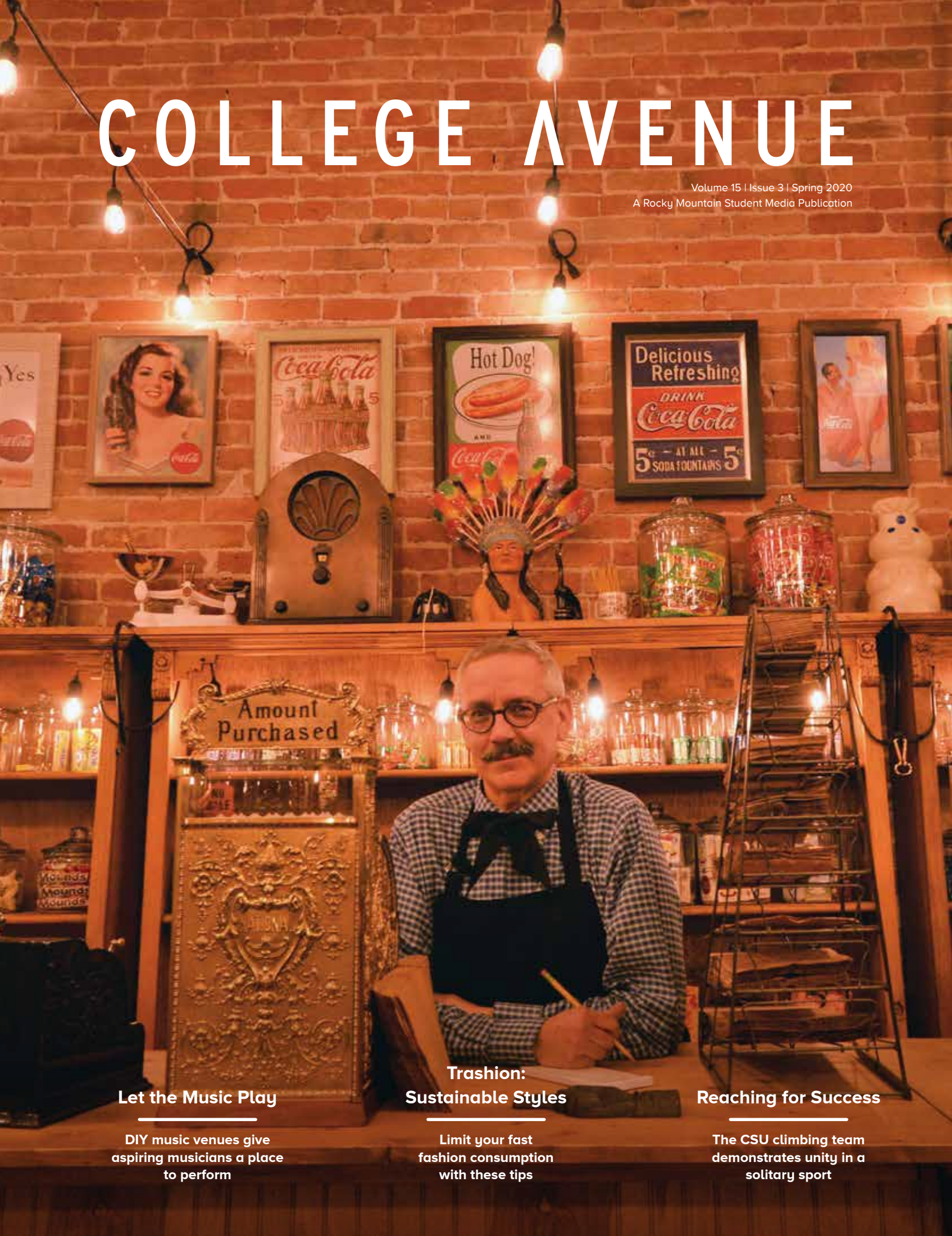


COLLEGE AVENUE

Volume 15 | Issue 3 | Spring 2020
A Rocky Mountain Student Media Publication



Let the Music Play

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Trashion: Sustainable Styles

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Reaching for Success

The CSU climbing team demonstrates unity in a solitary sport

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Letter from the Editor

Dear readers,

You may notice there have been a few staff changes here at *College Avenue* since the last issue. But fear not, even with new members of staff, we still aim to produce content that serves the communities we live in. Content that highlights and celebrates the achievements of these communities.

And that's exactly what we focused on this issue. Fort Collins is a community of communities. There's a niche for every interest—you just have to know where to look.

