



EUReKA!

SPONSORED BY COLUMBIA COLLEGE'S STUDENT BODY GOVERNMENT, ASCC

SPRING 2016 EDITION

**LOWER MANZANITA
REMODEL
COMING SOON!**

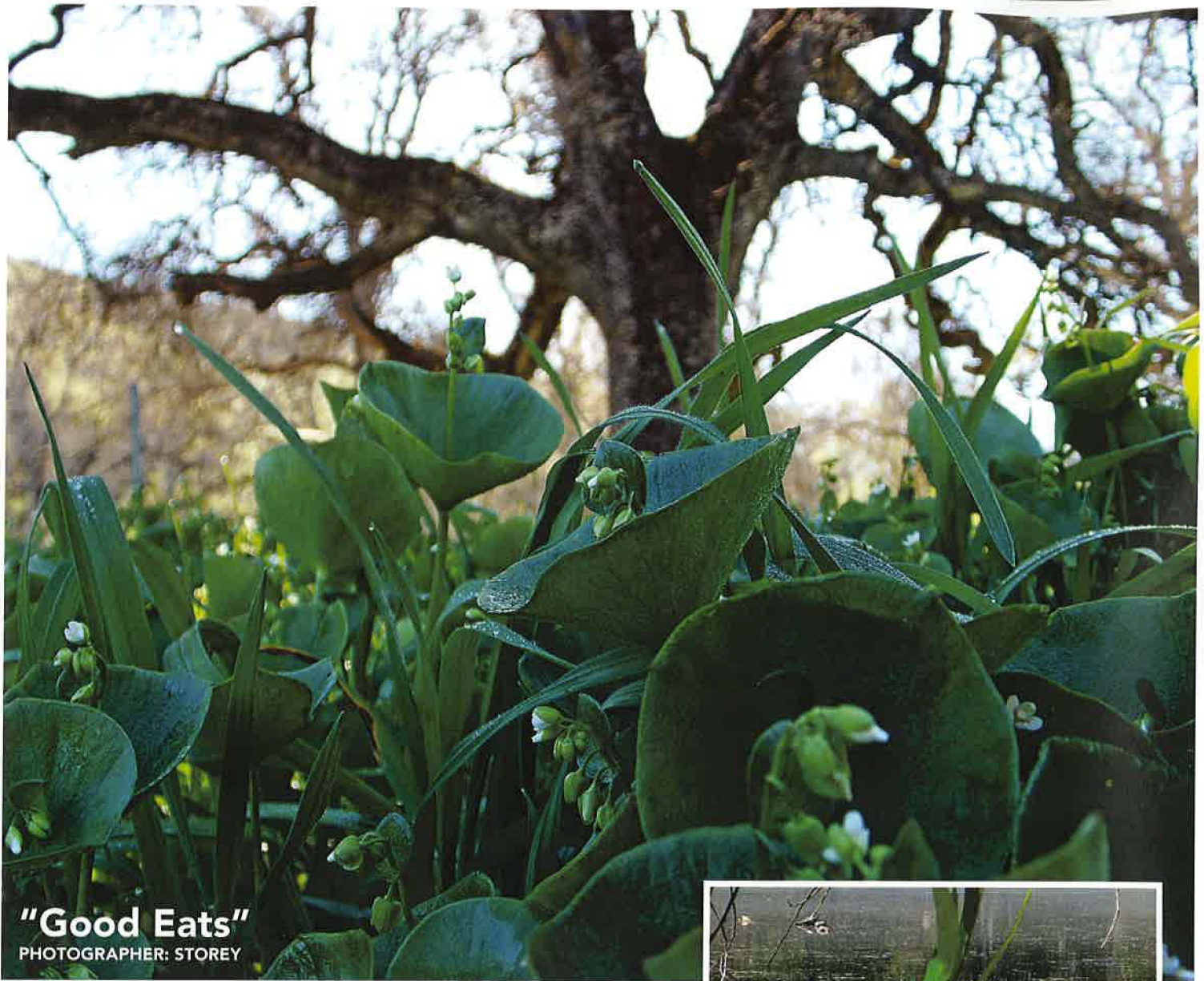
**STUDENT
VETERANS
CENTER OPENS**

**FAREWELL TO
CHEF WOMBLE**

**HOW TO HACK
THE ELECTION**

COVER PHOTOGRAPH BY STOREY





"Good Eats"

PHOTOGRAPHER: STOREY

Next Edition: PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST!

**Submit your own photograph for a chance
to be a published photographer!**

Individual Categories:

**One On-Campus; One Off-Campus;
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mstorey1@student.yosemite.edu



"Heron"

PHOTOGRAPHER: C. WILKINSON

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A Word from the Editor

Howdy. I'm Storey. I'm the editor of this paper and I'm hoping that one of you fine students out there reading this is thinking, "Yeah, I'd like to get into this newspaper business here at the college. I bet it would look sweet on a resumé." Well you're right, it would look sweet on a resumé, and you're in luck!

There's room for you, whoever you are, you beautiful human. Get on board and write, make busy work with your life, and take part in your community college life!

That's all I got. Oh, I guess a disclaimer is in order:

Christina and I are pretty much the only ones doing all the hard stuff, so if something on here isn't that great, just keep in mind it's done by a couple of students who also have midterms, homework, real jobs, and home lives. So if you have improvements and suggestions, I suggest you get involved and get your hands dirty along with us.

-Storey

EUREKA!

EUREKA! is a Newspaper run by students for students with support and guidance from the Associated Students of Columbia College (ASCC).

DISCLAIMER!

The opinions, beliefs and viewpoints expressed by the various authors and participants in the publication do not necessarily reflect the opinions, beliefs and viewpoints of the Associated Students of Columbia College (ASCC) Leadership and Columbia College.

WANT TO CONTRIBUTE?

Do you have any comments or want to recommend something for an article? Are you interested in contributing to the newspaper?

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COLUMBIA'S NEWEST ADDITION: The Veterans Center



League of Veterans (LOV) club Treasurer, Robert Shepard, serves up burgers during the Student Veterans Center grand opening, while President, Aaron Rasmussen; and Vice President, Trent Brown look on.

VETERANS CENTER

It was a cool February day as the sun was hidden away by grey clouds and the wind blew ferociously; Columbia was too busy to notice though, as they celebrated the grand opening of the Veterans Center. Crowds formed around the little tucked away building of Toyon as the smell of meat and smoke wafted from the barbecue and brought together veteran and civilian students alike, sharing laughter and Cheetos over the delicious, juicy burgers. "It's taken us two years," Christina Wilkinson, founder of the League of Veterans Club here on campus said, "...but we finally have our own space. Not to say we're exclusive—far from that, we encourage all students to come and be a part of our program. It's the services we offer that are focused on vets."

Christina got the ball rolling for the Veterans Center in Spring 2015 with input from Bill Hurst, another veteran student at Columbia, and it's been an arduous climb to finally get their own space. Sometimes with only two members, the League of Veterans (LOV) would meet during the 2014-2015 school year, and try to figure out how to grow in our small college. As a chapter of the Student Veterans of America (SVA), the LOV was given a few words of advice that helped the organization. Christina discussed where those words came from, "I attended an SVA conference sponsored by Uber," she said, leaning forward in her chair with an excited smile, "...all of the travel and lodging was paid for by the SVA. I'll never forget the words that I heard there: 'Concentrate on the people who are at your meetings, and the word will spread.' And it has."



The location for the new Veterans Center.

SLOWLY BUT SURELY

It wasn't all peaches from there, though, as word was still slow to travel. Columbia's rules on privacy don't allow clubs and organizations to use the school's list of students to send out information via mass mailing lists, phone numbers, or emails to students; however, the administration has helped wherever they could. The new Dean of Student Equities, Brandon Price, was especially instrumental in moving forward with securing a location on campus for the veterans.

