

around the **BLOCK**

A Newsletter of the Colorado College Community

Block 6 • 2007

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My sophomore year, a preacher stood on the crosswalk on Cascade Avenue and shouted at students about their sinful lives. “You, son, I bet you think you’re good at sex,” he shouted. “Let me tell you, there is no sex better than that between a man and his wife.” I questioned him and one of his acolytes told me to shut up. “I bet you question your professors, too,” he said. It was, I replied, exactly what they expected of me.

After such an experience, I never expected to find myself praying in New Life Church. But a month ago, drama compelled me.

CC alum Jim Lewis, ’80, a writer with the New York theater company, The Civilians, suggested having the

group visit Colorado College. The Civilians create and perform critically acclaimed documentary theater shows, and wanted to write a play about evangelism.

To do so, eight professional actors from the group traveled to Colorado Springs to research and teach during fifth block. They conducted more than 300 hours of interviews and attended church services throughout the city. My fifth block drama class was to take the interviews and recreate the subjects as characters, using their actual words, and put together a play. That play would be a draft of the final project The Civilians would refine and eventually perform in New York.

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Get to know: Steve Weaver

I first saw Steve Weaver’s photography my senior year of high school. Cruising around the CC Web site looking for admissions, I came across one of his photographs of Pikes Peak. For someone from the Midwest, it was astounding.

Meeting Steve Weaver, it’s hard to imagine him as anything but a geologist. He’s got the sunburn, the blue flannel, and the beard. His office is cluttered with rocks and the yellow plastic of geological equipment. All one would

expect from CC’s technical director of geology. But then he turns to the huge black photo portfolio next to him. The enormous pages are filled with color, sweeping pictures of cavernous sediment, snow that looks like a dessert, and richly tinted grasses.

“Light is essential,” says Weaver. “I take 90 percent of my photographs right before and right after sunrise and sunset.” And while many of his photos are the mountainous ranges I was first drawn to, many more are the grasses and living things on the surface of these landscapes. “People

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A Student's Dilemma: How we got Michael Pollan to come to CC

Editor's note: Michael Pollan noted that during all the negotiations prior to his visit, he "never spoke with an adult" until he arrived on campus. We asked Sara Rubin '07, who was instrumental in bringing him to campus, to explain how Pollan's visit came about.

All you need is to pitch a good idea, ask faculty for thousands of dollars, and anything can happen on this campus.



The first inklings of Food-Chained began in May when I returned from a six-week internship in Alamosa. Steaks came from cattle I had fed, and eggs from chickens whose coop I had insulated.

My ideas about food retail and journalism collided with Laura Parker's ideas about on-the-ground production, agro-ecology, and holistic management practices. We approached food issues from opposite perspectives: Parker grew up on a Colorado ranch that practiced holistic management, and I grew up in suburban New Jersey where farms consist of an acre of pick-your-own pumpkins.

It began as repeated daydreaming and the crafting of a mission statement before we started communicating with the food world's hot shots. Topping my celebrity list was Michael Pollan, the journalist who got me thinking about

food when I was 17 and his *New York Times Magazine* cover story, "Power Steer," stopped me in mid-chew over breakfast. He had followed a steer "from insemination to steak," and the detailed account of what our meat's life looks like forever changed my approach to "carnivory." I never gave up meat, but I began to cast a critical eye toward my food sources.

As an aspiring journalist and intrigued foodie, I started e-mailing Pollan, who was in Berkeley, in July. Tentative plans fell through, but after a series of about 15 exchanges with his assistant and my persistent (borderline excessive) phone calls, I finally got the go-ahead to book a date and to get in touch with Pollan himself. Impressed by the student-initiated nature of the series and realizing that some of his ranching sources (Dale Lasater, who hosts several CC field trips, and Mike Callicrate, the Kansas rancher who owns the Colorado Springs Ranch Food Direct markets) were in the area, he agreed to speak about his newest book, "The Omnivore's Dilemma," and food at CC.

The next step was the attempt to awe staff and faculty with our idea for a hip new series. We found Mark Smith in the economics department who saw our suggestion for bringing in Pollan as a commitment to promoting dialogue in a liberal arts setting and a chance for students to be in charge.

