

aims ALIVE

A NEWSLETTER OF AIMS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Thought provoker:

"Facts do not cease to exist because they are ignored."

— Aldous Huxley



April 11, 2003, Vol. 27, Issue 6

Board opts for 75-25 split on health insurance hikes

The Board of Trustees on April 2 nixed all of the options for increased health insurance costs to employees, coming up with a bit of a compromise instead.

But this won't be the last we hear of it, warns Board President John Dent, who was the sole member who voted against the compromise - splitting the premium increases 75-25 between the college and employees for one year only. The new plan essentially doubles what employees are paying now for health insurance.

Dent said his 'no' vote was a statement about the budget concerns Aims will continue to face.

"I think we've seen the tip of the iceberg," Dent said after the meeting. "Paying that part of the increase decreases our flexibility in terms of other potential reductions we have to look at. But, it probably was an appropriate compromise."

"I don't think we're looking at these cuts being over next year. I think it will probably be the next three or four years, and there's that ratchet-down effect."

The state has cut higher education severely, hitting Aims at least \$1 million this year, and a million plus next year.

To make the situation more complicated, premium increases changed one more time, throwing the original numbers off a bit. The original

See **Insurance**, page 12

Wild kingdom

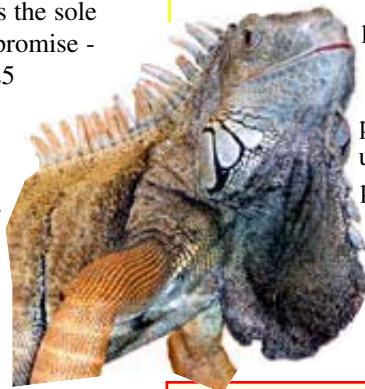
Animals help make happy Aims homes

It's a simple discussion of life.

Biology professor Grant Wilson paces in front of his class, asking questions, moving rather slowly. He then pulls a mouse out of his pocket, then lets 'Knoteven' crawl upon his shoulders as he paces. Then he pulls out his sugarglider. Minutes later, the dove flies overhead. Then he pulls out Garfield, the iguana.

While the animals made for great instructional aides in Biology 120 to discuss com-

See **Animals** page 8



Senior program in tough spot

State cuts could force major changes.

See page 3

This College department banks on its creativity.

See page 5, 6, 7 for the next Alive department feature.



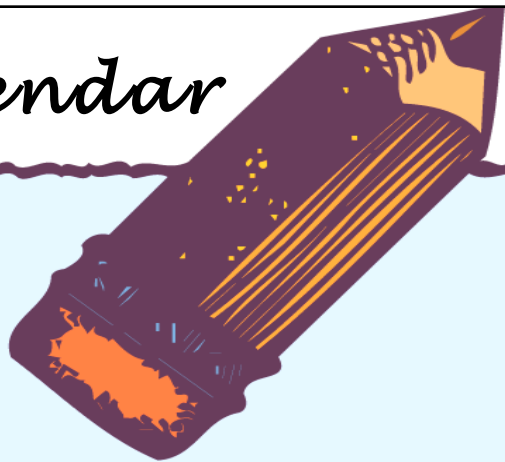
Inside

- ☐ Tribune features Aims professor, foundation member in annual *Panorama* section.

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Calendar 2
Student News 14

Calendar



- April 14 Board of Trustees budget workshop
- April 15 Organizational Review report to Aims
- April 15 Time Sheets are due to Human Resources
- April 17 Virtual Reality Tour Hypnosis Show featuring Steve Meade, noon to 1 p.m.
- Flashlight Egg Hunt (adults) @ Loveland campus
- April 17 Easter Egg Hunt for Kids (up to age 10), time 6:30 p.m. Greeley Campus
- April 18 War: A Discussion of Issues Faculty, local experts exchange ideas on the crisis in Iraq, noon to 1:30 p.m. (free lunch included)
- April 23 CoffeeHouse: Deeper Than Most (Christian hip-hop/rap), 10:30 a.m. to noon
- April 25 President's Reception (Awards for Excellence Winners announced)
- April 28- May 2 Community Holocaust Memorial Observance
- April 30 CoffeeHouse: Readers Theater featuring Children's Secret Holocaust Diaries 10:30 a.m. to noon
- May 2 Professional Development Day (no classes, offices closed)
- May 5-8 Cinco de Mayo event
- May 5-9 Mid-term week
- May 7 Spring business Career Fair 11 am-1:30 pm College Center
- May 7 Board of Trustees meeting, 5 p.m.

