

# COLUMBIA COLLEGE MOUNTAIN TIMES

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March 1996

Columbia, California

MAR 13 1996

Vol. IV, No. 1

## Dr. White Traded Off In Negotiations

Mountain Times News  
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COLUMBIA

Working behind the scenes, a team of faculty and staff consisting of Maryl Landess, president of the Academic Senate, Elsie Bruno and David Alford, both past presidents, Wendy Link and Doryene Rapini, representing the Classified Senate, met with representatives of the Board of Trustees on Friday, February 28

in Oakdale in an effort to resolve the crisis in district leadership. Stemming from the meeting, the Columbia team created a "draft agreement" that addressed the major concerns of faculty and staff regarding the "vote of no confidence" in the Chancellor, Pamela Fisher. In the draft agreement, the Columbia team effectively acquiesced in the "reassignment" of Dr. White and dropped the charges against the Chancellor in return for a number of important concessions

from the Board.

The Columbia team sent the draft agreement to the Board before the Tuesday, March 5 meeting of the Board. At the meeting, various Board members publicly expressed having problems with the document, but agreed to allow time for further discussion with the Columbia team regarding the items contained in it.

The effect of the agreement seems to be that at the end of his contract Dr. White will be

replaced by a temporary president for one year and a permanent president after that. The hiring process will significantly involve the Columbia College community. It is clear from the document that the negotiating team expects the Board to provide concrete assurance that the Chancellor will not be allowed to abuse her powers in the manner that led to the vote of no confidence.

Landess said that it is

extremely important that the Board understand the depth of feeling against the Chancellor in the Columbia community and the urgency of an agreement to end the crisis. It would be unfortunate, she said, if we remain at an impasse with the Board and cannot move forward. It is obviously unacceptable, Landess said, for us to give up Dr. White and drop the charges against the Chancellor in return for nothing.

## Abuse Of Power Or Business As Usual?

By Connie Lee Close  
MTX STAFF WRITER

An open forum was held at Columbia College on Thursday, Feb. 29 to address the deteriorating relations between Pamela Fisher the chancellor of the Yosemite Community College District, and the staff, faculty and students of Columbia College.

The students used the meeting sponsored by the Columbia College Student Senate and organized by President of Activities Alyssa McCrea, to air their feelings and to make public their vote of "No Confidence" in Fisher.

In the text of the resolution, the student senate called for "the chancellor to be removed from her position by her own resignation, and that... Dr. Kenneth White have his contract reinstated."

The senate's motivation for their actions:

-In 1994, when approached by students of this senate on the issue of raising the tutor pay from \$4.35 to \$4.50 per hour, Chancellor Fisher gave an "adamant no" to the request on the grounds that there was no money.

-Fisher demonstrated extreme hypocrisy in asking members of faculty and staff to "do more

with less", and then accept not only a backroom pay increase, but an additional \$1000 for extraneous expenses.

-Fisher's reported resistance to listening to the speakers on Dr. White's behalf, a resistance that includes an obvious air of unconcern for the opinions of Columbia College.

In delivering the student's resolution, Student Senators included verbal statements of support for Ken White. Caroline Buster said, "Dr. White had gone out of his way to help the student senate," and Kristoff Cortez said that the students don't support in any fashion the YCCD refusal to reinstate Dr. Ken White."

Classified Staff Senate representative Jean Daddow at the meeting, gave an overview of the various employee unions and of the YCCD infrastructure.

Classified employees, said Daddow, include the non-teaching staff, custodians, secretaries, and library workers and are represented by the California School Employees Association, which represents over 150,000 public employees statewide.

Daddow said that, "Comments seemed to fall on deaf ears when students, faculty

and staff decried reassignment of Dr. White," instigating, "the classified senate to vote 'No Confidence' in Fisher."

Columbia College Academic Senate President Maryl Landess spoke briefly to describe two committees that have formed to discuss the no confidence issues and the hiring of a new Columbia College president.

The committees are made up of YCCD board members and faculty representatives.

"The primary goal of staff, faculty and administration is to provide for quality education. Discussion includes educational forums on the Brown Act, the

see Forum page 3



PHOTO BY RHIANNA LEE

The Student Senate, poised for action this semester, called for the resignation of Chancellor Pamela Fisher for accepting an inequitably high, back room, pay raise. And, for Fisher's reassignment of Dr. Ken White.

## Tennis Program Double Faults

By Tim Mann  
MTX STAFF WRITER

The Columbia College Athletic Program took a reluctant step backwards with the recent cancellation of its Varsity Women's Tennis Team, due to a shortage of players. The Men's Team was forced into dissolving as well, so as to be in

closer compliance with Title IX, the state requirement of equal sport opportunity.

The fight to save the program was waged during the fall. All sports at Columbia are financed by fund-raisers, which require coaches and athletes to hustle for every dime, involving much time and creativity to succeed. Athletic Director

Morgan McBride worked to shepherd the team's cause through the administrative maze of paperwork and state requirements. Student athlete Melissa Morino sparked a fund-raising fire by organizing a tennis tournament and keeping awareness of the team's plight alive in the off-season. Team

see Tennis page 7



# Caras' Heads New Senate Focus

By Karen Bladel  
MTX STAFF WRITER

At the end of last semester, following the resignation of Caroline Buster, Ben Caras, then Vice-President of Policies and Procedures, succeeded to Student Senate President under the established order of succession. Caras is a 23 year old returning student in his fourth semester at Columbia College. An English major, currently enrolled in 25 units, with a 3.18 GPA, Caras' overall jovial manner is contrasted sharply by how straight forward and articulate he is when speaking

on important topics. Caras' goal for the Student Senate is to establish the Senate as a permanent structure for efficient communication between students and the administration. "The last two administrations focused on the big picture, fees, and CALSACC, where we are only one out of 108 colleges," Caras said. In essence, Caras plans to focus on Columbia College, where he feels that the students and their basic needs have been overlooked. Andrew Reese, the interim student life (activities) coordinator, helps, advises, and

sometimes suggests other perspectives to the Senate, attributes many strengths to Caras, "He is very well organized, and he has a real understanding of the policies and procedures of the Student Senate. He knows how much the Senate can do and should do, and the parameters of his position." Caras' plan includes working on a better understanding between the administration and students, where he hopes to inform the administration of the needs of the students, and to make students aware of the inner workings of the administration.

As such, he implores students to become involved in their government saying, "We can't do our job if the students aren't communicating."

