which is one reason why Williams urges everyone to make at least two donations.





Plasma
Donations

plasma rates

110-149 lbs

\$20 → for every donation

150-174 lbs

\$25 → for every donation

175+ lbs

\$30 → for every donation

new donor

\$40 → for 1st and 2nd donations

To make the process go by faster, Williams suggests eating a well-balanced meal and drinking four to six glasses of water, juice or other caffeine-free liquids two to three hours before donating.

While the process is safe, some people may find themselves feeling dizzy or faint. If that occurs, they should lie down or sit with their head between their knees. Donors should also keep the puncture site clean and dry, as well as drink more fluid than usual during the four hours following the donation.

While some donate regularly like Collins, and some are unable to do so for health reasons, others hate the idea all together.

When 21-year-old Ashley Maguire reluctantly entered the center one Saturday afternoon, she was horrified when she saw rows upon rows of plasmapheresis machines and everyone connected to them without any privacy.

"It was like a mass plasma harvest," said Maguire, a junior psychology major. "I was afraid to go in at first anyway because I hate needles, but now I think I'd rather sell my eggs. I'm not that strapped for cash."

"it's the easiest money i've ever made ... i sit there for an hour, hour-and-a-half, and watch movies, and they pay me."

-nick collins

ZLB Plasma Services Hours
Monday through Friday: 8 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Saturday: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

plasma donors must meet the following criteria to donate up to twice a week:

at least 18 years old

weigh at least 110 pounds

in good health

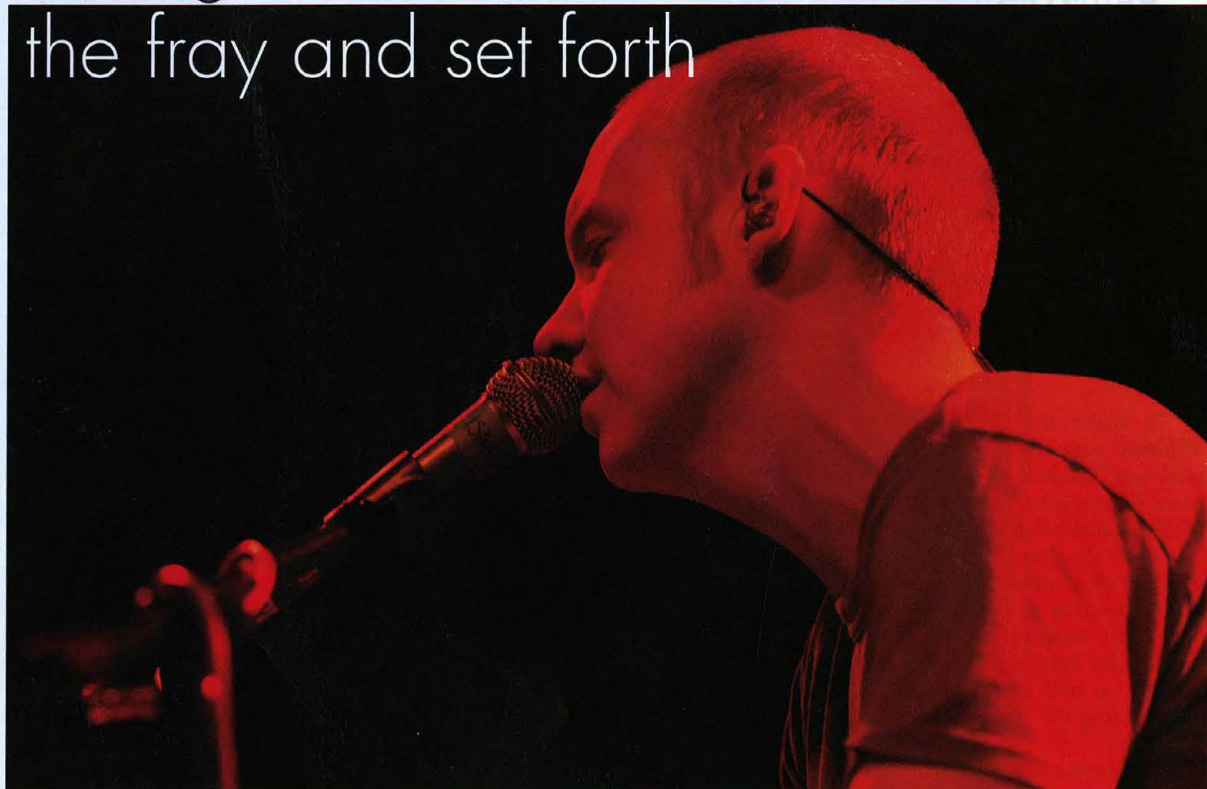
meet identification and residency requirements and staff must be informed of any of the following before the donation process begins:

- seizures after infancy
- treatment for substance abuse
- major surgery within the last six months
- tattoo, touch-up or piercing within the last 12 months

the NIGHT

featuring:

the fray and set forth



▶ photos by ryan maier

right: isaac slade, lead singer of the fray.

opposite: reza zedah delivers an inspirational speech between the two bands' performances.

opposite center: set forth lead guitarist jeff hendrick.

opposite bottom: students line up early at moby arena.

It began as a classroom project and ended as the first concert at Moby Arena in four years.

Concert-goers began lining up outside the gym at 10 a.m., on March 26, eight hours before the doors opened at 6 p.m., to see The Fray – a Denver-based band whose latest album has garnered nationwide fame. But the concert, titled The NIGHT, was about more than just bringing music back to Moby; it carried a message of encouragement, urging students to pursue their dreams in an alcohol- and drug-free environment.

"This will be a night to remember," said Kevin Buecher, a junior business administration major, on the night of the concert. "The Fray stands for something that is amazing ... and this is truly just the beginning."

Buecher pitched the idea of a Moby concert to his entrepreneurship class. Soon after, Ryan Ahart, a junior business management major, partnered up with Buecher and they embarked on a six-month process that would end with a Moby transformation and a crowd of approximately 42,000 to 43,000 students and community members.

This was the first concert to rock Moby in four years. The arena was repeatedly used as a concert venue as far back as the 1960s, featuring acts including The Rolling Stones and Johnny Cash. The fact that

Moby hasn't seen a band recently didn't escape the 300-plus ticket holders standing in line, huddled against the wind.