Directory Changes

Page 9 & 33
LACOMBE, CHERYL
 Ext. 6213
 Continuing Education
 ACCEC

Page 14
LACOMBE, CHERYL
 Remove under Office of
 Interim VP for Enrollment
 Mgt/Dean of Students

Page 44
SIMONDS, LANA
 3822 W. 11th St., Unit. No.
 11
 Page 12 & 18

Page 8
BRANTNER, CAROL
 delete under Family and Life
 Education

Page 12 & 18
BRANTNER, CAROL
 Ext. 5421
 Emergency Medical Services
 Math, Natural & Applied Sci-
 ences
 ACE Building 101

Pages 12 & 49
WESTLUND, CHRISTINE
 Ext 5269
 EMS, Room 106

Aims contracts overnight security

Aims is now using Union Colony Protection Services to provide security services from 11 p.m. - 7 a.m. Monday through Friday and 24-hour weekend and holiday coverage.

Union Colony will supplement our current day and evening Public Safety officers, Tim Donovan and Jerry Millsap. Union Colony's services will mirror those provided by the Physical Plant Public Safety department such as lost and found, vehicle jump starts, flat-tire repair, parking enforcement, building escorts, etc.

It has become increasingly difficult to find part-time employees to fill these off-hour time periods. Contracting with Union Colony will ensure the 24/7 coverage that we want to provide the Greeley campus.

Union Colony will provide uniformed officers and will drive a marked Chevrolet Caprice. Aims Public Safety and the Union Colony officers can be reached at 539-2171. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Don Plant at ext. 6430 or Anne Jackson at ext. 6523.

Aims Alive deadlines

<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Issue</u>
April 21	April 25
May 12	May 16

Aims Alive is Aims Community College's twice-monthly newsletter published by the college's Public Information Office. For submissions, contact Sharon Dunn, Aims Alive editor, at ext. 6206 or email at sdunn@aims.edu.

Please give notice of a week prior to any submission (for planning purposes).

All submissions will be edited for content and brevity, and to conform with Associated Press style.

Senior program faces overhaul with FTE cuts

Changes could affect up to 3,000 senior citizens

After 20+ years, a seemingly perfectly sculpted Senior Education program at Aims will need some major plastic surgery to survive, affecting roughly 3,000 seniors.

This year, the state has done away with reimbursing colleges for classes that do not lead directly to a degree, which means Aims can no longer offer the classes for the regular tuition rate.

"This has been really distressing and discouraging because we have this wonderful program that has reached thousands of seniors in Weld County," said program director Marilyn Gerbrandt. "For some people, these classes have been their life for 10 or 20 years. They've looked forward to these and planned their vacations around them. I can't imagine all of those connections being broken."

A group of about 20 community, senior and Aims leaders met twice in March to find a solution, floating several options of offering the program through the Division of Continuing Education. The group must make some decision by July.

"In Continuing Education there's good and bad: we have flexibility, but we have to make

this program pay for itself," said Dick Wood, dean of Continuing Education.

"I look at this as a community issue."

With such a great loss in state reimbursements, as well as a tradition of offering seniors low prices for classes, finding a happy medium on how to pay for the program is proving difficult. Asking seniors to make up the loss in state funding is not an option.

"Given the current tuition, there's no way we could support this program without additional funding," said Roseann

Guyette, director of Training and Development at Aims.

For example, Guyette said, a typical one-credit physical education course runs 20 hours. Seniors at present pay \$38. That would rise significantly under Continuing Education.

The reality is that the program will have to change. That could eventually mean a reduction in the number of classes offered, increased fees, and partnerships with local governments and senior



Marilyn Freier leads a Senior Shape-up class at the Greeley Recreation Center in February as a part of Aims' Senior Education program.

organizations for additional money, instructors or space. So far, there are no grants or donations being put on the table, given the current economic climate.

Last year, roughly 3,000 seniors took part in the 239 classes offered in 32 different locations, with 60 percent being physical education enrollments.

One major concern is a perceived duplication of classes throughout the community. At present, Aims and the city

of Greeley offer similar physical education classes. Senior centers are required by law to offer activities, as well, which could be another duplication.

One option would be for Aims to cut the physical education classes — to avoid that duplication — but also advise seniors on places they can go for such classes, including local gyms such as the Conditioning Spa, which has its own senior fitness program. Seniors also could tune into Aims Channel 22, which now airs a Senior Shape-up program twice a day.

Aims could then offer more academic classes to seniors, charging

The group of about 20 leaders from Aims, senior programs and local governments will meet again at **8 a.m. April 28** at the Corporate Education Center to discuss options to help pay for the senior education program.

Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

fees similar to its special-interest courses offered every quarter.

Participants in the group hoping to resolve the issue seem to agree that local governments and the county may have to put up more money for senior programs to help out. That may prove more difficult, however, on the smaller towns that can't afford senior programs. Even in the larger cities, that could be difficult, said Don Feldhaus, a Greeley City Councilman. There, he said, the city budgets \$400,000 for senior programs every year.

"We need to see if we can have a continuing commitment for senior programs," said Reg Whitson, a retired Greeley businessman.