Rubin and Parker '08 are the founders of Food-Chained.

News from HR ...

Web Time Entry: As part of the migration to Web Time Entry timesheets (starting July 1) for full time non-exempt staff, extra days to process checks must be built into payroll in order to keep paydates the same as they have been. This would have resulted in one short check on July 15 as those processing days are added to the pay cycle. The WTE working group, staff council, and senior staff have been working on how to address this one-time "overlap pay gap," and we are happy to report that Colorado College will be fully funding the cost of the gap (appx. \$155,000) out of the president's contingency fund so that employees do not experience a short paycheck during the implementation.

For a detailed explanation about the "overlap pay gap"

and why this is great news for CC staff, please check the WTE Web site at <http://www.ColoradoCollege.edu/wte>

EMERITI Retiree Health Plan

What is the EMERITI program? Why was it implemented? Answers to these and other frequently asked questions are now available on the Human Resources Web site.

Visit www.ColoradoCollege.edu/hr for info

Associated Colleges of the Midwest (ACM) Tuition Remission Exchange Program (TREP)

CC has entered a new TREP arrangement with a commitment to fund 100% of the tuition not forgiven by the institutions in which our dependents enroll. Visit the HR web site at www.ColoradoCollege.edu/hr for full details.

Get to know: Weaver (from p.1)

always think Colorado – oh, the mountains are beautiful,” Weaver says. “But there’s a beauty in the prairie that people don’t appreciate.” Much of his recent work is concerned with these underappreciated ecosystems and the protection of Colorado. “My goal is to make incredible images of places and environments that show people... what can be lost.”

Weaver’s photographs are featured in many CC admission pieces, as well as the State of the Rockies report.

Weaver’s PhD in geology adds a special interest to the landscapes that he photographs. “I’ve spent so much time in the field, I can look at things and say, yes, this is a pleasing composition to me,” says Weaver. He describes the strength of his photos in terms of light and composition. “Nature is very messy overall, a lot of stuff in it. I try to simplify to what is essential.” However, his interests in photography and geology are not always directly in line. For example, on his geological specialty of igneous rocks: “They’re just not

that interesting to photograph.” Or, as he clarifies, they’re not usually as colorful and vibrant as the sandstone that he tends to photograph. Weaver feels that photography allows him to use both his technological expertise gained from geology and a more artistic side. “There’s both the right brain and left brain involved in photography.”

There are often great difficulties involved in capturing the creativity and technique of a good photograph. Weaver lugs a 4x5 to all his sites – a totally mechanical camera that resembles the old-fashioned box and cloth set-up. He’s dragged this 4x5 camera around to some of the most inhospitable areas of the continent. Once on a trip to the Canadian Rockies to core glacial lake sediments, Weaver photographed the mountains in negative 25-degree weather. “I had to hold my breath because at that temperature your breath will fog the ground glass.” ○ Lisa Johnson '07

And the award goes to...!

The advancement division won four awards this year from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) in District VI. The awards included:

- Grand Gold Award for Excellence in Fundraising Materials in the fundraising videos/DVDs category for the “Sounds of Colorado College: A Sampler” CD. Those sharing credit: Richard F. Celeste, Marshall P. Kean, Michael D. Grace '63, Dan Wiencek '91, and Diane B. Benninghoff '68. President Celeste came up with the idea as a way to thank donors and to connect them to the college. To receive a copy, contact Marshall Kean at x6754.

- Gold Award for Excellence in Fundraising Materials in the fundraising videos/DVDs category for the “Cornerstone Arts at Colorado College” DVD. Those sharing credit: Diane B. Benninghoff '68, Marshall P. Kean, Susan C. Martz, Lisa Ellis '82, and Max Harper '04. The college created the DVD to help explain the unique, collaborative interdisciplinary approach to the arts at CC, and to promote the new Cornerstone Arts Center to potential investors. The DVD can be viewed on the

college’s home page at www.ColoradoCollege.edu

The same video won a second award: Silver Award for Excellence in Multimedia in the CD/DVD category for the “Cornerstone Arts at Colorado College” DVD.

