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# College Avenue

volume two: issue one fall 2006

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JOURNAL  
Room

## cloudsat takes flight

professor graeme stephens  
has his head in the clouds

fort collins' hip-hop scene  
if exists, and it's better than you think

study abroad photo album  
snapshots taken by student adventurers

staying afloat  
a proposal to add two reservoirs to the  
poudre river sparks debate

THE  
NORTH  
FACE

# Monaco

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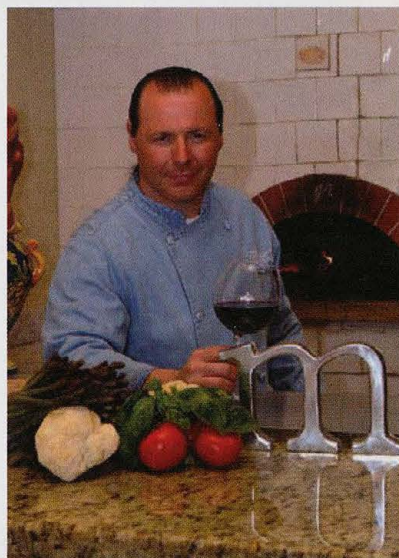


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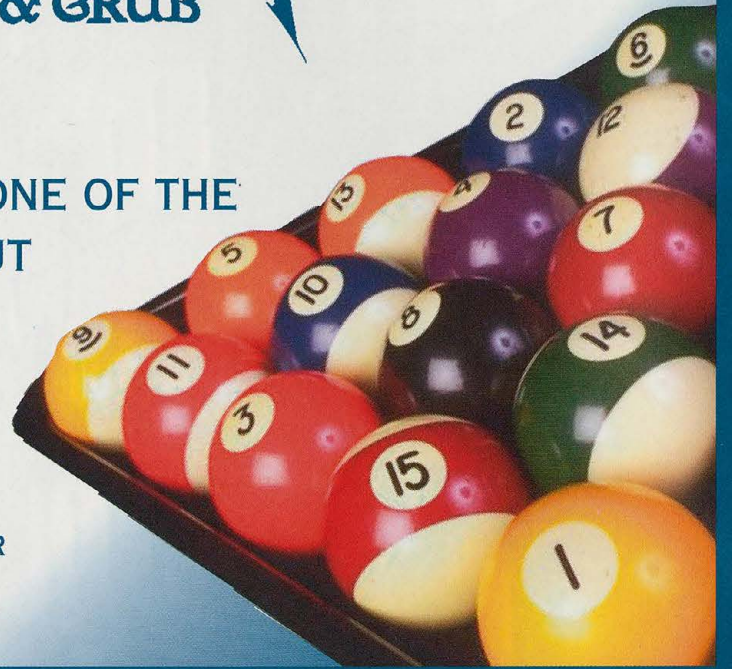
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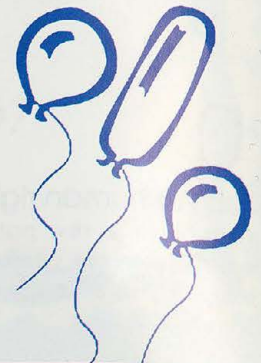
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▶ photo by nicole mcpherson

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# letter from the editor



Contrary to the norm in my writing, I am at a loss for words. It's precisely 9:26 a.m. on the day *College Avenue* goes to print. I'm sitting in Student Media's newsroom all alone waiting for the excitement to start, and it hits me: I, along with every other student who works at Student Media (and adviser for that matter), am a newsroom geek.

I'm excited. I'm giddy. My spine tingles as I type these words: The first issue of the second year of *College Avenue* is going to print today.

Exactly 22 days from now, this issue will be in the hallways, the news racks and the hands and minds of students throughout campus – and the pages will smell lovely.

Smell? You wonder as the word wafts into your thoughts.

It's true. Go ahead, give it a sniff – you know you want to.

Just tilt your head down a bit (lead with your nose) and simultaneously raise the magazine; scrunch your eyebrows if you feel the need to appear more interested in the content than the smell. Then, take a whiff of that freshly printed glossy goodness – may I suggest a center spread for an enlightening experience.

It's a wonderful scent – one that took hundreds of hours and throngs of creativity to create. And, it only comes around four times a year for *College Avenue*.

This time, however, it holds more meaning for me. In about five hours, I will relinquish my editor-in-chief status of *College Avenue* to Caroline Welch, a journalism major whose work you've seen multiple times in here, the *Collegian* and perhaps *The Fairplay Flume* out of Bailey. Caroline is also as much of a newsroom geek as they come – and both *College Avenue* and I will love the new ideas and pampering she'll bring between its covers.

It is a bittersweet moment to smell this smell and know it is the last time I can claim partial credit for it.

But luckily for me, as long as there are newsroom geeks, there will always be that alluring aroma. (And there will always be newsroom geeks.)

Enjoy it now, and look forward to it in November and twice in the spring. Once it's thick in your nose, treat your sights and thoughts to the artistic expression and collection of knowledge that is *College Avenue*.

It's been an excellent ride,

*Amanda Schank*

Amanda Schank  
Editor-in-Chief

## staff list

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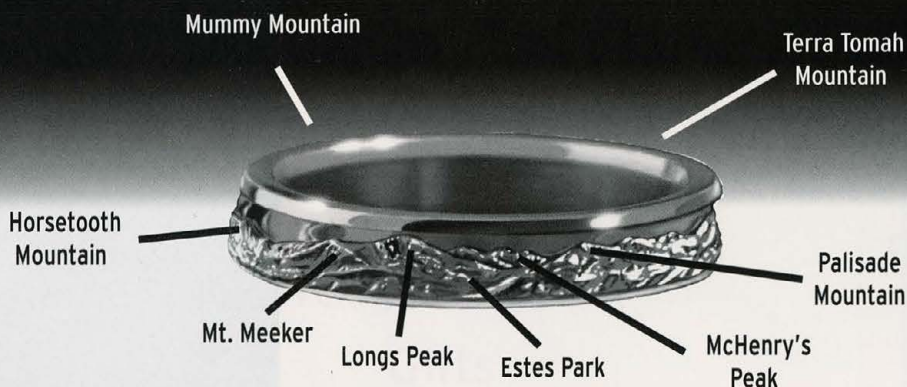
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# College Avenue

## Letters to the editor

As CSU's 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. 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, attached to an e-mail and sent to [csumag@lamar.colostate.edu](mailto:csumag@lamar.colostate.edu). Please include a name and contact information.

## 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 an application at the front desk of Student Media, located in the basement of the Lory Student Center. Please include a resume and a portfolio or samples of work.

Employment opportunities include:

- Head Copy Editor
- Advertising Representatives
- Advertising Designers
- Graphic Illustrators
- Page Designers
- Photographers
- Reporters
- Copy Editors

## On the cover

Photo illustration by Nicole McPherson

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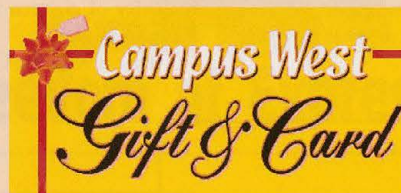
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# Making Human Rights a Global Reality

a campaign to make human rights a fact

*Editor's Note: College Avenue accepted this column from Rev. Patty Allread following the publication of the article, "Scientology: Science or science fiction?" in the Spring 2006 edition. The editor-in-chief of College Avenue reserves the right to publish such columns and freelance submissions when deemed necessary.*

The horrors of human rights violations are splashed across the media all over the world on a daily basis. These are issues wrought with controversies vehemently argued in government forums, on talk shows, on campuses, in businesses, in coffee shops and in homes – war, domestic violence, terrorism, homelessness, child abuse, unfair labor practices, gang violence, hunger, blocked access to education, threatened cultural values, discrimination. Other violations, such as human trafficking, are rarely discussed and the facts surrounding them are known to very few.

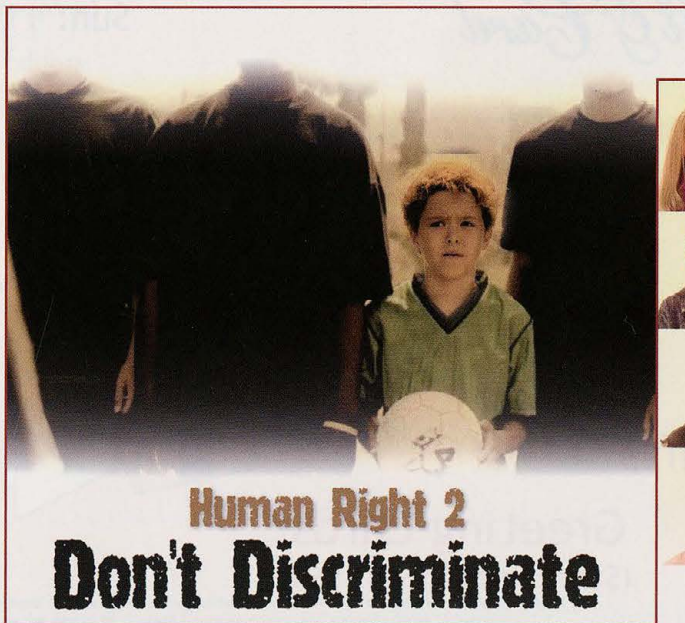
We struggle to get reliable facts so we can fully understand what is happening. But even when we do know the facts, whether we have been able to form a conclusive opinion or not, we look at what is wrong and wonder: What can I do about it?

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, ratified by the United Nations in 1948, forms the foundation of everyone's basic human rights, transcending all borders. Eleanor Roosevelt, the principal architect of the Declaration, described the importance of these rights with these words:

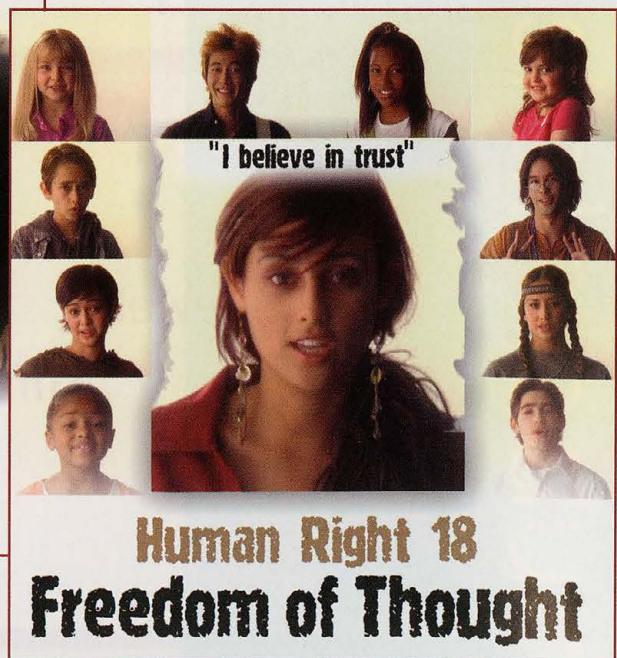
"Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home – so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. Yet they are the world of the individual person; the neighborhood he lives in; the school or college he attends; the factory, farm, or office where he works. Such are the places where every man, woman, and child seeks equal justice, equal opportunity, equal dignity without discrimination. Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerted citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world."

Yet despite its timeless relevance, surveys show that the vast majority of citizens have never heard of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

That is why the Church of Scientology has joined forces with Youth



► Images taken from the public service announcements published by Youth for Human Rights International. For more information regarding the poster series or human rights, visit [www.youthforhumanrights.org](http://www.youthforhumanrights.org), or email at [youthforhumanrights@aol.com](mailto:youthforhumanrights@aol.com).



for Human Rights International to conduct a worldwide campaign, called "Making Human Rights a Global Reality," to make human rights known, understood and implemented.

Youth for Human Rights International (YHRI) is an independent, non-profit corporation headquartered in Los Angeles. It was founded in 2001 by Mary Shuttleworth, a school principal and long-time educator who believed that by educating today's youth on the Universal Declaration, they can become valuable advocates for tolerance and peace.

"The urgent need to make all nations honor and enforce the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is demonstrated by the fact that today there are 100 million children living on the street and 115 million primary school-aged youth denied schooling. It is further emphasized by the estimated 1.5 million children trafficked into slavery over the past year," stated Ms. Shuttleworth.

Together, the Church of Scientology and YHRI launched a broad-based mass public contact and education program to raise human rights awareness. To accomplish this, they produced a booklet entitled, "What Are Human Rights?" to make the 30 human rights described in the Universal Declaration broadly known and understandable to everyone, including children.

Inspired to get the human rights message out even more broadly, 19-year-old Taron Lexton created UNITED, an award-winning music video. UNITED is a human rights project unlike any other. Its production involved a 45,000-mile world tour to 13 countries over four continents in which 2,000 volunteers and 150 actors contributed their time.

UNITED was first shown at U.N. headquarters in 2004. Since then, it has aired to over 40 million people all over the world and has been officially accepted by 21 film festivals. UNITED has won five film festival awards including the "Spirit of Moondance" award from the Moondance Festival in Colorado.

The Church and YHRI next produced three public service announcements (PSAs) depicting three of the articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: "Don't Discriminate," "Freedom of Thought" and "Freedom of Expression." Since last October, the PSAs were aired on 719 television stations internationally, including ABC, NBC, CBS and CNN on Larry King Live. In Colorado, the PSAs have aired in Denver (UPN) and Grand Junction.

This year, 27 more PSAs have been produced, making every single

article in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights the subject of edgy 30- and 60-second visual stories, all featuring youth. The PSAs represent a new standard in human rights education through their use of imagery and music that both young people and adults can instantly identify with.

Since the campaign began, more and more youth and adults have taken responsibility to promote human rights and have created their own projects, showing that one individual can make a difference.

Among them is 19-year-old University of California Los Angeles student Vanessa Alfaro, who formed an active Youth for Human

Rights chapter at UCLA. She began teaching the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Los Angeles schools, held a human trafficking forum with expert panelists at UCLA and helped to raise funds for the newly formed Youth for Human Rights groups in the African countries of Liberia and Uganda. Another student, 14-year-old Skyler Hardy, testified three times before the New Mexican legislature about human rights violations, which would have been created by a proposed bill. The bill was defeated.

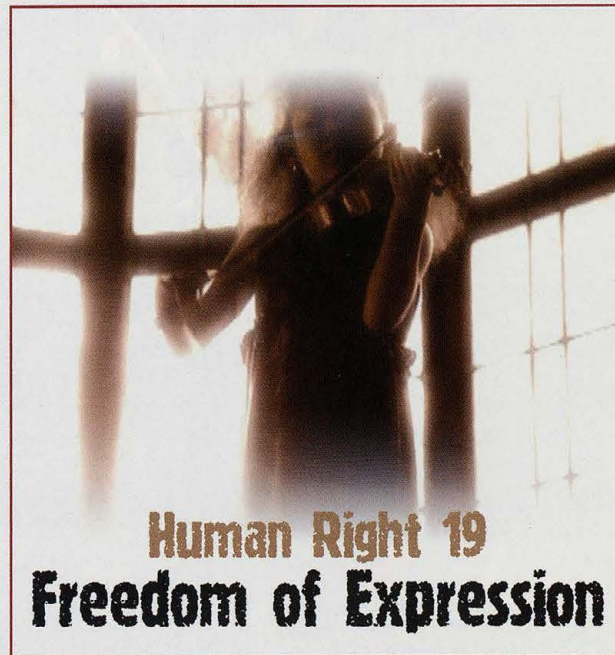
L. Ron Hubbard, humanitarian and founder of Scientology said, "Human rights must be made a fact, not an idealistic dream." Together we can take this human rights campaign and turn it into a human rights movement.