"Columbia has been incredibly helpful and good to us," Aaron Rasmussen, president of the Columbia League of Veterans said during the barbecue. "They were able to allocate this wonderful little space to our program and help with funds to pay for a student worker to be consistently available. Brian Jensen, a counselor specifically for special programs, will even be here a couple days a week for veteran drop-in appointments." Bill Hurst, a veteran student and student ambassador here at Columbia, agreed that the administration has been pivotal to their success. "The administration has been on our side since the start. Getting all this together has been pretty smooth sailing. Getting more people involved—well that's another story." The help received from the few veterans taking part, though, has been incredible. Even cleaning up after the party had volunteers a-plenty. "Our host told us to leave the grill and go home after we're done and she'd take care of cleaning. But we weren't having any of that!" Bill laughed, pride in his eyes as he spoke of his fellow vets. "We got all the cleaner, made sure everything was shinier than when we got it, returned it where it was supposed to go—we do things the right way!"

OFFICE SPACE

The services offered won't just allocate more resources to veterans—it offers them their own space and the network to connect with other veterans. "Many vets come home with PTSD and have difficulty integrating back into society,"

Christina said, the room around her full of veteran students nodding their head in solemn agreement, "and we're hoping to create a space where vets can help vets. Only veterans know what it's like to be in the military, to understand how it really affects

you, and this room gives us a chance to connect and help each other. Vets helping vets—that's what we're here for." The room, with its old-wood panels and snug space, was well-received by the other student veterans in the room. "It's cozy," one student commented, "I definitely feel comfortable here. Heck, I might just take a nap."



Veterans Bill Hurst and Christina Wilkinson enjoy the new Student Veterans Center.

CHALLENGES

OF VETS

It may seem strange to allocate so many resources to the veterans, as it appears they have so much assistance already with the GI bill paying their way. However, Aaron, the LOV president and student veteran, cleared up any misconceptions about that. "Vets have it hard. They go to war, get shot at, spend four, eight, ten years in the service and dedicate their lives to our country. Then they come home and find out that, because they're a vet, they have all these extra hoops they have to jump through just to get enrolled." The GI bill may pay for education, but it has certain stipulations that make it difficult to use. A vet may get \$30,000 dollars allocated to his or her education, but it has to be used within a 36-month period. That's only three years—many students don't even finish Community College within that time. "Many vets pay out-of-pocket for community college so they can use their GI at a university level," Aaron continued passionately. "They come to get registered—and vets have priority registration—but what often happens is that due to all the complications, they don't actually get registered until near the end of the registration period when all the classes have already filled up. We're hoping to streamline registration, financial aid, state programs—everything they need to get into classes, earn their degrees, and get their lives on track." e



LEAGUE OF VETERANS
COLUMBIA COLLEGE • SONOMA CA

Website:

lovcolumniacollege.blogspot.com

Meeting Times & Location:

The League of Veterans at Columbia College meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month from 10:30 am to 11:15 am in the Toyon Bldg, Room 1. Anyone is allowed to join in and find out how you can become involved in helping our Veterans thrive on campus.



BRIAN JENSEN
Special Programs
Counselor
Toyon veteran Drop-ins:
Wed/Thurs
8:30 - 11 AM



BILL HURST
Student
Ambassador

Hours:
Mon - Wed 9-5
/ Fri 10-3

The Student Veterans Center is open from Monday – Friday, 8am – 6:30pm. It is all-inclusive, so no student will be turned away. Brian Jensen is available on Wednesday/Thursday from 8:30 – 11 for drop-ins for veterans. Bill Hurst is available Monday – Wednesday 9am-5pm and Friday 10am-3pm.



Tamara Oxford, M.D.

Stressed out? Anxious? Overwhelmed?

Feeling sad, lonely, frustrated or blue? Do you have Test Anxiety? Get Panic Attacks? Feeling lost? Maybe you just need a shoulder to cry on or an empathetic ear. Did you know that Health Services at Columbia College includes personal counseling? Tamara Oxford, Ph.D., LMFT is a licensed counselor available here on campus for students. You may have met Tamara at one of her outreach sessions. She often guest lectures in classes, facilitates Student Success Workshops, and can be seen participating in events all around campus.

Dr. Oxford says that anxiety and stress are the most common reasons students visit with her. Anxiety may be specific, like test anxiety in math; it may be a generalized feeling of chronic worry about life's events; or, it may be a negative voice in your mind that undermines your efforts, bombarding you with self-critical thoughts. Anxiety, stress, and worry often derail students' academic success, and Tamara has many practical tools and techniques that can help you stay on track.

Dr. Tamara Oxford's office is located in Fir 3A, near the Health Services office (Juniper 2). You can drop-in and see her, but, better yet, make an appointment and she will reserve that time for you. Make an appointment by calling any of the following numbers:

TAMARA 588-5346
HEALTH SERVICES 588-5204
COUNSELING 588-5019

The Academic Achievement Center

The AAC is designed to help students become successful and independent learners. Are you having a difficult time understanding the complex ideas presented in class? Are you afraid you will get behind? Maybe you just want to bounce ideas off another mind? AAC tutors were once in your place and can help you learn the strategies to succeed. In fact, students who receive tutoring have a 20% higher success rate in their classes. The AAC employs trained peer tutors who have excelled in their classes and have been recommended by faculty. Besides assisting with specific classes, tutors in the AAC are ready to help with note taking skills, study strategies for upcoming exams, organization, global reading versus local reading,

and many other significant skills.

Tutoring appointments can be made for half-hour sessions twice each week per subject. There is also something called SI sessions that are hour-long study sessions facilitated and led by SI leaders—students who have demonstrated mastery of course content. SI leaders attend lectures and help peers integrate course content and study skills in a group setting. If you don't really need tutoring and you just want to study, the AAC is a great place to do so. Computers and studying areas are available, along with free printing of up to ten pages per week. **ALL AAC SERVICES ARE FREE OF CHARGE.**

CONTACT THE AAC!

588-5088
or drop by
during these hours:

Mon - Wed:
8:30 AM- 7:00 PM
Thur: 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM
Fri: 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Second Story Tamarack!



Did you know we have a food bank here on campus?

Make eating in college that much easier!
Available at the Student Center
(Ponderosa Building)

Mon-Thur 8AM-4PM
and Fri 8AM-2PM
or appointment,
call 588-5111
or 588-5270



New Staff

Stephanie Beaver Alder



Please welcome Stephanie Beaver Alder to Columbia College in her position as Special Programs Counselor. Stephanie comes to us from Woodland Community College where she served as an adjunct counselor providing comprehensive counseling services to a diverse, multicultural student population in the TRiO Program, EOPS Department, Transfer Department, and general counseling. During her career at Woodland, she coordinated and implemented the Woodland Community College Fair, transfer admissions guarantee, and UC and CSU application workshop—all while counseling students. Stephanie organized mental health workshops through foster and kinship care education coordinating with county independent living programs. She also served as an academic/career counselor for the Yocha Dehe Wintun National Education Department where she provided individual counseling for tribal citizens attending community colleges. She coordinated a college in the CalWORKS department where she provided education, personal academic, career/vocational counseling and advising to CalWORKS students. Stephanie recently moved to a home near Columbia College with her 3-year-old daughter, Anabella.

Stop by Manzanita 209, located near Financial Aid and EOPS, and welcome Stephanie to Columbia College!