"This is awesome because it's close, cheap and cool to have bands coming to our school," said Mike Schofield, freshman sports medicine major. "I definitely want to see it continue."

According to The Fray's Web site, the four-member "pop-rock" band formed in 2002 and has opened for bands like Weezer. By December 2004, the band was receiving radio airtime and playing for sold-out shows. Buecher said he was looking for an "amazing pop band" that "reached that draw of achieving dreams," and The Fray was the most natural choice.

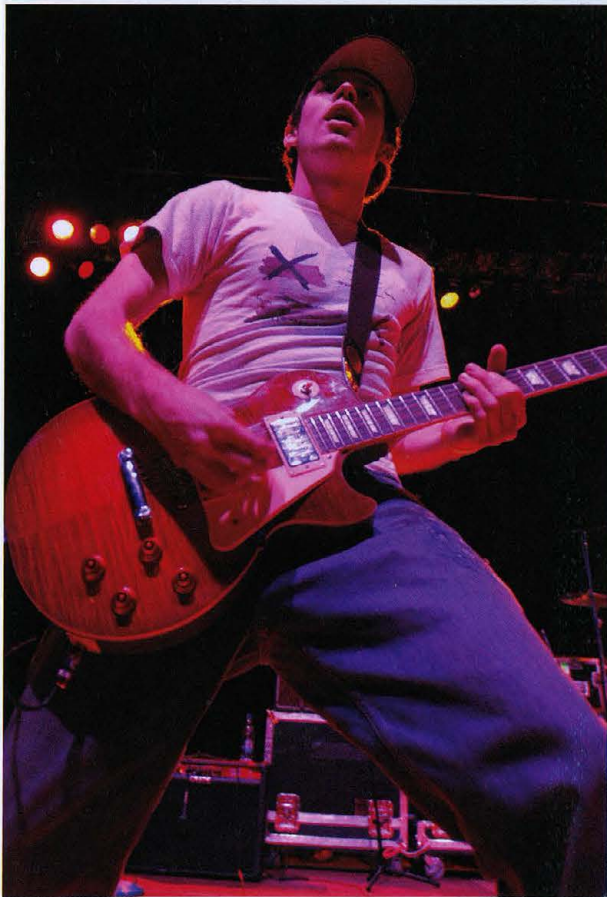
"We all lost our breath when we went inside Moby Arena," the band's guitarist, Dave Welsh, said. The members of the band claimed that the concert at Moby had the biggest crowd they've played for as a headlining act.

But securing a band was only one step of the process.

Buecher and Ahart created a company called Power On Productions. According to its mission statement, Power On Productions' goal is to challenge students and "create positive social change" at colleges with music and motivational speakers. Power On Productions gave legitimacy to the project for funding and safety concerns and the pair

*“we all lost our breath
when we went inside
moby arena.”*

-dave welsh



were in business.

Power On Productions enlisted the help of the CSU marketing club, CSU C.R.E.W.S. and the Student Health Advisory Council. Buecher said it was clear from the beginning that the event required support from off-campus entities as well. They found sponsors in University House at Ram's Pointe and One Tribe Creative, among others.

The new company also teamed up with the SAM Spady Foundation, an organization created in honor of the memory of Samantha Spady, a 19-year-old CSU student who died of alcohol poisoning on Sept. 5, 2004.

Buecher and Ahart both said the foundation's mission, which is to educate people about the dangers of alcohol, fit with the overall goal of positive change and awareness the concert held. They found a motivational speaker in Timberline Church Pastor Reza Zedah, who also contributed to the event by opening the doors of The Lighthouse for the concert's after party.

“We looked for a voice of change in Fort Collins and everywhere we went pointed in Reza's direction,” Buecher said.

So after clearing the event with university facilities, ensuring a band and a date and transforming the gym into a concert venue, the stage was set for a 42,000-plus crowd and two-band show – but the process was not without difficulties.

“There were definitely a lot of hurdles,” Buecher said. “It's a very arduous process not designed to be done by a couple of students.”

When the doors opened concert night, the first 1,200 received an orange wristband allowing them to stand in the middle of the gym and directly face the stage while the remaining ticket holders sat in the stands. Set Forth, a band of University of Northern Colorado students, opened the night.

As the concert held a double meaning and deeper message, Zedah took the stage next, urging students to “take responsibility for (their) passions” and “make the most of (themselves).” Zedah also touched



upon the alcohol-free message the concert carried by stressing responsibility in relationships and decisions.

About 20 minutes after Zedah left the stage, the lights dimmed and nearly every seat was empty as the crowd stood to welcome The Fray. The band's set, which included a two-song encore, primarily comprised of songs from its "How to Save a Life" album, but also familiar favorites like "Have You Ever Seen the Rain?".

When all was said and done, the task of returning the stage to a gym by the next morning remained, but both Buecher and Ahart said the price of six months of work for one long night was well worth it.

"The event exceeded my expectations," Ahart said. "Both bands were amazing ... and the student turnout was, too. We knew that our message was good, but weren't sure how students would grab the idea, but they were really supportive."

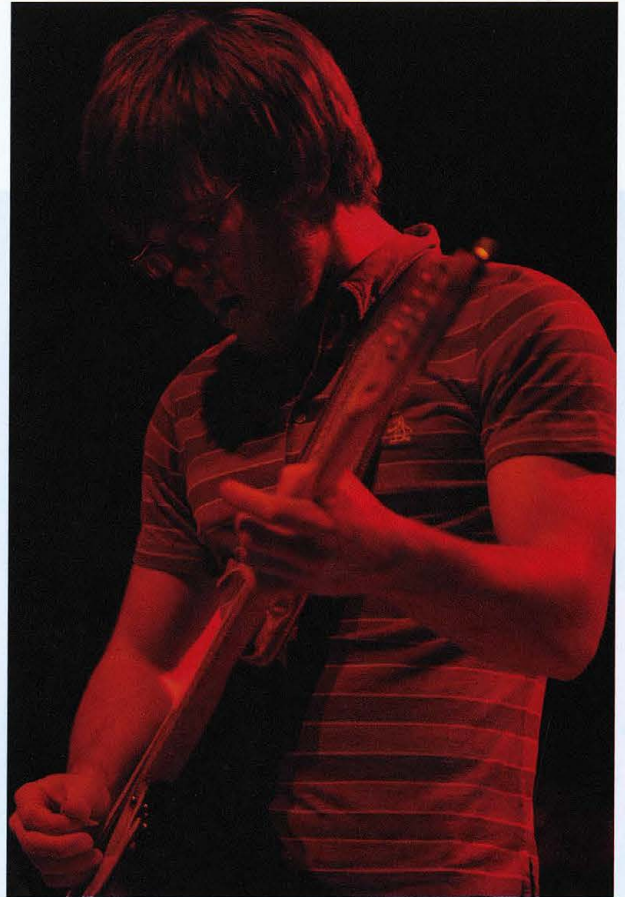
As for the future of Power On Productions and music at Moby, Buecher said to "watch the rumors," because it can only grow from this point.