Learn what the 30 basic human rights are by going to the Web site, [www.youthforhumanrights.org](http://www.youthforhumanrights.org). There you can read and download the "What Are Human Rights?" booklet, view the UNITED video,

watch some of the public service announcements and download them as posters to print and display. You can also start a Youth for Human Rights Club using a starter kit provided on the Web site and get people active on a grassroots project that promotes human rights or addresses violations that you find in your own area using the human rights activation handbook. The Web site also has lesson plans for teaching human rights to youth of any age.

There is also a petition on the Web site that you can sign. The petition calls upon governments to raise awareness and teach human rights, urging that the, "Declaration be broadly displayed and promoted; with human rights education made available to children and adults throughout the world."

*Rev. Patty Allread is the director of public affairs for the Church of Scientology of Colorado. She may be reached at (303)789-7668 or e-mailed at [Patty\\_Allread@yahoo.com](mailto:Patty_Allread@yahoo.com).*



“human rights must be made a fact, not an idealistic dream.”

- l. ron hubbard

# Brian Christensen

## hits the bull's-eye

**H**is checklist has 33 separate reminders. Each time he stands to take aim, he makes a mental note of where his 68-inch bow is positioned, the feel of specific muscles in each arm and the precise angle of the wooden, feathered arrow.

Brian Christensen is a junior sports medicine major at CSU, but he is also a world champion archer.

In May 2006, Christensen won his most fierce competition yet – the United States Intercollegiate National Championship, beating 500 of the country's collegiate-level archers. But a long history of wins precedes that.

In 2002 and 2003, he traveled to Las Vegas and won the World Archery Festival competition, making his seven state championship titles seem like child's play.

Yet while most competitive archers start as small children, Christensen's involvement was more of a fluke.

When Christensen was an eighth-grader at Powell Middle School in Littleton, his gym class included a two-week session on archery, and that's all it took to get him hooked.

"I thought it was really, really fun," Christensen said. "I really have no coordination for any sport that has to do with a ball, so soccer, football and baseball were out."

After the two-week taste, Christensen began taking private lessons at Bear Creek Archery in Littleton.

Within four months, Christensen shot in his first competition. His true talent with the bow and arrow showed when he won second place at that competition – the Colorado State Indoor Junior Championships



▶ photos courtesy of brian christensen

local competition in Lakewood.

"It's been my life passion so far," he said.

And it's the challenge that keeps him going.

Christensen said he tries to make each shot the same as the one before. His muscles have to remember the exact position they were in when he hit the target. That's why each practice consists of 200 to 300 shots in four to five hours.

"There's a lot of things to think through," he said. "The trick is to do it so much you don't have to think about it."

One of the biggest challenges Christensen has faced so far in his career is to stay motivated when the coach isn't watching. When Christensen moved to Fort Collins to attend CSU he left his coach behind, making self-determination the only thing getting him to the range. But somehow, he said, practice always comes first.

"I think it keeps me out of trouble," he said.

Because of Christensen's successful shots, his career has taken him beyond U.S. borders for worldwide competition.

He has competed in China, Australia, Turkey, England, Denmark, the Czech Republic, Spain, Italy, Russia, India and Japan. His most recent trip was to South Korea where he set down his own bow to critique other equipment.

A Korean company, called Win and Win, had been testing new bows and arrows and wanted a Western perspective. The goal in creating new equipment, Christensen said, is to find a balance between speed and accuracy.

Speed is important to get the arrow from the archer to a target up to 90 meters (about the length of a football field) as quickly as possible to avoid wind interference.

However, it is also important to minimize vibration of the bow, because even though Christensen said it doesn't hurt, it can cause tendonitis.

Although Christensen usually travels to win, he said, there is also an element of cooperation and an eagerness to explore other communities that factors in.

In Eastern cultures, for example, many of the area's best archers have trained since they were four years old. Many archery schools concentrate on the sport alone, training some of the world's most talented archery athletes.

But while the boundaries between the East and West seem stark when it comes to world politics, the lines are drawn a bit softer when it comes to this age-old form of weaponry.

"We bring the West there and the East here," Christensen said. "As long as we can make it a better sport, I'm all for it."

Christensen said his world travels have opened his eyes to other cultures and brought him into contact with amazing people.

"It's made my life so much better to travel around the world and see what others don't get to see," he said.

But the world travels, Olympic-level archery gear and championship titles come at a price.

The bow Christensen uses

costs \$2,000, and each arrow, made of an aluminum tube and wrapped with a layer of carbon, costs \$50.

"It's expensive, but it's worth it," said Debi Christensen, Brian Christensen's mom.

Bonuses and financial help come when archers become good enough to merit scholarships and sponsorships.

Christensen is sponsored by six different archery companies including Easton, Hyot USA, Alpen Optics and Sureloc.

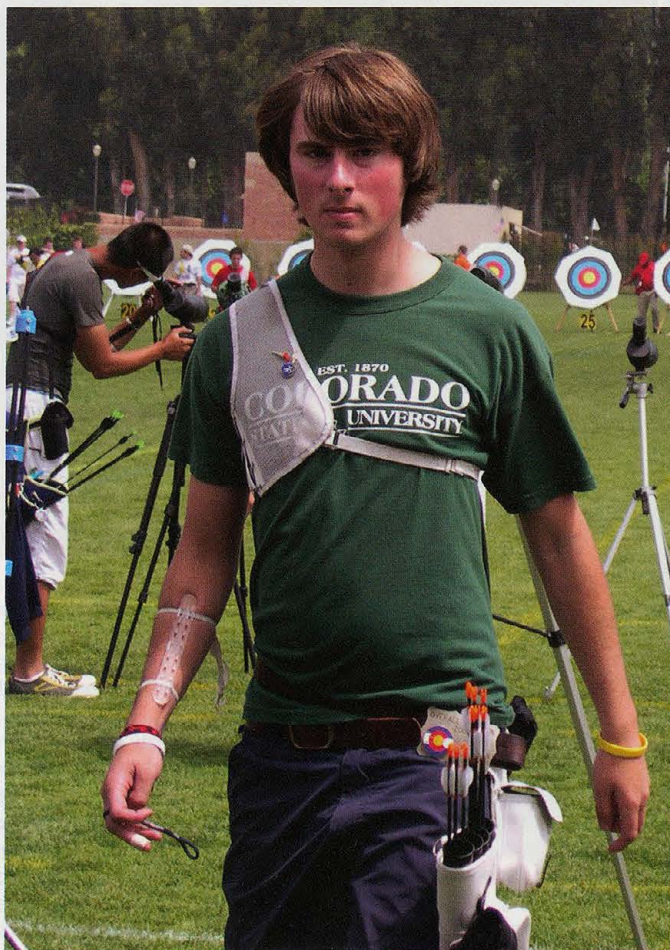
He was also selected as a full-ride scholarship recipient at Texas A&M until it cut funding to its archery program and Christensen decided to attend CSU.

Christensen hopes to share his passion with students at CSU by starting an archery club.

"It's been a pretty amazing thing," his mom said. "It's unusual, but I'm real thankful he found his passion."

*"i really have no coordination for any sport that has to do with a ball, so soccer, football and baseball were out."*

*— brian christensen*



left: brian christensen walks away from the target after hitting the bull's-eye. opposite page: brian christensen takes aim at a target. he practices with 200 to 300 arrows a day.

## Interested?

To help start an archery club at CSU, contact Brian via e-mail: [Brian@yahoo.com](mailto:Brian@yahoo.com).

# Club vs. Varsity

## at csu, sport clubs stay on top

by mike donovan

In the 2005-2006 athletic season, CSU had five athletic teams participate in their respective final fours. While five final fours is a success for any school, there is one oddity with CSU's success: All five national semifinalists compete as sport clubs and not in the NCAA Division 1 championships like their varsity athletic counterparts.

In fact, some would say CSU has the best sport clubs program out of any school in the country. CSU men's lacrosse head coach Flip Naumberg believes CSU is the king of national sport clubs.

"Just look at the history – we have proven we are the best," Naumberg said.

Out of the 16 NCAA teams that compete at CSU, there was a total of one conference champion – the women's indoor track and field team – and only two teams won more matches than they lost: women's volleyball and men's basketball. Out of the 28 sport clubs teams at CSU, 13 finished with more victories than losses. How can a school be so good at non-NCAA sports and not up to par in varsity athletics?

A few theories exist as to why club teams perform at a higher level than their NCAA counterparts. For one, money plays a key factor in the separation of club and varsity sports.

This may sound far fetched considering 16 varsity sports receive a total of \$19 million from the university, while sport clubs receive no direct funding. Funding for sport clubs comes from student fees, which the ASCSU senate gives to the Student Recreation Center. The recreation center oversees sport clubs and other activities such as intramural sports and aerobics classes.

However, varsity sports receive significantly less money than their conference opponents, while the clubs are on an even economic playing field with their opponents. And unlike their varsity counterparts, club athletes must pay to play their sports. The money goes to equipment, travel and food expenses and various other expenditures. The majority of club athletes pay between \$100 and \$300. There is, however, one notable exception, and that is men's lacrosse.

To play for the CSU men's lacrosse team it costs players between \$2,000 and \$2,500, according to the team's Web site. This is compa-



table to other club lacrosse teams around the country. The lacrosse team, which has won four national titles in the last eight years including one for the 2006 season, has proven that with an equal footing in money, CSU athletic teams can thrive against the competition.

Naumberg believes there are multiple other reasons for the success of sport clubs.

"I think it is partly tradition, partly the fact that we are a large state university," Naumberg said. "Athletes know that club sports are extremely important here, and students who want to play big-time sports are drawn here."

Tradition plays a key role in the sport clubs' success and is lacking at the varsity level, according to Naumberg.

"The coaches stay with their programs," Naumberg said. "In the varsity sports, I think the coaches are looking to move on to better places. Every time we get a good coach or athletic director, they seem to move on."

Associate director of the sport clubs program, Kerri Smith, also believes



▶ photos by Justin Sogge/The Rocky Mountain Collection

that tradition plays a key role in the success of club athletics.

"I think (our success), as well as any other winning team, is based in the tradition," Smith said. "We have a long tradition of success at the club level."

The tradition of winning also enhances the confidence level of the players.

When CSU lacrosse or baseball players step onto the field they believe they are going to win. They have been winning for so long, most players do not know what it is like to lose consistently.

This tradition is a major difference between club and varsity athletics. There is no culture of winning for the varsity athletic department. For most club athletes, just believing they will win gives them an advantage over their varsity counterparts.

Pride and in-school competition are also major factors in sport clubs. Sport clubs athletes find glory in bettering their varsity counterparts, while most varsity athletes could care less about sport clubs.

"I don't know about all the sports, but our team takes pride in being better than the varsity athletes," Naumberg said.

Also, CSU is one of two Mountain West schools that does not offer varsity baseball, and is the only conference school that does not offer women's soccer.

A quick look at CSU's club baseball schedule shows that the majority of their games are played against junior colleges, such as Northeastern and Trinidad State, and not against large state schools. It is a lot easier to find 25 good baseball players out of CSU's 25,000 students than Trinidad State's 2,000 students.

The minimum number of teams that a school can have and still be eligible to compete at the Division 1 level is 16, which places CSU at the absolute minimum for being a Division 1 university. Any fewer, and CSU couldn't compete at the top level.

With more varsity teams, the opportunity to field more competitive varsity teams could exist. President Larry Penley said he is happy with the sports that are currently fielded at the varsity level, however.

"We are under no pressure to add a 17th or 18th sport," Penley said. "CSU is better off in some ways not having so many teams."

When the university added varsity women's water polo in 2004 it was because they were forced to meet new requirements in eligibility. Water polo was the cheapest sport they could add with facilities and a coaching staff already in place. To add a 17th or 18th sport would cost a substantial amount of money, Penley explained.

Most coaches believe the new athletic director Paul Kowalczyk, who started work on May 17, will revitalize the athletic department. Men's basketball coach Dale Layer believes hiring Kowalczyk was a start in the right direction.

"Many times, using new ideas and a fresh face makes things better," Layer said shortly after Kowalczyk's appointment.

left: csu outfielder slides into home at a game in march 2006.

below: soccer is one of the many sports clubs students can choose to play. opposite page: csu midfielder steven lundberg (16) pushes past a cu midfielder at a cu vs. csu game in march 2006.



Not all coaches are convinced, however. Naumberg believes that Kowalczyk may follow the footsteps of former athletic directors Jeff Hathaway, Tom Jurich and Tim Weiser, who all left for the same job at larger, more prestigious athletic institutions.

"Unfortunately, I get the feeling that it will stay the same with (Kowalczyk)," Naumberg said.

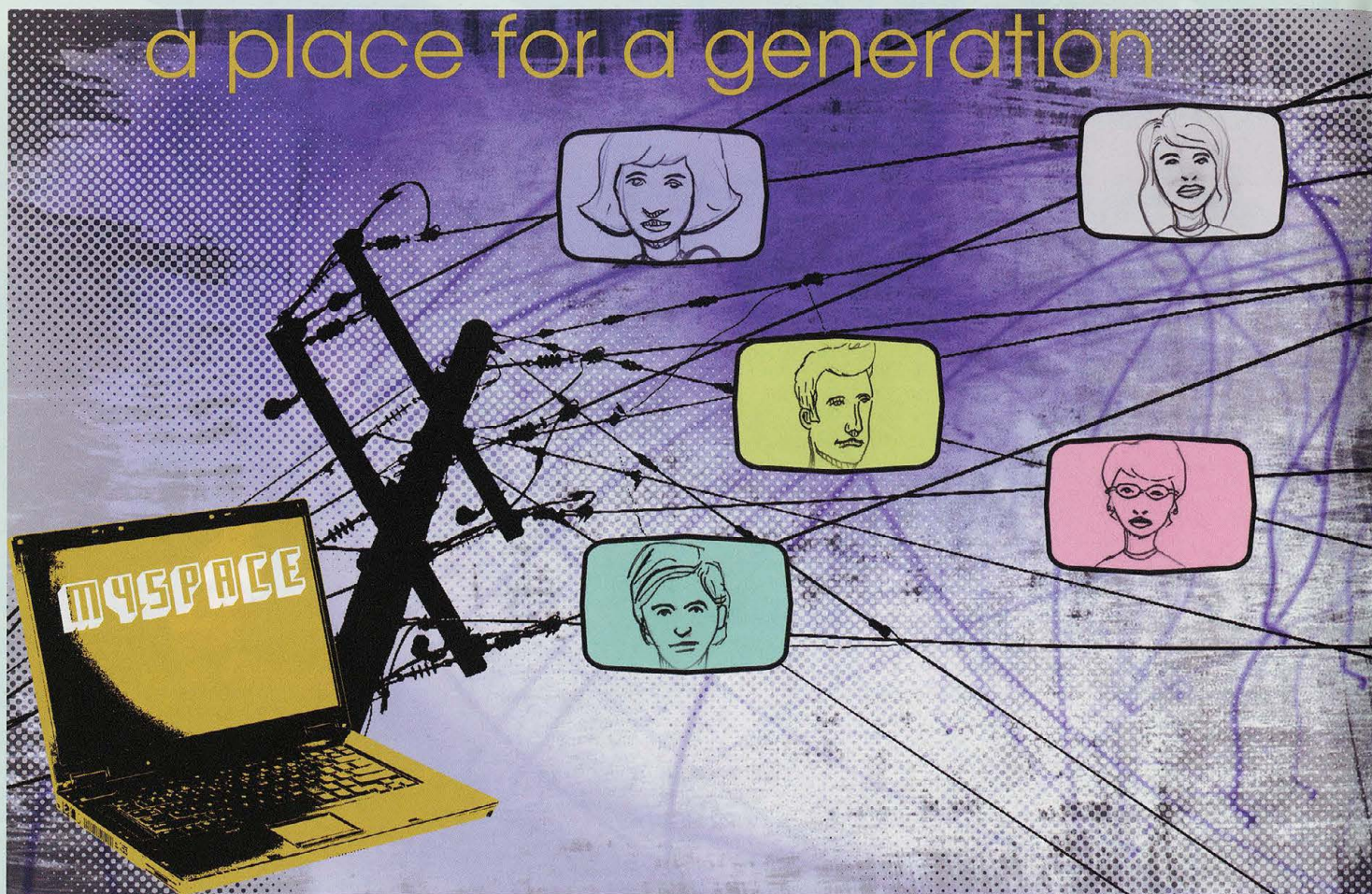
Whatever the reason for the success of sport clubs, Smith believes the winning tradition will continue. This tradition, even on the club level, helps not only the athletes themselves but also CSU as a whole.

