

College Avenue

volume three: issue three spring 2008

feast or famine?

what one recent graduate is doing to make a living as an artist

special: religious contention

attempting to spread the word, not the hate

vandalism or art?

graffiti artists spray style across fort collins

textbook intervention

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realtors

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community resources

property management companies

▶ photo by brandon iwamoto



14 jiu jitsu

old teachings alive and kicking

Spring 2008

10

architect of the year
sustainable designs bring
recognition to local firm

17

emo
alternative music births
counter culture

18

starving artist
painting to make ends meet

22

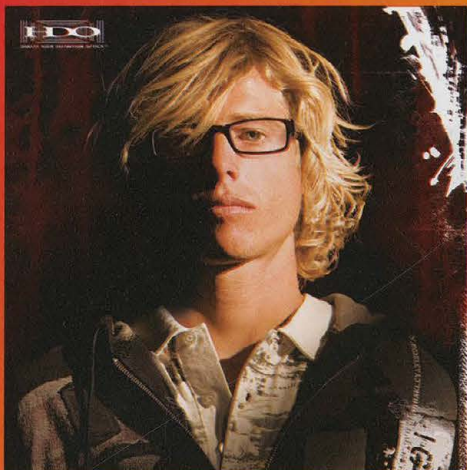
metalsmithing
small program casts new designers
in deep-rooted art

26

graphic design
how art and technology coexist
in the same field

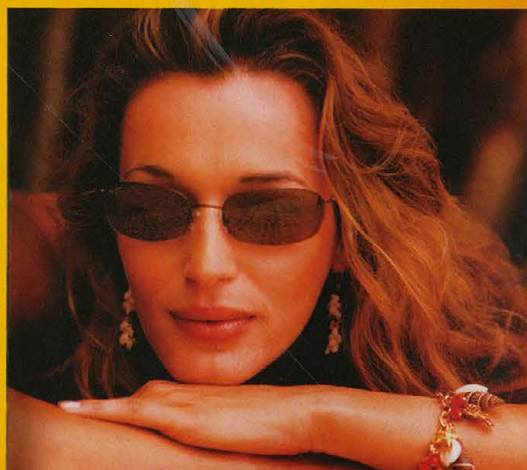
28

graffiti
vandalism or beautification:
you decide



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▶ photo by brian swanson



34 market skate team

shreding stereotypes in new film

30

through the lens
focusing on fort collins
photographers

32

textbook battle
legislation fights for reasonable
prices

36

destination: sickness
when health makes vacations go
south

38

religious strife
the challenge to deliver an old
message in new ways

42

touch technology
power at the tips of your fingers

44

w.o.l.f.
sanctuary provides a home for
abandoned and abused canines

47

last call
fcmoca: museum promotes
contemporary art

letter from the editor



Perseverance – to maintain a purpose in spite of difficulty, obstacles or discouragement.

This word defines how we made it through the production process this issue.

My staff members continued their work during the five-week break and pushed through with tenacity, only concerning themselves with the task at hand and taking each day with an even stride. This is the type of situation that tests our commitment and passion for this industry – this is when we learn whether we are going to make it, and we made it because our purpose is to give our readers an amazing magazine.

With the support of the university and the student body, College Avenue will continue to grow and flourish as well as maintain a standard of excellence that allows us to produce a high quality product for the campus and community to enjoy.

Along with our regular sections, our staff has decided to add a “politics” segment in order to shed light on relevant topics that effect the students at CSU. We want our fellow Rams to understand that because we are the future, we need to know what the important issues are and take every chance we can to gain knowledge about these subjects.

Also, thank you to the College Avenue staff members and Student Media friends. The support you provide is invaluable. We will do everything in our power to remain a part of Student Media and bring you excellent coverage, outstanding photography and wonderful design. Please spread the word about College Avenue and feel free to e-mail or call to let us know what you think and what you would like to see on our pages.

With sincere appreciation,

Stephanie Gerlach

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College Avenue

letters to the editor

as csu's very own magazine, we would like to extend an invitation to our readers to submit letters to the editor ranging from 50 to 150 words with your feedback on the magazine. this is your magazine, and we would like to know what you think of the content, design and anything else. all letters to the editor must be typed in a Word document and attached to an e-mail, which should be sent to csumag@lamar.colostate.edu.

corrections

in "100 years of healing," in volume 3 issue 2 of *College Avenue*, dr. russ anthony's first reference included "hill" as part of his name, when in fact it is part of his title as hill professor. *College Avenue* apologizes for the error.

in the fair trade coffee story in volume 3 issue 2 of *College Avenue*, mug's coffee lounge's address was incorrect. The actual address is 261 s. college ave. *College Avenue* apologizes for the error.

mission statement

College Avenue is csu's student-run magazine. our mission is to serve the csu and fort collins community with innovative and engaging coverage of relevant issues. our staff is dedicated to providing balanced and accurate reporting as well as visually stimulating design and photography to a diverse audience. above all, we strive to maintain our integrity through professionalism and this standard of excellence.

on the cover

photo illustration by katie stevens design by makayla braden

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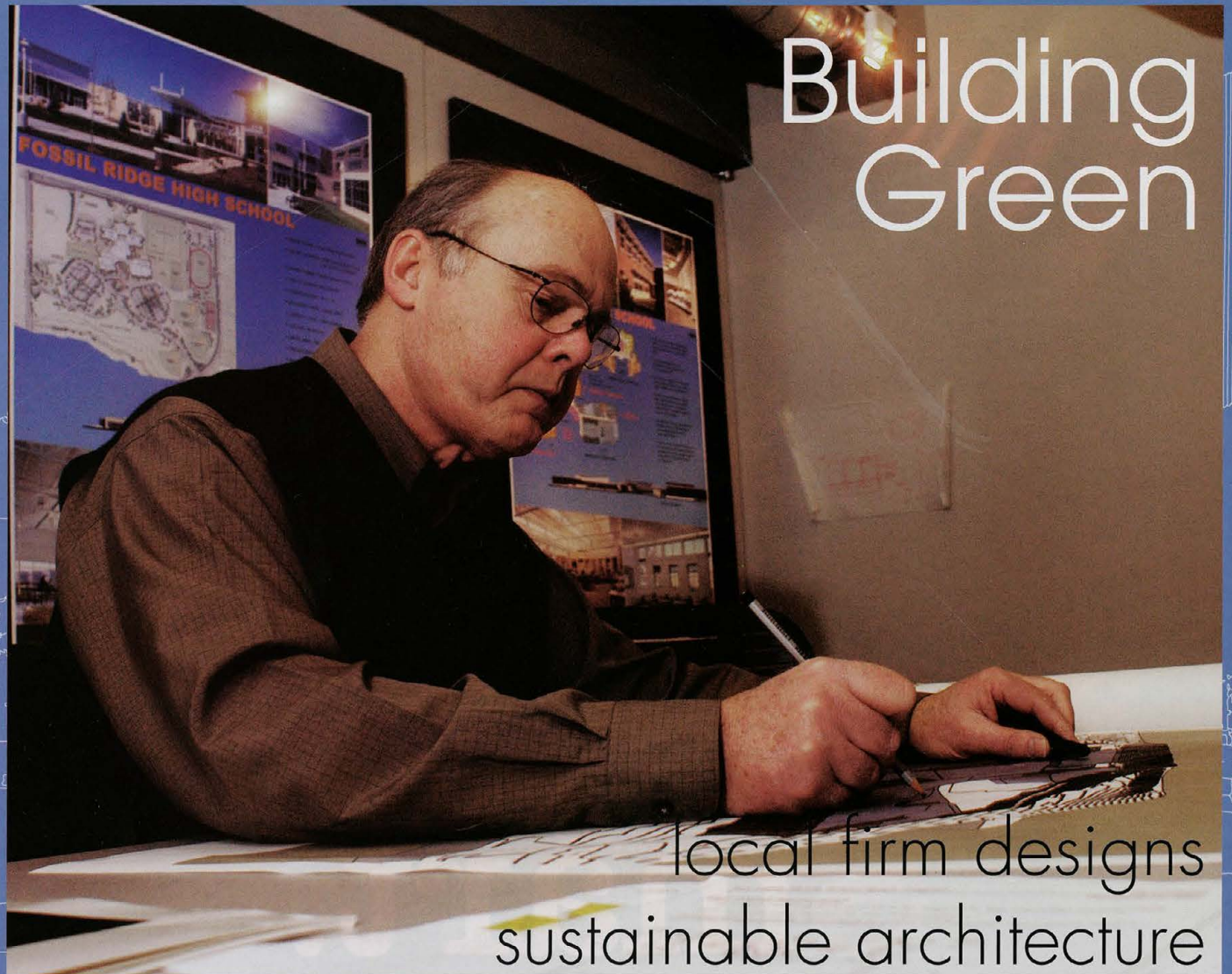


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Building Green



local firm designs sustainable architecture

george brelig of rb+b architects

▶ photo by brian swanson

All little kids dream about their perfect “grown-up” job; some want to be doctors, firefighters or policemen, and others hope to become actors or athletes. However, when George Brelig was a boy, designing and building were his passions, and he later learned it was his calling in life.

Now at the age of 60, this soft-spoken man has led his company in creating some of the most sustainable and environmentally-friendly buildings in the country. Brelig also recently received the American Institute of Architects (AIA) North Chapter award for Architect of the Year. This honor came as a surprise to Brelig, but not to those who know him and the work he helps construct. The award doesn't

just recognize his work over the past year; it honors his lifetime achievements in this industry.

In the beginning

While growing up in rural southern Illinois, just outside of Belleville, Brelig would wander down to the woodshop in the basement of his home and tinker with whatever wood scraps he could find. Throughout his childhood, Brelig accumulated an array of tools that allowed him to practice his seemingly inherent skills with discarded timber.

“My sister even gave me a little tool kit at her wedding,” Brelig said. “I always knew I wanted to be a part of the building industry.”

During his four years in high school, Brelig only took one drafting course and one woodworking course but wasn't able to really build on his skills until after his primary education was completed.

After graduating in 1965, Brelig entered the architectural engineering program at Kansas State University. He found that his work in the design courses was superb, but he lacked understanding and dedication in the engineering courses, such as calculus and physics.

"I always said that the Dean had two different lists – the bad list and the good list. Through my five years, I was on both," Brelig chuckled.

While trying to find himself and figure out what he wanted to do in life, Brelig decided it would be more beneficial for him to focus on one area, so he changed his major to architecture. Brelig graduated from the university in 1970 with a five-year, professional degree.

Brelig stayed close to home for a few years, sharing his knowledge with students in the architecture program at Southern Illinois University. He moved back and forth between Illinois and Colorado for nine years before permanently locating to Fort Collins when he was hired by Robb and Brenner Inc. Architects and Planners (now RB+B) in 1979. This once small firm opened its doors in 1953, with Bill Robb as the sole architect. It has since gained regional, state and even national recognition and has become one of the largest firms in Northern Colorado, growing to a team of 23, including three principles (the major stock holders and business managers) and 12 AIA licensed architects. Brelig's drive has helped expand the firm's presence around the region, from Douglas County all the way up to Casper, Wyo.

Going green

The push for sustainability has only been a major effort since the late 1990s; however, Brelig has kept the environmental effects of his work in mind since he started in the business.

"A big part of our work is working in sustainability, environmentally-friendly architecture," said Brelig, who is an AIA licensed architect. "We strive to do every project sustainable – it's a big part of what we believe in."

Bill Brenner, one of the original partners, remembers working with CSU to build solar energy houses on the research campus during the early 1980s, right after Brelig came to the firm. Brenner said Brelig was the project architect on both houses and he has continued to be a truly great leader in sustainability.

Even though most of its projects are with public schools, RB+B has also done work at CSU and with students from the construction management and interior design programs. Brian Dunbar, director of the Institute for the Built Environment and a professor in the interior design and construction management programs, said his students have worked with RB+B on several different schools in the area. The firm has helped guide the students and has been extremely open to their ideas, including Brelig.

"I have always found George to be a solid, sensitive individual with unique insights about the way our buildings can enhance the natural environment," said Dunbar in an e-mail interview. "George has been a risk taker and leader, illustrating to other building professionals that creating green environments is practical, worthwhile and rewarding."

According to the firm's Web site, rbbarchitects.com, RB+B is

rb+b past projects:



solar panels at fossil ridge high school, fort collins



coloradoan offices, fort collins

▶ photos courtesy of RB+B



northern colorado water conservancy district building, berthoud

▶ background photo by fred fuhrmeister courtesy of RB+B, photo illustration by jake wakefield

“committed to client-focused, quality design combined with an equally high level of service” as well as sustainable design. This mission is apparent when speaking to any of the employees – especially Brelig, who is very modest about individual work but focuses on the work his firm does as a whole.

Brenner said the firm’s mission is “to provide quality architecture services to our clients” and added that it has expanded the meaning of its mission to include teamwork, particularly with the school districts. Brelig said that projects are a collaborative process so the architects have to be good listeners to understand what their clients need and desire for the facility. He added that the buildings they design may serve two, three, even four generations so they have to keep the community in mind.

“The public is also a recipient of architecture,” Brelig said. “Design excellence extends not only to the client you’re serving, but to the public and community.”

Michael Spearnak, AIA, who is the director of planning, design and construction for Poudre School District (PSD), said the built environment is part of the fabric of our lives and cannot be avoided.

“By the nature of their work, architects and designers ... have a great responsibility to the community to create buildings that are successful not only practically but, perhaps more importantly, that uplift the human spirit,” Spearnak said in an email interview.

Spearnak added that if someone walked through buildings touched by RB+B, they would see that the firm has created unavoidable art that is successful on many levels.

“the biggest window of opportunity to decrease the carbon footprint humans have on the planet is with construction if we commit and do it now – that is our driving passion”

- corky bradley, senior associate at rb+b

Because construction is the third leading cause of carbon emissions, just below transportation and energy production, RB+B follows the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) system that encourages the adoption of “green” building and development practices.

“The biggest window of opportunity to decrease the carbon footprint humans have on the planet is with construction if we commit and do it now – that is our driving passion,” said Corky Bradley, a senior associate at RB+B.

According to the LEED Web site, usgbc.org, LEED standards are the “nationally accepted benchmark for design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings.” LEED has a four-tiered rating system – Certified, Silver, Gold and Platinum – that awards points to projects based on their efficient use of energy, water, building construction and land resources, as well as indoor environmental quality.

Bradley said they use LEED for all the schools they design, which is nearly 70 percent of their work, but don’t need to for other projects they do. “Ninety-nine percent of our clients won’t get LEED recognition, but they are all benefiting from the firm’s experience with LEED because we take those standards to every project,” said Bradley, who has worked for the firm for nearly 15 years.

The firm has worked in 15 different school districts over the past 10 years, but has done the majority of its work with PSD.

Ed Holder, construction manager for PSD, has worked with RB+B for the past 25 years and in three different districts. He said PSD has a long-standing relationship with the firm and the two understand each other’s needs.