"Seniors represent a big asset and do a lot in our community. ...

"Local governments need to throw more money into the pot."

Students to be tapped for Title III mentor program

By **Teresina Nowak**

Coordinator, Retention Services

Beginning this fall, as a part of the Title III grant, Aims will begin to identify classes that traditionally garner lower grades from students, and find student leaders to work with their peers in three such classes the following year.



Nowak

This is not a tutoring program, and the student leaders won't work one-on-one. It's called supplemental instruction.

"It's a higher level of organized homework for groups," said Teresina Nowak, student retention coordinator under the Title III grant. "It's not a remedial program. If you don't have a 4.0, you could benefit from supplemental instruction."

The SI program targets traditionally difficult academic courses that have a high rate of D or F grades and withdrawals. It provides regularly scheduled, out-of-class, peer facilitated sessions, which begin the first week of the term.

Students who attend SI sessions learn better study habits as they review content material, and can become actively involved in the course material. SI challenges the best and brightest students while assisting those struggling with their academics.

Faculty members will be key in helping find the student leaders to facilitate the sessions. To start off, there will be three student positions as a part of a pilot project, which will be paid through the Title III grant. They must have demonstrated mastery of the discipline in previous quarters and, consequently, serve as appropriate academic role models for other students.

SI leaders will be required to attend class sessions, take notes, read assigned material, and conduct SI sessions each week. To prepare for these duties, SI leaders will attend an intensive two-day training session before the beginning of the academic term.

Official SI sessions will begin in Fall 2004 on the Greeley campus. Call Teresina Nowak at ext. 6607 or tnowak@aims.edu with any questions.

Technology funding delayed

By **Lynda Nielsen**

Executive director, Aims Foundation

The Aims Foundation Allocation committee has been asked to delay the RFP Allocation process, until the Campus Facilities Master Plan and Organizational Audit is completed.

The intention is to wait and offer funding in a coordinated manner that will best serve the college and the greatest number of students. As soon as that direction is known, the Foundation will move forward.

Last fall, the Foundation granted \$71,000 to various technology programs at Aims. When the RFP



Nielsen

process does open up, there is approximately \$100,000 to disburse to programs. All of the money came from the Reach For a New Day fundraising campaign.

The Foundation wants to maximize these technology funds in a way that will leverage additional dollars, serve Aims and its students for many years to come.

Flight training slows with economy

Training in the Flight Simulator has slowed somewhat with the economy, reported Dick Wood, dean of Continuing Education.

Wood reported to the Aims Board of Trustees April 2 that flight training hours are down somewhat from expectations, even with the addition of GulfStream, an airline company out of Florida.

For April, for example, training hours

should stay at 450, Wood said.

Now, Wood said, Great Lakes Aviation, based in Wyoming, and what has been the flight simulator's anchor since Aims bought the simulator last year, is cutting back on its hours.

"Great Lakes is not training any new people," Wood told the board.

"The good news is that we still have a strong program with



Wood

GulfStream and we've also been able to fill in some gaps with smaller airlines," Wood said.

Clock ticks to buy PERA service credit

Those interested and eligible to buy service credit at the current low cost should get started.

The rates will increase to 18.1 percent (up from 15.5 percent) come November. The rate for those over 50 will increase to 22.1 percent.

If you've already provided PERA with the required documentation to verify service credit eligible to purchase but have not purchased your

credit, you will need to notify PERA before Nov. 1 to issue a Service Credit Purchase Agreement. A letter, email, or fax received before Nov. 1 is sufficient to begin the process and receive the current loser cost. A notification via telephone is not sufficient.

Members will be limited to a total of 10 years credit if they want until Nov. 1. Visit www.copera.org for more information.

Telelearning and Media Services: Bringing Aims to the airwaves with flair, style

Whether it's changing technology, new television programs to produce or new ways to look things, life in Telelearning and Media Services is never the same from day to day.

That's the one thing that keeps the staff of this highly creative group interested in what they do.

See "Did you Know?" on page 7 for uncommon facts about Telelearning and Media Services employees.

"It doesn't sound all that interesting, but it's creative, and it changes all the time," says Dev Multer about his job directing the production of Aims promotional videos, continuing education programs and commercials, and communi-

ty videos and public service announcements. "We get to work on a lot of different projects with lots of different people. "What's really cool is when they see the programs we create for them and their eyes light up."

This staff of 10 full-timers is constantly at work producing everything you see on Channel 22, instructional videos, commercials and spotlights. They also man the audio labs and studio, and the interactive video system, as well as filming meetings on campus, and make it possible for people to participate in satellite teleconferences.

Students flow into the mix with constant questions, as practically all of the video and audio production people also teach classes as adjunct faculty.

"It's an advantage for the student to have teachers so accessible," Multer added. "It's not like someone comes in from Fort Collins, teaches a class and goes away. We're all right here and we're doing what we're teaching all the time."

