



Syllabus

FALL 2018

THE TRUMP EFFECT

IMMIGRATION STORIES FROM THE CU COMMUNITY

LGBT GRAD STUDENTS • MENTAL HEALTH • STUDENT GOVERNMENT • HALLETT HALL

EDITORIAL: #SAVESTUDENTNEWSROOMS BECAUSE THE NEWS MATTERS

*By Kim Habicht; endorsed by
the CU Independent staff.*

Last year, the higher education industry was valued at \$463 billion. That’s 7 percent of the United States’ GDP — more than the pharmaceutical industry or the oil industry.

Despite higher education’s looming presence in American life, news of it frequently falls through the cracks in many community newsrooms. The students that live in college towns might be a plurality of the population — CU students make up almost a third of Boulder — yet coverage of them is often sparse.

Luckily, most universities have their own fourth estates. For CU, it’s us, the CU Independent. Though we live under the College of Media, Communication and Information, we are exclusively student-run. Since CUI’s inception, we’ve brought light to injustices and malpractice on campus. We’ve also been the eminent news source for CU athletics, music and arts scene, campus culture, and events.

In the last year alone, the CUI has kept both CU students and Boulder residents informed about active harmer incidents, wildfires, student government budget cuts and free speech protests. Features have uncovered shaky university diversity policies, poked through holes in the university’s mental healthcare system and given a voice to immigrants on campus.

Community newspapers like the Daily Camera — which is under the same corporate ownership decimating the Denver Post — simply lack the resources to cover the student population extensively. Recent newsroom cuts at places as esteemed as the Post show that, for many reasons, times are tough in the journalism industry.

As newsrooms increasingly witness brutal personnel cuts, the CUI has filled in the missing pieces. Our reporters have devoted stretches of their time to reporting on CU’s diversity policies, including parsing often-vague plans and uncovering sentiments that rest within CU’s student body. In many cases, the reportage has prompted action from the administration.


This is just one example of the work that we’re equipped, and excited, to do.

The old, overworn adage says that experience is the best teacher. While cliché, it’s true. Most professional journalists will say that the most formative parts of their early careers were in their campus’ newsrooms, where they were free to experiment, ask questions, make mistakes and pursue their interests.


The importance of a campus paper really cannot be overstated. Yet nationally, student newsrooms are increasingly subject to threatening budget cuts, editorial oversight and diminishing numbers of staff. Funding challenges have forced some student newspapers, like The Daily Campus of Southern Methodist University, to re-affiliate with their schools. This might mean diminished autonomy and oversight from universities. A professor of Seattle University pulled copies of the student-run Spectator because they disapproved of the cover photos of a university drag show. Funding cuts and censorship are just two of the many issues facing student newsrooms across the country.

At the CUI, we are all too aware of the accumulating set of existential threats. Social media might seduce the common university student with quick quips and anesthetizing memes, but there is still a population that desires well-researched, credible, resolute news. We want to give it to them. We love producing the news for you. We believe in the importance of what we do, and hope that you believe in it too.


In the wake of firings at the Denver Post and changes to student newsrooms including the one at Southern Methodist University, CU Independent alumni spoke out on the impact that their experience on staff had for their journalism careers. To read more, go to cuindependent.com.



"No matter what you think of college students, they're the journalists who are up next." -Ellis Arnold



"The profession calls us to continually push ourselves to be better and act with integrity as we seek truth and report it." -Adrian Garcia



"A free press is vital to a healthy democracy, and the people behind that free press all need to start somewhere." -Elizabeth Hernandez

INSIDE...

2	THE RECAP: NEWS BRIEFS
6	THROUGH THE LENS
8	LGBT GRADUATE STUDENTS FACE ISOLATION AND INTOLERANCE
12	HALLETT HALL RESIDENTS REPORT FALSE CITATIONS
14	CU IMMIGRANTS SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES IN THE AGE OF TRUMP
24	CU STUDENT GOVERNMENT EXECS CERTIFIED AFTER SPRING HULLABALOO
28	OPINION: CU DOESN'T PRIORITIZE MENTAL HEALTH
30	A&E: WHAT HAPPENED TO FALL OUT BOY?
32	SPORTS: CU'S NATIONAL ANTHEM POLICY

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NEW ARTS AND SCIENCES CURRICULUM TAKES EFFECT

By Lucy Haggard

For the first time in 30 years, over half of the university's undergraduates will get a fresh set of core requirements.

The General Education requirements, also referred to as Gen Ed, will replace the current Core Curriculum in the next few years. Incoming freshmen and students switching into Arts and Sciences this semester will be required to follow the Gen Ed framework, while continuing Arts and Sciences students can choose one.

The main change students will notice is the categorization of courses. The current Core Curriculum contains multiple "content areas of study." In the Gen Ed requirements, these areas are reshuffled into distribution requirements, with 12 credits each in Arts and Humanities, Social Sciences and Natural Sciences. The "skills acquisition" portion, concerning foreign language, math and writing, will be the same between the two sets.

"[The changes] provide students the opportunity to be really creative with their education," said Steve Leigh, professor of anthropology. Leigh was dean of Arts and Sciences during the process. "It also will encourage faculty to be more creative in designing new courses."

Cora Randall, department chair of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences, co-chaired the Core Revision Committee established by the faculty's Arts and Sciences Council. She explained that since the distribution requirements are more broad by definition, almost any course in the college will count for one of the Gen Ed requirements as well.

"We felt that it would allow students to pursue specific interests or passions that they have, even if it's outside of their major," Randall said.

Six credits of Diversity coursework are included to give students the skills to live in a "multicultural, multiethnic, transnational, and global society," according to the curriculum website. The Core Curriculum calls for three credits of "human diversity" coursework.

Paris Ferribee, who graduated in 2016 with a dual degree in communication and marketing, served on

Leigh's student advisory board during the overhaul process. She expressed excitement at the explicit nature of the diversity requirement.

"These classes were and are life changing," Ferribee said. "But students weren't actively seeking these courses, nor were they being exposed to them."

The implementation of the requirement changes comes nearly six years after Leigh took on the five-year tenure as the college's dean in 2012. He said it was clear early on there were problems with the Core Curriculum.

"I don't think I encountered any [student] who didn't think a revision would be helpful," Leigh said.

The revision committee consulted with the Arts and Sciences Student Government (ASSG), in addition to the dean's advisory board, throughout the process. Garrett Schumacher, master's student in integrated physiology and president of ASSG, said that while the organization is satisfied with the outcome, it could have been a more transparent process.

Leigh also noted that student finances were another reason to revise the curriculum, as additional unexpected semesters can become a burden. It's unclear exactly why college graduation timelines are getting longer, but Leigh said that it's not uncommon for students to be held back an extra semester due to unmet non-major requirements.

The changes initially passed in Sept. 2016 with 86 percent approval. Leigh noted that it's "unusual to see such consensus in a university," citing the tabling of curriculum revisions last year at Duke University as an example of an unsuccessful revision effort.

Dissenting voices on the vote to overhaul included Leslie Irvine, a sociology professor. Irvine is chair of the Arts and Sciences curriculum committee and served on the Gen Ed implementation committee. She expressed apprehension that the new requirements are too "siloeed."

"It is now possible for a student to graduate from CU without ever having taken a course in literature," Irvine said. "A student can meet part of the natural science requirements by taking Intro to Psychology. I think it's wrong-headed, but time will tell."

NEARLY A CENTURY LATER, FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN CU GRADUATE IS OFFICIALLY HONORED

By Robert Tann

Nearly a century after her attendance at CU Boulder, Lucile B. Buchanan was formally honored as the first African-American to graduate from the university during several events throughout the spring semester. Polly McLean, associate professor of media studies, delivered the first Lucile Berkeley Buchanan Lecture to a packed audience at Old Main Chapel in April.

For years, McLean has spent time exhuming the history of Buchanan and correcting CU's own history, which previously stated the first African American student graduated in 1924, while Lucile graduated in 1918.

During the lecture, McLean told the story of Buchanan's life and experiences. Buchanan, McLean said, never saw the spotlight during her life.

Buchanan was prohibited from walking at graduation after completing her diploma in journalism at CU. After graduation, she applied for a position at the Denver Post. After being denied, Buchanan moved to Arkansas to teach.

McLean regularly highlighted the strong personality of Buchanan, who despite being restricted from walking, never "made a scene."

"Lucile had a knack for making silence a grand stance," McLean said.



Lucile Berkeley Buchanan, unknown date. (Courtesy of Polly McLean)

McLean delivered insights into Buchanan's personal life, tracing the lineage of her middle name "Berkeley" to that of her grandfather on her mother's side: Edmund Berkeley, a white plantation owner.

Having spent a decade following Buchanan's path, McLean spoke about her experiences with Buchanan's niece, whom she quotes as having said, "Aunt Lucy was very upset with CU."

McLean took her talk in the direction of contemporary issues. "This past year has been challenging for the world," she said, referencing "oppressive policies" in the current world. "I often thought, 'What would Lucile think today?'"

After her talk, McLean answered several audience questions. One

student asked what McLean's takeaway was for African-American students. McLean responded by acknowledging current racial barriers and remarks.

"I've lived in many African countries," McLean said, sharing that the only place she has been called a racist remark "was on the corner of Broadway and University — twice — in Boulder, Colorado." This revelation caused many in the audience to gasp and fall silent.

McLean encouraged audience members to not let this anecdote stop them, adding that Lucile would have walked with her head held high in such a situation.

"The fact is that we consistently suffer with microaggressions," McLean said. "It happens, and it particularly happens to black women on this campus." In reply to McLean's statement, an audience member yelled, "Amen!"

Many members of the audience continued to show their enthusiasm for McLean and the story of Lucille Buchanan.

Ruth Kocher, an associate dean of arts and sciences, said she was "thrilled to see this chapel packed."

Hillary Potter, associate professor of ethnic studies, was "really impressed" that Buchanan had finally been honored by the university, but said she was "sad that it took so long."