When asked why he came back to school, Caras said that he had some disappointments in his personal life, and a feeling that his management career in the retail business lacked direction. After a lengthy talk with his mother, he decided that his best option was returning to school. After completing his undergraduate work, Caras hopes to attend graduate school at Cal Berkeley. Law is his ultimate goal. Law and perhaps politics.

MORE TO LAKE THAN MEETS THE CASUAL EYE.  
by Rye Lee

Have you looked closely at the campus lately? There are some unusual visitors that have set up residence over the winter which compliment the usual horde of ducks and frogs. There are stories concerning each one of these interesting neighbors which include a great blue heron, a



PHOTO BY RHIANNA LEE

muskrat and a Canada goose.

Usually, great blue herons are very anti-social, seeking out quiet, secluded ponds or lakes which are far away from any human contact. They have the unique ability to blend into their surroundings, or move in slow motion when stalking their main meal, fish. Surprisingly, there is a resident heron here on campus, which is usually found standing as still as a statue on the island, or slowly stalking the shore. The smorgasbord of fish

has proven to be too tempting for this brave soul who appears to be adapting to the busy school days. There have a been muskrats in the lake over the last couple of years, but due to an injury, one had to be removed from the lake last year. Apparently, there were more than one because a definite small, swimming-furbearer has been spotted recently, paddling about the cattails. This cute little critter makes dens of sticks and mud on shore and spends much of its time swimming about. Hopefully, there is a family in residence.

Our last visitor, the Canada goose, would tell a sad tale if she could speak. According to Blaine Rogers, the biology instructor, and Jon Hagstrom, the English instructor, a pair of Canada Geese has been returning to the lake each spring for at least twelve years to hang out or nest. Last year, the pair showed up and were often spotted across the lake near the art building. This year, however, only one goose of the pair, has shown up. Canada geese are monogamous, choosing a mate once, for life, and usually they won't take another mate. So please give a kind word to our lone goose.

Aside from the usual grey squirrel and deer, no other wildlife has been reported lately. Over the years, there have been sightings of mountain lion, grey fox, skunk, bobcat, wood duck, king-fisher, raccoon, quail, coyote and ringtail on campus.

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Mountain Times is published as part of Journalism 1 & 10. Our office is located at Redbud 14 "The Dungeon," Columbia College.

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Sonoma, CA 95370  
Phone (209) 533-5171  
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Or, dropped off at the Student Newspaper box in the Campus Instruction Office.

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# \* ENVIRONMENTAL \* ALERT

This month the United States Forest Service will begin aerial spraying 40 square miles (1 square mile=640 acres) of the Stanislaus National Forest with 63 tons of herbicides.

The spraying campaign is designed to kill vegetation deemed competitive with seedlings planted which are intended for future harvest.

The defoliation will kill vegetation on public land west of Yosemite National Park and east of Tuolumne City.

Tricolpyr, which is highly toxic to trout, will be used to within 10 feet of the water's edge.

The Forest Service states that water contamination is likely to occur for at least 5-7 years.

A protest demonstration is planned for March 22 at noon. Meet at the Walmart parking lot, and march to the Forest Service headquarters in Sonora.

Information and demonstration are sponsored by People for Healthy Forests and the Columbia College Ecology Action Club. For more info call 532-2956.

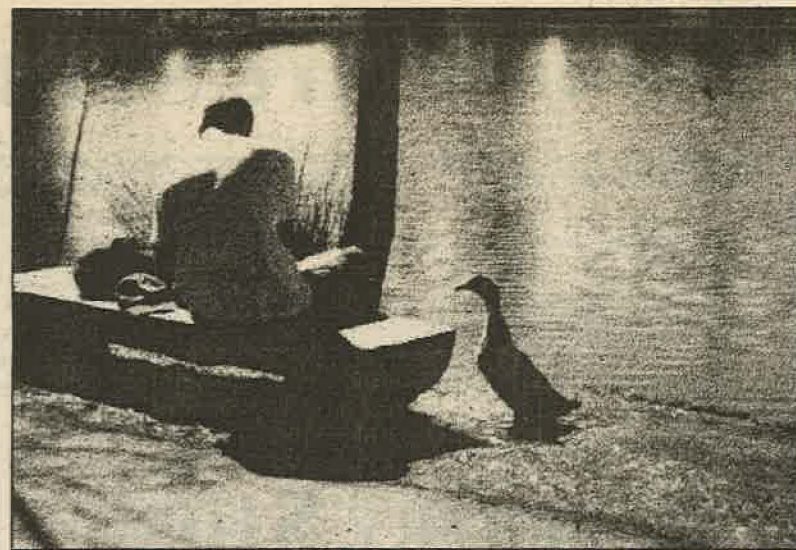
## By Stephanie Anderson CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I was walking from the campus art building to the cafeteria, minding my own business. I was very satisfied because I had just finished a ceramic piece I thought was good, and I was happy with my success. The day was wonderfully sunny and clear. The sky was an indigo blue with big, white, clouds contrasted against the expanse. I was enjoying nature's display, which imitated my mood, until suddenly, I gazed across the pond and spotted him. My heart jumped and the smile on my lips perished, nature forgotten. I hoped he hadn't seen me, so I quickened my step, but, he spotted me. "Damn, why me, why now? Maybe I can make it to the building before he catches up to me." I didn't want to run because I thought that would goad him into action. I was gaining ground, trying not to look as if I were in a hurry, but rushing none the less. "Why was he after me? I've never bothered him. I don't even know the cretin." I was afraid because this wasn't the first clash. I sped up, but, he took flight after me, sprinting over the pond, his evil eyes zeroing in on his victim. I was, too late, it was on, the attack of the killer duck.

I couldn't understand, I never bothered him, or his mate, or disturbed his nest. I loved animals, except this one, who was making me think about roast duck for dinner. Yet, he came after me like a dive bomber and landed, snapping at my ankles. I

tried to deflect his bright orange beak with my backpack and hurried up the trail, but, he came after me again, so I nudged him away with my foot. He was relentless. Still again, he came back, head down, biting at my heels. Finally, I kicked him from me, trying not to hurt him, even though he had mayhem on his mind.

