

COLLEGE AVENUE

20 YEARS IN THE MAKING

MORE THAN A MAGAZINE

College Avenue's 20th Anniversary:
The history of the publication

SEWN INTO HISTORY

How CSU students weave
fashion and identity

BREWRIES IN FOCO

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FROM YOUR EDITORS

As *College Avenue Magazine (College Ave)* celebrates its 20th anniversary, we reflect on the stories that shaped our image, and look forward to the stories that are waiting to be told.

Over the last two decades, *College Ave* has been more than a magazine. It has positioned itself as a testament to the connection with the world around us, immortalizing what would be fleeting. Even in this stillness, our collection of editions reminds us that time keeps moving, change is inevitable, and growth gives these moments real meaning. Within *The Time Edition*, we invite you to look back on the past through the history of *College Ave*, imagine what is yet to come, and explore how time plays a vital role in shaping culture.

So, even if we know our time here on campus has an expiration date, we hope that these pages do not.

Cover photo by Emma Winters

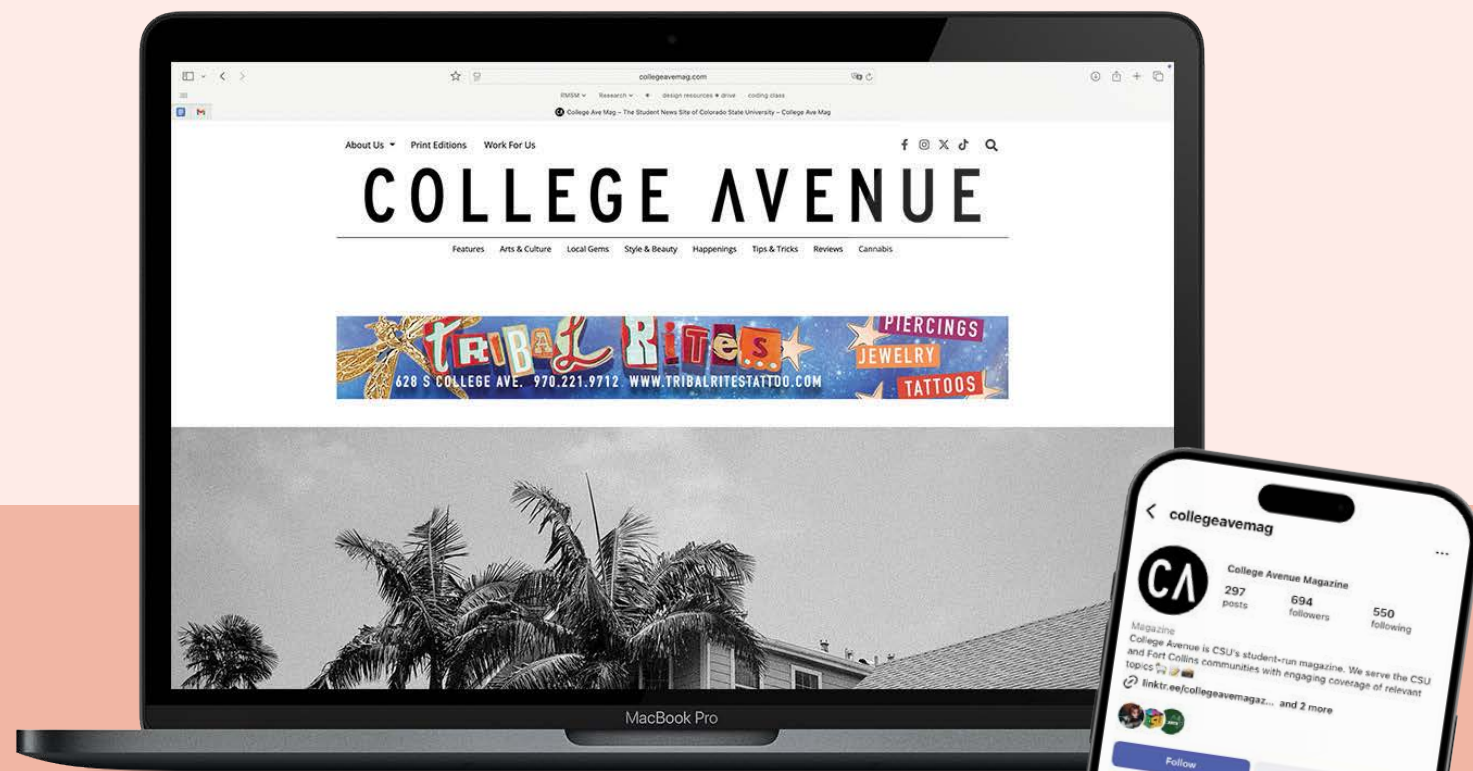
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more than a magazine

Written By: Aubree Wood

Over the last two decades, *College Avenue Magazine* (*College Ave*) has not been just a magazine, but has served as a mirror of Fort Collins' culture and community. Through student features, food reviews, history deep dives, and so much more, these pages have captured the essence of the student body voice, leaving a legacy behind of stories, creativity, and an enduring connection with the community around us.