Michael Igooe



Please welcome Michael Igooe, Columbia's new Director of Access, Retention, & Support Services, meaning he will be involved in outreach, student success activities, overseeing student ambassadors, and veteran services. Michael Igooe was previously the Assistant Director of Financial Aid, Scholarships, and Veterans Services at Delta College in Stockton. Prior to that role he was Director of the Program for Academic and Career Excellence, a U.S. Department of Education-funded 5-year-grant at CSU Stanislaus in Turlock, CA. His academic background

TRiO Student Support Services

TRiO Student Support Services (SSS) helps students go beyond expectations and reach higher for their educational dreams. We call it "becoming a scholar...not just a student". The concept is simple, higher expectations brings higher achievement, and we provide intensive support at every step of the way to ensure you CAN reach those lofty goals. Some of the unique things we do to help our students stand out are to offer emotional support through peer mentoring and mini-celebrations throughout the year. We offer social networking opportunities through our field trips to universities and mixer events on our campus. We allow you to connect to campus in a meaningful way by providing a home-base on campus, where you can meet up with other students who have similar goals and experiences. There are many services provided, completely free of charge and completely customized to your unique needs as a student.

Check-out our website for more details and fill out an application now to enroll right away!

Students qualify for services by being ONE of the following: low-income; a disability; a first-generation college student (meaning neither parent completed a bachelor's degree). Students must also commit to graduating from Columbia College and transferring to a university within four years of enrolling in the TRiO SSS program.

All services are confidential, free, and fun! Just ask our successful alumni and currently enrolled students! We have a proven record for increasing your chances of graduating quicker, getting a higher GPA, getting more scholarship awards, getting into the best university, selecting the right major for the right career path for you, and enjoying your educational journey!!!

✓ Ready to ~~Go Beyond~~ to become a Scholar...not just a student?

✓ Do you want to transfer with the highest GPA, to the University of your choice with a maximum of Scholarships?

TRiO Student Support Services is the key to your success at Columbia and beyond!

Apply today!

Manzanita 212, 588-5066, or www.gocolumbia.edu/trio

TRiO  STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

began with a Bachelor's of Science at the U.S. Air Force Academy. After four years serving in the Air Force he completed Masters degrees in Human Relations and Counselor Education from University of Oklahoma and CSU Stanislaus. Originally from East Tennessee, he and his wife, Claire, and

their two daughters, Quinn and Bree, are excited to be moving from Modesto to the Sonora area.

Stop by Manzanita 203, located inside the Admissions and Records office, and introduce yourself and welcome Michael to Columbia College!

HOW TO HACK THE ELECTION

with Online Voting

By Christian Wilson

"You could rig the election from the comfort of your kitchen."

Imagine it's the 2032 election and you've just woken up on a bright November 2. You check your smart phone, noticing that today happens to be Election Day. Following several quick Internet searches, you learn the stances of the three major candidates: Robama, a left-leaning robot created in the image of the 44th president, jockeying to be the first Robot-American President of the United States; a paper cutout of Ronald Reagan who, after cutting himself in half to symbolize the tax cuts he is proposing, stitched himself back together to prove just how well suited he is for rebuilding America; and the ghost of Steve Jobs who, after becoming bored of the afterlife, decided to pursue a career in politics as a third-party candidate. After several minutes of studying your choices, you cast your vote with the tap of a button from the comfort of your own home. You remember that this system was piloted in the 2030 mid-term elections to great effect and that the 2032 election will be the first American election to be held entirely online; the Netherlands having already completed the world's first fully digital election in 2026. Sounds cool, doesn't it? But is online voting really secure? As it turns out, there are three simple attacks that could tip the scales of this landmark election.

The first method of rigging the election is just a simple phishing attack: send out a bunch of fraudulent emails, linking everyone to your Totally Legit Polling Page™ where they can vote for the candidate you most agree with. Don't believe this can work? Of the 320 million people in the United States, about 30 million of them each year fall for "This One Trick so Simple, It'll Blow Your Mind!" Phishing Emails are one of the largest markets in the world of cybercrime. Just think how bad it could become when these people go from selling you fake penis

pillars to electing the leader of the free world. And who's to say that it would stop at the script-kiddie cybercriminals? Wouldn't it be in the best interest of [insert enemy of freedom and bald eagles here] to control the outcome of the election? Online voting makes this process so easy, you could rig the election from the comfort of your kitchen.

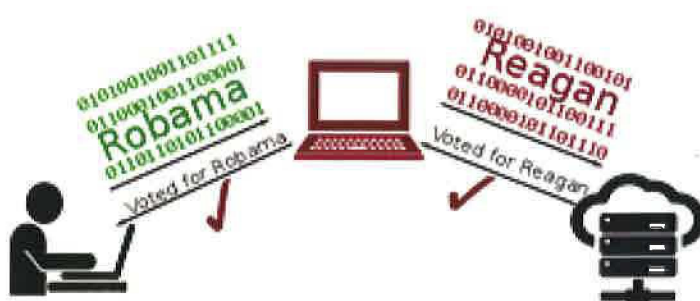
"But my phishing website wouldn't have the little green lock, indicating that it's a secure connection to a trusted website! You're a dumb idiot head!" you might say. First of all, "dumb idiot head"? That's all you could come up with? Secondly, I would like to point you to the Superfish incident, which was when Lenovo gave themselves the ability to intercept and rewrite the contents of web pages sent over a secure connection. What Superfish did was execute what is known as a Man-in-the-Middle attack. You can think of a MITM attack as someone cutting the string between the two tin cans you call an internet connection and attaching their own tin can, allowing them to listen in and impersonate you or the other end. "But Superfish had to already be installed on your computer!" you might reply. Just a few months ago, Symantec—one of the companies your computer, smartphone, tablet, and refrigerator implicitly trust to vouch for the authenticity of websites (known as a Certification Authority, or CA)—fired three employees who issued fake certificates for Google, allowing these employees to pretend they are Google and have the green padlock next to the address bar. These employees never got away with anything, but security researchers discovered in 2011 that the CA DigiNotar had been breached and fake certificates for Gmail were being used in the wild to transparently spy on an estimated 300,000 Iranians. The researchers dubbed this incident "Operation Black Tulip." If Google—one of the most securely designed websites on the internet and with whom

you trust your internet search history, browser history, bank account information, and a million other things—can be impersonated, what can we say about the lowest bidder?

These two attacks come before even considering the implementation of the actual election website itself. The reason this "independent" contractor was able to give the government such a low price might have been because they weren't as independent as you thought. There is simply no guarantee that your vote is even counted after you press the button. In the end, all that is going to happen is the Totally Independent Polling Website™ is going to tell us that the winner wasn't Robama, Paper Cutout Reagan, or even Spooky Steve Jobs, but it was the company's owner who was running as a write-in candidate. And look: they've got all of the vote records to verify it. It's too bad that voting is a completely anonymous process, or else you would be able to question these voters as to who they actually voted for. Really? Your complex election rigging system was for nothing all because the people hired to count the digital ballots were rigging the election themselves? Too bad; that's politics.

That isn't to say these are the only problems with online voting. There are so many other problems, you could cover one method per week and have enough content to last for years (which gives me an idea...). In fact, there are countless articles on why you shouldn't even trust the electronic ballot boxes which are already in widespread use today. The difference is that with physical voting, we have literally had thousands of years and millions of elections to devise, use, and defend against nearly every voter-fraud trick in the book. Now days, physical voter fraud is so difficult and inconvenient that even when it does happen, the effect on the overall election is minuscule. But when you can change millions of votes in real time, as they

happen? This is an advancement on such an unprecedented scale that nobody is even equipped to begin to combat it. So next time someone comes to you claiming that they've "solved online voting," think of how to break it; because if even you can imagine how to break it, just think what governments and companies with billions of dollars invested in the outcome can do. **e**





FORESTRY & NATURAL RESOURCES

columbia college

The Forestry & Natural Resources Club at Columbia College was established in Fall of 2013 by students of these programs. Additional students and teachers involved come from geology and GIS backgrounds.