"Students like cheering for all sports," Smith said. "Club sports give a broad base for students to support sports."

While there is no cut-and-dry reason for the success at the sport clubs level, one thing is certain – until varsity athletics prove they can compete at a proficient level, sport clubs such as lacrosse, baseball and soccer will continue to be the pride of CSU athletics.

# Myspace.com

## a place for a generation



► graphic illustration by jesse kulenski

Lady Venom says she's picky about the guys she dates – they must have a face picture. Her own all-black Web page begins with a smiling, half-nude headshot of Lady Venom herself. While a hand-picked Atreyu song plays in the background, neon green and pink font describe everything from her general hobbies (criminology and extreme sports), to whom she'd like to meet (“someone who isn't a total prick!”)

Like many of her generation, this 19-year-old Fort Collins resident, also known as Katie Kleinbeck, has signed on to one of the fastest growing trends since iPods: myspace.com.

However, while Lady Venom is looking for love in cyberspace, others see a dark side to this new wave of communication: online predators, lost job opportunities and a pure waste of time rank among the most popular complaints.

*“with myspace, i get to talk to friends from across the country. i get to check in with old friends, drop them a message and see their pictures.”*

*— quinn kick*

Much like MTV defined a generation in the '80s, MySpace is having similar effects on today's youth.

"I sign on every chance I get," said Kleinbeck. "I'm addicted!"

In the spirit of the new millennium, the site goes beyond the single dimension of a television screen and harnesses the interactive world of the Internet, as it provides a free forum for young people to express themselves, stay connected with friends, meet new ones and access a what's hot/what's not list of pop culture.

MySpace also has allowed its audience to create its own agenda with little regulation. This new style of programming leaves users able to post any information about themselves they want, which in turn is open for anyone from online predators to future employers to read.

So far, nearly 98 million users have created individual sites that they can personalize through their choice of colors, pictures and music. Created in January 2004 by entrepreneurs Chris DeWolfe, 40, and Tom Anderson, 30, the site even caught the eye of Rupert Murdoch, who purchased MySpace for \$580 million in 2005.

Today, the site has surpassed Internet giants like eBay, Yahoo! and Google in the number of pages viewed, and it became the most visited Web page in the United States in July, according to online intelligence service Hitwise. But even with the site crossing into the big leagues of the Internet, its users seem to stick to the simple MySpace motto: a place for friends. Meeting new friends and keeping in touch with old ones is, for most people, what MySpace is all about.

"With MySpace, I get to talk to friends from across the country," said Quinn Kick, a 23-year-old Fort Collins resident who grew up on the East Coast. "I get to check in with old friends, drop them a message and see their pictures."

Chris Dunsmoor, a 20-year-old former CSU student, uses the site to get to know other like-minded users.

"I get a wide range of networking and friends out of MySpace," Dunsmoor said. "It gives an opportunity to meet many people with similar interests and connect with a base of people."

Each MySpace user's profile features a personal "friends" list with a picture and link to each of that member's online contacts. These friends can be anyone who has an account with MySpace, from a bandmate in high school to a person with similar musical interests living 500 miles away.

"My friends list is a list of contacts to me, much like numbers in a cell phone," Dunsmoor said.

Kleinbeck, aka Lady Venom, brags about her list of over 600 MySpace friends, some of whom she knows personally and others she met through the site. So far Kleinbeck, who uses MySpace as a dating tool, has met over 100 online friends in person.

"I start by sending them a message like 'Hey, you're cute! We should hang out.' Some respond. Some don't. It's hit or miss," she said. While none of the online-conjured dates have amounted to any

long-term relationships, Kleinbeck says she's still happy to meet new people and make new friends.

However, while users like Kleinbeck praise MySpace for changing their lives, others aren't as enthusiastic.

"(MySpace) is just a game of who knows the most people and can get the most friends," said Erica Dobek, a 22-year-old CSU graduate. She is part of a shrinking minority of college students who haven't joined any online communities.

She says that while the site is beneficial to college students in terms of networking and keeping in touch with old friends, the open information puts a damper on any positive aspects the site could provide.

"I know people who just look up other people they hate," said Dobek, "[MySpace] becomes all about 'Oh, look at her,' and 'She's going out with him?' It just makes people bitter."

Jenna Kirchgasser, a 22-year-old business major, agreed that MySpace can be more of a place for "spying" than a place for friends.

"It's given everyone a way to check up on everyone else," she said. "It's kind of like the reality TV craze. I guess people like looking at other people."

Steve Ross, a psychologist at CSU, said there are a number of reasons young people are flocking to online communities like MySpace.

"It's a 15-minutes-of-fame kind of thing," Ross said. He believes the easy-to-build personal sites act as a way for people to establish their identity.

Rosa Martey, a professor at CSU and an online communication specialist, agreed that MySpace can work as a form of self-expression.

"One of the great things about the Internet is that you can experiment with who you are," Martey said. "People have different identities in all aspects of life – online identities are just one."

She gives the example of a shy person using an online persona to see what it's like to be outgoing, in which case, she says, there shouldn't be a problem. However, if a married person claims to be single, the idea of establishing an identity turns into lying and deception. "The line is hard to define," she said.

For most, however, online personas run parallel to offline personalities, according to Sally McMillan and Margaret Morrison in their article, "Coming of Age with the Internet."

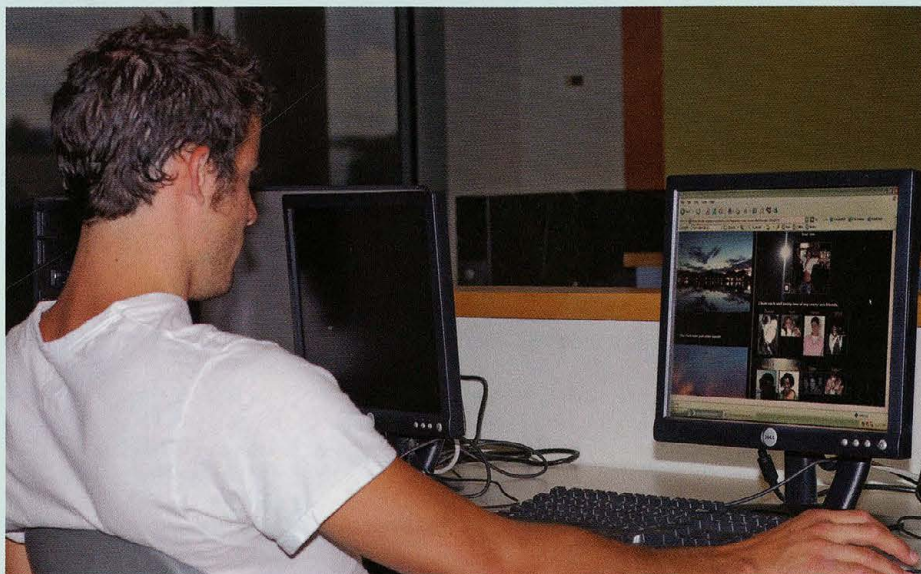
In a qualitative study of 72 college students and their relationship with the Internet, the research found that most users described the Internet as a place to help them solidify their offline identities, rather than create new ones.

"(Research) suggests that online identities are not substantially different from those developed offline," it reported.

Along with an opportunity for self-expression, a change in communication patterns is also a major factor contributing to the site's popularity.

*“it's given everyone a way to check up on everyone else. it's kind of like the reality tv craze. i guess people just like looking at other people.”*

*— jenna kirchgasser*



▶ photo by nicole mcpherson

above: Matt Ladmirault, a 25-year-old university employee, checks out his MySpace profile in Morgan Library.

“People want instant communication,” Ross said. “E-mails, even voice mails, are too slow.”

But it's not just the speed that's new.

“I don't think it's changed the way people interact as much as it's given a new dimension of interaction,” Martey said. “Instead of an address book full of friends and a mailbox full of letters, (users) have some sort of evidence of friendship on a new space.”

However, with new ways of communication come new problems. Identity theft is a major concern that has blossomed through sites like MySpace, as vital information is often revealed in blogs and comments without much thought.

“Many users are not completely aware of how public those pages are,” Martey said. “When people participate in an online community, it's easy for them to feel like they know who's watching and reading, and they forget that they're on public display.”

Identity theft, however, isn't the only concern.

According to Brian O'Bruba of the CSU Career Counseling Center, employers are using sites like MySpace as an extra, often unexpected, reference during interviews. While checking MySpace specifically is still somewhat rare for employers, O'Bruba said Googling a name is very likely during a job interview process, which can lead straight to a

person's MySpace page.

“If you don't want your parents to see your site, would you really want your employer to?” O'Bruba asked.

Although he hadn't heard of any local cases of lost jobs due to this technique, O'Bruba believes it is a “very real concern” and always addresses the issue during job-search discussions with students. He tells students to Google their own name to see what it produces to avoid putting themselves in any sort of “unprofessional light,” including through a friend's page or even a comment that someone else wrote.

Even inoffensive information like ethnicity and family status can affect an employer's impression, as it's data that wouldn't usually be enclosed in an application.

“Employers don't want to have certain information,” O'Bruba said. “They want to make as equal of a decision as possible and want to keep a fair and consistent job search.”

Despite the problems posed, many believe that some version of MySpace is here to stay.

“I think it will stick around, but will morph into different things,” said Martey. “People will always be interested in something like MySpace.”

Eighty-nine comments and 632 friends later, Lady Venom agrees. “MySpace has changed my life.”

## Social Networking Sites Around the Globe

### Genes Reunited

This U.K. site is designed to locate lost relatives, trace ancestry and explore family history. All the site requires to begin a family tree is an immediate family name.

▶ [www.genesreunited.co.uk](http://www.genesreunited.co.uk)

### Frühstückstreff

Designed for anyone who may be new in town, travels a lot or just wants to make new friends, this German-founded, multilingual site is the initiative behind breakfast clubs around the globe. A membership provides invitations to meet other local users in-person over a morning meal.

▶ [www.beonit.com/fruehstueckstreff](http://www.beonit.com/fruehstueckstreff)

### Rediff Connexions

Rediff Connexions is MySpace meets Monster as the site aims to “connect with real people, become friends and succeed in life.” Established and prominently used in India, its users can build contacts in their field, sell products and get advice on business decisions.

▶ [www.connexions.rediff.com](http://www.connexions.rediff.com)

### WAYN

Made for the wanderlusts out there, WAYN (standing for “Where Are You Now?”) is designed to unite travelers from all over the world. With users in over 220 countries, it's easy to find a travel buddy, get travel advice and even meet friends in future destinations.

▶ [www.WAYN.com](http://www.WAYN.com)

# Associated Students of ASCSU Colorado State University

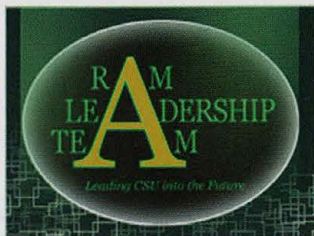
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information about  
getting involved  
and what ASCSU  
can do for you!**



# Fort Collins Hip-Hop

yeah, it exists,

and it's better than you think

The cipher – it's one of the simplest and longest tenured parts of hip-hop with emcees in a circle spouting lyrics and beats off the top of their heads. From a distance, it may look like the beginning of an after-school fight. Move closer and witness an artistic expression as old as hip-hop itself. The talented artists kick impromptu rhymes and beats, and the fans move with the flow.

"I started to write songs because I wanted to make stuff that I wanted to hear," said Josh Price, aka emcee Evolution. "I got sick of the radio. All this jewelry rap and stuff with no affiliation to hip hop."

You are not likely to see Price on MTV's "Cribs" walking a cameraman through the house that rap built, a situation common to many Fort Collins hip-hop artists. Fort Collins artists are decidedly more KRS-One than Lil' Jon. Their influences are artists who can make artistic social commentary as opposed to those who try to see how many songs can be created without actually using a complete sentence.

College towns are a melting pot of diverse talents. Luckily, Fort Collins wasn't spared the unique talent, and maybe no local act defines the word unique better than Qbala and Evolution.

Emcee Qbala is a short, skinny woman who pairs perfectly with Evolution, a tall bald man whose physique has earned him the nickname "Fatbody." The two play off each other for an incredibly energetic live show and collaborate on tracks that cover subjects ranging from losing loved ones to masturbating with a bucket of Crisco.

▶ photo by ryan maier/white stone productions



“What makes a good hip-hop song is when you want to rewind it because it gave you a feeling and made you think about something you can relate to your life,” Evolution said. “You turn on the radio and it’s like, I don’t have five million dollars and I can’t relate to having a Bentley on 24s. It’s just nonsense to me.”

Part of what the local artists strive to do is fight the stereotype that hip-hop is an art form promoting a gangster lifestyle and based on materialistic ideals.

“I think a lot of people have a negative outlook on hip-hop,” said emcee Neuse One, of Subject. “We don’t talk about violence in our raps, we’re just out here to have fun and get people together.”

Neuse One pairs with emcee Habit to make the group Subject, who shares manager Adam Kawamoto with the group Hoodlums n Havoc (H n H). Both groups provide a polished, live show conducive to a party atmosphere and perform with each other frequently.

“Getting on stage is fun, it’s why we do it,” emcee Habit said. The energy conveyed through its music has helped win the H n H boys national acclaim through a worldwide contest created by Psychopathic Records.

Emcees Jokesta and Dirty D, of Hoodlums n Havoc, recorded three tracks from “40 oz,” the band’s full-length CD released at the end of 2005, and sent them to Psychopathic Records. Based on the strength of the songs, they were selected to participate in a contest, judged on live performances. They placed in the top 10, making them one of three Colorado-based hip-hop acts to place in the top 30.

Dirty D and Jokesta sport white contact lenses for their live performances, and baggy clothes and tattoos all the time, which might fit them for society’s bad guy stereotype, but don’t confuse the two with gangsters.

“You listen to “40 oz” and it’s just a party album,” Jokesta said. “There really isn’t anything bad on there.”

Both Subject and Hoodlums n Havoc realize that no Colorado hip-hop acts have left their footprint on the national scene and aspire to be that first act.

“We strive for constant growth,” Dirty D said. “Keep pushing it, doing what we do and keep everything positive.”

Hip-hop is barely past its infant stages in Northern Colorado.