"The vision of what the event stands for – that change and that message we brought – really drove us forward," Buecher said. "Our dream is to take it nationally. We want to take the same message of change and these amazing bands with us."

And, in addition to six months of experience and one night filled with music and positive change, both Buecher and Ahart received an A on their class project.

*additional reporting by Katie Schultze

right: david welsh, lead guitarist of the fray. below: tyler ward, guitarist and vocalist and jordan ever, bass guitarist of set forth



"this will be a night to remember. the fray stands for something amazing ... and this is truly just the beginning."

-kevin buecher



In the past, other music legends played at CSU venues including...

1969

The Rolling Stones

1970

Johnny Cash

1975

The Rolling Stones

The Beach Boys

Chicago

1976

Bob Dylan

1990

Phish

1993

Widespread Panic

1998

Steve Miller Band

2002

O.A.R.

311

Hoobastank

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Coachella

music and arts festival



above: the white stripes perform at coachella in 2005.

▶ photo courtesy of george campos

What rocks by day and parties by night? What do you get when you mix 50,000 hippies, Goths, scenesters and ravers in one massive camp out? What is the only music festival where you can harmonize with Depeche Mode on Saturday and head-bang with Tool by Sunday? The answer to all of the above is contained in one word: Coachella.

The Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival combines nearly 100 bands, thousands of screaming fans and a hell of a lot of portable restrooms into one weekend-long camp out.

This year, the annual music festival is set to rock April 29-30 at Empire Polo Field in Indio, Calif., and boasts an impressive lineup, including headliners Depeche Mode, Franz Ferdinand, Sigur Ros, Tool, Massive Attack, Madonna, Yeah Yeah Yeahs and Bloc Party.

If that lineup doesn't make you run to the nearest Ticketmaster, around 84 additional bands play over the course of the two days. These include well-known acts as well as some just breaking into the music scene.

One of the bands on the list is Metric, an indie-rock quartet from Canada. This will be its first time playing at the festival, and, needless to say, it's going to be a big deal.

"It's a great opportunity," Scott-Key says. "It's magical out there in the desert." He would know, as he attended the past two shows on the other side of the stage.

Instead of idolizing big names like Radiohead from afar, this year Scott-Key said he is looking forward to chatting with bands like Depeche Mode and asking them "pressing questions" like what they think it means to sell out.

Although Metric has played for large audiences before, including a concert earlier this year at Madison Square Garden with The Rolling Stones, Scott-Key says he remains in awe thinking that 100,000 eyes will be staring at him.

"It's like being afraid of heights," he said. "When you're really high up you can't exactly

fathom the extent of it all. It's surreal."

Astonishment aside, Scott-Key says Metric is always excited to introduce its music to new listeners, regardless of audience size.

"We're more rambunctious live compared to our recordings," Scott-Key says. He notes that the band's energy is sure to attract new fans.

Liz Jackson, KCSU's assistant music director, says Coachella is a great way for music lovers to discover new bands. She views the show as a way to break free of the mainstream Clear Channel formula.

"MTV is not playing quality music," says the German and international studies double major.

Coachella pays tribute to bands that have stayed true to the music rather than the rock star image and hefty paychecks, Jackson says.

In fact, many of the musicians playing at Coachella receive a majority of radio airtime on college stations. KCSU spins a number of the bands, including Sleater-Kinney, Wolfmother and Dungen.

While this year's festival is still waiting to hit play, CSU students who have experienced the Coachellas of the past understand the impact it holds.

Chris Walters, a junior theatre major, first attended Coachella in 2004 to see one of his favorite bands, The Pixies, reunite on stage.

Two days and more than 70 bands later, Walters, a self-proclaimed music snob, returned to Colorado with more than just a Pixies hoodie; he said the festival introduced him to once unknown names that now rank among his favorites.

"It's a very unique experience because so many different types of bands play," Walters says.

He also highlighted that an extremely diverse crowd accompanied the different styles of music, as fans came dressed in outfits ranging from long skirts and sandals to all-black attire with heavy eyeliner.

The music wasn't the only thing that made Coachella a one-of-a-kind experience for Walters. From the overnight camping in the field to the numerous food and art vendors, the festival left a strong impression.

"The whole weekend remains to be the greatest moment of my life," says Walters, who has already purchased his ticket for this year's show.

If you're interested in making a pilgrimage to California, the Coachella Festival might fit the bill. Tickets are \$85 for one day, \$165 for the whole weekend and \$35 for on-site camping. For more information, visit www.coachella.com.



April 29

Depeche Mode
Daft Punk
Franz Ferdinand
Sigur Ros
Damian Marley
Common
Atmosphere
Carl Cox
My Morning Jacket
TV On The Radio
Ladytron
Clap Your Hands Say Yeah
Tosca
Cat Power
Animal Collective
HARD-Fi
Derrick Carter
Devendra Banhart
She Wants Revenge

The Walkmen
The Juan Maclean
Imogen Heap
Audio Bullys
Lady Sovereign
Deerhoof
The Duke Spirit
Eagles of Death Metal
Lyrics Born
Matt Costa
The New Amsterdams
The Zutons
Platinum Pied Pipers
White Rose Movement
Chris Liberator
Colette
Joey Beltram
Hybrid
Living Things
Wolfmother

The Like
Nine Black Alps
Celebration
The Section Quartet
Shy FX & T Power
Infusion

April 30

Tool
Massive Attack
Madonna
Yeah Yeah Yeahs
Bloc Party
Paul Oakenfold
Scissor Sisters
Matisyahu
James Blunt
Sleater-Kinney
Mogwai
Coheed and Cambria

