



# The Monthly Rag

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Brought to You by the Feminist & Gender Studies Student Program

**Editor's Note:** This issue was vaguely inspired by conversations I have had around community (and the lack thereof) on this campus. These are not think pieces on how to be a better community, but more on what community does feel like- home. Not without it's own messes and complications. Home is what community feels like nonetheless.

## Houston This Past Month by Misbah Lakhani

Rest in Peace Takeoff. Migos is such a cornerstone of my recent life. In high school, it made me find people I love, was the beat we knew to start taking our heels off on at the school dance, always the perfect window-rolled-down-sun-roof-off-obnoxiously-loud-car afterschool drives music with friends. Casper was on the JBL during lunch so many days I'm surprised I'm not sick of it yet. Putting Migos on is the simplest and easiest way for me to start feeling myself. You gave me a gift I don't know how to repay. I played Migos on the way driving to queer prom and on the way out. It was the only thing that felt right. What else was I supposed to play?

Takeoff, do you know how sad it is for us that you died in Houston? Takeoff, do you know how ironic to me it is you died in Houston of all places? During World Series Season? Bro that's not even fair. I hope the city made it up to you by bringing this one home. Against the Yankees and against the Phillies. The north had NOTHING on us. I know Texas is its own thing, but we still the Southside. I hope it is enough even though I know it isn't. I keep thinking about how the streets seemed flooded with people and traffic downtown was standstill Saturday night. Minute Maid isn't that far away from where it happened. The parade Monday is a couple streets down from San Jac. I know it means nothing that I am writing to you. I am grateful though. My professor believes in me about knowing shit about rap and it is because of you. Cole got a lot to do with it too. But you and your uncle and your cousin (once removed?) got a lot to do with me knowing the healing & transformative power of music. I hope you rest in so much peace.

To be from Houston is an honor. Every day I learn more about my own city and I am so grateful. To have most of my time in America be in a city like Houston was the luckiest I could've gotten. I had the honor to adopt this culture that was gracious enough to adopt me. My people love Brown and Brown and Brown. Always. We pour into the city and it shows out for us. I know I am not the best versed in the city, but all I get to know makes me love this city more. These days I feel too distant from it. I can't yell at people going 65 in the fast lane on 59. I can't go to the Galleria just to spend all my money on food. I can't even see the gentrification happening in front of me.

Here, I am a Subaru with a TX license plate. Here when I go out on a Saturday night to secretly celebrate the Astros because like I for real don't know too much about sports but like it's the Astros and it's a Saturday night but all I get is white boy who played a TikTok rap song. Twice. I cry for a Galleria to take my money some days. I long for my dirty Galveston water. Here, I yearn for home every day.

I hoped for CC to be the place that I could love on my own, with my own apartment, my independence and my car and backpack and Doc Martins I tried to fit in with. Sadly, Colorado Springs is more my home than CC these days. And honestly I owe that to Houston too. How to navigate spaces and how to find people that are kind-hearted I learned back home. I found my mentors and the people organizing in the Springs easier because Instagram is the same everywhere. Finding BIPOC-owned and queer-owned businesses was easier because you always know when you have walked into a familiar space. Two years here and I now run into local artists at the airport that I met at Pride earlier this year. Her installation was really cool. Turns out she's also from Houston. Who would've thought.

## A Bit of Radio Journalism

Submitted by Jessica Duran



Here's a short, 3 and a half minute long piece covering the drag show that happened at Bemis last weekend with a focus on drag families.

## ~Announcements~

### Spray Graffiti on the Berlin Wall next Summer with the #FemGeniusesinBerlin

Dr. Heidi R. Lewis will be teaching her study abroad course, FG214|RM214|GR220 Hidden Spaces, Hidden Narratives: Intersectionality Studies in Berlin, next summer from June 5-23. Interested students should visit [www.FemGeniuses.com](http://www.FemGeniuses.com) for more information. Applications are due the **first Friday of Block 4**. Interviews will be conducted throughout **Block 4**, and decisions will be made by the end of that block.