In this issue we hoped to showcase these communities and the community that supports them. Whether that be the community of the Women's Volleyball team here at CSU, or a group of musicians and creators coming together to build spaces for expression.

There are so many communities like this here in Fort Collins. Others are building themselves up to make a difference in our community. Our cover story examines how a man fought to maintain the integrity of his vintage candy shop. A shop which awakens old memories and helps to create new ones within our community.

I believe this edition of *College Avenue* captures what we envisioned when we set out to re-imagine the magazine in May of last year. Although circumstances have changed, new staff have come aboard, I believe this issue is the essence of what we hoped *College Avenue* would become.



I am thrilled to be involved with this transformation and push the magazine beyond what any of us expected. None of which would have been possible without the support of this community. I would like to thank everyone who has supported and believed in *College Avenue* throughout our evolving journey this year. I hope you can find a story which captivates you and deepens your appreciation of the communities we live amongst.

Meg Metzger-Seymour
Editor-in-Chief

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LET THE MUSIC PLAY: DIY Venues in Fort Collins

By Arlee Walls

Everyone has a first day. Playing a sport to eventually play professionally, picking up a brush to begin painting a masterpiece, or writing down a storm of thoughts to create a timeless song. Everyone starts somewhere.

Fort Collins, Colorado is full of music. From small stages in breweries to the Aggie Theatre, a show is bound to be happening somewhere at any time. For some concertgoers, the magic of a show inspired them to create their own venue.

Do-it-yourself music venues are spaces inside or outside a house that has been decorated and built to withstand a concert. For many DIY venues, the show costs zero to nothing and all are welcome. If money is donated by concertgoers, all proceeds are given to the band. The address to the venue is provided through direct messages for safety. From local bands, who may have played for years, to first-time acts are, all welcome to play onstage.



Hotel Hillcrest is a DIY house concert venue which has put on concerts since October 2018. Since then, countless local and touring bands have come through to play on stage for one night. Past bands who have performed includes The Beeves and Meat and Potatoes. The venue is run by Kaiya Grundmann and Joe Wood. Wood moved into the house in August 2017 and still lives in the house, while Grundmann visits often — they are dating after all.

On the planning side of things, Wood is responsible for booking the bands and organizing the show. Grundmann handles the social media page and, at times, serves as the conflict management. All shows are free to the public, but donations are very appreciated.

After coming home from a show held at the retired venue, The Heck House, Grundmann says, “We just kind of came back one day and we just thought we can do this too.”

This was the start of Grundmann and Wood’s journey to start up their own DIY music venue. Countless hours were put in to making the walls, ceiling and room a place of music and love. Soundproof board hides behind the curtains of fabric while lights and flowers line along the walls of the garage.

“We went on a wild goose chase for like a couple of weeks finding ways to soundproof and decorate,” Grundmann says, “We ended up getting sound board and insulation and like stapling and taping it together.”

The Laundry Room is another DIY music venue in Fort Collins that began hosting shows in 2017, but didn’t have an official name until 2019. Quinn Miller is a fourth-year student at CSU majoring in human development and family studies and sociology. He got his inspiration to open his music venue after a member of his band started hosting shows.

“I mainly wanted an all inclusive space in which individuals can escape the taxations of daily life and enjoy a free concert in a safe space,” Miller says.

The Laundry Room hosts a variety of genres including techno, punk, hip-hop and folk. Admissions is free and only cost is a good attitude, Miller says.

“My goal is to allow everyone in the community a space to enjoy music, without the worry of financial burden,” Miller says. “I want everyone to spread love rather than hate, and to constantly express yourself.”

For other musicians, the inspiration to start a DIY venue comes from the lack of opportunity for musicians to play. AJ Frankson, or Janet Earth on stage, ran the retired music venue, The Planetarium. She opened The

“My goal is to allow everyone in the community a space to enjoy music, without the worry of financial burden. I want everyone to spread love rather than hate, and to constantly express yourself.”

- Quinn Miller



Planetarium alongside her roommate in August 2019. This venue booked all genres from solo shows to punk rock. As of February 2020, The Planetarium closed their doors and will no longer be booking acts to play.

Music has always played a major role in Frankson's life. For Frankson, the inspiration to open a venue came from her passion for music and wanting to play.

“Once I had the opportunity I just really wanted to be able to open my space,” Frankson says. “I realized a lot of people don't have a space to play or practice music or have a show. I wanted to make that available to everybody.”

