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Flow Viz. – spring 2009
Visualization Report #5
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This was an image for the second clouds project, taken in mid/late April. I cannot recall the exact date as the metadata written by my digital camera was purged from the file for some reason. The original image I had hoped to use was of forming tornado clouds in Austin, TX, but a combination of low image quality (I took it using the webcam on my dads computer) and the fact that I wasn't physically there kept me from submitting it. I decided to use this image because after color correcting, I really liked the balance the building in the lower right offered to the calmness of the clouds, and the yellow tint reminded me of sunlight.

I took this image while walking down the street on my way to work. I had been looking at the sky and noticed that the rather overcast day had gradually turned sunny and the sky was covered with these sheet-like clouds. I took several pictures from a lot of viewpoints, and settled on this picture for the reasons stated above.

The clouds in the image I believe are Altocumulous, either translucidus, undulates or perlucidus. The closer the Front Range the clouds were, the thicker they seemed to be, and within a day or two it was raining. Interestingly enough this was the start of a rainstorm that delivered the most rain Boulder has seen in about five years. The clouds were at a very high altitude and seemed to be barely moving or deforming over time. I would guess the clouds to be at approximately 40,000 feet.

The camera used for this image was a Canon EOS 35mm rebel, and then the negative was digitized using a canon tabletop scanner. The lens is a 25-80mm zoom lens at f/4 aperture setting and a shutter speed of 1/1000. The film being used was Kodak ISO 100 daylight (blue) balanced film. The image was not heavily photoshopped. I removed some jpeg artifacts that came through in the digital transfer and also removed some things (trees mostly) that I thought took the focus away from the clouds. I color corrected the red channel of the image to yellow to change the color of the building, then burned it to drop it into the background a bit.

This image is revealing in the fact that it more or less predicted the onset of rain. Both times I have done clouds assignments I have photographed these types of clouds and both times there has been rain within 48 hours of viewing time. This is pretty much right in line with everything I could find about these clouds, with the one exception that everything I could find said they were fast

moving, but these seemed very static. It is possible this was just a matter of perspective because of how high the clouds are.