Each year, this very active club has held many events and had opportunities to work with communities in Calaveras County and Tuolumne County.

They have built a community garden in Calaveras County, participated in several parades right here in Sonora, held natural resource events on campus to help educate others, such as the Back to Nature Film Festival for three years, raised money through Christmas tree sales for three years, and lots of other fun events.

Many of the students from these programs go on to work for the U.S. Forest Service, Highway 108 Safe Council, the Bureau of Land Management, Department of Fish & Wildlife, ACRT, as well as other well-known organizations.

Club meetings are currently every Tuesday at 2 pm in Sugar Pine, room 115.



The FNR Club enjoying a meal at The Cellar on campus for a club meeting in 2015.



Collecting goods for Butte Fire victims in 2015.

SHALLOT NEWS

Have you seen this new species of invasive duck in our San Diego Reservoir?

Introduced during the Great Migration of 1912, the Wood-Bellied Duck frightens other male ducks with its freakishly unresponsive behavior. Occasionally you might see an alpha mallard or goose try to frighten away the Wood-Bellied Duck, getting in its face and trying to appear larger, but the Wood-Bellied Duck never responds, unnerving the alpha and causing him to flee and leave behind his territory and duckettes.

If you look closely in the photo below, the duck's proud chest has below it a strange, stringy appendage below it in the water. This is an interesting evolutionary change from your regular duck, as most ducks don't have a strange spring-like appendage. This is here for two reasons: first, to anchor it into place in order to achieve maximum stillness; and second, to use as a weapon in case its strange behaviors don't scare away predators or potential duck threats. A form of talon, these new appendages have scientists stumped.

The duck's calm camouflage is so effective that it's often confused with fake ducks used by scientists and hunters, which they then go to collect. The Wood-Bellied Duck then infiltrates

the scientist's or hunter's home, and here we see another strange behavior: the duck will remain absolutely still, but when the house is empty it will go into personal documents and change things around, specifically in tax records, and cause the individual to get audited and sometimes jailed for tax fraud. The duck then assumes the position of Head of Household, usually stealing the wife and bank accounts, goes on a brief drinking binge, and leaves during the night before anyone can catch onto its ruse. The Wood-Bellied Duck is almost impossible to see through, so if you see one, leave it alone.

THE SHALLOT NEWS: A Columbia College Onion

The Shallot is Columbia College's source of satirical news and silly articles. Think you're funny? Read this article and feel awful and bitter afterwards at the pathetic attempt at comedy? Well show us how it's done! Send something in and become a published comedian writer. Or don't. We don't care. We'll just keep writing awful joke articles anyways.

Mstorey1@student.yosemite.edu



STORYTIME

Short Stories Contributed by Columbia College Students

ÚTERO

by Kierin Harrison

I could feel the transmission coming along the towline secured into my belt.

“Hola, hombre, que se divierten por ahí?” Am I having fun out here? What an ass. “Eh?” The stifled laughing in the background of the audio gave them away.

“Oi!” I hollered back into the microphone, raising my voice enough to fill the transmission bay with feedback, “If Santo and Ramirez are in there, tell ‘em their mothers chupar la polla!”

“Hahahaha! La polla...!” I listened as they all exited. No one but Alejandro was supposed to be in there anyway. He chuckled to himself and responded, “Seriously, amigo. How’s it coming?” “All good out here. Just finishing up on Panel 8; this is the last one.” “Excelente! Holler when you need the bay doors opened up.” “Will do,” I answered.

After connecting the blue cable in my hand to the corresponding adapter on the circuit board, the repairs to Panel 8 were finished. I slammed the hatch to the circuit box, retrieved my bag, and backed away from the structure to the edge of the catwalk. With a hop, I floated up away from Panel 8. Off to my right stretched Panels 1-7, over two hundred miles of polycrystalline silicon sheets. Nearing the uppermost rim, I casually signaled the internal computer to activate the lightshade on the window of my helmet, vital for surviving before the awesome spectacle shining on the other side. 12 million miles away—2/3 its distance from Mercury—sat the Almighty Sun, blazing in all her glory. No person can keep from smiling at the sight. I’ve seen this very view countless times, and she still takes my breath away.

Taking advantage of my zero-gravity environment, I slowly brought my arms to shoulder level and quickly back down again, slamming the emergency-return button on my left hip. The towline (or UB.C. for Umbilical Cord, a witty nickname for the life-preserver) began to tense from the fixed end and I gave a slight kick, which, combined with my previous arm gestures, sent me into a dizzying back-flip. In a matter of seconds the UB.C. caught up with itself; I became stationary for a moment, then shot through space—at almost seventy miles per hour—toward the heap of America-made gadgetry and metal, affectionately known as Marilyn.

The red, white, and green emblazoned above the UB.C. Platform was our only souvenir from home on Big Blue, Earth’s call name. My speed decreased rapidly and I was guided to one of four breaks in the platform’s railing. Just as I touched down, the UB.C. went flaccid and allowed me to guide it over toward “útero,” as Santo had once joked. After I unhooked the cord from my belt, the UB.C. whipped wildly back into its hole, like a lizard’s tongue after tasting the air.

“Loco this thing, eh?” Santo had said, “Like a parasite or a worm hiding in útero!”

By this he meant “the womb” and proceeded to tickle/attack Alejandro’s abdomen, laughing excitedly. Santo always was a bit too handsy, physical; we all secretly agreed he was homosexual, but with a wife and niños at home we didn’t dare question. Don’t ask, don’t tell, as Americans said. Santo, though, was on to something, but the UB.C.s weren’t the parasites; we were connected by an umbilical cord to Marilyn, our womb. Without her, we were nothing, had nothing.

Steadily, I walked along the side of the platform nearest to the wall and punched the doorbell. Up above, a quiet whirring indicated the now present but camouflaged security camera followed by the tinks and thuds of the massive bay doors shifting open.

Thirteen feet across and sixteen feet tall, the gates wispily parted enough for me to pass between them into the cargo bay. After they slid shut again, I felt the room pressurize, set my bag on the floor, and began dismantling my suit next to my locker. The black, stencil lettering “José” with the white-painted accent over the “e” to correct it, stared down at me.

Those bastardos never even bothered to get my name right.

Ramirez came bustling into the bay, struggling with an empty container of food rations. “You good?” he called out.

Hastily, I shoved all my loose items into my locker and called back, “Si!”

Ramirez slammed the artificial gravity lever into the “Off” position and everything in the room gradually lifted off the floor. Those things of importance were already secured to only float a few inches, but tools, spare wiring, and everything else—including Ramirez, the container and I—settled halfway to the ceiling. A slight push off my locker landed me on the other side of the food container and I helped Ramirez guide the behemoth to the Excess Hull.

M. Ramirez was a small man, shorter than me, and very skinny. He rarely left the confines of Marilyn; the rest of us handled the heavy lifting while he kept our home in order by managing the kitchen stock, running the laundry process, and dealing with minor technical difficulties onboard. Ramirez was the only one of our crew without a familia back on Big Blue, which had struck us as odd. He said that his pay was going into a trust fund for college, though we were never quite sure if it was for him or possibly future children. Either way, it didn’t make sense.

“This job,” Alejandro had told me, “un boleto de ida.”

(continued on next page)

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We were sitting alongside the Rio Grande, throwing rocks into the water from our hilltop perch. The landscape on the other side, tarnished with razor wire and chain-link fencing, sat tempting us with its enormity; its freedom. Like hundreds of people before us, staring at this very view, at the roaring river and the daunting desert, Alejandro and I were contemplating our future.

A one-way ticket with the promise of cold, hard American dinero sent home. Lots of it.

For him, the decision was simple, for me not so much.

"So, how are things out there?"

