

TALON

Community College of Denver

Fall 2021

Capturing *Elusive* Colorado

Meow Wolf
An Acid Trip Worth Taking
Article by Yuliana Chernova

**A Flagship's
Poisoned Past**
An Exclusive Interview
with an Arsenal Insider
Article by Stacy Fiske

**The Plaque
That Is A Mirror**
A Look at LODO's
Historic Chinatown
Article by Mariam Mhareb



TO THE READER

The Talon was born during a global pandemic in the fall of 2020. Its roots lie in virtual meetings and the collaboration of talking heads on screens, but this semester granted us access to something new for the team: meetings in our... office? It wasn't long before we realized how much we underestimated the power of face-to-face collaboration. Through this revelation, we found the theme for the Fall 2021 issue. Our mission was to rediscover people and places around us that we overlooked during our virtual hiatus.

Flip through the pages of this issue and you'll experience Denver's new Meow Wolf with a press pass, a spooky cemetery and even an exclusive look into the poisoned past of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal. On the back cover, you'll see an image of CCD students dropping a water balloon onto their professor below. Not only is this a candid shot, but it represents what we've regained by coming back to campus—moments of connection, learning and growth with those around us.

Welcome to the third issue of the Talon! I hope you enjoy your search for hidden, elusive Colorado.

Jenna Duke
Editor in Chief

CONTENTS

- | | | | | | |
|-----------|--|-----------|---|-----------|--|
| 04 | MEOW WOLF
An Acid Trip Worth Taking
By Yuliana Chernova | 16 | ONE W.I.S.E. WOMAN'S JOURNEY
From Student to Advisor & Beyond
By Anne Hatzakis | 38 | THE PLAQUE THAT IS A MIRROR
A Look at LODO's Historic Chinatown
By Mariam Mhareb |
| 10 | DIVING AND THRIVING
Gestalt's Guide to the Grind
By Anthony Catanzaro | 20 | THE HIDDEN HEART OF AURARIA | 42 | THE DESIRE TO REMEMBER
WWII Internment "Camp Amache"
By Brandon Nevarez |
| 14 | MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE
Inside CCD's Dock Gallery
By Aaron Goltermann | 24 | A FLAGSHIP'S POISONED PAST
Interview with an Arsenal Insider
By Stacy Fiske | 46 | HOUSE HUNTERS
Buying a Home in a Seller's Market
By Devon Trujillo |
| | | 30 | THE LONG NIGHT
A Military Veteran Shares Her Story
Edited by Jenna Duke and Dan Schaefer | 50 | WATCHING SPORTS
A Look at Colorado Sport Teams
By Timothy Romero |
| | | 36 | UNOFFICIAL QUEEN OF THE NUGGETS
By Brandi Thomas | 52 | CENTRAL CITY'S CREEPY CEMETERY
A Spooky Trip to a Colorado Cemetery
By Paige Begley |

ON THE COVERS

Front Cover:
Photo by Jenna Duke;
Entering the Meow Wolf
exhibition created by
CCD art instructor,
Camila Galofre.

Back Cover:
Photo by Journalism
Professor Dan Schaefer;
Students drop water
balloons on their professor
from the rooftop of CCD's
Confluence Building on the
Auraria Campus.



MEET THE STAFF



DAN SCHAEFER
Assistant Professor,
Journalism & Communication

Dr. Dan Schaefer is an assistant professor of Journalism and Communication at CCD and faculty advisor for the Talon Magazine and the Digital Storytelling Student Club. He is passionate about those genuine true stories that resonate and help us make sense of our world. As a native Michigander, Dan loves two things: fishing and stories of fishing the third coast.



JENNA DUKE
Editor-in-Chief

Jenna is an English major with a passion for telling the stories of others through her writing; she enjoys diving into the backgrounds of individuals and looking through the lens through which they see. Because of this, she takes pride in her role as Editor-in-Chief and loves reading the work of student journalists. She also serves on the Student Trustee Council for the Society of Professional Journalists.



STACY FISKE
Editor

Stacy Fiske is a first-year student at CCD working on a transfer degree to MSU for Journalism. She has lived in six different states from New Hampshire to Washington but calls Colorado home. Her passions include politics and environmental conservation and she hopes to inform the masses someday, with her eye on the big picture. She lives in the Denver area with her two cats, Milo and Ruby.



GRETCHEN OCCHIONERO
Project Manager, DZGN Studio

Gretchen has worked as a graphic designer at CCD for 28 years where she is also lead staff photographer. "I'm excited that every designer in the studio had their hands in this issue. Working with these talented students has been so gratifying!" In her spare time, she enjoys searching for new trails to hike with her daughter and puppy, traveling and gardening.



JENNY LE
Creative Director & Designer

Jenny is a graphic designer and artist based in Denver. Her design work tends to be minimalist and asymmetrical. She likes to digitally paint in her free time. She wants to pursue UI/UX design after graduating from CCD.



ALON PAUL
Creative Director & Designer

Alon Paul is an illustrator/graphic designer with a flair for flamboyance and eclectic taste. During his time at CCD, he has had the opportunity to learn from exemplary design instructors and is using that knowledge to pursue a career in motion design and animation with his growing business, Alonica, ink.



MARIELY MARQUEZ-LOPEZ
Project Manager & Designer

Mariely is a multidisciplinary artist and designer. Her personal design style is concise and modern, and she seeks precision in her design choices. After earning her Associates in Graphic Design, she plans to pursue a Bachelors of Fine Arts in Digital Design from the University of Colorado Denver.



SARA BIENIUS
Designer

Sara is a visual artist and a budding designer. She explains her artist name, iamnotunique, as "everyone should remember they're not alone in how they feel, good, bad or otherwise." As a designer, she is excited to enter into the world of children's books and magazines.



MARCUS CORTEZ
Designer

Marcus is an artist and designer based in Denver. He is finishing his degree in graphic design this fall semester and is excited to finish his education at CCD. He is moving on to pursue his dream of becoming a graphic designer and illustrator.



ANDREA ORDUNA
Designer

Andrea is a multimedia creative designer based in Denver. Owing to unforgettable encounters, great professors, and personal ambition, this artist seeks to spread artistry on an international scale. She is a determined young lady who's eager to build her skillset. Her goal is to complete an associate degree in graphic design and a certificate in video editing.



MEOW WOLF

AN ACID TRIP WORTH TAKING

AUTHOR & PHOTOGRAPHY **YULIANA CHERNOVA**
LAYOUT DESIGN **MARIELY MARQUEZ-LOPEZ**

“Is this how Alice felt when she ended up in Wonderland?” was my first thought as I found myself in the middle of the giant room with futuristic, robotic installations and mesmerizing neon lights. These feelings and emotions were amplified even more because I didn’t use the main entrance and didn’t get to start the journey in the “correct” order. I had to go through the back door of the enormous building, up the employee staircase, through the management room, then boom! My partner and I were suddenly in the middle of Denver’s newest art exhibition.

The second thing I thought when I walked a little further into the next room was: “This is exactly the visuals people experience when they are on acid.” You really have to see all the rooms, portals, and figures in order to understand what I am talking about. It is almost impossible to believe that the creators and designers of Meow Wolf were not on some kind of hallucinogenic while working on this surreal project. If they were absolutely sober, though, then they truly deserve a title of “creative geniuses.”

Extravagant artworks, vibrant colors, fascinating individuals—this is what Meow Wolf is all about. The popular “art collective and entertainment company” originated in Santa Fe, New Mexico in 2008 and had its first permanent exhibit House of Eternal Return in 2016. Five years later, they brought their new exhibit Convergence Station to Denver, Colorado!

I feel like Meow Wolf bringing their exhibition to Denver has been on everybody’s tongues way before it even opened. So, when Convergence Station was officially finished, and tickets finally went on sale, it felt like the residents of Colorado were more excited than ever. And it makes sense: what else can make people more happy after a deadly pandemic and a strict lockdown than an extravagant, mysterious novelty?

I was absolutely thrilled when I finally had a chance to experience Meow Wolf’s new

exhibit, take awesome pictures, and talk to some interesting people. And let me tell you: it was the most extraordinary experience I have ever had in my life! The moment I entered the building I was blown away by the immersive sculptures, creative designs, and gorgeous neon lights.

The concept of Denver’s Convergence Station is “quantum travel,” and I truly felt like I was teleported into some futuristic world of sci-fi and cyberpunk. Four stories of surreal rooms and unforgettable artworks will make anyone feel like a video game character, and this is what I loved the most about this little adventure of mine. And the most exciting part was seeing CCD art instructor, Camila Galofre’s, stunning art room!

Meow Wolf exceeded all my expectations and left me craving more, and I’m definitely not the only one. I had an opportunity to talk to some visitors who were kind enough to share their emotions from this experience with me.

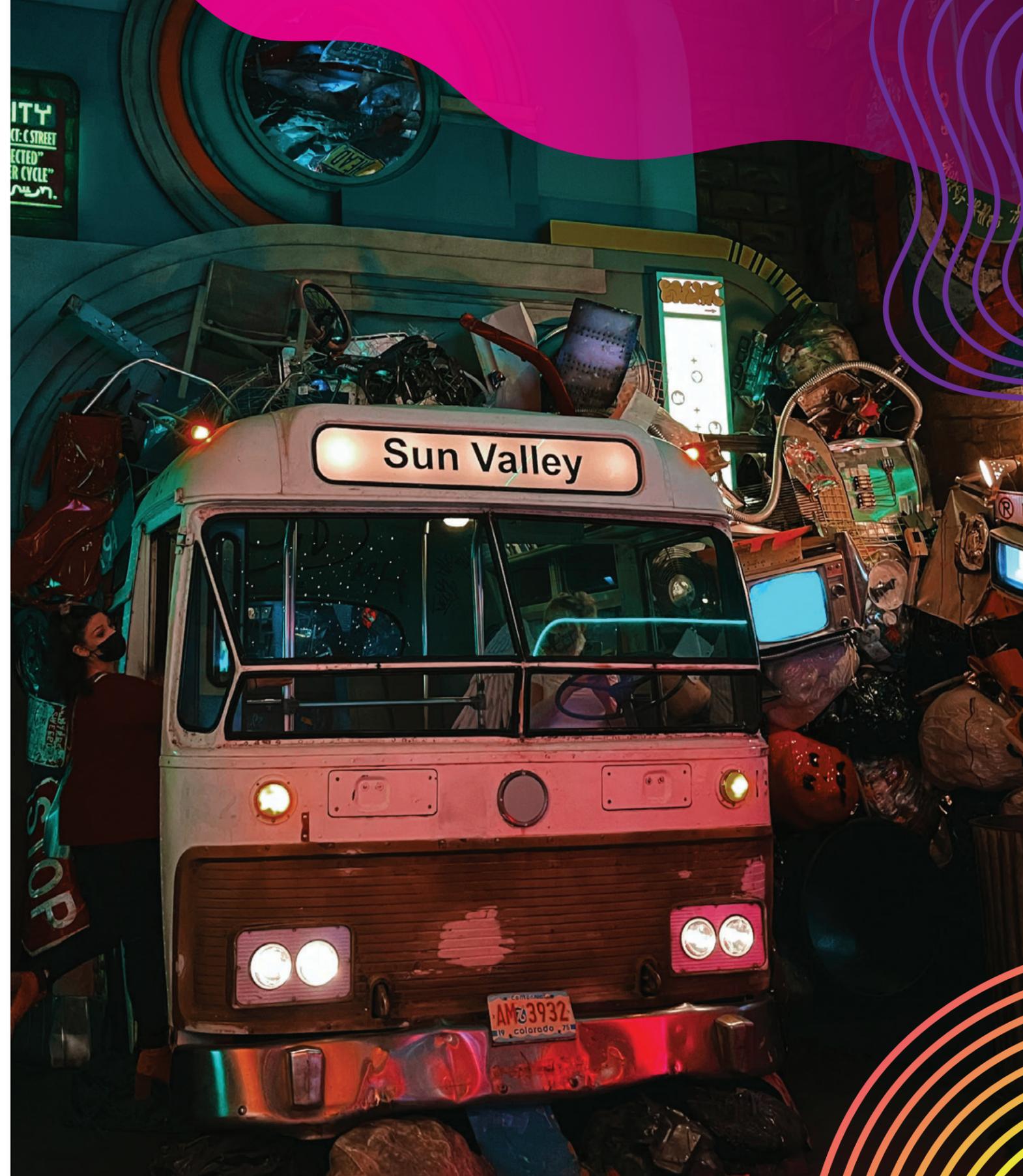
“This is our third time coming back here,” said Joseph, one of the visitors who I had a chance to talk to while exploring the third floor. “My kids just can’t get enough of these insane rooms, and neither can I!”