BLOOD DRIVE DONOR QUALIFICATIONS CRITICIZED AS OUTDATED POLICY

Several campus organizations do not sponsor the routine blood drives on campus in protest of the restrictions on LGBT donors.

By John Fitzmaurice

CU frequently hosts Bonfils blood drives, and the past academic year was no exception. The events are primarily supported by campus organizations including the Staff Council and Recreation Services. However, two groups you won't see as sponsors of the blood drives are the United Government of Graduate Students (UGGS) and the Gender and Sexuality Center.

Both the GSC and UGGS chose not to sponsor due to disagreement over the FDA's regulations on blood donors. In the U.S., the Red Cross and all the organizations it works with, including Bonfils, disqualify men sexually active with other men (MSM) to donate blood for 12 months after sexual contact.

The regulations on MSM donors were put into effect by the FDA in December 2015, replacing lifetime bans on gay and bisexual male donors. The policy was first implemented in the 1980s during the AIDS crisis, after hemophiliacs began to contract HIV through blood transfusions. However, the policy has been heavily criticized by LGBT advocates, who argue that placing restrictions on entire groups of people is not an effective way to prevent HIV contamination and perpetuates stigma against gay and bisexual men.

Morgan Seamont, the Assistant Director of CU's Gender and Sexuality Center, described the regulation as "terribly outdated and discriminatory."

Lesbian intercourse does not render a donor ineligible, but women who have had sex with MSM males are also barred from donating blood for a period of 12 months. Men in monogamous gay relationships still fall under such restrictions.

Bonfils requires donors to self-report their information, including sexual history, by answering roughly 50 questions on a secure iPad device or paper form before they donate. Every unit of donated blood is also tested for diseases, including HIV.

In 2016, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention published that there were 39,782 new cases of HIV in the U.S. Gay and bisexual men, who remain the population most affected by HIV, accounted for 67 percent of those diagnoses.

CU's Staff Council has worked with Bonfils since 1973 and recently celebrated their 45-year-long partnership on April 11. During that time period, the Staff Council has logged 35,000 donations. With each donation being able to provide for up to three patients, the Staff Council reported their blood drives "have

saved or enhanced over 106,000 lives throughout the state of Colorado, as well as areas in need across the country."

Hillary Steinberg, the executive VP of the UGGS executive board, said that when they reached out to Bonfils about their donation restrictions they were given information that was not based on accurate research.

"When I inquired about this policy, I was frankly given unsatisfactory answers that depended upon unfounded stereotypes about gay men," Steinberg said.

"The FDA has very stringent requirements to ensure the safety of the blood donations," said Liz Lambert, Bonfils' marketing and communications specialist, about the restriction.

Steinberg said that UGGS made a decision not to sponsor the blood drives until this policy is reversed.

"It is our task as UGGS to represent and advocate for all graduate students, regardless of their sexual practices," Steinberg said.

While they do not sponsor these blood drives, UGGS still encourages and advertises them with the belief that blood donations are vital and worthwhile.

CU DOES NOT TRACK STUDENT SUICIDES, AP REPORTS

By Carina Julig

Most large public universities don't keep data on student suicides, according to an investigation from the Associated Press. CU Boulder is one of them.

Of the 100 largest public universities in the U.S., over half either don't track student suicides at all or have only limited data. Of the three universities the AP contacted in Colorado, only Colorado State University in Fort Collins keeps statistics on student suicides, while CU Boulder and Metropolitan State University of Denver "don't have statistics or don't consistently collect them."

Suicide is one of the leading causes of death among U.S. college students. Colorado has one of the highest suicide rates in the country, with 20.5 suicide deaths per 100,000 people in 2016, according to the CDC.

Laws have been proposed to require universities to collect suicide data in Washington, Pennsylvania and New Jersey, according to the AP article, but so far none have passed.

Ryan Huff, a spokesman for CU, said the school doesn't keep track because while the university is typically notified of student deaths, they don't always know how a student died, especially when the death was out-of-state.

For mental health advocates at CU, news that the university does not track suicides is concerning.

"I think it's an important statistic to acknowledge and to identify," said Janie Strouss-Tallman, president of CU's National Alliance on Mental Illness chapter, an organization that advocates for mental health awareness. "I do find it alarming that it's not tracked."

While the university doesn't collect data on suicide, Huff pointed out the resources CU offers for treating mental health issues. He said counseling staff provide walk-in and crisis services at Wardenburg Health Center and the Center for Community, and there is a 24/7 support line that students can call for specific mental health and trauma-related support.

Students are eligible to receive six free counseling sessions a semester. Wardenburg does not take private insurance for therapy, so if students wish to continue

after reaching their limit, they need to go off-campus.

Wardenburg also offers workshops about different mental-health topics, and there are many free therapy groups students can sign up for. The groups cater to a number of specific demographics, including students of color, transgender students and graduate students. The CU athletics department also has an in-house sports psychologist who works specifically with student athletes.

Multiple student groups have spoken out about long backlogs for mental health services at CU. The Daily Camera reported that mental health professionals are managing 40 percent more services than they were five years ago and that students have criticized the difficulty of accessing prompt care.

Strouss-Tallman cited the difficulty of being able to see a counselor quickly as a "major barrier" to students receiving mental health care. Students sometimes have to get on a waiting list for their initial consultation, and after that, gaps between sessions can be several weeks long. Strouss-Tallman said the support groups were a great program but are also hard to access.

"If you don't get in right at the beginning of the semester, there's a good chance you'll be put on a waiting list," she said. "And being put on a wait list is not beneficial to people."

CAPS director Monica Ng said that there is "no wait time" for students who want an initial session with a therapist, and that they try to keep waiting times between appointments under two weeks. However, Strouss-Tallman said that students frequently have to wait for intake sessions. The Daily Camera quoted a student who said she was turned away from the 24/7 phone line.

"Walk-in sessions, which are short, initial intake sessions, should not replace regular therapy appointments," said Arielle Milkman, a PhD student and board member on the grad student Committee on Rights and Compensation (CRC). She also said she knows of students who have had to wait up to six weeks for a follow-up.



THROUGH THE LENS



Credits: Bri Barnum (1, 5, 6); Phil McKenzie (2); Fiona Matson (3); Nigel Amstock (4); Jackson Barnett (7); Lucy Haggard (8)

LGBT GRAD STUDENTS STRUGGLE WITH ISOLATION AND INTOLERANCE

The 2014 campus climate survey found that CU's LGBT-identified graduate students are twice as likely to drop out as their non-LGBT peers. The question remains: why?

By Carina Julig

LGBT graduate students at the University of Colorado Boulder are twice as likely as their heterosexual peers to leave the university without completing a degree, according to a 2014 survey from CU Boulder.

The Graduate Student Social Climate Survey was conducted in 2014, but the full results were not released until Oct. 2017. The survey found that LGBT students in master's and doctoral programs reported a substantially less positive social climate than their peers. 53 percent of LGBT master's students reported feeling welcome at CU compared to 75 percent of straight students. Fewer than half agreed that CU Boulder is a supportive place for marginalized students.

(The survey uses the term "GLBQ+" to refer to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and queer students as they did not collect enough respondents that identified as transgender to analyze. Other sources used for this piece used the term LGBT to include transgender people.)

LGBT students also reported much higher incidences of witnessing discriminatory comments, receiving what the survey called "awkward treatment" by faculty because of their identity and experiencing more hostile treatment than straight students. Compared to the overall grad student population, lower proportions of LGBT graduate students believe that faculty encourages their professional development and that they are receiving the support needed to graduate on time.

Additionally, LGBT graduate students were twice as likely as straight students to drop out of

the university before completing their degree. This was the only disparity in retention, there were no statistically significant differences between genders or racial groups.

These findings were largely unknown before the survey's release. Scarlet Bowen, director of CU's Gender and Sexuality Center (GSC), said her office had heard complaints from individual graduate students, but that they had not been aware of the scope of the problem.

"This is not a testament to our inclusive campus at all," Bowen said.

Bowen also said that part of the issue is graduate students' fears about being seen as difficult and not wanting to risk jeopardizing their futures in academia.

Graduate students are in a precarious place in the university system, as they have little institutional power and their academic futures are largely in the hands of their advisors. She said many are reluctant to

raise complaints about discrimination for fear of being seen as tricky to work with.

"You have to be really careful about how many waves you make as a graduate student," said Nate Abraham, engineering student and board member at CU's United Government of Graduate Students (UGGS).

The GSC has a number of programs for graduate students, but student involvement remains low. The center runs a Facebook group for LGBT graduate students and partnered with the graduate school to host an LGBT networking night last fall.

Additionally, they teach a voluntary workshop at the beginning of the school year for TAs—many of whom are graduate students—on how to foster an inclusive

classroom.

Bowen said it can be difficult to get graduate students to attend meetings and programs because of how busy they already are and because many of them have irregular hours. She also said there is no way for the GSC to directly contact students when they are first admitted to CU, which means they are less likely to hear about the center's resources.

The university is in the early stages of developing a voluntary questionnaire about sexual orientation on the university application. The university does not currently collect data about students' sexual orientation during the admissions process.

Culture varies from department to department

LGBT graduate students that the CUI spoke with described a broad range of experiences in their programs. Whether a degree program was welcoming of LGBT students or not seemed to hinge largely on the individual department's commitment to promoting an inclusive environment.

Brianna Dym, a doctoral candidate in CMCI's Information Science department, said she felt very welcome in her department. She said her professor Jed Brubaker, an out gay man, made an effort to connect with LGBT students and make them feel included. He even has a cohort of LGBT students in the department that jokingly refers to themselves as the "Queer Mafia."

However, an LGBT student in another CMCI department reported experiencing significant challenges within their department and hostility from professors and peers. They asked not to be named out of fear for repercussions to their academic trajectory.

Hollie Allen, a former doctoral candidate in the Spanish and Portuguese department, said she experienced significant pushback whenever she tried to introduce LGBT topics in the undergraduate Spanish classes she helped teach as an instructor. She described the culture of her department as being very patriarchal, and said that one of her advisors thought her relationship with her spouse was "a joke."