What makes a DIY venue unique

A DIY venue is built on the platform to create an inclusive environment for all. For musicians, the stage is set for anyone who wants to play who may not have been given a chance otherwise.

At Hotel Hillcrest, the garage isn't just a stage to play music. This house serves as a safe place where Concert goers' safety and comfort is Grundmann and Woods priority.

“We support anyone and everyone, and we will do anything to make sure that those people feel comfortable,” Grundmann says.

In the music industry, artists gain a different experience when they are performing on-stage rather than recording. Fans cheer in the crowd while the music plays on.

Miller says DIY venues allow musicians to showcase their talent that may have a smaller following. It can be difficult for local bands to play at large venues.

“DIY venues provide a space for all to play music,” Miller says. “On top of that, these spaces bring together like minded people, leading individuals to forge relationships they never thought they would.”

For Frankson and The Planetarium, the purpose of a DIY venue is giving artists a stage and resources to perform when these may not otherwise be available to them. These musicians and artists want to play music, but were met with obstacles to achieve their dreams.

“I've had people hit me up who have never played before and who don't have a band; it's just them,” Frankson says. “And they don't have the means to record music so all they have are shitty phone recordings.”

For many musicians, playing at a DIY venue is the start of their passion to perform live. The dream to play live is a difficult goal to achieve, but the love and support from DIY venues makes this dream possible.

“You can't have big guys without little guys first,” Grundmann says. “Everyone needs a place to start.”

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Candy Man

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By Kailey Pickering

Walking into the Fort Collins Candy Store Emporium is being whisked away to the 1940s, where candy cigarettes are sold by the pack, an old school Coca-Cola ad can be found smiling from the walls, and antique toys from the time period walk across the shelves. But beneath all the wonders lies a story of heart-break and determination.

The store holds a multitude of curiosities between the selection of candies from across the twentieth century to the golden antique cash register to the toys that bring back grandparents' childhoods. The magic woven within the floorboards of the store springs up as people come across toys from their past. "[People] would get very teary eyed because they walked in and they just got lost in a moment," says Tony Vallejos, owner of the store.

Vallejos remembers a woman coming in and staring at a collection of his toys in a corner of the store. She found a replica of an orange glass she used to drink Kool-aid out of as a child at her grandmother's house. Memories she had forgotten about began to surface. "She found a missing link from her past," Vallejos says. He helped the woman find her own orange glass on Ebay and soon she had a little piece from her childhood, thanks to the magic of Vallejos' shop.

Moments like these occur everyday at the Candy Store Emporium. The enchantment

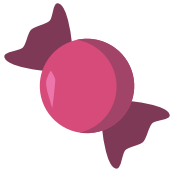
of the store turns back the hands of time as adults find their childhoods within the shelves.

But by no means is this magic limited only to adults; kids come in fascinated by the old-timey store and the charisma of Vallejos' presence. "The kids just have so much happiness and excitement and joy and they're just so excited to be here," Vallejos says.

Stepping into the Candy Store Emporium brings out the child in all of us, and for the kids that walk through the doors, it is like walking into a Disney movie with magic from a different time and place. Vallejos strived to create an environment where everyone in his store would have a unique and awe filled experience.

One way the Candy Man did this for the children was by including taxes in his prices. In a child's perspective, getting \$5 to spend is exciting. Until the cash register rings up as \$5.25 and a sugared treat must be sacrificed. Vallejos wanted to avoid this confusion, so he talked to the Department of Revenue in Colorado and made his price labels with taxes included. Because of this, there is no abandoning treats because of creeping taxes, but an exact amount of how much one will need.

Vallejos originally pursued art in California for 40 years before the Sept. 11 attacks of 2001. After the event shook the nation, the



art industry took a blow and people were not buying art as much. As Vallejos was trying to find a new business to pursue, he remembered a common topic after the event: “People just kept talking about the good old days — the good old days became the conversation.”

With this in mind, Vallejos thought the charm an old-fashioned candy shop would hold. He was fascinated by the Works Progress Administration art from the 1940s. As one of many ways to get the country back on their feet after the Great Depression, Franklin D. Roosevelt had had artists paint murals, national park posters, and sculptures portraying how great the United States was. Inspired by this art and the story of motivation and determination it portrayed about the U.S., Vallejos decided to create his own candy shop from this time period.

He spent over a decade studying pictures of general stores in the 1940s, finding everything from his collection of antique toys to a string holder used to tie up bags of candy. After pouring his heart into making his candy emporium a replica of an American candy store in the 1940s, Vallejos packed up and set up shop in Cheyenne, Wyoming, where his store flourished. After a few months, he was reported to the county assessor.