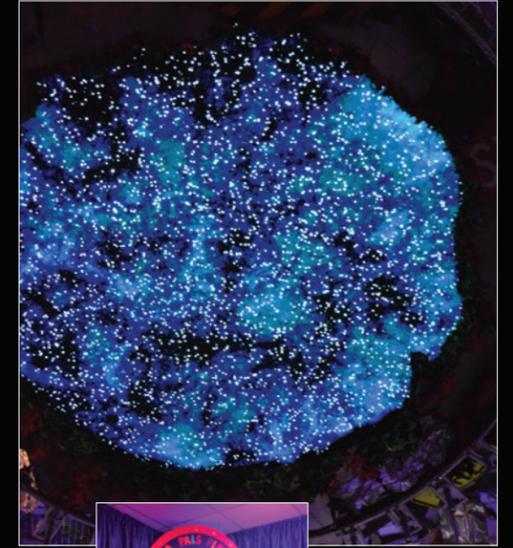
Another visitor, Taylor, compared her experience to an acid trip but “without actually damaging the brain” which I find very amusing. What can be more exciting than feeling like you are on drugs without actually doing them?

One of the employees told me that working for Meow Wolf was their first real job, and that “no other job would be able to compare to being a fake psychic in a fake futuristic world.” I had lots of fun talking to people. It only feels natural for such a unique place to attract such unique individuals.

Visiting Meow Wolf was an extraordinary experience that I will never forget. Like I mentioned before, seeing all the eccentricity and creativity made me want to go back even before leaving the building, so I already planned my next trip. If you’re still debating whether or not to give Meow Wolf a chance, what are you waiting for? This is your sign to go get the tickets and experience that crazy adventure! ■

“I truly felt like I was teleported into some futuristic world of sci-fi and cyberpunk.”





Diving and Thriving: Gestalt's Guide to the Grind

AUTHOR & PHOTOGRAPHY ANTHONY CATANZARO
LAYOUT DESIGN ANDREA ORDUNA



Dive bars are two words that speak volumes. These two words capture a polaroid snapshot of music, cheap beer, bad bathrooms, PBR cans, and an unhealthy amount of cigarette smoke lingering in the air. This atmosphere provides the ultimate setting for the punk rock music scene and sets the stage for bands like Gestalt and Ron Gallo.

Gestalt is a Denver band, on the rise for several years, has been earning its stripes in hidden local dingy, dirty, dive bars like the High Dive, Larimer Lounge, the Walnut room among other venues. The dirtier the better they would say.

I was curious how they were able to afford rent and other expenses as venues had begun to close their doors due to the covid-19 virus that drastically took its toll on a number of bars and venues. I set out to Chicago recently to interview Zane and the members of Gestalt who were on the road for a short tour in the Midwest. Zane, the lead singer, was eager to give me the behind-the-scenes scoop on band life and how covid had made an impact on them as a group.

Zane described the music scene as a tight collaboration between good beer and good music. Live music tends to bring in crowds which results in drink sales. Zane works at the 14er brewery here in Denver as a full-time bartender and through his connections, Gestalt has been able to play a few shows at the brewery. Zane captured the collaboration perfectly, "It goes free beer, then it goes cold beer and then it goes everything else"

followed by a chuckle. Bandmate Mackenzie agreed, "alcohol and music go hand in hand".

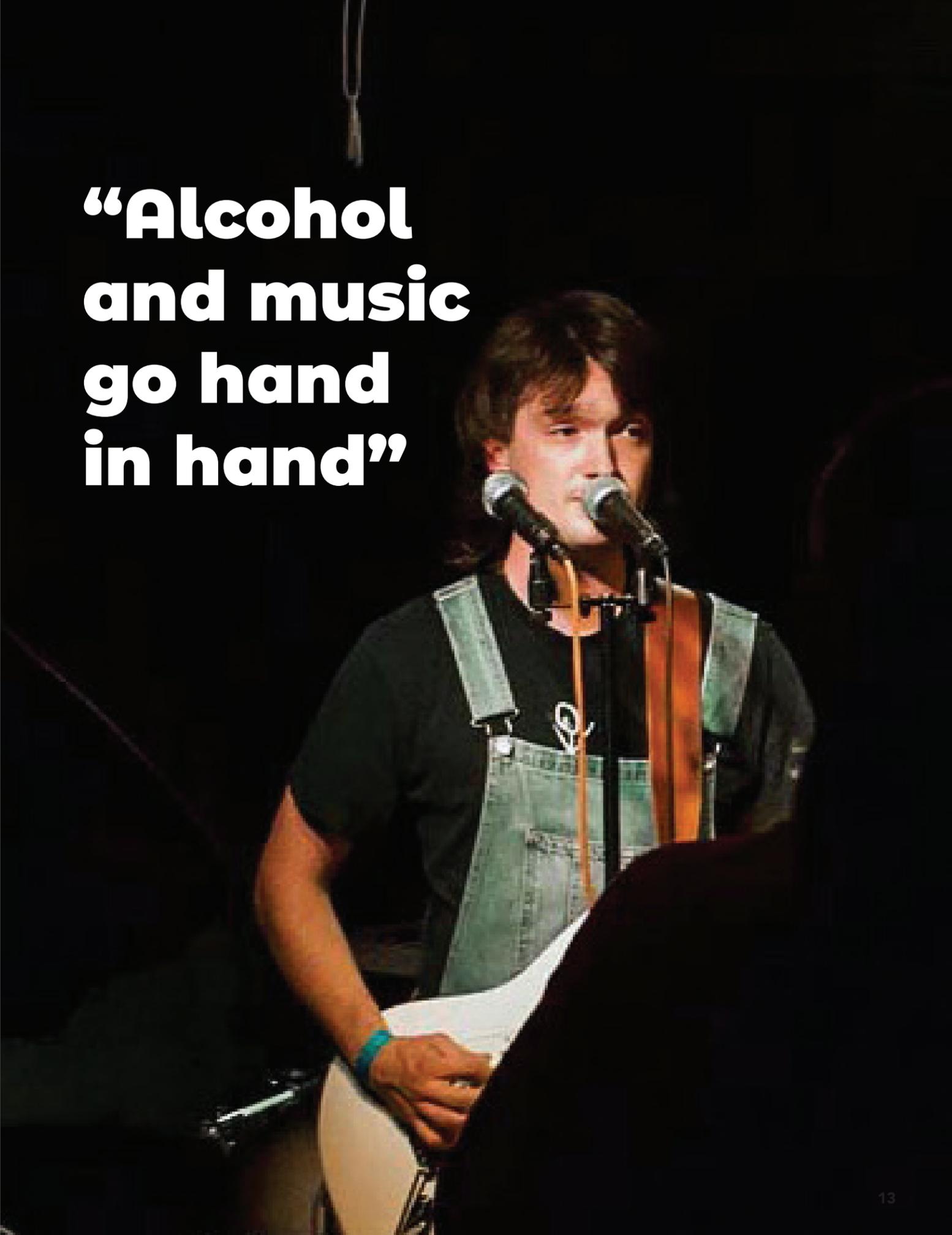
Diversifying is key. Musicians tend to be a jack of all traits because of the need to diversify. The hours of a 9-5 job will never be an option for these freaks and geeks in this music world. This level of flexibility is key in the music industry and gives these musicians and artists the time to explore the endless possibilities in the music industry. For example, Mackenzie is always trying to find new avenues, book shows for the band, drive for Uber, market vintage items and any number of other gigs. Whatever it takes to survive as a band.

Inside the apparatus of the band, Anthony, the manager of Gestalt, has a full plate every time they have a show. He handles all the merchandise, paperwork, and contracts that keep the band afloat. His job also involves being "dad" on tour. Anthony is the ultimate rowdy wrangler of the burrito boys. While on the side, he works for a wholesale plumbing company and restores vintage Volvos.

The band's desire to persevere and eventually thrive in a very competitive music scene has made Gestalt a band worth following. The key to commitment for Gestalt and the boys seems to come from the heart and not just about the money.

This makes me believe that the bigger things in life hardly involve monetary possessions. The love of "the game" is far more with the grind and commitment. These musicians can make a living while enjoying the ride of a music band rocketing up in the Denver music scene. ■

"Alcohol and music go hand in hand"



more than meets the

eye

AUTHOR & PHOTOGRAPHER **AARON GOLTERMANN**
LAYOUT DESIGN **SARA BIENIUS**



Setting up the Exquisite Corpse exhibition inside the Dock Gallery

Located deep inside CCD's Boulder Creek building is one of the hidden gems of the Auraria Campus: an art gallery that is so much more than an art gallery. You might imagine art galleries having vaulted ceilings, large open spaces, and white walls with only a couple pieces of art on each, but what the Dock Gallery lacks in space it makes up for in personality. The space is authentic and intimate, as well as industrial and goth in its level of grunge. Walking in feels like visiting the studio of an underground grunge metal band.

The gallery hosts three to four exhibits per semester, and one has a multicultural theme. In the Spring, it celebrates Cinco De Mayo; in the Autumn, it celebrates Exquisite Corpse, followed closely by Día de los Muertos. Its other two to three exhibits each semester usually revolve around a classroom assignment from a single class. For instance, in Spring 2021 Sandy Guinn's Drawing II class posted a showcase revolving around color theory and experiments with different mediums.

The history of the space stretches back over fourteen years. Before it became the Dock Gallery, the area was strictly used as a loading dock, hence the name, and the only people that frequented it were maintenance people for the building and campus. The space was also used for storing cleaning supplies and appliances, until it was discovered by then-Program Chair of the Art Department, Charles "Chuck" Parson. He was looking for a unique place to showcase students' art, and to give

students a place to hang out. Now it's a place that 'Feels unfinished and grungy for the purpose of aesthetics,' said the current Dock Gallery Director and Studio Arts Instructor, Camila Galofre.

Ms. Galofre took the reins from Art Professor Sandy Guinn, around three years ago and helped direct the gallery into a place where students could showcase their work. The gallery was designed to get students' active attention in the professional art world. Its purpose is to help its contributors get the feel of having their work on display.

"Surrealism...is a view of the world that exists at separate levels of abstraction away from reality."

Sometimes the Dock Gallery will host exhibits of specific people's work, such as the upcoming exhibit showcasing student Jenna Sommer's "Dreamscapes" photography exhibit.

The most recent art show was the 12th annual Exquisite Corpse Showcase. This is a surrealist art show idea dating back to Paris 1925. The current show and the art it's hosting are styled from the group that invented the technique: Cadavre Exquis, who were a group of surrealist artists, of both word and visual mediums. They named it for a game they played called Consequences.

The game involved at least three to four players who would take turns writing

a word on a sheet of paper, they would then fold it to conceal what they had written, and pass it on to the next player, who would then write another word on a blank section of the paper and fold it up and pass it on to the next player, and so on. When the paper was unfolded, it would reveal a completely nonsensical statement borne from the psyches of each player. The name comes directly from one of their earliest play sessions that ended with the line, *Le cadaver exquis boira le vin nouveau*, or "The exquisite corpse will drink the young wine."

Surrealism describes a philosophical understanding of an alternate view of reality. Or, if you prefer, it is a view of the world that exists at separate levels of abstraction away from reality. For instance, if I told you that the sky was clear and in fact invisible, it would be a level of abstraction away from your personal view of reality where the sky is blue.