In a society where bad news is big news, it is no wonder hip-hop is known more for its feuds than its foundations. Fort Collins artists have a noticeable respect for the roots of hip-hop and insist it is a positive art form.

“Hip-hop has been one of the biggest things in bridging gaps around the world as far as bringing people together,” said Tremayn Jackson, aka emcee Yours Truly. “To see this music that came from a ghetto, urban lifestyle spread all over the world says a lot about its potential to make ties and erase all the craziness we have in the world.”

Despite hip-hop’s power, the scene is somewhat stagnant. Getting noticed as a hip-hop act in Fort Collins can be like getting noticed as a runner in a speed walking competition. Fort Collins entertains the reputation of a jam-band town, and the roots of hip-hop are embedded in urban New York, far from Horsetooth Reservoir and Old Town.

“I appreciate the openness here,” said Michael Norris, aka emcee Verbal. “Anyone can come do a show here and I see the opportunity to create a buzz.”

Verbal combines with Michael Robinson, aka DJ Kaotic, to form Company of Strangaz. This Mississippi-based duo moved to Fort

Collins about two years ago. Verbal’s southern drawl is constant in its music, but Company of Strangaz’ music is unique and calculated. Its first record, “New Day,” represents five years of work and promotion, one of the many signs of the progression of Fort Collins hip-hop. The CD was released on August 20 by Intelligent Design recordings, the record label started by the same duo.

Company of Strangaz is not alone in recording and promoting itself. Landmark Entertainment is an entertainment company founded by Darrin Williams, aka Diverge, and Cale Farnham, aka The Clurk, formerly known as Ethix. The company was founded two and a half years ago and puts shows together at The Aggie and Mishawaka Amphitheatre. Diverge and The Clurk recorded their album “Split Sessions” in Right Mind studios, a studio they own in Loveland.

Last year, Diverge and The Clurk were joined by Leo Fairbanks, aka Dr. Oscify, to create the group The Secondary. Like others, the Landmark guys realized they could increase the scene by promoting and putting on their own shows.

*“rap music is something you do, but hip-hop is something we live.”*

*— josh price aka evolution*



left: qbala rocks the stage at a summer concert at the starlight. opposite page: doctor oscify, one of fort collins’ many local hip-hop artists, hypes up the audience at rock the mic, july 31, at the mishawaka amphitheatre.

▶ photo by nicole mcpherson

right: phunny pharm's allpoints-beyond and sono rhymes to a crowd of several hundred at mishawaka amphitheatre.

"We realized that, to get a good show, it was easiest to throw it ourselves," Diverge, said. "It exposes us as artists and as an entertainment company as well."

Last summer, Landmark Entertainment brought national acts such as Blackalicious to Mishawaka on June 11, and Zion I to Rock the Mic at Mishawaka on July 29, and will be presenting Cali-Agents at The Aggie on Sept. 7.

"We're the ones putting on shows now, and we have control of how we present ourselves. It gives you more say in how the scene should be," The Clurk said.

The most recent Rock the Mic festival was the second annual show and a joint production by Landmark Entertainment and Accidental Wreckords – the label for Hoodlums n Havoc and Subject. The aim of the show was to set the bar for local hip-hop. Another important cog in the show was Sett Buxx Presents, a multi-faceted musical promotion company that dealt more with rock than hip-hop until recently.

The involvement of promotional companies like Sett Buxx Presents represents a strange crossroads where the talent and promotion is present, but public support is lacking.

"We saw something in hip-hop worth promoting and now it's time for the artists to step up their game and take it seriously on the artistic and promotional level," said John Bridgeford, co-owner of Sett Buxx Presents.

A certain portion of the crowd at any given hip-hop show in Fort Collins will be other performers.

"Another way this scene is different is we have no fans anymore," 1865 of Lafayette said. "Everyone is an emcee or a beat head or whatever. We need our fans back."

Most of the artists seem to believe that Fort Collins had better support four or five years ago, but they feel it coming back.

"You've gotta bring something innovative and new to the heap because there's always the heap out there," Kaotic said.

Good music can only be good music for public use if the



► photo by ryan maier/white stone productions

public supports it. There will always be music out there and for certain groups to rise above the rest they need a following often created by slick promotion.

"The scene here is strange because the support is lacking, but there are a lot of good underground artists at the same time," Yours Truly said. While less pleasant than making the music, making the buzz isn't out of a hip-hopper's ability.

Almost all of the local artists work other jobs to fund their music. The money made from their music is not likely to make the down payment on a diamond-plated pimp cup.

"Fort Collins is not a place that grows hip-hop out of necessity. I don't think New Belgium will be sponsoring a hip-hop show. The only reason to do it is because you love it," Shaffer noted. "People have preconceived notions about hip-hop shows and Fort Collins shows aren't like that. People will be surprised."

"Music goes in cycles, and hip-hop is just like any other music," Dr. Oscify said. "I think hip-hop is starting to cycle back into popularity."

And that's real hip-hop. Not the crunk sound dominating popular airwaves today and not gangster rap either. This is music reminiscent of the early '90s hip-hop where originality came before the gold and the pimps.

"Rap music is something you do," Evolution said. "But hip-hop is something we live. The way we talk, dress, think and view things. It's in you all the time, it's a consciousness."

## Get out there and check out these local hip-hop artists . . .

► **Company of Strangaz:** [www.idrecordings.com](http://www.idrecordings.com)  
[www.myspace.com/companyofstrangaz](http://www.myspace.com/companyofstrangaz)

► **Hoodlums n Havoc:** [www.hoodlumshavoc.com](http://www.hoodlumshavoc.com)

► **Subject:** [www.myspace.com/subject1](http://www.myspace.com/subject1)

► **The Secondary:** [www.myspace.com/landmarkentertainment](http://www.myspace.com/landmarkentertainment)

► **Sett Buxx presents:** [www.myspace.com/settbuxx](http://www.myspace.com/settbuxx)

► **1865:** [www.1865hiphop.com](http://www.1865hiphop.com), [www.myspace.com/one865](http://www.myspace.com/one865)

► **Phunny Pharm:** [www.phunnypharmmusic.com](http://www.phunnypharmmusic.com)  
[www.myspace.com/phunnypharm](http://www.myspace.com/phunnypharm)

► **Improv:** [www.improvmusic.net](http://www.improvmusic.net)

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# Where in the world will you be next semester?

For many of us attending CSU, college is a time to live life to its fullest. Interesting classes, new friends and one-of-a-kind experiences are presented daily, all adding up to four (or five) of the most enriching years of our lives. But while many think they're soaking it all in, one major adventure is only answered by 1 percent of all U.S. college students – study abroad. This opportunity allows for students to study virtually anywhere around the globe while earning academic credits and gaining a world of knowledge. Whether this less-than-stellar involvement stems from lack of facts and funding or an overload of questions and qualms, *College Avenue* hopes to help put it all in perspective. Who knows, maybe next semester you won't be asking what classes you'll be taking, but instead what country you'll be taking on.

## **FIT**

### **The world is your classroom**

- Study abroad for a summer, semester or the entire year. Must have a sophomore standing at CSU and a GPA of 2.5 or better.
- Study at any school around the world as long as it's an accredited university and there aren't any U.S. travel warnings for that region.
- Earn C- or better and the credits will transfer back to CSU.
- Estimated cost for each program includes tuition and fees, room and board, airfare, personal expenses, books, health insurance, visas and service fees.

## **CSU:**

### **University of Leicester**

Location: Leicester, England  
Student Population: 8,500  
Estimated Total Semester Cost: \$11,570  
Perks: Leicester offers a wide array of courses, ranging from archeology to physics. The city is one of England's most ethnically diverse and is home to a 700-year-old shopping district.  
Resource: [www.studyabroad.colostate.edu/csuprograms](http://www.studyabroad.colostate.edu/csuprograms)

## **FINANCES**

### **Financial aid is flexible**

- Get it: Even students who were not eligible in the past may be awarded aid for their time abroad.
- Adjust it: Additional funding may be available to fit the program costs.
- Almost all private scholarships can be applied toward studying abroad.
- Many third-party programs offer scholarships to participants.

## **CSU:**

### **Macquarie**

Location: Sydney, Australia  
Student Population: 29,000  
Estimated Total Semester Cost: \$16,000  
Perks: Study Down Under in the heart of Australia at a university known for its international student hospitality. Students take courses offered in almost every major alongside their Australian peers.  
Resource: [www.studyabroad.colostate.edu/csuprograms/mx\\_udla.htm](http://www.studyabroad.colostate.edu/csuprograms/mx_udla.htm)

## **FLUENCY**

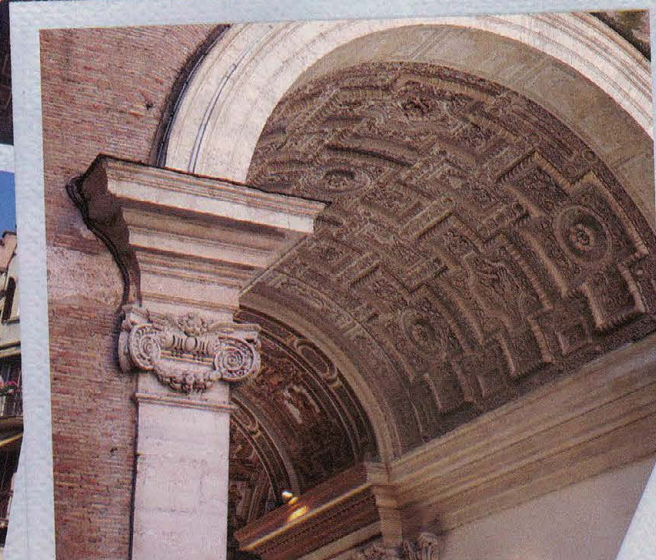
### **The language of the land**

- Students do not have to know a foreign language to study in a non-English speaking country.
- Choosing to attend an English-speaking university allows for students to learn alongside native peers in the classroom.
- For non-English speaking countries, language courses are usually offered for all levels of expertise.

## **CSU:**

### **Universidad de las Americas**

Location: Cholula, Mexico  
Student Population: 6,000  
Estimated Total Semester Cost: \$10,170  
Perks: Participants are immersed in Mexican culture as they study in the country and live with a local Mexican family. Students take language courses ranging from beginning to fluent, depending on their level.  
Resource: [www.studyabroad.colostate.edu/mx-udla.htm](http://www.studyabroad.colostate.edu/mx-udla.htm)





photos by christopher king



### FACTS & FIGURES

According to the 2004 Open Door study abroad survey, conducted by the Institute of International Education.  
[www.opendoors.iienetwork.org](http://www.opendoors.iienetwork.org)

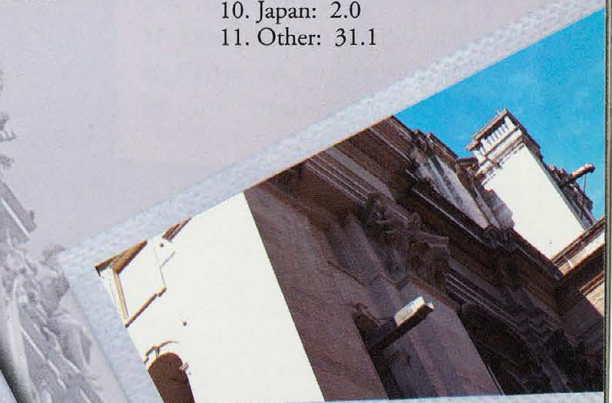
- The number of U.S. students studying abroad for credit has increased by 129 percent in the last 10 years.
- Sixty-four percent of study abroad students selected destinations where English is not the primary language.
- Eighty-three percent of those who study abroad are Caucasian, and 65 percent are female.
- Out of the top 20 destinations, 11 were outside of Western Europe.

### Q & A

- Q:** Can I study abroad my senior year?  
**A:** Yes. Students studying abroad are enrolled in a placeholder course that maintains their status as a CSU student. This way, all transfer credits from their time abroad are considered in-residence.
- Q:** Will it fit into my degree plan?  
**A:** Yes. Students in any major can study abroad (even you, engineering). Advanced planning with your adviser will ensure you finding the right program.
- Q:** When should I apply?  
**A:** Generally, the deadlines start a semester before the time abroad. Each program is different though, so talk to an adviser.
- Q:** Any more questions?  
**A:** Most likely. Stop by the Office of International Programs in Laurel Hall or check it out online at [www.studyabroad.colostate.edu](http://www.studyabroad.colostate.edu).

### Destination Percentage

1. United Kingdom: 18.2
2. Italy: 10.8
3. Spain: 10.8
4. France: 7.5
5. Australia: 6.1
6. Mexico: 5.0
7. Germany: 3.2
8. Ireland: 2.8
9. Costa Rica: 2.5
10. Japan: 2.0
11. Other: 31.1



# Study Abroad

## Photo Album



Angela Colunga  
(SPO5 Univ. Granada  
in Granada, Spain)  
"Studying abroad  
opened my eyes to a  
whole new world. It gave me  
a new appreciation for life  
and an appreciation for all  
the beautiful cultures of the  
world. Studying abroad is  
a life-rewarding experience  
that every student should  
consider doing."

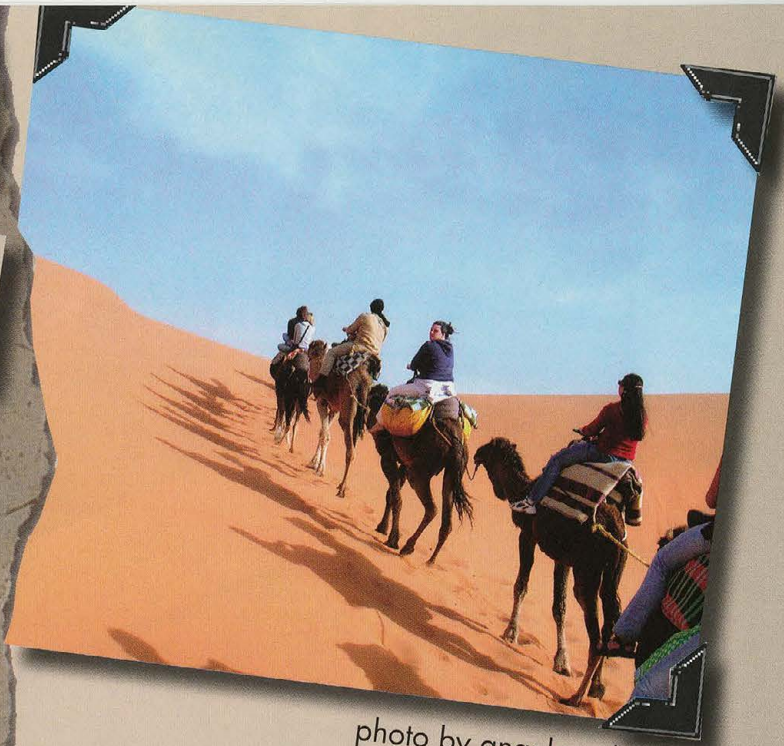


photo by angela colunga

Ken Kim  
(SPO5 UEP in Prague, Czech Republic)  
"The language barrier was tough because it's very  
difficult to shop for groceries when you can't read the  
packages."