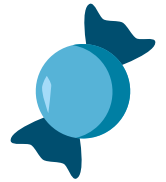
As a business, one must report items that help them profit within their business but are

not part of what they sell. The business will then be taxed on these items. These taxable items are referred to as personal property and usually include items such as machinery and equipment which help sustain a business.

Vallejos was reported to the county assessor because he had not listed his antique collection as personal property. Vallejos didn't consider his toys as tools to help him sell candy until the Cheyenne county assessor drew attention to it. After working with city officials, Vallejos discovered that by getting a museum license, he could avoid the massive tax on his antique collection.

A year later, Vallejos soon decided to move from Cheyenne to Fort Collins, Colorado. In preparation to set up in a new town, Vallejos asked a member of the secretary of state in Cheyenne to call Colorado verifying that his museum title would transfer. After confirming the title would transfer, Vallejos moved to Fort Collins and signed a lease for his store, ready to introduce the town to his magic.

When Vallejos went to get his licenses and titles for his business, he was told that he could not own a museum. In Wyoming, to be a museum, all one needs is to obtain a museum title, which Vallejos had. In the state of Colorado, to own a museum, one must own both a museum title and a classification. Unfortunately, Vallejos was told Colorado does



“For the whole 16 months, I carried this store, because I believed in this store. And I believed that I would one day be vindicated for all this.”

- Tony Vallejos

not give museum classifications to private individuals.

Colorado statutes say museums have an exemption from property tax because they are a “charitable organization.” Because Vallejos is making a living for himself, he does not fall under this museum category. With no museum classification, Vallejos’ toys, would be subject to a monumental tax.

Faced with an impossible situation, Vallejos returned to Fort Collins with only his business license and no museum title nor classification. With a drive to achieve his goals, Vallejos went to the Larimer County Assessor and explained his situation. After giving them his list of business equipment, he was given time to try to resolve the issue.

Vallejos went to work, he remembers. “I went and I fought hard for months and months and months, every day, trying to call everybody,” Vallejos says.

He spoke with the governor, the mayor, and a variety of members from the City Council in an attempt to figure out why the law was in place and how Vallejos could work within his limitations. Vallejos worked with State Representative Cathy Kipp to find a way to solve his problem. Kipp explains she put effort into researching at the state level to see how she could help Vallejos.



After a year of fighting, no answers arose from Vallejos’ efforts. His time had come to visit the county assessor once again.

With no other choice, Vallejos had to remove his collection of enchanting toys from his store.

“So, the cabinets are gone with the toys,” says Vallejos, “Everything’s gone. So people walk in my door. They take three steps, they stop, they look around and they say, ‘What’s going on?’”

Without the memorable toys in the store,



the candy store began to see fewer and fewer customers, Vallejos says.

The Fort Collins Candy Store Emporium magic still pulsed in the jars of unique candies and hand-crafted counters. But the toys dispensing memories like the candy lining the shelves had left the store with the museum title.

As the lack of antique toys began to become a reality, Vallejos received a call from the Larimer County Assessor Bob Overbeck which would alter the situation. It was explained to Vallejos that his problem was unique to Larimer County and they had spent months trying to find out how to fix it. After all this time, a solution arose.

The County Assessor's office found a clause in the Assessor's Resource Library Volume 5 stating antiques should not be a part of the personal property taxation. Because antique value is generally considered an "intangible value component," it boosts their market price above the typical assessment measures. Rather, antiques should be valued by comparing them against a new modern item which serves the same purpose or function. For example, an antique Yogi Bear lunch box could serve the same purpose as a \$10 lunch box bought

from a store today. Because of this there is no reason to tax a lunch box at the value of \$10.

Vallejos was then given a legal document proclaiming his legitimacy to have his antique toys in-store.

With this clearance, Vallejos will be able to welcome his magical toys back into his candy shop of wonders.

Vallejos says, "For the whole 16 months, I carried this store, because I believed in the store. And I believed that I would one day be vindicated for all this." The time has come that Vallejos has been waiting for, for the toys and their atmosphere to bring the store back to life.

With this break through in the Vallejos' fight to save the Fort Collins Candy Store Emporium, the shop will be fully restored to its former glory. The magic that breathes in between the walls of the store will become stronger and stronger as Vallejos brings back his collection piece by piece.