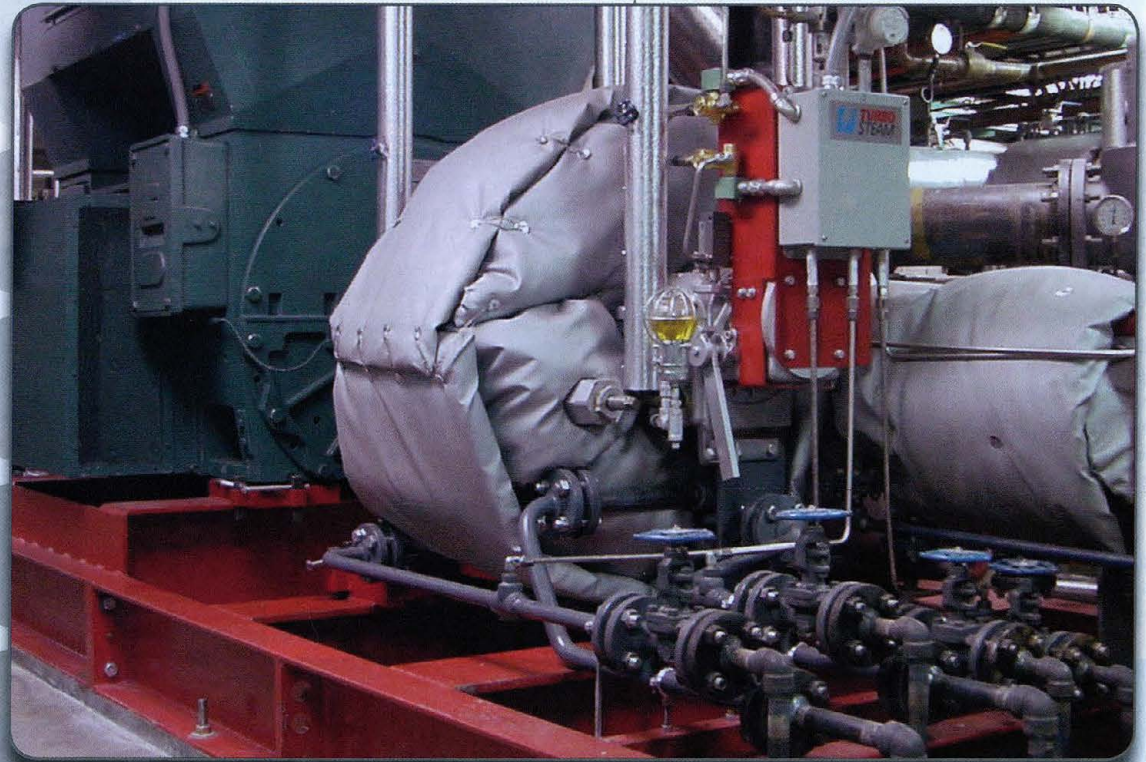
Wolf Parade
Gnarls Barkley
Phoenix
Coldcut
Digable Planets
Amadou & Mariam
Louie Vega
Mylo
Seu Jorge
Ted Leo/Pharmacists
The Go! Team
Kaskade
Metric
Editors
Art Brut
Dungen
The Dears
Jamie Lidell
The Magic Numbers
Los Amigos Invisibles

Jazzanova
stellastarr*
Michael Mayer
Murs ft. 9th Wonder
Mates of State
Gilles Peterson
Infadels
Gabriel & Dresden
The Subways
Minus the Bear
OneRepublic
Be Your Own Pet
Youth Group
Giant Drag
Kristina Sky
The Octopus Project

by noah guillaume

Steam Power

csu's green machine goes full steam ahead



In October 2005, CSU received a jolt. It did not earn much attention on campus, but it certainly gave an energy boost to CSU's environmental efforts.

The rise in energy came from the newly installed steam turbine generator in the main campus central heating plant, located just off the southeast side of the Oval. In this building, which produces steam to heat buildings and hot water on campus, excess steam, once unused, is diverted to power the electricity-generating turbine.

Integration of the steam turbine increases the efficiency of CSU's heating plant. The excess energy of the steam, previously lost in a pressure-reducing device, is now captured to run the turbine. Also, any electricity produced by the steam turbine is electricity that will not have to be generated by CSU's electricity provider, said Carol Dollard, a utility engineer for the facilities department at CSU. This means a 2,600-ton reduction in carbon dioxide emissions each year from power plants.

What might be most shocking is the decision to install the generator was originally motivated by economics, not environmental concerns. "The reality of the state system is dollars are the driving factor," Dollard said.

The turbine is expected to generate \$252,100 worth of electricity per year. The turbine's price tag, after a \$54,000 rebate from the city of Fort Collins, amounted to \$826,300.

"That \$250,000 a year will pay back that initial cost (of the turbine) in three years, and then after that we'll be \$250,000 ahead," Dollard said.

Just how much electricity will the turbine generate? Campus engineers project 5.6 million kilowatt hours (kW) of electricity each year. This is enough electricity to power 777 average U.S. homes for a year. It equals 5.5 percent of CSU's annual electricity consumption.

If the decision was based on economic implications, then why is extra steam produced in the first place?

Steam is generated in three large boilers at the heating plant. The steam leaves the boilers at 160 pounds per square inch (psi), but needs to be at 50 psi for campus use. The boilers produce at a constant 160 psi to prevent them from having to track the fluctuating load demands, thus prolonging the life of the boilers. Dollard equates this with the stop-and-go effect on a car as opposed to driving at a steady cruising speed. Now, the turbine takes the place of the pressure-reducing device.

During the winter months, when more steam is needed for heating, the turbine will

produce nearly 800 kW. However, during the summer months, production drops to approximately 325 kW.

"We could add more (turbines) and take advantage of more winter load, but it essentially

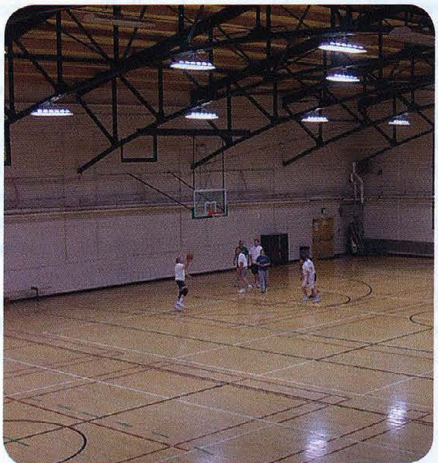


► photos courtesy of noah guillaume

wouldn't operate in the summer time," Dollard explained. "So, you can't justify the capital costs of this nearly million-dollar device if you only use it six months a year."