The gallery continues to adapt to the changing world outside. Over the course of the pandemic, the past and current exhibits were made available for viewing online, so that one can now enjoy the exhibits from the comfort of their own home via The Virtual Gallery (scan QR code to access). If you are looking for shows at the Dock Gallery in person, it is in the Boulder Creek Building and there are signs indicating which way to go. You can see the gallery's personality as soon as you walk in: in the northeastern corner of the dock there is an electrical transformer with an autobots sticker, proclaiming its view of the surreal. ■



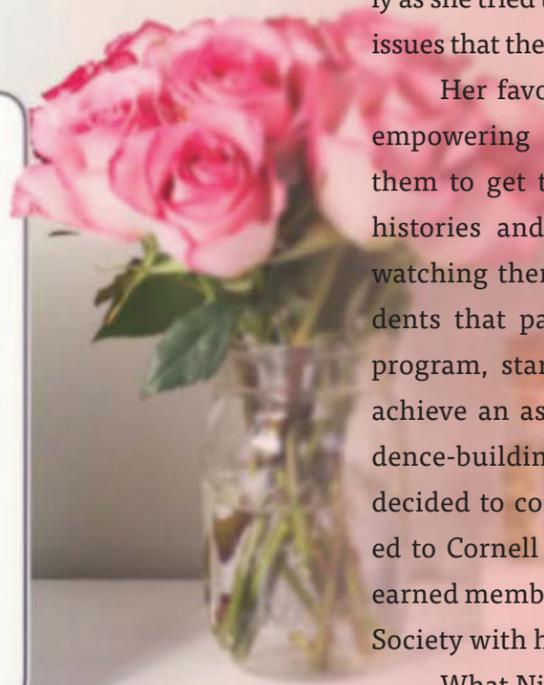
ONE WISE WOMAN'S JOURNEY

FROM STUDENT, TO ADVISOR & BEYOND

The WISE (Women Intent on Success and Excellence) program started with about seven women and their advisor. One of the original students was Nicole Rice-Collins, who started with the program as a student attending CCD and was WISE's President before she transferred to Metropolitan State University to finish her bachelor's degree and begin her master's degree in social work. Ten years after beginning her journey with WISE and CCD, on October 1, 2021, Nicole left the program. This is a bittersweet ending for her, because she's unsure of how a new advisor will fit with the women in the program and the program itself, but she is excited for the opportunity to work with and help women at another organization. Nicole has moved onwards to a position working with Catholic charities at one of Denver's 24-hour shelters, where she is thriving.

AUTHOR **ANNE HATZAKIS**
PHOTOGRAPHY **ANNE HATZAKIS & GRETCHEN OCCHIONERO**
LAYOUT DESIGN **SARA BISENIUS**





Nicole's motivation for starting with WISE was its focus on women's empowerment: no matter the age of the woman, and inclusive of all women, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. She was told the new program might be a good fit for her because of her passion for helping other women and advocating for them. As an advisor, who was also a victim's advocate, mentor and coach to the other members of WISE, Nicole often had to juggle different roles, often taking the struggles other women were facing personally as she tried to help them navigate the issues that they were facing.

Her favorite part of the job was empowering women; working with them to get them past their fraught histories and negative self-talk and watching them grow. One of the students that participated in the WISE program, started out thinking that she could only achieve an associate degree, but through the confidence-building support of the WISE advisors they decided to continue their education and got accepted to Cornell University. Many of her students have earned membership into the Phi Theta Kappa Honor's Society with her support.

What Nicole has found most difficult is her feeling that in order to be the best advisor for her students, she has had to negotiate difficult boundaries—especially with students who have had to navigate being victims of abuse, social services clients, immigrants, or struggles with mental health issues. Nicole has

been not only an advisor, but a leadership coach and sometimes simply a shoulder to cry on when a student is stressed. She encouraged women from various backgrounds to share their strengths and support each other in times of weakness.

The students mentored by Nicole have become campus leaders like LaVette Sturgeon, one of the current WISE officers. She is quoted in the 2021-2022 CCD academic planner saying, "Although you may have a goal in mind, taking care of yourself along the way is just as important." LaVette is one of the student leaders who will be assisting in keeping the WISE program moving forward with her work as a peer mentor. It was LaVette who helped organize the last WISE event prior to the COVID-19 pandemic—a celebration of Nicole's birthday.

To say that Nicole has had an impact on the students she mentors is an understatement. She has worked with students on things beyond simply their academic careers at CCD. Nicole has helped students navigate through the bureaucratic maze surrounding things like SNAP benefits, housing, and childcare issues. She is also an expert at being a sounding board for the frustrations students have with instructors—dispensing advice, hugs, and helping them come up with coping strategies to deal with personality clashes. She will be missed by the students she has helped, although there are ongoing plans to expand on the work she helped lay the foundation for. ■

"NICOLE WAS NOT ONLY AN ADVISOR, BUT A LEADERSHIP COACH, AND A FRIEND."



THE HIDDEN HEART OF AURARIA

PHOTOGRAPHY **JENNA DUKE & GRETCHEN OCCHONERO**

LAYOUT DESIGN **MARIELY MARQUEZ-LOPEZ**

IMAGES COURTESY OF **CCD CREATIVE SERVICES**

When the announcement was made in 1968 to build a center for higher education, Aurarians were caught off guard. Suddenly, over 200 families dwelled in the middle of an urban renewal project.

Because of the devastating flood in 1965, city officials targeted the area for a campus to be built. They saw an opportunity for redevelopment, regardless of the sacrifices that had to be made. Aurarians were kept in the dark for over a year about the plans to overhaul the neighborhood. They received seemingly polite eviction notices in the mail giving them no other choice but to abandon their homes and beloved community.

They were promised free tuition for their children and grandchildren, but the extent of that promise was limited. The expansion of the Displaced Aurarian Scholarship was approved November 2021, and beginning spring semester 2022, all direct descendants will be eligible for the scholarship and “will cover the student’s share of tuition and fees for all Community College of Denver classes,” according to CCD’s website. The scholarship includes all three institutions on campus and both undergraduate and graduate fees.

A former resident of the neighborhood, Frances Torres, spoke about the importance of this expansion. “What the Displaced Aurarian Scholarship means to me is not only the promise being kept, but it’s honoring our families for their sacrifice,” Torres told Denver 9News.

Sean Rozales, Adjunct Art Instructor at CCD, also comes from a family of displaced Aurarians. His great-great grandfather owned a home behind what is now the campus library, and his own father grew up going to school at St. Cajetan’s Church—they even lived so close he could walk home during lunch for a homecooked meal.

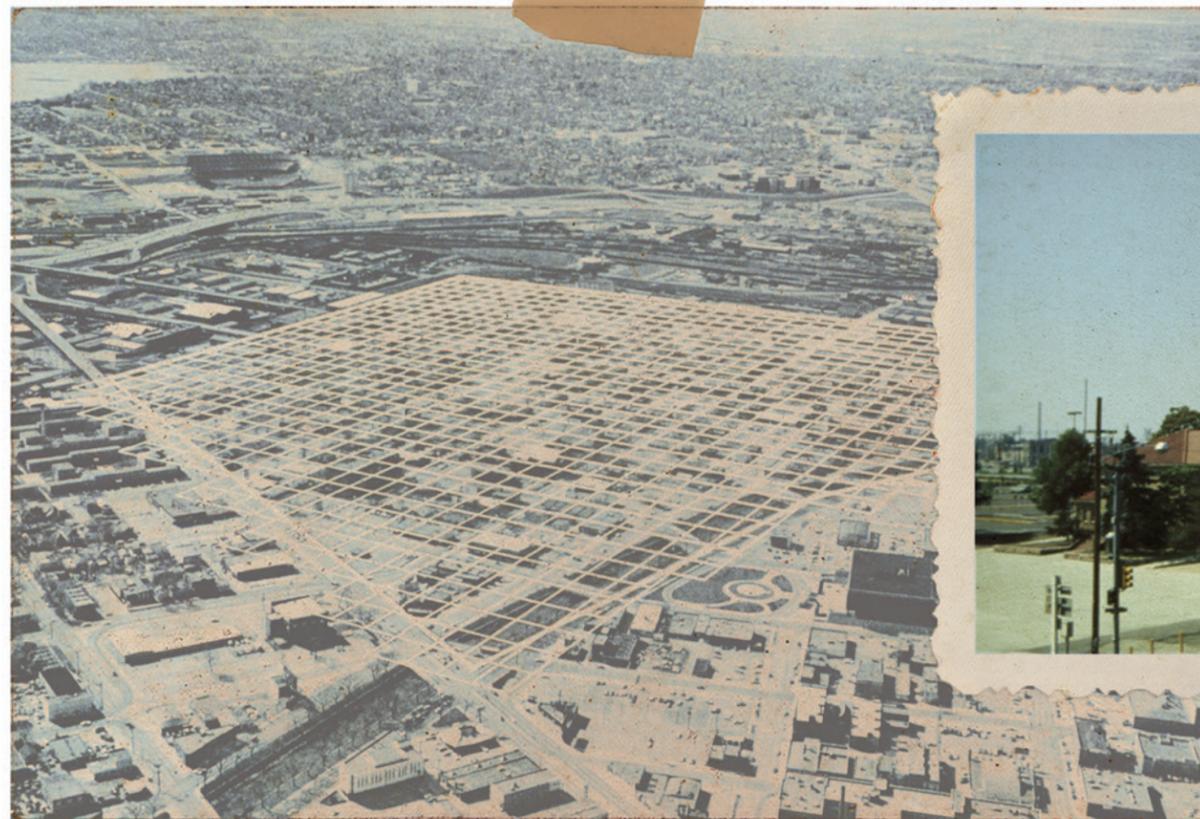
“Back then ... a lot of people didn’t necessarily have a voice as much as they probably could have,” Rozales said. “They just were told, ‘The state’s gone in there, we got the votes, you gotta go.’”

His great-great grandfather was one of many that loved the community and didn’t want to leave. “Before it was completely gone... he still stood renting in the area to kind of keep that spirit alive, to keep that flame from going out.”

However, a rental was only temporary. “So what happened to the house?” Rozales recalled asking his grandfather, “He said, ‘Well, they took it.’” Efforts like the Rozales family’s to keep the neighborhood’s dwindling flame alive seemed to burn those who stoked it. Relocation was inescapable.

The old neighborhood was a special place comprised of many ethnic groups that eschewed the segregated reality of their time. With people of European and Hispanic descent, the diversity (a characteristic still valued about the campus today) was what laid the foundation for a tight-knit community to form.

“The state’s gone in there, we got the votes, you gotta go.”



Left: Ninth Street Historic Park; Center: Footprint of Auraria Campus; Right: St. Cajetan's Church

“They belonged to something beyond their own families in a time when minorities were so blatantly outcasted.”

Rozales wondered how a price could be put on a community, there’s no scale for measuring the cost of human lives, but there can be beauty hidden in the sacrifices that have been made. Maybe leaving was so difficult for Aurarians because it instilled such a sense of community in their lives. They belonged to something beyond their own families in a time when minorities were so blatantly outcasted. They were a part of something bigger, they were a part of the Aurarian culture.

What remains of the old Auraria is two churches, 9th Street Historic Park and few other buildings that were able to be preserved on the land. They help represent the relationship between past and present and are physical reminders

to those who walk by of what we owe to the campus’s history.

We are not just three higher-education institutions dedicated to catalyzing brighter futures, we are modern-day Aurarians. Perhaps we should pay more attention to the privilege we have and what it means to be a student or faculty member on the campus. Like Torres said, we should honor those who once called Auraria home.

To acknowledge the painful transition endured by those who were here before us is to honor the past that built us. Maybe this will instill a grand sense of interconnectivity across time, as if the old residents are still here, residing in the very place that once brought them together—their treasured heart of gold. ■



On Nov. 4, 2021 in front of St. Cajetan's Event Center (formerly St. Cajetan's Church) a blessing ceremony took place to honor the expansion of the Displaced Aurarian Scholarship to include all direct descendants of Aurarians who lived in the neighborhood from 1955 to 1973.