When he was far enough away from me I hurried up the hill, past some other of his ilk. I was hoping the others would leave me alone. I could imagine a free-for-all, feathers, hair, and books launching out of the pandemonium. But they didn't join the mallard in his cruel affront. I bet the white one with the chef's hat was squawking at the mallard to leave the humans alone or they wouldn't feed them anymore. The mallard ignored his cronies advice and charged through the air again. "This is too much. This time I'm mad. This birdbrain is making me look stupid in front of the whole student body." I felt foolish, fighting this duck, and offended that he was accosting me. I finally had enough, and I stood my ground to face this latest onslaught. When he landed at my feet, I let out all my frustrations, and ran after him, yelling, spitting, out for vengeance. He sped away to join his gang. I think he has finally had enough. I had avenged myself and I turned to go, keeping one eye on the marauder all the way. I'm just glad I lived to tell about it.



STAFF PHOTO

## Forum

cont. from page 1

Issues of compensation equity are also being discussed, said Landess. An MTX staff writer asked if Fisher was requested to "give back her raise."

"Yes, it is on the table," Landess said.

open meeting law, and development of fair and systematic processes for evaluation of college presidents and Chancellors and for this process to be put into a contract," said Landess.

Written responses from the board of trustees have been requested regarding a disclosure of the evaluation process and criteria used in the evaluation of Fisher in 1995 and the disclosure of an evaluation plan for 1996. The deadline for this response has been set for March 15th.

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# Parents Are Students, Too!

By Karen L. Shelley  
MTX STAFF WRITER

"The best part about Head Start is that parents are required to be a part of the program, and in doing so their [parents] level of self-esteem is raised, and they become more involved with their

children as well as with the community", says Opal Bye, one of the two teachers at the campus Head Start.

Columbia College's Child Development Center contains a Head Start program, which recently began its fourth semester. There are 28 children

enrolled in the program, with three paid employees, which include two teachers and one aide.

Head Start is a federally funded program started in 1965 to serve pre-school children of families at or below poverty level. Basically, Head Start is a free pre-school for children ages 2 1/2 through 5, whose families meet all of the eligibility requirements.

Head Start began as an integral part of Lyndon Johnson's "War on Poverty" in the 1960's.

see Parents page 6



PHOTO BY MATHEW SCHMITT

Opal Bye (center), teacher at Columbia College's Head Start program directs classroom activity with students (parents and their children).

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## The Procrastination Syndrome

By Trevor Hinkley  
MTX GUEST WRITER

What is procrastination? Is it a disorder of the mind, the body, or the will? I believe it is a combination of all three. When placed under extreme stress, the body and mind tends to try to reduce any amount of this nasty stuff by screening, and perhaps avoiding the stressor completely.

During these past few weeks, I have been experiencing a multitude of stressors, seemingly coming from all directions, at every waking moment of the day. For example, when I wake up in the morning, I am subjected to the loud, brash noise of my alarm clock, shortly followed by the none too gentle awakenings from my mother. This is not how I like to get up in the morning, already getting loud responses from two separate sources of stress. Without going into specifics, I am met at school with people that are constantly doubting or disbelieving me. This is not totally their fault for I have done things in

the past that have not brought favor to me, but once the cycle of doubt is in motion it is hard to stop.

This and several other factors have led me to begin the cycle of procrastination, getting deeper and deeper, until the surface is almost not there anymore. When did this start, some might ask. Well, I can just about pinpoint the date. September the fifth is the day my sea of procrastination rose above my head. How can I be so sure? I have a paper dated September 5, 1995 that was given to me the day I voluntarily accepted a typing job consisting of approximately 700 Greek names. To this day I regret my cooperation, knowing now that this was the beginning of my downfall.

So what is procrastination? I believe it is a mild form of repression. The memory of things to do is not completely buried, but just overshadowed by seemingly more important things, such as washing dishes or watching the television. Most of the time the stressor is more interesting than the required task, but nominal in importance.

So, is there any benefit to procrastination? Besides the temporary reduction of stress, the only other positive factor of

this occurrence is chance. The chance that in the act of procrastination, a revelation will occur. For instance, according to Dr. A.R. Piltchard, Albert Einstein only became interested in physics after he was forced to write a project on folk dancing at school.

With the postponing of stress, the larger the build-up of unneeded stress becomes. It is truly a downward spiral. So, how does one relieve himself of this burden? Through hard work. This has always been a problem for me, and this particular time of procrastination has dealt a serious blow to my already fragile existence. Please don't misunderstand me, I have everything to live for, it will just be harder to obtain. So, how does one avoid this cycle of procrastination? Deal with every stress as best as possible and as soon as possible. Go to meet the stressors head on, do not wait, but also allow a time of rest and recuperation.

In conclusion, I will impart this special bit of wisdom. When the stress level reaches critical mass, lock yourself in a room, turn off the phone and lights, close your eyes, and listen to Mozart.

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# Foreign Exchange

By Mariko Noji

MTX GUEST WRITER

The airplane arrived at San Jose airport at 10:30 p.m. on December 20, 1995. This was my first trip to the United States. I was excited but scared about staying at a different country. I couldn't understand English at that time. I was relieved when I got to the airport safely.

The problem was that I didn't know where Columbia College was and how to get there. I managed to find a Japanese woman who worked at the airport and asked directions. What she told me was only that I had to take a bus downtown to get to the Greyhound Bus Station. I got on the bus after waiting for a long time. The bus driver looked at me with cold eyes and said: "50 cents". I didn't know what 50 cents was and couldn't even understand what he said. I showed him all of my change in my hands so that he could pick up 50 cents. I remembered that every time I told him that I'd like to go to the Greyhound bus

station, he reluctantly explained over and over that he would tell me if we got there. Luckily, I could find the Greyhound bus station easily because it was near the bus stop where I got off. I got there at noon.

The Greyhound cashier said that the bus would take me to Modesto, which was the nearest stop to Columbia College. Our bus wouldn't leave until 3:00 p.m., so I went to the bank to get cash and tried to call Columbia College. But I found that I didn't know how to use a public phone. At first I called 911. The second call was collect, but I couldn't understand what the operator said. I tried calling over and over. Finally I got the Japanese operator and she connected me with Columbia College.

I told Rinne West, who works in Admissions and Records, that I was a new student from Japan and that I didn't know how to get there. She called the taxi company and the dorms manager for me. The taxi would come to Modesto to pick me up at 7:00

see Exchange page 9

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## Terry Hoff:

Special Person Of The Month  
By Mathew Schmitt

Terry Hoff is a Health and Human Performance Instructor. She has been here at Columbia College approximately 20 years. She is a fine person to work with, says Karen, a co-worker of 10 years. On her off time, Terry enjoys nothing better than to putter in the garden. She also does theater work and is currently working with a company in Modesto.