Allen and other students advocated for adding a question about a same-sex family to a test in the family unit of the course.

"On multiple occasions, the question would be submitted and approved, but then on the actual exam it had been changed into a heterosexual relationship," Allen said. When she asked why the question was removed, faculty told her that the question might be "too hard" for beginner language students.

Allen, along with a number of other LGBT students and allies, also requested that a revision in an undergraduate textbook include vocabulary about LGBT people and non-traditional families. She said when they spoke to faculty about their suggestion it

was received positively, but when the revision was published there was no information about LGBT topics.

Allen's questions about why LGBT material was not being included despite initial support were brushed off, she said.

Allen also said that she and her spouse experienced homophobia while living in married student housing, causing significant stress. She said that while most of the administrators

were very welcoming, one of the RAs assigned to their section treated them differently than the rest of the couples. Allen said the initial inspection of their apartment turned hostile when the RA realized they

24%
of LGBT survey
respondents
experienced
hostile treatment,
four times more
than non-LGBT
respondents

35%
of LGBT survey
respondents
reported awkward
treatment from
faculty because
of some aspect
of their social
identity

**"You have to be
really careful
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many waves
you make as
a graduate
student."**

were a same-sex couple and not two female friends.

“Everything was fine when she was first walking through the apartment...but when she saw the sleeping arrangements it was like a light bulb switched on,” Allen said.

She said the RA would attempt to discipline them for things she did not criticize other couples for, and that she initially tried to write them up for having “too many books.”

“This person had a very particular problem and had been hired multiple times [by the university] even though we reported that she made us uncomfortable,” Allen said. Allen and her spouse could not afford to live in housing that was not subsidized by the university. She said that in the 3 1/2 years they lived in married student housing, they were the only LGBT couple they knew of.

Eventually, Allen decided to leave the university without completing her degree, citing her problems with the university and other issues in Boulder at large as the reasons for leaving.

The anonymous CMCI student mentioned above reported that their work is consistently overlooked in favor of their straight peers’. The student does work focused on LGBT issues and said no professors in their department are specifically knowledgeable about LGBT topics, making it difficult for them to receive the same level of support for their work as other students.

The student said that they are

one of the only openly LGBT students in their department and are often passed over for good teaching assignments in favor of straight students. For instance, they described being assigned to TA the department’s introductory course where students who had close relationships with professors were given research assignments.

When they raised concerns, they were brushed off as not being significant enough issues. They said that to make a change, the department should hire LGBT professors and professors that are knowledgeable about LGBT issues, and to stop treating students who make complaints as problems.

“‘Problem students’ are often students dealing with problems,” they said.

Departmental dependence hinders cultural shift

Joshua Shelton, a graduate student in the religious studies department, raised the same issue of lack of expertise concerning LGBT issues. Shelton said that while the department is very open and has a number of out faculty and students, none of the professors teach about LGBT issues in religion, meaning he has to go to sociology or women’s and gender studies if he wants to learn about those topics. He said there is little crossover between departments and that the cultures and accepted classroom behaviors are markedly different in different departments, which can be challenging for students navigating academia.

Many students pointed to the



siloed nature of graduate student life as being part of the problem. Unlike undergraduates, graduate students spend almost the entirety of their time in one department. Department culture and norms have a large effect on whether their experience at CU is positive or negative.

Juan García Oyervides, doctoral candidate and president of UGGS, said while undergraduate students have a lot of institutional support when they arrive at college, graduate students are “100 percent dependent on what their departments have available to them.”

At a roundtable for LGBT graduate students during the

Diversity and Inclusion Summit in February, multiple students shared the issue of feeling like campus resources, such as Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS) and Career Services, are not equipped to serve graduate students. This issue is compounded for graduate students who have specific needs, such as LGBT students or students of color.

Graduate student Jasmine Suryawan shared at the roundtable that there are no resources specifically for LGBT graduate students of color. While she said she appreciated the Queer and Trans People of Color group run through the GSC, she said it is mostly undergraduates and she

wished there was something on campus more applicable to her needs.

“[Campus resources] need to specify that they are for grad students because otherwise, grad students will assume that it’s not for them,” said UGGS officer Hillary Steinberg. “And usually, it won’t be.”

Students also brought up the fact that Boulder at large doesn’t have a lot of institutional resources for LGBT people. There are no gay bars in the city, and most large LGBT events and institutions are based in Denver.

“Boulder seems like it’s really queer-friendly, but it can actually be a hard place to be a queer person in,” Steinberg said.

Change is slow, but in progress

Since the survey results were released, Bowen said that the graduate school has been proactive in addressing the disparities for LGBT students. The dean of the graduate school, Ann Schmiesing, met with many different departments in the graduate school along with the Chancellor’s Advisory Committee on Gender and Sexuality, according to a statement from her office. A focus group has not yet been conducted, but Bowen said it is something she wants to do this semester.

The GSC will give a presentation at GradTalks, a social event series the graduate school launched this semester which will feature different speakers. Schmeising said they will enhance the New

Graduate Student Welcome events this August to ensure that incoming LGBT graduate students are aware of the resources available to them.

Schmeising said the graduate student peer mentoring program is another program that is available for graduate students. The program partners new graduate students with more experienced mentors and students can request to be placed with an LGBT mentor. She also said she encouraged LGBT students to reach out to her personally with any “thoughts, concerns or questions.”

Officers at UGGS spoke highly of Schmeising, saying she was instrumental in getting the full survey data results released and implementing programs to help LGBT grad students.

However, they raised concerns about whether there was buy-in at the department level for retaining and supporting LGBT grad students. They also raised concerns about the lack of knowledge about the underlying causes of the problems LGBT grads face.

“No one can put their finger on what the problem is,” said Gregor Robinson, doctoral candidate and board member of the CU Boulder Committee on Rights and Compensation. “There is a problem and the numbers show it, but where? What?”

Another graduate student survey pertaining to discrimination and harassment will be conducted in 2019.

HALLETT HALL RESIDENTS REPORT FALSE CITATIONS FROM CSOS

Confusion on students’ rights and uncomfortable interactions between Community Safety Operations Program officers and residents of the campus dorm created a complicated relationship between the parties.
By Robert Tann

Hallett Hall residents have described a lack of knowledge surrounding their student rights during interactions with the Community Safety Operations Program (CSO) officers since the start of the spring semester. Students described confusing, tense or unprofessional interactions following receiving write-ups or, in some cases, a false accusation.

Among the Hallett residents who were surveyed, the most commonly cited reasons for negative CSO interactions — excluding the simple fact that students were written up for a misdemeanor — are that the officer made unprofessional commentary during the interaction, the student was falsely accused or that the student was not aware of how the procedure would unfold. In rare cases, students have filed official complaints regarding the interactions, often with the support of hall directors or resident advisors (RAs).

Of 53 Hallett residents surveyed, only 19 students — 35.8 percent — stated that they were aware of their student rights as they pertain to CSO interactions.

If a CSO officer smells marijuana or is suspicious of alcohol, they have the right to knock but can only step in the room if the student grants consent, according to Hallett RA Nabil Ettachfini. From there, Ettachfini said, they are able to confiscate any alcohol or marijuana. They are also allowed to record the Buff OneCard numbers of students involved.

Ettachfini was made aware of his rights through RA training. Dorm residents, he said, are told their student rights during the first floor meeting of the fall semester. Student rights are also outlined in the online housing contract signed at the start of the year.

The on-campus resident contract includes a paragraph each on the school’s no smoking or marijuana policies, with a link to the student conduct handbook on the following page. The document

lists alcohol and marijuana as prohibited and offers suggestions on what consequences a student may face for possessing them, but not what the procedure of a CSO confrontation would look like.

“Personally, I think [students’ rights] should be more apparent...I do think residents should be more responsible for knowing their rights themselves,” Ettachfini said. The job of knowing one’s rights, he said, should not be placed entirely on advertisements, RAs and CSOs.

This lapse in communication between campus security and students living in dorms has contributed to what some view as an antagonistic relationship between law enforcement and on-campus residents.

Among the students who had negative CSO interactions, several said that having known their rights beforehand would have made the interaction more pleasant and less confusing. This includes Nina Ryan, a Hallett resident who described her write-up experience as “lengthy and confusing.”

“I didn’t really understand what was happening,” said Ryan. “I didn’t understand what the consequences were really going to be.”

Trouble finding information met with “unprofessional” CSO interactions

The muddy relationship between students and CSOs is often described as more than just a misunderstanding. Several students cited a lack of professionalism in their CSO interactions, adding that unnecessary comments made by CSOs made the experience more drawn-out and confusing.

“I wish they would keep it to a strict procedure,” Ryan said. “A script to follow would be better.”

Similar sentiments were shared by students who were falsely accused of having drug paraphernalia in their possession.

On Jan. 21, Hallett resident Charlotte Mitchell was told by two officers that her room smelled of marijuana. Mitchell was asked questions regarding her height and had her eyes and tongue checked for signs of use. According to CUPD Sergeant Mark Heyart, CSO officers don’t carry the equipment to perform mouth swabs.

“At one point, the [CSO] said that she would be willing to bet her partner’s salary that there was marijuana in the room,” said Mitchell. “That comment in particular I thought was very inappropriate.”

Mitchell brought the complaint to her hall director as well as filing her own report through the CUPD Citizen Communication Form. This led to an in-person meeting between her and Vekasy in which they discussed Mitchell’s complaints.

In response to the comment made by the CSO officer, Heyart said he would not want to “comment on something [he doesn’t] know the facts on.”

“We do take these seriously and want to make sure that things are being done well — I don’t want to interfere with that,” Heyart said.

On Jan. 25, another Hallett resident, Lauren Nelsen, was accused by two CSO officers of having drug paraphernalia. The officers allegedly mistook Nelsen’s flower vase on her windowsill for a bong. Nelsen complained too about a lack of professionalism during the interaction.