A FLAGSHIP'S POISONED PAST

AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW
WITH AN ARSENAL INSIDER

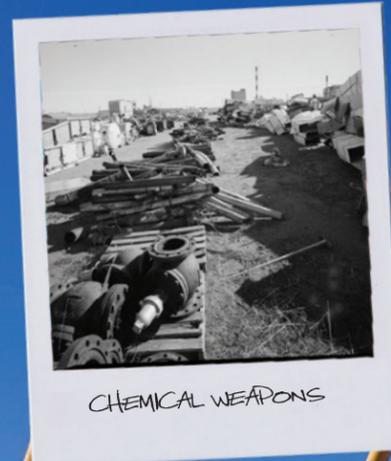
AUTHOR **STACY FISKE**
PHOTOGRAPHER **DAN SCHAEFER**
IMAGES FROM **LIBRARY OF CONGRESS**
LAYOUT DESIGN **JENNY LE**



CHEMICAL MUNITIONS
PLANT



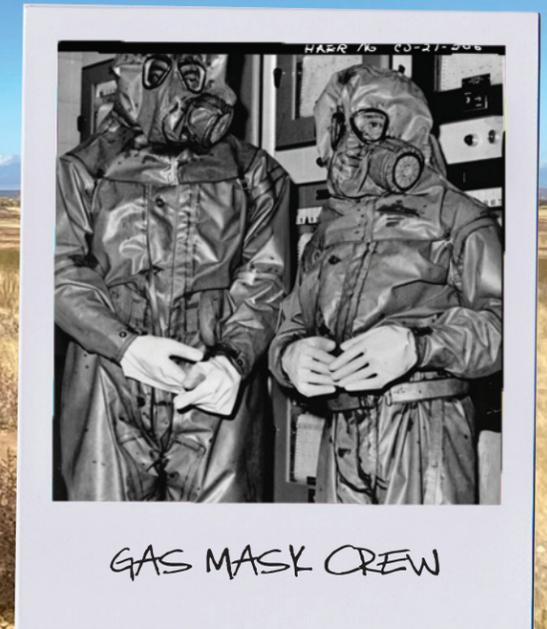
CHEMICAL MUNITIONS
PLANT 2



CHEMICAL WEAPONS



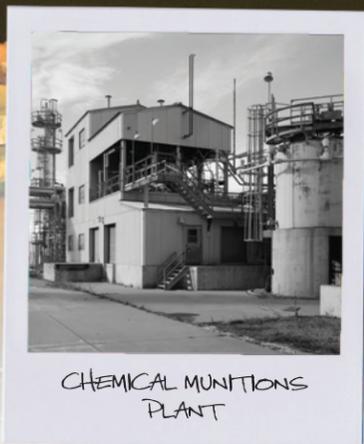
RABBITS IN CAGES



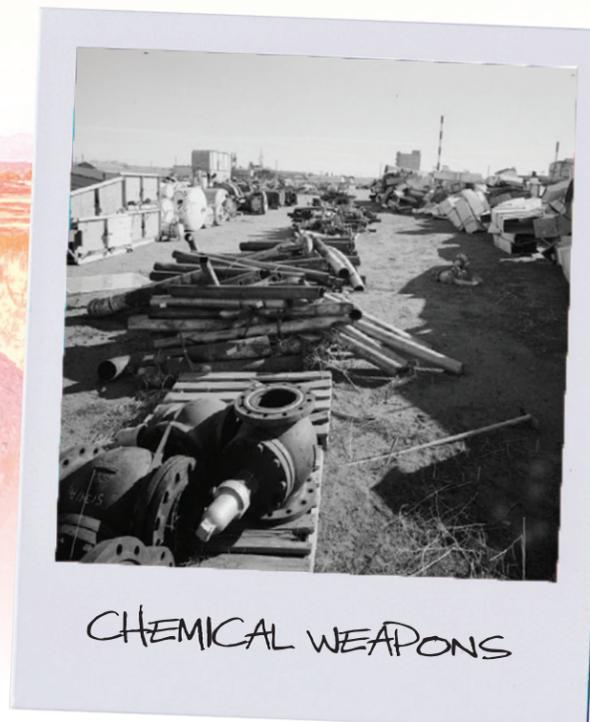
GAS MASK CREW



GAS MASK CREW



CHEMICAL MUNITIONS PLANT



CHEMICAL WEAPONS

"...they made some of the most toxic substances known to man there until 1982."

There were rabbits everywhere." A former Electronic Instrumentation Repairman described his experience working at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal, and the importance of using caged rabbits as a crude alarm to the presence of nerve gas. One night, there was a spill and when they opened the door to one of the chemical plant buildings, "there was a rabbit sitting there, just perky as hell; wide awake, and there was another one on the other side that was dead. That's when the crew threw their gas masks on and went over and checked the machines and they were all pegged, showing that there was definitely a leak. Of course, they closed it all back up and it all had to be deconned (decontaminated) after that. But they never did figure out how that one rabbit didn't die. It was just perky as shit."

This once dangerous chemical munitions plant was turned into an Urban National Wildlife

Refuge because it sits just ten miles outside of Denver city limits, and in the summer of 2021, President Joe Biden designated the Arsenal as a flagship example of such a refuge. It boasts over 15,000 acres of reclaimed and reseeded Colorado native short-grass prairie which allows for several herds of White-tail and Mule deer, and a herd of wild American Bison. It's called the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge and, as its name may imply, it has a colorful past from an imminent domain land grab due to Cold War tensions and chemical munitions spills.

IMMINENT DOMAIN

Rocky Mountain Arsenal (RMA) was established as a direct result of Japan's bombing on Pearl

Harbor on December 7th, 1941. According to the Army's RMA website, the Rocky Mountain Arsenal was built in 1942 to produce chemical weapons to deter the Axis Powers. Some of those weapons included mustard gas, nerve gas, chlorine gas, and napalm.

The Arsenal was used to make and store these incendiary weapons, as well as decontaminate and dispose of them. When WWII ended, the Arsenal was put on standby and the Army leased out a large tract of land to a commercial pesticide company, that was later bought by Shell Oil, and they made some of the most toxic substances known to man there until 1982, when the operations were shuttered due to public uproar about the environmental damage that was being done to the land and groundwater supply.

In order for the army to have an arsenal, they first had to find a space for it. They decided on almost 20,000 acres (27 sq mi) of land just northeast of Denver because of its location far away from the reach of the Axis powers' weaponry, but close to airports and transportation routes. The land was occupied by some 200 homesteading families that had been there since the 1800's.

One of them was Bob Moffitt, a farmer that had a rather large wheat farm on the southeastern corner of the proposed arsenal land. "Bob Moffitt was a fifth-generation farmer whose family had made the trek to Colorado by oxcart in the 1860's,"

said Bob Studinger, whose wife is the daughter of Mr. Moffitt. "In early 1942, the Army came out to Mr. Moffitt's farm and told him he had 3 days to vacate the property. He had a wife that was pregnant at the time and was really in a bind, but the neighboring farmers helped him move as much as they could, as fast as they could because the Army had said anything left there would be junked, thrown away or burned."

"We had two children, and it was real traumatic trying to find a place to go," Robert Moffitt, then 87, told The Denver Post in 1993. "But when your government is broke and trying to fight the world, you really couldn't kick up a fuss." (Denver Post, 12/3/00) That Denver Post article says that the government gave \$20-70 (that's \$340 - \$1100 in today's money) per acre to the farmers that lived on the land the Army chose for the arsenal.

Mr. Studinger said that this was a pivotal moment for Mr. Moffitt, "Bob went on to have 5 kids and lived on that new land for the rest of his life; he even built another house to provide for his growing family." Mr. Studinger also recalls what a wonderful person Bob Moffitt was, "He was what

“We had rabbits in cages all over the place because the gas killed them almost immediately...”

Rabbits in cages. CREDIT: Historic American Engineering Record (Library of Congress).



you'd call a philosopher farmer, a genius really. He made everyone feel as if they were smart when they were around him, yet he was the real genius. [He was] just a really great guy.”

Six months after the Army acquired the land, the Arsenal's main facilities were already finished, and the plant started producing the chemical agents of war that it was built to make. Chemicals manufactured at the site were stored in bulk and injected into munitions in a highly complex process that around 600 hired civilians oversaw.

CHEMICAL MUNITION SPILLS

A former Electronic Instrumentation Repairman in his 70s, who worked for the Arsenal until 1973, described the Cold War tensions that brought about the development of the Arsenal as a munitions storage depot, and then later, as a chemical munitions plant. “It was an army storage facility for nerve gas. That's what it was originally put there for. Then, of course, Shell company went out and leased a big section of it and made insecticides out there, but the army's portion of it was a storage facility to protect us against the Russians during the cold war; we figured if we ever got attacked that that was our repercussions against the Russians.”

However, the most direct threat did not come from the Russians but rather from old age. The problems started when the chemical munition storage containers started to rust and leak into the ground. This prompted a lot of concern and careful monitoring of the area. “It was so remote, but I don't remember a bunch of people ever dying from it, ever; they (the US Army) were pretty safe. And we also had a buffer zone around Denver; we were at least a mile in from the gates and from any of the fencing we put around the Arsenal. They were very careful not to get too close to society... 'course back

then, there was only like, 100,000 people in Denver. It wasn't 3 million people like it is now. There were 2 main gates; the main one there on 72nd in Commerce City and then there was a south gate in Aurora that, I think, went out onto Colfax on 6th. That's the only 2 ways you could get in or out.”

The repairman described how this job fixing valves at the Arsenal was a well-paying job with some dangerous aspects. “I started out at a whopping \$3.05 an hour. It was a very good job at the time, I think minimum wage was around \$1.50. But for a starting position, you know it doesn't sound like much but when you're getting \$120/week and your rent was only \$80/mo and your car payment was \$37, \$120 went quite a ways.”

He remembers how the security guards would avoid the chemical warehouses. “They just didn't go too close to the facilities if there was nobody out there. Now, if people were out there working shifts then obviously they drove around closer so they could see if there was a problem that they could maybe help out with or whatever, but if the building was empty or there was nobody in there, the guards kept their distance.”

The threat of chemical spills was very real. The repairman recounted how he almost died after one exposure. “If we had a nerve gas spill, everything was supposed to be secured. But one day, somehow, one of the bay doors got left open and the fumes went all through the building. There was no way for you to know there was a leak if the gas got past the munitions bays; there weren't any sensors in the break rooms. So, we were sittin' there, eating lunch, and one of the guys looked at me and said, 'Man, your eyes are awful pin-pointed.' I looked at his eyes a little closer and said, 'Yeah, yours are too!' We said, 'Oh shit! We better get outta here!' And took an atropine shot to the

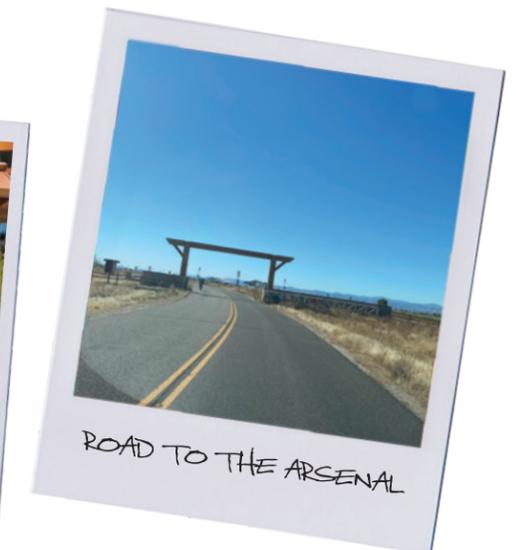
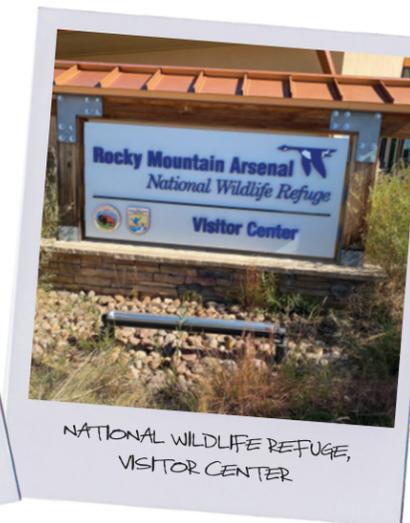
leg and took off to the medical center where they kept us for 24 hours to make sure we didn't die.”

Since it was very difficult to tell if there was a spill, the best way they discovered to detect a chemical spill was with rabbits. “We had rabbits in cages all over the place because the gas killed them almost immediately... Shit, that one rabbit I told you about up there, it just never died! We had 'em in big ol' cages and you'd feed 'em just like you would do regular rabbits. We had 'em up there because their systems were much more sensitive than ours to the nerve gas and it only took a little bit to affect the rabbits. If one of 'em plops over you say well we got a problem, and we get the hell outta there.”

Now, there are all kinds of rabbits (wild) at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge and they are free to burrow into the ground and make natural homes, not live in cages. It is also teeming with bison, rodents, and deer, as well as many different types of birds that are native to the area. In fact, during the Army's clean-up of the site in the 1980's, some construction workers came across a mating pair of endangered (at the time) American Bald Eagles and that prompted the U.S. government to call for the land to become a wildlife refuge once it was adequately detoxified. There are hundreds of species of ground rodents that call the refuge their home, including the critically endangered Black-Footed Ferret, the only ferret native to North America. It is being reintroduced to the wild after being thought extinct, two separate times. There are less than 600 of these little guys left on the planet, and the Rocky Mountain Arsenal is lucky enough to have a colony to add to the diversity of life on the land.