Terry was chosen for this great honor because she is simply too hot.

Terry works herself and her class into a smoldering frenzy 5-6

hours a day, 5 days a week. Terry, in this reporter's opinion, exudes a quality that lifts and inspires others to a higher level of excellence. Terry is a hard driven woman with an easy approachable disposition. I have never seen her less than 100%. It is for this reason, and many others too numerous to list, that in recognition Terry will receive what others have said does not exist: A free lunch at our own very fine Cellar restaurant, courtesy of Francis, our most fine chef and instructor. When Terry was asked for one tip on how to stay in shape, she quoted the Nike commercial: find something physical you like, and just do it."



PHOTO BY RHIANNA LEE

## Nature Calls

by Rye Lee

The first flowers of spring are blooming. Manzanita bushes all over campus are leaving drifts of flowers at the bases of slender, red trunks. Sometimes you can hear these blooming shrubs before you see them due to the sound of bees happily moving from flower to flower. Local honey growers love to harvest manzanita honey, a light, sweet honey that can be found at many local markets.

At lower elevations, it is an excellent time to watch for early spring herbs; mullein, shepherd's purse, miner's lettuce and mustard are a few of many that are easily recognized without blooms. Fungus of all types are being seen everywhere as the spring storms are interspersed with days of sunshine.

Birds are tuning up for their spring mating rituals, and the frogs have remained undaunted by unusually warm, early spring weather fluctuating between spring snow storms. Apple trees and other fruit trees are budded out to bloom; let's hope they aren't tricked like they were last year.

Bucks are growing velvet horns while searching out the first new growth on mountain mahogany and buckbrush.

If the weather stays warm, owls will begin their night calls in search of a mate. Nesting will begin in March and end by June, depending on species and elevation.

Flocks of geese can be seen in the flight paths that are followed year after year along the Sierra foothills. Listen for the telltale honking as flocks head north to Canada and Alaska. Exotic visitors can be found in the lake if there is no one around. Another, quieter place (ed. note: albeit not as aesthetic) to look for wildlife is the sewer pond behind the art building.

If you had a winter garden this year, you are in real good shape. All types of greens are still being harvested for salads and steamed veggies. Onions and garlic should already have a good start, as well as cabbage and potatoes - again depending upon the elevation. Soon early spring vegetables can be put in as long as you are prepared to cover them during cold periods. We are sure to have at least one more good cold snap, even if spring is really here. Watch for the black oaks to open their leaves; they are seldom fooled by a false spring.

## Parents

cont. from page 4

The face of poverty has changed since Johnson's initial program, and Head Start is much different today, having survived despite many setbacks. One of the most important changes taking place now is the partnerships forming between Head Start and key community and state institutions.

The Columbia College Head Start program has been assigned a Family Service Worker, Connie Kimball-Brown from the Amador and Tuolumne Community Action Agency Head Start program. Kimball-Brown networks with agencies such as Welfare, Tuolumne General, Mental Health, the Women's Crises Center, and the Infant Child Enrichment Services program to assist the parents and children who have special needs.

**"I wouldn't be able to go to school if it weren't for this program."**

The day care school is an important part of Columbia College's Child Development Studies program. Not only are the parents taking part in the classroom with their children, but also students at Columbia get hands on experience working in the classroom as well.

"One third of the parents participate directly in the classroom, which is a very high count for most Head Start programs," Bye said. Other parents, who can't work in the classroom, work on special projects at home, such as needed maintenance on school equipment, and fund raising for special trips or events.

Lori Porter, who said she

did have some difficulty at first getting her son's special needs met. "My son's behavior has improved and if he hadn't been here (Head Start) I probably would have had to hold him back from kindergarten an extra year."

Sandy Moore, another mother with a child in the Head Start program said, "The school program is a lot better since Head Start took over. Their daily programs and routines are much more consistent. The kids get breakfast, lunch, and snacks, and these have really improved." Moore has had children at the school before Head Start took over running the day care. "I'm just so thankful that I have a place to take my children where they can learn, and they get lots of love. I wouldn't be able to go to school if it weren't for this program."

Parents are required to take part in their children's classroom, but something more seems to happen. "It's so neat to see parents come into the program being negative and thinking they can't make a difference, and then having them change into positive people who know their value," Bye said. Bye as well as others involved in the program would like to see the financial eligibility requirement dropped completely so Head Start could be available to all families.



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# ROLL THE PRESSES

There is so much more than you would ever imagine to putting together a newspaper. When you think that each article requires a reporter going out and conducting interviews, researching information and writing the story. Maybe the reporter has to go back to a source and do a follow-up interview.

All this takes an incredible amount of time. Editing then takes place and the articles undergo more changes. Meanwhile, the advertising, logos and page-headers are being pasted-up onto the layout sheets. When all the ads are laid out, we go in with the stories, the "hard-copy, and this is rarely a perfect union. Judge us as you see fit.

Remember though, the *Mountain Times* is a relatively new paper. We are currently in our fourth semester of publication. Since September of '95, the journalism department has had three different instructors: Russel Frank, Steve Elliott and our newest instructor, Ross Alford. All have acted as faculty adviser to the paper.

The fact that this first issue of the *Mountain Times* has finally made it into print is the result of many hours of hard work by our adviser, our managers and staff. It was not an easy task to produce the paper this semester since almost everything about it had to be started again from scratch. A whole new team had to be brought together. This happened seemingly by miracle: the gods must be smiling upon us. Unfortunately, that didn't make our job all that much easier.

Other factors were also involved in the development of this paper: funding for one, is always a challenge for a small publication, even one with college backing. We are indebted to the Columbia College Student Senate for their generous financial support, to Jan Jörn for the creative way in which she helped us procure a camera.

And secondly, in regards to technical assistance, we wish to extend our thanks to Doryene Rapini and the staff of the Instructional Material Center, to Dorine Bass in the Mac lab, Rebecca 'Becky' Cripps-Miller in the instruction office and Martha Gibbons from the Union Democrat for all of their valuable time and assistance.

We owe thanks, of course, to our advertisers -- this issue has the most advertisers in our entire history -- and to those who submitted artwork, articles and editorials. They all played a major role in making this paper a reality. With this first issue of Spring '96 under our belts, we have surmounted some significant hurdles. Now we can get on with the business of producing a newspaper: developing content, evolving and finding direction, and to reaching our goal of becoming an informative and entertaining publication worthy of your time.

