

COLUMBIA COLLEGE MOUNTAIN TIMES

February 1997

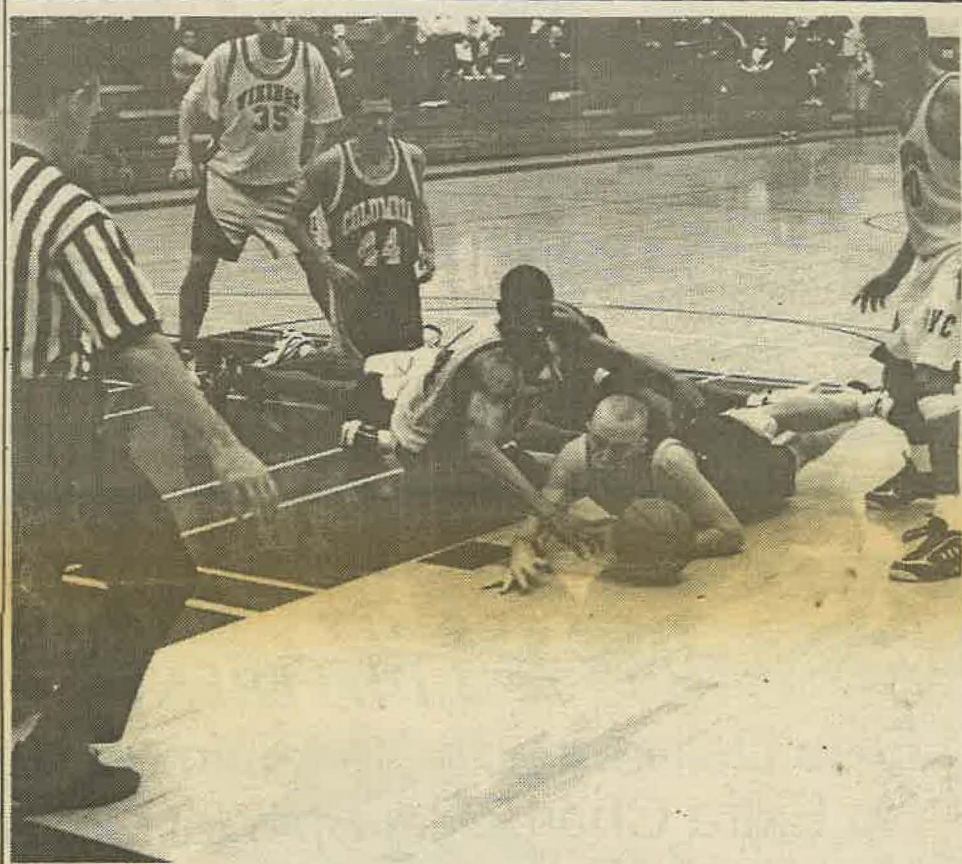
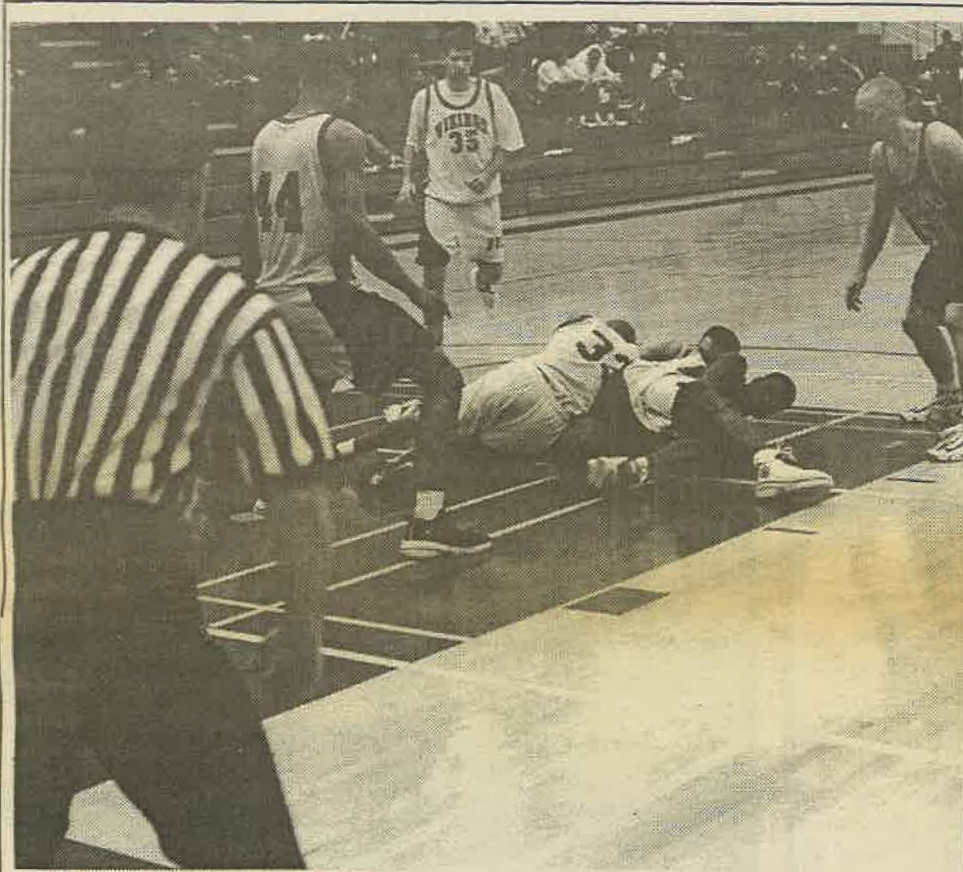
Columbia College