Ramirez's voice caught me off guard, pulling me from the memory. "Oh, huh? Oh, si, si," I stammered back. I reached into my bag and pulled the wasted array of wires from its depths. Due to the lack of oxygen in outer space, fire was rarely an issue; however, the super-heating of equipment was, especially on our solar collectors. "Third box totally destruido this week. On top of the two last week and one the week before. It's getting worse. The panels can't handle the amount of energy they are gathering."

"Jesús Cristo. You not afraid going out there?" Ramirez looked physically pained as he spoke, as if the very thought of potentially endangering tasks wounded him on the spot.

"No, no. The procedures are all in place. The panels are never close to active while I'm out there."

Ramirez shrugged, pivoted to the door, mentioned something about dinner being soon, and was gone.

At that very moment, the intercom crackled to life,

"José. José to the transmission bay."

"It's almost dinner! Talk to me there!" I hollered back, as if Alejandro could hear me.

He was, however, watching me on the

security cameras because after I flipped him off, he responded, "We have a call, idiota." A call? At this hour?

I checked my watch, which I always kept on Earth time, to find that it was just passed 1:00 a.m. at home.

I hustled to the transmission bay that sat almost directly above me. I stopped to drop the mangled, mess of wires into the hazardous-refuse chute, and entered the bay shielding my eyes from the blaze of colored lights and switches dotting the control board.

"Jesús, what took you so long? You know Big Blue hates to be left waiting," Alejandro said cynically.

"I only... oi, screw it. It's a little early for a call from home, huh?"

"That's what I said," he agreed. "This is 42-MM-8420, calling Big Blue. Big Blue, copy?"

Alejandro had to use the technical name for Marilyn on radio—the MM we assumed stood for the iconic namesake our title paid homage too.

"This is Big Blue responding. You ready?" "Shoot 'em our way."

The eagle silhouetted by stars stared back at Alejandro and me, the emblazoned symbol of the company we worked for. Then it cut out and a group of seven people huddled around a computer screen appeared on the massive monitor of the transmission bay. There was my mamá, Rosa; Alejandro's mamá, Julieta; Uncle Hector; our cousins, Jimmy and Juan-Carlos; and finally Arianna and the sweetest baby boy on the planet, Diego, who was asleep in his mother's arms.

"Ayyyyy! Hola, hola!" everyone shouted excitedly at us.

Alejandro and I waved back, grinning. I lingered on the sleeping boy, but was forced to look away when a barrage of questions flooded from the monitor.

"Cómo son mis hijos?" both our mothers asked at the same time.

This provoked hysterical laughter amidst the entire group, obviously the tequila had been flowing tonight. The laughter, however, awoke baby Diego, who proceeded to scream to the heavens. His mother quickly put a finger to his lips and exited the room so that his noise would not distract from the conversation.

The banter continued unfazed by the removal of the two participants. The questions were all the same, every time: "Have you seen any aliens?" "How's the weather out there?" "We miss you both, when are you coming home?" Likewise, Alejandro and I supplemented with: "Have you been receiving the checks?" "How is the new house?" "Does anyone need anything?" All the while, Arianna and Diego remained out of view.

After only ten minutes, conversation began to thin, and then the dinner bell came ringing through the station. We bid everyone a good night and right before the video reverted to the eagle and stars, the sweet niño appeared and waved, just as his mother scooped him up and waved with him. Then the eagle, then black.

"He looks like you, you know."

I searched for the smile in Alejandro's face, but he was serious.

"Yeah. I suppose he does."

"Have you two talked?"

"No. It is better she doesn't know. Juan-Carlos said she was meeting a man, Gabriel, for coffee some days. Said he seemed nice."

"Well that's bueno, eh?"

"Sure. I can't be a part of their lives, someone should."

"Hey, you are a part of her... at least his, life. Where will Uncle Hector tell her the bank account in his name is from?"

"I don't know and won't ask. We are here; they are home and taken care of. That is all that matters."

"Si. Let's eat"



Want to get involved and make a difference for fellow students?

JOIN STUDENT GOVERNMENT!

Stop by the student center to learn more and pick up a packet to run for office! Petition period is from now until April 4th, and the packets are due that day as well. Elections will be held on April 19th and 20th in front of the library. Student leadership is a fun and rewarding way to give back and beef up your résumé!



SISTERHOOD FELLOWSHIP CLUB

Participate in creating a new club on campus by **JOINING NOW!**

A club designed to connect and inspire women of all ages and backgrounds through mutual support, the encouragement of leadership, promoting education and career development.

- Encourage Self-development
- Help finding financial assistance
- Scholarships/Grants
- Volunteer Work
- Food Drives
- Guest Speakers
- Connect with AAUW
- Educational Workshops
- Time Management
- Financial Planning
- Career Exploration

To Join, contact

Kaley Graham 209.715.9978
kgraham4@student.yosemite.edu

PROJECTION START: FALL 2016

Tuolumne County Events

APRIL 2016

April 2 — Open Garden Day in Sonora - The Tuolumne County Master Gardeners will have a gardening presentation at 10:30 am at the Demonstration Garden on the Dario Cassina High School campus. No cost to attend or tour the garden.

April 2 to April 3 — Opening Weekend at Railtown 1897 SHP - Opening Weekend for the regular steam train operating season. This weekend only, everyone rides free! Arrive at 7 am and watch the crew prepare the train for the day in the historic roundhouse. Departure times are 10:30 am, Noon, 1:30 pm and 3 pm. Steam engine on Saturday and diesel engine on Sunday less otherwise noted.

April 9 — Beer Tasting and Lunch Buffet at Pine Mountain Lake - Enjoy a Beer Tasting event and Lunch Buffet at Pine Mountain Lake in The Grill Restaurant.

April 9 to April 16 — Wildflower Trains at Railtown 1897 SHP - Wildflower Train departs at 3 pm from the Railtown 1897 SHP depot, after a short video presentation at 2:30 pm, on these two Saturdays only. Once on board the train naturalists will answer questions and point out wildflower displays along the way. Regular ticket prices apply.

April 9 — 2nd Saturday Art Night in Sonora - 5 to 9 pm in historic downtown Sonora. Look for banners up and down Washington Street. This is where you will find Shops participating in the magical blend of Art, Live Music, Performers and Art Demonstrations! All events are free; however, last year a "Tip the Art" campaign was launched. Clear acrylic paint

buckets will be available for an easy chance to express your thanks for the community's talented performers.

April 10 — Cowgirl Luncheon for Mother Lode Round-Up - The Mother Lode Round-Up Posse sponsors the Cowgirl Luncheon as one of the preview events for the Mother Lode Round-Up at the Sonora Opera Hall, noon to 4 pm. Contemporary Western Fashions will be featured. Tickets are \$30, call for reservations.

April 16 — Great Steak BBQ and Annual Rifle and Shotgun Raffle - A fun and tasty evening at the Tuolumne County Sheriff's Posse Clubhouse for \$15. Raffle tickets at \$10.

April 16 — 37th Annual Old Mill Run - 10K Run, 2-Mile Run/Walk, Kids Mini-Mile, Kids Mile. Event benefits the Tuolumne County Community Christmas Eve Dinner. Entry fees are \$30 for adult racers, \$20 for children 14 and under. On-site registration begins 7 am. Pre-registration includes tee-shirt. Event schedule: 2-Mile Run 8 am, Kids Mini-Mile 8:20 am, Kids Mile 8:40 am, 10K Run 9:00 am. 209-586-4802

April 16 to April 24 — Yosemite Free-Pass Day - Free Admission to all National Parks, celebrating National Park week's opening weekend.