“I have personally worked with George, and I’m proud to call him a colleague and friend,” Holder said. “George and his firm have been (friends) of PSD – supporting school activities, the (Education) Foundation, student projects, as well as doing all the little projects that no one really wants.”

RB+B strives to cut schools’ energy bills in half or more and bring in as much natural light (known as “daylighting”) as possible. The bulk of materials used are manufactured locally – within 500 miles – and have high sustainability, low embodied energy – energy necessary to take a product from inception to its final position in the building – and can be recycled. Being dedicated to building structures that possess these qualities is what makes this firm stand out in our wasteful society.

Bradley once heard someone say that architecture is like frozen music. With the bar always being raised and with their tireless commitment to creating more sustainable designs, Brelig and his colleagues are on their way to constructing a whole symphony of green architecture. ■ Ca

rb+b honors and awards

- **2004 firm of the year**
named by the colorado state chapter of the american institute of architects
- **fossil ridge high school**
u.s. green building council silver LEED certification – 3rd LEED high school in the country, 2005
- **new belgium brewery packaging hall**
colorado construction “bronze hard hat award” for outstanding sustainable design, 2007
- **kinard junior high school**
CEFPi colorado chapter “peak design award” for excellence in design of new construction, 2006
- **zach elementary school**
poudre school district named a “2003 energy star award winner”

for more honors and awards, visit rbbarchitects.com

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photos by brandon iwamoto

chudo tae kwon do academy instructors daniel cropp, left, and rich adzgowski pose in their new studio at 423 s. mason st.

With more than just karate chops to concrete blocks and one high kick to defeat multiple enemies, there is a small community in our area that practices, not the Hollywood version, but traditional martial arts.

Underneath the layers of stereotypes and movie action figures, the true practitioners of martial arts are active in Fort Collins. For Tessa McMahon, one of the owners of McMahon Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, martial arts are a historical combat art that have become overshadowed by the Kung-Fu and karate cinematics of today.

"Martial arts are a tradition that deal with growing as an individual," said McMahon, 28. "People are still stuck on the 'Karate Kid' thing where one flying kick can destroy somebody."

Agreeing with McMahon, Brandon Bohlen, a senior speech

communications major, said practicing any form of martial arts is not all about fighting. He said that most were "designed for combat, but the roots go deeper."

Fort Collins is a long way from Hollywood, and the stereotypical images of martial arts are being battled to renew the tradition and history that goes centuries back to origins in China and Japan.

Most of the arts originated with ancient Buddhist philosophy, thus there became a higher purpose behind the tactical and fighting techniques. As part of different Chinese and Japanese origins, many of the forms were used in combat, such as Tae Kwon Do, while others were used for competition, like Jiu Jitsu. Over time, the different arts evolved into schools for physical and spiritual teachings that not only helped people protect themselves, but also better their view of themselves and others.

jiu jitsu is a japanese and chinese art of weaponless self-defense that uses throws, holds and blows. jiu jitsu also derives added power from the attacker's own weight and strength.

tae kwon do is a martial art from korea that is a particularly aggressive form of karate. tae kwon do utilizes punches, jabs, chops, blocking and choking moves and especially powerful, leaping kicks in defense.

T'ai chi is a chinese martial art and form of stylized, meditative exercise that is characterized by methodically slow circular and stretching movements and positions of bodily balance's body with the hands, elbows, knees or feet.

"It is a test for yourself to find out where you are at and the measure of yourself," said Bohlen, who currently practices Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) but has dabbled in Tae Kwon Do and Jiu Jitsu. "You come to find out who you are and look into yourself, and you may not always find it, but the process can turn into a lifestyle."

In most of the teachings then and now, martial arts are not only taught as a mean of defense, but for some they have become a way of living life, according to Rich Adzgowski, a co-manager of the newly named Chudo Tae Kwon Do Academy (formerly known as the Falling Leaf Dojo). Whether the old traditions that are rooted in the ancient philosophies of Buddhism are followed, those who participate in martial arts will not only grow physically but mentally.

"It takes time, effort, sweat and a little blood to embrace the martial arts," said Adzgowski, 51. "(Martial arts) are about self protection and personal growth."

Adzgowski, who was at one time a philosophy major at CSU, has embraced martial arts since his teens and has found his way in life through the practice of Tae Kwon Do. With a central philosophy of "The Middle Way," practicing Tae Kwon Do and living life is about doing what is necessary to stay balanced – not doing too little or too much, Adzgowski explained. Adzgowski has co-managed his academy for the past six years, training and educating anyone in the ways of his art.

According to completemartialarts.com, Tae Kwon Do is classified as a Korean striking art, where the objective is to learn defense through kicking, punching and striking. Adzgowski said that there are different classifications for the martial arts; they are mainly classified as being hard or soft. Tae Kwon Do, he said, falls more on the

hard side because it is very physical.

At Adzgowski's academy, practicing martial arts is also about the spiritual and self-connecting side, which he instructs through Tae Kwon Do and T'ai Chi. He explained the difference between the two: in Tae Kwon Do, a person wants to go through a brick wall whereas with T'ai Chi, a person will go around it or even wait for the wall to move. But it is the balance of the two that he has become most interested in now.

"Martial arts are a discipline that you have to follow for years, and one that cannot be taught in a two-hour class," he said. "It slowly helps in someone's everyday life with the relaxation and spiritual concepts. In this process you come to learn just how fragile and unique your body and mind are."

For Bohlen, 23, even with all of the time spent admiring the martial artists, until someone has practiced them and studied the ins and outs "there will never be any real application for what some of them do."

McMahon also agrees that there should be both a discipline and spiritual aspect when she practices martial arts. McMahon wanted to learn the art more for defense reasons, but she has found much more while learning Brazilian Jiu Jitsu.

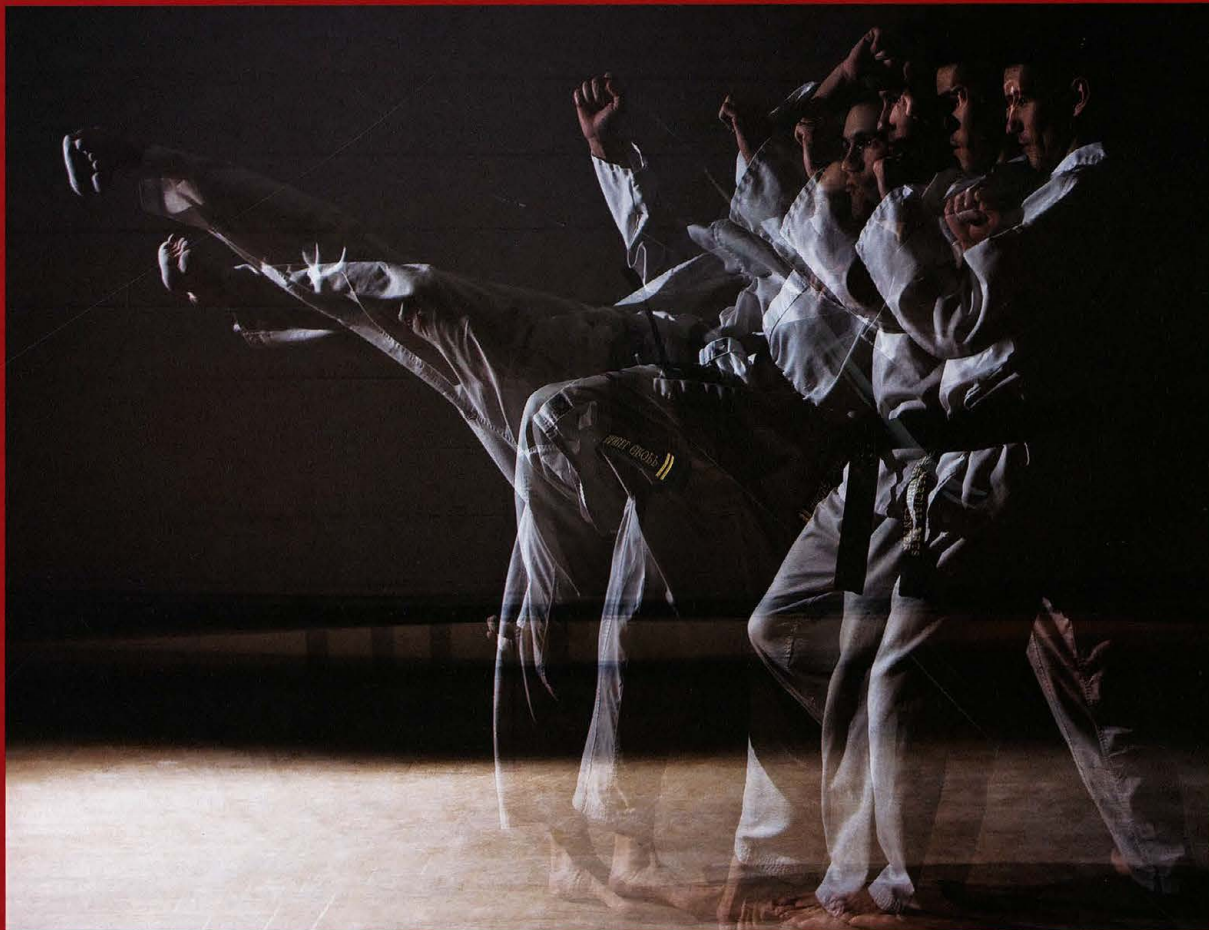
As a different type of martial art, Brazilian Jiu Jitsu focuses on "bringing an opponent to the ground and then relying on grappling techniques to subdue the opponent utilizing holds, arm locks, chokes, leg locks and strikes," according to completemartialarts.com.

McMahon's school has opened up doors for individuals and families to learn a very old, traditional art that centers on a more "practical" way to defend oneself, but is very similar to other forms in the spiritual



senior sociology majors michael hresko and alberto oqueli demonstrate a jiu jitsu move called an "arm bar."

hot button



chudo toe kwon do academy instructor daniel gropp, 23, demonstrates a basic kick.

and mental connections that are made.

"You have to find a realistic balance when training in the martial arts," said McMahon, who owns her school with her husband. "It becomes a practical way that people can deal with their limits and feeling confident."

But today the Hollywood stereotypes have affected how people view both McMahon's and Adzgowski's schools. With many action movies based on martial arts as a defense mechanism, people have come to believe in Kung-Fu films.

Adzgowski said people "get into more trouble acting like they know what they are doing," versus them taking time to study martial arts as an art form. "A lot of misconceptions come from Hollywood," he added. "Martial arts are not just about jumping around and fighting."

McMahon agreed that she also sees a lot of prospective students that believe in the Hollywood version of martial arts, and that they can become disappointed when they are only taught the traditional ways.

However, there are shows that add to our cultural views of martial arts, such as the Ultimate Fighting Champion (UFC) and the World Wrestling Federation (WWF), McMahon said. She added that the UFC fighters are really training hard, but end up with a "thug" image because of the publicity from such things as the WWF, even though the wrestlers train hard, too.

"It is not something the average person can just go out and do," McMahon said. "It is an athletic sport where the hard thing is just getting people to understand the (hard work) that needs to be put in."

Bohlen agrees with McMahon that the UFC fighters train hard in MMA, and although it isn't necessarily a traditional practice of martial arts, there still needs to be skill and control. Bohlen has been practicing martial arts since he was kid, and now practices the MMA. He combines all different martial art forms to be able to defend himself on his feet and on the ground.

"It's hard work," he said. "It's not just about beating people up. There is a lot of respect put into it, and it is really humbling because you are not always going to be as good as someone else. There will always be someone better."

For most who practice martial arts, the practicing goes beyond just self defense. Bohlen found that every style is not for every person. It takes time to study and learn "how to control your body with the forms that you do."

"Only some people are able to do it as an art," he said. "It's not something that you can be born with. You have to learn it and so much goes into it. It's an art where there are forms that can be really sharp or really fluid and smooth. It's art in its own way." ■ Ca

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"Street Vendor" Doubles



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"Island" Dog



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by jennae mendoza

Starving Artist

mika walker



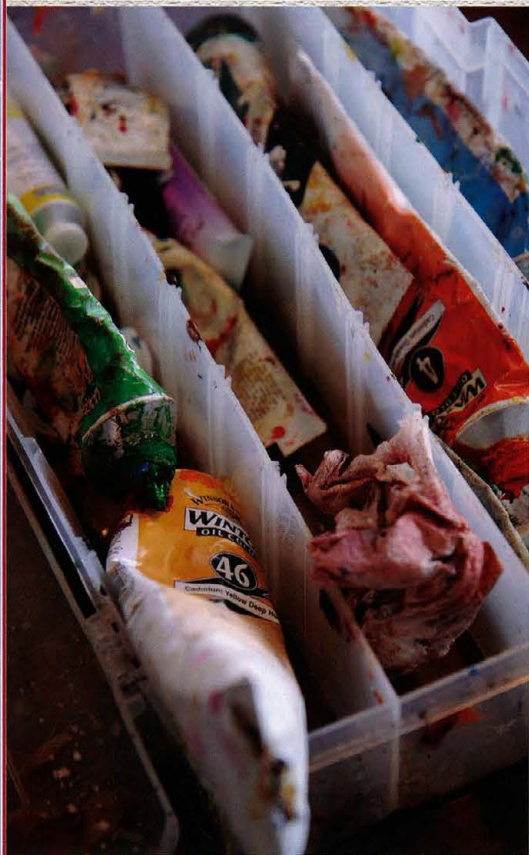
Is there something in your life that pulls you out of bed each morning? Something that you cannot live without? It could be a sport, a philosophy, a person, music or even a job.

Many of us trudge in and out of life indifferently, going through the motions without meaning.

Mika Walker, a 22-year-old wavy-haired brunette with large, electric-blue eyes, found meaning for her life at age 5, after she shocked adults and teachers by taking any object and drawing it realistically.

Since then, art has become Walker's reality – something she lives for.

One can tell Walker lives for her art by glancing around her home. An eclectic mix from realistic portraits to abstract projects blanket the walls of her Remington Street rental house, hung above mix-matched chairs and used furniture surrounded by painting supplies.



The array of figurative paintings whirl the eye from one spot to another. By the doorway is a wall of colorful images capturing parts of Walker's face in different expressions.

Across from the doorway, an irregular-edged canvas pops out from the many colorful paintings. An assortment of hands circle the canvas, swirling finely torn paper in brown and beige oiled tones.

In the kitchen hang two-dimensional frames with paintings of Italy laid atop pamphlet cut-outs of street names, figures of St. Francis, Caecilian chapels and Florence.

Walker created every piece of art on her walls during her four years at CSU. She graduated in May 2007 with a degree in fine arts.

Today, Walker identifies herself as a starving artist – but not an unhappy one.

"I love art because it makes me happy. Simple but true. It makes me

"it's a whole different world. the bars are not important anymore; you can't sleep in until your class at 1 p.m. with a fine arts degree you're open to the world, and people say, 'we wish you luck.'"

- mika walker

wake up each day," Walker said. "Making money was an afterthought."