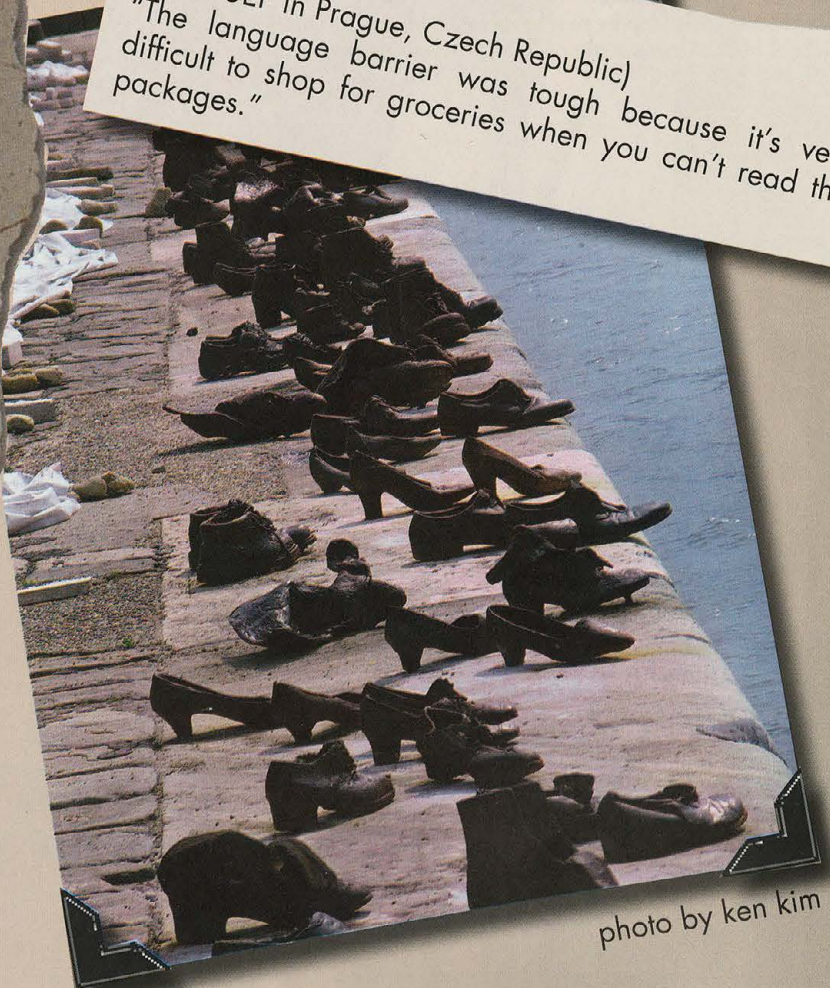


photo by ken kim



Katie Pinon  
(SPO Univ. Canterbury  
In Canterbury,  
Australia)  
"The biggest obstacle  
I faced was taking  
that initial step toward  
letting myself be  
vulnerable to people I didn't  
know in a country I didn't  
know. And as it turns out, it was  
the easiest and most rewarding  
step that I could have taken."

photo by alexis hickox



Alexis Hickox  
(SM05, Lorenzo DeMedici in Florence, Italy)  
"I did things that no one will ever read about in Frommer's or even Lonely Planet. I was able to discover the best cafes and clubs; that the street artist by Palazzo Vecchio makes the best lasagna; and that Michelangelo was also a graffiti artist. The best is that, unlike tourists, I can call Florence my home."



photo by alexis hickox



Tammy Cole  
(FA05, American Univ. Paris in Paris, France)  
"Once you're abroad it's inevitable you'll learn so much about yourself and the various people around you - you can't help but come back to the States changed for the better."



photo by lauren cheng



photo by christopher king



photo by erica dobek



Jennifer Blumberg  
(FA04, Univ.  
Grenoble in Grenoble,  
France)

"It gave me peace of mind  
to know that having had  
this experience, I'll be able  
to handle and adapt to  
whatever comes my way  
when I move in the future."

Stephanie Findley  
(FA05, Macquarie Univ. in Sydney,  
Australia)

"Studying abroad helped me to be  
truly grateful for everything in my life,  
as well as to see the world from a new  
perspective. This, in turn, helped me to  
become more understanding of other  
cultures and experiences."



photo by ken kim

Julie Watters

(FA05, Tokyo International Univ. in Tokyo, Japan)

"One obstacle was not having certain things that I have grown accustom to in America. Things that I had to learn to live without were a dryer for clothes, A/C in the summertime and, of course, American food."

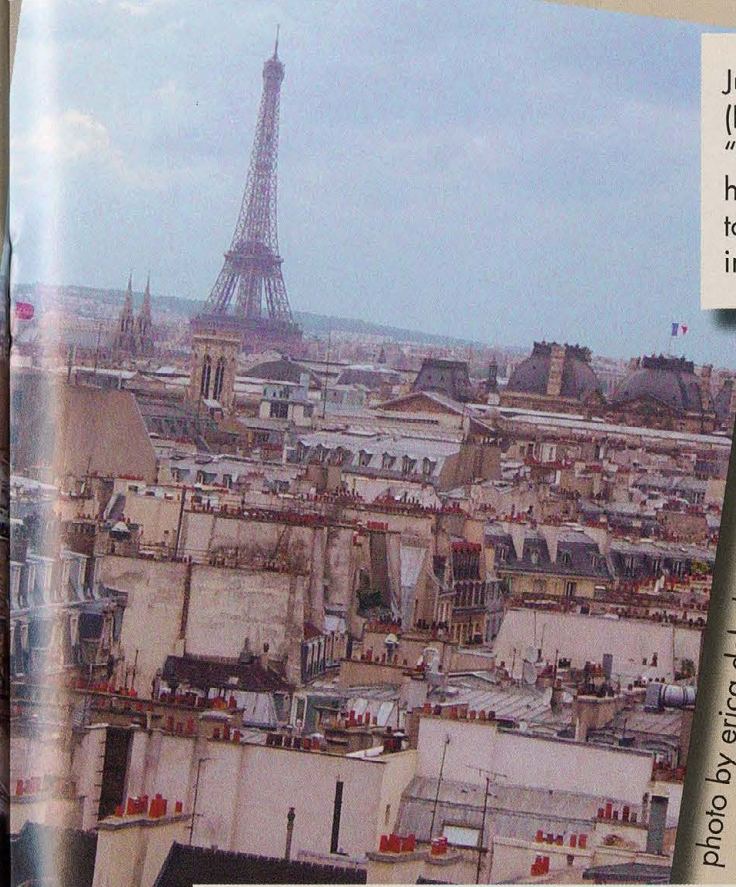


photo by erica dobek



photo by carolynn daman

Carolynn Daman

(FA04, Univ. Tasmania in Hobart, Australia)

"Study abroad has changed my life in that I now understand how other countries view our own."

photo by katie pinon

Heather Rice

(FA05, Chikin Anta Diop in Dakar, Senegal)

"The most rewarding part of the experience was getting over the first very rough month. After adapting to culture, language and so many different barriers, I feel like there is nothing I can't do now!"

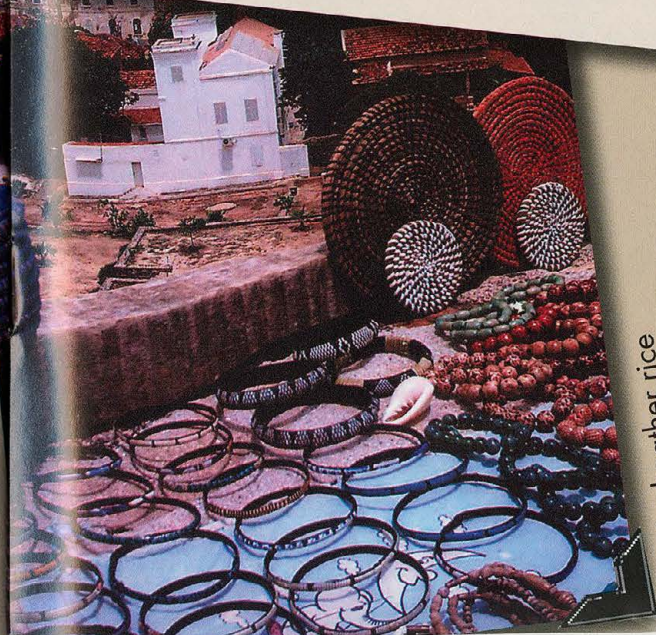
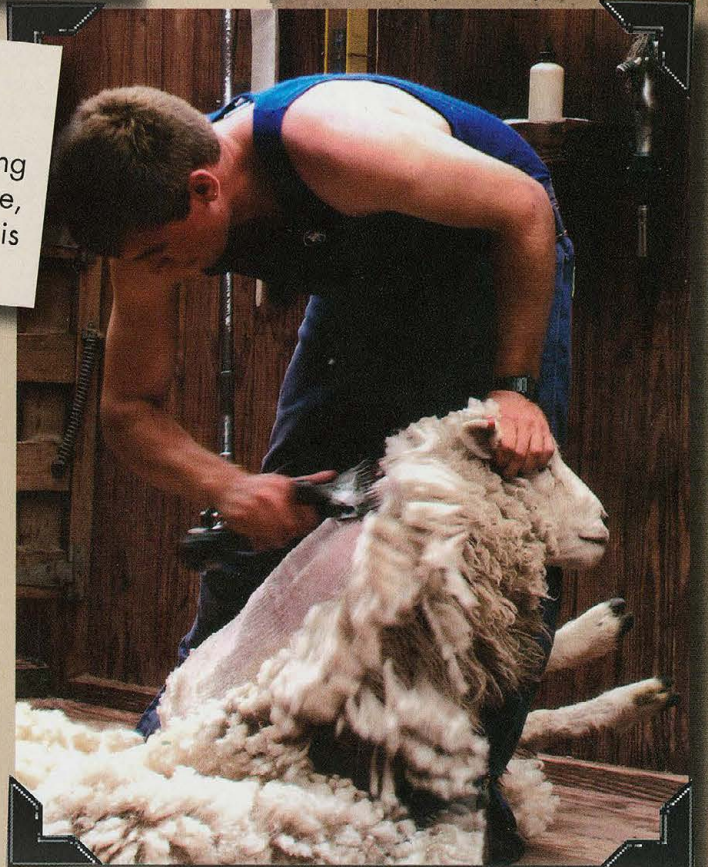


photo by heather rice



# CloudSat Takes Flight

meet graeme stephens: the mind  
behind this groundbreaking,  
cloud surveillance satellite

by heather hawkins

In a tree-lined college town commonly known for complex microbrews and students studying to be large-animal vets, the story of a CSU atmospheric science professor and a multimillion-dollar weather satellite may sound a bit like fiction.

It's not.

Professor Graeme Stephens, a team of experts, the government and others are currently banking on a \$217 million satellite called CloudSat to help weather watchers better study causes surrounding global warming, and better predict flooding and drought.

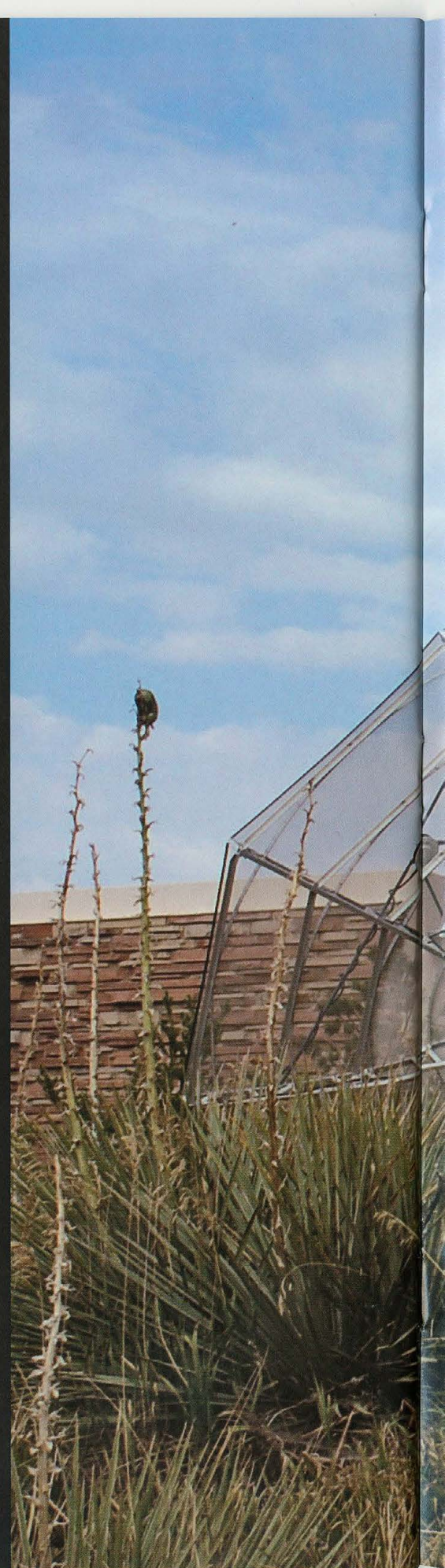
If evidence from the last few months is any indication, the satellite — hurled into space in late April from Vandenberg Air Force Base on the central California coast — has been successful at using radar to dissect clouds in the sky and beaming those images back to scientists on Earth.

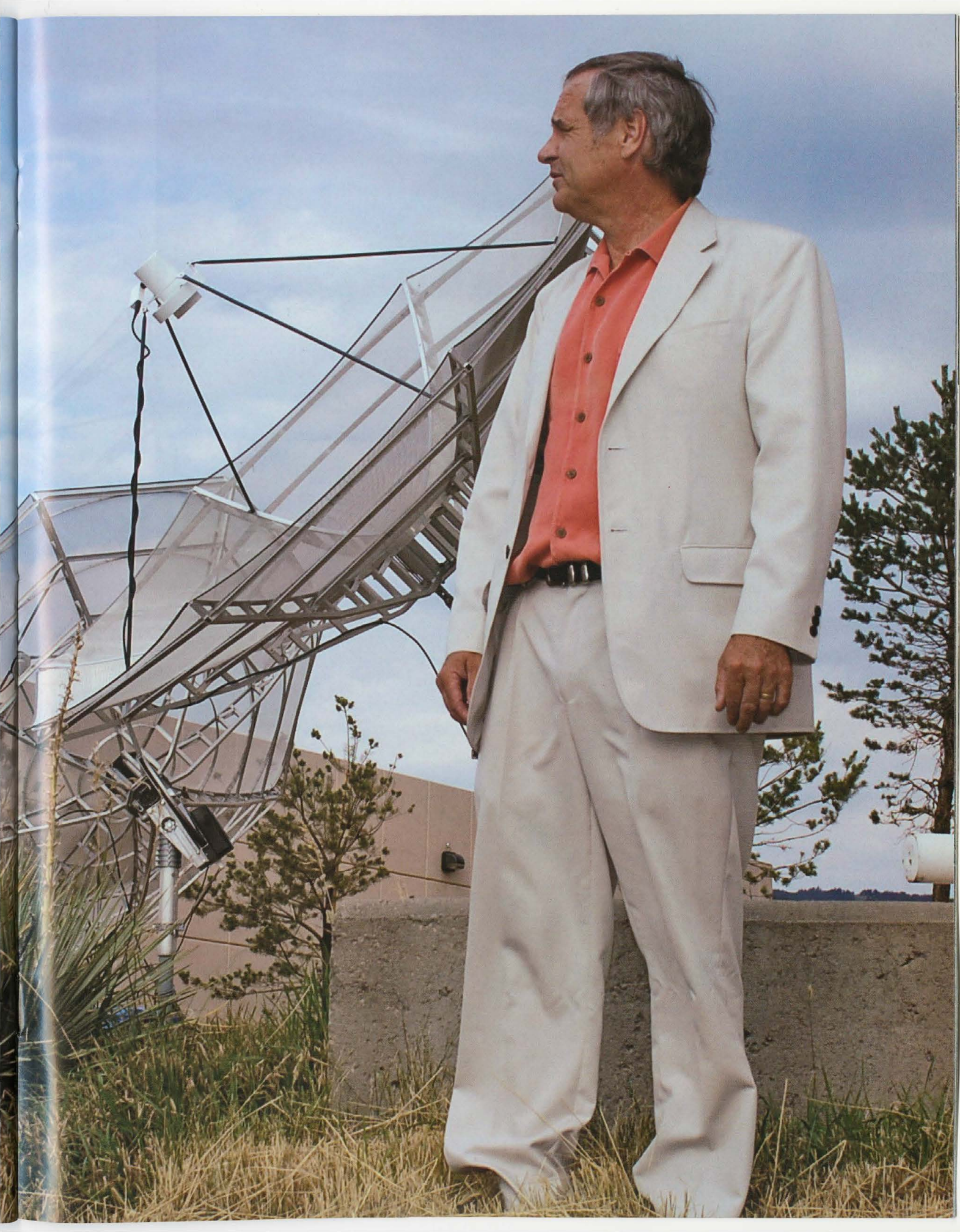
So what do the bowels of a cloud tell us?