APR 09 1997

VOL VI No. 1

COLUMBIA COLLEGE
SONORA, CA 95370-9581

Jumpers Lose Bid For First, Fall To Third



DIVE FOR IT! Shawn Kunz (44) and Gabe Wingo(10) dive for the ball at a recent game against the Vikings. Photo By: Tim Mann

By Karen Shelley
MTX MANAGING EDITOR

The Claim Jumpers fell to defeat in Oak Pavilion last week. Their record at press time is 7-3 in conference, and 19-7 overall.

It was the Fresno City Rams on Feb. 5 who became only the fifth

team ever to beat the Jumpers at home in Oak Pavilion. In fact, the Rams had not been able to pull off a victory over the Jumpers in Tuolumne county since 1982. Last week's victory was hard won by the Rams and a heart-breaker for the Jumpers and their fans.

The Jumpers were in the lead all but a couple of minutes at the start

of the game and then the last minute of the game when the Rams battled their way to a 75-71 final score.

The Jumpers worked hard for every point and on defense played tight, applying constant pressure to the Rams' shooting game. As a result they found themselves in foul trouble early in the game. Jumper

Shaun Kunz at 6'5" had his hands full with the towering Rams' 6'8" center, Larry Abney. Kunz fouled out of the game during the last few seconds, with 11 points and 6 rebounds to his credit.

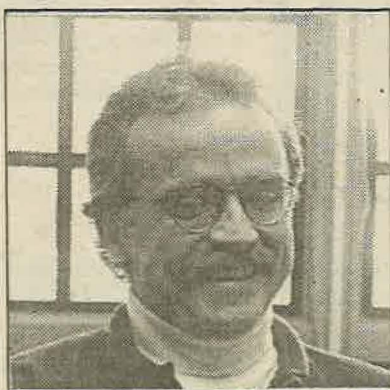
High scorer for Columbia was Sherod Dent with 20 points, and 4 rebounds. Dent was saddled with four fouls by the 4th quarter. Alton

Sanders scored 13, with 5 rebounds, Haniff Collins 10, with 5 rebounds, Tyreese Stewart 6, Matt Williams 7, with 7 rebounds, Gabe Wingo 2, and Darrell Brown 2, with 6 rebounds.

Scoring for the Fresno City Rams unfolded with Ron Selleaze 19, Mike Garrett 16, Cory Powell

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February's
MTX?