Just because CSU will be producing 5 percent of its electricity without any extra fuel consumption does not mean there is 800 kW of free electricity to burn.

According to Walter Simpson, energy officer at the State University of New York at Buffalo and leader of an energy conservation program that saves his campus \$9 million annually: "The greenest kilowatt-hour is the one we never use."



Other gold-worthy efforts by a green campus

Vending machine controllers

CSU retrofitted all refrigerated vending machines, containing nonperishable items, with motion sensors. If the infrared sensing device does not detect motion near the machine for 15 minutes or longer, the controller will turn off the machine's lights and refrigerant compressor. The controller will power-up the machine every three hours to maintain temperature, though. Projected savings: \$3,300 per year and 150 tons in carbon dioxide emissions.

South College Gym motion lights

CSU replaced the gym's track lighting with more efficient fluorescent lighting. In addition, every light fixture has its own motion sensor so the amount of lighting is directly connected to the amount of activity within the gym. Projected savings: \$4,500 per year.

CSU autoclaves get water monitors

Autoclaves are machines that use steam to sterilize laboratory equipment. Once the steam is used it must be condensed back to a lower temperature before it can be sent down the drain. Traditionally, cold tap water was left running, at nearly four gallons per minute, all day long, 365 days a year. CSU installed temperature monitors that only inject cold water when it is needed. Savings: \$61,000 and 17 million gallons of water, or 26 Olympic-size swimming pools, per year.

Residence halls get wind power

Since 2004, on-campus residents have had the option to purchase 100 percent wind-generated electricity for \$17 per year. Savings: 2,400 pounds in carbon dioxide emissions. And no, the power doesn't go out if the wind stops blowing.

New lights at Veterinary Training Hospital

CSU's vet hospital recently received new, more efficient fluorescent lighting with partial funding from Platte River Power Authority and the City of Fort Collins. Projected savings: \$22,000 per year.

Source: www.colostate.edu

opposite page: csu's new steam turbine. above left: a green vending machine sports a new motion sensor. left: one-quarter of the south college gym is in the dark while the lights shine down on an evening basketball game.



College Marriage

a match made in heaven
or a potential disaster?

▶ photo by daniel yara

by skylar rick

To be or not to be – was that once really the question? In this day and age however, for the average college student, the question seems to become “I do” or “I don’t.”

Planning a wedding can be stressful enough, but tack on class work, finals and work, in addition to deciding where relatives will stay and how you want your dream day to go between semesters, the task can be more than overwhelming. For most college students, this is the reality they must face when deciding to tie the knot.

In addition to wedding planning, the average college student and their “life partner to be” must figure out financing. This can be overwhelming to some, especially considering the average cost of a wedding in Fort Collins is \$26,500, according to costofwedding.com. For those considering marriage in college, this is almost 12 times the amount of in-state tuition for students taking 15 credits. With these numbers, it’s not surprising that many wait to get married.

More and more couples are simply living together to avoid the walk down the aisle and all that follows it. The U.S. Bureau of Census reported that between 1960 and 2004, the number of cohabiting couples rose from 439,000 to over 5 million.

But is this really the better solution? Not necessarily. According to a July 2000 USA Today article, living together before marriage, among other things, makes it 46 percent more likely for a divorce when the couple finally ties the knot. In addition, the article states that when couples live together outside of marriage, the risk of domestic violence for women increases, and it includes a study stating that this risk is double that in married relationships.

Despite the monetary risk and fear that comes to some when commitment enters the picture, the response to cohabitation can be answered with an “I do.”

The best age to marry and make it last is between the ages of 23 and 27, so marrying early can lead to more success, reported USA Today. However, by 23, many people are done with their undergraduate work, so what about those who decide to marry younger? The outlook is not so good.

If college students didn’t have enough pressure from earning a degree, maintaining a social life and working to pay the bills, they also have to worry about creating a lasting marriage.

Case One

Despite the gloomy numbers for those who marry in college, many do not fear the risks.

"I just knew he was the person for me – and I'm not that type of person," explained Aimee Ferrington, junior English creative writing fiction major. "But I met him and I knew."

The Ferringtons, who wed in January 2005, are determined to make their marriage succeed despite the financial burdens and school demands.

"I'm going to school and working 70 hours a week to be able to afford school," said Jacob Ferrington, English poetry major. "I'm better off now, however, because I have a person to share my writing with and my other interests."

The transition from college to the life after is the biggest step for most couples, and wanting the same things for the future helps keep the marriage together.

"Our future plans haven't changed that much since we got married," Aimee said. "I always wanted to go into the Peace Corps, and so did he, so now we're going together as a married couple instead of by ourselves."

Another factor that keeps couples like the Ferringtons together is compromise. In this case, they decided to slow things down for each other.

"We made the decision that (Jacob) would take the first semester off after we were married while I went to school so we could devote more time to each other," Aimee said. "Otherwise, we would only get to see each other for about 40 minutes a day."

But the semester off doesn't make Jacob feel like he is missing out on anything; in fact, he thinks marriage helped him decide his future plans.

"It helped to define what I wanted," Jacob said. "I knew that I wanted to get a master's and a doctorate, and being married helped me define the – who, what, when, where, and how – part of it."

While others may have thought the Ferringtons should have waited to marry, Aimee had no doubts.

"We both had the commitment (of marriage) already, but not in the religious and legal way," Aimee said. "But I knew this was my man, so it was like why wait?"

And she doesn't feel she has missed out on the average life of a college student.

"I can see why people could think that I'm missing out on (college experiences)," Aimee said. "But I think that mine is more fulfilled because I have an amazing man that I am married to. It's nothing like the stereotype of being 'bogged down;' we have a lot of mutual friends, and if either of us wants to go out with our friends, we do."

Case Two

Although the stress was not overbearing enough to compromise the Ferringtons' schooling, for many others it was, and the result was dropping out of school.

"It's hard to write an essay or study for a test when your future mother-in-law calls every hour," said Tiffany Curry, 20. "I was going to Arapahoe Community College, and I had to eventually make the choice of getting married now or college, and I chose what was best for me."