"I worked hard in high school and college and could have chosen a more profitable major, but in the end ... getting an A in painting was more gratifying than getting an A in a required science class," she added.

As Walker sat on her couch petting the house dog Dixie, one of Walker's roommates let a maintenance man in from the back door, responding to a leaking boiler and no heat. Walker's home, which she shares with two roommates, is comfortably furnished. Her bed is warm and her rent is always covered, thanks to her parents. But just as unexpected problems arrive entering a new house, so does the unexpected when entering the "real world."

"It's frightening," Walker said of life after graduation. "There are no guarantees you'll be making a certain income next month." She only hopes former clients and friends will keep in touch, or in the future, someone having a latte in a coffee shop will glance up at her painting and want it.

In the meantime, Walker is still adjusting to her school-free days. She does something creative each week to keep busy, sometimes earning money from art contract work. Having a fine arts degree means Walker also has non-art-related part-time jobs, pulls money from her savings or goes grocery shopping in her mom's kitchen.

▶ photos by katie stevens

CSU art professor Patrice Sullivan said graduating with a degree in fine arts is difficult simply because “there are no jobs, and you can’t make a living off art alone.” But Sullivan said students like Walker know that.

Students have to present their art to galleries, restaurants and taverns, but the art market is competitive. The bigger the city, the better the chances for your art to be displayed – like New York City, Sullivan said. And you have to be really talented and driven, on top of that, she added.

Sullivan believes Fort Collins is not a good place for young artists. The more provocative and off-beat your art is, the more the market collapses on you, she said, noting Fort Collins is a town of abstract and western art.

What does work for random commission, Sullivan said, is word-of-mouth.

Walker learned this the hard way after leafing through phone books and stacks of daycare and school numbers soliciting murals. She was politely turned down by everyone.

But during the summer of 2006, Walker worked at a daycare teaching painting lessons on Fridays. After the parents observed Walker’s mural on the daycare walls, she said, “I got four to five jobs just from parents coming in asking me to decorate their kid’s room.”

Walker’s Web site, wallsbywalker.com, also generates random business. She’ll paint a Dr. Seuss-themed mural inside a local family’s nursery, an outside garden scene inside a lady’s garage or paint a couple’s photograph on canvas. These assignments are one of the two sides of her art – her business side.

“It’s all about the client,” Walker said. Her other side, the personal art, is all about herself. Whatever image appears in her head appears on the canvas.

“I have to keep pushing myself to use that side of my brain, my body and hands,” Walker said of her creativity. “If I stop, my degree has been a waste.”

The transformation from college student to starving artist is a rippling shock that Walker is still trying to adjust to.

“It’s a whole different world,” she said. “The bars are not important anymore; you can’t sleep in until your class at 1 p.m. With a fine arts degree you’re open to the world, and people say, ‘We wish you luck.’”

Like Sullivan, CSU art professor Patrick Fahey said having a fine arts degree is similar to a philosophy or history degree because there’s no specific occupation waiting for graduates.

Fahey said fine arts graduates should focus on transferring their skills from college to a specific job or have a dual occupation where they do one job to make money but also create art.

Working in an art supply store, an interior paint shop, a gallery or a museum are some options for students with a fine arts degree, but Fahey said he sees only about half of fine art graduates with art-related jobs.

Because these jobs are competitive, Fahey said students should, “consider doing several things at the same time in order to achieve what you want as an artist in the next five years.”

And multi-tasking a myriad of projects and jobs is what Walker does. Between advertising herself with posters and signs around town, researching Old Town art events, stopping by coffee shops, browsing the classifieds for design firms and searching for jobs online, Walker fills her time with creative outlets.

She’ll make scrapbooks for her family, paint purses, edit photos online or spray paint clothes. She recently spray painted her white snowboarding pants pink, took rolls of lace, stuck them to the pants, then ripped them off, leaving a pattern – and a completely different pair of pants.

“I do random projects, but they’re still creative,” Walker said.

She dresses the way she paints: “colorful and unexpected,” she said. Although she thinks she looks like the average girl – with no visible tattoos, Mohawks or crayon-box hair color – she believes her clothing is the most artistic expression on her body. She usually has paint on most of her clothes and shoes and said, “the story behind the clothes is sometimes better than the shirt itself.”



walker paints in her home, using her wall as an easel.

hot button

As Walker multitasks with art projects and art contract jobs, she doesn't limit herself to only painting jobs – she takes on any artistic work she can. For example, Walker stumbled across a job creating wedding invitations addressed in nice handwriting for \$80. It's not much, she said, "but hey, it's \$80 that goes to groceries for the next two weeks."

Walker isn't asking for much now.

"I'm a baby fish in a pond," she said, adding that she knows some established artists who have put about 10 years into a community like Fort Collins. It takes time for recognition and profit from art. But for Walker, her ideal lifestyle isn't one of glamour and fame.

"I just want to cover my bills by doing something I love and save \$100 to \$200 a month – and be able to buy phenomenal birthday presents for my family," she said.

Until that day comes, Walker compromises. She pulls herself past aisles of high-end art tools and paint she loves to use, such as the "Golden" brand, and recycles. She cleans her old brushes and paints over old canvases from college.

But before any of these recycled canvases enter a gallery, Walker wants to create what she considers the holy grail of art.

"A series," she said. "One piece of art that leads to another piece of art. Ten to 12 paintings that cohesively go, relating to each other."

Walker said most galleries require a series of work. A collection of themed paintings betters an artist's chances of landing in a gallery. Just as musicians create albums with a message or theme that strings the listener along from one song to the next, so do paintings. Both can give a new perspective to the world.

And Walker is already painting a new perspective – an idea for a future series. The college art on her walls was painted from straight angles. Now she wants to try a new perspective. A perspective of looking down at the world – not just straight on. She is also experimenting with figures, a lot of healthy and vibrant flesh tones on canvas.

"I love using figures," Walker said. She believes people are most rewarding and complicated to paint. A living being replicated on canvas is different than a landscape, which may be gorgeous, she said, but not as much of a challenge.

The figures lining Walker's living room walls represent different stages of her life, she said. Her portraits are an expression of the people in them.

The Italian art in her kitchen is from a summer trip to Italy. "A personal journey, that inspired me to do art," Walker said. When she returned from Italy, she bought two-dimensional frames at Wal-Mart and incorporated various pamphlets on Italy, referring to photos for painting ideas.

The painting of hands hanging in the middle of her living room was made from a thin, amazonite board she hammered down to create an irregular edged canvas. She said she wanted to match the image of hands to the outside of the organic canvas. The painting also landed in the Undergraduate Art Show last year in the Curfman Gallery in the Lory Student Center.

Walker credits her time at CSU for her art skills now. One of her art professors, Dave Yust, who wrote a recommendation letter for her portfolio, still e-mails her about different gallery openings and places she can submit her work in Fort Collins.

Yust is someone Walker will never forget.

"He wanted me to succeed," she said of the professor who took a

personal, sincere interest in his art students.

Walker also gets feedback from art colleagues. She will still call an old art friend and ask, "Remember the problems I had with composition? I'll e-mail you the picture and tell me what you think."

With the art community of CSU graduates, Walker is never alone. She and her art friends keep in touch. They discuss art life and what organizations they're involved in.

Walker said Fort Collins does a great job of providing opportunity for artists, but it's hard knowing what opportunity is available because she is so new to the world of soliciting art. It's hard to find a business in the world of fine arts, she said. "It's not like construction management with a 98 percent job placement."

Still, Walker is not giving up. Growing up, her creative parents pressed her artistic side. Walker's mother, who did tile and ceramics work, and father, who did woodworking, always gave her projects to keep her creativity flowing. Now, Walker cannot imagine doing anything else.

For now, the art covering her walls remains intact. But in five or 10 years they may be at an auction or in a gallery and her Italian paintings may coat the walls of an Italian restaurant. Walker may have her own gallery someday, a famous set of series or a signature design replicated in her old college art classes. Walker may be a "starving artist," but she is an optimistic starving artist. Perhaps it is because she won't set down her paint brush.

Walker has found that "something" in life that she cannot live without. Even if she never made a dime on her art, she would still continue painting, she said.

"I don't feel like myself if I don't." ■ Ca

indigo gallery owner wendy foster tells artists how they can land their work in a gallery like hers:

- get your artwork framed professionally.
- take pictures of the artwork and e-mail them to different galleries.
- follow up kindly. always be kind. you'd be amazed at how many "grumpy artists I run into. an attitude of serving will get you far.
- look at other artists in the galleries and see what artwork similar to yours is going for.
- have your pricing in mind when you meet the gallery.



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CURIOSITY

CASTS

CREATIVITY



photos by katie stevens

amber drake (left) hammers texture into a small copper sheet and works on a metals piece in the graduate metalsmithing studio. kate brennan (right) burns a metal cylinder to alter its color.

Chemistry students wouldn't blink at the mention of molecular structures, a student in psychology has heard loads about aging and design and merchandising students have probably created numerous handbags. Kate Brennan has studied all of them, and she isn't in any of those fields. By bending, casting and soldering, she has made molecules, a purse and other peculiar sculptures out of metal.

Brennan is a third year graduate student in the metalsmithing and jewelry program at CSU. Although she can make jewelry, she is mostly interested in sculptural metalsmithing.

"Metalsmithing is definitely a unique art form because it is so specific to the materials and processes," Brennan said. "Using your skills of soldering, joining and forming to create a 3-D piece out of sheet metal is very satisfying. It is a tougher material, yet fragile at the same time. You have to have patience, time and skill to create something."

Brennan's work stems from her curiosity, but as easy as it would be for her to make anything that comes to mind, she also researches the topics she is interested in.

"Part of the nice thing about being an artist is you can work with anything that you're interested in – society, science, plants, architecture, etcetera," Brennan said.

When she began as a graduate student, Brennan was interested in superstitions and individual luck. She transformed her curiosity into "Do You Feel Lucky?" a metal device that cracks a wishbone in two without the help of another person. She is most proud of "From Molecule to Memory," a piece made in the fall of 2006 that addresses her interest in the connection between smell and memory.

"I started to research the idea, and I realized that certain smells can definitely trigger memory. You know, you smell a certain perfume and you're like, 'Oh my gosh, grandma!'" Brennan said.

The piece is composed of various molecular structures, which look like clusters of bubbles, representing the chemical makeup of substances with strong scents. Each of the structures, made of silver, copper or bronze, has a spot where the scents are added, so viewers can actually smell things such as bleach, chlorophyll (fresh cut grass) and eugenol (a dentist's office).

"I create art to focus not only on my personal thoughts and ideas, but also to allow the viewer to form his or her own interpretations, making each piece specific and personal to the individual viewer," Brennan said. "With this I hope they can construct their own ideas and learn something about themselves and our surroundings."

Currently, a lot of Brennan's inspiration comes from what is going on in her personal life and what she finds interesting in the world.

"I am intrigued by what is going on in society and how our culture exists within those terms," she said.

Inspired by the irreversible reality of aging, Brennan's most recent project is a purse made of more than 500 feet of silver wire. When complete, the inside will be lined with skin-like latex and the purse will cost more than \$300 just for the silver.

"I was really interested in how we age," Brennan said. "I am 27. It hasn't hit me yet. I don't feel like I have physically aged. When I look at pictures of me in high school it's pretty much the same, but I'm coming upon that, so I researched it."

She said the purse symbolizes the idea of being pristine and beautiful but also aged and weathered at the same time.

the metals program

Brennan's metal sculptures clutter the 15-by-20 foot studio that she shares with Amber Drake, a first year graduate student. The two women are the only students in the graduate metalsmithing program, and they spend nearly 12 hours a day in the studio, which is tucked in the northeast wing of the Visual Arts Building. Studio space and instructional time allow for a maximum of four students in the metals graduate program.

"CSU's metalsmithing grad program is actually not as small as it sounds; many programs nationwide are similar," said Haley Bates, an assistant professor of art and the metalsmithing and jewelry area coordinator, in an e-mail interview. "A small number of grads allows for a more individualized and fluid curriculum. For CSU, it also means each student gets more studio space and greater opportunities to gain

hands-on experience teaching and maintaining a large studio.”

Bates is the sole metals instructor at CSU, although Brennan and Drake teach an introductory metals class as part of their requirements for the graduate program. According to the CSU Office of Budgets and Institutional Analysis, there are nine undergraduate students in the metalsmithing and jewelry program, but other art students enroll in metals classes for electives.

Brennan and Drake did not attend CSU as undergraduates. They attended Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, but didn't know each other until Drake came to CSU. Brennan was in the upper division courses at Edinboro when Drake, 24, began the metals program. They also both began as ceramics students, but switched to metals after taking an introductory course and deciding that ceramics was too messy for them.

Drake said they had the option to take metals, fibers or woodshop as an elective at Edinboro. “A creepy old dude” taught woodshop and fibers was scary, but the student work displayed in the hall drew her to metals.

“Believe it or not,” Brennan added, “metalsmithing is mostly females. It's a really supportive network of women. It's like comforting, gossipy awesomeness. The two professors at Edinboro were very nice females, and I felt very comfortable with it. They were very encouraging. When I took it, it was a very good experience.”

Their experience at CSU has been similar.

“I really appreciate how closely I can work with Haley,” Brennan said. “I try to experiment with techniques a lot. I figure this is the time and the place because that way if I have questions, either Amber or Haley will know. They're always there to help.”

a career in metals

In addition to producing their work, Brennan and Drake are expected to show it on and off campus. They have to be active in the field, advertise themselves and get their work in various shows for other artists to see, Brennan and Drake said. They would like to sell their sculptures and jewelry, but it's hard to do. They don't want to be production artists, which means they don't want to make a few pieces that can be reproduced quickly and inexpensively. They would rather produce one-of-a-kind sculptures.

“The thing is, a lot of the work we do is not functional; it's not like a cup or spoon or bowl. It just looks cool and has cool conceptual meanings,” Brennan said. “It's hard to sell artwork. There is a market for it, but it's definitely tough.”

For a series of optical sculptures that Brennan made, she would have to charge about \$2,000 per piece to make \$10 per hour after gallery fees and material expenses.

“It's not reliable,” Drake added. “What happens this month might not happen for the next two months. But the more shows you have, the more people will be willing to buy your work because they are familiar with it.”

During winter break, Brennan packaged some of her optical sculptures – that are reminiscent of antique binoculars made of cop-



► photo courtesy of kate brennan

“go on, take a closer look” is an optical series by kate brennan, a third year graduate student, who has been working with metals for seven years.

per and silver sheet metal with colored plexiglass lenses – in plastic bins stuffed with Styrofoam and shipped them to Savannah, Ga. In March, the pieces will be displayed at the Society of North American Goldsmiths (SNAG) conference, where many successful metalsmiths will see her work.

“High-caliber exhibitions in galleries and museums create access to a wider segment of the general public, exposing more people to the historical, artistic, and cultural impact of the work. Exhibitions of this quality also inspire other artists, jewelers, designers, and metalsmiths,” the SNAG Web site states.

However, both women realize they probably won't be able to rely solely on their artwork, even if they become well known. Right now they rely on grants that Bates helps them get and their graduate teaching positions.

