

HAPPENING



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HAPPENING

Happening is a magazine run by students for students with guidance from the Associated Students of Columbia College.

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.

Do you have any comments or want to recommend something for an article? Are you interested in contributing to the magazine? haym@student.yosemite.edu

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We're almost there

Letter from the Editor

April has arrived. Finals are approaching and students are scrambling to meet deadlines, prepare for finals, and kick some butt on the last few weeks we have before summer sets in. Some students will be graduating, and some will be transferring as well. I'll be one of these students, and it will be bittersweet to finish my education here at Columbia College and begin anew. During these last few weeks, keep in mind your goals and prioritize. These weeks are an essential time of the semester, and while it may take sacrifices to be successful, it is always worth it in the end.

School dance coming up

Coming up, there will be a Spring Fling Dance on April 13. The dance will begin at 9pm and end at midnight in the Oak Pavilion. The dance, as stated on the amazing poster by Emelie Fransson, will be a semi-formal dance complete with food, a DJ, and a photo booth. Tickets will be \$8 for admission and \$15 for couples. They will be available at the Student Center, as well as the AAC. I will surely be going and I hope to see all of you there, too!

I would like to thank Emelie Fransson

for her hard work developing the layout for *Happening* and formatting the many articles. Emelie, you kept me sane through this process, and I will be forever grateful for your vital participation. You will go far.

I would also like to thank Rocco Bowman for his dedication and reliability. You are one of the most trustworthy people I know, and I wish you success in your future. You're also an outstanding writer.

As well, I want to thank all of the contributors to *Happening*. This paper wouldn't be possible without your voices and your enthusiasm to express yourself.

Keep up the perseverance and come out with a bang, everyone! We're almost there. ✖



MONICA HAY
Editor-in-chief

Untitled // POETRY

*The hardest part in life is when you feel it
never gives
it makes you feel like where's the point to
live?
You take all opportunities that seem like
you'll receive
you try and find your place that keeps you
to believe
you keep on fighting
then get knocked to the ground
and other times you feel so stable and proud*

*you finally find what there is to earn
you'll get what you deserve in return
You can't look at the hatred in big amount
it's who you love that really counts
They'll help you get through all the shit
and pull you back up before you quit
You can't expect your part to work out if
you're not willing to help them out
Before you think you're almost there
you have to remember
life's not fair*

CHELSEA DAHLINGER



A Club that Makes a Difference

By: Rocco Bowman

There are not many clubs active on the Columbia campus as compared to universities, but all it takes is one to make a difference in the community. The Synergy Club is one such club that seeks to help others.

The Synergy Club, a group of 43 community and student members, seeks to “promote a more sustainable Columbia College and community and to teach sustainable activities on campus.” Hands-on activities are planned to convey these lessons with real soil, plants, and closed loop systems.

“The intent is for it to be a learning facility, a forum, to teach students sustainability,” says member Monette Zorich.

Student run garden

One project of the club was the creation of a community garden. With the help of Jason Diestel, the director of sustainability, providing top soil, the Synergy Club has created a raised bed garden that has a future of growth ahead of it.

The idea behind the community garden originated in a leadership class and the goal is to make it a “student run and student managed garden,” says Zorich.

This garden will not simply teach

students about sustainability but also be used to provide free hot meals for people who take advantage of the food bank on campus.

Another project goal focuses on the development of a closed loop system called an aquaponic system. Basically, it consists of a bed to grow plants and a fish tank intertwined. The fish provide fertilizer, the fish water is pumped to the plants, and then the water is filtered and pumped back into the fish tank for the cycle to begin again.

Can help the hungry

“A lot of students don’t know what is possible,” says Zorich, “[one] can take what’s in the waste stream and produce something from it.” In this case, it can help create food for the hungry with natural processes.

For the naysayers who doubt the efficiency of such endeavors Monette explains that “once you have it set up then it is less work on the humans.” In other

“A lot of students don’t know what is possible.”

Monette Zorich

The Synergy Club has a Facebook page. If you have questions and you wish to contact Michelle, her email is sbeutler@student.yosemite.edu.

words, the system is designed to harness or in the least mimic nature which requires no regulation.