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Gene Womble, See Page 5



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Enrollment Gifts are Here!

By Lara Lelis
MTX ASSISTANT EDITOR

Money back on books, discounted parking, gifts, and possible winnings in a prize drawing are all in store for students who are taking more units this semester compared to last.

The state of California is offering community colleges money to increase their enrollment. In order for colleges to receive this money, they must increase their enrollment over last semester. The money is earmarked to increase FTES (full-time equivalency students) and to offer new and expanded course schedules.

In exchange for students taking more units, the college is offering discounts to students. Also offered is the Big Prize Drawing, which

includes: gift certificates to Columbia Actors Repertory Theater and the Cellar Restaurant, sweatshirts, T-shirts, a backpack, Student Activity Stickers, and other items. There are over 50 prizes in all.

"We're gonna have a lot of winners," said Connie Mical, in the Student Services office.

In addition to the drawing, the college is giving license plate covers to anyone who increased their units. The covers say, "Columbia College...I helped it grow!"

If a student has two more units, they will receive the license plate cover and 5% money back on their parking sticker.

If a student has three more units than last semester, they will receive

the license plate cover, 10% money back on parking and 10% off in the bookstore (with receipts only).

Anyone who increased their unit load will be eligible for the Big Prize Drawing.

"The students on campus really helped us to reach the goal," said Mical.

Exact figures are not in as of press time, but more units are being taken.

According to Jane Saldana, Vice President of Student Services, every student who is taking more units will have their name displayed in the Rotunda. She said it is to give each student recognition for helping the college.

To receive the discounts, see Kya in the Student Services office in the Manzanita Building.

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The cover photo taken by: Tim Mann

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•Advisor Michael Wadle

The Mountain Times is published as a part of Journalism. Our office is located at Redbud 14, "the Dungeon."

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11600 Columbia College Drive
Sonora, CA 95370
Phone (209) 588-5171

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Students Brace For New Regulations

Welfare Reform Hits California Students Hard

By Vickie Marks
MTX STAFF WRITER

Students who have depended on welfare for financial stability and rely on this help so they can attend college are in for a disconcerting revelation. College students on welfare could find it hard to stay in school when "welfare reform" takes effect in July. The new welfare reform gives a lot more power to individual states and lets them determine how federal welfare dollars can be spent.

This is California Governor Pete Wilson's proposal for the 1997-98 school year. The new program is called California Temporary Assistance Program (CalTAP). This Program, which hasn't been approved by the Legislature, will be replacing Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC). The CalTAP plan will increase the working requirements from 20 to 32 hours per week. Welfare recipients will also have a very limited amount of time that they can acquire assistance. The work increase, along with other changes, such as Food Stamp Program reduction and funds for child care and transportation, could spell trouble for community college students.

Across the state 125,000 community college students could be affected by the welfare changes. In Tuolumne County, about 478 of Columbia College's 2,500 student receive AFDC.

According to Yosemite Community College District Chancellor Pamela Fisher "community colleges are going to have to become innovative and

flexible program leaders if they are going to fill the needs of low-income students". Chancellor Fisher addressed her comments to some 100 teachers, administrators and students during Spring Institute Days, January 10th and presented them some of the "highlights" to the welfare reform.

Along the way there will be many barriers. "It's hard to argue with that", said Fisher, "and indeed a number of welfare student

"My concerns are that the state's program could force a lot of students into low-paying jobs at McDonalds or Taco Bell."

Pamela Fisher,
YCCD Chancellor

would love to go to work. However, my concerns are that the state's program could force a lot of students into low-paying jobs at McDonalds or Taco Bell."

Barriers outlined by Fisher:

— As aid recipients search for jobs under the "welfare to work" mandates the interim period will bring an increased demand for the temporary housing, food, and clothing.

— Work training is essential for many welfare recipients if they are going to secure reasonable wage-earning jobs.

— The welfare to work program plan requires the creation of new jobs in an area with high unemployment.