April 17 — Columbia Jazz Series events at Columbia College - At 5 pm on Sunday, Big Band meets Latin - featuring the Mario Flores Band and guitarist Johnny Valdes. Tickets \$15. Please RSVP at 588-5126

April 21 — Pine Lake Mountain Wine Tasting and Dinner Buffet - Enjoy a Wine Tasting event and dinner buffet at Pine Mountain Lake, The Grill Restaurant. 12765 Mueller Dr., Groveland CA 95321 209-962-8638

April 24 — St. James Concert Series in Sonora - Trio180 will be performing a 3 pm at St.

James Episcopal Church, also know as "The Red Church." Includes Piano, cello and Violin. Tickets are available by calling, or at the Mountain Bookstore. Will also be available at the door.

April 30 — Sonora Spring Festival - From 11 am to 4 pm in downtown Sonora, this event is free to the public and includes arts and craft vendors, live music, street entertainment and a hair and fashion show. Join us as Sonora swings into Spring with this family fun event. Go online or call to get an application to participate as a vendor or performer.

April 30 — 57th Annual Firemens Muster in Columbia State Park - Volunteer fire crews from around the western United States will take part in the competition, presented by Columbia Volunteer Fire Department Engine Co. No. 1. The muster parade begins at 10 am on Main Street in Columbia. Other events include hose cart races, bucket brigade, skills completion, hand pumper contest. Admission is free.

Calaveras County Events

Courtesy of The Calaveras Enterprise
 - see more events at
calaverasenterprise.com

APRIL 2016

April 2 — Love the Forest concert, 7 p.m., Black Bart Playhouse, 580 S. Algiers St., Murphys, the 14th annual Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch fundraiser is a love-themed show with Cantamos and the Bill Welles Band with guest singers from the Musae: Women's Vocal Ensemble from San Francisco singing with Michela Macfarlane, this year to support Butte Fire recovery; tickets \$15 in advance at the Aeolian Harp in Angels Camp, Sustenance Books, the Sierra Nevada Recreation Co. and Murphys Music Co. in Murphys and SNAC and the Arnold Pantry in Arnold, or \$20 at the door.

April 3 — Gary Allegretto and Ian Espinoza show, 3 p.m., Bret Harte Theater, 323 Main St. (Highway 49), Angels Camp, the multiple award-winning singer, songwriter and harmonica player is joined by the singer, songwriter and guitarist, who together were the Academy of Western Artists' Will Rogers Award winners for Western Duo/Group of the Year in 2013, perform as part of the Ovation's 2016 Performing Arts Series staged by the Calaveras County Arts Council; tickets \$25 for adults and \$10 for youths at calaverasarts.org or 754-1774.

April 3 — Golf Tournament, 11:30 a.m., check-in, 1 p.m. shotgun start, Saddle Creek Resort, 1001 Saddle Creek Drive (off Little John Road and Highway 4), outside Copperopolis, Bret Harte High School senior Bailey Huse's project is a fundraiser for Shriners Hospital; \$100 each or \$20 for dinner only at annettehuse@comcast.net, 559-2139 or 559-6730.

April 10 — "U.S. Navy Ship Ghost Stories" lecture, 2 p.m., Manzanita Arts Emporium, 1211 S. Main St. (Highway 49), Ste. 110, Angels Camp. Bob Rogers, Judy Laws and Dennis McCue present tales of ghosts aboard the USS Iowa and USS Hornet, and welcome veterans to bring their stories; free, call 728-6171 to reserve.

April 14 — The Valley Springs Veterans Group, 5 to 9 p.m., Veterans Hall, 189 Pine St., Valley Springs, all veterans are invited to meet and greet other veterans around the area (every second and fourth Thursday of each month), relax and enjoy food; free, call Frank 483-3187, e8garza@hotmail.com.

April 16 — Dance concert, Bret Harte Theater, 323 Main St. (Highway 49), Angels Camp, the Sol Flamenco Dance Troupe performs to raise money for Butte Fire victims; tickets \$25 at guitarwork.com or 256-9906.

April 16 — Taste of Calaveras, 12 to 4 p.m., Ironstone Vineyards, 1894 Six Mile Road, outside Murphys, foods and wines are paired; tickets \$40 at 736-1333.

April 21 to April 24 — BlackHawk Ranch April Fly-in, Thursday through Sunday, BlackHawk Ranch, 8591 Hogan Dam Road, outside Valley Springs, ultralights, powered paragliders and powered parachutes are featured at the annual fly-in as enthusiasts gather to discover the latest in technology; Saturday is the most "active" day and the public is invited to visit; RV camping is available; free to attend, 786-7899 or blackhawkparamotor.com.

COLUMBIA COLLEGE EVENTS

April 11-19

Summer Priority Registration

April 17 at 5pm

Big Band Meets Latin ft. Mario Flores Band and guitarist Johnny Valdes. Tickets \$15. RSVP at 588-5126 or purchase at Bookstore

April 20

Summer Open Registration

April 20

Cram Night at the Library

April 22

Scholarship Award Ceremony, Dogwood, 4pm - 6pm

April 25-30

Finals Week

April 29 - Graduation

May 2

Summer Semester Begins

April 28 — The Valley Springs Veterans Group, 5 to 9 p.m., Veterans Hall, 189 Pine St., Valley Springs, all veterans are invited to meet and greet other veterans

around the area (every second and fourth Thursday of each month), relax and enjoy food; free, call Frank 483-3187, e8garza@hotmail.com.

Week of the Young Child, April 11-15

THE COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHILD DEVELOPMENT CLUB IS HOSTING EVENTS FOR STUDENTS ON CAMPUS DURING THE WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD, APRIL 11-15.

The Week of the Young Child is a national celebration of early childhood and learning, sponsored each year by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Here at Columbia College, students can join club members for fun activities such as sidewalk chalk art, yoga for kids, bubbles, and a nature walk! Here is the schedule of activities:

Monday April 11th

Sidewalk chalk art in front of the Laurel building and Child Care Center, self-serve all day long

Tuesday April 12th

Sensory activity on the library patio at 10:00 am

Wednesday April 13th

Music, scarf dancing, and bubbles at the Child Care Center entryway at 4:00 pm

Thursday April 14th

Kids' yoga in the Laurel living room at 2:00 pm

Friday April 15th

A nature walk to begin in front of the Laurel building at 2:45 pm

All students are welcome to participate in any of the activities! In addition, there will be children's art on display in the Manzanita building. The child development club will also be hosting an activity at the Calaveras Children's Fair at Bret Harte High School on Saturday April 16th, and at the ICES Children's Fair at the Mother Lode Fairgrounds on April 23rd. Both fairs are free and open to the public!

STORYTIME

Short Stories Contributed by Columbia College Students

DESCARTES BEFORE THE HORSE

by Lisa Reza

He thinks, therefore he exists. His every thought synchronistically scrolling in the blink of a nanosecond's eye. The words are him as he concurrently concocts and posts today's titillating trinket to his public persona-file. He needs no monitor, no keyboard, no archaic electrical power source. He is unadulterated connection, pure consciousness. He lol's as he recalls that Ancient cliché "mind over matter" because, like everyone he knows, he is mind without matter. He cracks a wry joke as his thoughts instantaneously post: "Why did those Ancients even 'matter'?"

Riding high on self-satisfaction and pride, he envisions himself a deep thinker, a crowd pleaser. Anticipating another congratulatory day, he meticulously monitors the interface, trolling for new bait. A few new fish to add to his sycophantic

school. A few new audience members in his amphitheater of drool.

Persona-file after persona-file after persona-file appear, with a thought he flings them into the nether reaches of the interface. Rejecting every last one he chuckles at the irony that, if he could, they'd be boring him to tears. Relegating them to the realm of self-absorbed, vapid, unimaginative cretins, he turns to his pantheon (as he calls them) to soothe his savage beast. Greeting them with a hearty salutation, he is not disappointed in finding them panting for his presence. Buttering them up with the obligatory, ingratiating flattery he has inured them to, he weaves the tale of his woebegone quest for such splendid specimens as themselves.