In the coming months, the Aims community will see much more of this staff's work on Channel 22 with new programs, such as Cooking With Bruno, and even a show that Aims president Dr. Marsi Liddell is working on. Also, on almost all of



About this series

Each issue this year, Aims Alive will focus on a different department at Aims, highlighting what people do and who they are. Financial Aid will be featured next on April 25.

Photos by Sharon Dunn

Left: Greg Driskill double checks the program time for their new show, "Cooking with Bruno" in Telelearning and Media Services. Above: Program Director Dev Multer works on editing the opening sequence to the Bruno show.

the programming, they will have the capabilities of running a strip on the left side of the screen with local weather, and a scrolling "breaking news" line at the bottom of the screen, such as the one used on CNN.

"The ultimate goal is to make the channel more than a constant PR piece," said Ken Sauer, director of TMS. "It will be something people will watch for enter-

tainment. We want people to feel like it was worth their time to watch the Aims channel and it makes them want to come to Aims and learn."

Aside from Channel 22, TMS also runs all of the interactive video systems for the classrooms, a program that has grown so

See **Telelearning, Media Services**, page 6



Spring has Sprung

Photo by Robert Waltman

This daffodil appeared on the south end of the General Services building earlier this month. Guess the old saying should be March blizzards bring April blooms?



Telelearning, Media Services

from page 5

“There’s a lot of talent and creativity here. Because of that, you have finished projects that are tangible.”

Debbie Wall
senior office specialist.

much in the last year that a second IVS room is being added.

“We started out a year ago January with five classes,” Sauer said. “Now, we’re running 19 classes over the IVS.”

If anything, that helps the bottom line with the Fort Lupton and Loveland campuses, giving them the options of offering classes that traditionally would have been canceled due to small class sizes.

“This way, we avoid canceling classes by offering them at all the campuses over the IVS,” Ken Sauer.

While much of their work is challenging - sometimes to a harrowing degree in tight deadlines -

this staff leaves at the end of the day pretty satisfied.

“The best part of this job is the creativity,” said Greg Driskill, a media producer. “Being able to create something visual from scratch is what I like most.”

The end result is a tangible product that everyone can see.

“There’s a lot of talent and creativity here,” said Debbie Wall, a senior office specialist. “Because of that, you have finished projects that are tangible.”

Sauer added: “People come here with a problem and we find the best creative solution using media. Media has become the grammar of communications in the digital age.” ♦

Channel 22 Schedule

6 a.m. to 6:30	PowerPoint graphics
6:30-7	‘5590’
7 - 7:30	‘In the Black’ w/Don Abbot
7:30 to 8	‘Opportunities’ w/ Tom Jones
8-8:30	PowerPoint graphics
8:30 - 9	Aims promotions
9:30-10	Powerpoint graphics
10- 10:30	Senior Shape-Up
10:30 -11	‘Cooking w/ Bruno’
11 - 11:30	Aims slide-show tour
11:30 - 12p.m.	PowerPoint graphics
12-12:30	PowerPoint graphics
12:30-1	‘5590’
1-1:30	‘In the Black’
1:30-2	‘Opportunities’
2 - 2:30	PowerPoint graphics
2:30- 3	Aims Promotions
3:30 - 4	PowerPoint graphics
4-4:30	Senior Shape-up
4:30 - 5	‘Cooking with Bruno’
5-5:30	Aims slide-show tour
5:30- 6	Powerpoint graphics

*This schedule repeats from 6 p.m. to midnight. From midnight to 6 a.m., it will be PowerPoint graphics.

Telelearning, Media Services

from page 5

You may think you know everything about the people around you, but Aims Alive has learned some interesting tidbits about these 10 full-time employees in Telelearning and Media Services.

Did you know?

Greg Driskill

Senior Media Producer
sold popcorn (at a movie theater) for 10 years before becoming a media producer.



Mark Lewis

Media Producer
Has performed three marriages as a minister with the Universal Life Church. Two couples has since divorced.



George Miller

Media Technician
Has always wanted to look like Marilyn Monroe.



Shawn Miller

Media Technician
Talked weather with Michael Jackson's producer after a seminar in 1994 in Florida.



Dev Multer

Program director, production services
Is taking up a collection to buy a 2005 Ford Mustang. Donations welcome.



Miles Rugh

Senior Lab Coordinator
Played drums in The Termites from 1994-99 opening in Denver for 22 national acts, including Night Ranger, The Tubes, and Nazareth.



Ken Sauer

Director
When he grows up, he wants to be a storm chaser, especially chasing after tornadoes



Debbie Wall

Snr. Office Specialist
Has always wanted to write for Hallmark or write a children's book.



Robert Waltman

Media Producer
Goes out of his way to dip into every hot springs he can find wherever he travels.



