As we slowly move deeper into the semester many students are still having difficulty getting back in the groove. For some students partying can be an obstacle but for others it can actually serve as motivation to keep up with school. According to sophomore Sahvanna Padilla, “My partying makes me do better.” Claudia Farfan-Loroño said, “If I’m busy I get more stuff done.” The key is to know how to manage studying with partying. For instance if you know that you want to go out on Wednesday night than you should study for a few extra hours on Monday and Tuesday to have your school work finished before you go out and party. It takes a lot of discipline.

The problem is that many students do not know how to balance out the two. In reality it is possible to do well in school and still manage to have an exciting social life. As the saying goes “Work hard, play hard.”

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**MANO A MANO**

If you are looking for a unique experience to learn about the Latino culture than the “Mano a Mano” leadership seminar is for you.

The “Mano a Mano” seminar is a non-credit Colorado State University class. Which will be taught by El Centro’s very own Rich Salas. The seminar hopes to be a transitional class for first and second year students. Through the seminar students will also gain academic support and cultural relevant opportunities.

Salas is most excited about the planned dinner in Denver followed by a visit to Su Teatro where they will be watching “Doña Rosita’s Jalapeño Kitchen.” According to Salas the seminar will be a smaller learning environment. “I hope to teach the value of different cultures,” said Salas. Eventually Salas would like the seminar to become a credit coarse. Salas also said, “It would be nice to hook up with other advocacy offices for a wider perspective.”
With Valentine’s day just around the corner many are either excited about it and others... well let’s just say they’re not so happy the holiday even exists.

Talking to different students and people on campus made it clear that many don’t look forward to this day. For Nathan Castillo the day is bad because “I’m always broke around Valentine’s day.” Others simply like the holiday regardless if they have a “Valentine” or not. “I like it either way. I always get something,” said Stephanie Felix. Bianca Garcia sees it as “Singles Awareness Day.”

Valentine’s day can be a good day or a bad day. It all depends what you make it out to be and what you expect from it. According to Shirley Guitron, “It’s a lovely idea, but too commercial. And it can be lonely if you don’t have anybody.”

Valentine’s day should be the time when you reflect on the people you love.

GET INVOLVED!

Do you find yourself going home after class and have nothing to do. It might be time for you to get involved.

There are many different types of organizations and clubs you can join to add to your résumé.

There are too many organizations to list them all, but are available on-line at studentorg/orglist.asp. If you are interested in having more community involvement the best choice might be a fraternity or sorority. Non-traditional Greek-letter organizations usually focus on giving back to the Latino community. The National Hispanic Institute (NHI) is also a great way to get in touch with the Latino community.

If you are in search for more academic involvement that is tied to your career there are groups such as the Pre-Veterinary Club, Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA), and the Biology Club to name a few.

Getting involved is the key to success and it is the element that will set you apart from the crowd.

GOT SPRING BREAK?

As spring break approaches us many are scrambling for fast cash opportunities.

Spring break can be very expensive but still college students seem to work their way around the financial burden. According to Claudia Farfan-Loroño, “I’m planning on going to South Padre Islands but I don’t know how I’m going to pay for it yet.”

Other students, such as Yvelise Maldonado, are taking trips with their parents to free themselves from money worries. “I just need to save money to spend,” said Maldonado.

Even if you will be working this spring break do not take for granted the week of not having class. Money or no money, spring break should be a time to relax and enjoy life.
ALL STAR WEEKEND!

Thousands of cheering fans and many celebrities will be in Denver February 17th-21st for the famous All Star weekend.

All Star weekend consists of a Jam Session which will be held at the newly constructed Denver Convention Center and of course the All Star basketball game.

The Jam Session is an exciting event full of games and opportunities to meet some of the Nuggets players. Unlike the tickets to the All Star game, the tickets to the Jam Session are for sale at a reasonable price.

Hosting an All Star game is a great privilege. The last time Denver hosted an All Star game was in 1985.

Do not miss this opportunity to attend the Jam Session and possibly meet some NBA players!

LISTENING TO AFENI SHAKUR

After listening to Afeni Shakur, mother of the late Tupac Shakur, speak at Auraria campus Thursday afternoon, it made many ask their self, “How can I get her to come to my campus?”

Her speech was motivating and touched many people’s hearts. Having Ms. Shakur as a speaker, especially during Black History Month, would be a benefit for the CSU campus.

Ms. Shakur’s speech varied in topic from racism to saving a child. According to Shakur, “I don’t want to hear about racism, stop wining, I already fought for you. Accept it as the truth. What are you going to do about it?” Shakur suggests that we stop bickering about it and instead take action to change it.

She used one of Nelson Mandela’s quotes to get her point across, “Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate, our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light not our darkness that most scares us.” With these words Shakur dares her audience to become liberated from that fear and to be courageous enough to make a change.