“There are actually quite a few different types of opportunities for metalsmiths and jewelers; the challenge is finding the one that fits,” Bates said. “Most people are surprised by the fact that metalsmithing is any sort of a job at all. They have either never heard of it, or the assumption is usually that I am a metallurgist or a high-end retail jeweler, and though metalsmiths are often a little of both, the field is much broader than that.”

Graduates of the metalsmithing program end up in many different careers. One of Bates' previous students is a bench jeweler in Fort Collins, one is the jewelry buyer for a boutique in Cherry Creek, one is a designer at a gallery in Dallas, Texas, one has her own studio in Berkeley, Calif., and some began their own studios to make and sell their work.

When Brennan receives her Master of Fine Arts in May, she is going to look for an art teaching job.

“I have a passion to teach, but if I could make it on just my own work, I probably would do that,” Brennan said. “But that won't happen, so I'll go wherever it takes me. I would go to Siberia if that's what it took. There's always a need for art teachers somewhere. If I'm cutting out snowmen with fourth graders, that's cool. I really just like the environment and being around students.” ■ Ca

Rock Out with your art out

photos by katie stevens



taylor gallegos, an artist and csu alumnus, proudly stands with a fraction of his show, which will be on display at starry night cafe in old town through april.



elena stonaker, a junior fine arts major with a concentration in drawing, enjoys mixing different mediums for a unique piece and is also interested in costume design and performance art.



jon howe, a bench jeweler and csu alumnus, spent more than 100 hours on his "tribal mask" piece, which he completed in 2002 for his bachelor of fine arts in metalsmithing and jewelry.



wildrose hamilton's chilling piece, "what happened on the highway," was finished in fall 2007 for a class. hamilton is a sophomore, double majoring in fine art and apparel design and production.



megan guidarelli, left, and joey lesiak, fine tune a competition piece for the kennedy center american college theatre festival. both are theater majors; guidarelli is a sophomore and lesiak is a senior.

Pixel Perfect

the fine art of graphic design

When thinking about art, what comes to mind? For many people art is simply painting, drawing or sculpting. In addition to several different fields encompassing these talents, there is one concentration in the art department here at CSU that incorporates all of these mediums, as well as the technology needed to create digital masterpieces – this is graphic design.

Year after year, a modest 50 to 70 students enroll into the graphic design program, which has its own department, in order to further understand graphic design and express themselves through this art form.

“The idea of graphic design is to set apart the content from everything else,” said John Gravidahl, a graphic design professor. “It attempts to break out from the visual landscape that surrounds us.”

Even though the graphic design concentration is slightly smaller in size, don’t underestimate the complexity of the course work, the creativity of the compositions or the innovative aptitude, originality and imagination the participants have to generate and display.

Not only do students have to have a creative eye and a steady hand for sketching images, they also have to have extensive knowledge of diverse computer programs that allow them to transfer their ideas from paper to a computer screen. With the integration of computer technology as a key component of graphic design, it is necessary for students and those involved in the field to keep up with the ever-evolving computer industry.

According to Gravidahl, several different computer programs, including Adobe Illustrator, PhotoShop and InDesign are used in the course.

“Technology is the biggest change that we see; it adds a layer of content to the curriculum that we can’t ignore,” he said.

Not only does technology make this field more complex, it also increases and causes the quality of the artwork to evolve.

“Design has become more refined, more creative and more artistic,” said Bill Dingwall, a senior graphic design major. “It’s becoming so much more than just advertising and is really evolving into a finer art form.”

Because graphic design proves to be an extremely involved field, Gravidahl emphasized that there are numerous directions that students could take in the graphic design field and professions to be involved in. For example, graphic designers could find themselves

working in design studios or corporation design and branding, which involves logos and making an entity known, among other professions.

“You can pursue a lot of things as a designer,” Dingwall said. “Marketing and advertising for a company, poster design, CD or movie cover design, clothing, packaging, illustration for a lot of things, newspapers, magazines and even tattoos.”

The routes that graphic designers can take are virtually endless because of the numerous aspects the field demands. Graphic designers need to have a meticulous understanding of several different factors expected in the field and be able to work with a diverse range of art. Josh Hillhouse, the chief executive officer of Always Imagine Graphic Design off Oak Street in Fort Collins, said being able to work with such a variety of art is the key to his persisting enthusiasm in the field.

“What excited me about graphic design is the fact that I can exercise other art forms and utilize that art in my graphic design,” he said. “If a project calls for art, photography or even something that looks like clip art, I will create my own from scratch. The other thing that always excites me about this industry is that every business could honestly use some artistic services.”

Although there are a multitude of internship and job opportunities for graphic designers, others, such as Gravidahl, have chosen the road less traveled when it comes to this field. The CSU alumnus, professor of 20 years and award-winning poster artist has another talent that has stemmed from his love for graphic design; he is also a writer, illustrator and designer of children’s books.

“(Writing children’s books) is a unique experience for graphic designers,” he said. “One reason that I’m doing it is because I’ve had 20 years of experience with print.”

He has two current titles – *Curious Catwalk* and *The Tale of Dog Giovanni* – and even though he is working on two more, it does not take away from his drive for teaching; in fact, producing the books feeds into it. Gravidahl explained that he actually uses his books in the classroom as a teaching mechanism to illustrate the necessity of primary sketches and how to evolve them into a creation. Using his books is not only entertaining and interesting for the class, it’s a different way of teaching the students, Gravidahl said.

“I thought looking at the book and hearing how he got it published was interesting and showed me how broad the field of

“you can pursue a lot of things as a designer; marketing and advertising for a company, poster design, cd or movie cover design, clothing, packaging, illustration for a lot of things, newspapers, magazines and even tattoos.”

- bill dingwall, a senior graphic design major

graphic design is because we had mostly worked with corporate logos and identities,” Dingwall said. “Seeing the book also inspired me to be more illustrative in my work and to find my niche as a designer. Children’s book illustration is something I might like to do a little of.”

The key difference between graphic design and writing a book is the typography, Gravdahl said. The designer has to know how to work with different typefaces and ways of using them. Also, coming up with the plot of a book is not something that graphic designers are usually faced with.

“I kind of do the books backward; I draw all of the illustrations first, and then write the text,” he said.

Each of the books took approximately two years to complete, but Gravdahl’s efforts seem to have paid off. He said that there has been a huge response from libraries and grade schools after reviewing the books. Occasionally, he travels to different grade schools in the Rocky Mountain region and reads his books to the students.

According to Gravdahl’s book Web site, PropellerPress.com, he blends his reading with a little bit of singing and finishes up with an interactive draw-along where he teaches the kids a simple drawing lesson. Although he is used to it now, the first time he was invited to present his books at a school he was extremely nervous.

“I wasn’t used to talking to younger kids,” he said. “College kids are easy, but second graders will see right through you.”

Three years after graduating from CSU in 1980, Gravdahl opened his own business in Fort Collins, John Gravdahl Graphic Design, while teaching part-time at CSU. Strictly a freelance graphic designer, he had regular clients, including marketing, advertising and public relations companies.

As he continued in the field and eventually became a full-time professor, Gravdahl and his brother Ernie changed John Gravdahl Graphic Design into Propeller Press, where he currently bases his children’s book business.

“It’s a very active business,” he said. “I like that it keeps me active in the field and keeps the challenge thriving.”

One of the biggest challenges, besides changing the dynamic of his previous business to fit the needs of the current one, was articulating his design perspectives into words.

“Sometimes it can be difficult working on the books because you know what you want, and you can envision it, but it’s hard to communicate your visual ideas to someone else,” he said.

Both Gravdahl and Hillhouse had an early interest and active involvement in the graphic design field, which are some of the factors that led to their later successes.

“I spent a lot of time with art in high school and graphic design was the natural choice for me, as I wanted to work in an artistic and creative field,” said Hillhouse, whose business has been open for five years. “I have studied design at several different colleges and believe that is a great way to be introduced to the industry.”

Hillhouse also suggested that students venture out and apply for internships to increase their understanding of graphic design outside the classroom.

Although some people display interest in the field early on, others like Dingwall, acquire, build and increase interest along the way.

“Coming into college, I wasn’t sure what I wanted to do,” he said. “I always liked to draw and did some painting growing up, but I felt like I needed to go into a more structured and concrete career to make a living. For me, graphic design is the best way to make a living as an artist.”

Although Gravdahl and Hillhouse have been able to thrive in the graphic design industry, there are necessary measures that a designer needs to take in order to move up and be successful in the field.

According to Hillhouse, it’s never too early to start getting out into the industry and making oneself known.

“Start your portfolio early and diversify. There are so many different kinds of graphic design jobs out there,” he said. “This is especially important if you plan on working for yourself. The old adage of ‘feast or famine’ is very real as a freelancer so diversify and save yourself some pain.”

Just as with any profession, the work load is not light, but the gratifications can make it all worthwhile. For Dingwall, there’s nothing like the finished product.

“The best part of the whole design process is getting your piece back from the printer and having it be perfect because you never really know how good your work is until it’s in your hands,” he said.

Taking Dingwall’s perspective one step further, Hillhouse attributes gratification to how the artwork is put to use.

“Finding that balance between emotional attachment to my work and the fact I am selling it to someone else for their personal use is a reward in and of itself.” ■ **Ca**



photo courtesy of andy martinez

Spraying the Arts

a misinterpreted culture

Burn the canvas, break the paint brushes and smash the concept of traditional art. Instead, replace those tools with a small can spraying messages of beliefs, dreams, an identity and an unfathomable passion. This art is temporary and at times a crime; yet, it remains a culture, collaboration and a way of life. It is graffiti art.

"Graffiti artists are able to put themselves more in the picture; they can free flow with their hands," said Andy Martinez, 22. "It's like a rap artist, except instead of lyrics, the lines form pictures."

Martinez, a senior global tourism major, is one of thousands of students stuck in the masses on CSU's campus. But unlike most students, his backpack holds spray cans and evidence of inspiration drawn in a small black book. Behind his daily persona of a student is Café Con Leche, the graffiti artist. He is one of hundreds that

participate in the growing, yet misunderstood, art form of graffiti.

Quenching his thirst for expression, Martinez moves in silence, with an empty concrete wall in front of him and a vision in his head. He takes what cannot be seen and makes it belong.

"As an artist it is not for glory and gain," he said. "You just have to have passion for art, be original in your own sense and have respect for what you do."

His work generally reflects his graffiti name or acts as a podium where he can speak out about his political views and beliefs. And like many artists, Martinez never feels a sense of satisfaction and emphasizes that a piece is never done until he has used up every drop of spray, enabling a message to be fully conveyed.

"I just sit there and work 'til it's done, until it makes me sick," Martinez said. "I'm more of a word guy, rather than pictures, and

being able to do that means messages more than pictures.”

This culture has a strong sense of community and group collaboration. With seven to eight people in most crews, artists are able to add their individuality to the piece, creating a unified collage by different graffiti artists. Although it is a growing community, there is a constant search to find more artists; thus, there is a tradition of passing a black book. A black book works much like a chain letter; it is passed around from artist to artist, from all over the country, who etch their visions and concepts one right after the other.

“There is a lot of potential in this town. You see doodles in the lecture halls and the atmosphere translates to art, and then there is a big mural on the desks,” Martinez said. “And I wonder why this person isn’t doing more.”

Sometimes it’s crucial to read between the lines to distinguish real artists from those who are simply out to mark their name on whatever they can. The crews within this culture have had a hindering misinterpretation bound to their reputations, that tagging and graffiti art are simply a gang affiliated act to mark one’s territory. Yet for most graffiti artists, the opposite is true.

“It’s never territorial because it’s pointless to have violence against your own graffiti artists,” Martinez said. “It’s already hard getting by, and trying to categorize and segregate hinders the situation even further.”

Gang intentions may not be the fuel behind this art, but graffiti is still illegal in the city of Fort Collins when performed on unsanctioned walls. Fort Collins Police Services is currently investigating a series of illegal graffiti throughout the downtown area. The two suspects tag with the monikers “Nebz” and “Gores,” marking red and black all over the city. The two suspects – presumably white, between the ages of 18 and 25 – have caused at least \$10,000 in damages so far.

“These ‘taggers’ want others, and especially themselves, to see their name but have to sneak around and vandalize property to achieve it,” said David Short, executive director of the Downtown Business Association. “They should find something productive to do that contributes to the community and earns them the recognition they obviously crave, whether it’s artistic or something else.”

Short acknowledges that this crime does exist on the walls of downtown, yet it is not overwhelming, thanks to the speedy removal that usually takes place within the day the graffiti is found. But what’s truly overwhelming is the stress – time and money that business owners must sacrifice to remove the vandalism from their properties. And overall, it impedes the image that the city of Fort Collins is trying to convey.

“Graffiti is an eyesore and gives people the impression of an unkempt, maybe unsafe environment, which is not what downtown is at all,” Short said.



local graffiti artist andy martinez

photo by katie stevens

Business owners and the city are fed up with this vandalism that causes them inconvenience; therefore, they have implemented steps to prevent and stop the crime as it occurs. Hefty fines, probation and community service are punishment for the illegal act. The city relies on the community to aid them in apprehending taggers through a graffiti hotline, the Larimer County Crime Stoppers and by offering rewards

“The more people we have paying attention to these kinds of illegal activities that may be occurring and then reporting them, taggers will not see the downtown area as such an easy target,” Short said. “It is tough to catch them when it is occurring in the early morning hours when there is nobody around.”

Many artists like Martinez emphasize that the laws, prevention programs and repercussions for this art are simply overblown compared to more prevalent and imperative situations occurring in the community. “It’s like punishing a child for writing on the wall; you can clean it off, so what’s the point of them getting punished,” he said. “There is so much

more going on, and here we are as artists getting in trouble for just doing what we love.”

Short believes that suspects like “Nebz” and “Gores” are not taggers, but criminals; yet, he agrees with the idea that there are more crucial things at hand that police should tend to rather than vandalism.

“I’m sure taggers are being pursued, even though it is necessary, it is also sad that police have to waste their time on taggers instead of more important issues that maybe affecting the safety of Fort Collins,” Short said. “Graffiti as an art? On canvas or an approved area yes, on someone else’s property or public property, absolutely not.”

A solution is beginning to surface, and the key is simply permitting more sanctioned walls for graffiti artists to work on. Martinez is involved in the planning process for an initiative to find a sanctioned place in Fort Collins where artists can freely create a collaborative piece without the fear of ramifications.

“I’m now more than ever determined to help this art out,” Martinez said. “I’m building up a coalition to get sanctioned walls where we can avoid arrest and eventually stop wasting tax money.”

For Martinez, graffiti art is a way of life. It is part of what has shaped him into the man he is today. Inspiration manifests itself all around him, yet it is suppressed by a law that wants to keep the community clean. But the law cannot completely stop Café Con Leche or any other graffiti artists from using their hands to express the unseen – to convey a message from a spray can.