Students who rely on financial aid to provide a bridge while pursuing an education could be caught in a position where they have to choose between an education and an income. "The implications of this are humanitarian, education, and economic", Fisher said. "Not only can students not afford to lose their education, but we can't afford to lose so many students", Fisher concluded.

Other ideas provided by Fisher:

— Colleges can expand work study, cooperative work experience and internship programs.

— Colleges can offer training courses, English as a second language and short term, intensive basic education classes to prepare people for work.

— Colleges can provide job development and placement programs.

— Colleges should evaluate programs to determine if changes can be made to better serve welfare recipients.

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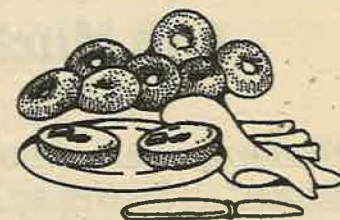


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Meet Your Columbia College Student Senate

By Lara Lelis
MTX ASSISTANT EDITOR

Every Thursday at 4:30 p.m., the sound of a gavel pounding and an interesting and informative discussion can be heard in Fir 3. Many issues arise at Columbia that are important to students and the Student Senate addresses those concerns.

The Senate is headed by President Kristoff Cortez. Also on the Executive Board are Crit Leonard, Vice President of Policies and Procedures; Jeremy Mills, Vice President of Clubs and Lara Lelis, Executive Secretary. The Senate also consists of senators who bring student concerns to the meetings. These senators are: Omar Amahd, Mona Rae Baroody, Kevin Burnett, Jessica Dennen, Gabe Durkee, Joanna Kelly, Brian Klebanoff, Laura Leslie, Heather Nordstrom, Julie Mae Porter, Timothy Renaud, B.J. Shoka, and Justin Solomon.

The Senate is currently planning



I CALL THIS MEETING TO ORDER--Student Senate members(l-r) Kevin Burnett, Kristoff Cortez, Lara Lelis, Crit Leonard, Jeremy Mills, Mona Rae Baroody and B.J. Shoka.

the annual Inter-Tribal Pow-Wow, which has gathered recognition throughout the area. The Pow-Wow will be held on April 19 and include dances by local Native

American tribes, merchant booths and food booths, along with raffle tickets and prizes.

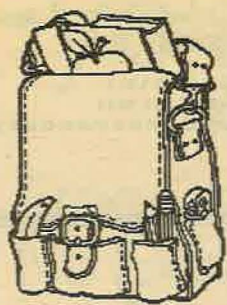
The Senate also provides bands and barbecues during college hours.

Any student wishing to join the senate can fill out an application, which are available in the Student

Senate office.

Each Spring semester, the student body votes for who they want as their executive board.

Suggestions are always welcome at the Student Senate. The office is in Manzanita 14A, next to the counseling office.



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JUMPERS

continued from front
page

and Darnell McCoy 10 each, Larry Abney 9, Nick French 8, and Casey Cleveland 3.

Both teams suffered questionable calls by the refs and some down-right bad calls.

The Jumpers were ahead 44-41 at the half, and were ahead by 11 points during the 4th quarter. Then a cold shooting spell swept over them along with a few turnovers, and a few three point shots by the Rams. Suddenly, time ran out on a very important game. The Jumper defeat knocked Columbia out of the three-way tie for first place in their division. Now Fresno City and Porterville share the tie alone.

"The team put forth a great effort, and they learned alot," said Coach Hefferman. "We played Fresno at the beginning of the season and we lost by 20 points. We played them again and this time we lost by four. We learned alot."

The Jumpers showed competitiveness and a lot of heart against Fresno last Wednesday. It was the kind of game that kept fans on the edges of their seats with adrenaline surging, and emotions rocketing from one end of the spectrum to the other. When it was all over, we felt like we'd been run over by one of those two ton pieces of equipment used to flatten black-top roads. Sound like a fun way to spend an evening?? You bet it was! Thanks, Claim Jumpers for the thrills.