## Framing Agnes Screening!



There is a very cool event we're having on December 12th! More details soon but please be on the lookout for it Block 4! It just premiered on Sundance and we are getting a special treat and get to see it before it is widely available. Without spoiling too much, it is queer and trans and has so much to say about who gets to tell who's story.

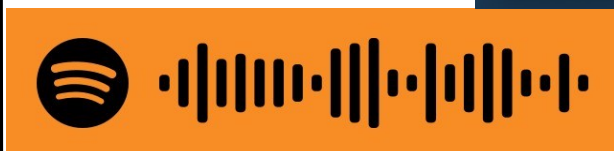
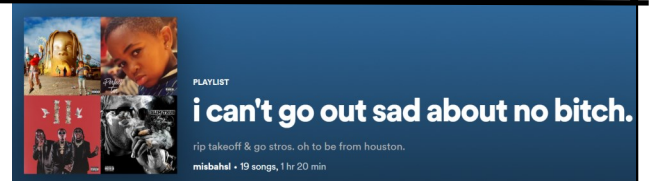
## Home by Sami Lorca

My home is in Colorado Springs. It's in Florida too, and in Chile, I find home in people – in places, memories, culture; home is in community. Home is everywhere, it's the people and places I go back to when everything is different and we're older, when grass fields have been turned to suburbia. Home is in lazy mornings when everything is quiet and perfect, in the sound of the ocean, in the places and people I can collapse into after exhausting days. Home is in the fishbowl with gummy bears when I have a paper due in three hours. Home is everywhere for me, but I still feel like I haven't found it.

It's hard to feel at home at CC... I should rephrase – it's hard to feel at home at CC as an institution. Home is found in the nooks and crannies of my apartment – in the clubs and groups that become my family on campus. In late nights dancing around in sweats to music from high school, in 'did you get home okay texts'. My home is in Colorado Springs. It's found with mi familia cuando quemamos el ano viejo or in making sopaipillas on a rainy day. In the way the community is willing to show up and show out for each other. Home is present when people drive hours to get to Denver for el 18, when they're willing to offer water to those walking for hours – community is vibrant in this city if the people passing through the Springs are willing to look past the walls on 25 and take an exit before Manitou. Willing to leave the bubbles that make this suburbia with nothing but the faith to land on something – into the kindness of people who will show up for you if you so much as look their way and smile. Community is fought for; it's forged in bonds that take work to maintain. I go home to my apartment, 'home' home in Springs, home to Florida, home to Santiago, home to my dog, home to my family, home to my people.

Home changes based on where you are. I've been in the Springs long enough to be from here, and I get that many people on this campus feel like they're just passing through. But that's not an excuse to not know about what's happening in the city everyone on this campus is spending more of the year than not. So let's talk about the Southeast. About the way that the north keeps pushing towards Monument, about the walls that let us pretend that the city isn't trying to push the people of Southern Springs into Pueblo. Let's talk about the joy in Fiestas Patrias, in Carino socials, in dance, in song, and in life. Let's talk to the people that build their lives here, to learn about them, not just about the service they can provide us students. Let's talk about what's happening in the Springs, about the joys that come from living here, alongside the frustration and heartache because home comes with both. And I know that community engagement isn't everyone's cup of tea, and that Springs may never feel like your home, dear reader, but Colorado is far more than a snowy getaway in the winter – it's my home and that of so many others, so treat it like one.

Rag Block 3 Playlist !!! Scan the Code or follow the Spotify @misbahsl



Scan the QR code for more of *The Monthly Rag*! Also, if you would like to submit to the **Block 4** or future editions of *The Monthly Rag*, please email **Misbah Lakhani** at [m\\_lakhani@coloradocollege.edu](mailto:m_lakhani@coloradocollege.edu)