Shakur directs much of what she is saying to the youth, “Don’t allow grown people to put you in fear,” said Shakur. Instead she suggests that the youth teach the elders; as she learned a lot from her son. According to Shakur, “You can’t be successful without making a mistake. So mess up and continue going forward.

When Shakur said to be courageous she was talking about the children that are being molested in our own neighborhoods. She urges us to “make your house a safe house.”

Afeni Shakur continues to touch people through her life experiences and her son’s legacy. Having her on our campus for next year’s Black History Month would be empowering.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb. 16: Mano a Mano seminar classes begin.
- Feb. 19: Women’s Conference
- Feb 25: Registration deadline for Run/Walk National Organ Donor Awareness (NODAC)

READ YOUR RAM MAIL. VITAL SCHOLARSHIP INFO!
**HOROSCOPE (FOR FEB.)**

**AQUARIUS**
It's birthday time, and a crown of stars glittering overhead in Aquarius will make you the king or queen of the zodiac in February. What a delicious month you have in store, dear Aquarius! It just doesn't get much better than the star pattern you have going for you now! Rarely do planets align this perfectly. You should notice that, suddenly, luck is on your side.

**ARIES**
February will bring some of the very best aspects of the year for you, dear Aries. It will be an exciting month on so many fronts, and by the time it's over, you'll agree, every month should be like this one. One event this month will be a glittering crown of stars congregating in Aquarius, an air sign that blends magnificently with your fire element. Air makes fire burn more brightly, so this month others will be drawn to your exceptional heat and light.

**CANCER**
You have become a lean, mean money machine. When have I ever said that, dear Cancer? Not lately, that's for sure! But you've never had aspects as stunning as those on tap this month, either! With five friendly heavenly bodies in your eighth house, if you make money on a performance basis, through a commission, royalty, licensing or bonus arrangement, you should be able to net a bundle. Work hard, and put the pedal to the metal--this will be one memorable month!

**CAPRICORN**
This will be a major financial month for you, and if you play your cards right, you will see your bank balance increase, if not now then very soon. You should be quite excited by the possibilities before you, and here's why: A conglomeration of planets will gather in your second house of income, including Venus, Mercury, Neptune, the Sun and new moon. Opportunity and luck will abound once the new moon arrives, February 8.

** Pisces**
What a remarkable month! After February 8, when no less than five heavenly bodies quietly gather in your solar twelfth house--including Venus, Mercury, Neptune, the Sun and new moon, you will want to withdraw just a little to catch your breath and meditate about your future. The month prior to your birthday is critical for finishing up old projects and obligations, and for deciding what you'd like your coming birthday year to bring.

**GEMINI**
Every once in a while a month comes along that's so sweet and perfect it has the power restore your faith in miracles. February could easily be such a month for you! With FIVE planets in fellow-air sign Aquarius, all of them waving to Jupiter, the planet of good luck and happiness in super-compatible air-sign Libra, you should have it made, dear Gemini.

**LEO**
This could be an intriguing month! Five planets are stacked in your seventh house of committed partnerships, putting the emphasis on one very close relationship. But be aware of an unusual twist: With so many planets in Aquarius, the sign directly opposite your Sun, it will be your partner, not you, who decides how the relationship will proceed.

**LIBRA**
Dear Libra! Rarely have I seen the stars line up so magnificently as they will for you in February. Love, romance, fun and pampering should all be yours in this rare and special month. You will have FIVE friendly planets in your fifth house of true love, pleasure and leisure fun: Venus, Neptune, Mercury, the Sun and new moon. That's a “10” in anyone’s book!

**SCORPIO**
Change is in the wind. You may be relocating for the sake of a new job or moving into plush new digs, thanks to your rising status. No matter what's on your agenda, you'll have an unusual opportunity to achieve your plans and goals. Everything will start to click into place on the new moon on February 8, and in the weeks that follow. You will be setting up a fresh new cycle that will be in place for at least a year.

**SAGITTARIUS**
This should be an exciting month! Your mind will crackle with ideas. The more stimulation you get in this busy month, the more you'll want! With no less than FIVE heavenly bodies in friendly air-sign Aquarius, all filling your third house of communication (that’s half the number of planets in our solar system), the pace will be brisk. Hey, that’s how you like it, dear Sagittarius. You get bored easily, but this month there will be no chance of that happening. Just about everyone will want exclusive time with you. Energy attracts energy!

**VIRGO**
This month fabulous new assignments will come your way, thanks to an unusual build-up of five planets in Aquarius. You'll like the work, too—it will have a new twist, so your mind will be fully engaged. It’s a good thing you're highly organized, because you'll need to be! There will be so much to do!