EDITOR'S NOTE: At press time, Fresno City College had defeated Porterville - Current League Standings - Fresno 1st, Porterville 2nd and Columbia 3rd..

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New Chef in the Kitchen

By Rebecca
Escamilla
MTX STAFF
REPORTER

"I should have been here ten years ago."

That's what Gene Womble said was his first impression of the Columbia College Culinary Arts Department after teaching at Turlock High School for 17 years.

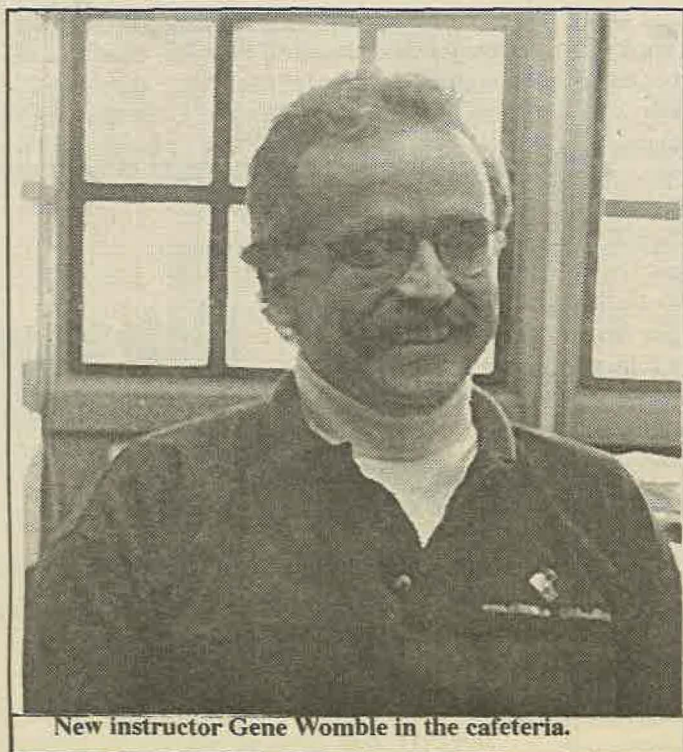
Womble, who lives in Modesto with his wife and two daughters, recently turned 40. He was born and raised in Modesto,

where he attended Davis High School. He then went on to San Francisco City College where he majored in hotel management.

He started his career in San Francisco, where he managed a hotel and restaurant. Womble eventually moved back to Modesto and started teaching at Bayer High School as an assistant instructor. After eight years at Bayer High School he went on to Turlock High School where he would re-vamp the food service and hospitality program.

At first it was considered a standard cafeteria, but after years of hard work Womble turned it into a multi-operation service with outside catering, vending machines, and a dining restaurant. "This was an instructional production, as is Columbia, but at a high school level," said Womble.

When I asked Womble how he liked teaching at Columbia he said, "I'm having fun." He had a smile plastered on his face, I could almost see the excitement oozing



New instructor Gene Womble in the cafeteria.

Columbia, such as building a strong tie between his students and the industry. This will accomplish more job placement and generate an industry partnership.

One thing Womble likes, is to hear from his students and his customers. If there is an idea you want to express, (i.e., you like an item, you don't like an something, you want something new etc..) Womble would love to hear from you. He welcomes outside input and lots of it, that's how he believes success can be achieved.

"I can be successful if students come and see

me," Womble says, with complete

sincerity. His office is located in the Manzanita Building and he is available after 5:00 P.M. If you have a gripe or an idea, feel free to express yourself, it never hurts to ask.

Womble considers himself a fun teacher with wild students. He thinks it's great that his students have an interest in learning, and he has an interest in teaching, therefore this makes for a wonderful opportunity for all. Womble has adopted a new motto since coming to work here, "I am starting here with a new piece of paper, a blank one."

With a wealth of ideas and motivation I'm sure Gene Womble will fill that piece of paper with a great list of goals. With the help of his students and customers, the Culinary Arts Department can grow to the national level Womble is so sincerely interested in reaching.

out of him.