In an email to Hallett Hall Director Nicki Hutchinson after the incident, Nelsen wrote that this was her third negative experience with CSOs. Previously, Nelsen recalled being told that her room “reeked of marijuana,” despite the fact that she didn’t smoke, and prior to this being accused of smoking

cigarettes in her dorm when she was burning incense.

“I hate feeling like I have to walk on eggshells in my own home, especially since I follow all of the rules in Hallett,” Nelson wrote in the email.

Nelsen reported that although she had told the officers that she had no paraphernalia, she was unsure if she was going to be written up for the incident. She struggled while looking up her rights on a policy website, saying they were “very ambiguous.” She also filed a report through the CUPD Citizen Communication Form and has yet to receive a response.

Claudia Costello, a witness to Nelson’s interaction, said that officers should be more open to hearing an explanation from students.

“They could be less accusing and more understanding,” said Costello.

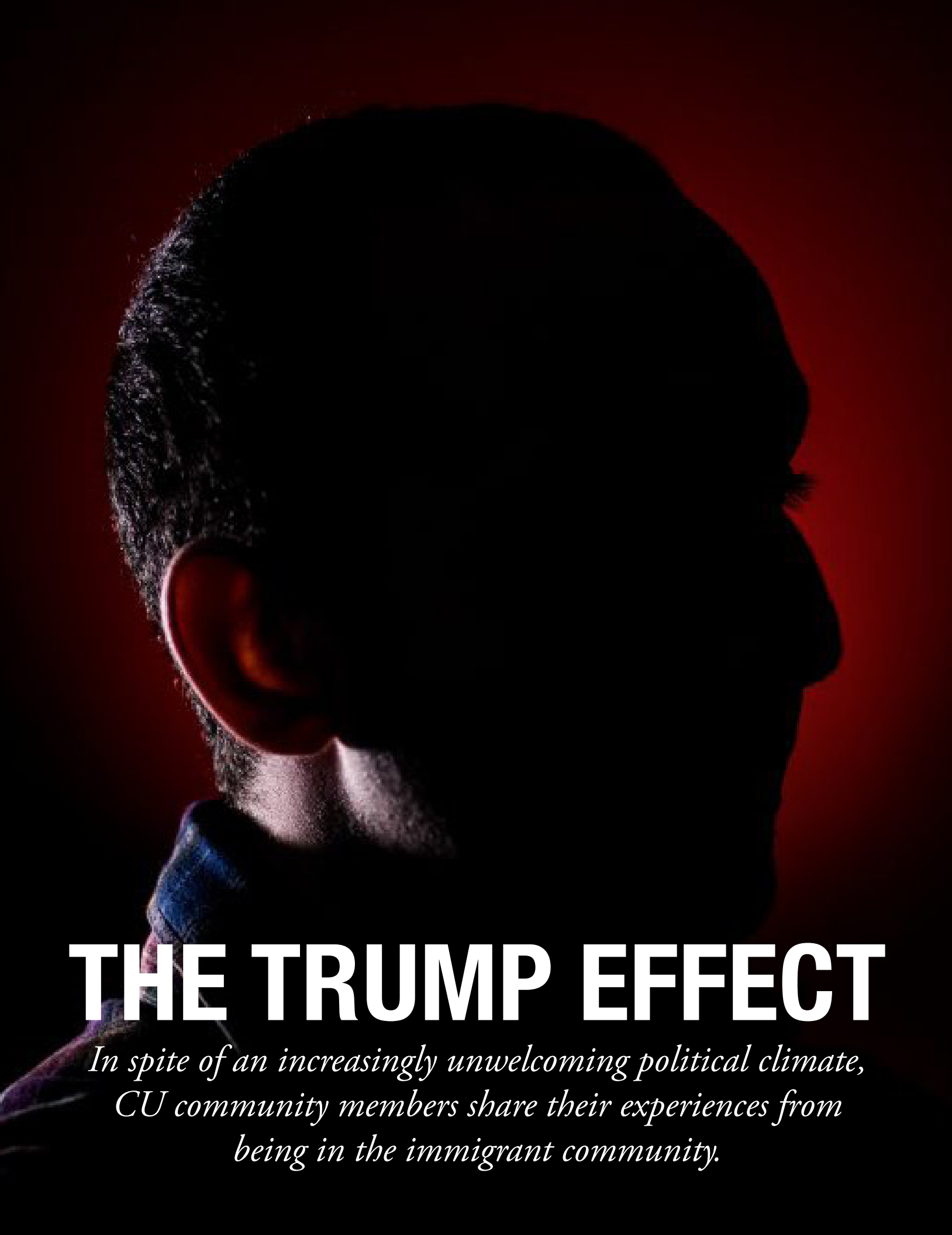
CU unwilling to comment on CSO behavior

When reached out to for comments regarding CSO behavior, Devin Cramer, associate director of the Office of Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution, encouraged communication with CUPD Public Information Officer Scott Pribble. Conflict Resolution Coordinator Ashlynn Friend and Coordinator for Student Conduct Susan Gieg similarly forwarded comment requests to Pribble. Hallett Hall Director Nicki Hutchinson also forwarded commentary on conduct issues to Pribble.

The CU Independent has not received a response to multiple requests for comment from Pribble.

As of early May, neither Mitchell or Nelsen have had developments with their cases. Nelsen’s filed report on the CUPD Citizen Communication Form has yet to be responded to.

“I hate feeling like I have to walk on eggshells in my own home.”



THE TRUMP EFFECT

In spite of an increasingly unwelcoming political climate, CU community members share their experiences from being in the immigrant community.

Rosa Cardoza de Gutierrez spreads peanut butter on slices of bread as students begin to wake up across the University of Colorado Boulder's campus.

By 9 am, graduate student Chu May Paing begins her class on languages in U.S. society, speaking fluent English through her Burmese accent.

Before lunch, Rosario Cardoza, Rosa's niece, prepares food in the C4C dining hall for the upcoming rush.

During afternoons when the campus is quiet, Samichhya Thapa thinks back to the lazy afternoons of her childhood in Nepal.

After classes, when Isaac and his friends start planning spring break trips, he is reminded that he cannot leave the country — as a DACA student at CU, he would not be allowed to reenter.

As Congress debates the future of illegal and legal immigration, students and employees at CU worry about the repercussions of such restrictions on immigration, while others live under the even greater threat of deportation.

Several major immigration programs are under scrutiny by the Trump administration: the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA), Temporary Protected Status, the diversity visa lottery and family reunification. The CU Independent spoke with CU students and employees who have benefited from each of these programs.

Reported and photographed by Heidi Harris, Jackson Barnett, Shannon Mullane, Kristin Oh, and Devi Chung

National politics bursts the “Boulder Bubble”

Ten percent of Boulder County’s population was born abroad. Despite Boulder’s liberal and outwardly pro-immigration environment, it is not impervious to policy changes and backlash against immigrants.

In isolated incidents, white-supremacist and anti-immigrant flyers were found on campus last semester. At a rally protesting Trump’s travel ban, a counter-protester held up a sign that read “they have to go back.” Other immigrants and people of color have described hateful rhetoric on campus.

Despite isolated incidents of hate, many immigrants described an overall welcoming environment on campus. Larger impacts await Boulder, and CU specifically, in the wake of potential immigration reform.

The debate over immigration, both legal and illegal, has become a lightning rod for race, economics and identity. For the roughly 70 DACA recipients at CU and 19 individuals under Temporary Protected Status, reform could mean potential deportation.

Last September, the Trump administration threw the future of DACA recipients, also called “dreamers,” into the air by rescinding the program that has protected 800,000 immigrants since its creation in 2012.

DACA offers a two-year, renewable protection from deportation, a social security number and authorization to work or study in the U.S. All DACA recipients were brought here unlawfully as children and have lived in the U.S. for most of their lives, often not remembering the country they were born in or how they came to the U.S.

Before the inauguration of President Trump, Boulder County passed laws prohibiting its employees, especially police officers, from working with federal immigration officials. Known as a “sanctuary city,” Boulder joined many other cities in refusing to cooperate in the deportation of migrants.

If not for a federal court injunction, today, dreamers’ DACA benefits would have begun to expire. For the roughly 70 DACA recipients currently enrolled at CU, they now live in a legal limbo, caught in a judicial, legislative and cultural battle over their future.

New federal policies also threaten those under Temporary Protected Status. The program grants temporary legal status to 300,000 individuals from disaster-stricken countries. Among the ten countries listed, TPS designations will expire for El Salvador, Haiti, Syria, Sudan and Nicaragua within the next 15 months, potentially sending many—including CU employees—back to dangerous environments.

Similar to the DACA program, TPS could be renewed every 18 months. Since its termination, the protective status the program offered has begun to expire, leaving individuals with the choice of staying in the country undocumented or returning to an unstable environment.

“I don’t sleep well since then,” said de Gutierrez on her reaction to the termination of TPS.



Chu May Paing, a CU graduate student studying linguistics, holds a figurine from her home country of Myanmar.

Legal immigration thrown into the debate

The diversity visa lottery, which awards 50,000 visas annually to randomly selected, pre-screened applicants from countries with historically low immigration, has also caught the ire of the president. During a speech in December 2017, Trump said the program allows in “the worst of the worst.”

Diversity visa beneficiaries would not face changes to their status the way DACA recipients would. However, the fate of the program and family reunification benefits are now being used as bargaining chips in Congress.

“I wish one person’s actions would not reflect on the entire community,” said Kushalta Subedi, a diversity visa recipient from Nepal and current sophomore at CU. Subedi and other diversity visa recipients rebuke the president’s assertions that they pose a threat to the U.S.

On top of eliminating the diversity visa program, Trump wants to change the U.S.’s current family-based immigration system to a “merit-based” one. The switch would prioritize high-skilled workers over those with current family ties.

Using the idea that blocking low-skilled immigration would save American jobs, Trump is charting a course towards a dramatic reduction in immigration in the U.S. — limiting up to 22 million from entering the U.S. over the next 50 years, according to libertarian think tank the Cato Institute.