Up until 2004, Rocky Mountain Student Media Corp. (RSMSC) lacked an outlet for in-depth feature-length creativity. That was when Chris Ortiz, Nicole Davis, Katie Kelley, and Lisa Lueneberg took it upon themselves

to fill this gap. The four of them took their idea to Jeff Brown, the newsroom advisor who would later go on to become the president of the organization. From there, the dream of producing a magazine publication within RSMSC became a tangible reality.

Katie Kelley, who had always been drawn to feature-length articles, was one of the founding members of *College Ave* and later would become Editor-in-Chief of the publication. She had originally worked as a reporter for *The Collegian* but found that there was a gap between the RSMSC media outlets. "For me, at least, this was the perfect opportunity to expand upon our publication opportunities and help other journalism students broaden their horizons by creating a *College Ave* feature-type of magazine," Kelley said.

After conceiving the idea of creating a magazine, the four of them went to work in hopes of turning this dream into a reality, something that students could be a part of for years to come.

Brown approached Jenny Fischer, who worked as the design and editorial advisor for RSMSC at the time, and asked her to take on the role of *College Ave's* first advisor. From there, Fischer started working with

printers and getting bids, as well as collaborating with students on the design, style, and what the magazine was actually going to look like.

In total, this process took about six months. Between board meetings and sleepless nights in *The Collegian* office, the four founders were crafting something beautiful, something bigger than themselves, and something that would go on to serve and support students for decades to come.

When staff and faculty started to hear about the plan of producing yet another print publication, worries about the logistics and cost began to surface. "I remember being in a room with the board of both students, faculty,

and extended staff members. We were kind of being grilled by them, but everyone ended up appreciating the initiative and the fact that we were trying to grow the journalism department even that much further to help students who maybe wouldn't have been responsive to being a reporter for *The Collegian*. And this was just another avenue for them to extend their creativity," Kelley said.

Once funds were secured and the logistical side of producing the publication was in order, the four founders began work on the prototype for the very first edition of the magazine.

The development of the magazine was strenuous for the original team. They regularly found themselves up against roadblocks that they were determined to plow through. "I remember there were nights where Lisa Lueneberg and I would actually sleep in *The Collegian* offices because we were trying to pull together the perfect *College Ave* edition. We were able to stay the nights in the offices and be creative; we would take naps, and then we'd get up and go to work on articles. Even though it doesn't sound like a smooth process, it was a smooth process. Because we really fixed into one another, like Tetris, where our



Old newspapers, titled "College Ave," laid out on the floor at Colorado State Art and Art History building in Fort Collins, Colo., Oct. 19.

blocks fit together and we just melded, and we were able to be creative together."

"We made a lot of mistakes, of course, but that's the whole point. It was an opportunity to learn and grow as individuals in that type of realm," Kelley shared.

Now, *College Ave* is characterized by its themed editions that delve extensively into one specific topic or realm of thinking. However, the first few editions were not tied to any strict theme. Instead, the first printed edition of the magazine was 24 pages in length, and its central package was a story regarding academic freedom on CSU's campus. The issue also included a story that explored the relationship between CSU and Coca-Cola, while another article investigated Adderall use among the student body.

"They really wanted to find stories that were relevant, things that were current, things that were currently happening. They also wanted to find stories that could be played in a magazine in a way that maybe they couldn't play in *The Collegian*, on broadcast, or on radio," Fischer said.

Those first editions laid the foundation for the stories that continue to be told in the magazine today. Each story served as a learning curve. Specifically, Fischer recalled that in one of those first few editions, Amanda Shank and Chris Ortiz decided to report on the rise of Scientology, as it was frequently being reported on in the news at the time. Fischer gave it a read before approving it for publication, and it was off.

"Soon after it was published, both in print and on the website, I got a phone call from the Scientology communications coordinator who was based in Denver, basically reading me the story and saying how wrong we got things. I said, 'You know, we did our research. We have an expert on the line, who's directly quoted in the story and you know, I was, I was defending the story...And during a second conversation with her, she told me that she had reached

out to the ethics chair for The Society of Professional Journalists in Colorado, who basically told her that 'how dare I allow the students to publish that?' And I was like 'that person doesn't know what they are talking about.'"

"We invited her to Fort Collins, and we sat and

listened to her, and what it boiled down to was one sentence in the story that she didn't like, in which Scientology was compared to a mob. And she was willing to let the rest of the story go. She was like, you're right. You did your work. I understand it. But that was what she held onto, that one sentence, so I said, okay, we've heard you. We understand you, and we know you understand us. How do we make this right? And so we wound up giving the Scientology organization of Colorado a full-page ad in the next edition of *College Ave*."

"It was really a lesson in the fact that everyone needs to be heard by enough people

"this was just another avenue for them to extend their creativity"

Photographs By: Aiden Lundien
Design By: Sarah Thomas



College Avenue magazines from previous years in the Colorado State University Art and Art History Building in Fort Collins, Colo., Oct. 19.

and for enough reasons. She just wanted to know for 100% certain that everyone involved understood her perspective, and we sure did,” Fischer said.