Nathan Wright

Media Technician
Lived in Jethro Tull's hippie commune in the 1970s in Big Sur, Calif.



Animals

from page 1



mon characteristics of life, they also are close to Wilson's heart, especially Garfield.

"He certainly is a companion. When I go home every day, it's nice to have him there," Wilson said. "I appreciate him as a companion as well as a visual aide for class. He certainly is a comfort, and I care about him."

Wilson is known through Aims for Garfield, and maybe his penchant for mice, but he's not the only one at Aims with a touch of the exotic in his life.

Consider Tammy McDonald and Pauletta Yauk and their alpacas, or Pat McGuire and Alice Ann, her turtle, or

even Carol Hoglund and her fondness for her three Scottish Terrriers.

They go beyond the traditional but bring just as much joy.

"We're just one big happy family," Hoglund said of her brood, Molly, Murphy and Sadie. "My nieces and nephews call me the crazy dog lady."

A 1993 report in the Harvard Health Letter reports that companion animals have more consistent behavior compared to our human companions and that they offer unconditional affection. **The effect: lower blood pressure, heart rate, and anxiety level for pet owners.** We repay them with love and



Photo courtesy of Tammy McDonald



Photo by Sharon Dunn

attention. In fact, more than 60 percent of pets receive "as much attention as children," according to the 1994 American Animal Hospital Association pet owner survey.

For Yauk and McDonald, alpacas at first were a business venture in which they used the animals' wool for clothing and accessories. But things change over time. Now, they're more like family, though they still use

Far Left: Grant Wilson pets his iguana, Garfield, after using him as a visual aide in his Biology class April 2, while his pet mouse sits atop his shoulder. **Left: Tammy McDonald** nuzzles with Chai, one of her eight alpacas. **Below, Pat McGuire** shows off the worn picture of Alice Ann, her turtle, that she keeps on her desk.

demands of work or a particularly stressful day. I can just enjoy the animals and time goes by very fast. I enjoy watching them in the pasture, frolicking in the field. I lose myself with them."

Hoglund — who also is a member of Scottie Rescue organization — started her family with just one dog, then jumped to four. Earlier this year, one passed away. Each of them have their own indoor and outdoor bed, collar covers for all the seasons (they're getting ready for Easter), once in a while get homemade dog biscuits and mom's even thinking about making coats for all of them.

"The thing is, they always love you, no matter what," Hoglund said. "It does de-stress you. You can go throw a ball, or sit on the floor with them.

the wool. "When I walk around outside with them, it's just nice to have them there. I laugh a lot," said McDonald, who with Yauk has eight alpacas on five acres near Severance. "They just do funny things, like jump up and down. They have a very peaceful humming sound. They're very calming."

Yauk agrees: "It's very quieting for me after a day of the

Professor featured in Tribune's Panorama as hero



"Students have always come in with a real fear of sounding stupid or writing badly. My objective is to get them over that fear."

— Russ Ward
English professor

Russ Ward has mixed feelings going into his final quarter at Aims.

Quietly, he has prepared an ending to his 16 years here with little fanfare. It just wasn't meant to be, as long as former Aims professor Dorothy Stewart had something to say.

"Russ is superior teacher; he can be strict without it hurting; he demands a lot from students, but in a way in which they respond beautifully," said Stewart, who retired from Aims in 1994. "He's contributed to the reputation of the composition program, which is considered one of the best around."

So she nominated Ward as an Unsung Hero in the Greeley Tribune's annual publication, "Panorama," which this year highlighted 27 people who made their communities better places to be. The section ran March 30.

"If you want to know the truth, I feel humbled and undeserving," Ward said of the article, entitled, "Favorite teacher." "When you read all the other people who are included in that thing, they've seemingly done a lot more than I have. ... I would say it's a lucky way to end my career."

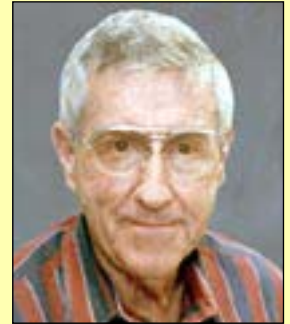
The article centers on the humor he uses to diffuse the

Foundation member, Hall, shares the spotlight as Citizen of Year

George Hall, president of Hall-Irwin Corp., and a member of the Aims Foundation, also was named in the 2003 Panorama edition of the Greeley Tribune.

Hall has worked on the Foundation board for a little more than a year.

He was featured sharing the spotlight with his friend David Clarkson. Both were named Citizens of the Year for being the muscle behind the City of Greeley's quality of life ballot issue that will enhance Greeley recreation projects.



Hall

difficulties students have in writing, and how he revamped the college's writing program and initiated the use of computers in his classroom. Students gave Ward the excellence in teaching award in 1998, and colleagues praised him with the excellence award in 1992 and 1994.