Rocky Mountain Arsenal was a dangerous, toxic endeavor and luckily, the US government realized that it needed to implement a clean-up, the size and scale of which had never been undertaken before, and it succeeded in that implementation over twenty-plus years. We've learned a lot about how to properly dispose of toxic waste since the 1940's, but a massive amount of toxic chemicals leached into the soil and groundwater systems of that area during its operation. Thankfully, we humans did figure out a way to mostly neutralize the effects on the environment and have secured the area for the wildlife that was driven out so very long ago. We only need to make sure we don't build out the suburban sprawl around the refuge as it stands.

The organization Defenders of Wildlife finds that, ‘Protected areas and other conservation lands will become refugia for species on the move or will serve as potential sources of individuals to colonize new sites under changing climatic conditions. The reduction of natural habitat, increased isolation of populations and potential disruption of resident populations by migrating individuals adding to the density may threaten population viability in protected areas.’ (Brennan, 2008). In other words, we need to protect the area around the refuge as well as the refuge itself, if we are to give Colorado's wildlife a fighting chance at existence. In the meantime, the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge is a special place, where humans almost destroyed the land by ignorance of what they were doing, but then did the hard work of repairing most of the damage done, to rectify our wrongs of the past and leave a space of natural beauty for the future. ■



THE LONG NIGHT

EDITED BY JENNA DUKE & DAN SCHAEFER
LAYOUT DESIGN JENNY LE

"The war in Afghanistan is over." Those were the words President Biden delivered in a speech August 31st, 2021, the day that the United States ended the 20-year-old war in Afghanistan. To mark this important moment and to recognize the valor of our military veterans who have returned to school, we have invited a submission from a military veteran who wanted to share her war story. Due to the sensitive nature of her mission and the emotional toll of the experience, she has asked us to not disclose her name or the names of the others involved. The story has been edited for clarity, content and coherence.

There was a chill in the air. I looked over to the visibly snowcapped mountain range off in the distance, and wondered—when will the snow start falling here? Waiting with my team beside a hulking troop transport plane at a desolate military airfield in Afghanistan, I began to shift side to side as my heavy gear dug into my waist. My back ached from the 50 pounds of gear I wore and from the idea that my 85-pound pack awaited me. It was going to be a long night.

I was one of an elite team of five women, assigned to five groups of Special Forces and Army Ranger teams, after completing a rigorous training program that prepared us mentally and physically to serve side-by-side with these teams of operators.

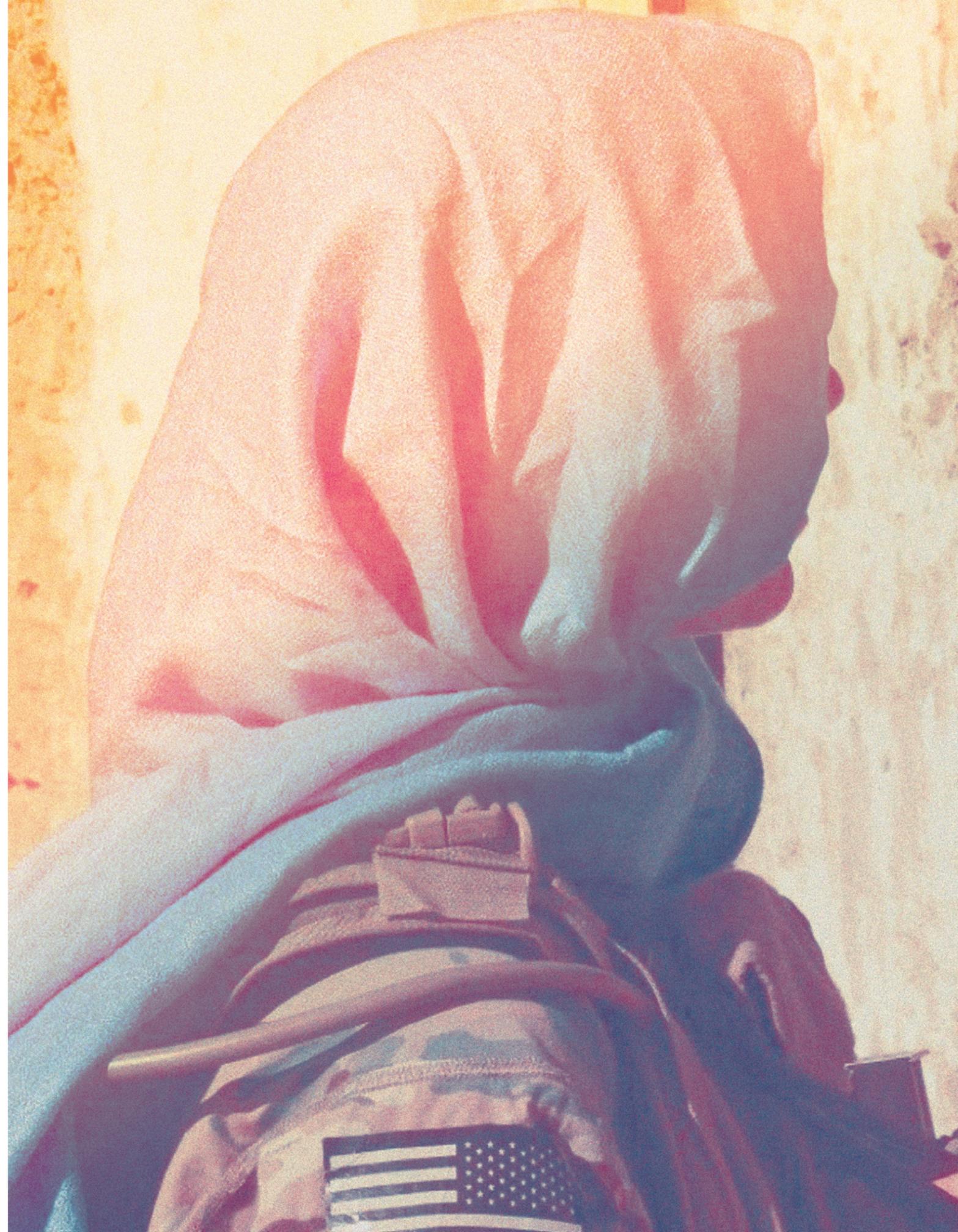
Our mission was clear. We were tasked with

"I began to shift side to side as my heavy gear dug into my waist."

gathering intelligence leads on a missing American soldier believed to have been held captive by the Taliban. However, we were searching in the dark. We did not have any solid Intel on where this soldier was being held captive. We were facing significant logistical challenges flying search teams of Navy Seals and other Special Operations through Turkey and Pakistan into the areas we needed to cover in our search.

The nights were getting colder and longer. I wanted a hot shower, a comfortable mattress and a real meal that didn't come out of a plastic bag [MRE], but I pushed aside the aches and pains, and took a few more sips of my Rip-it energy drink. My mind kept drifting from listening to the night's mission brief to daydreaming about being in the states getting back to a normal routine.

Snow began falling at the airfield, unexpected and accumulating fast. We had to take off soon or else our mission would be grounded because the plane would not be able to fly. We were halted for 30 minutes while the plane was being de-iced. It was strange to think that a desert area in the Middle East would experience snow; but snowfall is common in the mountains of Afghanistan.





"After entering one compound, we stepped into hell."

After boarding, we sat for hour-long minutes, looking out the back of the C-130's rear ramp, as our cargo and gear were palletized and strapped to a metal pallet fixed on rollers deep inside the belly of the aircraft.

Tired of the show, I hung my pack to the cargo netting with a carabiner clip. I propped my feet up, put my headphones in and tried to catch a quick nap before we stayed up all night walking the leads we were given. When we were finally cleared for takeoff and the giant plane finally heaved itself airborne, I sank into a deep sleep.

About 30 to 45 minutes into our flight, I woke up to the sight of blood red light flooding the back of the airplane and the loadmaster alerting us that we needed to strap in and prepare to land.

After landing and unloading our gear, we met with a Mission Commander at the base to go over our search plan in the trudge to find any information on the missing soldier.

The targeted Taliban-run province was

promising because of the current Intel on houses and compounds as sites for suspected high-value Taliban bomb making which might also produce possible Intel on our missing soldier.

The next day we started the weary drudge of walking and talking to elders in the province. Shortly after entering one compound, we stepped into hell.

Without any warning, a female suicide bomber detonated her vest and her explosion triggered more than a dozen more improvised explosive devices that were inside the compound.

Chaos erupted explosively with yelling, screaming, cries for help, smoke, and the smell of burnt skin and blood.

My earpiece screamed. Words of profanity mixed with urgent requests to try to establish situation reports from teams. Who was still able to move? What did we see at our location? Who was still alive?

My head was pounding, and my lungs were gasping for air. Over the tremendous ringing sound in my ears, I could hear gunfire. In my mind, I was telling myself, "Get up! Get the h--- up, now! Move!" I tried to get to my feet, but there was

a burning sensation, and I stumbled. Trying again to get back up, it felt like my ribs were broken. I tried to get words out to check in, but it was like a ton of bricks, no, more than a ton of bricks were sitting on my chest.

Dark smoke covered almost every inch around me, but I thought I could see another soldier propped up against the wall. I tried to crawl over to the wall, but the pain in my leg felt like burning coals were melting through my uniform. Why wouldn't my legs work?

Trembling, I tried to move my leg with my hand, it felt wet; did I pee myself? I put my hand to my face, close, real close because I could barely see anything in front of me. I could make out what looked like black tar, and then I made out the dark rich color of blood.

I was hit. D----t!

With shaky hands, I reached for my medical pack attached to my body armor. I yelled at myself, "Get it together, get the f----- tourniquet on your leg and get the f--- out of there."

My chest was heavy; I still couldn't get a full breath, "S---, am I dying?" I ripped apart the Velcro

on the tourniquet and slipped the material high up on my thigh, "S---, I'm going to lose my leg! How the h--- am I going to do this?"

I couldn't see blood coming from my leg because there was so much debris; I was covered in dirt and parts of the building's wall material. I twisted the tourniquet as tight as I could until I finally secured it.

I reached towards my chest to see if I was shot. I felt a hole and began to freak out—h--- s---, I was shot in the chest. I ripped off my vest and tried to find the entrance wound; nothing. But I couldn't breathe deep, and my chest and ribs felt like every bone was broken. The bullet "must have hit my body armor.

I didn't know how I was going to mark myself if I passed out and someone found me. How would they know if I had a tourniquet on or how long it had been on me? I couldn't worry about that, though. I had to focus on glimpses of another wounded soldier I saw by the wall.

"I tried to speak again but could only gasp."

I laid on my belly and crawled, my thigh dragging across the rubble of debris. I reached out and felt a leg—all right, I made it to the other person. I tried to speak again but could only gasp.

The young man slumped against the building wall had burns all over the right side of his body. His torn gaping uniform revealed that his right leg was no longer part of him, while his left leg bone was splintered, piercing through his skin.

The soldier was out cold. I checked for breathing and put my ear to his face. I looked for a rise and fall of his chest—that was hard to do since he was sitting with his back up against the wall, and his body armor blocked the view of his chest contracting and expanding. Relieved, I could feel the slight breath coming from his nose.

My mind immediately began to form questions: how am I going to get us out of here? I can't stand, how am I going to drag this man from this area?

I felt responsible for ensuring that this young soldier made it through this horror. He had to live. He had to survive.

Grabbing the medical kit that was laying on the ground next to his limp arm, it was clear to see that he had vainly attempted to place the tourniquet on his right leg but ended up passing out.

Trying to pull his body closer to me, his torso slid down the wall. With his body now lying flat on the dirt-ridden floor, I managed to place his tourniquet around the stump of the right leg; it was imperative to stop the bleeding before he bled out.

I pulled out my second tourniquet, my first one was still around my leg, and I managed to place the tourniquet above the soldier's left knee. He was still unconscious, and I still didn't have any plan to get us out of there safely.

I was exhausted, badly injured and had no strength left in me; but I managed to scoot behind his head and pull his upper body into a sitting position. Wrapping my arms under his armpits and my legs to the outside of each of his, I heaved myself backwards, and pulled with all my might.

"My eyes were trying to see, but everything was a blur."

We moved less than an inch.

I kept scooting and heaving inch by inch. Tears streamed down my face—I didn't want to die, and I couldn't leave him here and attempt to get help.