Silver Award for Excellence in Educational Fundraising in the improvement in a specific and/or special support category for the “AppreCCiate Scholarship” program. Those sharing credit: Robin Dunn '06, Ari Stiller-Shulman '06, and Caitlin Fennell. At the end of fiscal year 2005-2006, student giving to the AppreCCiate Scholarship reached 50 percent participation (990 student donors) and raised \$8,003.94. The AppreCCiate Web site can be viewed at www.ColoradoCollege.edu/students/AppreCCiate

CASE is an international association of professionals who advance educational institutions. The organization recognizes outstanding efforts in institutional advancement through its international awards program. Diane Benninghoff '68, assistant vice president for advancement, received the awards on CC’s behalf at the CASE District VI conference on Jan. 23 in Kansas City, Mo.

Thursday, March 1

Concert: Euforquestra, 7 p.m., Venue 515, 515 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, \$16, \$12 with a CC ID; tickets at KRCC, 912 N. Weber St.; the Business of Art Center, 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs; and www.ticketweb.com.

Lecture: Nagin Cox: "Hitting the Road on Mars: The Mars Exploration Rover's Mission and Beyond," 7:30 p.m., Colorado College

Friday, March 2

Lecture: Richard Tapia: "Promoting Students' Appreciation for Math through Applications to Very Cool Activities," 3 p.m., Colorado College, Tutt Science Center Lecture Hall

Reading: The Cat in the Hat 50th Birthday Party, 3 p.m., Colorado College Bookstore

Concert: Operation Smile Benefit Concert 7 p.m., Gates Common Room, \$5; tickets at Worner Campus Center Information Desk, 902 N. Cascade Ave. (ticket info 719/389-6607) & at the door the day of the concert

Concert: Cornmeal 9 p.m., Gaylord Hall, \$6, \$3 for students, or \$3 with a CC ID; tickets at KRCC, 912 N. Weber St., and the Worner Desk

Sunday, March 4

Concert: AMUSE Recorder Consort, Nancy Eckberg and friends, 3 p.m., Packard Hall

Monday, March 5

Workshop: Becoming a Love and Logic Parent, 6:30 p.m., Worner Campus Center, \$70

Film: French Cine-Club presents "Germinal," 6:30 p.m., W.E.S. Room

Lecture: Jane Gallop: "The Ethics of Indecency," 7 p.m., Gaylord Hall

Lecture: Matthew Simmons: "Adjusting to the End of Cheap Oil: What Should the U.S. and the Rockies Do?" 7:30 p.m., Gates Common Room

Lecture: Sanford Levinson: "Why the United States Needs a New Constitution," 7:30 p.m., Bemis Hall

Tuesday, March 6

Demonstration: Edna Romero: Native American Student Union Heritage Week, 7:30 p.m., Slocum Commons

Lecture: Jonathan Alter: "Making Sense of 2006/2008 National Elections," 7:30 p.m., Gaylord Hall

Wednesday, March 7

Luncheon: "The Past, the Present, and the Future of the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center,"

Noon, Gaylord Hall, \$15

Demonstration: Cheryl Arviso: Native American Student Union Heritage Week, 2 p.m., W.E.S. Room

Lecture: Kathy Kelly: "Witness to War, Eyewitness to Peace," 7 p.m., Gates Common Room

Thursday, March 8

Lecture: Tim Brown: "Gold in the Land of the Midnight Sun," 7 p.m., Tutt Science Center

Concert: QAT, Canadian chamber music, 7:30 p.m., Packard Hall

Performance: Native American Student Union Heritage Week, 7:30 p.m., Gates Common Room

p.s.

What is Podcasting?