Recently, the Synergy club has added a new shed. The shed is for the Natural Resource Program, and Michelle says, “the members have been instrumental in getting it done.”

The club is also working on a three-phase composting system.

“We are working with facilities to bring the entire campus on board with our green waste program. We are working with cleaning staff and facilities who help us collect compost from the kitchens, and we are now planting the soil that we made last semester.”

The Synergy Club president is Michelle Beutler who is the Instructor’s Assistant to Tom Hofstra, the advisor for the club. Synergy is just getting started and has plans to carry out its mission of sustainability, education, and helping people in the community. ✕



Sugar Pine Testament to School Priorities

Opinion by: Ryan Hodge

Buildings are extensions of the societal characteristics of their locales, a reflection of values direction. It was with this in mind that I examined the new Sugar Pine building here at Columbia College.

The completion of the Sugar Pine building was a major happening for campus life. Professors and students alike celebrated at the completion of the multi-million dollar project that would house examples of the latest science related educational technology.

Perfect — in a functional sense

The building itself was even acclaimed for its sophisticated devices, with doors that lock electronically and a vast refrigeration system designed to house cadavers and other science materials. Indeed, in the functional sense, it would be hard to imagine a better suited building. However, there is more to the story of its construction than its mere operation.

There is an air about the student population that has become more pronounced over the years. Though I

“(...) no other building was endowed with such a lavish budget.”

Ryan Hodge

cannot personally attest to the attitudes of those from the distant past, current students express the notion that they are attending college for the purpose of someday landing a well paying career. Their eyes seem to glance towards a future horizon laden with dollar signs.

The Sugar Pine building expresses the qualities of the society that constructed it. Its monumental scope, advanced operation, and deliberate aesthetics all serve project an image of awe and majesty that emphasize the dominance of the sciences. Save the central Manzanita building, there is none larger on campus.

Based solely upon its technological

components, it is obvious that no other building was endowed with such a lavish budget. It highlights where the educational emphasis of the campus lies. Ironically, it also serves to highlight educational areas that have, in comparison, been neglected.

A short walk to the nearby Willow building demonstrates where budget priorities lay, as the condition of the building seems to suggest that maintaining art facilities is not a priority. A glance through the most recent catalog shows that this is not limited to art, as even a basic philosophy class is absent from next semester's line up.

Hope for the humanities

As I sit at the pond writing this, I can see the vast science building towering in the distance. I don't resent its presence, but there is a desire lingering in my mind. I only hope that arts and the humanities are not one day blotted out of the sky by the likes of science. They are simply too valuable to exchange for the likes of dollars and cents. ✕

Time to Reevaluate Scholarship Criteria

Opinion by: Monica Hay

It is the season to discover the scholarship decisions after the months of anticipation. Many students are awaiting a letter with Columbia College letterhead in their mailbox. Scholarships are a fundamental aspect of college for many students, and they provide astronomical support for students to continue their education. Not only does a scholarship grant financial assistance, but it also looks fantastic on a resume, and rewards hard work and determination.

The many noble and generous donors make it possible for students to persist towards their educational and career goals. Scholarships offer students opportunities and helps removes fiscal barriers. They are truly an incredible element of this college.

A deficiency in the criteria

There is, in my opinion, a deficiency in the criteria. Some scholarships are limited to full-time students. Of course, donors have the right to decide criteria for the scholarships they give. Yet, when one analyzes and examines the full-time student eligibility restraint, one might find that this is quite a barrier.

The students most involved, such as senate members, tutors, workers, club members, and more, often decide not to be full-time. Having extracurricular activities and commitments outside of academics is time consuming. These students, for this reason, choose to take fewer units and remain involved.

Take Tori Palmberg, the Student Body President, as an example. In addition, she works at the Academic Achievement Center, and has a family. She chose not to take the standard twelve units, which makes her ineligible for the scholarships limited to full-time students. Dedicating your time and energy into numerous activities and finding yourself passed up for your hard work is disheartening.

The same circumstance prevents many

part time students who work outside of school from receiving scholarships. I find this unfortunate. People who work full-time sometimes decide not to be full-time students to avoid the stressful workload. These students are also not eligible for scholarships limited to full-time students, which is ironic, since a scholarship would help a student financially and maybe give that student the option of being a full-time student and a part-time worker rather than the reverse.