-Editor

**To Sin by silence while others doth protest makes cowards out of men.**

**-Ella Wheeler Wilcox**

Thomas Jefferson said that the press was the fourth leg of the government. This understanding of the need for Eternal vigilance has helped keep the Democratic ideal alive. Through-out the years Journalism has fought many battles for the freedom of speech, fought against censorship, fought against prior restraint, and helped to define the terms of libel, privacy and obscenity.

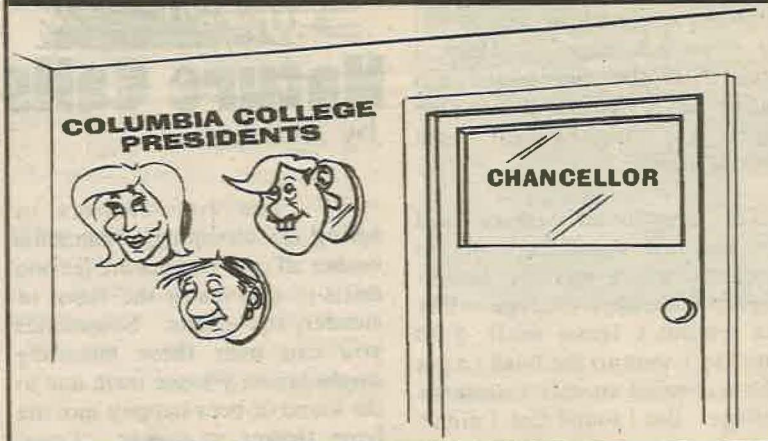
Strangely enough, many of the determining Supreme Court Cases, that have established precedent on issues such as these, have occurred in the not so distant past. For instance, the Pentagon Paper case of the late 1960s or most significantly some of the College Press Freedom cases like *Trujillo v. Love* in 1971. In any event, Journalism faces some big challenges in the future, like corporate take over of news agencies, or probably closer to home, the truth that Journalists are not handsomely paid creatures and that the Journalism racket is a tough profession in which to cut out a niche.

My point being, that as a society, we need to protect the future of Democracy, and the freedoms that we've come to expect from our political arrangement. To do so, we must protect the "fourth leg," we must spent money on training students to become good Journalists because, "If the press won't tell you who will?"

Ross Alford

## Columbia Captions

by Mark Joachim



## MOUNTAIN TIMES

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

•Letters to the Mountain Times must be typed or printed legibly.

•All letters must be signed by the author, and contain a phone number for our verification purposes only.

•Anonymous letters will not be considered.

•Submissions are subject to editing, and publication is not guaranteed.

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OR DROP DROP IN THE MTX MAILBOX AT THE INSTRUCTION OFFICE

## MTX Mailbag

Just when it seemed that most Tuolumne County business-people have decided that the idea of Operation Thumbprint is undesirable, I have found one more business that still uses this irrational check verification policy. In my opinion, there are several reason why this is unconstitutional and just plain bad policy.

First, the fourth amendment to the Constitution says there will be a "... right of the people to be secure ... against unreasonable searches and seizures ... but upon probable cause." to me this includes a thumbprint. There is no probable cause to assume I am a criminal; therefore, I should not be treated as one.

Next, printed on each of my checks is my name, my wife's name, each of our driver's license numbers, our mailing address, our physical address, and our phone number. What other practical information could be added to make local businesses feel more secure?

Finally, I have never been charged with a crime; therefore, my thumbprint is not on any sort of police record that would make it possible for some agency (or business) to track me down that way.

The reason Beacon Gas and other businesses use Operation Thumbprint is simply as an intimidation tactic against law-abiding people. I understand that there is a great deal of money lost by business-people every year; however, that is a business concern. If it is problematic, they should decide not to accept checks instead of trying to intimidate local consumers with this ridiculous scare tactic.

Andrew Reese

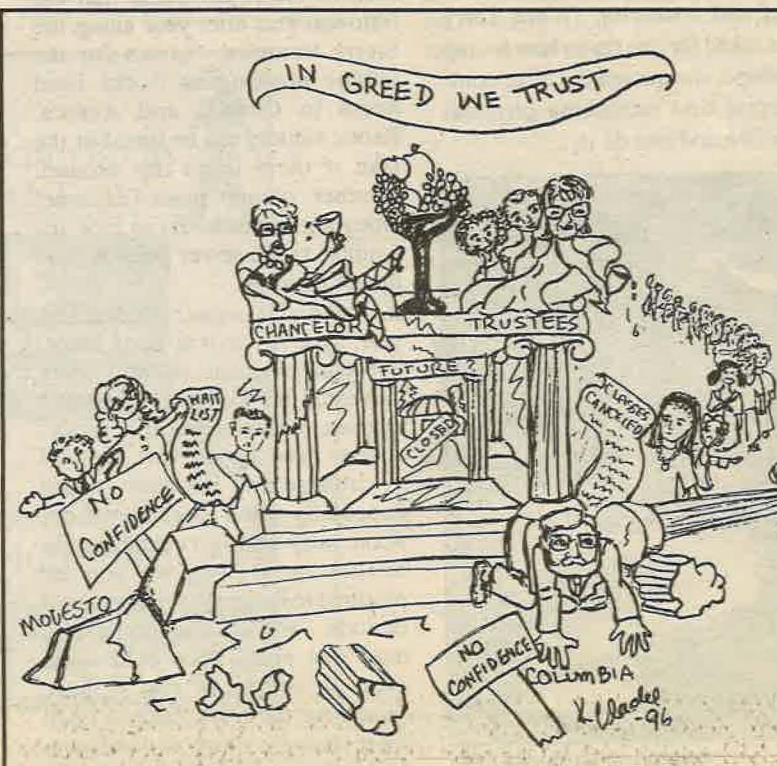
## Talking Head

Question: What would you have done with a 13% pay raise?



PHOTO BY MATHEW SCHMITT

**Michael Farrell-** I would have accepted it, then turned around and given it back or donated it and taken a tax break.





# Columbia Knows The Way To San Jose

By Tim Mann  
MTX STAFF WRITER

A long weekend in San Jose, that was the single-minded goal of the entire men's basketball team this season. It doesn't sound like much. It certainly doesn't have the elan of "I'm going to Disneyland" or even the Sonora High School's goal of playing at Arco Arena. True, San Jose does remind one of some song lyrics: "this could be heaven, this could be hell", but the city itself isn't the prize. Even the California Community College Final Eight Basketball Tournament is just a part of the attraction.