“Graffiti art is being able to recognize what’s going on around you. It makes me pry open my third eye,” Martinez said. “Being able to do this means not being ashamed of what I do or who I am.” ■ Ca



Through the Lens

focusing on local photography

Behind images of beautiful Colorado landscapes and portraits illustrating the loving embrace of a bride and groom are the people who are passionate about an art form many take for granted.

Photographs have become staples of many young people's social experiences, thanks in large part to photo applications on social networking Web sites such as Facebook and MySpace. Technology advances such as camera phones and programs like Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom create easy-to-use "electronic darkrooms" that draw more and more people into the digital photography era, said Pete Seel, a CSU associate professor who specializes in photojournalism.

"With digital cameras, it is instant gratification," said wedding photographer Marshall Miller.

However, professional photographers know the art form has the power to visually captivate its audiences, and that is why they devote their time to perfecting the composition and beauty of their work.

"Photographs are one of the most powerful (modes) of communication," Seel said. "A photograph can seize a moment in time."

That moment may be the exchange of wedding vows, a spring storm rolling in over the foothills or a climber ascending a jagged rock face. The location and community of Fort Collins provides numerous opportunities for photographers of all artistic styles.

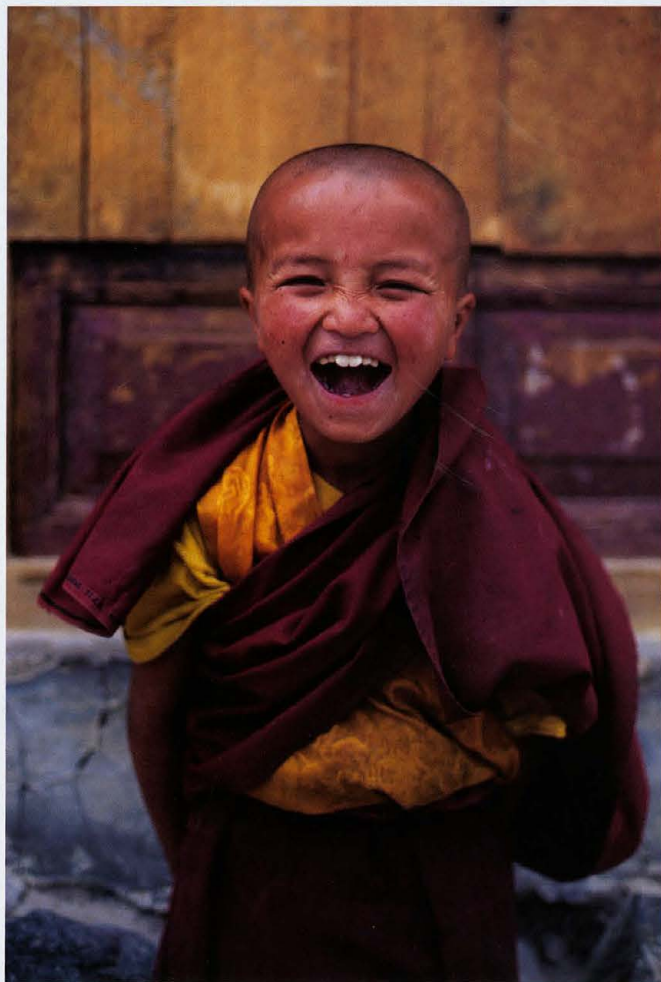
"It's a really active scene ... we have a lot of people doing a lot of different kinds of photography," Seel said.

For instance, some local photographers are drawn to the dramatic landscapes surrounding Fort Collins.

"Landscape photography is definitely appreciated in the area," said photographer Adrian Davis, who published a book of wilderness photos, "In and Around the Lakes – Landscapes of Northern Colorado."

"Yeah, there's a lot of natural beauty," echoed local photographer Cole Thompson, who was awarded second place Photographer of the Year in 2007 from the Black and White Spider Awards.

Sometimes the inspiration photographers seek not only comes from their subjects, but also from other photographers.



local adventure photographer daniel bailey's photo of a young buddhist lama, ladakh, india.



rock climbing in south platte, colo. by daniel bailey.

► photos courtesy of © Daniel H. Bailey www.danbaileyphoto.com

"I started off trying everything but gravitated toward landscapes, mostly due to the influence of my childhood hero, Ansel Adams," Thompson said.

Like the serenity of nature, many Fort Collins photographers capture the beauty of people in some of the most intimate and cherished events of their lives.

"(I like doing weddings because) you've got plenty of opportunity to snap pictures," said Miller, who usually shoots 15 to 20 weddings a year. He has captured the splendor of a wide variety of weddings, including one in a hailstorm at 8,000 feet in elevation.

Marshall added that he enjoys doing wedding photos because it allows him to "be a sole proprietor with no employees," which makes the business simpler.

To set their work apart from the millions of photos taken by amateurs with pint-size digital cameras, these local professionals make a name for themselves by providing clients with the highest-quality products.

"Photographers make a name for themselves by exceeding the expectations of their client, and by getting their work published for everyone to see," Miller said.

With new galleries springing up and a handful of established studios all over town, Davis said this is where photographers go for exposure in the community.

The Center for Fine Art Photography, which is in its new location at 400 N. College Ave., is one such location. Exhibits through April include Macro Photography, the Society for Photographic Education and Street Photography.

The 17th Annual Artists Association of Colorado National Show runs from April 5 to May 11 at the Lincoln Center, and local fine art photographers who enter have a chance to win more than \$5,000, as well as respect from the photography community.

However, some photographers have concerns about local exhibitions.

"We need to have more gallery space," Seel said. "I'm really interested in seeing students do more photography... I'd like to see a

place on campus (dedicated) for just student photography."

But photographers are countering their concerns with creativity. Many of them, such as Poudre High School student-photographer Elliot Ross, turn to personal Web sites, contacts and positive word-of-mouth.

And Seel turns to television. Local public access channel 22 displays artwork from area artists, including photographers, when shows are not being broadcast.

As with any art form, the market can be fickle, but there is good opportunity to make a living as a photographer.

"I think the sky's the limit here," said wedding photographer Richard Mauro Ricchiuti. He added that photographers who are new to the industry can benefit from working with other, more experienced photographers.

Although Thompson never met Ansel Adams, who is best known for his black-and-white photographs of the American West, he drew inspiration from Adams and taught himself the art of landscape photography.

Miller also offers a word of advice to young artists.

"Get a business degree," he said, adding jokingly that, "it (also) wouldn't hurt if your spouse was an accountant."

Other photographers believe that while business is indeed important, one must not lose sight of one's personal goals and interests in photography.

"(The key is) pleasing yourself and not trying to pander to others," Thompson said. He added that taking pictures that the typical tourist would buy – say, for example, a picture of aspen trees to symbolize Colorado – is often disrespected within the industry.

"We call it color porn," he said, explaining that it doesn't take much artistic talent and everyone can make it.

It's the hard work and determination that set professional photographers apart from the masses and make the field worthwhile.

"You always have to spend time with your passion," Miller said.

"I enjoy watching the elation on my clients' faces with every (photo) package I deliver." ■ Ca

Textbook Conundrum

students lobby for affordability and industry officials cry "unnecessary"

As textbook prices continue to escalate at twice the rate of inflation, like they have since 1984, students ask if there will be a lull in the trend. Meanwhile, news outlets and textbook industry officials decry efforts by student organizations, and state and national legislators bring to light the reasons for the dismal price tag — one that costs the average student anywhere from \$700 to \$1,000 a year.

Blake Gibson, a junior biomedical science major and president of the Associated Students of Colorado (ASC), along with several cohorts from the Associated Students of CSU, led student letter-writing campaigns and facilitated talks with state legislators last fall to introduce legislation into Colorado law that would, in theory, indirectly slow the upward spiral of textbook prices.

Like national and state measures that have been introduced recently, and in some cases passed, Gibson's policy would not require

publishers to lower their prices, but would increase transparency in the industry that he and other student leaders call a "broken market."

Nicole Allen, a spokeswoman with maketextbooksaffordable.org dedicated to textbook affordability, said the teacher acts as a middleman and the actual purchaser of the product — the student — is unaware of the price until it is too late.

—The opposition—

Teachers order textbooks with quality in mind, so there is little, if any, price negotiation with the publisher during an order. The Rocky Mountain News posed a theory in a November 2007 editorial that the fault lies with teachers, alleging that it is their responsibility to negotiate harder for better pricing and actively request old editions and demand price disclosure.

The premise, according to Gibson, is that a more transparent industry will prevent publishers from hiking the price of their books at four times the rate of inflation because the teacher will choose the lowest bidder of a work if bids are actually made.

Allen said the topic of price rarely enters the sales conversation between a teacher and a publisher, causing the teacher to ignore variables other than quality.

"When they are required to tell a professor that the cost of a textbook is over \$100, the appeal of the textbook goes down," she said.

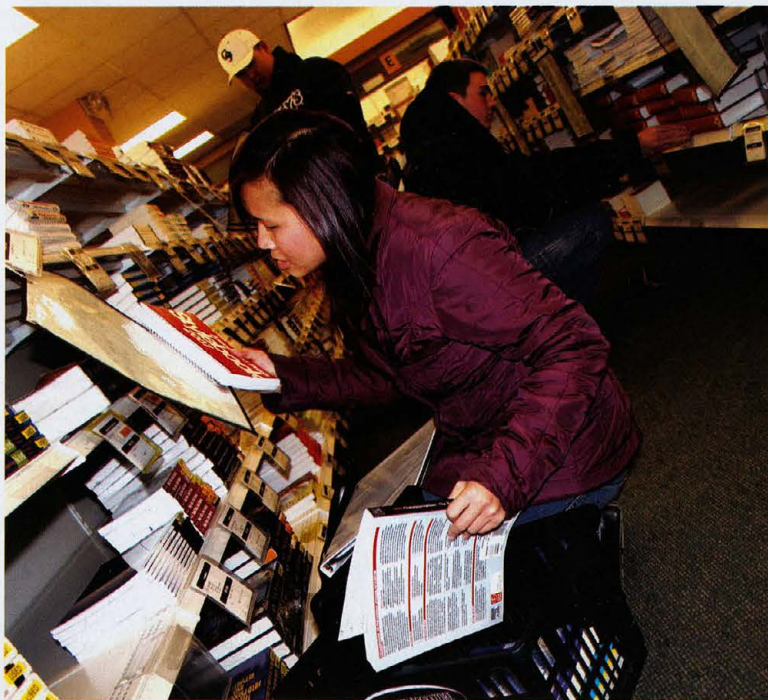
Using the "cereal-buying" analogy, popular among student organizations, Allen illustrated the need for publishers to act like any other marketer. She said if a shopper is in the cereal aisle craving a high-end version of a certain type of cereal and notices less expensive alternatives, they are not as likely to opt for the name brand. "You might decide Golden Grahams are not worth \$5 and go for the \$3 generic equivalent."

"You would think (price) would be a volunteer thing ... as in normal marketplace practice," Gibson added.

—The mission—

A report by Allen's organization shows that many teachers never hear the price of the product until they order. Of 287 Massachusetts teachers surveyed in the report, 77 percent say publishers never volunteer price disclosure and only 38 percent said publishers disclosed the price when asked.

"This proves the need for legislation," Allen said. The reason the legislation is necessary is the textbook industry is inherently flawed — it doesn't work like a normal marketplace."



► photo by adriana lopez

torry anh ha, a senior technical journalism major, browses for textbooks at rams bookstore in the lory student center.

The Rocky Mountain News' editorial board also said student organizations should focus on what it called more important "higher-ticket items" related to college affordability such as tuition, which the editorial said has increased 240 percent over the last 22 years.

But Gibson said that if students and government officials all work on one piece of the "puzzle of college affordability," the entire cost of education will eventually shrink. He also said that to identify any one issue as less important than another is irresponsible.

But Bruce Hildebrand, a spokesman for the Association of American Publishers, echoed the sentiments of the Rocky Mountain News, saying the textbook market is riddled with transparency and that students and teachers also bear the burden of responsibility. He said if they did their research when buying books, they are bound to find an infinite number of resources that would help alleviate their light-wallet woes.

Indeed, if one Googles an International Standard Book Number (ISBN) for a particular textbook, the search engine pulls up thousands of hits for that book. They include online resources like Amazon.com, bookfinder.com and bookspot.com – all of them claim to save students money through offering deals, unbundling options, old editions and by-the-chapter buying options.

But experts with maketextbooksaffordable.com say that students are unlikely to research their options when buying textbooks.

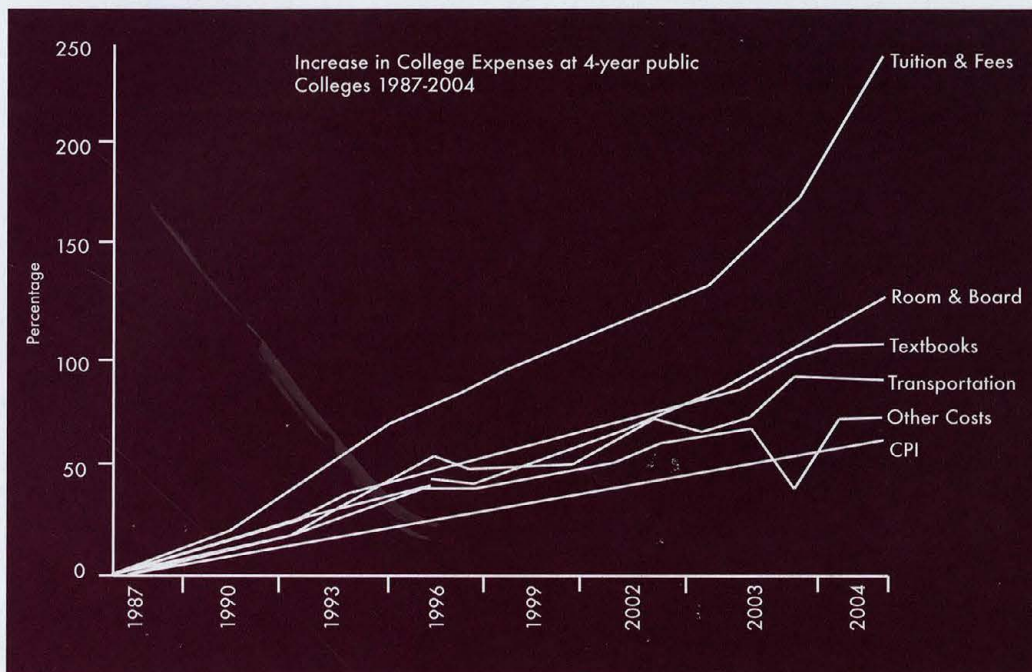
"Using Google is not an acceptable form of transparency," Gibson said. "To me, that's not transparency in the marketplace. That's opaqueness."

The three major problems cited by student organizations and addressed in most proposed legislation are: lack of price disclosure to teachers from publishers, a shortage of bundling options and what teachers surveyed in the maketextbooksaffordable.com report call "unnecessary" new editions.