Some of CU’s employees that work in low-skilled positions have come through the family reunification and diversity visa immigration programs. CU does not track how many of its employees have come through these programs and did not provide an estimate.

The idea that when an immigrant gains a job, a natural-born American loses one is “patently false,” said Brian Cadena, an associate economics professor at CU. The economy is not zero-sum game and often, immigrants add to the economies they live in, Cadena said.

Despite the evidence refuting immigration leading to wage suppression and job loss, immigrants have borne the brunt of frustrations for economic woes.

No longer “a nation of immigrants”

Immigration once wove itself into the fabric of American identity, but now occupies a less-coveted spot on the list of untouchable dinner-table conversations. The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services recently removed the phrase “a nation of immigrants” from its mission statement, replacing it with a statement that includes “protecting Americans, securing the homeland, and honoring our values”.

For everyone the CUI spoke with, immigration is much more than economic or policy talking points. To some, the process of coming to the U.S. stands out either as a personal milestone or as an event which, though they may not remember, drastically shaped the course of their lives. Here are some of their stories.

DIVERSITY LOTTERY: STORIES FROM NEPAL

By Jackson Barnett

At first, Kushalta Subedi didn't want to come to America. Her friends, family and life were all in Nepal—to her, America was just a big, mostly white, unknown.

Now a sophomore at CU and a U.S. citizen, she is trying to reconcile her place in a country she loves with a president that says the diversity visa lottery her family benefited from allows in “the worst of the worst.”

The diversity visa lottery offers 50,000 visas to randomly selected, prescreened candidates from countries with low immigration to the U.S. In 2015, the most recent year data is provided, people from Nepal received the highest number of diversity visas, according to analysis by the American Immigration Council. Over 2,700 Nepalese people, like Subedi and her family, have settled in Colorado.

Immigration has been a staple of American culture, synthesized in the popular description of the U.S. as “a nation of immigrants.” The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services recently removed the phrase from its mission statement, opting for emphasizing its role in “protecting Americans, securing the homeland.” The Trump administration is now charting a course for a dramatic reduction in legal immigration, and with it, a shift in the economic and cultural fabric of America, say immigrants and experts at CU.

After a Diversity Visa beneficiary from Uzbekistan allegedly rammed a truck into a crowded lower Manhattan bike path killing eight this past Halloween, President Trump set his sights on eliminating the program.

Trump told Congress he won't sign any immigration bill that doesn't end the diversity visa program and shift the U.S.'s family-based immigration system to a “merit-based” one. Currently, legal residents and citizens can petition

for close family members to receive visa benefits, a process which two out of three immigrants who come to the U.S. use.

Although CU does not track the specific visa types of its employees, many who work in Housing and Dining Services benefit from the diversity visa and family reunification programs.

In 2010, Subedi and her family arrived in the city that many immigrants had come to before: New York City. From there, they settled in Boulder, where they had family and a Nepali community to connect with. Since 2004, Boulder has declared the third Sunday of April as Nepal Day in recognition of the sizable Nepali community in the county.

Due to the U.S.'s relatively unique family-based immigration system, immigrant communities have support networks when they arrive in the U.S.

“It was a huge help, having someone here,” said CU senior Samichhya Thapa, whose uncle was a U.S. citizen when she and her family immigrated from Nepal.

Trump's proposed “merit-based” system would prioritize high-skilled, highly-educated immigrants. Claiming that immigrants are “taking our jobs,” Trump is charting a course towards a dramatic reduction in immigration to the U.S — limiting up to 22 million new arrivals over the next 50 years according to the libertarian think tank the Cato Institute.

The idea that when an immigrant gains a job, a domestic worker loses one is “patently false,” said Brian Cadena, an associate economics professor at CU.

A recent 500-page report by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) also found that the average worker's wages face no direct impact from immigration. Although the topic is still debated, most mainstream economists agree with the NAS report's findings.

However, when immigrants directly compete for low-skilled jobs with domestic workers, they often are willing to take lower wages and thus marginally depreciate wage growth, according to Cadena.

“It is simple supply and demand,” Cadena said.

When senior Stuti Pandey walks into her job at the Center for Community, she is often greeted in Nepali with a welcoming “namaste.” Originally from Nepal, she was able to gain residency and eventual citizenship through her parents who were green card holders.

Green card holders, like Pandey's parents, can petition for spouses and unmarried children under 21 to receive visas. (U.S. Citizens can petition for fiancés, parents, siblings and a fiancé's unmarried children who are under 21.) The process can take years, even decades, and is one that kept Pandey separated from her parents for 11 years.

Pandey's parents lived in the U.S. while she and her brothers lived in Kathmandu, only hearing their voices on the occasional phone call.

“My grandparents were my parents,” she said. When she first moved to the U.S., her parents were strangers as much as the country she now had to now call home.

After over a decade of living in the U.S., she now



sees herself as an American, both in her heart and on paper. She gained citizenship a few months ago.

Pandey is not alone. Many of the dining hall employees from Nepal and other places benefited from the program. Cadena warns that economies with large immigrant labor forces often see declines in economic growth when immigration is limited, recent research shows.

The family reunification program began in the civil rights era when most immigrants came from Europe. Now that 9 out of 10 immigrants come from outside Europe, the program plays a part in the changing demographics of the U.S.

CU is currently lobbying to ensure no changes are made to other visa programs that students, faculty and scholars use, such as high-skilled and student visas.

According to spokesperson Deborah Mendez Wilson, the university “has not taken a position” on the proposed changes to the diversity visa and family reunification programs. The university is not currently lobbying to prevent changes to the programs.

When Subedi thinks about the future, she worries about friends, family and her fellow countrymen back in Nepal. While she may not have wanted to leave when she was young, America is her home and she doesn't want the opportunities given to her to be withheld from others.

TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS: ROSA’S STORY

By Heidi Harris

Note: Interviews have been interpreted from Spanish by Erika Manuela Sandoval, organization and employee development manager for housing and dining services at the University of Colorado Boulder.

Nestled in a small prep room in the maze-like Farrand Grab-n-Go kitchen on CU’s campus stands Rosa Cardoza de Gutierrez, preparing sandwiches for the upcoming Monday lunch rush. She methodically smears pesto on halved bread slices before adding peppers and other toppings. She works quietly, occasionally looking over at her friend and coworker, Carmen, who talks with someone else while pairing celery sticks with peanut butter cups. Bachata music plays from the kitchen speaker.

Students coming in to grab a bite between classes wouldn’t notice Rosa preparing their meals in the kitchen. She has a petite frame and dark eyes which convey a sense of sincerity when you speak with her. A warm, motherly presence emanates from her on first appearance. Her demure temperament would not easily lend someone to the idea that she does not sleep well at night, which has been the case for the past several weeks.

De Gutierrez is one of 15

university employees who were granted Temporary Protected Status (TPS) from El Salvador. Immigrants from El Salvador were granted TPS status following the disastrous earthquakes of early 2001, which destroyed over 100,000 homes. These residency permits have allowed roughly 200,000 Salvadorans to live and legally work in the United States for nearly two decades.

On Jan. 8, 2018 the Trump administration announced that it will end TPS for Salvadorans by Sept. 9, 2019. Two days after this announcement, the U.S. State Dept. issued a travel advisory warning individuals not to travel there due to violent crime.

Before this September deadline, current residents must either find a path to obtaining citizenship or risk deportation if they don’t leave the U.S. by that date. This decision was made under the defense that conditions in El Salvador have improved enough since the 2001 earthquakes to allow Salvadorans to return. This, however, is not the case which Salvadorans describe.

“We felt the world turn around,” said de Gutierrez on hearing the news, holding back tears. “As of now, everything looks dark.”

She arrived to the U.S. with her husband in the hopes of providing a better life for her children and

out of fear of gang presence, which has since dominated the country. At the time, her children were 6, 7 and 11. After three years of separation, the two were able to bring their three sons to the states with them.

De Gutierrez recounts the years when she and her husband each worked two jobs to have enough money to bring their children. During that time, she slept four hours a night.

“It’s been worth it because we’ve been together,” de Gutierrez said.

Her fourth child, a 13-year-old daughter, was born in the U.S. Her three sons are DACA recipients who also face uncertainty regarding their legal presence, given the uncertainty with the future of DACA and congress’ inability to pass a permanent solution. Since their youngest is not old enough to file an immigrant petition for her parents, the next available alternative is to request that the university, their employer, sponsor them.

“The most important thing is my children and their future. If they could gain some kind of permanent residency...so that they could have the opportunity to stay, that’s the most important,” said de Gutierrez’s husband, who requested not to be named.

He and Rosa have worked for the university for over 15 years, along with Rosa’s niece, Rosario Cardoza, who is now a sous chef in the C4C. Cardoza regularly sends remittances of \$300-400 per month back to siblings, nieces and nephews in El Salvador, which allow some of them to attend university there. As a single mother supporting her three children here, she shares her aunt’s legal concerns.

“I feel I’ve given everything and the best of me to this university, I’ve given my best service to the students. It feels unjust that our job and our permits are no longer going to be anything, and everything we’ve given to the university will be nothing, and that we’ll simply just be replaced,” said Cardoza.

El Salvador is consistently ranked as one of the most dangerous countries in the world due to narcotrafficking and rampant organized crime. Named “the murder capital of the world”, street gangs of largely unemployed youth engage in extortion, drug sales, arms trafficking, murder for hire, carjacking, and street crime.

Beyond this, the country boasts



low minimum wages that render one-third of the population below the poverty line. Remittances account for one-fifth of GDP. For expats who are over 50 years old, the prospects of finding a new job there should they return are slim to none.

On her most recent advance parole visit back to San Salvador, de Gutierrez remembers being on a public bus where three armed men demanded a U.S. dollar from every passenger. Those who did not have a dollar were beaten on

the bus and faced possible death. Fortunately, she says, she had a dollar with her.