They eat it up with a spoon and he shovels it on thicker. They clamor for him to regale them with another and another. He complies like a shepherd leading his sheeple. Hour upon hour is consumed in blithe condemnation of all those less fortunate than them, all those without their spark and their verve. Especially those so full of themselves, what nerve! So empty, so vacuous, such superficial lives! His contempt is so palpable it blinds. He knows this is his calling, to break the back of ignorance, to lead the way

to acknowledgment of the only legitimate intelligence! His daily despotic diatribe in full resplendent stride, he pauses for effect and, with stunning precision, an unknown persona-file interjects and chides,

"Hmmm...you think a lot of yourself. Pun intended."

His malevolence is riveted on the intruder.

"And who are you!?"

Undaunted, she continues publicly thinking:

"Precisely my point. You think you exist? What would happen if you do this?"

And she is gone. There is nothing, no trace. No persona-file signature on the interface. No trail, no resonance, no evidence that she ever...existed. The only thing left is a subliminally shattering message underlying every madly scrolling, frantically searching thought he has or will ever have again.

"This is impossible! Everyone that thinks exists!" His consciousness screams, "There is no such thing as non-existence where thought has been!"

He is bereft.

And left with one all-encompassing, overriding, Möbius loop of a thought.

He exists...he thinks?

SUBMISSIONS

Have a short story
you want to share?

Want to begin your writing
career with a jump-start?

**Submit your writing
to EUREKA!**

It's that easy to become a
published author and boost
your resume!

Send contributions to:
Mstorey1@student.yosemite.edu

WORKSHOPS

in Manzanita Multipurpose Room

Interviewing with Confidence **Monday April 4th 2:30-3:30**

It's all in the presentation! Learn tips on what to do before, during, and after your interview to ensure you effectively "sell" yourself

A Resume That Gets Results **Tuesday, April 5th 11AM-12PM**

A resume is the most important written communication tool in your job search tool box. Learn how to craft a powerful resume that matches your background to

the employer's needs, resulting in more interviews for better jobs.

Finals Freakin' you Out? **Monday April 11th 2:30-3:30**

Learn to master your end-of-semester stress levels, test anxiety, and self-doubt. Discover different options by attending this low stress workshop for tips, tricks, and skills in getting through finals and beyond.

DOWNSTAIRS REMODEL



FANCY AND NEW

Have you seen the new and improved Upper Manzanita? The big round building that houses many of Columbia's services—Counseling, Admissions and Records, Financial Aid, TRiO, EOPS/DSPS—just finished their grand make-over, and the lower level's Snack Shack and Hospitality Management program are set to see a similar face-lift. Chef Gene Womble, the soon-to-be-retired Hospitality Coordinator said, "Manzanita has been like this since 1978, if memory serves. It used to be a patio before they turned it into this." Almost forty years since a remodel, and although needs are

technically met, there's a buzz of excitement about the coming improvement.

PAID FOR BY WHO?

The money for the remodel comes from the MEASURE E bond that was voted for by the public back in 2004. The \$326 million bond is intended for projects that were created after an 18-month study to define needs, collecting information from community members, faculty, students, and staff. The plan supports MJC's and Columbia's goals of expanding career and job training programs, adding more classrooms, science labs, and technology centers to keep up with growing

student demand. The bond has a specific and detailed list of projects, outlining specifically how the money may be used. Annual audits are conducted to make sure the money is used for its intended purposes.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

The remodel is beginning in May of 2016 and will hopefully end in the Fall of 2017. Everything except the Bookstore will be closed in Lower Manzanita during the remodel. One question must be answered: What will happen to our Hospitality students during the reconstruction?

(continued on next page)



Farewell to Chef Womble

"I've been here for twenty years. I've loved every minute of it—I'd do it all again! But it's time for me to move on," Gene said in regards to his coming retirement. "I'm going to miss my students! They've all been great, and it's always exciting to see people discover their passion—or discovering what isn't their passion!" He chuckled for a moment, and continued, "It's also important to know what you don't want to do, and either way I'm happy to be part of the learning process." Chef Womble has also enjoyed learning from his students about the new and exciting changes in technology. He has them to thank for a whole new world of communication and information. "It used to be getting a message to someone would take some time, but now," he pulled out his Iphone, "it's just a couple clicks away. So much has changed, and I'm happy to have been a part of it." Gene is excited for a calmer schedule in his life. "I've taken a job with a little brewery. It's nice, I'll probably only work a couple days a week and relax more."

Tiffany Friedlos, a student assistant and Hospitality Management student who has worked closely with Gene for the last three years, said, "He's a great teacher. He really knows how to get you to see what you're really capable of."


(continued from previous page)

Klaus Tenbergen, Dean of the Career Technical Institute at Columbia, reassures that every student currently declared as a Hospitality major will have the opportunity to take classes so graduation is assured. "I've gone through every [Hospitality Management] student's transcript," Klaus said, holding a huge stack of papers with sticky notes poking out every which way. "We will have classes off-campus to make sure students graduate. New students will start with general education classes." The major changes coming to the layout coincide with the major change of Chef Womble's retirement.

The faculty is trying to make the best of the situation. Klaus said, "Every threat creates opportunities. With Gene's retirement and the forthcoming remodel, we have an opportunity to shape tomorrow." He gave a big smile and unwrapped a couple of large posters that showed proposed classes in the revised new curriculum which was brainstormed by the current Hospitality faculty. The poster showed some cutting edge ideas, embracing current expectations of Hospitality Management as well as new certificates that may be implemented in the years to come. Klaus laughed as he showed me some of the plans, "This is the start of the 'rebirth' of the program." *See proposed floor plan on next page.*

Jeff Whalen, the Auxillary Services Manager and manager of the Snack Shack, weigh in on his area of expertise, "The Snack Shack's kitchen is going to be larger, and we're going to be more self-contained, which will be nice." Currently, the Snack Shack shares some space with the Hospitality Department. "I'm hoping that we'll be able to lock up at night but keep the seating space open to be used as a study room."