—What Colorado is doing —

Gibson said his legislation has a good chance of becoming law in August after this summer's legislative session. Five state lawmakers support the bill, including Rep. John Kefalas (D, District 54) and Rep. Randy Fischer (D, District 53). If passed, the measure will take effect Aug. 6, 2008.

Kefalas said he has talked to Republican and Democratic lawmakers and the proposal has appeal on both ends of the political spectrum. He recognized the need for more transparency in the publishing industry and said every measure to make higher education affordable is



essential.

"We have anecdotal evidence that the legislation that we're proposing has caused the price of textbooks to go down" in other states, he said.

Kefalas praised the ASC's initiative and said the measure will probably be implemented, "It's about careful deliberation with good legislation ... that's what the legislative process is all about."

"This is a measure that is going to make college more affordable without spending a single taxpayer dollar," Gibson said, "It really has a broad bipartisan appeal."

Despite outcry from the publishing industry, the U.S. House of Representatives is reviewing a national bill similar to Gibson's. The national bill would also trump other state measures that Allen says are inadequate.

—Missing the target —

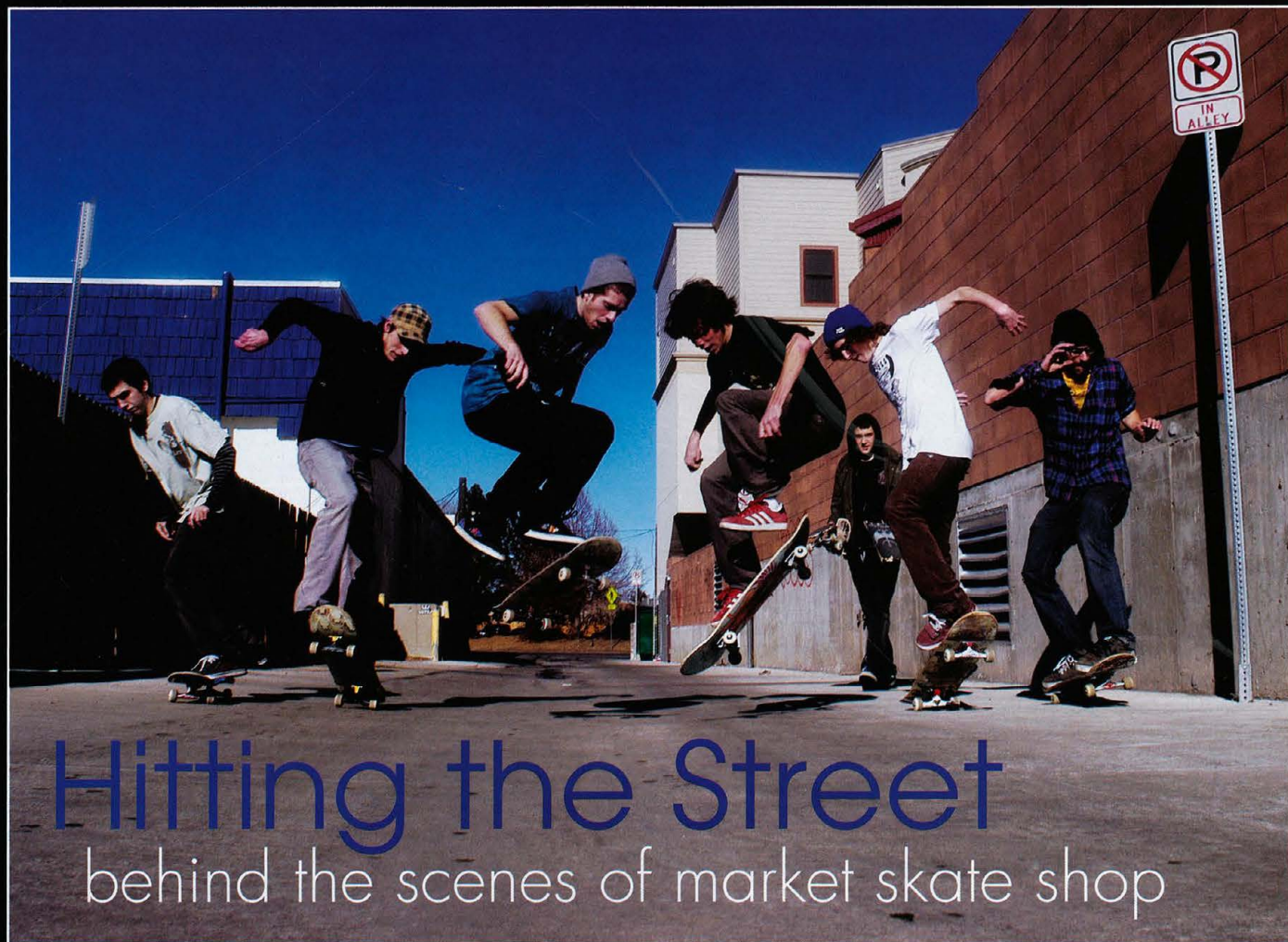
California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger vetoed a bill in December 2007 that had the same purpose as Gibson's legislation in favor of a policy that only requires publishers to disclose price information when asked for it. Allen says this is unacceptable.

"It didn't do the one thing that needed to happen to reduce price, which is to introduce price in the sales conversation up front," she said. "The publishers got off the hook that way, by passing the weaker legislation."

Gibson recognizes that responsibility exists for every party in the book-buying process, but one of the responsibilities belonging to the publisher is to ensure that teachers know what their students are getting themselves into before they shake hands with a publisher.

"Students have the responsibility to do their homework," Gibson said. "(But) the publishers have the responsibility to be transparent, and so to skirt around the issue is unacceptable." ■ **ca**

**original graph from college board annual survey of colleges and bureau of labor statistics, illustration by makayla braden*



Hitting the Street

behind the scenes of market skate shop

the boys of the market skate team have an unambiguous love for skateboarding.

▶ photos by brian swanson

Popular culture has had its way with skateboarding. The virginity of skateboarding has been taken and its dignity has been rewritten as a hormonal commercial break between “My Super Sweet 16” and “Laguna Beach.” Not to name drop, but reality TV shows have created household names like Bam Margera, Ryan Sheckler and Rob Dyrdek, who represent today’s skateboarding status quo with their sponsor-hustling, Cadillac lifestyles. This is not exactly the same stigma attached to skateboarding during the days of Dead Kennedys, Black Flag and Minor Threat worship. Today’s scene has taken the form of a hypocritical alter ego that has deviated from its original elementary fundamentals of fun and has strayed to a “because Bam does it” attitude.

Despite these mainstream flaws, grass-roots Market Skate Shop, located on Jefferson Street in Old Town, has maintained its reputation with the local skateboarding community as it has established a pure skate scene in Fort Collins. The Market boys are in an innovative trance, attempting to shift the industry limelight to defy the popular

direction that media has taken it.

“We want to let people know that what we see on TV is different from what we accomplish here,” said Market Skate Shop owner Andy Weiss. “We’re trying to preserve skateboarding.”

The Market skate team has decided to translate their self-expression and awe-inspiring raw talent onto film as they introduce the Market’s first ever montage of footage to the skate world. On the front line of production, the Market skate team cast has a lineup rolling seven deep. This brotherhood of Fort Collins’ skateboarding revolutionaries includes the riders and artists that represent the local Market Skate Shop and consists of team members Schuyler Gantert, Grant Garcia, Chris Jones, Kyle Knight-Johnson, Nate Likewise, Chad Seidel and Taylor Derhart. These are the faces of The Market. “The greatest crew this side of the Mississippi,” Likewise said.

Without a doubt, skateboarding has changed.

“Skateboarding has strayed on the wrong path,” Garcia said. In its most organic state, skating is an art form of self-expression that

departs from anything mainstream. "I think that a lot of people don't understand that skateboarding is something that we love and actually need in our lives," Jones said.

Ironically, skating itself has become more than just skateboarding for the sake of skateboarding. Nowadays, kids are too caught up in their image and "getting the shot" in an attempt to emulate Ryan Sheckler's charisma, or better yet, his seemingly effective ability to "mack on hunnies."

"We don't want to lose sight of why we started skating to begin with," Weiss said. "Most kids are so concerned about just getting footage that they forget to skate and have fun."

That's not to say that everybody is skateboarding for the wrong reasons. "I don't skate to 'win,' you know what I mean?" Jones said.

"Anything that started small with a core following, you know someone will commercialize it," Weiss said. "The original concept of art is lost. Skateboarding is so big now, and it's changing a lot. Don't get me wrong, we want progression, but a lot of times when things grow, they grow in the wrong direction."

There is a unanimous and unambiguous love for skateboarding that ties these boys together.

"We're more of a family than a lot of other skate shops and skate scenes," Jones explained. "Being on the team has really created a good bond and friendship between everyone that is involved with the shop, and that's bigger than anything to me."

"Basically, if you're down for the shop then you're pretty much family," Garcia added.

This full-length film, with prospective plans to premiere this summer, will showcase a coalition of the aesthetic talents of the team as well as friends of the shop.

"We really want to put out something that represents a pure skate scene in Fort Collins (and) show that people are getting things done in Fort Collins," Garcia said. "People here are die hard."

The mass appeal of the video will capture the culture of the team's innovative talents and progression, and will consist of a compilation of footage ranging from local spots in Fort Collins, Denver and Colorado Springs as well as footage from team trips to Arizona, New Mexico and San Francisco. The goal of the video is to illustrate the second nature of the team in its realm of riding and having fun together.

"There is a diverse type of style and talent on the team," Weiss said, "so every little scene has a different feel."

"We would all like to try and set this video apart from other local shop videos," Jones said. "We all look at skateboarding in different ways." Schuyler shreds tranny (transitional skating); Jones, Seidel and Derhart dominate stairs and handrails; Garcia "gets awesome" on ledges and wallrides; Knight-Johnson kills it on rails and tranny; and Likewise owns the streets.

"Everyone has one thing in common though - creativity," Garcia said.

"My hopes for my part are that it will show a style different from anyone else on the team," Gantert said. "To me, skateboarding is more about personality and style."

"It will definitely be an expression of myself and hopefully people will enjoy watching it," Jones said.

Despite the misconception that the process of producing a skate video is as easy as including a few pretty faces with embroidered transitions and music, Weiss explained, "It took two months of filming to get a five minute promo. We know what we want to accomplish here."



(top to bottom): schuyler gantert, kyle knight-johnson, taylor dehart, chad seidel, chris jones, nate likewise and grant garcia make up the market skate team.

At the same time, these boys aren't exactly about all business and no play. "If you're not having fun what's the point?" Garcia said

"Some kids with cameras can make a legit video," said Seidel, the video editor. "I want people to be hyped; I want everyone's talents on the team to be shown to the world. I want it to be looked at as more than just a shop video. The other guys on the team are amazing and people need to see it. I want it to be epic. It will be sick, don't you worry. I don't think anyone will be disappointed."

"We want people to remember it," Jones added. "I mean, this is the first video in the 11 years the Market has been open. We're going to put everything we have into it, and hopefully we produce something that people are really hyped on. We're just doing what we love to do." ■ Ca

check it out!

■ check out the promo and footage for the video at:

www.skateboardmarket.com

■ market skate shop

phone: (970) 407-1767

email: andrew.weiss@hotmail.com

"dedicate yourself to what you love." - gantert
"I'm just in it for the good times and the feeling of riding away from something really hard." - seidel
"a bunch of energetic kids who love to go out and have fun and, coincidentally, can skate well." - gantert



Bad Breaks

vacations aren't always fun in the sun

Students expect vacations to be relaxing and packed with fun. However, Bailey Carlson's trip to Venezuela last year didn't quite meet his expectations.

Four days into his trip, Carlson, a senior computer science student, began experiencing extreme bloating, intestinal cramps and diarrhea. Doctors couldn't confirm the illness since Carlson didn't seek medical attention until about a month after returning from the South American country, but they said he likely had giardia.


People get sick when they ingest the giardia parasite – either through infected food or water or by not washing their hands after touching contaminated bathroom fixtures or utensils and then eating, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

"I wasn't very cautious about what I ate or drank, because my brother never had a problem with anything and has been living there for two years," said Carlson, 23. "Most of the water I had was under the assumption that the provider had boiled it, but there was no guarantee."

Six months after his trip, Carlson still experienced stomach cramps and digestive problems, so he saw a gastroenterologist who said he had post-bacterial irritable bowel syndrome. There wasn't much he could do besides eat active-culture yogurt, which helped a little, but Carlson still burps a lot as a result of the infection.

Although Carlson is no longer infected with giardia and cannot spread it to others, there was a chance he could have spread it early on, especially to his roommates. Giardia can be very contagious. Outbreaks of giardia have resulted from people swimming in pools, lakes, rivers and the ocean while infected, according to the CDC.

Infecting others



On a campus of 27,000 people, one person with a travel-related illness could potentially infect everyone at CSU. Although unlikely, students making their way to sandy beaches, back home or to the snow-covered hills during spring break need to think about their health and take precautions to protect themselves and others.

CSU hasn't experienced a severe medical outbreak caused by student travelers, but local physicians and nurses said that doesn't mean the university will never experience one.

The school sees a lot of people returning from spring break with nasty "common colds," Dr. Kathy Waller, a physician at CSU's Hartshorn Health Services, said in an e-mail interview. These colds are spread by respiratory droplets, so people who cough or sneeze without covering their

mouths or touch doorknobs and keyboards after coughing or sneezing can allow viruses to spread.

So far, mild outbreaks in respiratory infections, including influenza and pertussis, and noroviruses – which cause nausea, vomiting and diarrhea – have been the most worrisome medical cases the Fort Collins community has experienced as a result of travel, said Susanne Murray, a registered nurse with the Larimer County Department of Health and Environment's Communicable Disease Team. The team of 10 works closely with CSU to monitor outbreaks.

"We typically see flu spikes in this community related to people traveling for the holidays and coming back," Murray said. "And we have had the same issue from individuals traveling during spring break."

Dr. Tom Dieringer, a physician at Hartshorn, said influenza often has regional variations in incidence within the United States, and it is common for the illness to be carried back and forth between regions by traveling home during breaks. This is why influenza is the most common travel-related illness in the winter, followed by viral gastroenteritis – referred to as the "stomach flu" – and viral colds.

Risks are quite variable when students travel outside the United States, Waller said. Accommodations, the country's level of development, the duration of their stay and activities can affect students' risks for illness in foreign countries. Hartshorn warns international student-travelers of traveler's diarrhea, typhoid fever, hepatitis and meningitis, which are spread person-to-person or through infected food or water.

"There is certainly always a chance that any college campus, including CSU, could experience an outbreak of a more severe nature whenever groups of students travel to a common place," Waller said.

Students who return from their vacation and become ill should seek medical attention to treat their illness and avoid spreading it to others.

"They should always be sure to tell the provider who is caring for them that they have recently returned from vacation and the specific destinations visited," Waller added. Depending on the specific illness, the severity of it or the number of cases seen, CSU health officials would notify state and national health officials, but they don't have to notify them for every travel-related illness on campus.