"If you're concerned at all with the effect that human contributions have on greenhouse gases, then you'll want to know the role that clouds play," Deborah Vane, CloudSat deputy principal investigator at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, Calif., explained in a telephone interview.

right: professor graeme stephens looks toward the sky in an attempt to discuss cloudsat's current position. at the time, it was above africa.

▶ photo by nicole mcpherson





*“the cloudsat mission will provide new measurements of this process, providing details about basic cloud components, such as water content, ice content and the origin of clouds.”*



Many people don't realize the important role clouds play in Earth's climate. Clouds regulate heat in the atmosphere and on the planet, but little is known about how this occurs. The CloudSat mission will provide new measurements of this process, providing details about basic cloud components such as water content, ice content and the origin of clouds.

The satellite, roughly the size of a small car, resembles a bumble bee with a round, plump body and large rectangular wings reaching from head to toe. Stephens, a professor in the Department of Atmospheric Science, said his idea for CloudSat "germinated in the late 1980s and began to take shape as a concept in 1993."

Five years later, Stephens proposed his idea for two cloud-studying satellites to NASA. The proposal "to provide observations necessary to advance our understanding of cloud abundance, distribution and structure" was accepted in 1999 under NASA's Earth System Science Pathfinder (ESSP) program, according to CSU's CloudSat Web site at [www.cloudsat.atmos.colostate.edu](http://www.cloudsat.atmos.colostate.edu).

CloudSat and CALIPSO, formally known as Cloud-Aerosol Lidar and Infrared Pathfinder Satellite Observations, were split into two separate missions. CloudSat is led by Stephens and others at CSU,

and CALIPSO is led by NASA.

As principal investigator of the CloudSat mission, Stephens is responsible for distributing data to the world. He and other scientists at CIRA, the Cooperative Institute for Research in the Atmosphere on the Foothills Campus at CSU, process CloudSat data. The data is then sent to the scientific community and is available for public viewing on the Internet. Stephens also oversees the science behind CloudSat.

It only seems right that Stephens is leading the CloudSat mission, as he is "a leading authority on the study of atmospheric radiation, remote sensing and climate change," Paul Miller wrote in a Fall 2005 CSU Alumni magazine article titled, "His Head in the Clouds."

### **\$185 million well spent**

The ESSP program started in 1996 to sponsor missions designed to address specific, highly focused scientific issues. The program supports a variety of scientific objectives related to Earth science, including studies of the oceans, land surfaces, polar ice regions and the atmosphere, according to a NASA press release.

Despite its larger aim, such a complex, detailed mission has had its share of problems. It took NASA's JPL and the Canadian Space Agency

longer than the planned three-and-a-half years to build the radar, which slowed the completion of the spacecraft and launch vehicle at Ball Aerospace and Technologies Corp. in Boulder.

CloudSat, funded with \$185 million taxpayer dollars, was scheduled to launch six times before the successful launch in April, nearly six months after its completion. The first six attempts were scrubbed due to complex technical and scheduling issues, Stephens said.

Since its launch, however, Stephens said, the spacecraft has been working nearly perfectly. The first images of a warm storm front over the Norwegian Sea were received from CloudSat during a system test on May 20. The images showed multiple cloud layers that were previously inaccessible.

"CloudSat's radar performed flawlessly, and although the data are still preliminary, it provided breathtaking views of the weather on our planet," Stephens said.

Flying 438 miles above us, CloudSat operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The three square solar panels on either side of the spacecraft absorb energy during the sunlit portion of its orbit and store power in the batteries when it is in the eclipse, Vane said.

CloudSat flies close to Earth's North and South poles in a nearly circular orbit. Flying at seven kilometers per second, it will go around Earth every 99 minutes and will repeat the same ground track every 16 days, according to CSU's CloudSat Web site.

Scientists at Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, N.M., send commands up to a small computer on the spacecraft telling it when to receive data, Vane said. Data are transmitted from the spacecraft about 10 times per day, making data available every two to four hours.

"The spacecraft generates short pulses of electromagnetic energy that are sent down through the atmosphere. Those pulses are just the right size that they interact with water and ice particles within clouds," Vane said.

The pulses are reflected back to a receiver on CloudSat. The time delay from when the signal leaves CloudSat until it returns indicates the distance the wave traveled. Not all waves reflect off the cloud particles; some make it all the way to the ground before returning. Time delay and the

strength of the returned signal are recorded, revealing the characteristics of the clouds that lie below. A multi-colored, vertical map of the clouds is then created based on the information CloudSat receives. But how do the waves know if they hit ice or other particles?

### Clouds as 3-D images

CloudSat uses millimeter wavelength radar – think the thickness of a dime – over 1,000 times more sensitive than existing weather radars. Other radars use centimeter wavelength – just larger than a yellow No. 2 pencil that can only detect raindrop-sized particles on the top or bottom of the cloud. CloudSat's radar allows it to detect much smaller particles of water and ice throughout the entire cloud.

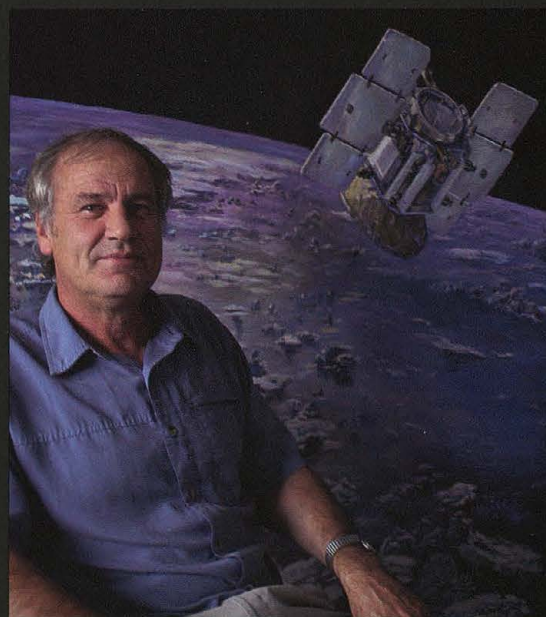
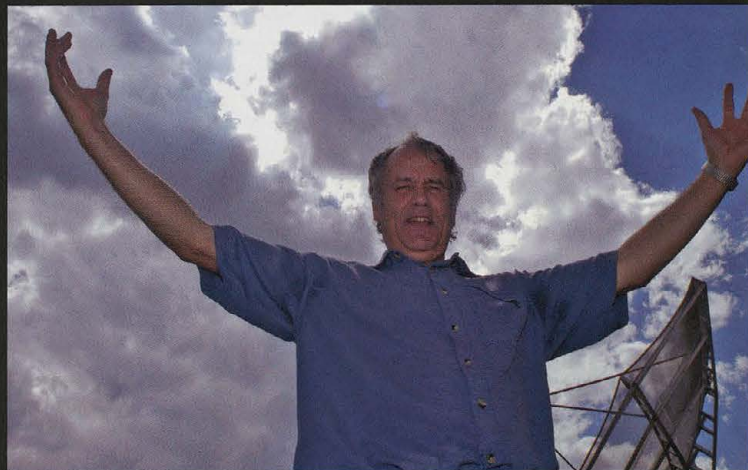
This is important because clouds are composed of tiny water and ice particles that have not been detected by existing radars. The number and size of particles depends on the amount of water vapor, the gas form of water, in the air and the number of tiny aerosols, minute airborne particles, available to act as seeds for cloud formation.

As aerosol concentration increases within a cloud, water in the cloud is spread out over many more particles. This process decreases the

size of the particles. Smaller particles fall more slowly in the atmosphere and decrease the amount of rainfall. This is because smaller particles do not become saturated and fall from the clouds.

Decreased rainfall can cause problems for humans because freshwater becomes scarce. Two-thirds of the freshwater on Earth is unusable because it is locked away as ice in polar regions of the globe. Accessible freshwater must be replenished to sustain life, and clouds are a key component in replenishing the water. Salt water in the oceans evaporates, condenses into clouds, precipitates as rain and snow then returns to the oceans.

Although there are numerous weather radars in existence, they fall short of explaining how clouds truly affect Earth's climate.



**top:** stephens where he is most comfortable – amongst the clouds. **bottom:** stephens with his painting of cloudsat, "cloudsat: the useful pursuit of shadows," in the background. **opposite page:** satellites in position at csu's atmospheric science building.

"Climate observations have been relatively primitive until now," said Stephens, "but CloudSat will help to fill major observing gaps."

The 3-D images produced by CloudSat give scientists a vertical look at cloud properties across the globe. They reveal multiple cloud layers of water and ice. Instead of looking at the overhead view of circular white, "cotton candy" clouds on the weather channel, we can see images similar to the layers of a club sandwich. Or as Stephens explains it, "like a CAT-scan."

"We're seeing the atmosphere as we've never seen it before," said Vane. "We're no longer looking at clouds like images on a flat piece of paper, but instead we're peering into the clouds and seeing their layered complexity."

With the radar that CloudSat uses, scientists will create much-needed climate models and will be able to predict where and why clouds and precipitation form. This will give them a better understanding of how the water cycle works. Scientists are hopeful that this will improve weather forecasts and increase the accuracy of storm warnings in addition to increasing knowledge about global warming.

"Getting this historic data is a step toward the way the atmosphere will be observed in the future," Stephens said. "CloudSat has created an avenue for research worldwide."

## All hail A-Train

In addition to CloudSat, CALIPSO, a satellite designed to study aerosol content in the atmosphere, was launched on the Delta II rocket built by Ball. CALIPSO will help scientists understand how clouds are formed and what happens as humans release more and more aerosols into the air by burning coal and oil, for example.

CloudSat and CALIPSO will join three other satellites as part of NASA's "A-Train" constellation, a nickname given to the group of satellites because they fly close together. The spacecrafts had to be launched during a particular instant on any given day in order to get the right orbit around Earth and to adjust to the A-Train orbit, CSU's CloudSat Web site reports.

All five satellites will observe aspects of Earth and its atmosphere. The information gathered by these five satellites will give scientists the most advanced set of observations of the Earth's atmosphere to date. Combining the data from the five satellites will help improve climate models and create a better understanding of global climate change.

Scientists from Canada, France, Japan, Germany and the United States have contributed their facilities and expertise to the CloudSat mission.

"It's been an amazing journey to get to this point," Stephens said. "The partnerships and teamwork have been unbelievable. There's been quite a lot of dedication from everyone."

CloudSat is funded by NASA to collect data for two years to observe more than one seasonal cycle. However, there is no technical reason why the mission could not last longer, as the radar was designed to last a minimum of three years.

"If the instruments are working fine," Stephens said, "the mission is likely to be continued."

the marriage of art and science: csu prof inspired by british sky and the poet shelley

Several certainties are inevitable when considering the stereotypical, Hollywood scientist: think Einstein's crazy hair, a pocket protector and a demeanor that wreaks madness. Turn that image on its head and CSU Prof. Graeme Stephens appears. In fact, what sets this charming, down-to-earth scientist even further apart from his peers is a love for painting – a creative outlet more often married to the other arts or religion.

But for Stephens, a meteorological guru known as both a professor in the Department of Atmospheric Science and the brainchild of a \$217 million satellite that has changed the face of reading clouds and climate prediction, painting and space are complementary.

"Art and science are both ways of expressing the world around us," Stephens said in his Australian accent during a broadcast interview in May 2006 with the non-profit Earth & Sky radio series, produced in Austin. "Science is expressed in terms of math, and art is expressed in terms of shapes and colors. If you see it from both sides, you get a richer worldview."

Leonardo da Vinci likely would have agreed. The most famous of Italian Renaissance painters – think the Mona Lisa and the Last Supper – was said to have drawn from his creative side in pursuit of his important discoveries regarding human anatomy.

But that was the 16th century. How did a modern-day science guy like Stephens become an artist? He began painting as a young boy in Australia. Long before he thought of a career in weather, he enjoyed painting horses.

After finishing his bachelor's degree at the University of Melbourne in 1973, Stephens, 54, remained Down Under and immediately commenced work on a doctorate in meteorology. During graduate school, the now graying, button-down collar guy who likes sports and gardening, was commissioned to paint several different subjects.

For nearly 20 years, Stephens didn't so much as pick up a paintbrush, but a trip to England refueled his creative side. Like so many other artists, he found inspiration from others who came before him.

"I created the first cloudscape when I picked up painting again in 2002. I remember the year because the inspiration came as sort of a celebration on the naming of clouds which occurred in Britain in 1802," he said in a recent interview in his office. "I was in England that summer, in a region that inspired great art over the ages, and that is where pieces of inspiration sort of came together."

Working primarily in the mediums of oil and acrylic, Stephens' paintings incorporate a vivid – in some cases almost haunting – color palette showcasing the beauty, power and mystery of clouds.

For at least three of his works, Stephens was "inspired by the nobility of illuminated clouds and the vividness of the prose of Percy Bysshe Shelley's poem, 'The Cloud,'" according to a CSU Web page featuring Cloudsat.

For his 2003 "Cirrus at Sunset," Stephens blended oranges, azures and creams to recreate a favorite end-of-the-day memory.

The 20-inch by 24-inch work was inspired by this line from "The Cloud": "I bind the sun's throne with a burning zone. And the moon's with a girdle of pearl."

One of Stephens' most recognized pieces is titled "CloudSat: The Useful Pursuit of Shadows," a 48-inch by 60-inch canvas depicting a cloud-studying satellite floating effortlessly above a pastel-hued Earth.

"I was always interested in the atmosphere, and clouds are the most visible part of the atmosphere," Stephens said.

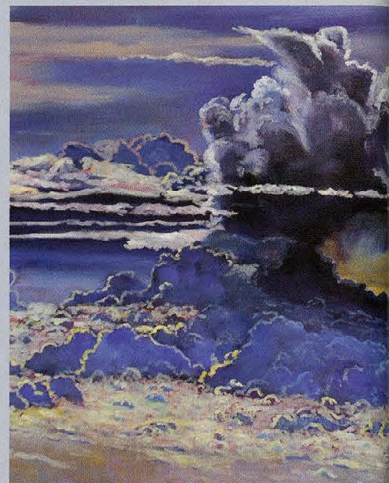
Stephens' numerous paintings of cirrus, cumulus and stratus clouds are displayed in the halls of the Atmospheric Science building, held in private collections and can also be seen in various publications. CSU also created a line of note cards depicting seven of his paintings. They were a special edition made to commemorate the launch of CloudSat and are not commercially available, he said.