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**REA
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CLIMBING SUCCESS

By Anna Dunn

The team begins each meeting in the children's climbing room at their practice site, the Ascent climbing studio. About three dozen college students sit in front of a miniature climbing wall as everyone listens to the leadership team describe the activity of the day.

Energy is high despite the meeting starting in the late evening at eight. Rather than passively half-focusing, climbers shout out questions to fully understand what the expectations of the day are. After one question leads to another which then accidentally causes greater general confusion, several leaders scramble for an Expo marker to hastily draw up a chart to illustrate the activity.

The brief but slightly-chaotic episode reveals the climbers' commitment to the team. Loyalty to the leadership team's plans and activities is what distinguishes the group as a unified team, not just a collection of climbers tackling the walls on their own agenda and interest.

"We're one of the first [college] teams to really start doing team workouts," Peter Candell says. Candell is a computer science major and the vice president of the CSU Climbing Team. He credits their success to both their frequent meetings throughout the week and the team-wide activities.

The workouts address two different techniques: bouldering and sport climbing. Bouldering takes place on shorter walls without any ropes and requires some of the more complex holds. Sport climbing is more endurance-based and takes place on ten-meter walls. Depending on the incline of the wall, the climber may use

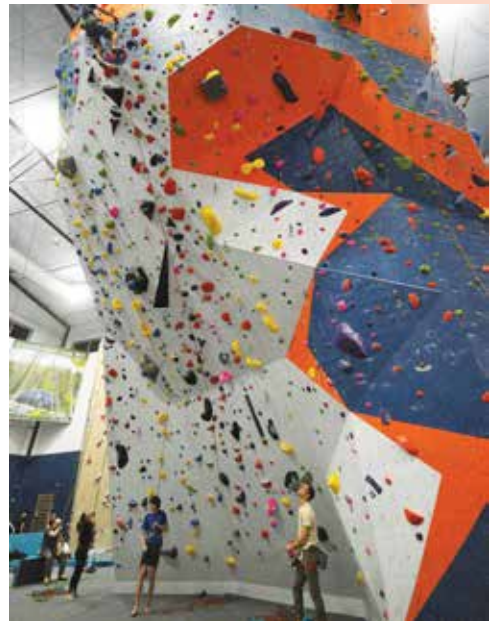
a rope already clipped at the ceiling or attach clips to the wall as they climb.

Once the activity is thoroughly ironed out, the climbers disperse and get to work. Each member finds a niche on the wall that will be the first treck of many for the next two hours.

Despite how social and bubbly everyone was in the kid's room, the volume of the climbing gym is moderate. Friends talk amongst themselves in huddles. But the majority of climbers work quietly on their own, halfway up the wall. By nature, climbing is a solitary sport. The pairs of climbers and belayers—a partner who holds the climber's rope to maintain rope pressure—may shout encouragement or directions to each other, but with the distance, it's difficult to talk for long periods of time.

For the most part, it is just the climber going solo.

"It's more of a 'self-push sport,'" says climber and business major Thomas Reitwiesner. "There's a bit of a laid back environment that really just allows people to do what they need to do."





“YOU’RE USING YOUR BRAIN TO KEEP YOURSELF CALM ON THE WALL WHILE YOU’RE CLIMBING AND NOT GET PSYCHED OUT ABOUT FALLING.”

With so much freedom, self-discipline is a valuable skill all climbers build.

“You gotta put in that effort yourself if you want to see results,” Reitweisner adds.

Pushing yourself means a variety of things for climbers. It doesn’t simply mean building strength and training. It means mental strength: ambition, quick-thinking, the ability to focus and manage stress.

“It can be a very mental sport,” Candell says. “You’re using your brain to keep yourself calm on the wall while you’re climbing and not get psyched out about falling. But also, you’re doing a lot of puzzle-solving.”

Physical instinct and muscle memory are limited by what’s known and familiar. In order to grow and try new things, climbers make calculated decisions on what moves may work and get them higher up the wall.

“You have to ask yourself ‘Okay, here are the holes I have, how do I position my body to hold those in the most efficient and effective way to be able to get up the wall?’” Candell says.

The skills to keep yourself calm and focused become especially important to maintain during competitions. Undeclared freshman Ellery Osborne thinks part of maintaining a good mindset is being understanding with yourself.

“You definitely learn how to control the voice in your head,” Osborne says. “You have to accept the fact that you have a bad day, and it sucks if that day falls on competition, but you just have to deal with that.”

According to a few members of the team, last year was the bad day in the team’s history.