What really inspires the passionate pursuit of this elite weekend is the "who": who gets to go is determined by a season of hard work, long hours, and vicious competition. No self-doubters will be in attendance. No quitters will be allowed in. No weak team will get lucky. The cream has risen to the top.

Now, it's all about the guys who traveled that difficult road together. The team is paramount, but the individual players create the pride that carries the group over the low spots. For Columbia, it's not just the men on the floor, but the ones on the bench, the ones with clipboards and ties, and the women in the training room. It's a team that loves to see Robert Parker rip a trey, Marlon Johnson sky for a rebound, or Chris Griffin reject a shot. It's a team that will stand and cheer for Jason Perry to get a point, or design a play for Devon Spells to get the last shot of a game.

It's a team with professional coaching, amateur players, and the best of volunteers. These teammates can't let one another down no matter what the outcome. They all know that they will give it their all. They believe in each other. The pride is earned and deserved.

The company one keeps is an

indication of who you are. Columbia keeps company with some very fine people. The best players test themselves against Columbia. The best coaches worry about how to handle them. Win or lose, a "Columbia" encounter is considered a season highlight. The program gets respect because the players earn it. Dexter Young playing with a broken nose, Gil Smith with a broken thumb, T.K. Davis stepping in to fill a void without a drop in team play, consistent ball handling under pressure by Brian Hamilton. Other teams thought the outside shooting was a weak point so they focused on exploiting it. Gabe Wingo stepped up and forced them to once again spread the defense.

The team isn't just five men and a ball. It's also Phil Grossman, team manager, working behind the scenes to keep the logistics under control. It's very much Kaye Whitney, Team Physical Therapist, working like a medic on a battlefield, patching up one injury, taping body parts for one more effort, mothering when mere medicine isn't enough. Columbia's 1993 State Championship trophy is wrapped in Whitney's adhesive tape.

There's a role for redshirts learning the game, and like injured Shaun Kunz, providing formidable practice opponents. A team without a head is an uncon-



PHOTO BY TIM MANN

Playing above the rim helped Marlon Johnson lead the Claim Jumpers to the C.V.C League Championship, 3 playoff victories, and a berth in the Final Eight of the State Championship.

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## Tennis

cont. from page 1

Coach Larry Maucere fostered team spirit by involving his players with Columbia's Golf Team fund-raising efforts. All efforts, though individually successful, failed facing the indisputable point of insufficient enrollment. Six players are needed. Players must be able to pass 12 units while practicing every day, compete twice a week, work nighttime and weekend fund-raisers, face the pressure of competition and provide the basic living expense of any full-time student. They must also provide their own specialized athletic equipment.

Previous teams got by with a mix of excellent talent and neophyte walk-ons. In some cases, drag-ons. This left the team able to compete, but unable to win. The daunting effect hampered recruiting and lead to a migration of talent. Unlike the Volleyball Program, which has been able to build itself despite competing in the

toughest league in California, the Tennis Team slowly drained itself.

Morino, after her efforts to save her sport at Columbia, has relocated to Modesto J.C. Other athletes are left with no option other than abandonment of their goals. No women turned out for tennis. The six men signed up for the men's team, were turned away. Title IX demands balance, and without six women there could be no men's tennis team, as there already exists a men's basketball team and a men's golf team. Only volleyball provides an opportunity for Columbia women. The imbalance between the current one to two ratio is unsustainable, but temporarily allowable. A one to three ratio would be bending the rules too much.

There is hope for women's athletics despite the Tennis Team's faltering. Other sports offered by the league include several which may be more

viable at Columbia, such as softball and basketball. Basketball, for example, would benefit from a crossover of athletes from the Volleyball Team, a fine talent pool in the feeder schools and years of junior high, and high school basketball clinics put on by Columbia's Men's basketball coaching staff. The use of the outstanding facilities at Oak Pavilion, coupled with its core of rabid basketball fans could lead to a community wide support of women's sport. As a U.S. women's pro basketball league is forming this fall, and the Summer Olympics will showcase the women's games, perhaps there is a bandwagon large enough to carry Columbia women athletes into a new era of competition.

**GO ☒ NOTE**  
**MARCH 26, 1996**



# Final Eight Leads To Final Game

By Tim Mann  
MTX STAFF WRITER

Forget the need for a domineering center, Tommy Smothers was the man the Claim Jumpers needed in 1st round play. Only Yo Yo man would have made the difference in a game that saw both teams go up, then down, then up, then down. In the end, time expired as Columbia was on a down

swing. A slightly shorter game would have had them advancing and a longer one may well have had a better ending.

Matching up against the Riverside City College Tigers provided fans of the Claim Jumpers at San Jose Events Center, and listeners to Rory Miller on KKBN, with a thrilling, heart stopping roller coaster ride.

While the first half seemed

to foreshadow a blow-out, knowledgeable fans and true believers knew that no team could hold Robert Parker and Marlon Johnson off for 40 minutes. Indeed, that the Tigers did for most of the first half is the best indicator of their ability. Leading by scores of 22-12 and 44-28, the Tigers scored big in runs of unanswered points, and appeared to be untamable. Only a late surge of their own

provided the Jumpers with a half-time score of 44-38. Head Coach Jim Saia used the locker room time to adjust and reprogram his troops. Pride, skill, and the stamina built up over a season of strict conditioning allowed the sophomores consisting of Robert Parker, Marlon Johnson, T.K. Davis, Brian Hamilton, and Chris Griffin to play catch-up and take the lead at 63 - 61.

Time proved the crucial element as Riverside battled back late to retake the lead. Fouling became necessary to regain the ball, and a fatigued but still standing Tiger team was able to convert their chances for a final score of 84-78. In the end, the Final Eight story was decided within the final eight points scored.