Stephens, a husband and father of four, said that as far back as those days in Melbourne, he never intended to have his artwork showcased. Painting, he said, was something he did for himself because he thought it would be interesting. Very modestly, he said he finds it difficult to put a price on his artwork.

Even today, "I'd spend all my time outside if I could," he said.

above right: "The Comulonimbus Hot Tower"

below right: "CloudSat: The Useful Pursuit of Shadows"





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# Ergonomics

a fancy word that means protecting your health



► graphic illustrations by elizabeth sunshine

**Y**ou see them everywhere. Sprawled out on couches in the Lory Student Center; huddled in cubicles in Morgan Library; feverishly working in coffee shops: students. Once upon a time, students primarily did schoolwork at desks. But today, with new technologies such as wireless Internet and online classes, students can work almost wherever they please, and this is unknowingly wrecking havoc on their health.

Very few students give thought to their posture or workstation setup while working. Usually students only give thought to that when they already have a backache from being bent over a computer for hours, or a hand cramp from frantically typing that 10-page paper last minute. However, paying attention to little details such as chair height and hand positioning while typing can make a big difference in avoiding injury, and these little tips for preventing injuries have an

umbrella term that encompasses them all: ergonomics. Students who start paying attention to proper ergonomic procedures and cultivate good habits now can avoid serious injury later in life.

“Major problems in the office, called cumulative trauma disorders or musculoskeletal disorders, can occur over time,” said Frank Gonzales, an ergonomics safety training specialist who works in the environmental health department at CSU.

Gonzales also explained the most common problems are upper back, neck and shoulder fatigue, and although these ailments usually take time to develop, “they can become pretty serious and require medical treatment.” Gonzales also said the most common mistake students make has to do with their computer placement.

“Monitor height is the most important. Nowadays it seems all students have laptops, and you shouldn’t put your laptop actually in

your lap," Gonzales said. "Raise it up so you're not straining your neck."

Ergonomics, then, is just a big word that means you are properly arranging your desk or workstation to prevent a variety of ailments. Eye fatigue, repetitive strain injuries such as carpal tunnel and tendonitis, and other musculoskeletal disorders are all problems that can occur by not following ergonomics guidelines. However, these ailments can easily be prevented by following these tips. Information taken from featured Web sites.

### Follow your mother's advice and sit up straight

Rest your back against your chair (or couch or whatever you happen to be sitting on), keep your feet supported on the floor or on a foot rest and make sure your knees are at the same level or lower than your hips (at about a 90 degree angle). However, don't try to have perfect "ballerina" posture the whole time you're working, because this can be fatiguing too. Instead, shift positions while working to prevent stressing any one area of your body. Or, even better, stand up and take breaks (something that shouldn't be hard to convince a student to do).

### Other posturing tips

Keeping your body relaxed and in a natural "neutral" position will help by preventing stress on your joints, making you less susceptible to injury. To get into a neutral position, keep you head level and in line with your torso; keep your hands, wrists, and forearms relaxed and in a line roughly parallel to the floor; relax your shoulders and upper arms and let them hang naturally instead of tensing them up; and make sure your elbows stay close to your body at an angle that is comfortable for you.

Remember, everyone's neutral posture is different, so there is no one "perfect" posture. You have to experiment to find the positioning that is best for you to keep you free from pain.

### Get centered

Make sure your computer is directly in front of you so you don't have to twist or turn your body to look at it. The properly centered

distance for the keyboard is at a comfortable arm's length with the top of the computer two to three inches above your seated eye level.

Also, if you have another paper or notebook you are typing from, place it between your monitor and keyboard, or use a document holder to elevate it or hold it up close to your screen.

### Use a good typing technique

Keep your wrists straight and hands relaxed, and don't rest your arms on the keyboard but instead float them above it. If you have a wrist rest, use it for breaks in your typing instead of resting your wrists on it while typing. And more likely than not, when typing you're hitting the keys too hard (according to UCLA's ergonomics Web site, "the average user keys four times harder than necessary"), so go easy on your keys.

### Don't strain your eyes

Reduce the strain on your eyes by reducing your computers glare as much as possible. When working on your computer, try to avoid sitting near windows or bright lights. You can also use a glare filter if necessary. Again, taking breaks is key, so make time for frequent "eye breaks" by looking away from your screen at a distant object, or by closing your eyes and covering them with your palms for a few seconds.

### Have we mentioned taking breaks yet?

Gonzales said the keys to prevention are "duration and frequency." To avoid problems, try to use your computer less often or for shorter intervals of time. Most injuries occur not only from having bad posture but also because people are staying in front of their desks in improper or strained positions for longer periods of time. So step away from your desk, even just for a minute or two, to relax and recharge your body.

As the old adage goes, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. By paying attention to bad work habits now and correcting them, you can avoid painful and costly problems later in your professional life.



above: illustration of proper hand and wrist angles on the keyboard.

opposite page: illustration of sitting properly at a computer, according to ergonomics guidelines.

## find out more at:

The U.S. Department of Labor for posture suggestions and user checklist.

▶ [www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/computerworkstations/index.html](http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/computerworkstations/index.html)

Ergonomics tips from UCLA for your desk or lab. Also an online self assesment.

▶ [www.ergonomics.ucla.edu](http://www.ergonomics.ucla.edu)

Personalize your workstation with tips from Cornell University specialized for your profession.

▶ [www.ergo.human.cornell.edu/ergoguide.html](http://www.ergo.human.cornell.edu/ergoguide.html)

Certified yoga instructor covers stretches you can do to avoid injury.

▶ [www.mydailyyoga.com/yoga/rsi.html](http://www.mydailyyoga.com/yoga/rsi.html)

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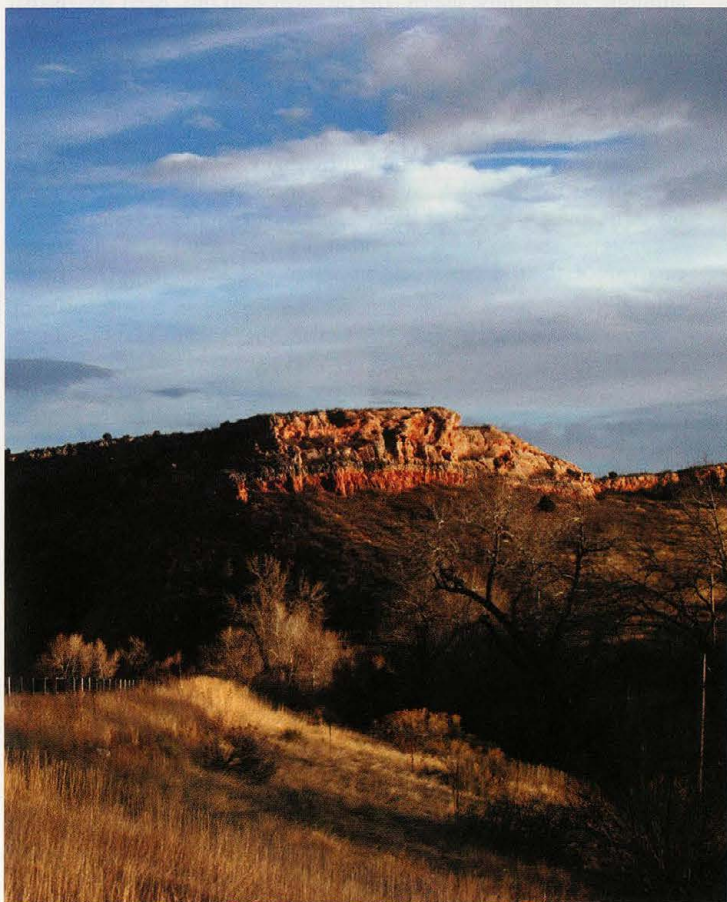
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# Staying Afloat

proposed reservoirs raise debate  
about water needs

Environmentalists have been throwing up arms against reservoirs and dams blocking the few rivers running through the open space of the American West since people began migrating here decades ago- and agriculture and city governments have been fighting for them just as long. Recently, that battle has raged up to Fort Collins' doorstep with the proposal of the Northern Integrated Supply Project, also known as NISP.



► photo by lauren richardson

This March, NISP, the proposal for construction of the Glade and Galeton reservoirs, began seeking the environmental permits necessary to move ahead, increasing the possibility of the project's construction. The NISP project, which is overseen by the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District (NCWCD), aims to increase the reliability of water supply to 16 Northern Front Range communities. However, the proposal to build more reservoirs along the foothills of Colorado has been met with uncertainty by some and outright opposition from others, forcing the NCWCD to defend NISP at every step.

The NCWCD decided such a project was essential for the region after completing a study of the future water supply in Northern Colorado. "It was shocking to our staff the huge gap between the growth that was coming and the planning the cities were doing," said Nicole Seltzer, the water resources planning liaison for the NCWCD.

The construction of water storage nearly stopped altogether in the 1970s and the population along the Front Range has nearly doubled since then. There is a projected 160 percent increase in water demand over the next 30 to 60 years in municipalities. Seltzer claims new water storage is needed for rising municipal needs, especially here along the Front Range, which in 2000 was home to 3.5 million of Colorado's 4.3 million citizens.

When the NCWCD approached the cities with its findings, it found 11 cities wanting to pursue and pay for the project. The district then began looking for ways to supply the needed water, starting with a list of roughly 400 possibilities, and decided on what it felt was the best option. The final proposal was to build a combination of two reservoirs along the Front Range. These proposed reservoirs could provide enough water to supply the cities for the next 50 years.

Glade, the first reservoir, would be about four miles north of Fort Collins and would require moving a section of Highway 287. This

reservoir, which would hold 170,000 acre-feet of water (Horsetooth Reservoir is approximately 155,000 acre-feet), would be filled with water pumped from the mouth of Cache la Poudre Canyon.

Galeton reservoir, holding an additional 40,000 acre-feet of water, would be located about five miles northeast of the town of Galeton, and filled by pulling water from where the Poudre and South Platte rivers meet.

Critics of the plan question everything from the environmental impact to the practicality of the NISP project, most of them having their own preferred alternatives to the project.

"There are other methods for providing water, using other sources, that have less environmental impact," said John Stednick, professor of watershed management at CSU.

One of Stednick's concerns is the effect pulling water from the Poudre for Glade is likely to have on the river's flow. Each season, the water in the Poudre follows a pattern of rising and falling flows depending on the time of year and the amount of snow melt from the previous winter. The only years the NCWCD would be permitted to pull water to fill Glade are years of excessively heavy flows, which the NCWCD claims lessens the environmental impact of the plan. But Stednick says that these heavy flows serve a variety of purposes and are what make a river "work."

"The flows are essential for maintaining the ecology of a river," said Stednick. When too much water is pulled from a river at once, it can cause the river to recede dramatically, leaving sections of the river completely dry. High level flows also act as a cleaning mechanism to clear the sediment and build up from the river bed.

George Reed, a board member for the Northern Colorado Water Association and a farmer, says the river's flow is not a concern.

"It will just be a different river," said Reed. "You might have to do some work to renovate and maintain a certain river bed, but you have to do that anyway."

Reed, who will spend roughly \$14,000 this year on water for his 62-acre farm, offers a prime example of the crunch farmers face each year when it comes to figuring out how they will make a profit. Take into account the rising cost of propane to pump the water (in 2005 it was approximately \$2,400), and coming out on top is nearly impossible, Reed says.

Reed is among many in the agricultural sector who believe that no matter what, something must be done about making water more

reliable and available to farmers along the Front Range. He fears that if Northern Colorado chooses the "do nothing" approach to the water storage issue, population growth will inevitably wipe out agriculture in the Front Range altogether.

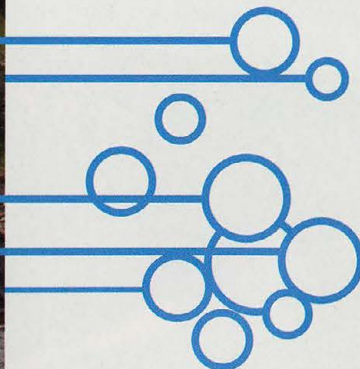
To avoid this problem, opponents of the NISP offer what they feel are viable alternatives to the project. Gary Wockner, the author of a "Perspectives" article in the April 9 edition of the Denver Post titled "A River Runs Through It," makes three proposals. The first is that farmers enter into a buy-lease-share agreement with the municipalities. This arrangement would mean farmers agree to rent water rights to the cities and let the cities use their water rights in times when the cities need more water, in exchange for a promise from the cities that they would compensate the farmers for lost crops.

Reed argues the problem with this suggestion is that farmers don't own the water rights any more. Most farmers on the Front Range, he says, have sold their rights in hard years and are just hoping the cities have excess water to rent to them every year. This puts the farmers last in line for water and at the mercy of the cities rather than in a position of being able to rent water back to them.

Reagan Waskom, interim director of the Colorado Water Research Institute and a Fort Collins Water Board member, says being at the mercy of the farming community is precisely what the municipalities want to avoid. Waskom says implementing a buy-lease-share program would be too risky for cities, as they want complete control over the water in case of a drought.

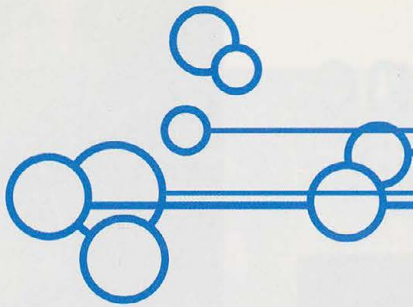
Reed also finds issue with Wockner's second proposal of starting a water trust. A water trust would essentially be an organization that would purchase many shares of water for an area, and then be an administrator of those shares. The problem with this, Reed says, is that the organization would need the money to purchase the shares in the first place, and at \$20,000 to \$40,000 a share, this is no small request. To get this amount of money, the trust would have to tax the general public heavily, and getting enough people to support this has proved to be difficult if not impossible.

Conservation is heavily touted by many NISP opponents as the best alternative. Stednick says that by educating the public, focusing on xeriscaping – a type of landscaping that requires very little or no watering – and focusing on other lifestyle changes, Coloradoans can reduce their dependency on water and leave more for future generations.



left: an overhead view of the cache la poudre river flowing down the poudre canyon. right: the poudre is a favorite habitat for animals and humans alike.

▶ photos by nicole mcpherson



Seltzer agrees with Stednick's conservation plan. One way to meet our future water supply needs, she says, is to "start ratcheting down conservation matters and make the Front Range look like the desert that it is, rather than the lawn area that we've made it into. That's going to be the key in the next 50 years, but definitely beyond that."

Todd Simmons, a Fort Collins resident and eco-activist, advises the cities to put the \$370 million proposed for the NISP project into conservation education and focus on a long-term solution rather than a quick fix.

Simmons said that in all the debates, "people are ignoring the root of the problem and that is that we use too much water."

Citizens need to be more critical of the water that they use, he says, and so far they haven't done that. It is the job of the municipalities to ensure their citizens understand this is about actions and consequences. NISP only projects a solution for the next 50 years, so what happens after that?

Another popular proposal is based on the concept of retiming flows, where instead of one large reservoir there are a series of smaller reservoirs that take water out of the river in smaller amounts.

The idea is that this type of water retention program would allow the river's ecology to be taken into account, and would have a less damaging effect than taking thousands of acre-feet of water out of the system all at once.