"For example, even one case of meningococcal meningitis would be reported to the county and state health departments and the CDC," Waller said. "If a cluster of two to three cases of unusually severe or specific symptoms were seen, the county health department epidemiologists likely would be consulted for assistance. We also call the county if we see three or more cases of gastrointestinal illness where the students have all eaten at

noticed for

the same establishment or possibly traveled to the same destination.”

The Communicable Disease Team constantly works with CSU, local health care providers, government leaders, businesses, law enforcement and fire departments, among others, to prepare the Fort Collins and CSU communities for potential outbreaks. Today, the Communicable Disease Team’s largest concern is the threat of pandemic flu, Murray said.

A pandemic is an outbreak that affects numerous people all over the world at the same time, according to Larimer County’s pandemic flu Web site, larimerflu.org. Airplane travel has the potential to spread various strains of influenza domestically and internationally, according to an article in the Public Library of Science Medical Journal.

“If we prepare for a pandemic, which is the biggest thing, we can be prepared for the smaller things,” Murray said.

Individual health agencies, including the Larimer County health department, can notify one another of travel-related illnesses through the Epidemic Information Exchange (EPI-X) on the CDC Web site 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The system provides immediate notification by identifying, investigating and responding to health threats across the country.

The EPI-X was used in 2001, after more than 200 U.S. college students contracted an acute respiratory illness after inhaling fungus at a hotel construction site during spring break in Mexico. Since it was an international issue, the CDC worked with the Mexico Ministry of Health to conduct an investigation of the outbreak and additional information was posted on the CDC site.

Taking precautions

So before students pack their bags for a fun-filled trip to South America or an adventure through Asia’s past, they need to think about their health.

Waller advises students traveling abroad to visit the Travel Medicine Clinic at Hartshorn to discuss risks specific to their destination, activities and health history. Many immunizations or medications are available to prevent food and water-borne illnesses and insect-borne diseases, some of which are required for international travel. Because some immunizations take several months to complete, Waller said students should visit the clinic as early as possible.

Many travel-related illnesses are spread between humans by respiratory secretions, like coughing or sneezing, and the “fecal-oral” route,” Waller added.

“It sounds gross, but Hepatitis A, typhoid fever and traveler’s diarrhea are spread by fecal-oral route, meaning that someone who has it does not wash their hands after going to the bathroom and then touches or prepares food, which carries the organism to others who eat it, or it is spread in the water where sanitation is not adequate.”



don't be this guy

Carlson didn’t get any vaccinations before he went to Venezuela last year because none were required, only recommended.

“I can’t determine if it was food or water that made me sick. I ate a lot of questionable stuff,” he said, adding that he did not take precautions because his brother had never gotten sick and told him it likely wouldn’t be a problem. “I guess my immune system wasn’t as strong as his.”

“Students should try to keep themselves healthy by washing their hands frequently,” Waller said. “We recommend carrying hand sanitizer and using it frequently, especially before meals.” Students should also avoid eating raw or undercooked foods, especially when traveling in underdeveloped countries, and should drink only purified water. It also helps to maintain a healthy lifestyle by avoiding alcohol, tobacco, and drugs; getting adequate sleep; staying hydrated; and trying to eat healthy foods.

Carlson said he did wash his hands regularly and bottled water was available, but he chose not to drink it.

“I’d be more cautious next time, although only to the point of enjoyment,” Carlson said. “It’s not worth being anal about, in my opinion. No pun intended.” ■ Ca

Religious Strife

different voices, different views

Jamie Waugh shook her head in frustration as she walked through the Lory Student Center Plaza one cold October day. She was annoyed at the bold statements a clean-cut Christian missionary named Tom Short was making from his wooden stool in the center of a 50-student circle that had gathered to listen to and argue with him.

She walked into the LSC muttering to herself about how that type of behavior has no place at a public venue. After all, who was Short to tell random college students that the way they are living their lives is wrong and they need to change?

"It's just annoying," Waugh said. "I don't think that's the way to get to people, standing out there in the plaza, yelling. I'm totally religious, (but) I just think that's ridiculous."

Short stood on the plaza from noon to 4 p.m. for three days during the fall, gathering a larger crowd every day. When he ended on Oct. 18, nearly 200 students surrounded him. Some came to support his ministry, some came to object and others came for a good show. Leaders in student Christian organizations on campus say no matter why they were there, every student showed their face on the plaza because they knew it was an important debate.

Finding his niche

Dave Cole, a then graduate student who helped with the Short ministry at CSU, said students who argued with Short on the plaza were doing so because they saw passion in his preaching and wanted to know about it.

"People are yearning for spirituality ... you can see it in a lot of things, whether it be yoga or peace rallies," said Cole, a former discipleship team leader with The Rock, a student Christian group at CSU.

Cole's childhood was filled with confusion about the meaning of life. His mother dragged him to a Baptist church every Sunday, while his father stayed home and watched football.

"My mom said, 'The heck if I'm gonna let my kid stay at home and waste his life on football,'" Cole remembered. But he didn't buy into the Christian lifestyle because he was taught science in school and believed that science contradicted religion.

"I was an atheist until I was 15," he said.

In 2003, three years after becoming a Christian, Cole came to CSU to study business finance and immediately got involved with The Rock.

"I was told that unless you get plugged in right away you kind of have this temptation to kind of walk away," he said. "So I was looking for someone to call my family and the first day, these guys (from The Rock) were helping me move my stuff into my dorm room."

The Rock and its members soon became his niche, something he said all people need.

Although Cole said human nature includes a need to be loved, accepted and establish spirituality, humans are naturally turned off by the idea of commitment to a lifetime of Christian servitude.

"People count the costs and they count the benefits, and they're much more familiar with the costs and it's not a hard decision to make," he said. "The costs almost always outweigh the benefits from their perspective. If there is no God, there's no one to be held accountable by."

So when representatives of today's controversial Christian contingent like Short try to promote their message, they must use bold and sometimes offensive tactics.

"(Short) looks to make the provocative statement because if it's not provocative, no one cares," Cole said. "Sometimes the truth is offensive. We're not going to stop talking about the Holocaust because it was offensive. It's a tragic story that needs to be told."

But proponents of other religions say that although Christians feel this respectable commitment to their faith, they don't need to follow it to the point of advocating it openly in public.

Perspective of another belief

Sage Morris-Green, a Jewish graduate student in philosophy, said Jews advertise their beliefs, but they don't put them up for sale. She added that Christians should do the same.

"I think it's very noble that Christian people are worried about other people's souls to the point that they want to save them," Morris-Green said. "That's great; that's a very loving thing, that's awesome. What I don't think is so cool ... is that



russ franson, left, and joshua melton attend a grace christian church service in the lory student center theater.

► photos by brandon iwamoto

they teach that if you don't do this, you're going to Hell. I think that crosses the line."

But her conundrum is that, although she feels Christians take it too far, one of the main precepts of Judaism is to not dictate how other religions spread.

"It's kind of a funny catch 22 question ... because the reason we don't try to convert people is because it says to let people do their own thing," she said. "(But) when (Christians) follow you around and say, 'You're condemned to Hell,' because you're not listening to them, I just think that that's honestly bulls***."

Judaism at CSU received a huge boost in support from administrators during the fall, when LSC officials broke stride in policy enforcement and allowed a Jewish student organization to erect a traditional Hebrew tent on the LSC Plaza and keep it there for a week. LSC policy prohibits any impermanent structure from residing in the Plaza overnight, but made the exception for Chabad, when Rabbi Yerachmiel Gorelik approached officials and asked to be exempt from the policy in respect for Jewish tradition.

But the issue remains that Judaism, like many other religious minorities, is still largely marginalized in the Fort Collins community. For last year's Passover celebration in the

LSC, Chabad had to battle for the right to prepare kosher food.

Morris-Green blames this problem on lack of awareness.

"The problem with a lot of Jewish kids in Colorado is (that) there are not a lot of strong Jewish communities, so a lot of Jewish families ... don't actively participate in Judaism and there are a lot of kids who are afraid to participate," she said.

Pop culture's inaccurate depiction of Judaism doesn't help either.

"I have non-Jewish friends who have actually asked this, 'How can you be Jewish? You don't have any horns on your head,'" Morris-Green said.

Christians don't have this problem because Christianity has been the world's dominant religion for 2,000 years, she added.

The separatists who agree

Jeremiah White, a Christian missionary who has preached on campus for the past few years, agreed with Morris-Green's theory that Christians assert themselves in the wrong ways. He said the reason for society's hatred of Christianity is

hot button

because of internal shortcomings in the church. White, who just returned to Loveland from a six-month yurt retreat in Bend, Ore. with his wife Stephanie and their two small girls, is a minister with A Church in Fort Collins. The non-denominational ministry is committed to propagating Christ's teachings in the area and has a controversial mission at CSU.

Leaders from the Church, often met with staunch criticism, stand on the plaza every week and ask students if they want to talk about Christ.

Their old-fashioned message reflects an old-fashioned lifestyle. Surrounded by warm wood walls covered in tea bags and antique trinkets in his quaint new home in downtown Loveland, White advocated for a bartering system, a "mutual brotherly exchange" in a utopian Christian society bereft of political strife.

He says the Christian message is not about attacks on modern lifestyle, but about objective judgment of secularism based on Biblical precepts in one-on-one civil discourse. He says Christians lost that idea 1,700 years ago and now resort to politics, televangelism and corporate media to propel their cause to the public stage.

A Church in Fort Collins uses grass-roots evangelistic methods that Jesus Christ told His apostles to use 2,000 years ago. They walk on to campus and "reason with the students out of the scriptures and just try to persuade them concerning the things about Jesus Christ that He was the redeemer of the world, the salvation of mankind," White said.

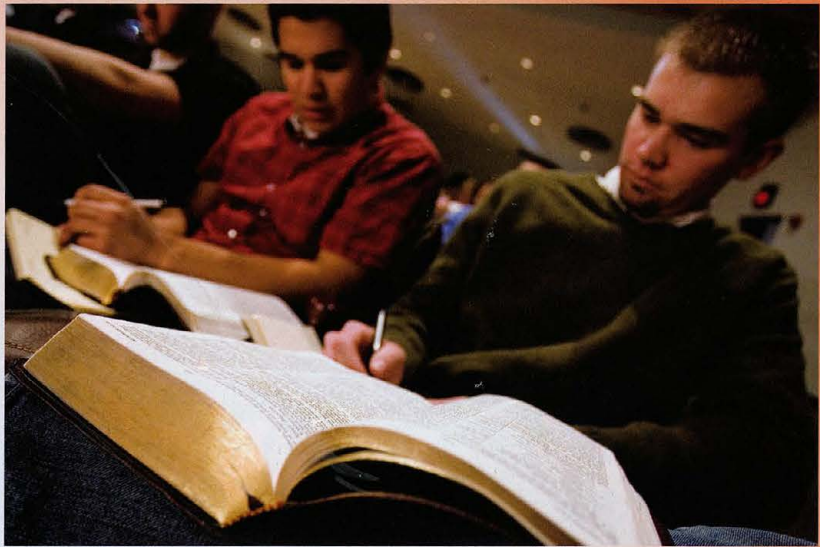
As Christianity gets caught up in world politics and Christian leaders of the United States justify military invasion of Third World countries by citing a strong belief in democracy and saying it is the Christian thing to do, White shakes his head at the religious right and any involvement Christians have in politics.

"If Christians have an agenda in Iraq or Iran, it's publishing the truth of Christ and living a life that's consistent with what He taught," he said. "It's not getting behind that war machine of the U.S. or any other government."

White believes the true mission of a Christian is not to complain about political affliction, but to bring the gospel to all who would hear it, regardless of persecution suffered from humanistic society.

"(Christians) have lost sight of what is essential and important," he said. "They say 'Oh they won't let us march in your parade.' So what? ... If they persecute you for your beliefs, turn the other cheek. ... They're attacking spider webs instead of dealing with the spider, dealing with the heart of the matter, which is dealing with men's hearts."

But he also said he agrees that society is afraid of



Justin Trang reads a verse from the Bible during a Grace Christian Church service in the Lory Student Center theater.

Christianity because people who are engrossed in a modern lifestyle don't want to be held accountable for what he called their "wicked actions."

"The gospel gets to the core of man's soul immediately with no waste of time and without respect of persons," White said. "And people are offended at God, people hate God."

The biggest criticism White receives of his church's methods is that they call into question secular ways of life and assert that they are wrong; but he said the concept that judgment is not natural is a contradiction in terms. He invokes judgment as an essential part of preaching, and those who claim life can be lived in a non-judgmental way are being hypocritical.

"If there's truth, there's deception, and each person has to make judgments themselves as to what's true and what's false," he said. "Even people who say, 'Oh, you shouldn't judge, you shouldn't judge.' ... well they're contradicting their own philosophy right there. Everybody judges everything. 'Oh that's bitter, that's sweet. That was nice, oh that sucks.'"

But White said his mission doesn't lack a loving element.

He only fights the religious battle, he said, because he wants to better society and ultimately save people. White, Short and Cole knew the risk of alienation when they joined the Christian movement.

"Everything we do has the potential to shut people off — Jesus shut people off," Short said. "We can't let the fear of the negative prevent us from doing the right thing." ■ Ca

**Editor's Note: After this article was completed, Jamie Waugh applied for and received a job as a designer for the Rocky Mountain Collegian.*

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Power by Touch

With a new evolution of technology, things have been brought directly to the fingertips. The latest trend is not about who has the skinniest phone or who has the best ringtones. Technology has gone above and beyond what our generation is used to and today, the power of touch technology has taken over. From cell phones to navigation to computers and video games, the newest technology advances lie, literally, at the tip of our fingers.

The technology behind what is known as “multi-touch” interface was started around the same time as the Internet, but it didn’t become a public phenomenon until the release of the iPhone just last year. According to billbuxton.com, a site about touch technology compiled by Microsoft Research, touch devices were created more for scholarly uses until a smaller interface could be created, but this is where “fingers obscure the small screens.” Then, only within the last year or two, the more affordable creations came out for the public and are becoming less expensive as well as creatively unique, with hundreds of different screen options and easier interactions.

I’m on the phone...

Considered one of the best “breakthrough” technology devices, according to Apple.com, the iPhone has

revolutionized not only the cell phone, but the idea behind touch technology. As one of the first fully “touch” capable devices, the iPhone relies on the fingers of the world to utilize all of the high-tech features it offers.

There are thousands of different screen views, rotations and internal buttons; the touch accessories are endless for this phone, from a full functioning keyboard to the Internet and beyond. Although finger prints and smudges may make for a blurry screen, there is nothing like this phone.

And only recently have other calling providers, such as Verizon Wireless, created their version of the touch-screen phone. Although not as advanced as the iPhone, phones such as Verizon’s Voyager and Venus cost a lot less and can work with multiple service providers.

Price: \$399 for the phone, but then calling plans range from \$60 to \$150 per month with AT&T as the only service provider. (Whereas Verizon’s Voyager costs \$350 and the Venus costs \$250, and plans range from \$40 to \$200.)