Podcasting enables you to listen to audio files at your choosing. Once podcasting software is installed, you can listen directly from the computer. You also can listen while on the go by synching up a portable MP3 player, such as an iPod. Check out CC's podcasts at: <http://www.ColoradoCollege.edu/podcast/>

Top 10 mp3 downloads of CC lectures:

1. Steven Levitt 3,047
2. Laurie Marker 2,394
3. State of the Rockies: Clay Jenkinson 1,835
4. Imad Moustapha 1,759
5. Popkin/Suarez 1,725
6. State of the Rockies: Ranching 1,705
7. State of the Rockies: Climate Change 1,695
8. Chris Bachelder 1,595
9. Philip Levine 1,550
10. Kathy Kelly 1,540

block 6 CALENDAR of events

Lecture: Jack Kloppenburg: “Eating Locally, Thinking Globally: Sustainability and the Food System,” 7:30 p.m., Gaylord Hall

Theater: German play: “Ein Soldat kommt nach Hause” (“A Soldier Returns”), 8 p.m., Max Kade Theatre

Friday, March 9

Lecture: Tad Homer-Dixon: “The Upside of Down: Catastrophe, Creativity and the Renewal of Civilization,” 1 p.m., Bemis Hall

Dance: Faculty Dance Concert: “MOVING,” 7:30 p.m., Armstrong Theatre, \$5, \$2 for students, or \$2 with a CC ID; tickets at Worner Campus Center Information Desk

Performance: Seven Fall Dancers: Native American Student Union Heritage Week, 7:30 p.m., W.E.S. Room

Theater: German play: “Ein Soldat kommt nach Hause” (“A Soldier Returns”), 8 p.m., Max Kade Theatre

Performance: Chocolate Helicopter: Native American Student Union Heritage, 8:30 p.m., Benji’s

Saturday, March 10

Demonstration: Colorado College COOL Science Day, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Olin and Fishbowl

Theater: German Play: “Ein Soldat kommt nach Hause” (A Soldier Returns), 3 p.m., Max Kade Theatre

Concert: QAT, music of Eric Champagne, Gee-Bum Kim and Ofer Ben-Amots, 7:30 p.m., Packard Hall

Dance: Faculty Dance Concert: “MOVING,” 7:30 p.m., Armstrong Theatre, \$5, \$2 for students, or \$2 with a CC ID; tickets at Worner Campus Center Information Desk

Sunday, March 11

Concert: QAT, music of Eric Champagne, Gee-Bum Kim and Ofer Ben-Amots, 3 p.m., Packard Hall

Dance: Faculty Dance Concert: “MOVING,” 3 p.m., Armstrong Theatre, \$5, \$2 for students, or \$2 with a CC ID; tickets at Worner Campus Center Information Desk

Monday, March 12

Reading: Clifford Chase, author of “WINKIE,” 6:30 p.m., Gaylord Hall

Lecture: Lance Strate: “Eight Bits About Digital Culture,” 7 p.m., W.E.S. Room

Monday, March 26

Film: French Cine-Club presents “Police,” 6:30 p.m., Max Kade Theatre

Tuesday, March 27

Lecture: Eldon Eisenach: “How the Progressives Transformed American Liberalism,” 7:30 p.m., Gaylord Hall

Wednesday, March 28

Performance: Crystal Brandl: Viva Frida, 4 and 7:30 p.m., Packard Hall

Lecture: Jerry Greenfield: “Social Responsibility, Radical Business Philosophy and Free Ice Cream,” 7:30 p.m., Shove Memorial Chapel

Thursday, March 29

Lecture: Julia M. Becker: “Savoring the Sacred in a Secular World,” 4:30 p.m., Gaylord Hall

Lecture: Allan Savory: “Restoring Global Health: A Revolutionary Pathway for the Next Generation,” 7:30 p.m., Gates Common Room

Friday, March 30

Reading: Author Azar Nafisi, author of the bestselling “Reading Lolita in Tehran,” 7:30 p.m., Gates Common Room

Saturday, March 31

Concert: Ashraf Sewailim and Susan Grace, 7:30 p.m., Packard Hall

To post information to the CC calendar, go to the internal home page and access the blue button on the left marked “submit event information.” Another option: Go to the form located at http://www.ColoradoCollege.edu/news_events/calendar/create.asp

KUDOS

Bettina Swigger nominated for Colorado Springs Business Rising Star Award

Bettina Swigger '02, summer arts festival manager, was nominated for a 2007 *Colorado Springs Business Journal* Rising Star award. She was one of only 25 nominees in Colorado Springs, recognized for her arts advocacy in the Colorado Springs region. The award is



given to someone who is an upcoming business leader under the age of 40. Additionally, in the past eight months Swigger has been appointed to the Pikes Peak Arts Council and Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region (COPPeR) boards. She joined the summer programs department at Colorado College in 2002.