As for being nervous about replacing Lynch, he was at the same job for 17 years so obviously he was nervous at the thought of taking a new job. Even so, he is full of new ideas and can't wait to get started on them. Already he has added a Starbucks vending machine in the cafeteria.

To succeed with his ideas he will need help, but for Womble that is not a problem. He feels that he's receiving considerable support from the college administration, faculty and staff. His biggest hope is to bring the culinary arts program to a new prominence where it will be recognized at a national level.

Gene Womble is a motivated man with new ideas for improvement and an excitement to teach. He is expanding the menu and bringing in more vending machines. Womble has many goals he will be working towards while teaching at

Student Profile



Student Dad--Derek Howard takes time out of his school schedule to spend with his son, Seth.

By Charmaine Mattingly
MTX STAFF WRITER

What makes our campus so interesting? Without a doubt, the answer lies in the diversity of our student body. In this issue, I will be speaking with Derek Howard, a single father, age 28, who has returned to college seeking a career in computer science.

"Derek, what motivated you to return to college?" I asked.

"For some reason, I was given the opportunity to go to school, and I jumped on it," Derek answered. "School is a privilege. I feel very fortunate to go to school. I want to set an example for my son. I want my son to have an education, and I plan to save money for that purpose."

"How do you find time to keep up with your homework and still have time for a lively three year old?" I asked.

"I do my homework in the evening after he goes to bed so I can spend quality time with him," Derek said.

"Describe a typical school day for us," I said.

"I usually go over my homework before I wake up Seth. I like to play with Seth for

a little while. I take Seth to the preschool here on campus. After my classes, we go home. When we get home, we play together. Then I get Seth involved in helping clean house and cooking dinner. We work on toilet training too. Before I put Seth to bed, we have storytime. We are reading the original "Alice in Wonderland." When we are finished, we say our prayers. Seth goes to bed, and I usually stay up and work on homework."

"How does being a single father affect your social life?" I asked.

"My life has changed drastically," Derek said. "Fortunately for me before Seth entered my life, my social life was very full. Today I don't feel I'm missing anything."

Howard's long term goals are promising.

"I would like to use my artistic abilities in the field of graphic arts. I figure I will need the background in computer science," says Derek.

I want to thank Derek for sharing his life with us. Look for another student profile in the next issue of the MTX.

VEGGIE CORNER

featuring scrumpdillitydumptious vegetarian recipes

CHIPS-IN-A-PAN

By Charmaine Mattingly

tortilla chips
jack and cheddar cheese grated
green onion chopped
tomatoes chopped
bell peppers chopped
sliced olives
kidney beans (optional)

Fill baking dish with tortilla chips. Cover chips with a generous amount of cheese. Layer veggies. Bake at 400 degrees until the cheese melts. Serve with guacamole, salsa or sour cream. Yum!

*From the Editor's Desk**Karen Shelley*

I can't believe another semester is already well under way and as usual change is the name of the game.

Two of us from last semester's MTX core staff have returned and we are welcoming a new group of reporters, and photographers, as well as some of our old favorites. Included in this new group is Mr. Michael Wadle, our new Advisor. Mr. Wadle is an Adjunct Instructor who teaches political science, history, journalism as well as serving as Adjunct Representative on the Academic Senate Counsel, and Faculty Liaison for the YCCD Grant Development Office. All that and the MTX Advisorship. Thank you, thank you, thank you! This man is a saint, (or perhaps he doesn't know what he's getting into, eh, Ross?)

The "dungeon" is still butt-cold, but in a few weeks we

will be adding some new equipment which should add a little heat, if not to the temperature of the room, then to the spirits of those of us feverishly working on the newspaper. We are very grateful to Dean Cunningham, President, and Joan Barrett, Vice President of Instruction for the new additions and the continual support of our efforts.