“Last year was not bad,” Reitwiesner says. “But every year prior to that, we had three or four years where we won lots of titles.”

But the team is optimistic about their chances in 2020.

“We have a lot of good stuff coming in,” Reitwiesner says. “We’re in a good position.”

And just like maintaining a calm and clear head while climbing, the climbers stay humble amongst success.

Osborne reflects that one important thing to learn while was how to keep herself ambitious without wishing for others to fail.

“Because I don’t want to be negative and wish for other people to fail, I would say to myself ‘I hope that everybody else has their best day, but I just want my day, my best day, to be better than their best,’” Osborne said.



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HAND PIPES

BUBBLERS

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VAPERS

Curious or have questions regarding these various pieces? Make a trip down to Kind Creations (828 S College Ave. in Fort Collins) where your needs will be met and your questions can be answered. Or visit kindcreationsfortcollins.com to learn more.

A WELCO

The C



Photo by Luke Bourland | The Collegian

WINNING HEART

Culture of CSU Women's Volleyball

By Kailey Pickering

Game after game, victory after victory — Colorado State's very own women's volleyball team left their mark as they took victory in almost every match played in their 2019 season. Underneath the winning sets and glorious games is a team that shares a unique and supportive bond.

Katie Oleksak, the senior setter who played her last year in the 2019 season, still remembers being welcomed onto the team as a freshman. The year she came in, the team had started a new tradition of sophomores hosting a dinner for the incoming freshmen. The act was a gesture that welcomed Oleksak and the other freshmen as they began a new journey in their lives.

As the team establishes a welcoming foundation for their culture, they grow into a supportive, determined, and goal reaching group of girls. "We all really work hard and we're all really competitive in nature, and so especially during the off season, everyone's just pushing each other to be the best they can be," Oleksak explained.

Head Coach Tom Hilbert has been coaching 35 years, the past 22 of which he's spent at CSU. "They give to each other, but at the same time they're willing to go out and compete with each other every day," Hilbert says. "And that's a tricky balance, you have to make

a pact that when you get in between the lines, you're going to play as hard as you can and try to beat somebody right across the net from you. But then when you walk back in the locker room you have to be friends."

The energy the girls bring to the court generates a culture that challenges their skills and grows their confidence. As they grow in these aspects, the team's fierce playing and determination has been shaped by the hard work put into practices.

Hilbert prepares his players for matches and primes them for their opponents. "I believe in aggressiveness but not at the cost of making a bunch of mistakes," Hilbert says. From the serving line to the completion of the score, the girls come in dynamic, anticipating what the opposing players will do and taking action to effectively dismantle them. The focus on aggressiveness and precision contributes to the success the team extracted from their opponents this season.

The team came into the 2019 season with a boom, dominating teams with every set. They fought their way to the NCAA Tournament in December where their blazing season came to a close defeat, ending in a 29-2 season record. In a University record, they had won 28 games straight, including back-to-back wins against the University of Colorado Boulder.



(Above) Freshmen Alana Giles and Madison Boles dance from the sideline while waiting for the first set to start.

Photo by Lucy Morantz
The Collegian

“It was just such a great moment,” Olesak says of their double triumph over CU, a memory she places at the top of list with her team.

Another way the team prepares for their opponents involves film and simulation. The drill called “scout team” begins with the team watching a film of their opponent playing. After studying the opposing team, they go to the courts where half the team imitates the competitor and runs their plays against the other half of the team who sticks to the CSU plays.

“The [CSU side] has to communicate and try to block them and set up their defense accordingly,” Olesak describes. The skill is effective in helping the players develop an understanding of the other team and come to the court ready to compete on game days.

In between their hard work and dedication to their sport, the team finds ways to throw their own kind of fun into the mix. Kristie Hillyer was the senior middle blocker in her fifth year at CSU. She remembers the “pre-game rituals and traditions that we pass on, like when you come in all the freshmen have to dance in a dance circle before every game. So that’s just a huge thing: when you come and you know as a freshman, you’re going to

have to dance.” Between traditional dance circles, retreats to places like Pingree Park, and “Iron Chef” competitions, the team has had multiple chances to grow closer throughout their season.

Seniors like Olesak and Hillyer were leaders for the newer players; they open up to the girls and show that the team is a family with people you can rely on. They demonstrate how to set up effective plays and go hard each and every day. Hillyer leads by “playing the best I can each day to try and motivate other players around me to do the same.”

This driven, welcoming, and victorious team holds a culture like no other that motivates players to be the best they can be on and off the court.