The stories in those first editions proved to be challenging, especially in finding the correct way to position the voice and style of *College Ave* as an individual and unique publication. Those original founders of the publication had to learn as the challenges presented themselves.

“Another challenge was trying to get content that was diverse. That was one of the biggest mistakes. I had my brother do an article, and it was an anti-Bush, anti-government piece, I believe. He went to a protest in D.C., but we didn’t have a counter on that. That was, to me, a huge learning experience. And now I’ve obviously learned since then, you can’t do one side of the story and not the other without putting the *College Ave* title at risk of saying it’s politicized this way or the other,” Kelley shared.

“...a testament to the fact of what journalism is; you can’t stop reporting on the news that matters.”

After the release of the first few publications, the editorial staff decided it was time to move the magazine in a new direction. That is when it “evolved into being themed; that was something that we understood would maybe

be a little bit easier for the readers to understand. It worked better for advertising, and it also helped them dig in on one topic each time, which became beneficial for the team,” Fischer added.

Since the shift to themed editions, *College Ave* has investigated topics ranging from fashion and beauty to cannabis and sex. Each of these editions have played a significant role in shaping the image and style of *College Ave* as a publication.

Within the 20 years of the publication’s life, various themes have come and gone. Some have even been brought back to life and explored by completely new sets of staff with entirely different ideas on how to tackle these topics.

Coincidentally, the very first themed edition of *College Ave* was the same theme as the most recent publication, “The Green Edition.”

During that year, CSU was beginning to gain more attention and recognition as a leading “green” university in the nation. 20 years later, the theme still stands as an engaging and relevant identity of the university, student body, and community.

Val Lucero, who at one point worked as the Editor-in-Chief of the magazine, decided to tackle the themes in a more conceptual way. “Her theme was sex, drugs, and rock and roll. And so they did the music edition first, and then sex, and then did drugs to wrap it up. Yeah, keep them guessing, but they were great. She was an incredible journalist,” Fischer said. “They did not pull any punches with the sex edition; that cover was like this striking black and white photograph with the word “SEX” right in the middle, like four inches tall, bright red. I went to a conference that March, and I brought a handful of copies. I literally put them on the table, and someone I knew was right behind me, and she goes, ‘You’ve got to be kidding me.’ And I was like, ‘No, they did this. It’s great. It’s great. Pick one up. It’s awesome.’ But yeah, that one made a big splash.”

Without the dedication, creativity, and diligence of those original founders, *College Ave* would have failed to exist as a time capsule of the student body and community. After 20 years of the publication, it is easy for Kelley and Lueneberg’s sleepless nights in *Thee Collegian* basement to go unnoticed, or the panels of board members these determined students had to

stand in front of and prove their idea to. And now, years later, countless students have worked their way into the core of this publication, meticulously threading the years all the way back to 2005, when the very first *College Ave* edition was published.

“That is a testament to the fact of what journalism is; you can’t stop reporting on the news that matters. We created something that has stood the test of time, and that, in and of itself, is a testament to the fact that students entering journalism school know and need to know that their profession

and what they choose to do and what they write about is profoundly imperative to society today,” Kelley shared.

Every piece, every photo, and design that has gone into the past 20 years of this magazine has laid the foundation for it to continue to thrive in the future. Through *College Ave’s* countless obstacles, it has persevered as a symbol of the hard work of those that came before us. Through the years, the publication has provided generations of students the opportunity to grow their journalistic skills and confidence, all through a creative environment that was meticulously crafted with the dedication and heart of those original four students.

“We created something that has stood the test of time...and what they write about is profoundly imperative to society today.”

SEWN INTO HISTORY

HOW CSU STUDENTS WEAVE FASHION AND IDENTITY

Written By: Ashlyn Hoffman

Two decades ago, low-rise jeans dominated campus, complimented by bedazzled purses, chunky highlights and baggy men's clothing. Now, those trends have returned, with thrifted finds, platform sneakers and cargo pants sweeping across the LSC Plaza. The current fashion at CSU has found its way back to the 2000s, displaying students' cultural and identity changes. Today, fashion plays a more intentional and diverse role at CSU; the focus has shifted more towards sustainability and originality. Students use fashion not only to create a stylish outfit, but as an outlet of expression – a way to own confidence and take pride in oneself.

Landin Simpson, a freshman at CSU, enjoys the ability to reveal himself through clothing. His key to achieving and maintaining confidence is his personal style. "Being different and unique; wearing whatever I want because I like how it looks, and not caring about other people's opinion," said Simpson.

"...WEARING
WHATEVER I WANT
BECAUSE I LIKE
HOW IT LOOKS..."

(Right) Student model takes the runway during Colorado State University's 2002 senior fashion show, "Beyond the Silhouette." (Photo by William A. Cotton/Colorado State University Libraries, University Digital Photograph Collection)

The CSU Casual

When piecing together the perfect outfit, students often remix styles from different eras. Thrifted Y2K pieces meet outdoor gear, creating a unique CSU "casual." Not only an original look, this blend of styles reflects CSU's culture and balance between mountain-wear, western-wear and streetwear. Shoes like Doc Martens, ballet flats, retro sneakers, Converse and tall boots have each made a comeback as classics in new fashion. On campus, it is common to see cowboy boots paired with a jean skirt, or a Patagonia fleece thrown over an oversized tee. The abundance of thrift shops surrounding Fort Collins makes it easier for students to find these timeless pieces while being conscious of sustainability, which are core values for new generations.