Unique features: The iPhone is able to function on some of the iPod add-ons, such as the computer and car adaptors. Also, there is a one-of-a-kind television adapter for the iPhone that allows for the iPhone to work through a TV or to watch videos from the phone on the larger screen.

Watch out for: If the iPhone is synchronized with a computer, every time it is connected, it will sync automatically, so loss of data could occur. Also, for full protection against damages, which can occur easily if the phone is dropped or gets wet, a warranty is available, but at an additional cost of \$70 for two years.

Rockin’ to the beat...

Although the iPhone was first, the recently launched iPod Touch might be as big a hit. With many of the same features, the new iPod’s “multi-touch interface lets you control everything using only your fingers,” according to the Apple Web site. It allows the owner to “glide ... flick ... pinch ... and zoom” through the different views.

Like the other iPods, the Touch is still all about music, but there are no buttons, scroll keys or anything of the sort;



► photo illustration courtesy of apple

it is all within the screen. Instead of sorting through titled playlists, owners can now search through album covers and artist pictures. It's as easy as one, two, three, TAP.

Price: 8 GB: \$299 or 16 GB: \$399

Unique features: The iPod Touch has Internet capabilities to surf and download new music and videos straight from the device so there is no longer a need to constantly keep the MP3 synchronized with a computer.

Watch out for: Caution: constant finger prints and smudges. Also, the iPod Touch requires PC Windows' editions Vista or XP, and iTunes editions 7.4 or higher. Even with the same amount of storage, the iPod Touch doesn't hold as many songs and the average 22 hours of battery life is not as long as the iPod Nano or iPod Classic, which range from 30 to 40 hours.

Getting lost in a book...

Books are no longer a paper indulgence, but have followed in the footsteps of other technological advances, leading to what are known as eBooks. The newest addition to this largely growing technology is the "first usable, mass-marketed 'electronic book,'" according to whatisit.com. With a touch screen and storage of more than 4,000 pages, or 10 novels, the eBook may one day start to replace paperbacks.

With touch technology that allows readers to do just as they would with a paper novel – from "bookmarking pages, making notes, highlighting passages and saving selected text" – the touch screen allows for anything, states whatisit.com. But along with these known familiarities, readers can also touch the screen to scan a built-in dictionary and change font sizes and styles.

With some confusion about eBooks, the product hasn't taken off like other touch products. eBook readers, which are the portable devices that store books as a file, are the first expense; subsequently, once a reader starts downloading books or chapters, a lot of money can be spent on this product. Even if readers wish to view books on their computer, they still have to pay for the book or chapter.

Price: Approximately \$200 or more for the reader, and a variety of prices for books for less than \$1 for a single page to about \$17 for a full novel.

Unique features: Some come with a WiFi connection that allows for easy downloading and dictionary usage while reading a novel.

Watch out for: The new generations of books have short battery life, from eight hours down to only a couple of hours, and not all novels are downloadable on different brands of eBook readers, such as Sony, Palm (which created the Palm Pilot), Franklin Electronics and Mach Speed.



Playing the game...

Old versions of computer and console video games are becoming a thing of the past. The new technology lies within handheld, portable gaming systems where gamers no longer need a controller—only their hands and fingers. The new Nintendo DS Handheld is one of the first touch-controlled devices. Now, the original button controls are still there, but the action can be controlled directly by the player's fingers or a stylus pen. With the dual screen view, the player can have twice as many views and twice as much control over the game, according to the Nintendo Web site.

Price: The handheld system runs \$129.99 while different games cost \$19 to \$49. The variety of games offered are the same as any other gaming console, from action, to classic hero games and more.

Unique features: Dual color screen that allows for high contrast and high resolution play.

Watch out for: Requires a long battery recharge time, and if the system is not closed or put away properly, dust and debris can cause damage.

In the passenger seat...

Driving in the car is dangerous already – from talking on the cell phone to reading a map, there are endless distractions. New navigation units make finding directions quicker and safer with new "one-touch" systems. Many navigation systems have incorporated homing beacons to remember cities and locations so in just one touch, a driver can find his or her way effortlessly and with less distraction time; the fingertips control it all. Check out NexTag.com to see different comparisons and reviews.

Price: Ranges from \$100 to \$500

Unique features: Some come with programmable satellite radio, CD and photo storage and route memory for constantly traveled, and sometimes forgotten, routes.

Watch out for: Unknown routes and round-about ways to get to a new destination. Also, some systems are hard to read due to smaller text and smaller screens. ■ Ca

Saving Lives

one WOLF at a time

A small pack of wolves quietly prances through the snowy Rocky Mountain landscape on the five acres of land surrounding them. Though they appear to be a wild pack of majestic animals, they are actually well protected from the hostile world outside their enclosures.

These wolves and wolf-dogs have been given a new lease on life, thanks to the Wolves Offered Life and Friendship, or WOLF, Sanctuary. For the past 13 years, the WOLF Sanctuary, located about 15 miles northwest of Fort Collins in Rist Canyon, has been rescuing wolves and human-bred wolf-dogs that were born and raised in captivity.

Wolves are on the Colorado endangered species list, yet these animals are continually being bred in captivity as pets and photographic subjects. These animals aren't adapted to life in the wild and depend on humans for food, so WOLF provides a permanent home for a number of these animals.

WOLF is registered as a non-profit organization; therefore, the total cost of food, shelter, veterinary care and sanctuary up-keep for the 30 animals that call WOLF home, is covered completely by public donation.

Because of this, WOLF depends on more than 100 volunteers for maintenance and animal care. Brandy Russell, who has volunteered for WOLF since 2002 and became its volunteer coordinator in 2003, encourages people to get involved with the sanctuary.

"It's an excellent organization to get involved with," Russell said. "You can be as involved as you would like to be so there is something for everyone, no matter what amount of time you are able to commit. All it takes is one trip to the facility and you're hooked; the animals are truly amazing."

Mara Miller, postdoctoral fellow for CSU's biochemical microbiology department, began volunteering at WOLF in September 2007. Miller first heard about the sanctuary while attending a CSU-sponsored lecture given by Jane Goodall, who mentioned WOLF in her speech. Miller decided to look into WOLF herself.

"I loved it so much up there after my initial visit that I couldn't get enough," Miller said. "I continued to volunteer not only for the time with the animals, but also the time for me to be with nature, to be with the animals, to be with really good people who share the same ideals as myself, and also to get some good exercise."

Like most volunteers, Miller performs everyday tasks that keep the wolves healthy and happy, such as checking food bins and water buckets, administering medication to certain animals and cleaning enclosures. "Volunteering is not for everyone. It is tough, physical work. It is, however, likely the most rewarding thing that I have done," Miller said.

WOLF's mission is to "improve the quality of life for all wolves and wolf-dogs." Its three objectives are to rescue wolves and wolf-dogs that

no longer have appropriate homes, provide permanent sanctuary for rescued animals and educate the public on how captivity affects these wild animals.

Frank and Patricia Wendland, who own and operate the sanctuary, founded WOLF in April of 1994 after witnessing the effects that misunderstanding and miseducation have on the livelihood of captive-bred animals.

After befriendng three wolf-dogs owned by an acquaintance, the Wendlands learned of the beauty and humanity of wolves, which are not properly cared for, and are commonly labeled as ferocious animals by their human counterparts.

WOLF Sanctuary administrator Kiley McGowen, who first became involved with WOLF over five years ago while attending CSU, said that most people harbor the delusion "that they are vicious man-eaters. Wolves are actually very shy and prefer to stay away from humans."

The Wendlands saw the effects of human cruelty on the animals when one of their new wolf-friends, Nicodemus, was found dead and the other two animals on the verge of starvation.

"Nicodemus died from dehydration, sacrificing his life to give his pack mates a better chance of surviving," according to WOLF's Web site, wolfsanctuary.net.

The two remaining dogs spent six weeks at CSU's Emergency Veterinary Medical Center before they were healthy enough to be moved to responsible homes.

Not long after, the couple came across a 3-month-old wolf-dog, about to be put down for acting too aggressively toward its new family, who had been improperly educated about the wild nature of these animals. The Wendlands came to the pup's rescue and took in their first wolf.

Within a year of opening the sanctuary, the Wendlands had 12 wolves in their care. They realized the magnitude of the problem and soon devoted their lives to rescuing captive-bred wolves. WOLF became an incorporated non-profit organization in June 1995.

WOLF also belongs to the American Sanctuary Association and The Association of Sanctuaries. Both of these organizations strive to maintain standards of care of animals in sanctuaries, support member sanctuaries, and, most importantly, assist mistreated animals.

Over the past 13 years, WOLF has grown beyond its capacity. Today it houses 30 wolves and sits on more than 180 acres of land in LaPorte. Eleven animals are housed at satellite facilities and are awaiting placement in the sanctuary.

Because these animals are essentially wild, the sanctuary tries to mimic the habits of wolves in their natural habitats. The wolves and wolf-dogs are kept in packs of two or four. Each pack lives in a chain-link enclosure that is about a quarter acre (100 square feet) in size.

"Wolves and wolf-dogs are extremely social by nature, and need



photos by brian swanson

wolves and wolf-dogs raised in captivity are given a second chance at the WOLF sanctuary.

the stimulation and companionship other animals provide,” McGowen said. “Keeping a wolf or wolf-dog alone is intolerably cruel.”

WOLF also practices and supports captivity versus euthanasia. This is the idea that these animals should be kept in an environment that will keep them healthy and well-adjusted because it is ultimately their happiness at stake. They should not be put down because humans misunderstand their nature.

“These animals are not meant to be kept as pets,” Miller said. “The need for the sanctuary comes from uneducated people breeding these animals and selling them as pets followed by people realizing that they are not suitable as pets and then trying to get rid of them. If they are taken to the humane society these animals are destroyed because humane societies do not deem these animals as adoptable.”

WOLF believes that wolves and wolf-dogs should not be bred as pets because all chance for normal, wild behavior for these animals would be lost. For that reason, WOLF spays and neuters all the animals in their care.

“Some people believe wolves and wolf-dogs make unique pets without giving any thought to the animals well-being,” McGowen said. “Captivity requires a huge compromise of their spirits and instincts.”

WOLF strives to educate people by addressing myths about wolf behavior, explaining their nature and analyzing their personalities to show why they make inappropriate pets.

Miller said she has learned a lot about the nature of these animals in her short time volunteering at the sanctuary.

“I think that the most unexpected thing about the animals is just how big they are,” Miller said. “Other than that, they are just fantastic.”

“They are wonderful creatures as close to the wild as they can be under the circumstances,” she added. “Many of them are shy, while some of them love to get love as much as give love.”

WOLF utilizes its limited resources to house as many animals as possible; however, when WOLF is unable to take in an animal, for whatever reason, it strives to find it an appropriate home somewhere else.

“We attempt to assist in the placement of all animals we receive calls or e-mails about by sending out alert e-mails to an informal network of rescues and sanctuaries across the country,” McGowen said.

Every year, WOLF must turn down around 1,000 animals looking for placement; in the end, 80 to 90 percent of those animals are destroyed. “The captive wildlife crisis is a much bigger issue than most people realize,” McGowen explained. “However, in our history, we have provided permanent, life-long sanctuary to 99 animals, and assisted in the placement of over 7,500 animals.”

In order to accommodate more animals, the sanctuary is currently seeking to expand its acreage. Under Larimer County’s original special review, the WOLF Sanctuary is only able to house 30 animals and can

how to volunteer

- to become a member, students must make a minimum donation of \$25
- fill out the volunteer application available at wolfsanctuary.net
- must be at least 18 years old or 16 with adult supervision
- have a current tetanus vaccination
- go through volunteer training to learn about handling and feeding the animals and about their general health
- for more information about volunteering contact Brandy Russell, volunteer coordinator at (970) 416-9531 or brussell@wolfsanctuary.net

only use five of their 180 acres for enclosures.

Unfortunately, this new amendment has received some opposition from nearby residents who accused WOLF of poaching, noise violations, and not taking responsibility for lost animals. Some fears were raised that it was only a matter of time before the animals escaped and started attacking people. A new review is being proposed to increase its acreage to 30 acres of enclosures and double its resident capacity to 60 wolves and wolf-dogs, in order to do more to help these struggling animals.

Miller said in the short time she's worked for WOLF, she's learned about the importance of the sanctuary and sees the value in public education in stopping captive and hybrid breeding in order to eliminate the demand for the sanctuary all together.

"I have furthered my love for these animals and learned the need to educate the population of the future of these animals and what can be done to prevent the need of the sanctuary," Miller said. ■ Ca

**Editor's Note: Since this story was written, the WOLF expansion application was denied on a 2-1 vote by the Larimer County Commissioners. See "WOLF expansion denied" at coloradoan.com for more information.*



MoCa

sharing art and culture with the community

The Fort Collins Museum of Contemporary Art (FCMOCA) is the only private, not for profit art museum in Fort Collins. The museum hosts a series of exciting, informative exhibitions for Northern Colorado. The museum is committed to working with all CSU students to serve as a resource and place of lifelong learning and enjoyment. CSU students receive free admission to FCMOCA at all times with presentation of a valid student I.D.

Last year, Dana Gioia, the chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, noted in a commencement address at Stanford University that Americans are increasingly isolated from the activities and accomplishments of our living poets, playwrights, painters, sculptors, architects and musicians. Gioia described the American "culture of entertainment" where sports and entertainment dominate our national consciousness. We have, according to Gioia, "relinquished [our] imaginations to the marketplace."

The mission of FCMOCA is to fill the gap that Gioia spoke about and to engage our visitors in experiences that promote an understanding about contemporary art and culture. We exist to provide the community with alternatives to the increasingly commercialized and

commoditized visual culture that can dull our minds and kill our imaginative capacities.

As a museum educator, curator and director, I have had the good fortune to work in a variety of museums in communities across the country. Those museums were, like FCMOCA, located in important and beautiful buildings and served as a focal point for the visual arts. The quality of any museum is usually proportionate to the size of its audience and the level of financial investment it receives from community leaders and philanthropists. Museum's can play an important role in enhancing cultural and educational offerings, but community support is essential to achieve quality art museum programs. FCMOCA, if it is to achieve its full potential, will need much more community support in the coming years.

FCMOCA's exhibition schedule in 2008 is an exciting and informative one. Until March 22, Insights: Art and Science will present the work of contemporary artists who are inspired by or comment upon the role that science plays in our lives. From May 20 through July 12, Re-Generation 50 Photographers of Tomorrow will showcase the creativity, ingenuity and inspiration of 50 up-and-coming photographic artists. And from September 30 through January 3 of 2009, the museum will present its Rocky

Mountain Biennial that focuses on contemporary regional artists.

FCMOCA is an ideal place to come on a First Friday Gallery Walk or when you have out-of-town guests. Museum's stimulate conversation, enliven the mind and delight our senses. They have the capacity to entertain, but also to transcend pure entertainment. ■ Ca



photo by katie stevens
marianne lorenz, executive director of fort collins museum of contemporary art.

FCMOCA is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and from noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday.

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