Ward has taught English composition for 31 years, crediting his success in the classroom to his love of the English language.

"Students have always come in with a real fear of sounding stupid or writing badly," Ward said. "My objective is to get them over that fear."

In one respect, his plan for retirement has gone as expected.

"I didn't want to retire too late," such as waiting until he had burned out, Ward said.

He plans to continue working, but said he hasn't decided yet what he'll do.

"I just wanted to try something new, whatever that is, and I'm tired of grading papers," he said.

If he could leave with one piece of advice for anyone who would replace him at Aims:

"Always hold high standards, but be willing to give people a second chance."

Consultant to give results of operational audit on April 15

Consultant Silvio Vano will present results of the recent operational audit to College employees at 7 a.m., Tuesday, April 15 at the College Center, Room 727.

For those who cannot attend the forum, it will be videotaped.

On the Greeley campus, the tape will

air on the internal television distribution system on Wednesday the 16th at 11 a.m., 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

Call George Miller (prior to air time) to watch the tape on any college television at the above times:

- from Westview or Horizon Hall, call ext. 6512.

- from CCTR, Beaty Hall or General Services, call using the black interview phone next to the television from which you plan to watch.

A copy of the tape will be available at both the Fort Lupton and the Loveland Campuses for viewing on April 16.

from page 8

“They’re always excited to see you. It’s an outlet for love, and I don’t have my grandkids to hug and kiss” as much anymore.

And some animals just have a funny way of walking into their lives.

“She looked like a lump of mud walking up my driveway,” McGuire said of Alice Ann, the turtle who adopted her 15 years ago. “I thought, ‘Oh my God, What is that?’ I checked it out and there was a creature in there, so I put her in a tub and washed her out.

“Now, I have so many funny Alice Ann stories, I’ve often thought I should just write a book.”

A picture of Alice Ann sits on McGuire’s desk alongside the picture of her dog.

If anything, their lives are never the same, especially with the interesting curiosities the animals bring to the home.

“My iguana definitely has a personality,” Wilson said, who’s had Garfield for about 11 years. “We understand each other pretty well. The most important thing is that he believes he rules the world, and as long as you’re a good subject, things go well.”

For Wilson, being a good subject means keeping Garfield in Beefaroni,



VP for Administrative Services Carol Hoglund poses with her Scottish Terriers at her home April 2. Hoglund enjoys spoiling her brood with occasional home-made dog biscuits their own indoor and outdoor beds, and collar covers for the seasons.

lots of it, and giving him a good stroking along his back two times a day.

He demonstrates this after class and Garfield closes his eyes, as if he’s relishing a good massage.

The funny stuff is high on the list for the alpacas’ attributes, as well.

“When it’s hot, we’ll hose them off and they dance and prance, and actually look like little bal-

lerinas,” McDonald said. “They’re really fun animals.”

McGuire, too, loves the laughter Alice Ann brings. “The other day, she was pushing one of the dog’s toys around the floor,” McGuire said. “Then she cuddled up and fell asleep by it. ... I’ll tease her, ‘Alice Ann, I’m coming to get you.’

“If she’s in a bad mood, she’ll run. She absolutely brings joy to a lot of people, and me.” ♦



Get moving in the right direction

Spring Business Career Fair

Join us for this career information and employment event. Stop by during your lunch hour and visit with a variety of local employers and Aims faculty about career and employment opportunities. Along with Career Services, join the Accounting, Business Technology, CIS, and Marketing/Management programs as we host between 30-40 employers at this event.

Call 330-8008
or
(800) 301-5388
ext. 6264

11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Wednesday, May 7

Aims College Center
5401 W. 20th St.
Greeley

Learn new strategies for teaching math, science

Aims will host the annual Rocky Mountain Teacher Preparation Initiative conference Thursday, April 17, at the Greeley campus.

Registration for the all-day conference is required (for space-availability purposes), but there is no fee to attend. It will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the College Center and Beatty Hall. A continental breakfast will be served.

Registration is due today, April 11. Fax your name, number and address to Peggy Lofquist at CSU School of Education, (970) 491-1317, or register online at

www.colostate.edu/Depts/EdLicense/rtpi/main.html

The conference will bring together K-16 teachers, faculty and future teacher candidates to explore innovative teaching practices in science, math and technology, as well as enhance current partnerships between the northern Colorado community colleges and four-year institutions.

Cal Frazier, the former state Commissioner of Education and the co-chair of the Alliance for Quality Teaching and Peg Portscheller, executive director of the Colorado Association of School Executives, will be the keynote speakers.

Sessions include ideas on motivating students to learn science, accessing quality teaching resources through the Web, teaching experience in rural schools, science lab teaching through distance education, attracting and retaining underrepresented students in the community colleges and recruiting strategies, to name a few.

By attending, students can obtain one graduate credit from Colorado State University for \$55. More information, registration forms will be available during the conference.