Also on this visit, her small-town neighbor was murdered in his own home and his mother severely wounded as his punishment for leaving the gang he was a part of. The problem, she states, is that people are shot at if they do not join the gang, but are shot at again if they try to leave. Compared to the violence seen near the capital, “that’s just little.”

“These are the kinds of issues our employees think about when they go home and they go to bed: “What’s going to happen with my family? Am I going to stay and have to live in

the shadows like the rest of the undocumented Americans in this country?”” said Erika Manuela Sandoval, CU’s organization and employee development manager.

Back at the kitchen in Farrand, de Gutierrez keeps these thoughts at bay as she focuses on preparing hundreds of meals for the next round of students. She goes about her business unnoticed, uneasy about whether she will be able to keep her job of 17 years and stay in a country she now calls home.

DACA: ISAAC’S STORY

By Kristin Oh

At four years old, Isaac’s family uprooted from Venezuela and moved to Miami, Florida. Like many immigrants, his parents believed that America was the land of opportunity and wanted a better life for him and his four siblings. They grew up in a community of immigrants in Miami known as North Cuba. There, his mother worked multiple jobs to support the family while emphasizing the importance of education. Isaac learned to speak English within a year of arriving in the U.S.; now he’s an aerospace engineering and physics double major at CU Boulder. To protect his identity, he asked to use a pseudonym.

“I was born at the wrong place at the wrong time. That’s what [being a DACA student] means to me,” Isaac said. “I’m doing all the same things that everyone else is doing, except I can’t do certain things because I’m not documented.”

Deferred Action for Childhood

Arrivals, better known as DACA, was implemented in 2012 by the Obama administration. It protects foreign-born individuals who immigrated unlawfully to the United States before the age of 16 and before June 15, 2007. DACA allows them to apply for periods of two-year protection from deportation and a work permit. The program does not provide legal status, leaving recipients still undocumented. In most states, including Colorado, DACA recipients are eligible to receive driver’s licenses. Of the 800,000 DACA recipients, over 17,000 live in Colorado.

DACA was rescinded in September 2017 by the Trump administration, with an Oct. 5 deadline for DACA recipients to renew their permits for

Technically I’m less American because I wasn’t born here, but I’ve always felt American.

the last time. March 5, 2018 marked the deadline by which the program was expected to officially terminate, but three federal district courts have so far challenged the Trump Administration’s initiative to phase out DACA, leaving the policy in limbo.

Despite the various benefits it provides these individuals, there are complaints about DACA from many politicians.

Opponents believe that DACA, which was implemented by executive order, was an overreach by the Obama administration’, and that the government needs stricter laws on immigration. Proponents of DACA argue that undocumented children, who were brought to the U.S. by their parents and many of whom do not remember their countries of origin, should

not face deportation.

While a blessing to many undocumented young people, DACA still has restrictions. Isaac’s dream job would be to work in the government. But as an undocumented immigrant, he would not be able to because many government jobs require employees to be citizens. Luckily, other tech companies such as Tesla, Microsoft and Google hire undocumented students like Isaac. Ending DACA could cost thousands of jobs and disrupt the lives of their employees.

As a young child, he became aware that he didn’t have some of the privileges his peers had. When he was young and eager to start driving, his mother explained that due to his undocumented status, he couldn’t get a driver’s license. He couldn’t vote either and had to live a pristine lifestyle to prevent getting arrested and deported. For Isaac, this meant focusing all of his attention on studying. This effort led to him earning a

4.0 GPA at his community college before transferring to CU.

“As you grow older, you start learning the dangers that come with [being undocumented],” Isaac said.

Undocumented individuals are taught to tread carefully when it comes to the law. Isaac explained that even a speeding ticket can raise red flags with law enforcement officials.

CU Boulder currently offers free legal services for DACA recipients through law professor Violeta Chapin’s immigration clinic. Undocumented students can get help with any paperwork they need or questions they have about DACA. Chapin’s clinic even paid for Isaac’s \$495 DACA renewal fee through third-party funding.

However, there are aspects of CU’s approach towards undocumented students that could improve. Isaac said it only takes 20 minutes for DACA students at Colorado State University to receive a DACA

renewal check whereas DACA students at CU wait 20 days. The delay could potentially affect a student’s status as a DACA recipient.

In Isaac’s eyes, one thing that the government and university administration can do to help DACA recipients is to look at each person as a unique case and stop categorizing undocumented immigrants as the “other.” As a fair-skinned young man without a heavy accent, Isaac said he does not consider himself a poster child for DACA. One common misconception about undocumented immigrants is that they all come from Mexico, but that is not the case. While a majority of DACA recipients are from Mexico, individuals from other countries like Guatemala, South Korea, India and Brazil also qualify.

“Technically I am less American because I wasn’t born here, but I’ve always felt American,” Isaac said.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

NEW CUSG OFFICERS CERTIFIED AMID INFRACTION FRENZY, AUTONOMY THREAT

Attempted changes from the chancellor joined with numerous infraction complaints made for an unpredictable election season and uncertainty in the coming semesters.

Reported by Lucy Haggard, Robert Tann and Jackson Barnett

It's hard to say any one thing about last spring's CU Student Government elections. With five tickets, an independent candidate, and a significant amendment proposed to the Constitution, there was already a lot on the table. Add into the mix a frenzy of infraction complaints and top it off with an attempted removal of most of CUSG's autonomy, and you could say it was a hectic April.

Going into this fall semester, a few things are certain, the main one being the election results. The Ignite ticket, with tri-executives Olivia Wittenberg, David Kidd and Jake Reagan, placed first. They competed against the Empower, Bold, Pride and Prism tickets, as well as independent tri-executive candidate Charly Mendoza.

It's worth noting that the election operates on an approval vote system, which allows voters to choose multiple options at once and as many as they want. This means that while 39.6 percent of voters chose Ignite's tri-executives, many of those voters chose other tri-executives as well.

The preliminary representatives-at-large results were a little more interesting: none of the top four were from Ignite. Bold took up the first and fourth spots with Emmanuel Byarm and Rohan Peddi, respectively. Empower took up the second and third spots, with Dawn Bulbula and Ryley Day, respectively.

It's unusual that the tri-executives are from tickets other than the highest-voted representatives. Election Commissioner Alexa Donner said that wasn't a concern, though, and was happy that so many students participated. 20.5 percent of eligible voters, a total of 6,390 students, participated in the election,

making it the highest turnout since the 2013 election.

"This really empowered student voices and made them heard," Donner said.

Following the April 18 infraction tribunal hearing, the Empower ticket was disqualified on April 20, with 30 election infraction points. Infraction points are given to several different categories of election wrongdoing. A ticket or individual candidate is disqualified if they receive 10 or more points.

Of the eight infractions that were argued against varying tickets at the hearing, the three that were deemed valid by the election commission were against the Empower ticket and their candidates.

"We made the decisions based on what was obvious to us and what evidence was presented," Donner said.

The two Empower candidates who initially won representative-at-large seats, Dawn Bulbula and Riley Day, were disqualified. Ignite's Emma Perkins-Johnson and Darrien MacIntosh moved up into the vacated seats.

The Ignite ticket also received two infraction points for submitting their expense report late. They pleaded responsible for the complaint at the hearing, so it was not argued or in need of a commission vote.

Another certainty is a change in future elections. On top of the tickets, a proposed constitutional amendment passed on a super-majority of almost 85 percent of voters. It updates CUSG's anti-discrimination policies and lower the threshold needed for the student body to amend the Constitution. This will make it easier to make necessary changes to a document that's historically prone to becoming outdated without recourse.

Gabriel Elbert, senator for the College of



A sign held at the April rally protesting the proposed budget cuts.

Engineering and Applied Sciences and author of the amendment, considered it the "crowning achievement" of his time involved with CUSG.

"There's a clear mandate from the student body that this amendment is something they wanted to see pass," Elbert, who graduated in the spring, said. "I'm ecstatic that this was able to happen."

Concerns of potential administration intervention, which commission members said would be "an overreach," shadowed the spring elections. On April 4, the Wednesday before elections were scheduled to begin, Chancellor

Philip DiStefano announced his decision to cut the organization's budget by over 90 percent during a 15 minute "routine check-in" meeting with CUSG's then-presidents Troy Fossett and Carter Gruba.

A public statement from the chancellor said the changes were in "the best long-term interests of our students." It also cited interest in "keeping up on the maintenance of our student-run facilities," which, according to DiStefano's statement, was not happening. He said he made this decision to "relieve the burden of managing professional staff and facilities."

"The reason that we go for

these jobs is not because it's a burden," said Ciera Dykstra, a CUSG representative-at-large. "It's an honor to help choose where student fees go, and it's extremely manipulative for [DiStefano] to say that."

The CUSG co-presidents, calling the announcement "a predatory affront" to student voices, said the change was not presented as a conversation, but rather as a decision that had already been made. CU traditionally has a larger and more autonomous student government than other similar schools, a point often touted on CU admissions tours.

CUSG has a \$24 million annual

budget, with control of the Recreation Center, UMC and other cost centers. They also oversee the budgets for many student groups, including the Distinguished Speakers Board and the Cultural Events Board. This decision would limit many of these responsibilities and shrink CUSG’s budget to \$1.9 million.

A \$100 fee reduction over two years for all students would result from this change, according to CUSG. Current in-state CU tuition

for an Arts and Sciences student, including student fees, is \$12,086 for an academic year.

After CUSG’s election debate earlier that night, students rushed to the UMC for an emergency Legislative Council meeting to consider what was initially two resolutions but later turned into one. Members from various cost centers, which are funded by CUSG, around campus attended as well. Minutes before the emergency meeting, election

candidates debated each other. After the news broke, members of the various tickets convened to find common ground and make a game plan.

“They’re focusing on what will happen no matter who gets elected,” said Kelly Galloway, CUSG chief of staff.