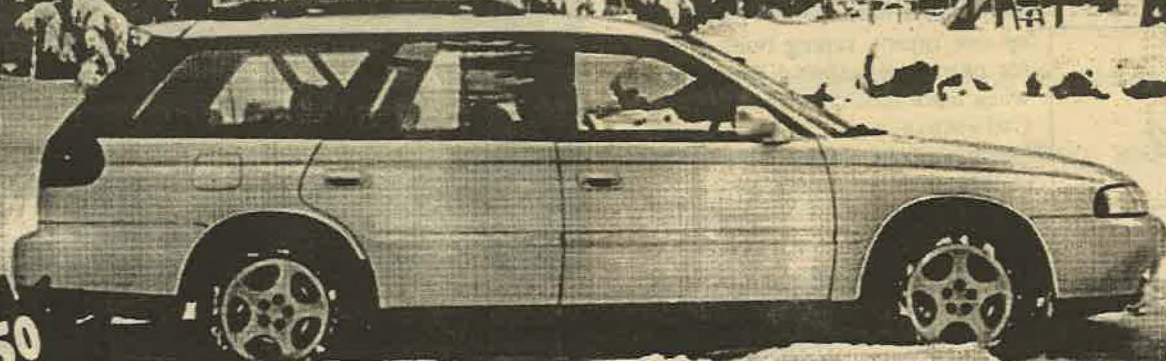
## San Jose

cont. from page 7

trollable body with no direction, no hindsight, no chance. There is no doubt that the brain, eyes, and voice of this team is the coaching staff made up of Head Coach, Jim Saia, and Assistants Trons Grimes, and Bill Vaughn. This team depends on their mental efforts for guidance, and it runs on their motivational appeals. There are no short days for this staff and no day is long enough for the planning, practicing, and playing they endure.

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By The Lake Side  
Wizard

**ARIES** Avoid all people with other astrological signs.

**Taurus** Dennis Rodman will want to dance with your date.

**GEMINI** Something will happen today, but only you can confuse the issue.

**CANCER** You will one day be the proud owner of an "Oldsmobile."

**OLE** If you live in Bolise, you will find a three quarter full bottle of Rum.

**VIRGO** Today you shall receive an enema.

**LIBRA** Your favorite song will be used in a Nike commercial.

**SCORPIO** You will find a hair in your ice cream.

**SAGITTARIUS** You are condemned to a discussion about the meaning of relationships.

**CAPRICORN** Your old dog will have total bladder control loss right as you're leaving for work.

**AQUARIUS** Take a long bus ride to the ocean and get off.

**PISCES** Go to the well, but don't fall in.



## Exchange

cont. from page 5

p.m. She encouraged me a lot. I wasted a lot of money calling again and again. After I got on the bus to Modesto, I slept well. I was exhausted, and thought only that I wanted to go back to Japan.

I got to Modesto at about 5:00 p.m. I didn't feel like doing anything. I was too tired to think. I was very hungry, but too nervous to eat. I was completely lost, and I was worried about whether the taxi would come and pick me up or not. I couldn't do anything but sit in the chair. I almost cried because I was scared of the people around me, and I held my stuff tightly. I wanted to go home.

After a while, a girl by the name of Sharon, who was sitting by me, started talking to me even though I couldn't speak English. I

told her about everything that happened to me that day with broken English. Luckily, Sharon lived in Groveland, and knew where Columbia College was. She called the taxi company for me because the taxi did not come at 7:00 p.m. She gave me candy bars and a muffin. She saved my life! Sharon kept me company while we waited for the taxi. She helped me a lot. I would have gone back to Japan if I had not met her at that time.

The taxi came at about 9:00 p.m. The taxi driver was a very nice person. He asked me simple questions; such as why I came to Columbia College, how old I was, my name, my family, etc.. I enjoyed talking. When we got to Sonora, it was foggy and we got lost. He couldn't find Columbia College at first. We drove to Columbia and Sonora, and back and forth. I was afraid that I wouldn't get to Columbia College

that day. Finally, at 10:30 p.m., I got to Columbia College.

There was nobody living in the dorms because of Christmas vacation. The dorm manager gave me one of their rooms, and sheets, pillow, and blankets. I went into an empty and cold room. It was so dark and quiet. I felt alone. I didn't think that I could stay at Columbia College for two years. I missed home, my family, and my friends. I was exhausted, so I went to sleep and slept all the next day.

Now it has been more than one year since I came here, and my English is getting better. That makes me comfortable. I began to like Columbia College, and staying at the dorm. I made a lot of friends, and I am enjoying my classes.

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**Books for sale:** Human Anatomy and Physiology, Third Edition \$60, Culture and Values: A Survey of the Western Humanities, Vol. One, \$40 984-0524.

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**1/2 Price used books:** Intro to Lit. \$14.25, Basic Practice of Statistics \$26.25, Challenge of Democracy \$16, Taking Sides \$7.50 795-1536.

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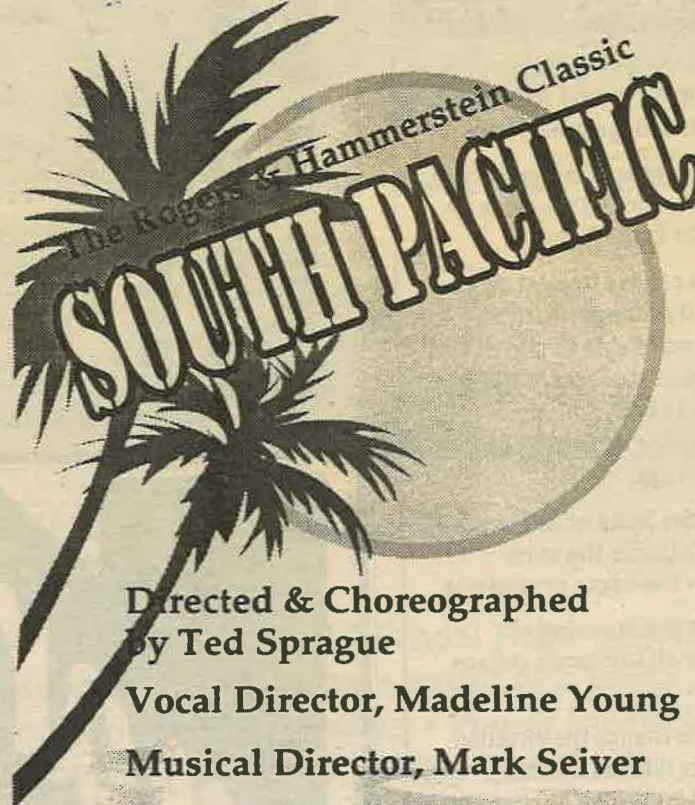
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## Movie Reviews

By Michelle Baron  
MTX STAFF WRITER



If you've gone to any movies in the last year, it's a pretty good bet that one of them had John Travolta in it. He's making a huge comeback, to the elation of many and the groans of others. I'm not sure that I won't regret admitting this, but I am glad to see him. From the first time my pre-pubescent heart pounded at his "Vinny Boborino", to the adolescent hormonal attack I had when I saw him in "Saturday Night Fever", I have adored John Travolta. I am glad to see him back, and I'm even more glad to see that he has moved on to more interesting roles.