The emphasis of the entire project is threefold:

- to have the community colleges and the universities collaborate to attract and retain greater numbers of students into the targeted teaching areas to serve rural communities;
- attract and retain larger numbers of minority students into the areas;
- and, to improve the preparation and current teaching of math, science and technology teachers and pre-service providers.

Teachers at all grade levels, administrators, students and faculty from northern Colorado should attend.

The conference is being made possible by a grant from the National Science Foundation.



Photo by Robert Waltman

Guillermo Demora from Greeley West High School last year was one of hundreds of students from 16 northern Colorado high schools to attend the annual Math, Science meet at Aims. The meet is scheduled this year for April 25 at Aims.

Wizardry in math, science

Hundreds of students will converge on Aims for annual contest and funky demonstrations

Students from roughly 30 high schools throughout northern Colorado will see the wizardry of science and math through several experiments and demonstrations Friday, April 25, at Aims for the annual Math and Science Meet.

This will be one way in which students can see some of the many unique applications of the math and science work they do in school and how it can be applied to the real world – and get all the pizza they can eat.

“Last year, the experiments were so cool, the students wouldn’t leave to get their free pizza,” said Betty Wilmoth, senior lab coordinator of the Math and Science Department. “We had lines of students waiting out the doors for some of the experiments.”

This will be the 18th year Aims has opened its college and lab doors to show area high school students the value and fun of science and math.

Students spend the first part of their day competing in a math and science contest vying for top honors

to boost their school transcripts in the areas of algebra, biology, chemistry, calculus, Earth science, geometry, physics and senior math.

Afterward, they can take part in several demonstrations. Some examples:

- Egg in the Bottle, in which presenters use scientific calculations to successfully pass an egg through a bottle;
- The Cloud Chamber, in which students can visualize cosmic rays;
- Lenz’s Law Tube, which shows how slow a magnet can drop through an aluminum tube
- Hover crafts: students can ride a hover craft as it floats on a cushion of air.

After lunch, the students will learn the results of their morning tests.

The top three winners in each category will receive cash prizes and engraved plaques.

The event is being made possible by the Hach Scientific Foundation in Loveland, which granted Aims \$5,000 earlier this year specifically for the event.

Insurance

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thought was that premiums would increase only 5 percent. Then it was upped to 7.5 percent. The latest, and final increases, come in at 9 percent, reported Tracy Hume. The trustees had before them five options of splitting the premium increases between the college and the employees.

By far, the board said they favored the option to split the increases 50-50 with employees, but the cost to Aims — an extra \$110,000 — would be a bit much given the economic climate. They seemed to be favoring the route of making employees pay 100 percent of the increases until trustee Dick Bond came up with a compromise to split the increases 75-25 between the college and the employees.

“Given the budget situation, it’s a gesture toward trying to meet the commitment we made years ago,” Bond said.

The board opted to approve a deal in which Aims pays 25 percent of the increases, while employees pay 75 percent for this coming year only. Single

Final monthly health insurance rates					
	Total premium	*SBCCOE	Aims contribution	Employee contribution 2003-04	Employee contribution Present
Employee only	\$323	\$15	\$281	\$42	\$21
Employee +1	\$660	\$15	\$574	\$86	\$44
Employee + family	\$761	\$15	\$662	\$99	\$50

* State Board of Community Colleges and Occupational Educational premium buy-down

employees’ costs will jump to \$42 a month; employee plus one will jump to \$86 a month and family rates will jump to \$99 a month.

Had the board gone with employees paying 100 percent of the increases, single employees would have paid \$49 a month, employees plus one would have paid \$98 a month, and families would have paid \$113 a month.

The board called it a compromise to their commitment two years ago to split any health insurance increases 50-50 with employees. They would not, however, take a suggestion to approve the

In other action:

The board of Trustees made no decision on premium increases for employees’ dental insurance or the possibility of eliminating Aims’ contribution to the employee flexible spending plan.

In other benefits changes, the board:

- Unanimously approved doing away with Aims’ contribution to employees’ dependant life insurance;
- Unanimously approved keeping the employee discount on childcare expenses at the Monfort Early Childhood Center.

rates for three years.

“I would agree to do this for one year since we are in turmoil,” said trustee Ken Nickerson. “Do we really want to try and predict and

figure what we’ll do if next year the rate increase comes in at 40 percent? To lock it into three years with this uncertainty...” ♦

Board gets wish: Students figure high in mission statement

It’s simple.

It’s catchy, even on the edge.

And it gives the board what it wants: a focus on students.

Aims now has a new mission statement, two sentences long and definitely to the point.

“We’re all about students. You’re dream is our mission.”

“(Before), it took us six paragraphs to get students in there,” said Trustee Ken Nickerson at the board meeting April 2.