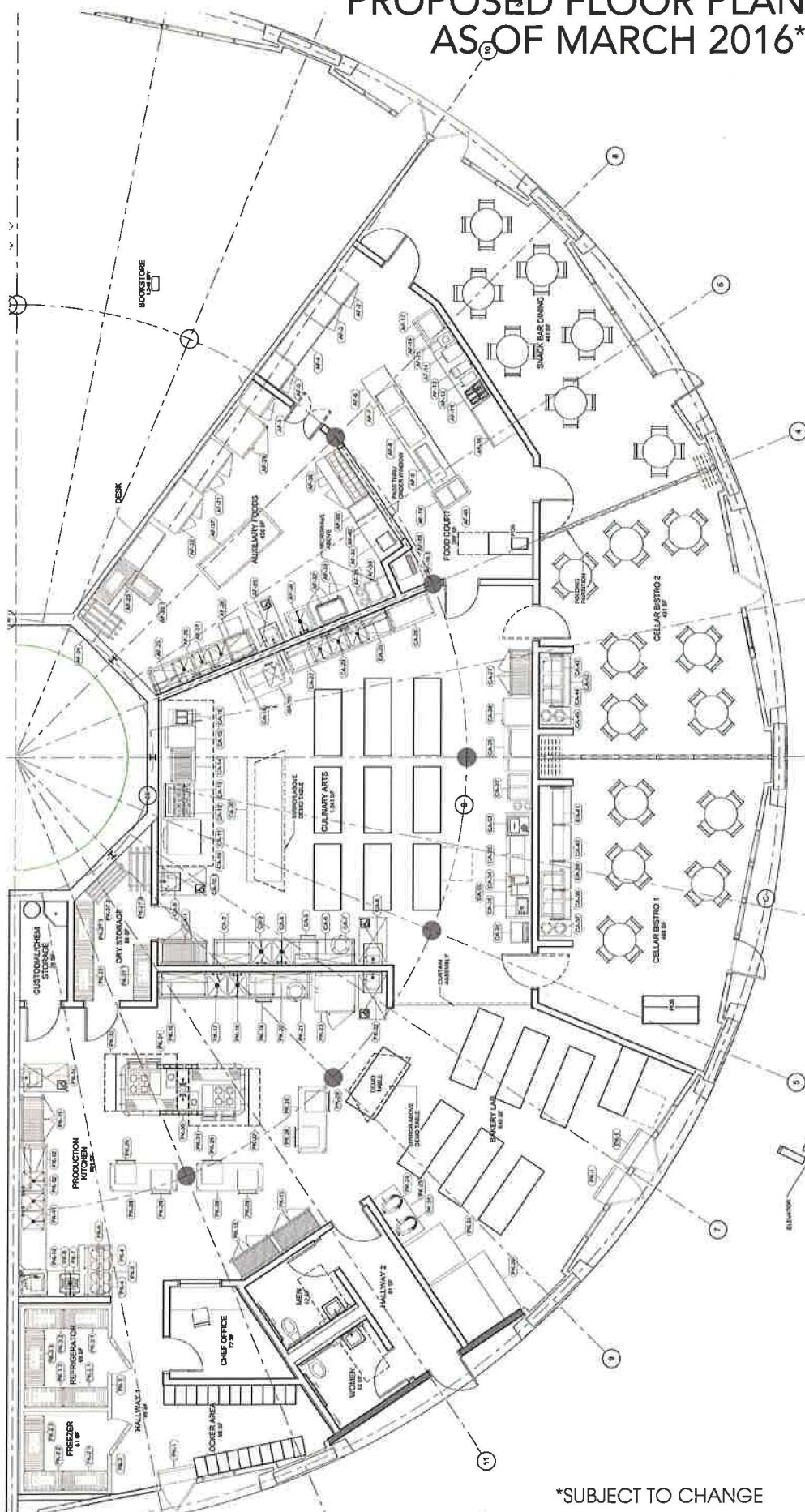
BUT I'M HUNGRY

Another great question must be posed: Where will we eat during the remodel? The answer is simple: A custom-built trailer and a large tent pitched outside of Manzanita will serve as our temporary cafeteria. Student workers will experience the exciting life of working in a Taco Truck! Some food will be available in the Bookstore, and fresh sandwiches will still be made by student workers at the trailer. In the frigid winter months, heaters will be placed in the tent to keep us warm. After the remodel, the trailer will be repurposed for Hospitality Management education. Students will have the opportunity to learn while catering events such as the Fair or various opportunities using the trailer, offering real-world experience and a well-rounded education to those involved. 



Food trailer being repurposed for Columbia College

PROPOSED FLOOR PLAN AS OF MARCH 2016*



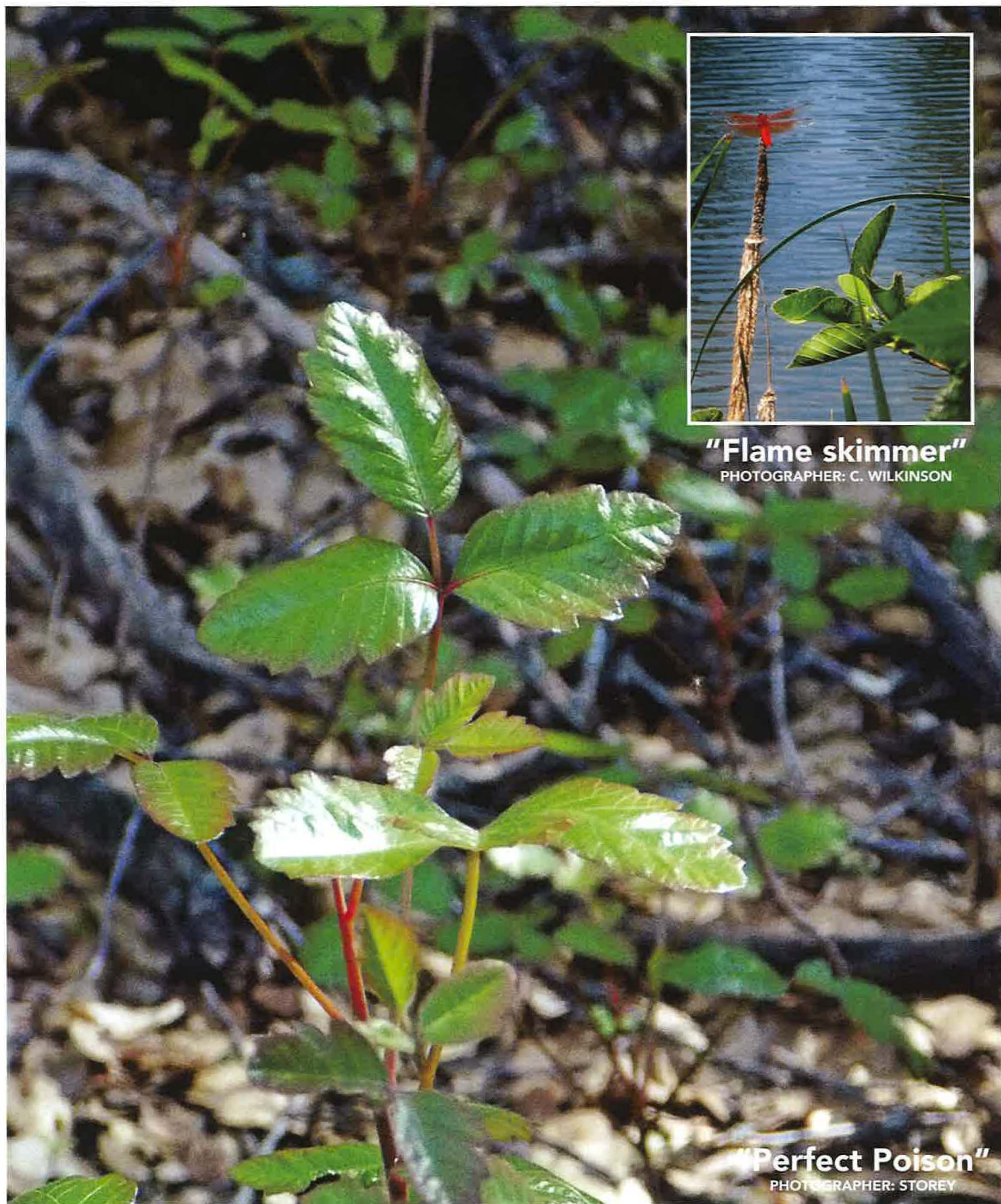
*SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Upper Manzanita Study Space



Upper Manzanita has a little space to sit down and do a little studying. Don't let the glass walls turn you away! When the glass doors are open, the space is open for students to come in and socialize, read, and do some school work. "Before the remodel, there was a bunch of space for students to study here in Manzanita," one student remarked. "I'm happy that they're opening that up again." The large room is often used for administration meetings and various events held by Columbia College, but most of the time the room remains open and empty. "I just hope people hear that it's available. Needs a little life in here, you know?"

Student ambassadors will help everyone be aware when meetings take place, so don't be shy about coming in and using the space!

**"Flame skimmer"**

PHOTOGRAPHER: C. WILKINSON

"Perfect Poison"

PHOTOGRAPHER: STOREY

Do you want to see your artwork, poem, short story, creative writings,
or opinions in the newspaper? Email your submissions to:
Storey at mstorey1@student.yosemite.edu