"The cost is too prohibitive to build lots of little dams," argues Seltzer. By making NISP a joint project with two large reservoirs, the cost is spread out among all the participants. Also, all of the pipelines and infrastructure needed for the smaller dams presents a water flexibility issue. Because of this infrastructure, Seltzer says she is not convinced that the environmental impacts would be lessened.

Stednick says that the project's present economic cost is not a legitimate reason not to pursue an option. It is important to take other "costs" into account when making decisions, such as the environmental cost of these projects and their impact on the quality of life for Fort Collins' residents.

Even those who agree the Front Range needs a reservoir might question aspects of the project. For one, many people question how long it will take to fill Glade. Seltzer says that, in the best-case scenario (if the Poudre has very high flow years), Glade Reservoir can be filled in just two seasons. But, more realistically, it will probably take closer to three to five years. Horsetooth Reservoir took 10 years to fill.

"When building something that's going to hopefully last 100 years, it doesn't matter how long it takes," Seltzer said.

Simmons says he questions the chosen location for Glade, citing that evaporation is a major issue that has been neglected in the decision making process. The Sustainable Water Interest Group (SWIG) believes as much as 10 percent of the water captured in the reservoir could be lost to evaporation due to the hot, windy and dry conditions along the Front Range.

A concern with the Galeton Reservoir is that farmers would be getting poorer water quality than what they are getting right now. Galeton is an exchange project, where water in the reservoir would be used for irrigation freeing up better quality water for municipal uses.

But Troy Bauder, a soil and crop sciences professor at CSU, says the lower quality water threatens farmers' crops. Currently, the farmers who would be receiving Galeton water are getting their water straight from the Poudre through various ditch companies (water providers). The Poudre's water is high quality, but the water coming from Galeton

Reservoir would be from the South Platte, which has a higher salinity level. Bauder says that as water becomes saltier, crops are less able to absorb it, and this can negatively impact the crops' yield.

However, Seltzer says this problem would be solved with technological advances before the project moves forward. "(The ditch companies) don't have to participate in this exchange with us, so in order for them to allow us to exchange their Poudre water for Galeton water, we have to make it attractive and non-injurious to them," she said.

There are many passionate opinions on either side of the debate echoing the sermons and protests of Edward Abbey in his fight against the infamous Glen Canyon Dam. Environmentalists and other concerned citizens cringe at the thought of flooding out miles of precious Front Range land and worry about what pumping water for the reservoirs will do to the wildlife that depend on the river, and the impact it will have on the river itself.

Some see the NISP proposal as a symptom of an even more detrimental mindset that Coloradoans have fallen into. "We've divorced the water from the land," said Stednick.

The rivers that run through Colorado are what make the national parks and the landscapes what they are, he explained, and many fear that by saying yes to projects like NISP, we are saying yes to degrading that landscape and failing to respect the ecosystem we currently enjoy.

One certain thing is that there is a shortage of water throughout Colorado and, as things are progressing, that shortage will only worsen.

Many are under the impression that the NCWCD is somehow profiting off this project, but Seltzer says they aren't. Being a quasi-governmental, non-profit organization they wouldn't be making any money from building the reservoirs.

Some people would like to see the water taken from agriculture rather than building reservoirs, but the roughly 30,000 Colorado farmers don't like the sound of that. Agriculture provides roughly \$15.8 billion dollars to Colorado's economy.

Some would like restrictions set on population growth and water use, but growth is a burgeoning source of Front Range economy. Others would like to see a statewide conservation movement to ensure the problem doesn't persist, but their opponents aren't convinced this would be effective.

In March, the scoping report—the first part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)—was released. The completed EIS is due out at the end of 2006 and will determine whether or not NISP can move forward. If permitted, the completion of the Glade Reservoir is planned for 2012, with Galeton's completion coming a few years later.

► For more information and maps, visit [www.ncwcd.org](http://www.ncwcd.org).

# While You Were Gone

summer in fort collins





**far left:** the fourth of july fireworks at city park culminate an activity-filled day in fort collins. earlier events included a pie eating contest for kids downtown and a victorian ladies dressing show at the avery house.

**middle:** emily ray, 6, dances to live music at the lagoon summer concert series at csu on july 26. the concert series takes place wednesdays throughout the summer, and has been a fort collins tradition for over 14 years. **far right:** the greeley stampede, "the worlds largest 4th of july rodeo and western celebration," is an annual event that takes place during june and july.

▶ all photos by nicole mcpherson unless otherwise indicated

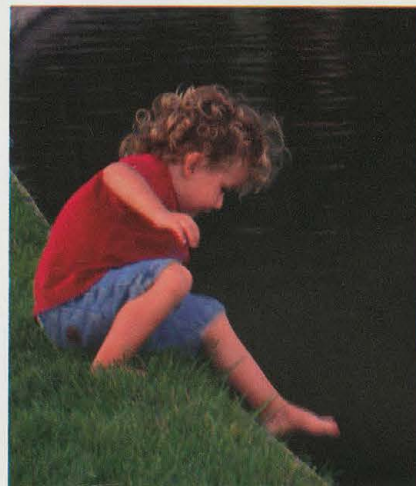


**left:** boys play at the city park pool on june 25. **above:** the summer weather inspires many fort collins residents to be outside as much as possible. here, at austin's american grill in old town, people enjoy dining outside on august 1.

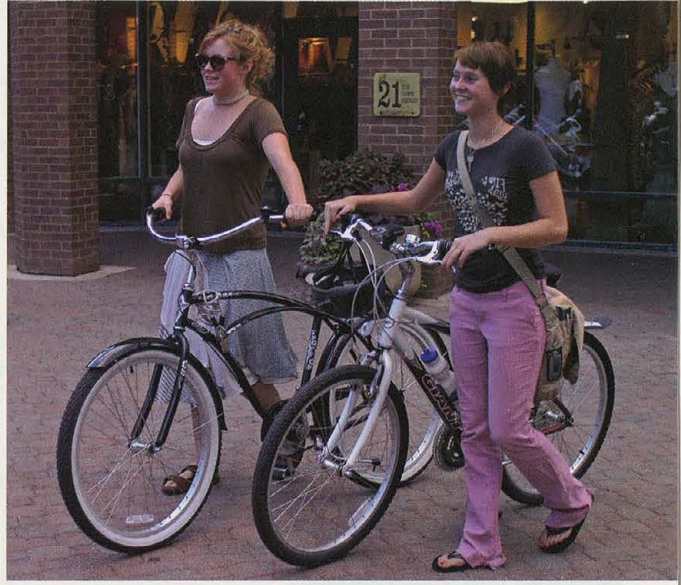
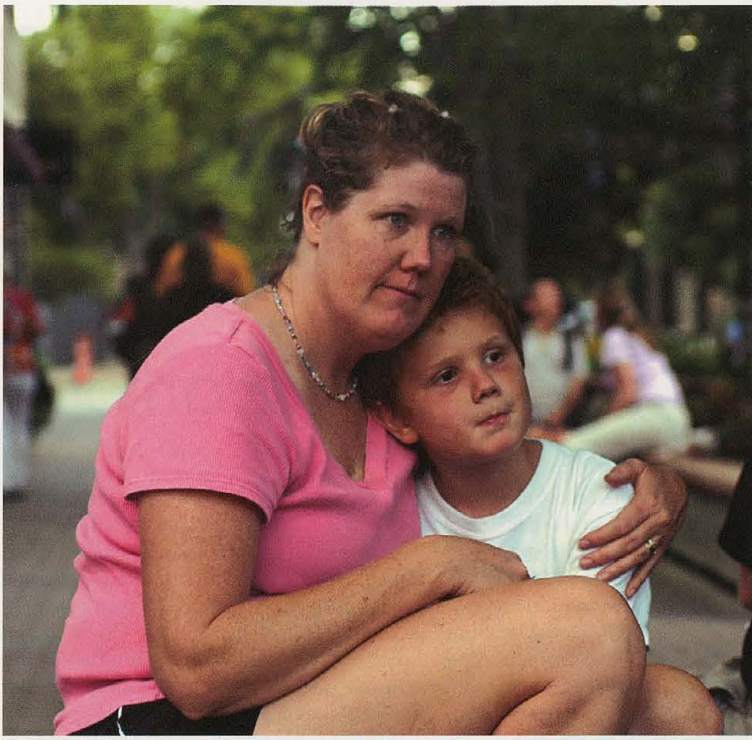
▶ photo by jessica douglas



clockwise from above: vocalist rosann winn and the fortjazz big band entertain the crowd at the lagoon summer concert series on july 26. top: thirsty? over 400 kegs were tapped this year at the 17th annual fort collins brewers' festival, which took place on july 24 and 25, in old town. right: sussie ajrly and son jack listen to live music on august 1 at rockin' bike night, a weekly event held in july and august in old town. far right: biking is the craze in fort collins, especially during the summer. here, alli kosakowski, 18, a future csu student, and sage faucette, 17, walk their bikes through old town. next: kate fieseler, 6, emily ray, 6, and chrispher ray, 4, dance and play at the lagoon summer concert series. immediate right: shaughn buchanan, 2, tests the waters of csu's lagoon.



► photos by nicole mcpherson



# Generation Big Brother

## how technology works to our disadvantage

When future historians define my generation I had always hoped we would be known by some grand term, along the lines of my grandparents' "Greatest Generation."

Why wouldn't we? We have access to more information and knowledge than any generation before; we have better technology than science fiction authors could have ever dreamed of 50 years ago; we have medicines to keep us healthier longer than any generation before us, giving us more time to do greater things than any who have come previously.

Yet, I have a sickening feeling that even with all of these advantages we will instead be known as Generation Big Brother — a generation more interested in monitoring the lives of others than working to better our own personal lives and, in turn, making the world a better place than when we entered it.

The Internet alone has unfathomable amounts of information accessible to anyone with a phone line and computer. This fountain of knowledge can literally teach users to do almost anything, from heart surgery to car repairs. Nevertheless, with all the options out there on the 'Net, the most accessed Web site in the United States is mspace.com according to online intelligence service Hitwise.

Mspace.com is an online "community" that allows individuals to post personal profiles others can visit to keep tabs on the lives of friends. A novel idea apparently so captivating that nearly 98 million people have posted profiles on the site, spending hours upon hours checking on the lives of others.

Instead of spending time utilizing search engines like Google

and Yahoo! to educate ourselves, my generation chooses to watch what others are doing, judging and editorializing one another's lives.

Mspace.com is not the only example of this voyeuristic pandemic sweeping through our lives. There are plenty of sites featuring information about individuals for others to peruse at their leisure.

DontDateHimGirl.com is one of those sites. The Web site allows women to post a profile of an ex-husband or boyfriend who was unfaithful, allowing other women to do a background check on a potential mate before they get too involved and, presumably, cheated upon.

The site works off the belief that once a man is unfaithful he will always be unfaithful, and therefore he is un-dateable, unlovable and untouchable. Now, I cannot attest to the truth of this theory one way or the other, but I do know the site is a symptom of the sickness infecting many of my peers — a fact proven by the 600,000 hits the site receives each day.

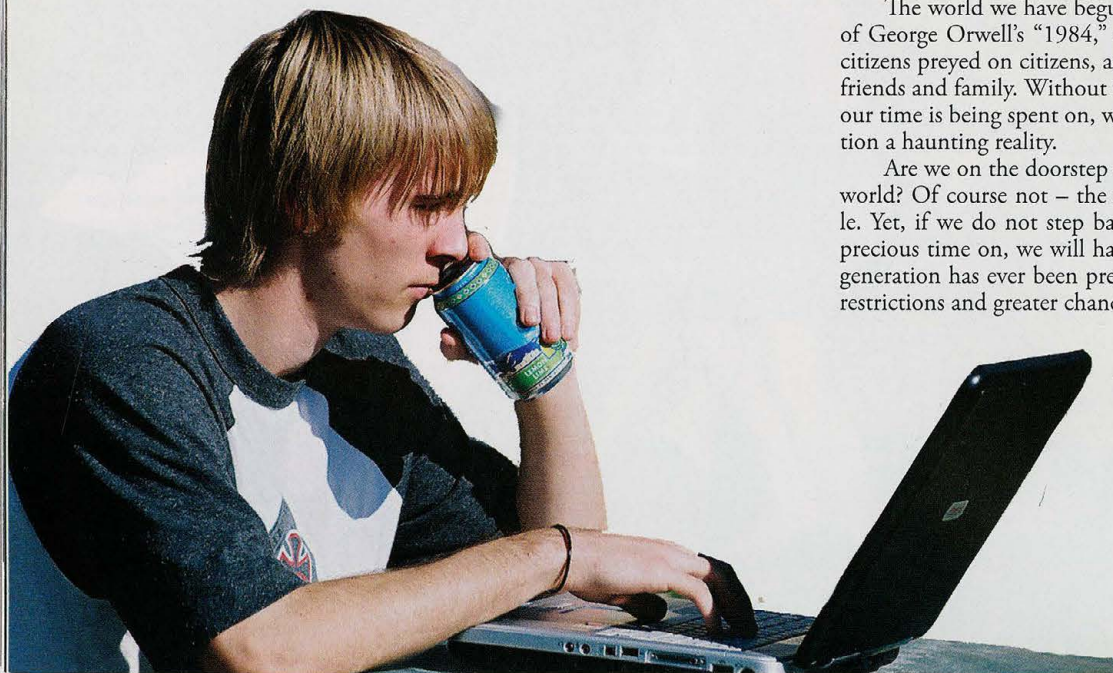
Much ado has been made about the U.S. government's Patriot Act and its caveats that allow the government to tap our phones and record our conversations, intruding on our personal privacy. As I assess where we spend our time on the Internet, I have begun to wonder if we have done all the government's work for them.

Knowingly, my generation has turned the very private facts of our lives into an open book, begging to be read by anyone with a keyboard and curiosity. Self-improvement has become a secondary priority, outranked by learning what others are doing in their private lives. The lessons of the world are at our fingertips, and we instead choose to learn if an acquaintance managed to get incredibly drunk the past weekend, causing them to do something worthy of our voyeur.

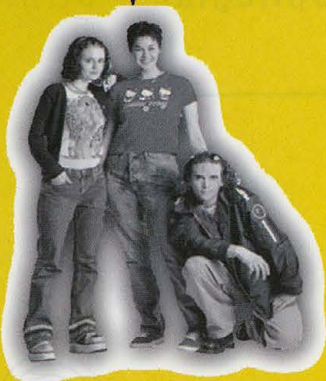
The world we have begun to create harks back to the lessons of George Orwell's "1984," a novel that featured a world where citizens preyed on citizens, acting as veritable spies on the lives of friends and family. Without taking a step back and realizing what our time is being spent on, we could easily make his terrifying fiction a haunting reality.

Are we on the doorstep of such science fiction becoming our world? Of course not — the comparison is just a bit of hyperbole. Yet, if we do not step back and examine what we spend our precious time on, we will have wasted the greatest opportunity a generation has ever been presented with: a longer life with fewer restrictions and greater chances to succeed.

The choice is at our fingertips: The cure for the world's ills, or information on who is cheating on whom. A decision not between Web sites, but between historical greatness and failure.



*These friends were invited to your party*



*These people showed up when they heard about the keg*



**Duh.**

*Keep your party under control.*

Did you really want to buy them all a beer?  
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"Start being nicer to yourself by treating yourself as a dear friend. Sing your own praises, celebrate your accomplishments and rally to your own defense in the face of self-criticism."

-Sarah, The Duchess of York

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