Ambition can result in fewer units

Often, students taking difficult courses will enroll in fewer units. For example, Adrianna Calderon consistently registers in challenging courses. She registered for six units this semester. Adrianna is a TRiO Student Support Services Mentor, and she works outside of school. She also has a large and loving family at home. She is a dedicated and committed student who chooses to maintain a viable workload. She is a commendable and admirable individual, and she cannot be eligible for scholarships limited to full-time students.

Time to reassess

Perhaps it is time to reevaluate the full-time criteria for some scholarships. This isn't to say that all scholarships should have the full-time eligibility removed. Instead, this shows a different perspective and viewpoint of the barriers full-time criteria create for students with jobs, students who are involved in activities outside of academics, and students who choose to enroll in fewer units based on awareness of personal limits. Many outstanding students are not finding recognition of their hard work based on the full-time criteria. It may be time to reassess the criteria and open discussion and dialogue on the scholarships that are limited to full-time students. There is potential for change that could benefit many students in the long run. ✕

We have a Smoking Problem

Opinion by: Grant Wells

Ahhh, Columbia College. Where the trees are abundant, the geese glide lithely in the air, and reservoir is always crystal clear (ok, maybe not always...).

Walking to classes in this mountainous terrain is beautiful, peaceful, tranquil, and the air is so clean and crisp that it creates a wonderful nirvana for one's mind. That is until one walks through a cloud of nicotine shattering their nose's paradise of clean oxygen bliss.