Tons of background and research and about 4 pounds of chocolate went into two meetings in which a 13-member team hammered out a new mission statement

that won easy approval by the Board of Trustees.

“We went through a lot of mission statements,” said the group’s facilitator, Pat Breien. “We even asked for ideas from the faculty.”

The end result was not without a load of revisions, said Sue Young, who served on the committee. The second sentence almost said, ‘Their dream is our mission.’

“But we liked ‘your dream,’ because it felt like it was more of a team concept and it included everybody.”

**Aims: We’re all about students.
Your dream is our mission.**

As employees run out of their business cards, new cards will be ordered with the mission statement on the back.

The statement also will be printed in Spanish and braille.

The expanded mission statement in the college catalog will remain the same.

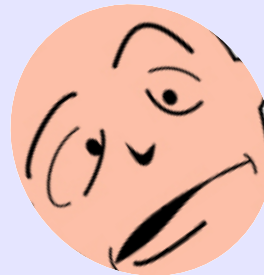
“Is it perfect? No,” Breien told the board. “We felt it was good and felt it met our goal. This is perhaps something people could remember.”

Bingo Schmingo!



If you find yourself falling asleep in the many meetings you may attend, put a check on your boredom with this innovative game we found in the Rocky Mountain News. We've renamed it, but the concept is the same. As you go through a meeting, when you hear the words in the box, check them off. Once you get five in a row in any direction, stand up and yell, 'Schmingo!'

If you come up with some goodies, feel free to write Aims Alive with your offerings.



Revisit	Value-Added	Result-Driven	Win-Win	Assessments
Problematic	Cohorts	Functionality	Ballpark	Synergism
Game Plan	Modalities	Think outside the box	Stakeholders	Bottom Line
Fast Track	Innovate	Basically or Clearly	Touch Base	Benchmark
Cost Control	Strategic	Knowledge Base	Proactive	Your own word here: _____

Student news

Waiting to tap into students' minds

The Aims community will get a chance to slip out of the ordinary next week and take some "virtual" vacations through the hypnosis stage act of Steve Meade.

The Student Programming council will bring Meade to Aims for one hour April 17 at the College Center to help audiences get away from it all with his "Virtual Reality" show.

The Virtual Reality Tour is a stage hypnosis show where the volunteers and audience are held spell-bound as they are taken on

a lifelike mental vacation using the power of hypnosis and their minds.

He will be at the College Center Lounge from noon to 1 p.m. Thursday, April 17.

Meade's hypnotic commands will quickly have stage volunteers dropping like flies.

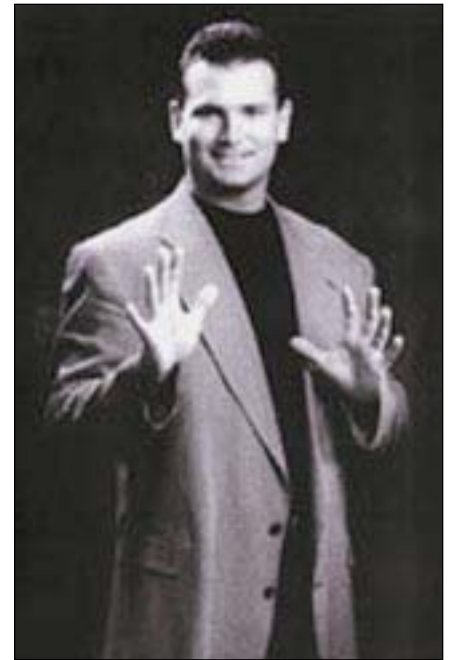
Under hypnosis, the first visit for volunteers on this mental vacation may be Jamaica, where they'll believe they're soaking in the rays on the beach. They could quickly move to a beach party competing in a

reggae dancing competition.

Meade could have stage volunteers believing they've turned into aliens, or a famous musical star, such as Madonna, Michael Jackson, or even Elvis.

Meade has been taking his act to corporations, colleges and high schools and festivals across the country for nine years, hypnotizing more than 10,000 people.

His show is totally interactive for volunteers and the audiences, and is done in a tasteful and responsible manner.



All performances are from 10:30 a.m. to noon every Wednesday at the College Center Lounge. Coffee's on the house.

April 16	Joel Ackerson & Seth Horan (alternative rock)
April 23	Deeper Than Most (Christian hip-hop/rap)
April 30	Readers Theater, featuring Children's Secret Holocaust Diaries
May 7	Canceled due to career fair
May 14	Doug Wood (acoustic alternative guitar)
May 21	Chad Hillje (DJ mixing LPs)
May 28	Stonewater Connection (rock)
June 4	Kidnap Lucky (punk rock)

Students plan Easter egg hunts



Thursday, April 17
Flashlight Egg Hunt for adults @ Loveland campus

Thursday, April 17
Easter Egg hunt for kids up to age 10
6:30 p.m.
College Center Lounge