The newest character to be brought to life by Travolta, can be seen in the movie, "Broken Arrow". This flick is typical of others in the "action" genre, and follows a simple, money-making formula. This includes, two guys, one good, and one bad; a beautiful maiden in distress; large amounts of ammunition exploding; car and train chases; exploding helicopters; fist fights; betrayal; suspense; and wonderfully executed stunts.

I had only two main problems with the plot; the fact that the United States Air Force would exercise a training mission with real nuclear weapons, was a bit hard to believe; but once the action exploded on to the screen, reality was left behind. The other area that bothered me, was the repeated shots of Travolta accompanied by music better suited to "The Good, Bad, and the Ugly". The movies' southwest sound didn't fit with Travolta's Italian typecast.

I also got the feeling that the director, John Woo, wanted Travolta to mix his "Pulp Fiction" character with his "Get Shorty" character. This doesn't really work well, and gives a very strange, almost uncomfortable feel to Travolta's role. Thankfully, this picture has left behind the silly one liners and campy catch phrases that Stallone and Schwarzenegger feel compelled to use.

Christian Slater played the loyal military officer very well, and was nicely believable. Neither of these actors were working hard to reach any depth here, but the movie isn't that type of picture anyway, and they can get away with the lighter performance.

My favorite thing about this movie was the intelligence,



bravery, and fighting ability of the female character, Samantha Mathis. She is a relative unknown, which made her even more believable as the environmentally protective, tough, and ever ready, Park Ranger. It was a very nice change to see a smart, tough, damsel in distress, rather than the typical "I'll stand here and cry until he saves me", female we are subjected to over and over again. Mathis and the character she portrays, makes this movie fun, and more unpredictable. "Broken Arrow", while it won't change any political views, reveal any deep human reality, or bring about new cosmic beliefs, it will entertain you, on a cold, wet

Saturday afternoon. On a scale of one to five, I give it a three.

**By Michelle Baron**  
MTX STAFF WRITER

Richard Dryfuss has never been more wonderful! His performance as the want-to-be composer in "Mr. Holland's Opus" is probably one of his best, and will most definitely win him next year's Oscar nomination for best actor.

This movie is about how dreams and aspirations are not always reached in the ways we expect or desire. This movie is about life. While it delivers a happy ending, it tells the story of dreams lost and rediscovered.


Dryfuss is believable as the frustrated composer, turned

teacher, and he gives his character real emotion. Glenn Healy plays the role of Holland's wife. She, too, gives a memorable performance. There is a scene where she realizes that her child cannot hear, and you see it in her face. Her emotion is so real and so true that you feel as though you are a part of it. The pain and total heart break of that second, when she says to Dryfuss, "something's wrong", is intense.

Dryfuss is able to convey, with his face alone, the reality that he (Mr. Holland) will never be able to share the thing he loves most about life, with the person he loves most. This film delivers several of these moments - some heart warmingly wonderful, and others sad and deeply moving.

Director Stephen Herek creates an uplifting film by combining terrific actors, great sets, and a variety of fantastic music. The story was believable and had a sense of familiarity about it. Over all, this film will lift your spirit, and leave you with a warm heart. It may even change your major. On my scale of one to five, I gave it a five!

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Tue. 3/19 Vicki Pratt-Keating FK

Wed. 3/27 The Otherside AR

Tue. 4/2 Bison RK

#### **-Coyote Creek-Sonora-**

Wed. 3/13-St.Pat Warm-up Black Irish-Father Kelly 8:30pm

Mon. 3/18-St.Pat Party Clan NA Gail 9pm FK

Tue. 3/19-Vickie Pratt-Keating w/Michael McNevin 9pm FK

Wed. 3/20-Save Kritzer & Fiona Lehn 9pm FK

Mon. 3/25-The Diane Patterson Sextet 9pm AR

Wed. 3/27-The Otherside 9pm AR

Sat. 3/30- Club Monkeys 10pm RB

#### **-Parrotts Ferry Brewery-Columbia-**

Call for Tue., Fri., & Sat. Night Music 532-3089

#### **-FLYING PIG SALOON-Sonora-**

Thurs. 3/14-FRANK LYNN JAMES no cover-7pm BL

Fri. 3/15-LITTLE JONNY & THE GIANTS \$5-8:30pm BL

Sat. 3/16-LITTLE JONNY & THE GIANTS \$5-8:30pm BL

Thurs. 3/21-FRANK LYNN JAMES no cover-7pm BL

Fri. 3/22-RAMPAGE 8:30pm RB

Sat. 3/23-J. WOOD-8:30pm

Thurs. 3/28-FRANK LYNN JAMES-8:30pm BL

Fri. 3/29-LYDIA PENSE (from COLD BLOOD)-8:30pm RB

Sat. 3/30-THE CUTTING EDGE-8:30pm RB

#### **-SNOWSHOE BREWERY-Arnold-**

Sat. 3/16-Mr. Jones & The Previous 9:30pm

Sat 3/30- The Return Of The BILLS 9:30pm

#### **-Ironstone Vineyard-Murphys-**

Sun. 3/17-Clan NA Gael \$0 -In the tasting room FK

#### **-CONCERTS-**

**SONORA CELTIC FAIRE**-Sonora Fairgrounds

March 16 & 17-THE MOLLYS, THE BLACK IRISH  
plus Celtic faire & activities. FK

#### **Music Type Key**

Alternative Rock-AR Bluegrass-BG  
Blues-BL Rhythm & Blues-RB Country-CN  
Folk-FK Rock-RK Easy Rock-ER



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Last Saturday of each month 3/30 Club Monkeys A great dance band!!!





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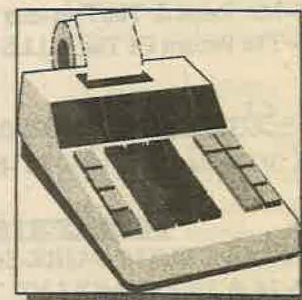
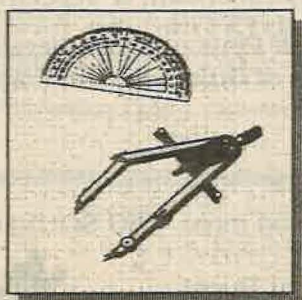
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