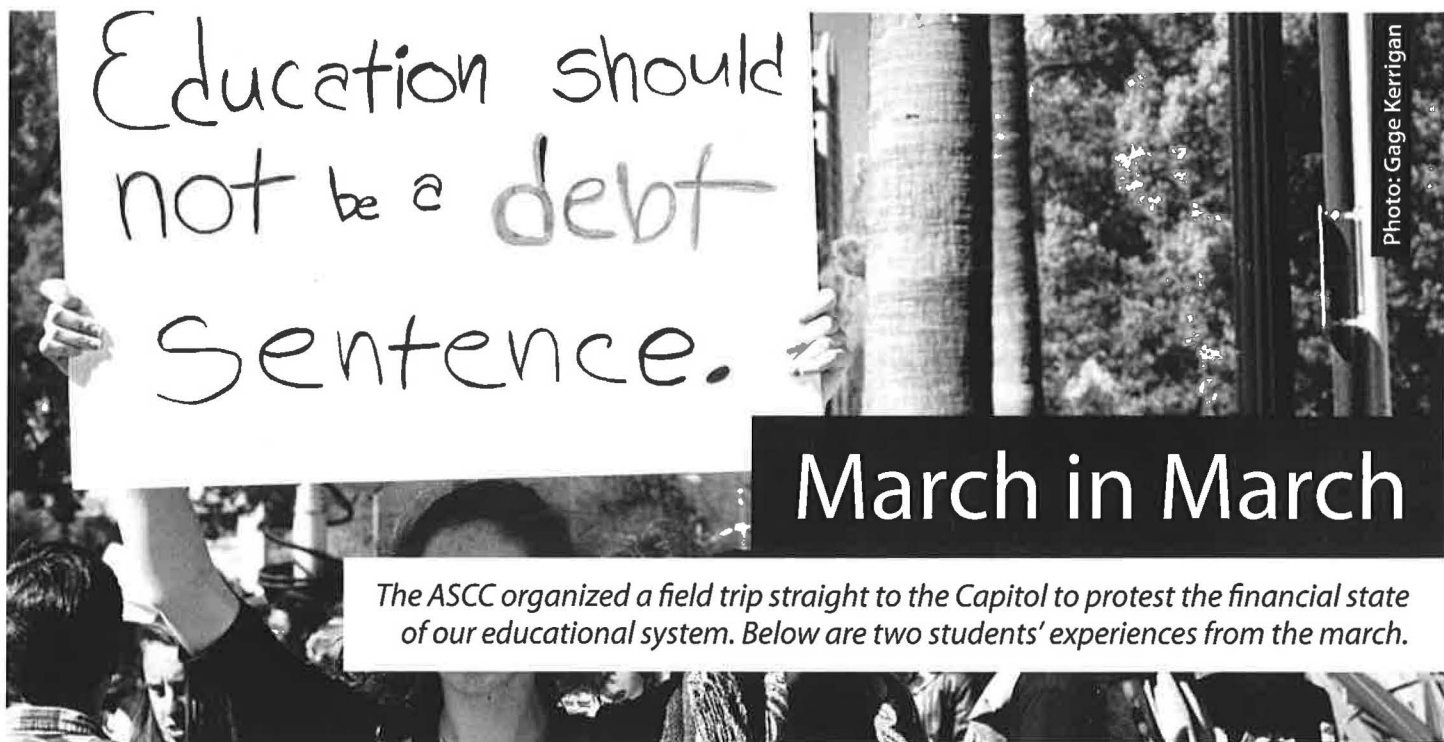
A right to say yes and no to smoke

Smoking is rampant at Columbia College, and despite having many smoking areas set aside, many people still smoke in areas which are not designated to it or while walking from building to building. While smokers have a right to smoke, their habit should not impede on the health and well-being of those who do not.

Another problem with this is where two "smoking zones" are set up. One such area is right by the path leading up to the math building, while another is directly in front of the back doors of the library. This can be even worse for the individual who has some form of asthma or other breathing disorder, as they are forced to either brave the dreaded cloud of smoke or find an alternative route to their class.

Hate smoke — not the smoker

In the end it would be much better if Columbia College was a smoke-free campus, as smoking in itself is a terrible habit which not only affects the health of the person doing it, but also the person who has chosen not to partake as well. So, do I hate smoking? Yup, I sure do, but hey, I still love the smoker anyways. ✕



March in March

The ASCC organized a field trip straight to the Capitol to protest the financial state of our educational system. Below are two students' experiences from the march.

Attending March in March on Monday the fifth was quite an experience. Walking with thousands of students surrounding you, holding signs and screaming, "What do we want? Education! When do we want it? Now!" was an exhilarating experience. The students were angry and wanted their voices to be heard.

A man interviewed me from southern California. He asked me why I was protesting; what inspired me to come to the Capitol? I expressed the worry I have over money and access to education. I want to become an educated citizen of this world.

After receiving my B.A. in English, I wish to go on to graduate school and receive my M.A. in Educational Counseling so that I can pursue a career as a Community College Counselor.

With the budget cuts and the hiking fees (now it is forty-six dollars per unit, starting summer), I am concerned about how I will accomplish these dreams without being thousands of dollars in debt. Then, how will I pay off my debt?

With the increasing cost of education, less and less people are getting an education—is this what the world needs? This dilemma is giving the upper class the "upper hand." It seems only rich people will be able to get educated now, or the

extremely poor (since they can receive financial aid). What about the people who aren't eligible for FAFSA?

Meeting with Kristen Olson, an Assembly Member and also the Vice Chair of the Higher Education Committee, was a somewhat intimidating experience. Yet, it was rewarding that I was able to speak with her face-to-face among the other members of the Student Senate.

Interest in unifying districts

She was welcoming and informative, and easy to talk to. Olson displayed interest in unifying some of the 72 Community College Districts in California. I agree with this, as we are "top heavy." Olson spoke with the students for about forty-five minutes, which was a privilege.

Overall, March in March was a gratifying experience. Being part of a large, passionate crowd gave me a sense of belonging, and reminded me that I'm not the only student nervous about how I will manage my money as I pursue my education. As cheesy as it sounds, we are all in this together, and we can make a difference with the power of the students. ✕

MONICA HAY
Editor-In-Chief

On Monday March 5th, I attended what was known as the March in March Protest in Sacramento. I was very impressed by the vast turnout, students by the hundreds, and the fact that everyone there was very informed and friendly. I was interviewed by someone from San Francisco State as well, and I explained why I was there.

My concern was for programs which could have been threatened by the budget cuts like DSPS (Disabled Students Program & Services).

Having Asperger's Syndrome, I need something like this in order to get ahead with my educational goals. I told the representative, "I would hate to be stumbling when I have the right to an education."