(Left) Student model takes the runway during Colorado State University's 2002 senior fashion show, "Beyond the Silhouette." (Photo by William A. Cotton/Colorado State University Libraries, University Digital Photograph Collection)

(Top) A staple through every style era, purses remain a popular accessory.

(Middle) Cargo pants are making a comeback from the '90s.

(Bottom) Sneakers have been a staple of shoe fashion over the past multiple decades.



*Design By: Charlotte London
Photos By: Ashlyn Hoffman*





As Y2K trends cycle back and conservation becomes a central focus of campus culture, CSU's students find a way to create an original fashion. Mixing nostalgia and new fashion has further amplified an unapologetic sense of individuality and a desire to stand out among students.



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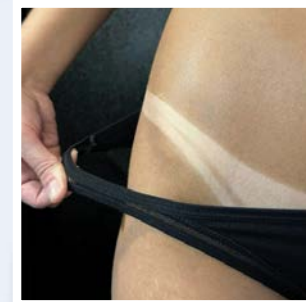
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(Top Right) Many students are seen wearing unique cowboy boots around campus.

(Top Left) Low-rise jeans paired with a dress top creates a simple, yet stylish outfit.

(Middle Left) Game-day fits are essential to CSU fashion.

(Middle Right) Cargo pants are making a comeback from the '90s.

(Bottom) Jerseys complete a Y2K outfit.

BREWERIES

In Fort Collins

Written by: Luke Purvis | Photos & Design by: Aiden Lundien



When Fort Collins was founded in 1864 as a military camp near the Cache la Poudre River, beer wasn't part of the picture. The settlers who came later built a community focused on morality, with rules banning gambling and liquor that predated prohibition.

As it turned out, Fort Collins was positioned in an ideal landscape for beer production. The Cache la Poudre River provided mineral-rich water from the Rockies, and the nearby plains produced an abundance of barley and wheat. But despite the accessibility, brewing still wasn't allowed in the city.

By 1896, Larimer County had established prohibition for nearly twenty years before the nation would. Even after it ended in 1933, Fort Collins remained a dry city for decades. Only 3.2% beer (low in alcohol content) could be sold in venues.

When prohibition ended, Fort Collins maintained strict guidelines around alcohol. The city was known more for its university and farms than for nightlife, and it wasn't until 1969 that Fort Collins authorized alcohol sales. It was many years before Fort Collins would expand into the beer market, thanks to a culmination of

entrepreneurial ventures that created the vibrant brewing landscape we see today.

By the mid-1980s, attitudes around alcohol in Fort Collins were beginning to shift away from their long-held conservatism. In 1988, when Anheuser-Busch opened a large production facility in the northern part of town, Fort Collins saw a spike in employment and increased tax revenue. That same year, CooperSmith's Pub & Brewing opened in the heart of Old Town. CooperSmith's introduced something new: beer made right where it was served.

In 1991, another brewing dream was conceived. In a basement on the west side of Fort Collins, Jeff Lebesch and Kim Jordan began making Belgian-style ales. Their small operation would become the city's famous New Belgium Brewing Company. One of their early creations, a malty amber ale called Fat Tire, would become one of the most popular craft beers in the country.

By the late 1990s, more local breweries appeared, the larger of which attracted tourists and national attention. People traveled to Fort Collins to enjoy an IPA in a downtown bar or relax with a barrel-aged saison in a quiet spot in the River District.

Two decades later, beer tourism was contributing hundreds of millions of dollars annually to the local economy. However, the industry faced new challenges. The sale of New Belgium to Japan's Kirin Holdings in 2019 marked the end of its employee ownership. Rising costs and increased competition around seltzers and canned cocktails forced smaller breweries to adapt to the new economic landscape.

Another large organizational change came with Fort Collins' push for sustainable business, New Belgium was one of the first breweries in the United States to power its operations entirely with wind energy. The company also pioneered wastewater recovery systems and community ownership through an employee stock ownership plan, making it fully employee-owned by 2013.

The beer industry in Fort Collins has always been about more than just beer. It's about bringing people together, evident through families sharing meals at CooperSmith's, cyclists enjoying a pint on New Belgium's lawn, and especially in brewers exchanging taproom ideas.



People gathered in the courtyard of the New Belgium Brewing Company in Fort Collins, Colo., Oct. 17.



Empty glasses at New Belgium Brewing Company in Fort Collins, Colo., Oct. 17.



(Page 20) Water tower at Breckenridge Brewing Company at sunset in Fort Collins, Colo., Oct. 17.

(Page 21) Entrance of the New Belgium Brewing Company in Fort Collins, Colo., Oct. 17.



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FOR EV ER

Written by Gideon Aigner

George Bernard Shaw once said that “youth is wasted on the young.” It’s one of those phrases that we hear growing up that doesn’t make much sense. Whenever my friends and I would hear it, we’d mock it, saying “we can’t wait to grow up! Everything will be better the moment we turn 18!”