At some point I passed out either from pain, exhaustion, or loss of blood. I have no idea how long I laid there, with this young man's body resting heavily on top of mine.

When I woke, I found myself being lifted and placed on a stretcher. My eyes were trying to see but everything was a blur. I could hear voices but could not make out what was being said. I continued to pass out, and soon enough, I realized I had been rescued. I was on a helicopter, a medic tending to my battered and beaten body.

While I am grateful, I didn't lose my leg, the scars remain from that October in Afghanistan. I received a Purple Heart and I have recently retired from the military as a Master Sergeant (MSG). Since then, I've been trying to find my place in this world, and it has been challenging sharing my war story of my time in hell. But I'm looking forward to a promising future as a CCD student and eventually a lawyer. My goal over the next year or two is to climb the Incline in Manitou Springs.

The soldier I tried to save so desperately did survive the horrors that day and live. However, he has severe post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and has been in and out of inpatient therapy at Walter Reed and many other VA hospitals. I'm afraid of getting the call that he loses his battle with depression.

I also learned the missing soldier we were searching for was found after five long years in Taliban captivity and returned home to an uneasy mixture of relief and disgrace. Relief because this was the first war where there were no Missing in Action (MIA) and this missing soldier was the only Prisoner-of-War (POW).

When he returned home, this soldier was court-martialed and punished for deserting his post. According to news reports and interviews that reconstructed the events of that night, he had stacked his equipment neatly and with only his compass to guide him, walked off the base into the yielding black darkness of a long night. ■

"I was exhausted, badly injured and had no strength left."



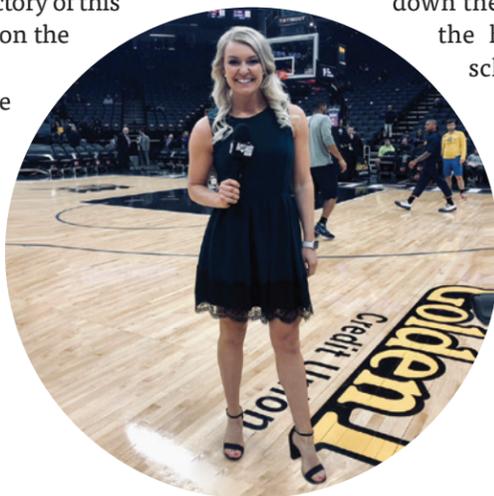
THE UNOFFICIAL QUEEN OF THE NUGGETS

AUTHOR **BRANDI THOMAS**
LAYOUT DESIGN **ALON PAUL**

With my head hung low my basketball career was over like a blocked shot with two bad knees. I turned on a Denver Nuggets game with hopes that my favorite NBA basketball team could pull me from this slump. The guys had been playing well lately but to my delight I saw there was a woman! A beautiful blonde haired woman radiating confidence and poise, standing courtside with a microphone in hand. Katy Winge, the current analyst, reporter, and host for the Denver Nuggets on Altitude TV.

This reporter saw for a moment of clarity, the promise of empowerment, that women can do it all and the future is female. Or maybe it was my sore knees that were suggesting I look to a different career path. But I was hooked and curious about the incredible career trajectory of this woman who projected such confidence on the court as a sports reporter.

It is widely reported that since the creation of modern, organized sports, women have always fought for equality. From representation, ratings, and respect to equal pay, women have always fought for equality in sports; facing obstacles



and discriminations unheard of by their male counterparts, including ridiculous beauty and societal standards that they are encouraged to conform to in order to be taken seriously and be equally visible. Too often women sports simply don't have the same level of visibility as men sports.

Taken seriously is something women want and frankly deserve. "For so long it's been a boys club from the top down" said Katy Winge, otherwise known as the "Unofficial Queen of the Nuggets" and the face and brains of basketball coverage for Altitude TV. Working her way up from an in-arena reporter to an analyst, reporter and host for Altitude, Katy has become an inspiration for women in sports in the Denver area.

Katy's love for basketball began with running down the court in the third grade, crossing the half-court with her notable high school career, and culminating in a sweet jump shot as a Division I athlete at Illinois State University. As she grew closer to the end of her playing career, she knew she wanted to continue her passion for sports in her professional life as a journalist.

Being a former athlete gives her a certain edge and insight into the nuances of the game. This ability to understand both the players perspective and the media perspective is really what leveraged Katy reputation as a reporter. "They (the athletes) knew that I played the game. They knew that I not only understood things from the media perspective, but also from the player's perspective. That instantly bonded me to the people of the stories I was trying to tell. That helped immensely in terms of putting down walls and getting the real stories.", she tells Nuggets.com in an interview.

She knows the ins and outs, the daily trials and tribulations, the grit, and the grind of competing in athletics. Not only does this give her an edge in forming special connections with athletes, but her knowledge of the game is on another level.

Katy has an impressive history when it comes to the game of basketball. She loves connecting fans to the game with her extensive knowledge and insight for the game which are clear as she commentates games, breaks down what happened before us post game, and analyzes specific players. She brings a positive and accepting energy with her every time.

In an interview with Nuggets.com, Katy talked about her love for sports. "The power that sports have is what has drawn me to sports my whole life...Bringing people together, establishing relationships and being an escape for people, and I wanted to be the one to tell those stories." She allows us to see the game beyond the score.

As a woman who has grown up playing and watching sports, I can't tell you how much it means to see Katy on my TV every Nuggets game and showcasing her love for the game. Katy is a passionate advocate for women in

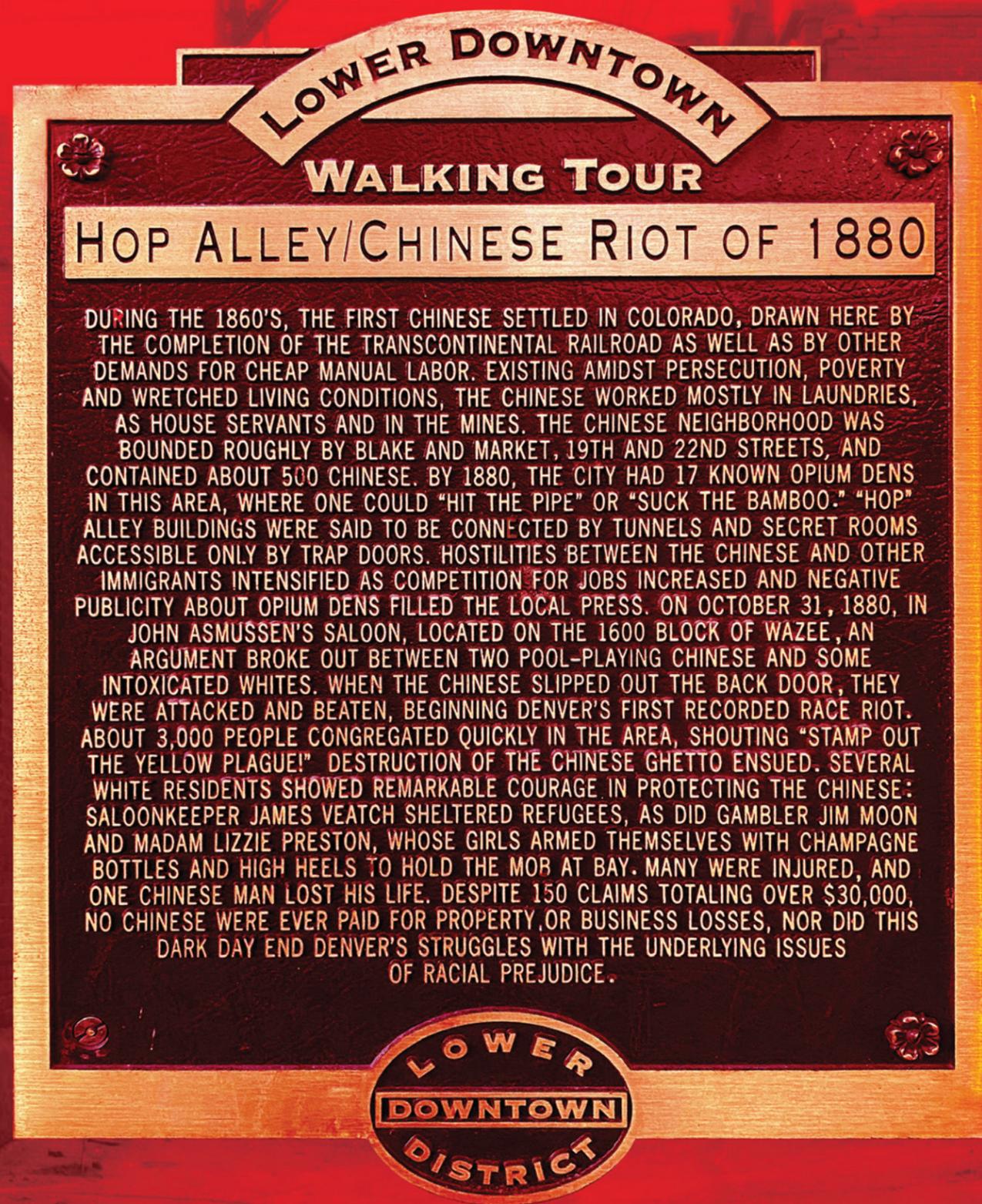
the sports world, whether it be on or off the court. Her passion for basketball allows for a personal experience when watching each game. She values the connection that exists between the fans and the players and breaks down the game in such an artistic way that can allow anyone to enjoy a Nuggets broadcast.

There is a beautiful uprising of prominent women in the industry. In an interview with Harrison Wind, Winge described this transition as "just the beginning for women in this world and in this industry. I feel so fortunate that I have role models to look up to and to know that they went through this. I think about all the women who have come before me. The first woman in the locker room, the first women to be in the situations I find myself in every day. I can't even imagine what that would have felt like. There are days when I'm in the Nuggets' locker room and look around and think 'I'm the only woman here.' But I don't even think twice about it. It is what it is and we're all trying to do our jobs. It's just a fact." Winge is one of many women in this industry to rewrite the stereotypes, and to break through the ceiling created for all women pursuing a career in sports and sports broadcasting.

Her tale of going from an avid sports lover to becoming the face of Altitude is inspiring for young women and sports fans alike. She proves that she's not just another pretty face but a brilliant and strong TV personality. "The door opened for women to flood into these roles but now we've almost been pigeonholed as sideline reporters," Winge told Wind of DNVR. "The pretty girl who can talk on camera and is OK at asking questions. It's given a lot of people a lot of opportunities to prove that stereotype wrong, and I think that we have pushed that to the highest degree."

Katy Winge is the blueprint for powerful women in the sports world, while she maintains a reputation of being a beautiful woman with a confident and cheerful personality, she has proven that she has the knowledge and prestige to become an all-time great in this field. As a woman and as a sports fan, seeing Katy Winge on my TV screen on game days reminds me that the days of sports being a boy's club is over, and that the girls got next. ■





THE PLAQUE THAT IS A MIRROR

At the corner of 20th and Blake Street in Denver, there is a small easily overlooked plaque on one of the graffiti-tagged sides of a building. This dignified plaque with a black background and gold print is titled, "Hop Alley/Chinese Riot of 1880" and describes the events of Denver's first race riot.

This small plaque has recently come into the news because of a desire to better understand the role of race in America. The Colorado Asian Pacific United (CAPU) organization has identified several fundamental problems with the language on the plaque and is hoping to replace the plaque with one that does a better job explaining the complicated history of the anti-Chinese riot of 1880.

To understand the problem with the plaque requires a close look at what happened before, during, and after that fateful Halloween night in 1880. It can be summed with 'It's complicated'.

The Chinese demographic at the time represented only a tiny fraction of Denver's population. Many of the Chinese lived and worked in what was known as Chinatown and is now known as the Lodo Area of Denver near 20th and Blake Streets by Coors Field.

Denver at the turn of the 20th century was much smaller with only 36,000 residents, and only 238 of that population were Chinese. However, 10 years earlier there were about only four Chinese, so with this population growth caused many people to suspect that the Chinese were going to take American jobs.

To make matters worse, many newspapers of the day published sensational stories that the Chinese were here to take over America. This resulted in Chinatown being described as the breeding ground for crime prostitution, gambling, and drug use in Denver.