I also enjoyed getting to know those who were there, and my fellow colleagues from Columbia College. I look forward to having a promising future and piece of mind for our further studies. ✕



Thank you for
your time,
DAN DEGRAF

Program to Reach Goals

By: Deanna Stinson

Most millionaires would tell you that to become a millionaire, you first have to become an entrepreneur. That's just one thing I have learned in my entrepreneur class here at Columbia College. Entrepreneurship is taught by professor Ida Ponder. An ambitious woman, Ida will help you meet your goals.

The program is a very beneficial series of classes that will break you out of your shell and help you meet new people, or network, and more. Whatever your interests are, you can pursue them with entrepreneurship in mind. The program will assist you, from a business stance, to reach your goals and objectives. For example, I am a musician, and I have learned the ins and outs of networking,

and I've gained opportunities through my classes.

Classes are diverse. You might be in a class with twenty people, but, they all have different interests. These various interests offer important connections between people. As a musician for example, knowing a photographer may come in handy.

Speak about goals and dreams

Classroom protocol presents suitable challenges. We all get up in front of the class nearly every class to become comfortable with speaking about our goals and dreams. Then, we express our ideas and problems getting there and the other twenty people in the room all put their heads together and we come up with ways to overcome obstacles together.

They say two heads are better than one, and in this case it's more like twenty. Entrepreneurs are leaders. We are very vital aspects of a community. We like to get involved.

Entrepreneurship in California is growing. Columbia College is one of the few colleges to offer an entrepreneurship program, especially based in business. Entrepreneurship currently can be earned as a certificate. Soon, an AS Degree for Entrepreneurship will be available. ✖

Interested in entrepreneurship? C.E.O. club, which stands for Collegiate Entrepreneur Organization, is a great way to get involved.

They meet on Thursdays at 12:30. Contact Ida Ponder at 588-5304, email ponderi@yosemite.edu for more information.

Untitled // POETRY

*Dance tonight,
Say sweet nothings,
Though we only know one another for
tonight,
Let's make up for centuries of heartache,
And feel no guilt for what we've done
tonight,
It wasn't lies just a taste of what life has to
offer,
Basking in our after glow,
Let this mean nothing and everything,*

*But in the morning understand how I'll hate
you for the rest of eternity,
Cry with envy each time I remember what
we had,
Yet know what it was, was love in the most
twisted sense.
For you're only a musician, knowing only
beauty in the melody and tune,
I'm the artist, looking for possibility and
beauty in everything*

DEVYNNE SYLVA

Nutrition Club

This semester, Columbia College has seen the addition of the Nutrition Club. The goal of the Columbia College Nutrition Club is to bring awareness to students concerning healthy eating and sustainable lifestyles.

The club consists of very talented members who are an asset to not only the club, but the whole school as well, bringing innovative ideas to the campus. The Nutrition Club has a lot of exciting projects in store, including a newsletter, a food drive, and guest speakers to address various health related concerns.

To contact the Nutrition Club email President Kaylynn Crawford at kcrawford5@student.yosemite.edu, or take a look at the Facebook page: www.facebook.com/ccnutritionclub, their blog: ccnutritionclub.blogspot.com, or follow them on Twitter at CCNutritionClub. ✖ OHNEMUS

Student Leadership

The Student Government is a vital part of Columbia College activities and programs. We are proud to participate in student government at Columbia College and are equally delighted to share our enthusiasm with you.

Why get involved? Represent interests of the Columbia College Students! Serve on committees with Columbia staff, faculty, and administration through shared governance. Participate in a state level representation of California Community Colleges through the CCCSA.

You can develop leadership skills, as well as plan campus activities. Enhance and enrich your academic career. Have fun, and make meaningful, long lasting connections with the student body, faculty, and staff.

Interested? Please Contact us at: 209-588-5270. ✖

COLUMBIA COLLEGE SPRING FLING

SEMI-FORMAL DANCE

APRIL 13th

9-MIDNIGHT
OAK PAVILION

\$8 ADMISSION

COUPLES \$15

FOOD • DJ • PHOTO BOOTH

Tickets available at
the Student Center
and the AAC

Call 588-5270 for more info



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POSTER BY EMEJE FRANSSON
Reference photo for woman from www.dailymail.co.uk