Do you remember the first time you truly understood what death was? The first time you realized that someone you loved would never come home?

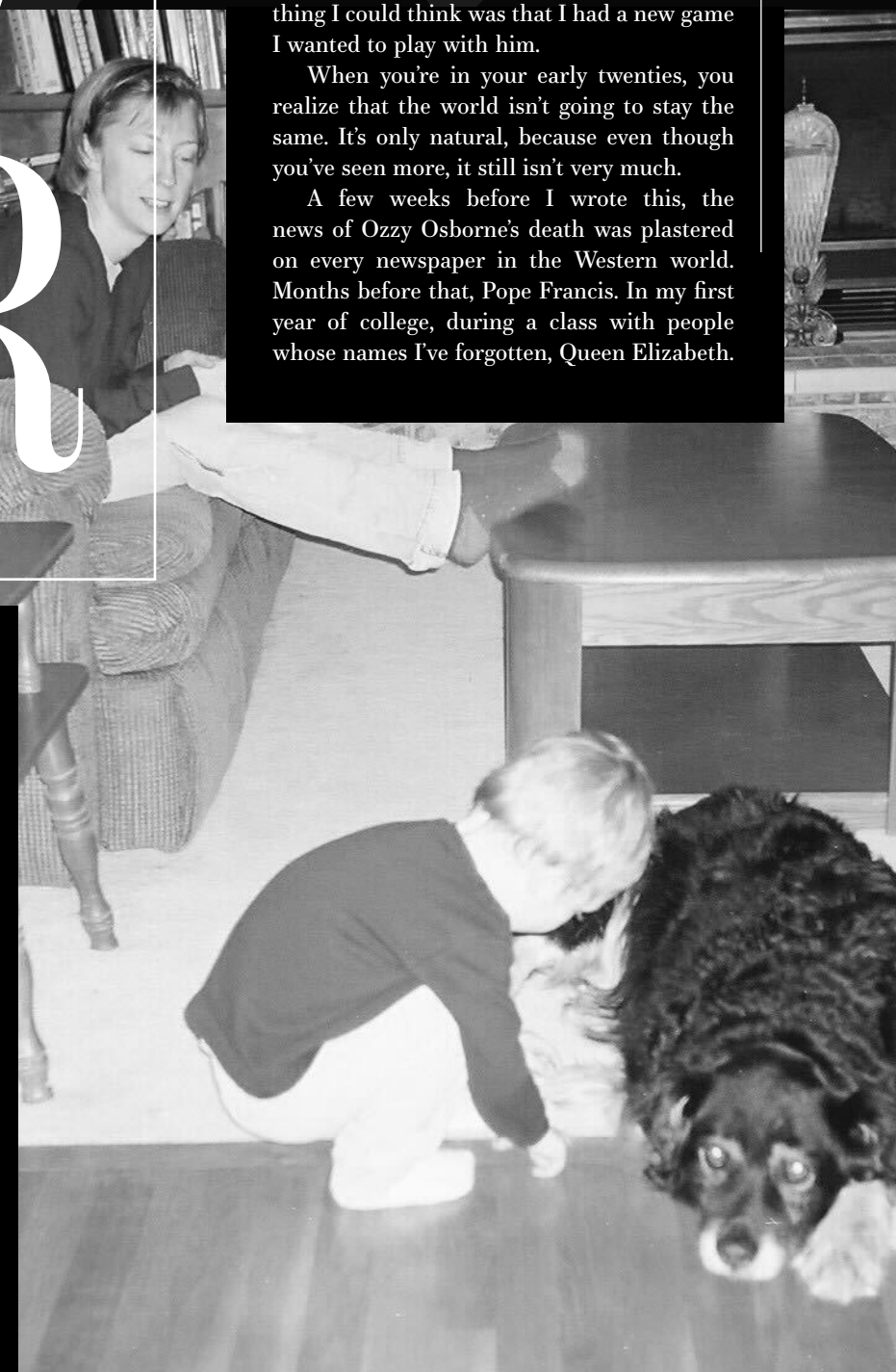
When we were little kids, we assumed that everything was immortal. It’s only natural, since children have no frame of reference for anything that has ever happened. We didn’t know what happened the day before we were born, let alone that there is an end to every beginning, be it that tree in the yard, our favorite restaurant, or our childhood pet.

The first time I experienced death, I was about four years old. My grandparents owned a dog, Rascal. He was a rescue, who was named that because it was the closest word to what his previous abusive owner named him: Asshole. By the time I knew him, his joints were weak and his black snout was covered in salt and pepper. He was my best friend.

One day, my mom drove me to my grandma and grampa’s house, but instead of dropping me off, she stayed. I was ecstatic because I got more time with her, but I was confused when we got to the garage where Rascal stayed. I remember being so confused why he hadn’t come to say hello yet. As my mom and grandma tried to explain that he had fallen asleep and never woke up, the only thing I could think was that I had a new game I wanted to play with him.

When you’re in your early twenties, you realize that the world isn’t going to stay the same. It’s only natural, because even though you’ve seen more, it still isn’t very much.