Her wedding cost much less than average by having it in Clemet Park near their apartment in Littleton.

"We had a very casual wedding, no fancy dresses or suits, no huge flower arrangements or anything that some people might have. It was just me, my husband, my family and my closest friends," Tiffany said. "What could make up a better dream day than that?"

Tiffany and her husband Shawn, 19, were unfazed by the risks of cohabitating before they were married. They moved in together just a few days after meeting.

"When you know it is the right person, you just can't wait to spend all your time with them," Tiffany said. "Living together before we were married hasn't compromised our relationship – I think it made us stronger."

Even though Tiffany isn't in school, it doesn't mean that she is completely lacking ambition. She is still an aspiring writer.

"I've been married since May, and I'm four months pregnant," Tiffany said. "I figure that when I'm laying down with the baby, I will have plenty of time to work on my novel then."

Shawn has a degree in general electronics from Pickens Technical and supported her decision to not finish school because of her ambition.

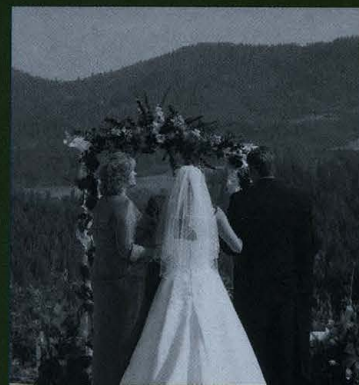
"Tiffany is very determined, and I knew that even if she didn't finish college, that she would still be able to accomplish anything she wanted," Shawn said.

After their dream day was over, the couple was forced back to reality. With the chances of being successful made harder on those without college degrees, some might argue that going forward with the wedding was detrimental to the Currys' future.

"I think that what qualifies as being successful is relative," Tiffany said. "For me, it is making my marriage work, raising a family, and making sure that we're both happy because if you're rich and miserable, what is the point in that?"

“but I knew this was my man, so it was like why wait?”

-aimee ferrington



MARRIAGE STATISTICS

	M	F
Average Age	27	26
% Successful*	14	23

*Married between the ages of 20 and 24

BURMA *daze*

by lauren richardson

Beginning in September of 2004, I taught English as a volunteer in Thailand. During my time there, I made trips across Thailand's border into Burma and had the opportunity to meet many people impacted by Burma's military junta. In this story I reference and convey the thoughts of Bo Kyi, the director of the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners. But I met many more Burmese just like him who wanted to tell their stories. Those who wanted a way out, those who never wanted to go back and those who desperately wanted to go back but couldn't for fear for their lives.

My purpose for writing this article is to discuss the failure of the international community to alleviate the plight of the Burmese people with any level of competency. This failure has left the nearly 43 million people of Burma in a dire and vulnerable place. And 43 million people are too many to be ignored by the world.

There is an obscene lack of transparency in the Burmese government. There is some data in the following report that is more vague than I would like, or that was omitted because of the impossibility of its verification. This should serve only as an indication of the flaws of this broken country.

One final note: I refer to the country as "Burma" rather than, "Myanmar." I do this because "Myanmar" is the name given to the country by the military junta, and many people feel that using that title gives the junta validity. "Burma" is the title used by most Burmese exiles I met as well as the U.S. government.

this page: speak no evil statue found in the garden of a temple in tachilek, burma. opposite: a sculpture titled "peace vessel" is perched at the memorial site of the burma railroad.



The headquarters of the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners of Burma (AAPPB) is modest. The meeting room is a covered porch with a dirt floor and floral-printed living room furniture. Covering the walls are congratulatory plaques and photos of diplomats shaking hands with Bo Kyi, the AAPPB's joint secretary, the man I am there to meet. He asks the first question – "Would you like to see our museum?"

He leads me into a concrete room and describes the images before me. There is a map of Burma's 43 prisons and a model of the inside of Tharawaddy Prison, where Bo Kyi spent four years as a political prisoner. Next are diagrams of the positions that prisoners must assume while being interrogated and beaten. Then comes the gallery of faces – thousands of little square snapshots of men and women, young and old. These are Burmese political prisoners.

For the next few hours, Bo Kyi tells me about his old home in Burma, where it's unsafe for him to go. Today, we are in Mae Sot, Thailand, a border town that is home base for most of the major non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that work along the Thailand-Burma border, including the AAPPB. Someday, Bo Kyi hopes to return to Burma. This, he says, won't be possible until the military government is ousted. If he returns before then, he assures me he will join over 1,700 political prisoners incarcerated under the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), the military junta that controls Burma.

Burma Today

Today, under Lt. Gen. Soe Win, a "military hardliner," according to the U.S. State Department's Background Notes on Burma, the future of the political prisoners pictured in Bo Kyi's museum looks bleak, and the emergence of democracy in Burma is even less likely. Reports by groups like Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International and various U.N. agencies abound that list the junta's human rights violations.

The junta's prolific use of child soldiers is a prime issue. According to a 2002 report by Human Rights Watch, Burma has more child soldiers enlisted in its 500,000-strong military than any other country in the world. Some of the 70,000 child soldiers are as young as 11 years old.

This past September, Nobel Prize winner, Bishop Desmond Tutu and former Czech President Vaclav Havel commissioned the report

"Threat to the Peace: A Call for the U.N. Security Council to Act in Burma." This report states that Burmese soldiers have destroyed more than 2,700 villages since 1999. The estimated number of internally displaced people in Burma has passed 1 million since

the military took power in 1962. In addition, nearly 500,000 Burmese are seeking refuge across the eastern border in Thailand. As many as 1 million additional unregistered refugees are believed to be in Thailand and roughly 250,000

are fleeing to neighboring countries such as Malaysia, India and Bangladesh.

Drugs are also flooding across Burma's borders at alarming rates. Burma is the second largest producer of illicit opium and heroin in the world according to "A Failing Grade: Burma's Drug Eradication Efforts," a report

“forty-three million people are too many to be ignored by the world.”



by ALTSEAN (the Alternative ASEAN Network) in 2004. The drugs that don't make it out of the country are responsible for the suspected 400,000 to 500,000 Burmese suffering from drug addiction.