“They want to be great and they feel a great deal of pressure,” Hilbert says. “People who are not on winning teams, I’m sure they feel pressure as well, but these guys feel like they need to go further than any CSU team ever has.”

And that is exactly what the CSU Women’s Volleyball team has done in their powerful 2019 season.

CELEBRATING 150 YEARS



Part of an ongoing series celebrating Colorado State University's 150th anniversary.

csu150.colostate.edu

Spaces and Places of the Liberal Arts

From the first English and history classes held in Old Main to dance performances in Ammons Hall, the liberal arts have had many homes on campus. The four buildings that make up the modern core of the College of Liberal Arts each occupy a unique space in CSU's history.

WILLARD O. EDDY HALL

The Liberal Arts Building was constructed in 1963, providing a home for the departments of English, philosophy, education, languages, and speech. The building was renamed in 1978 to honor retired faculty member and liberal arts advocate Willard O. Eddy.

In 1997, flood waters ravaged Eddy Hall, damaging the basement and destroying more than 500,000 books. Through a series of bond initiatives, the building was revitalized with new exterior finishes, additional space, and upgraded accessibility features. The updated building re-opened to students in 2015.

ANDREW G. CLARK BUILDING

Architect James Hunter proposed a social sciences complex with two three-story buildings joined by a two-story bridge. His vision was realized in 1968 with the opening of the Social Sciences Building. The facility housed the departments of anthropology, economics, history, political science, and sociology.

In 1977, the building was renamed to honor professor and researcher Andrew G. Clark. The Clark Building is a workhorse on campus, serving students across nearly all majors. In 2017, 70 percent of all undergraduates took at least one class in the building.

VISUAL ARTS BUILDING

After a fire in 1970 burned down Old Main, where many of the arts classes were held, new art facilities were proposed by department chair Pery Ragouzis. Ragouzis insisted that a modern art curriculum be supported by a modern art building. A parents' association supported him and advocated to the University and the board of governors to invest in a proper art building.

The first phase of the Visual Arts Complex opened in 1973 with space for ceramics and sculpture classes. Phase II, which housed printmaking, graphic design, general arts, silversmithing, weaving, and drawing, opened in 1975. The building houses the Clara A. Hatton Gallery and a sculpture courtyard named in Ragouzis' honor.

UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR THE ARTS

In the early 2000s, the Office of the President and the student body joined forces to fund a world-class facility for music, theatre, dance, and visual arts. The 225,000-square-foot University Center for the Arts opened its doors in 2009.

The historic building, which originally served as Fort Collins High School, features five performance venues and two museums.

Note: The Communication Studies department is housed in the Behavioral Sciences Building, which was constructed in 2012.

To read more about the spaces and places of the College of Liberal Arts, visit magazine.libarts.colostate.edu.

CSU LORE QUIZ

How much do you truly know about CSU's lesser-known lore? Answer a few questions to see how you rank as a Ram Fan.

9 Students once staged a "beer-in" by drinking cans of Old Aggie Ale in defiance of a campus alcohol ban. T F

10 CAM the Ram has his own tailors, ride, and personal stylists. T F



Old Main, which housed many arts classes, burned down in May 1970.

● 9. FALSE: Students drank cans of Coors in the 1968 protest in the Lory Student Center to allow the Ramskeller to sell 3.2 beer. Fifty years later, students brew their own suds in the Ramskeller as part of the Fermentation Science program. Cheers! ● 10. TRUE: Our beloved Rambo will make his appearances in style with custom-made fashion wear, travel jerseys, and beaded halter. His decked-out trailer is stocked with fresh oats, Ram Handlers bath and pamp him before every event. And the paparazzi follows him everywhere!

Visit csu150.colostate.edu for more fun CSU lore and information.

TRASHION



From Fast Fashion to Sustainable Styles

By Kendall Martin

The average American discards about 70 pounds of clothing and other textiles every year, according to the Huffington Post. That's equivalent to 64 T-shirts or 16 pairs of jeans. The EPA reports that 85 percent of this textile waste ends up in landfills, where it can last from a few months to hundreds of years before decomposing.

This high turnover rate of clothing is often referred to as "fast fashion." In order to meet the constant demand for cheap clothing and current trends, many retailers currently focus on providing customers with lower-quality goods, which are often made through exploited labor. Though the majority of the product's costs aren't paid by the customer, they still must be paid; in many cases, the burden shifts onto the environment.

