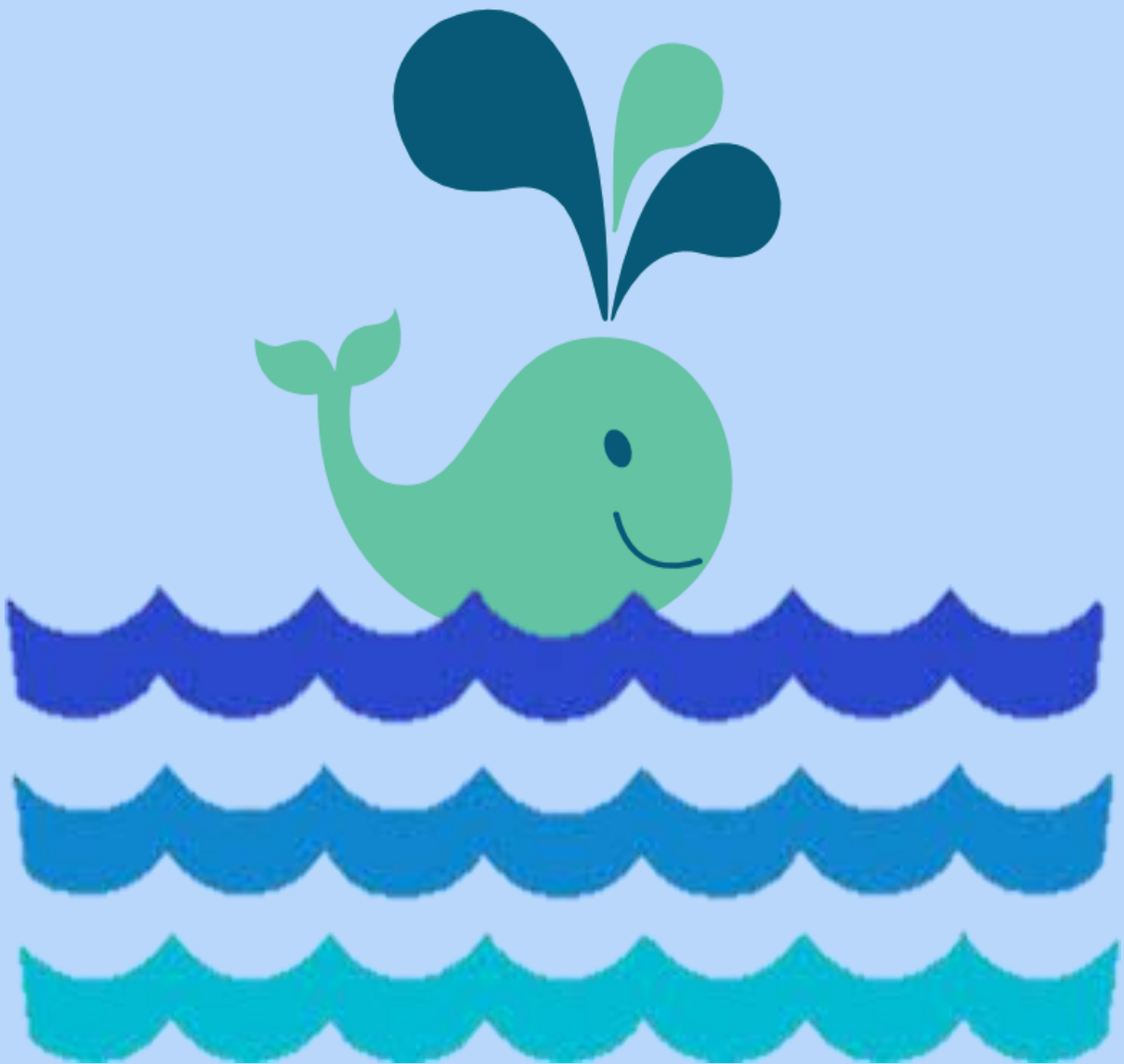


# *A Whale-y Great RA*

*Cheyenne McCoy*



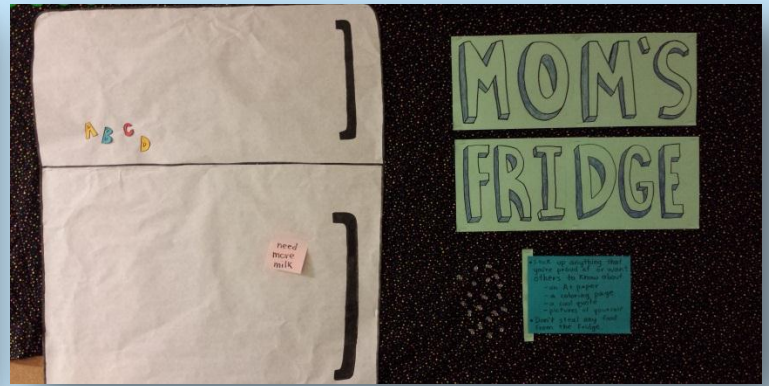
By Megan Pinkerton, Mary Jane Shively and Molly  
McGrew



# An o-FISH-al Resident Assistant

Within the institution of Colorado State University, the job position of a Resident Assistant (RA) encompasses many different aspects of student life. The first of these responsibilities, and possibly the most important, is to provide support for the students of his/her residence floor. This support can be shown in a variety of different ways. For example, just being present on the floor demonstrates to the students that there is always someone there to talk to. Also, the RA creates a space where students feel a sense of belonging by just providing someone to vent to. When having trouble, a student can turn to their RA as someone who can advise on social, academic, and a personal level. His/her room acts as a confidential space when a resident is having troubles or needs to talk. The RA also reserves the right to seek greater help if they feel it is needed. The RA also responds to any and all needs of students in a very timely matter. This includes everything from roommate troubles, to some sort of maintenance needed in a student's room.