Jen Kerner named “Member of the Block” by Student Honor Council



Jen Kerner, '07, was named “member of the block” by the Student Honor Council. Kerner, a political science and international affairs major, serves as a member of the Campus Education Committee on the council. Kerner has written articles in campus publications regarding the honor council in order to make the council more visible

to the community. Kerner says of her experience being a third-year member of the honor council, “I came to CC because I believe in the honor code and the freedom it gives students. I have been an advocate of maintaining student body involvement in and awareness of the honor system at CC because it is for the students, first and foremost, that the honor code exists.”

Students Shephard and Mallory Recognized by the American Cancer Society



Courtney Shephard '09, and Caitlin Mallory '09, were recognized by the Relay For Life Youth Task Force (YTF) of the Great West Division of the American Cancer Society for their outstanding leadership. Shephard and Mallory organized the first CC Relay For Life last year, in which there were more than 200 participants on 17 teams. The event was a phenomenal success, raising more than \$24,500 for local and national cancer research, advocacy programs, education, and outreach programs.

The two are among only 17 youths chosen as part of the Relay For Life Youth Task Force - Great West Division (the 12 Western states). On Jan. 26-28 they attended the

first meeting of the 2007 Youth Task Force in Seattle, Wash. “It’s an honor to be part of the Youth Task Force, which is a great group of youth who really show initiative and passion for the work of the American Cancer Society,” Shephard said

Shephard and Mallory are currently organizing CC’s 2007 Relay For Life, which will be held May 4-5 on Washburn Field. Their goal is to recruit 30 teams and raise \$35,000 the American Cancer Society.

For more information about CC’s upcoming Relay For Life, go to www.acsevents.org/relay/co/ColoradoCollege

Please send Kudos information, tidbits, or story ideas to AroundTheBlock@ColoradoCollege.edu



When the sun goes down in Domi, the solar lights come up

On December 30, 2006, 10 Colorado College students began the journey to Domi, India, a rural farming village where they provided solar powered light to 62 homes. This was the second year that CC's Center for Service and Learning coordinated the program with the India-based NGO Maitri.

Throughout 2006, the students raised \$1,800 through venture grants, donations, and jobs, in order to participate in the sustainable development program. In addition to fundraising responsibilities, the students attended three workshops taught by Seth Kassels '01 to learn the technicalities of installing and operating solar lighting systems.

Before leaving, the students prepared themselves for the culture of village life by visiting a Hindu ashram in Crestone. On campus, Rashna Singh, a visiting CC professor, shared her experience of growing up in India.

Domi is located 450 miles northwest of Mumbai in the middle of a tiger preserve. Reaching the village required a 13-hour train ride and an eight-hour drive in jeeps. To adjust to living in the village, "everybody pushed their comfort zone a lot," says Dan Lustick, one of the seniors on the trip.

The houses of Domi line a single dirt road that runs through the village into the green fields and hills beyond. Homes constructed of mud and cow-dung walls house the village's 200 citizens. Although 30-year-old power lines run through Domi, they have never brought electricity.

Without power, women hoist water in buckets from two wells located at the edge of town, where the houses give way to bean and rice fields. Until the arrival of the CC students, the village relied on kerosene lamps or wood fires for light after dark. In the crowded homes the open flames cause respiratory problems and accidental burns.

The citizens initially suggested the possibility of a solar lighting system to the Maitri volunteers in Domi. The

money raised by the students provided the funds for the equipment, but the villagers agreed to pay 75 rupees per month (a dollar equals 44 rupees) to maintain the system.

The lights the village received are about the size of a paperback and cost 14 dollars apiece. They take eight hours to charge, and their eight LED bulbs last up to 40 hours.