A few weeks before I wrote this, the news of Ozzy Osborne’s death was plastered on every newspaper in the Western world. Months before that, Pope Francis. In my first year of college, during a class with people whose names I’ve forgotten, Queen Elizabeth.





Good; bad; detestable; admirable. All dead, all the same. They all had embedded themselves in culture as someone who would be there. They morphed from the type of people you see on the news while you're playing with toys after dinner into people with personalities.

The Queen and Pope were world leaders — icons of cultural empires. Their faces had been plastered everywhere. Ozzy Osborne: a cultural monolith who showed up everywhere in the media made by his once-teenage fans. Cultural osmosis, drip-feeding information about their lives and times; people who are, like us, growing and changing to this day.

Then they're gone.

Suddenly, these people you could rely on to exist in your peripherals, are gone. You'd likely never met any of the three, but they were always there. They were reminders of a version of how the world used to be.

When we reach middle age, we'll realize that not all of our friends have made it this far. It's only natural because we've been here longer. We're halfway there.

When he was my age, my dad was a troublemaker. He was living in San Francisco trying to become a pro-skater, which failed after he broke his ankle. Every story he tells

from that time, I think once more, "How are you alive?"

Life hasn't dealt him a good hand. His mom died when he was young, his dad just five years after I'd been born. At this point, I'm about the only blood family he has left, but he always tries his best. He may fail, and he may know it, but he always gives 110%. It's one of his best qualities. Even in his friendships, he goes all-in.

2020 hit him hard. He lost multiple friends that year, people he had known since high school. People who he had supported and uplifted, who had returned the favor in tough times. People whose parents had invited him for dinner. People who had helped him through funerals, breakups, and upheaval. People like my friends, both far and near.

Whether we go first or they do, there will be a day when those memories become one-sided. A day when you can't remember what someone said, and the person who took the voice note won't be able to send it. A day when you can't ask about niche trivia only they know. A day when you can't sit in comfortable silence together.

These people aren't just themselves; they're a collection of everything they've ever done with everyone they've ever met. In a moment, those stories are gone forever, the echoes of a world from the past. They were collections of life as you know it. The new world is fully born.

When we grow old, we seem to realize that there's not much left to do.

My grandpa goes on motorcycle rides every Monday. He usually takes the same routes, either out West or down South, passing through the same towns and restaurants. He has tried every greasy spoon and taco stand from Castle Rock to Cañon City, and from La Junta to Leadville. Every time he goes out, he drives for about eight hours. For years, I would wonder what he thinks about during those rides.

Recently I realized,

I think I know now.

My grampa is 75 years old and will be 76 when this comes out. When I see him, he usually mentions that the average age of men in 2023 is 75.4 years old. He's already beaten the odds, and he knows that.

Whenever I see him these days, he always says something about it. Some joke or remark about how he doesn't have much longer left, always said with a smile that conveys a sort of

resignation and satisfaction. When you have eight hours on a motorcycle every week with no music, I guess you have plenty of time to think about that.

I hate it when he makes these jokes. I've experienced death before, but not as an adult. Not someone with half a lifetime of memories with this man who held me as a baby, who helped me learn how to shave, who helped me understand the kind of man I want to be. I don't want to not have him. I don't want my mom to wake up one morning and not be able to say hello to her Dad. But it will happen no matter what I do. Everyone will eventually go the way of all flesh.

The thing I can control is when I grieve and how.