Drug use has been a key cause of the rampant spread of HIV/AIDS in Burma in recent years. Needle sharing is a major factor in Burma's HIV/AIDS infection rate of 3.64 percent, as reported by Burma's Ministry of Health in 2004, and according to The Joint United Nations Project on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the number is likely much higher. More important is the government's failure to decrease the rampant spread of the disease in Burma. Hoping to assist in alleviating Burma's problem, The Global Fund granted \$98.4 million to an HIV/AIDS prevention program to be implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 2004. But the program went unexecuted because aid workers couldn't accomplish anything due to harassment by Burmese military officials. Between 300,000 and 600,000 people are living with HIV/AIDS in Burma and the virus is spreading to surrounding countries via the drug and sex trade routes.

Other offenses of the SPDC are listed in various reports. Tutu and Havel's report states that the Burmese army continues to systematically rape women. Also, hundreds of thousands of Burmese civilians are forced – under threat of torture and imprisonment – to work on infrastructure projects without pay. ALTSEAN's 2004 Special Report lists extrajudicial killings, summary executions, arbitrary detentions, continued use of landmines and an increasing problem of human trafficking as offenses of the SPDC. There has been no sign of improvement in any of these areas; rather, both reports found that the problems are getting worse.

How About Sanctions?

Burma's situation screams for the attention of the international community, and it has responded – sort of. In 2003, the United States implemented complete sanctions against Burma, including a ban on all imports from Burma and on the export of financial services by U.S. persons to Burma, and an asset freeze on a certain Burmese institution, according to the U.S. State Department.

However, many doubt the effectiveness of sanctions. In the article "How to Save It," from the July 23 issue of *The Economist*, the SPDC's behavior has not changed in the three years since the

sanctions were introduced. The author said that the regime's unresponsiveness means the sanctions are a failed policy and suggests that the United States lift them because they have not been so unpersuasive.

A number of journalists and analysts have made the same assertion. However, Bo Kyi feels that lifting sanctions is the wrong thing to do. He realizes many people are against sanctions because they feel it is civilians who are punished rather than the regime, as they are robbed of jobs and income. But, Bo Kyi says, people working in the factories are treated so poorly and paid such low wages that they are better off without jobs. Under a military regime as brutal as the SPDC, the percentage of profits made by the common worker from goods is miniscule compared to how much the regime will make. For this, Bo Kyi expresses gratitude to the U.S. government for its decision to sanction.

An article in *The Economist* suggests a dangling carrot approach to dealing with Burma. The problem is, other countries already employ this approach and still the SPDC remains indifferent.

For example, the European Union has some sanctions against



photos by lauren richardson

burma has one of the **worst human rights** records in the world. its people are **fleeing** across the borders in droves, and thousands of **political prisoners** remain behind bars while the government makes ever more **empty promises**. can the **international community** help this **broken country**, or did they miss their **chance**?



Burma, but not as many as the United States. This makes the U.S. sanctions moot because Burma turns to European Union countries to do business. Tutu's report states that the European Union has been "very vocal in its criticisms of the regime," but that criticism doesn't faze the SPDC. The SPDC's behavior has not changed in the three years since the sanctions were introduced. The author said that the regime's unresponsiveness means the sanctions are a failed policy and suggests that the United States lift them because they have been so unpersuasive.

Even less aggressive in their relations with Burma are the members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Burma was admitted into the association in 1997 under the pretext that the junta would learn from member countries. According to Tutu's report, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said, "If (Burma) is outside, it is free to behave like a rogue or a pariah, while if it is inside, it would be subject to certain norms of behavior."

Despite the member states' hopes for Burma, it seems it did not live up to ASEAN's expectations. The members of ASEAN are reacting to this failed trial run by befriendling the Burmese government in hopes that some day soon the junta will come around. Until then, none of the ASEAN member states seem eager to threaten trade, falling back on their policy of not getting involved in a member state's internal affairs. Coincidentally, many ASEAN members have economic investments in Burma as well.

Japan, India and China – the region's most economically influential countries – have been even less inclined to denounce the Burmese regime. Japan's Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi made a statement in April 2005 saying only that it might be nice to see some democracy in Burma. And India's Prime Minister Manmohan Singh told President George Bush that he was "interested in seeing democratization" in Burma. But other than these vague mutterings, neither country has made any binding statements or actions toward Burma.

Getting the Urge

A single word keeps surfacing in government statements, opinion pieces and reports about Burma and the SPDC. That word is "urge."

Thailand Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra has "urged" the Burmese government to find "national reconciliation." However, Shinawatra continues to grant loans to the SPDC by the millions for infrastructure projects. The European Union has made numerous statements "urging" the United Nations to take action in Burma, yet the European Union still will not implement full sanctions against the SPDC.

Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, Doctors Without Borders, the AAPPB, The Burma Campaign and countless other NGOs have "urged" someone, anyone, to stop injustices against the Burmese people. But still, no one has done more than shake their heads in disappointment.

China is Burma's greatest investor and trade partner. The country supplies Burma with arms and munitions and provides Burma with debt relief, economic development grants and soft loans, according to the U.S. State Department's Background Notes on Burma. China's generosity does not come without an ulterior motive.

Sue Ellen Charlton, a professor of foreign policy and comparative politics at CSU, says these countries are passive for a number of reasons. Many countries in the region are living in proverbial glass houses themselves. These countries may fear that being too critical of Burma would be hypocritical and it may open their own country to unwanted scrutiny. Another cause for hesitation is that some governments and intellectuals see the criticism of Burma as driven by outsiders, such as western human rights groups. "To sign on to an externally driven campaign is not popular at home," said Charlton.



Inge Sargent is the widowed princess of Burma's Shan State, whose husband, Prince Kya Seng, disappeared after Burma's 1962 coup. She is now in exile in Boulder. Sargent remembers a time in the late 1950s when a general of the Chinese army visited her home on the Burma Road. She said that

before the general even sat down, he told her that one day Burma would belong to communist China. He may be right. China has always sought access to the Indian Ocean and control of Burma would grant just that. Burma is in financial crisis because a large portion of its gross domestic product is either wrapped up in the drug trade or is tied up in loans from China and these facts, said Sargent, meaning that China could have Burma any time it wants.

The question must be asked: Why is it that all of these people feel the SPDC, recognized as one of the most brutal and uncooperative regimes in the world, just needs a little "urging"? Gentle requests by the international community seem unlikely to change the ways of the SPDC. The most hope for Burma's emergence as a democratic nation lies in the chance that the junta will be brought down and Aung San Suu Kyi is permitted to take her place as rightfully elected leader of the country. No one knows how the military's demise will come to fruition, but many are certain that it is to come.