Another responsibility of a resident assistant is to provide their students with different educational opportunities. These opportunities mostly include RA planned programs aimed at addressing student growth and development. Programs must be planned fairly regularly concentrating on the needs of their community. These programs should also include some sort of educational lesson in a fun and interesting way. A passive example of these programs can be in their monthly bulletin board.



Finally, some other responsibilities that the resident assistants have include enforcing university regulations and some administrative work. The RA must complete a duty a few times during a semester where they check all floors of the residence hall to enforce quiet hours, and to just check on the residents in general. They must also assist in the opening and closing of their residence halls before and after different school breaks. Along with these responsibilities, the RA attends weekly staff meetings and reports students thoughts and opinions to her superiors. This is in hopes to create a better-catered living experience to the students. The RA is also responsible for teaching and enforcing University Policy within his/her floor. This includes policy on noise, alcohol, drugs, safety, etc.

All in all, the resident assistant acts as a role model to students on their floor, as well as throughout the residence hall community as a whole. They act as shoulder to lean on, an event planner, and a liaison to the institution of Colorado State University.



# SWIMsational Spirit

Cheyenne is highly active throughout our campus as well as our community. While she does this, she carries herself with pride as well as Colorado State spirit. She participates in a variety of different activities that share her spirit with the students in her residence hall, as well as those throughout the University. These activities include programs she plans as a resident assistant (RA), as well as a volunteer in much bigger organizations and events.

The first example of how she shares her spirit with the students is by planning pep rallies with the other RAs before some of the major sporting events. Earlier this semester, there was an organized pep rally where students could come and get their faces painted, eat popcorn, and get excited before a home basketball game. This gave the residents an opportunity to express their school spirit along with the RAs and their peers.



Another example of how she shares her spirit is by working for the Colorado State Radio Station, KCSU. Within the radio station, Cheyenne is the music director as well as a DJ. This means that she chooses the music that gets played on air, and she also has her own radio show.

She uses her radio show to share her music preferences, as well as her school spirit with people on campus and people throughout the Fort Collins community.

And finally, she shows her school spirit and work ethic through larger events held throughout the community. For example, she has participated in volunteer programs known as CSUnity and Fall Clean Up for 3 years. These programs send students into the Fort Collins community to help under privileged families with tasks around their house. She has also volunteered with the Wildlands Restoration foundation and the Sustainable Living Festival. Along with this, she edits different films for non-profit organizations such as the Early Childhood Council of Larimer County.

Throughout her extremely busy schedule, Cheyenne is always showing pride and spirit for her school. This is just another example of what an incredible student, role model, and resident assistant she is.

# Making a SPLASH in Res Life

Connecting with a Residents Hall Assistant can be on a variety of levels, and each resident typically has a different experience. Personally, I believe that Cheyenne has such a large impact on each of her residents. Even though she is around the same age as most of her residents, Cheyenne really acts as a positive role model. Cheyenne is an honors student, showing a huge amount of dedication to her academics, her role as radio DJ, living out her passion for music, and she is just an overall kind, funny, and charismatic person. Cheyenne sets an example of dedication, hard work and an all around passion for life that really makes her an outstanding individual. Resident Assistants should not only act as a role model for their residents, but they should be someone residents can be friends with, and I believe Cheyenne is the perfect example of this. Cheyenne has made such a positive impact on my first year at Colorado State University. Like any big change in life, the transition to college was an overwhelming one to say the least, but having an RA as welcoming and engaging as Cheyenne really made me feel comfortable here and helped me have the confidence to talk to and make friends with great people I may not have thought to talk to before.





# The Best RA for SHORE!

Cheyenne goes above and beyond for her residents by planning events to get everyone engaged and just have a fun time by always being there as a mentor, a leader, and a friend. Throughout this past year, Cheyenne has planned programs to get us, her residents, to connect with each other and the Academic Village Community. One of these programs was playing the game Assassin, in which each resident had to secretly pin a clothespin on another resident and “kill” them. Playing this game helped residents feel more comfortable in our new homes and helped us connect with each other. Another activity Cheyenne planned was a hall Secret Snowflake, which was a fun way for the residents to take a break from the stress of finals and get excited for the holidays.





As an RA, Cheyenne does a great job listening to ideas presented by residents and working to make them possible. One of these ideas that was brought up at a hall meeting was painting a mural on our hall's walls. Cheyenne supported our idea and gave us freedom to choose what we wanted to paint. She then went above and beyond to get our mural idea approved by administration (we finally decided on album covers) and to help all of us sketch and paint our part of the mural.



Cheyenne really listens to residents' feedback and uses it to implement programs and activities that we enjoy and can get excited about. Another way Cheyenne goes above and beyond is just by always being available to talk, give advice, or just hang out with. The transition to college can be a scary new experience, and having someone whose door is always open to vent about chemistry or just talk about music and movies really makes a comfortable environment in an unfamiliar place. Cheyenne does more than just what is asked of her as an RA, she genuinely cares about her residents and helps them in whatever way she can. Cheyenne is a great RA, a great person and a great friend.