This anti-Chinese hate bubbled over Halloween night, October 31st, 1880, in a deadly first-ever race riot. According to a Rocky Mountain PBS documentary, “140 years after race riot, Denver honors Chinese immigrants,” detailing the events that night, “a drunken saloon brawl between some intoxicated white customers and two Chinese men spiralled from the bar into the street. A white mob formed and they beat every Chinese person in sight and destroyed every Chinese business in the area.”

One Chinese man, Look Young, couldn't escape in time and was brutally lynched by the raging mob while many others were badly beaten by the mob. A few good Samaritan white individuals and store managers helped hide or rescue escaping Chinese people from the mob.

It is here where the story gets complicated and really raises the question of how to memorialize this event in our classrooms and in the form of a plaque. This plaque also seems to act as a mirror reflecting the unevenness of how Asian history is always not as emphasized or accurately described in school.

At issue is the language in the plaque describing the event. The plaque's title states “Hop Alley/Chinese Riot of 1880”, but this is already seen as problematic. Gil Asakawa, a member of the Colorado Asian Pacific United, said, “The title should not focus on ‘Hop Alley’ and should make clear at a glance that it was an anti-Chinese riot.”

According to Mr. Asakawa, the term “Hop Alley” is very disrespectful and was deeply rooted in the drug world. Chinatown was blamed for the opium dens, gambling, and brothels but that was not because of the Chinese that was due to the white contributors in Chinatown. He said that “Hop Alley is a racist term that was commonly used for Chinese Areas because the Chinese had the stereotype of being drug users.”

On the plaque, we also see the names of the three white individuals who protected Chinese civilians and how they had done it. However, it does not show the name Look Young who had died due to this riot, it only states, “Many were injured, and one Chinese man lost his life.”

Mr. Asakawa said in his blog Nikkiview, “It describes the fight that started the riot and notes that ‘one Chinese man lost his life; without mentioning his name, but then goes on to name the white people who saved fleeing Chinese by

letting them into their businesses, including a whorehouse madame. I applaud that white people rescued some Chinese, but the description strikes me as a classic example of history written from a white-centered perspective, emphasizing the white saviours over the victims.”

Mr. Asakawa is not the only one who feels strongly that the language does not accurately capture the riot. Denver Mayor Hancock, the Asian Pacific Islander Coalition, and the Colorado Asian Pacific Union have come together up with steps to fully correct and change it to better memorialize this historical event. The effort has been on hold because the building owner has not yet made a decision on correcting the plaque.

Teaching the sprawling history of race in America is complicated and often described as just scratching at the surface.

“...they beat every Chinese person in sight and destroyed every Chinese business in the area.”

According to Time Magazine's in-depth investigation of the issue, “A ‘History of Exclusion, of Erasure, of Invisibility.’ Why the Asian-American Story Is Missing From Many U.S. Classrooms” Part of the issue may be individual states' social studies standards, or that there isn't an accurate full picture of the Asian-American experiences in America, or the possible tendency for teachers to focus on the Asian-American experience as

immigration stories.

However, if our history curriculum were to more accurately portray the Asian-American experience they should, “A more complete version of the history might include a deeper look at anti-Asian discrimination, with lessons about the mob violence faced by immigrants from Asian countries. It would also include milestones in U.S. history achieved by people of Asian descent.”

Failure to properly address these problems may result in serious consequences in the future. Current examples indicate this with the rise of hate crimes against Asians.

While this plaque is very small on walls covered in graffiti above the gritty reality of homeless camping underneath. It does seem to act like a mirror revealing our uncomfortable relationship with the role of race in America. It seems that the American educational system does not represent enough of Asian-American history correctly and is too often being overshadowed by historical events we are more comfortable with. This despite how much the Asian-American experience makes up a large part of our history and identity. ■





“This was no summer camp.”

THE **DESIRE** TO **REMEMBER**

AUTHOR **BRANDON NEVAREZ** PHOTOGRAPHY **AMACHE.ORG**
LAYOUT DESIGN **MARCUS CORTEZ**

In Colorado, there are many hidden locations that are being worn away by the elements, lost to time and the desire to forget. In the dusty Plains town of Granada there is one such place, Camp Amache, about a four-hour drive from Denver. It is a completely different climate than Denver. There are no trees, no Rocky Mountains, no hustle-and-bustle of the city, just the winds blowing across this land.

Camp Amache, also known as the Granada Relocation Center, is a hidden place because of the desire to forget. If we were at the Camp in 1942, we would see the disturbing sight of thousands of Japanese-Americans loaded off of train cars and moved into military-style barracks incarcerated in this internment camp.

This hidden place has recently come into the news because of the desire to remember and learn from our past. Gil Asakawa, a professor with the University of Denver described the recent bipartisan legislation in April 2021, pushed by Congressmen Joe Neguse and Ken Buck to designate Amache as a National Historical Site. The legislation passed the House Natural Resource Committee on July 14 and passed in the full House on July 29 with overwhelming support.

This support is welcome because the history behind the camp is ugly and Americans need to learn from these mistakes. According to the interview with Mr. Asakawa, the individuals were incarcerated at Camp Amache due to mass hysteria and fear of the Japanese after the Pearl Harbor Surprise Attack on December 7th, 1941.

Many Japanese-Americans at the time were considered nisei or second generation who were born in the United States. Despite this fact, many white Americans were suspicious and denounced them as spies for Japan. As a result, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 and over 7,000 Japanese Americans were relocated to the Granada Relocation Center in Southwest Colorado.

Amache was the unofficial name of the center. It came from a Cheyenne Indian chief's daughter. Oddly enough, there was a mail mix-up between the town of Granada and the Granada Relocation Center. Since the center was considered an internment camp, they often referred to it as "Camp Amache," but this made it seem like it was a summer camp.

However, this was no summer camp. What the Japanese-Americans experienced there while being imprisoned was a hard life and yet they continued to be loyal to the United States even with all these hardships and misunderstanding.

A notable piece of this history is the role of then-Colorado Governor Ralph Carr. He risked his political career to help the Japanese-Americans, by allowing Japanese-American evacuees to come to Colorado. He was the only Western governor to do so. Governor Carr believed in Japanese-American loyalty to the United States and did not send Japanese Coloradoans to these internment camps, he fundamentally believed that the Constitution protected all Americans. As a result, many Japa-

nese-Americans stayed in Colorado and established deep roots in the community.

Where does the Granada Relocation Center stand today? Students from Granada High School have helped preserve the site and have made reconstructions of old barracks as well as a guard post there. These students have recognized the historical importance of learning from America's past mistakes in hopes that it will never happen again.

Mr. Asakawa said there is an annual pilgrimage from Arvada to Granada. Generally, the pilgrimage starts in the morning at Simpson United Methodist Church in Arvada, which has a large Japanese-American Christian congregation. Other stops along the way are the Tri-State Buddhist Temple at Sakura Square in Downtown Denver and then the long bus ride down to the Granada Relocation Center where they spend a couple of hours at the site and they hold a special memorial ceremony.

Buddhist priests and Christian ministers go to the memorial for the 442nd Regimental combat team which was known for being the most highly decorated team in U.S. history as well as being composed completely of nisei Japanese-American men.

The group then takes time around the site and have a lunch or a potluck at Granada High School where they have speeches and presentations from the active Amache Historical Society.

All of these efforts to pay tribute to those Japanese-Americans coupled with the recent support within the government will mean the Granada Relocation Center will soon become recognized as a National Park with a formal museum and an information center. National funds allocated to the site will help continue to preserve the site and educate future generations about what happened here and the Japanese-Americans who were incarcerated there in this hidden dusty corner of Colorado. ■

"We would see the disturbing site of thousands of Japanese-Americans loaded off of train cars and moved into military-style barracks incarcerated in this internment camp."





HOUSE HUNTERS

AUTHOR **DEVON TRUJILLO**
LAYOUT DESIGN **ALON PAUL**

A couple of Colorado natives are on the hunt to buy their dream home. "We've just come back from looking at four houses this morning up in Thornton! This home market is outrageous!" said Ana, the exasperated mother of three kids.

In this article we are going to learn from a couple of desperately hungry house hunters as they hunt their prey. In Colorado, there is no room to be picky with house hunting. The housing market is simply too competitive. The house market strategy outsmarts the regular home buyer with complex strategies to make home buyers spend. As neighborhoods across the Mile-High get gentrified, tax rates, home values, and mortgages increase.

The rules of the hunt are simple. You must be open-minded about any work that has to be done on the prospective house. Otherwise, your chances of being under contract are slim to none. You must be assertive with the goal to stick your foot inside the door and get a piece of the pie. Finally, you must make an offer the sellers can't refuse.

"This home market is outrageous!"



At the beginning of their hunt, our exasperated home buyers try to seek the biggest bang for their buck. Maybe something spacious, a nice kitchen, decent garage, and a spacious back yard and basement is a must-have.

Initially, our intrepid hunters were looking in Lakewood, a suburb just west of Denver. However, in Lakewood, most houses for sale need a lot of work with a price tag of an average of \$600,000 for a 2,000 Sq ft home.

Now our disillusioned house hunters could claim that renting a home might make better sense than paying for a home mortgage because house hunting is such a tough competition, and they don't want to go hungry... er...be homeless.

Some people don't want to put themselves in a treacherous situation that is competitive where people are offering to pay more. It is tough on buyers because they must save up for the down payment, closing costs and now the new appraisal gap.

An appraisal gap is coming into play in our hunters' strategies here in Colorado. The reality is that there is a lot of competition in Colorado. Homebuyers never experienced the appraisal gap five years ago. So this is a very important bit of savvy knowledge in 2021. The appraisal gap is the difference between how much the property is worth and how much you are purchasing the property for.

The appraisal gap can be part of the stressful part of buying a home. Depending on the property, offering \$10,000 cold hard cash on top of the home's value is barely reaching the bare minimum to keep up in the hunt. For certain houses in Colorado, house hunters are willing to pay far off more than what the property is listed for. The reason is because the prey (the market) is moving so fast that property sales cannot keep up.

As competition is on the rise, homeowners sell their homes off a betting strategy, prior to this marketing strategy, Colorado homeowners would drop

their prices to secure a deal. In 2021 we are seeing realtors ask their clients "How much above appraised value can we write in the offer?" As the house market heats up, you will not be able to buy the house for asking price, other homebuyers will simply outbid you.

The speed of the sale is so quick. Many houses are selling in a flash. Many home buyers are having sleepless nights. Some Colorado natives ponder on moving out of state, but their friends and family are here in Colorado.

So far, these Colorado hunters have been disappointed. They take a moment to rest and reflect on their hunt. They have discovered that in order to beat the competition, they may have to give up safety protocols like waving property inspections and offering cash to make up the property appraisal gap. This is a gamble, which means people are willing to overpay for the property without knowing the real cost. Another strategy is to use some kind of app like Redfin to help assist our house hunters in their hunt. Redfin is a real estate service for home market research. Redfin is a platform for house hunters to search homes in different areas with updated listings every minute of the day. Redfin being one of the top platforms, recommended by all mortgage lenders; most house hunters use this platform, causing lots of traffic and competition.

On Redfin, homes are tracked down from the first sale, all houses in Colorado are increasing in equity simply by supply and demand. In under three years, property equity has raised over \$100,000 on properties in Denver Colorado.

Ultimately, after numerous sightings of their prey, the two Colorado natives had to stick their foot through the door and make an offer the home seller couldn't refuse. They waved off unimportant property inspections, offering over appraisals value and offering the homeowners to live in the house 45 days after closing day too allow them to move.

In Colorado you must expect a crazy market for home buying, there is still hope, ultimately you must be head strong and assertive to get your piece of the pie. ■



***Offering \$10,000
cash on top of
the home's value
is barely reaching
the bare minimum
to keep up in
THE HUNT.***



Colorado is home to the most diehard sports fans in the country in every sport.

Watching Sports

AUTHOR **TIM ROMERO** LAYOUT DESIGN **MARCUS CORTEZ**

In the beautiful state of Colorado, we are known for picture-perfect sunsets with the mountains in the background, our ski resorts, art districts, and our top-notch professional and college sports teams.

Sports has always been the one thing that can bring people of all backgrounds together. It may surprise visitors how Colorado is home to the most diehard sports fans in the country in every sport.

Year round there is always a sporting event happening in the state. If you are a causal fan or a diehard you can enjoy a game at Ball Arena to witness the success Denver Nuggets and Colorado Avalanche, or go out to beautiful Coors Field for the Colorado Rockies, or experience the loudness and roar of the crowd at Empower Field at Mile High and see the Denver Broncos.