Roughly 200 students protested the day after the announcement, gathering at the fountain area outside the UMC with signs, chanting “heck no DiStefano,”

“students for students” and “this is what democracy looks like.” Representatives from each ticket that campaigned during the spring elections were present at the protest. All candidates agreed to suspend their campaigns for the day to unify in opposition to DiStefano’s decision.

Prior to the rally, a group of students and several CUSG election candidates went to the Board of Regents meeting in Colorado Springs earlier in the

day to advocate for CUSG in front of the board. After hearing the student’s grievances, DiStefano released a statement saying he “will be pulling back on the timing of this move in order to allow for further conversation and engagement with the students.”

An updated statement, released May 9 on CU Boulder Today, said that any changes to CUSG’s functions would be on hold during the summer. It said that the outgoing and incoming CUSG

leadership teams were working with the chancellor, as well as Provost Russell Moore, to “act in the best interest of the university and all students to keep tuition and student fees down.” The next steps are unclear, but it’s certain that the conversation is far from over.

“The thing is, CUSG has its flaws, [but this decision] takes away the opportunity for us to fix the problems that we have,” Dykstra said.

CU STUDENT GOVERNMENT 101

Funded by student fees, with a new administration elected annually, CUSG is one of the most autonomous student governments in the nation. This is what they do and how they do it.

BUDGET: about \$24 million

This includes organizations on campus that receive funding from CUSG, called cost centers, as well as internal operations. Some of the largest funding allocations include:

- **\$6.5 million** to University Memorial Center
- **\$4.6 million** to Rec Center, plus **\$6.1 million** to Rec Center expansion
- **\$1.1 million** to Center for Student Involvement
- **\$1.1 million** to Environmental Center
- **\$660K** for outdoor recreation facilities
- **\$608K** internal funds

THE THREE BRANCHES

- **Executive:** one to three executives, elected every spring, that organize Homecoming, interact with CU administration, draft annual budget, and more.
- **Legislative:** includes Representative Council (elected university-wide in staggered rotation) and Council of Colleges and Schools(elected within each college or school) that work together as Legislative Council to pass bills.
- **Judicial:** seven appointed and ratified justices on the Appellate Court monitor elections and ensure legality in legislative changes.

GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

- **Constitution:** most recently amended this April, it establishes the “responsibilities and goals” of CUSG. The current version originates from 1974, when CUSG was re-created.
- **Bylaws:** each of the major branches and committees of CUSG have their own bylaws, including Finance Board and Freshman Council.
- **Student fee regulations:** this gives rules for how student fees, which is the majority of CUSG’s funding, can be used.
- **Election code:** thanks to a major overhaul in 2016, it’s now more clear on the process of elections, how to campaign and how to file an infraction complaint.

FAQs

Is CUSG a public body and thus subject to Colorado Open Records Act?

This has been debated in the past, but at this time it is considered a public body.

Can I attend a Council meeting even if I’m not involved with CUSG?

Yes. Legislative Council, which has Rep Council and Council of Colleges and Schools, meets on Thursday nights at 7pm. This is the most eventful branch of the organization, as they pass bills and resolutions.

Is CUSG part of the university or separate?

It’s technically part of the university, though multiple documents over the years designate a level of autonomy from CU, as well as the ability to go to the Regents if need be.

OPINION: CU DOESN'T PRIORITIZE MENTAL HEALTH

By Alex Segall

Whether a student is struggling with suicidal thoughts, the aftermath of sexual assault or day-to-day stress and anxiety, mental health services should be easily accessible to everyone. These services are a necessity CU has taken too lightly.

As of 2013, roughly 40 percent of college students suffer from some form of anxiety, while 36 percent suffer from a form of depression. A large majority of campus counseling programs have said the number of students with psychological problems is a growing concern.

A study conducted by UCLA sociology professor S. Michael Gaddis found that in places where peers stigmatize mental health treatment, students do not want to acknowledge, nonetheless seek treatment for, their mental health struggles. According to interviews with a select few CU undergraduate seniors, all agreed that the topic of mental health on campus has had a negative stigma during their four years at the university.

"One of my friends refused to go, even when he was struggling, because of the stigma," said CU Boulder senior Mackenzie Brecker when asked why students might not seek out help on campus.

The university already struggles to juggle students who do seek out counseling and psychiatric services. Students who overcome the hesitance of utilizing resources provided on campus aren't always given the comprehensive experience they deserve once they do seek it out.

According to an interview with Donald Misch, senior assistant vice chancellor for health and wellness and executive director of Wardenburg Health Services, Counseling and Psychiatric Services and Psychological Health and Psychiatry merged in 2015 in order to increase student access to mental health services and enable more students to take advantage of these resources on campus.

Over the last few years, CAPS has considerably improved mental health services at the University of Colorado at Boulder. However, while most students

interviewed agreed that the services provided are helpful, most also agreed that they're not comprehensive enough to meet the mental health demands of students.

"I had a great session, but I ended up seeking help elsewhere," said one CU Boulder senior who spoke on the condition of anonymity. "While they were helpful, I felt like I was in and out really quickly because they just kind of placed me into a category and sent me on my way. It made me feel hesitant to go in and get help again."

Students also expressed that their experiences hinted at a mental health hierarchy. If a student expresses suicidal tendencies, his or her case becomes a top priority for CAPS, and rightly so. However, because of the lack of resources, many students who are suffering from less severe day-to-day struggles are categorized into low-priority cases and are often passed on to intern counselors, or aren't given priority in scheduling. Thus, students are not being given equal and fair access to proper and full services.

"It felt like they categorized my need for help as not severe...and therefore, they assigned me to a training intern who basically told me she was unsure how to help," said another CU student who preferred not to be identified. "They should categorize every problem as important."

Currently, CU students pay a fee for six "free" visits to CAPS per year. In 2017, the student government leaders approved doubling what students pay to receive the limited free visits to the counseling center, to provide more services to students. Once the six "free" visits are up and a student wishes to continue using the services, a payment plan is established.

On the other hand, students who pay the \$1,995 for the Student Gold Insurance Plan get up to 20 "free" visits with counseling services. However, this plan does not make up for the lack of resources, as students become increasingly frustrated by long waiting periods in between sessions, pushes toward group therapy and the constant trade-off of counselors.

Some students have claimed that they might wait three to four weeks between sessions if the student isn't a priority case. While walk-in times are available to students, the resources for consistent one-on-one work are still a problem, as students are pushed towards working out their issues in group therapy or with a new counselor every time they walk in.

According to students, most of those who have used the free visits and didn't find them helpful stopped there, contributing to the growing concern that students feel discouraged when seeking out help. For those who do seek out help, paying \$1,995 ultimately becomes obsolete when they use professional help off-campus and pay an additional \$100-plus for comprehensive services, on top of their tuition costs and student insurance.

In addition, the city of Boulder does not have enough off-campus mental health professionals to meet the needs of students who are struggling with daily issues that need to be talked about.

In March 2014, Newsweek published a series of maps meant to show relative health by county across the nation. For every 2,000 citizens, there is one mental health provider in the Boulder / Denver area. Given that Boulder is a college town and, therefore, has a more populated and condensed population, this ratio becomes even more disparate.

In 2013, the University of Western Georgia committed to improving students' well-being by covering unlimited counseling services in student tuition — a change that has allowed for better accommodation to all students' mental health needs.

Currently, the CU student tuition breakdown for both out-of-state students and in-state students consists of undergraduate mandatory fees that include an athletic fee, a capital construction fee, a recreation center expansion fee, and a student activity fee, all of which concern CU athletics. These fees

make up 66 percent of the mandatory fees.

On the other hand, only one fee exists specific to mental health, making up 4 percent of the mandatory fees.

Additionally, the University of Western Georgia has created a program in which the counseling center joins with peer mentors, creating an indirect peer-to-peer outreach arm. This student advocacy and outreach work for mental health improvement among the student body creates an open and safe environment for dialogue about mental health — another feature CU has failed to address with mental health.

Of those interviewed, most students agreed that the university does not provide an open and safe environment regarding mental health issues. Most students who have not utilized CAPS haven't done so because they think they aren't in need of the services due to the stigmatized notion that counseling is only for severe mental issues.

However, counseling, simply put, is guidance. Most students interviewed also agreed that one of the biggest improvements

on campus, in regards to the mental health services, is awareness. Due to the current lack of outreach and advocacy, and the prioritization of physical health and athleticism over mental well-being, CU Boulder neglects the thousands of students in need of a more comprehensive CAPS program.

"I don't need three racquetball rooms... I need guidance," said one student when asked if tuition fees should go to mental health services over other features of the university.

If the university were to redirect the \$600 included in tuition that currently goes toward athletic upkeep to mental health services, CAPS could make major improvements toward providing all students with the services they deserve.

Students are not being given equal and fair access to proper and full services.

WHAT THE FUCK HAPPENED TO FALL OUT BOY?



A review of their latest album, "MANIA," looks back on the winding history of the pop-punk balladeer's career and rise to commercial prominence.

Originally published February 14, 2018.

By Camille Sauers

To begin this exploration of pop-punk royalty, I will preface with an exercise in honesty. Before this week, my relationship with the band Fall Out Boy was nothing more than vaguely nostalgic memories surrounding their *Infinity on High/From Under the Cork Tree* era glory days. During my time as a Fall Out Boy fan — we'll call this the middle school years — the band was actually in the midst of their infamous five-year hiatus. This period was a regrouping both personally and sonically for the members who struggled with mild drug abuse, communication and a distaste for their image as an "emo" band. In 2009 with the band's future looking murky, my friends and I became late adopters of the pop-punk spirit, combining the onset of puberty, hormones and the discovery of entry-level Hot Topic fare.

Considering their latest album, *MANIA*, released Jan. 19, I straightened my bangs and listened to every Fall Out Boy studio album going all the way back to their first appearance on the scene in 2003. I bit my tongue through the genre-jumping, the painful yet glorious tracks with "Titles Stylized Like Full Sentences Out Of A Myspace Manifesto." And yes, I even stuck it out through their latest cringe-worthy flirtations with electronic dance music. Before I start to dive bang-first into that mess, let's look at where they started.