Gender empowerment became an ulterior objective of the program. The women already oversaw the village, while the men worked in the fields. Because of this, the women were selected to organize the light system.

Three village women were chosen to manage the charging and maintenance of the lights. The community pays the women 2,600 rupees a year, the equivalent to the profit made by their husbands in the fields.

The homes of the managers became charging stations. On each manager's roof, the students helped install eight solar panels, which would charge the lights of Domi.

On the student's fourth night, the town held a lighting ceremony. The village selected an elderly couple, who could not afford the lights without the community's support, to bless the ceremony. The gesture indicated the communal ownership of the lights.

They thanked the program for the light and asked that "it may be everlasting," says Tim Ambruso, interim assistant director of CC's Center for Service and Learning.

After 10 days of training with the students, the success of the system became the citizens' responsibility. "I am confident that they will come up with a system that works for them," Lustick says.

While visiting a home one evening, Maria Barsallo, another of the students, remembers seeing a 15-year-old reading under LED light. Without the CC program and the dedication of the students, activities like this would not be possible, she said.

○ By Zach Gostout '07



Behind the scenes: **The Civilians** (from p.1)

Hugh Johnson, a freshman who was taking the drama class, graduated from Colorado Springs Christian School. CC opened his eyes. He thought the city was like the intense atmosphere of his old school: solidly Republican, certain of the sinfulness of homosexuality, the rightness of the war. “I came out of that bubble into this one,” he said. “Seeing the downtown area, that it’s so different from the rest of the city, I realized that there are a lot more differences than I thought.”

Class with the Civilians afforded him an outsider’s perspective. He noted that Ted Haggard had had no one to talk to. “That small fact gives you insight into the Christian community and our judgmental side,” he said. “It’s insight into the community I grew up in.”

It was soon apparent that this was more than an acting class. This was about self-discovery and discovering Colorado Springs. Through piles of interviews, our picture of the city changed. Evangelism was not a monolithic power, but diverse sects and beliefs. In Colorado Springs, there was a community of liberals who rarely interacted with Christians. There were Christian communities that didn’t realize they had created an atmosphere in which non-Christian children went to church so that they would fit in. In Colorado Springs, admitting to faithlessness is “coming out.” At Colorado College, “coming out” can mean admitting faith.

Every interview humanized someone. You can’t help caring for someone if you’ve heard their intimate stories about faith. “We cared about the people, so we had to get the play right. I’ve never been under so much pressure as an actor,” said Alex Hesbrook, ’08. “Our characters were real people, and they were watching. Lines that could have just been jokes had to have humanity in them.”

The class worked up to 14 hours a day: We had class in the mornings, interviews, church, transcriptions, and then

prepared dramatic reenactments for class.

By the third Wednesday, I was in tech rehearsal. We received the script Monday, and it was still under revision. The play was opening Thursday, and we had not yet had a full run-through. We were still doing tech rehearsal the morning of the show. We finished our first dress rehearsal a few hours before curtain.

Then the play was over. After the curtain, we sat on the stage to listen to questions and comments from the audience.

People cried. Others walked out. We didn’t show enough of the harm Christians caused. We didn’t show enough of the good that Christians do. Artistic director Steve Cosson suspects that without the block plan, we wouldn’t have pulled it off. “I was very impressed,” he said. “When we put the play together at the last minute and nobody freaked – that’s huge. It has to be the character of this college. Everyone rose to the occasion in a way that took a lot of work, but wasn’t clouded by the anxiety and panic that you would expect.”

We each drew our own lessons from the class. For many students, the professional actors were a source of career advice. “It sort of made it real to me that this is something you can do for a living,” said junior Kate Dawson. Acting had been a hobby, but now Dawson is working out a budget to try to spend the summer in New York as an intern with *The Civilians*.

Beth Kancilia, a first-year, thought that the project was like “fancy anthropology.” She hoped to do a similar project for her thesis. “This is the whole reason I came to CC,” she said. “I can get money to leave and do ethnographic studies. This class enabled me to know how to go about it.” [O Chris Benz ’07](#)

For more information, check out www.thecivilians.org. A reworked version of the show is scheduled to premiere in April in Manhattan.