"We are eating the world; we're just chewing through everything," says Philip Cafaro, a CSU philosophy professor who teaches environmental ethics. "We are paying some attention to the impacts of our consumption, but we're not doing enough to limit the impact."

There is a hidden truth behind the trendy threads found in store-front windows and shopping malls.

"Clothing is something we're interacting with all the time, but I think it's very low on personal acknowledgments of impact," says Sara VanHatten, director of the Student Sustainability Center on campus. "That's why it



has always interested me. It seems like an industry that's very tucked away and that no one talks about much in regard to sustainability."

VanHatten, a fourth-year CSU student studying sustainability, creates unique outfits that reflect her vibrant personal style as well as her passion to preserve and protect natural environments.

"90% of my closet is from a thrift store, mostly from The Arc located down the street," VanHatten says. "Thrifting allows you to not only save money but also to reduce the waste that accompanies buying new items. Supporting thrift stores benefits individuals and it promotes a healthier and more sustainable global community and environment."

As for the other 10% of VanHatten's clothing, she purchases the majority of it from ethical and environmentally conscious brands, such as Patagonia and Reformation. She's been working to "shift [her] consumption to make more meaningful purchases." These name-brand products often tend to be more expensive but many of the companies provide better benefits to employees, source and produce materials in sustainable ways, and create clothing meant to last for a longer time.

In the past, VanHatten has even chal-

lenged herself to not purchase any new clothing for a year, in order to fully explore the different looks she could create from the textiles she already owns. "I probably got more compliments that year than ever before," she says. "It's such a good feeling being able to tell someone you got your outfit from a thrift store after they compliment you. A lot of people can be really shocked by that."

To VanHatten, fashion is all about "wearing what makes you feel great, regardless of how 'on-trend' it is."

"It's amazing how clothing can shift your mood," she says. "I think it can be surprising sometimes what you put on that makes you feel good. It could be a pair of jeans and a baggy sweatshirt, and you might feel like the coolest person ever. At the end of the day, that's what I'm trying to get across with my outfits."

Here are some of VanHatten's tips and tricks for navigating thrift stores to find items you love:

Patience is key.

You're not going to walk in and immediately revamp your closet, as you're able to do in a retail store where you can see right away most of what they carry. It takes time to search for the items you love.

(Above) Sara VanHatten, Director of the Student Sustainability Center and sustainable fashion activist models a hat.

Photos by Kendall Martin



(Top Left) VanHatten adding embellishments to a thrifted pair of colorful jeans.

(Top Right) VanHatten next to a sign from the 2019 CSU Trashion Show she helped organize. The event highlighted the amount of waste produced from the textile industry and promoted upcycling of fashion.

Photos by Kendall Martin

Touch everything in the store.

This one is huge for someone who's never thrifted before. Obviously that can be time-consuming, but you never know what might be hidden.

Search the sizes below and above yours.

Thrift-shop workers are rapidly sorting and moving things onto the floor. You never know if your next favorite piece of clothing was accidentally put in the wrong section.

Scan for textures, patterns, and colors you like.

If you're looking for something specific, this could save you a lot of time.

Look across gender sections.

This allows you to really go anywhere within the store. Items placed in a different category could be a better fit for you (for example, if you're a tall woman, some pants in the men's section might be ideal). It's even becoming trendy for girls to wear baggier men's pants, like Levi's.



Think of ways you can modify items you find (or already own).

As long as you're not afraid to mess up, you never know what will result from modifying your own clothing. You can creatively enhance clothing in countless ways. Some fun and easy ideas include cutting pants into shorts, adding patches and embroidery, and tie-dyeing stained clothing.

"There still isn't a great way to dispose of clothing, so if I'm going to get rid of something but I still kind of like it, I might as well try to make it into something new," VanHatten says. "Modifications extend the item's life cycle. Even if it's going to a thrift store, at the end of the day it still takes time and money to sort or dispose of."

Find outfit inspiration online.

Fashion posts on apps like Pinterest and Instagram can make you look at clothes a little differently if you're able to shape an outfit based on a picture you like. This is helpful while thrifting and also while putting an outfit together from your own wardrobe.

Play around, try things on, and have fun!

"When you buy something, make sure it's something you really like, that you think is beautiful, that you can like the idea of wearing, and that has good quality," says Cafaro. "Then it will tend to stand up over time."

#YOURPLACETO

A

EXPERIENCE

TO-DO:



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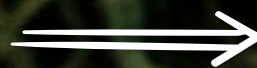
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