The band formed in 2001 in an Illinois suburb by local hardcore boy Pete Wentz and guitarist Joe Trohman. After sifting through several members in their early stages, lead singer Patrick Stump and drummer Andy Hurley soon became permanent fixtures. In 2003 they signed with indie label Fueled by Ramen and took off with their long-awaited studio debut: *Take this to Your Grave*. Following this success, the band achieved a ravenous fan base and subsequently played Warped Tour 2004, a tour they played pretty much every year following. The bouncy 12 track collection proved to be a strong debut, featuring a unique hyper-produced pop-punk sound with an underdog complex that would eventually come to help define a genre, in addition to a generation of kids with their hearts written in sharpie on their sleeves and a desire to do angst-driven things in suburban parking lots. Standout emotional ballads like "Calm Before The Storm" incorporated a screamo influence, something that changed the space of the mainstream charts they occupied.

There is a darker side to their early success evident in Wentz's attempted suicide in February of 2005. In May of that same year, the ballad-like urgency of their sound was further articulated on their sophomore effort *From Under The Cork Tree*. This album is a personal favorite, famed for the unintelligible yet catchy mess "Sugar We're Going Down Swingin'," as well as the soundtrack to many a tween's sexual awakening, "Dance, Dance." In 2007, they released their third record, *Infinity On High* which showed a more confident and swaggering Fall Out Boy, with hit "Thnks fr th Mmrs," arguably the best rock song in their discography.

2008 brought their fourth record, the scattered yet still authentic seeming *Folie à Deux*. It still featured several anthemic songs, "I Don't Care" and "Headfirst Slide Into Cooperstown on a Bad Bet," as well as the ever-so-whiny yet heartstring-pulling pop of "The Shipped (Gold) Standard," but it fails to match the success of the personal and angsty emotional ballads of its predecessor. Unfortunately, the disorganized nature of the album compared to their previous efforts made it clear that the hiatus was imminent.

Did they come back from it making better music? No, but they did become more successful. Swapping Warped Tour mosh pits for Pepsi Center adjacent stadiums, the band is more embedded in our culture now than ever before. Both 2013's *Save Rock and Roll* and 2015's *American Beauty/L*

American Psycho conformed to radio-friendly pop-trends of the time, each charting massively catchy pop hits such as "My Songs Know What You Did In The Dark" and "Centuries." But in the trade-off, they abandoned the genre that established their iconography altogether. A sad but natural progression of a band trying to stay in the game.

Fast-forward back to the present, and the public is faced with the band's newest creation. *MANIA* is a relic almost no one who weathered the hiatus ever saw coming. It is a seemingly complete 2018 pop record, full of glitchy EDM drops and radio-friendly hooks. The band has been able to retain its cultural relevance over the years remarkably well, but it falls short of actually being musically relevant or presenting anything interesting, unlike experimental pop maven Charli XCX's *Pop 2*, also released this year. It's perfectly contemporary without being innovative; harmless without being necessarily good.

Unlike their previous two albums, their latest attempt lacks any songs that stand out. In essence, *MANIA* sounds like James Corden tried to make a record with Calvin Harris four years ago. It's something I never wished to hear.

In typical Fall Out Boy fashion, *MANIA* is riddled with pop culture references, honoring Wilson from *Castaway*, goth girl Wednesday Addams and a nod to this year's Tonya Harding virility. There is even an attempt at a tropical house song, "Sunshine Riptide." This makes for a particularly unnerving listening experience when overlaid with lead singer Patrick Stump's iconic, propulsive, almost vaudevillian timbre.

Just because you can still log on to Myspace in 2018, doesn't mean you should, and the same goes for listening to a new Fall Out Boy record.

The record is an unsurprising let-down of empty calories in the digital age. This is ironically, and perhaps knowingly, reflected in the infomercial-inspired music video for the song, "Wilson."

I am sad to see Fall Out Boy's raucous angst and cloying self-aware wit reduced to a point where it now seems fabricated, or simply not present alongside their signature 2000's rock 'n roll guitar shredding. At one point, this authenticity made them into the mainstream poster boys of "scene." Wentz was quoted in an interview with Rolling Stone saying that "it feels like every once in awhile, you've gotta do a hard restart that clears the cache and erases the hard drive. I think that's what [MANIA] was—a big palette cleanse."

There is something to be said for refusing to be put in a box and starting anew. *MANIA* debuted at the top of the Billboard 200 charts, making it the third consecutive Fall Out Boy album to do so. However, with *MANIA*, *Save Rock and Roll* and the explosive *American Beauty/American Psycho*, Fall Out Boy seems to have lost their original edge. They are no longer saviors of an androgynous, skinny jean-clad subculture in a decade in which "that's so gay" was a culturally common pejorative punchline. In 2018, they are a band that makes unoriginal stadium songs with Stump's voice singing melodies that stand as the only connecting thread back to their better days.

After drowning myself in their history this past week during every spare moment of time, surely propelling them to the top of my most-listened Spotify artists of the year, I couldn't deny the undulating magnetism of Stump's vocals or Wentz's tongue-in-cheek taunting lyricism. I have come to appreciate their place as the kings of pop-punks heyday and their outward-looking perspective that differentiated them from many of their fellow whining, saccharine peers.

Just because you can still log on to Myspace in 2018, doesn't mean you should, and the same goes for listening to a new Fall Out Boy record.

ATHLETES AND STUDENTS WEIGH IN ON CU'S HANDS-OFF POLICY REGARDING NATIONAL ANTHEM PARTICIPATION

By Drew Sharek

When walking around campus at the University of Colorado Boulder, I was surprised to hear that many students forgot about their football team's absence during the playing of the national anthem.

In recent months and years, the national anthem has received much attention, largely thanks to the rituals of athletes from across the country during the ceremony.

Former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick started the impetus of this discussion two years ago when he sat during the playing of the anthem in a preseason NFL game to protest racial inequality and police brutality towards people of color.

Thanks to Kaepernick's national anthem protests, Quinnipiac University conducted a poll in 2016 showing a 63 percent disapproval of the protests among white adults and a 74 percent approval among black adults.

At CU Boulder, there are policies in place and different perspectives on the matter. Each team treats the national anthem differently. Both the football and basketball teams have predominantly black players, yet the football team stays in the locker room for the anthem, while the basketball team is on the floor for the anthem.

The women's basketball, soccer and lacrosse teams also take part in the national anthem.

"There is no official department policy on having to stand for the national anthem," said Athletic Director Rick George. "It is left up to each program, and it's different for every team. There is no anthem played at many events."

So, where does the general student body at CU stand in regards to all of this? Are students in Boulder disturbed by these policies and were they off-put by Kaepernick's initial protests? As a general statement, no, but it depends on who you ask.

In interviews with 50 random students on campus at CU, 88 percent of those students said that they condoned the actions of Kaepernick. 82 percent of them aren't concerned with the CU football team not taking part in the national anthem.

The antithesis however, is also present.

Junior lacrosse forward Sophia Castillo finds that the national anthem should mean more to student-athletes.

"I do find it a little odd that the football team doesn't come out for the anthem," she said. "I think it's a great way to honor America and the sport we love so personally. I think it'd be a good thing for them to come out and show respect with all their fans, and I'm surprised."

For Castillo, it's become a routine for herself and her teammates throughout the years to honor our country.

"Ever since high school it's been part of our game routine to honor

the flag before our game, and it feels right doing it," Castillo said. "I think I can speak for my whole team when I say we wouldn't want to change doing the national anthem before we take the field."

Senior football defensive back Nick Fisher has a different perspective from Castillo.

"I've never thought about it," he said. "We just go through our pre-game rituals inside our locker room and then we have our meeting before. It's nothing we really worry about."

While football head coach Mike MacIntyre hasn't put the anthem first, Fisher believes that MacIntyre would be open-minded for those who want to participate in it.

"[MacIntyre] has never made it a priority to come out for the anthem," Fisher said. "He lets us get ready in the locker room. I feel like if we wanted to go out there, he would let us go out there. No one looks at it as a bad thing because it's what we've always done."

What might transpire if those who feel the anthem should be respected create tension on programs to come out for the anthem? And who might realize that if one team isn't on the field for the anthem, then why should another team do the same? These are questions that could be answered in the future, but for now, the university has representation on both sides of the argument.

JUST FOR NINJ

CU BLUFFS: CU UNVEILS NEW TACTIC TO RECRUIT 'EVERY KIND OF WHITE PERSON'

Disclaimer: All people, places and events in this piece are presented in a fictional, satirical manner.

This Tuesday, CU Boulder Admissions released a new strategy for achieving the campus diversity quota. Chad Caucasian, head of student affairs, cited a need for more "white students that like to hike in tight fitting pants, white students that like to drink exclusively fruit-flavored alcohol, white students that hit the protein powder too hard after the gym and end up constipated." He said it's all part of a program to reel in the students that have truly been marginalized in CU's admissions process.

"You know, it's been a good five years since I've seen a white guy with a rat tail. I think that's something we could really work on," he said. "We've seen some pushback on this movement from the dreadlock community. While we respect all students here at CU, white students with dreadlocks at CU

need to understand they are not the minority and need to make room for other students."

The department is open to student suggestions. Some themes the administration is hoping to capture in their campaign for prospective students are "turtlenecks, melanin deficiency and out of state residency with a vast family investment plan."

Currently, the administration is in the middle of its diverse media campaign, including posters of a Caucasian male in salmon-colored shorts and loafers buying a gram of weed for \$35 behind 7-11.

"We want to show that coming to Boulder is about more than earning a degree, it's about a diverse student body, a community where not a single person can pull off a pukka shell necklace," the head of student affairs said.

Have an idea for a satirical article or, better yet, have it already written? Pitch it to us! Email tips@cuiindependent.com with the subject line "Satire Submission".



Come see us in UMC 1B80 or email jane3083@colorado.edu
for information on how to get involved

RADIO SHOWS LIVE BANDS NEWS
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