There is also an abundance of college teams in the state to check out, including, the University of Colorado Buffaloes, University of Northern Colorado Bears, and the Colorado State University Rams.

It is always fun to attend a sporting event with friends or family, or whoever it may be.

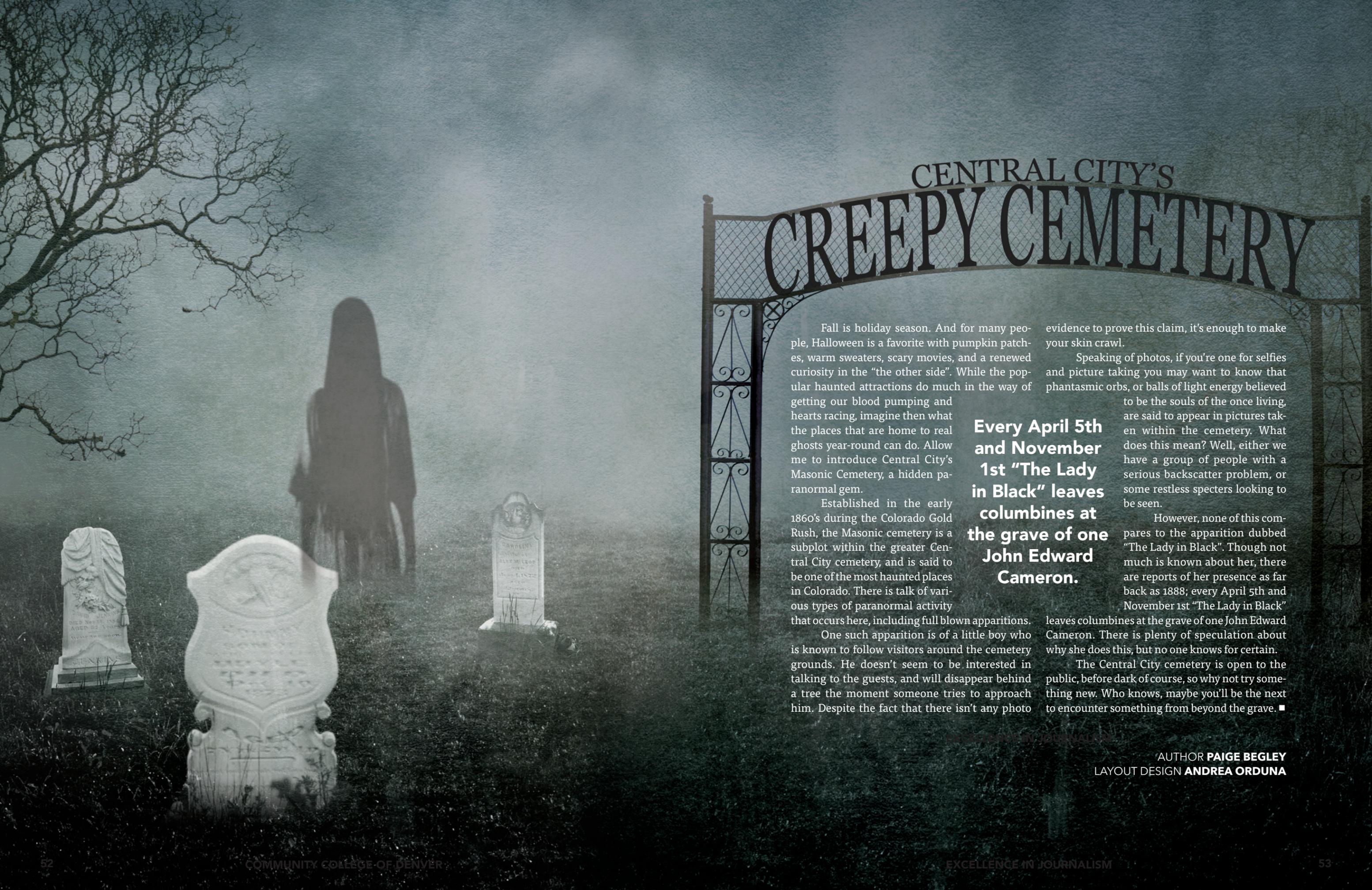
There are more ways than one to catch all the action in the exciting world of sports.

Television is always a good choice for enjoying a game from the comfort of your home with the people closest to you. In the city there are many hangout spots where you can grab a bite to eat and enjoy whatever game might be on that day.

In today's world you can even watch sporting events on your phone! There are streaming video apps that you can go on that can provide viewers with a live or archived stream of the game. These convenient apps do have a price. Usually there is a monthly subscription to use this option.

Of course, there are many other mobile apps to check the score of your favorite team. ESPN is my personal favorite because you can access things like player/team stats, team rankings, and highlights all in one place.

As we are all transitioning back into normality, we can start to reconnect with our friends and family again through sporting events. It is a feeling that we all have missed and are excited to get back in our lives in the beautiful state of Colorado. ■



CENTRAL CITY'S CREEPY CEMETERY

Fall is holiday season. And for many people, Halloween is a favorite with pumpkin patches, warm sweaters, scary movies, and a renewed curiosity in the “the other side”. While the popular haunted attractions do much in the way of getting our blood pumping and hearts racing, imagine then what the places that are home to real ghosts year-round can do. Allow me to introduce Central City’s Masonic Cemetery, a hidden paranormal gem.

Established in the early 1860’s during the Colorado Gold Rush, the Masonic cemetery is a subplot within the greater Central City cemetery, and is said to be one of the most haunted places in Colorado. There is talk of various types of paranormal activity that occurs here, including full blown apparitions.

One such apparition is of a little boy who is known to follow visitors around the cemetery grounds. He doesn’t seem to be interested in talking to the guests, and will disappear behind a tree the moment someone tries to approach him. Despite the fact that there isn’t any photo

evidence to prove this claim, it’s enough to make your skin crawl.

Speaking of photos, if you’re one for selfies and picture taking you may want to know that phantasmic orbs, or balls of light energy believed to be the souls of the once living, are said to appear in pictures taken within the cemetery. What does this mean? Well, either we have a group of people with a serious backscatter problem, or some restless specters looking to be seen.

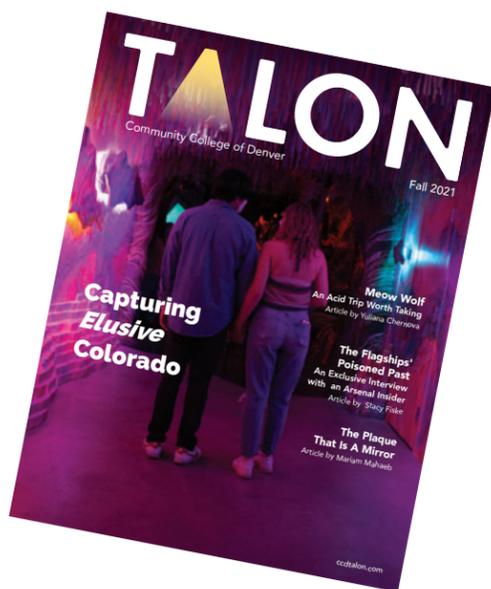
However, none of this compares to the apparition dubbed “The Lady in Black”. Though not much is known about her, there are reports of her presence as far back as 1888; every April 5th and November 1st “The Lady in Black” leaves columbines at the grave of one John Edward Cameron. There is plenty of speculation about why she does this, but no one knows for certain.

The Central City cemetery is open to the public, before dark of course, so why not try something new. Who knows, maybe you’ll be the next to encounter something from beyond the grave. ■

Every April 5th and November 1st “The Lady in Black” leaves columbines at the grave of one John Edward Cameron.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JOURNALIST

AUTHOR **PAIGE BEGLEY**
LAYOUT DESIGN **ANDREA ORDUNA**



CCD'S JOURNALISM DEPARTMENT

The purpose of journalism is to see life and make sense of the world by sharing our stories. These stories find us, draw us closer, make us feel, and shape our decisions.

CCD's journalism program offers classes that will start you on this path to a career as a journalist or as a public relations professional and give you what you need to transfer to a four-year university. For more information please contact us at journalism@ccd.edu.

DZGN STUDIO

MGD 194/294 Service Learning: In this course CCD students operate a multimedia graphic design firm to provide them with work-based learning opportunities prior to entering the job market and learn professional and business practices. This course provides a great opportunity to gain training in creative problem solving, graphic design and production on working world projects.

THE TALON MAGAZINE PROJECT

The Talon Magazine Project is an online and print magazine produced through a unique collaboration between the CCD Journalism Program and the Service Learning Graphic Design course in Fall and Spring semesters.

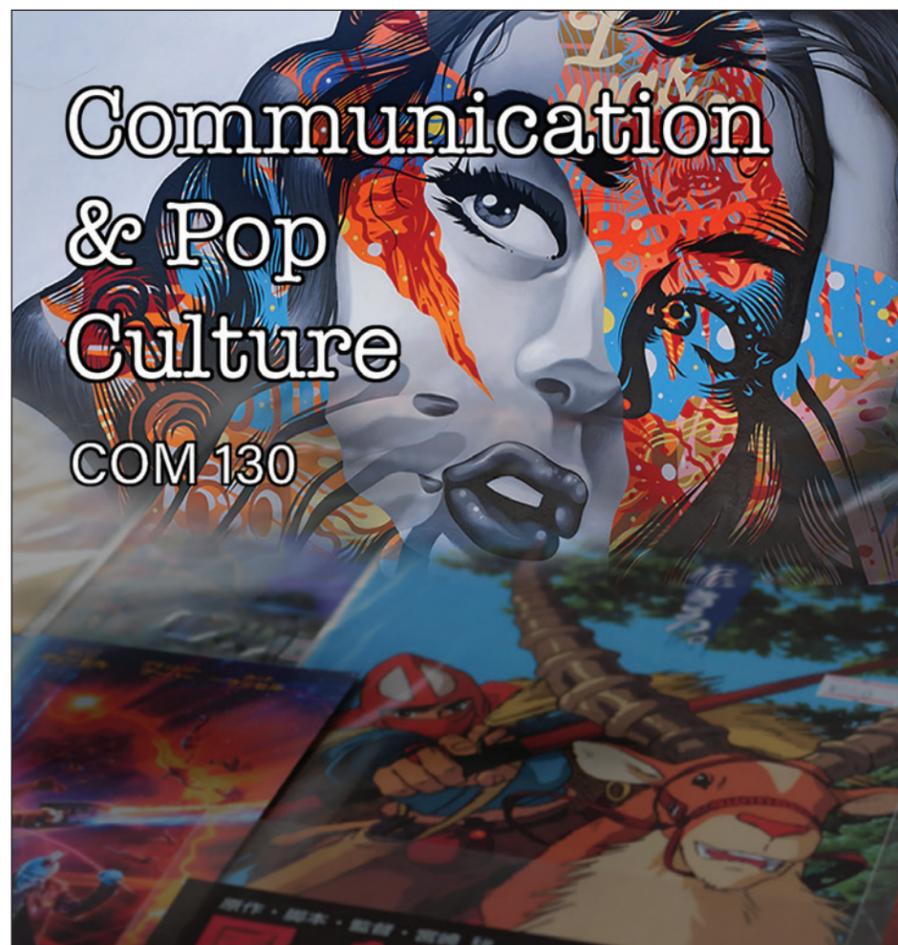
Each semester, Talon journalism student-contributors write feature news stories, interview and profile interesting people, report on emerging trends, and take pictures about topics that matter to CCD students on the Auraria campus. This content is then carefully edited and handed over to the Graphic Design team to layout the stories, illustrate, and design the graphic vision for the magazine. Journalism Program and the Service Learning Graphic Design course in Fall and Spring semesters.

All CCD students are encouraged to submit their journalism feature articles, photos, and illustrations for selection. If you're interested in journalism please contact us at journalism@ccd.edu or if you're interested in graphic design contact us at CCD.edu/GraphicDesign.



NEW MEDIA JOURNALISM

AN ADVENTURE TOO BIG FOR THE REAL CLASSROOM



Learn about how we "do" pop culture by **designing your own hotels & theme parks.**

Learn study skills & how to fight procrastination.

M/W 12:30-1:45 PM
T/TH 2:00-3:15 PM

Contact Brian.Weaver@ccd.edu or register at CCD.edu today!

PHOTOGRAPHY **DAN SCHAEFER**