"Nothing lasts forever," Sargent said with assuredness, "and this has been going on for a very long time. [The SPDC] are going to tumble. There will be a change."



historic timeline

- 1948 Independence
Burma gains independence from Britain.
- 1948 Coup D'etat
Military seizes control from Prime Minister U Nu, Burma's democratically elected leader.
- 1988 Uprising
More than 100,000 demonstrators rally in Burma's capital, Rangoon. Burmese military kill an estimated 3,000 and imprison thousands more. After the uprisings, the junta disappears from public eye.
- 1988 Military Reemergence
The junta reestablishes power under the new name, the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC).
- 1988 A New Party
The National League for Democracy (NLD) is formed.
- 1990 Elections
Elections are held and the NLD wins with more than 80 percent of votes. The SLORC, displeased with the outcome of the elections, chooses to ignore it and refuses to hand power over to the NLD.
- 1993 to 1997 Drafting a Constitution
SLORC convenes to draft a new constitution. The convention is abandoned after three years, leaving Burma without a new constitution.
- 1997 New Name
For the sake of public relations, the SLORC changes its name to the more benign-sounding State Peace and Development Council (SPDC).
- 2003 The Road Map
Newly appointed prime minister, Gen. Khin Nyunt, introduces "the road map to democracy," claiming it will be followed to make Burma a democratic nation. The "road map" is dismissed by the international community as nothing more than another delay tactic.
- 2004 Old Ways, New Leader
Prime Minister Khin Nyunt is ousted and replaced by military hardliner Lt. Gen. Soe Win.

All biographical information for this timeline was found on FreeBurma.com and Wikipedia.com



▶ photos by Lauren Richardson



opposite page: a woman sells limes at the market in Tachilek, Burma. **top:** a sister and brother look out over the bridge connecting the Burma and Thailand borders. **middle:** a bicycle taxi awaits its owner in the Thai border town of Mae Sot. **bottom:** looking to the hills of eastern Burma from Kanchanaburi, Thailand.

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Sport Clubs



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a year of action



above left: cristina gourdin on the hurdles. above right: csu pitcher kim klabough throws against unc. right: nate miles winds up to shoot against larimer county community college.



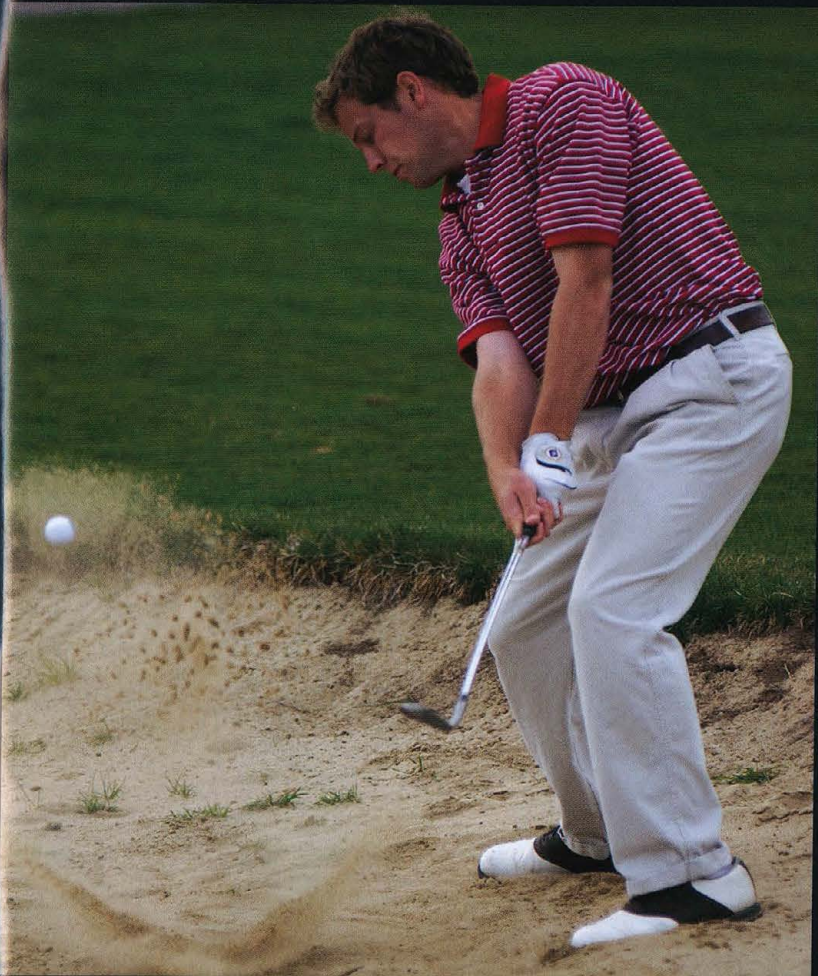
clockwise from left: laurien white shoots the ball during a water polo game against michigan. midfielder ryan trude sprints past an asu player. john wilis, outfielder, slides into home.



▶ photos courtesy of CSU Sport Clubs



► photos courtesy of the collegian



clockwise from top: csu cricket club batter anticipates the ball from a coldwater creek cricket club bowler. dan roarty looks for a pass during an ultimate frisbee game against unc. golfer nate pettit chips from a bunker.



above: robbly ketchel makes a sharp turn during the men's 'a' race at the annual csu oval criterium. right: csu pitcher noah wright throws against the trinidad state trojans. below: grad student scott mcorvey makes a role in the south gym pool.



▶ photos courtesy of the collegian

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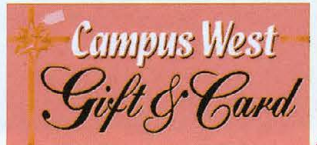
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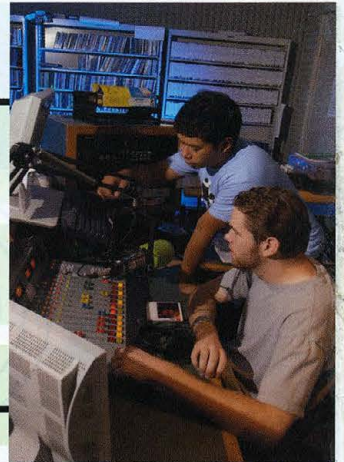
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