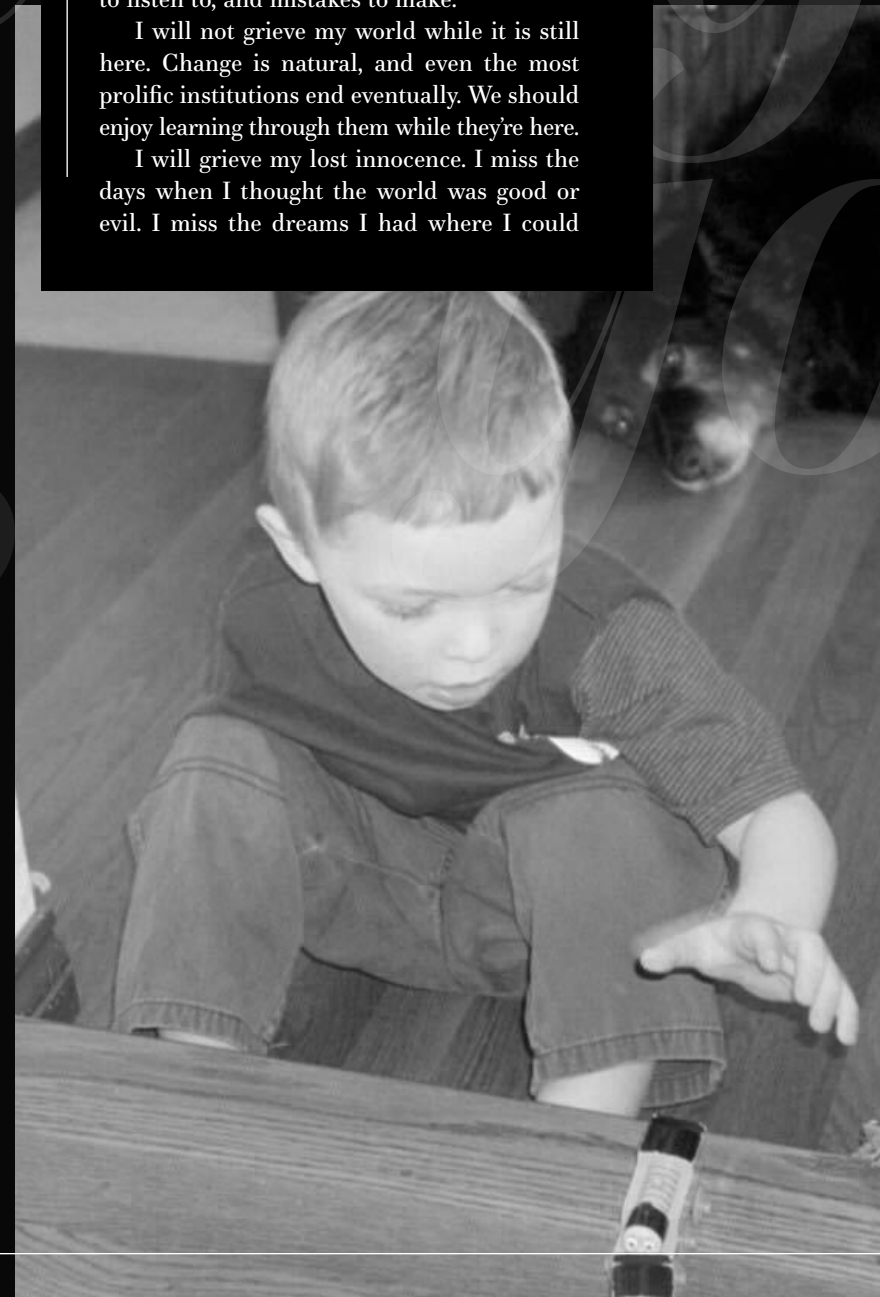
I will not grieve for him while he is still here, because that is wasting time that we could be making birdhouses and benches.

I will not grieve for my friends while they're still here. We still have movies to watch, songs to listen to, and mistakes to make.

I will not grieve my world while it is still here. Change is natural, and even the most prolific institutions end eventually. We should enjoy learning through them while they're here.

I will grieve my lost innocence. I miss the days when I thought the world was good or evil. I miss the dreams I had where I could

Photo courtesy of Deb and Mike Gallagher



touch the tallest mountain and the deepest sea. I miss the day before I knew things could end. I miss Rascal, my best friend.

Life is chaotic, with no way of knowing what will happen when we wake up tomorrow. Only one thing is for sure, that today is both the youngest you will ever be and the oldest you have ever been. We're on a tightrope where the wind is always blowing, but our balance is getting better every day.

In recent years, I heard a companion phrase to Shaw's: "Wisdom is wasted on the old." As my peers and I grow older, I think we've started to understand that, even though we weren't wrong when we were young, our beliefs were based on incomplete information. We didn't understand what it means to age, our vulnerability. As the years pass by, we gain experience and wisdom, earned the hard way.

111 YEARS & COUNTING . . . THE HISTORY OF HOMECOMING WEEK



Written By: Luke Purvis

As the crisp autumn air settles over Colorado, CSU is preparing for one of its most cherished seasonal traditions: Homecoming Week.

For over a century, Homecoming has remained a staple of Colorado State University's extracurricular life. The event started in 1914 as a small alumni gathering and football game, but has grown into a weekend celebration that honors the university's history and brings together Rams from all generations. In the early days, alumni returned to the campus Oval to reconnect and reminisce, but over time, it has become a weekend-long event.

The first alumni football scrimmage that inspired the Homecoming game took place on Oct. 3, 1914. President Charles Lory invited former students back for a football game against the CSU varsity team. For fun, the alumni team included professors as players, and surprisingly won 3–0. While the 1914 event was called "Alumni Day," at the time, it set the stage for what Homecoming would become: both a reunion and celebration of all walks of Aggie pride.

In 1933, Homecoming persisted through the tough economic times brought on by the Great Depression. Despite the limited resources, students hosted informal dances and the annual alumni luncheon. Although World War II interrupted many campus activities, the Homecoming of 1945 featured many new traditions. The event introduced a Homecoming Queen, more parades featuring military veterans, and celebrations of the end of wartime austerity.

In 1954, the mascot "CAM the Ram" made his first appearance at homecoming halftime, his name being a clever nod to Colorado A&M. However, it was around this time that the school started its shift from Colorado A&M to Colorado State University, with the school adopting its new name (and modern colors) in 1957.

In the 1970s, Trudi Morrison made history as CSU's first Black Homecoming

Queen. Her election came during a time of national civil-rights movements. African American student organizations hosted their own "Black Homecoming Dance" at Durrell Center. Morrison returned to campus in 1984 as a guest speaker and spoke highly of CSU's progress toward inclusion and equality.

Alongside advancements in technology and social media, Homecoming also began to facilitate a digital reunion. Alumni who couldn't return to campus watched live streams of the parade and the football game. The Alumni Association began organizing virtual events and photo contests, allowing Rams from around the world to participate.

"The changes really show in the planning," said Amy Jo Miller, Director of Alumni Marketing and Communications. "We're working to make this accessible to the whole community, so anyone who wants to be part of CSU's celebration can join in."

"The commitment to our community and to keeping the festival welcoming and sustainable really reflects who we are," said Kristi Boehlander, the Senior Associate Vice President of University Advancement and Executive Director of the Alumni Association, "It's about the connection between CSU and the Fort Collins community."

Miller says alumni often see Homecoming like "watching history walk by," a living symbol of tradition.

In 2025, the events start with the Homecoming Parade. Student groups, local businesses, and marching bands walk through Fort Collins. The All-University Picnic brings people together on the Oval for fun activities. The Friday Night Lights pep rally and bonfire light up the campus at night. For many, the highlight of the week is the football game at Canvas Stadium.

As its history echoes across campus, Homecoming reminds everyone what it means to be part of the CSU family. Each Homecoming, memories deepen. Always, the Ram legacy continues, welcoming everyone back home. Once a Ram, always a Ram.

(Left) STIHL outdoor power equipment is on display, making Cam the Ram wooden plaques for the Festival on The Oval at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colo., Oct. 17.

Photo Illustration by Charlotte London

Photos by Nikki Wilks

On any warm afternoon, the Oval, IM fields and other green spaces around campus are filled with students soaking up the sun. As the fall comes to an end, the vibrant leaves begin to settle and the daytime becomes shorter; the importance of spending time outdoors is evident – it plays a crucial role in CSU culture. Either through hiking, biking, clubs, sports or simply sitting outside, CSU students find various means to stay connected to nature.

In a society that prioritizes involvement and busyness, CSU's outdoor culture invites a different type of inclusivity. Traditions and events like hiking the A, bike tours, student ski nights and clubs/sports manage to keep students in-touch through that aspect.

When CSU freshman Ellis Becker moved to Colorado from Illinois, her perspective on spending time outdoors fully shifted. With the landscape of the mountains and trees filling her everyday view, she grew

a new love for the scenery and the peace that accompanied.

“Seeing all the mountains and even just the different topography is amazing,” said Becker. “It feels like a unique experience.”

Becker spent plenty of time outside during the summer back home, but there was something about Colorado's crisp air that felt welcoming, that felt like home. CSU provided her with endless possibilities to stay connected with the nature surrounding the school and Fort Collins.

Nearby sites like Horsetooth Mountain and the Poudre River Canyon are special to CSU because of their stunning and impressive views, not to mention, they also serve as hotspots for activities like hiking and swimming. In the fall and spring, groups of students spend their days paddle boarding, cliff jumping and kayaking under the sun at Horsetooth Reservoir. Other students opt for hikes, making the quick drive to the Poudre River Canyon where the steep granite walls and pine covered slopes cross.



As seasons shift, the rhythm of campus life moves with them. Even when winter brings colder and fewer daylight hours, students are still determined to stay engaged with the outdoors. Some well-utilized advantages of being a student are the different deals, passes and discounts offered for winter sports and activities.

One specific club, Snowriders, encourages students to join and attend their hosted trips. The Snowriders club is student-run and open to all CSU students. By paying a once-a-year \$35 fee, one can join in on organized trips to places like Winter Park and Steamboat Springs.

Snowriders President, Addison Johnson, says her involvement with the club has completely turned around her time at CSU.

“It's helped me build friendships that go beyond the classroom and find a community that shares my love for the outdoors,” Johnson said.

CSU makes it possible to form relationships with peers outside of education by simply providing a safe place to share interests. Additionally, most clubs, including Snowriders,

are open to any level of expertise and experience, further expanding their reach among the student body. Joining these clubs often leaves students with unique memories and a sense of belonging.

“Being part of Snowriders lets students explore new mountains, learn about local outdoor spots, and connect with people who share the same appreciation for nature and adventure. It really embodies that ‘Rams love the outdoors’ spirit that CSU is known for,” Johnson said.

In Colorado, there are endless places and sights to explore, which is part of what makes attending CSU so special. The relationship that students share with the outdoors has been a dominant force shaping CSU lifestyle and culture, regardless of the season, background or experience. Whether it's hiking difficult trails, joining clubs or enjoying the green space underneath the beaming sun, there is always a way for students to be a part of CSU's outdoor culture.

(Top left) Autumn colors surround the Student Recreation Center at Colorado State University with Horsetooth Mountain peering in the background, Fort Collins, Colo., Oct. 15.

(Bottom left) The leaves on the trees surrounding Horsetooth Reservoir begin to turn yellow with the arrival of autumn, Fort Collins, Colo., Oct. 13.

(Right) A bike rests beneath fall foliage on the Colorado State University campus in Fort Collins, Colo., Oct. 15.

(Page 28) People enjoy the crisp fall weather at The Oval at Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colo., Oct. 19.

Photos By: Cassie Banuelos

TIMELESS Trails

Written by: Ashlyn Hoffman



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