I want to thank some very special people and groups of people for their help and support over the semesters that I have been with the MTX. Doreen Bass of the MAC Lab and Biology Department, thanks for answering our interminable questions, and for helping us with the computers. IMC, your help with our sometimes unintelligible requests regarding scanning of photos, saved our skins many times, thanks for your patience. The Library Staff, your gracious help in answering all our questions in times of need was a godsend. To all of the

staff and faculty who allowed us to interview you for different articles, we thank you. We hope you've been reading and enjoying the paper thus far.

To our advertisers, we thank you for sticking with us and we will endeavor to become a better format for your messages. And a special note to Coyote Creek's Jeff Jones, I will be doing my damndest to be able to send you an invoice this semester.

I've saved my thanks to Ross Alford for last. Ross has this semester joined the ranks of former MTX Advisors. He was the first person I saw two semesters ago going into the "dungeon" for Journalism class. I thought he was a student, he looked so young. That's what happens when you get older and don't realize that most of your teachers will now be younger than you. Ross, thanks for all of the hours you spent teaching us about writing news, about putting part of ourselves into our writing, and when production seemed to look bleakest, thanks for reminding us of the "prime directive", to have fun. You infected me with the

excitement of newspaper writing, and thereby opened up a world where I know I can have a place. I thank you personally for this gift.

And now for my statement of intent for this semester. I plan to do everything I can to help the MTX to continue to present well

written news of interest, and to increase its balance as a campus news source, endeavoring to encompass all aspects of campus life. I intend to put strong focus on meeting scheduled deadlines, and achieving internal organization to prepare for those students who will come after us.

*From the Mountain Times Mailbox***To the Editor:**

Last semester I purchased a student activity sticker - under the premise and promise that there would be a published list of businesses that offered a discount for those displaying their sticker. This did not happen! And every time I approached the Student Senate with my displeasure, they just told me that, "Well, McDonalds offers a discount." Hey, you bozos, I did not pay five bucks to receive a free small fries at the local grease pit, artery clogging, over-priced, "they actually call that food?" establishment!

I nicely asked if they would replace my sticker this semester, since it was sold under false pretense. Their answer was a flat out, cold, "I do not think that will happen."

For those who also feel reamed, once again, by the Student Senate, voice your opinion!

"BURN ME ONCE, SHAME ON ME. BURN ME TWICE, SHAME ON YOU!"

Disgruntled Student

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter in complete and utter disgust. Let's just say that I am one P!@#ed off puppy!

My wife and I decided to enjoy a nice dinner outside of the cafeteria tonight. That did not materialize! We finished about 25% of our meal, and had to throw the rest away because we probably wouldn't have been able to keep it down. Why not? Let me tell you...

We go to school up here in the serene atmosphere of the Sierra Foothills to get away from inconsiderate !@#%&* such as those who throw their disgusting cigarette butts in the eating areas here at C.C.!

Were you all raised in a barnyard? It is so disgusting to eat when there are ashes, butts, and lugies hawked up from all you chain-smokers around the tables! Don't you have some pride and common decency?

I also direct this duly-deserved angst towards the grounds keepers. You are just sitting around, or blowing leaves, while all this !@#\$ is piling higher and higher! If you are not going to do your part, and the students are not going to do

their parts, then maybe the college should institute some kind of punishment, in the form of warnings, and fines for second offenders. Did you know that even the local wildlife are being observed as ingesting these cigarette butts?

If you choose to !@#%\$-up your own personal space back home, or the cave, or the swill-pit that you evidently live in, that's fine! But do not do this to the campus! For my sake, for everyone's sake, and for the wildlife's sake!



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Guest Editorial:**Pole-Vaulting Over Mouse Turds or Compensating For The Self-Inflicted Wedgee**

By Chris Luhdorff

The majority of Society has an inherent masochistic idiosyncrasy that contributes to its collective characteristic make-up. In other words, if we have it in our minds to attempt to go from point A to point B, we have a tendency to explore what is happening at points C through Z beforehand, wasting a lot of energy and time in unnecessary ventures; the spent energy that could have accomplished our goal, causes us to achieve the A-B scenario at a half-assed level of accomplishment (C through Z might be a nice diversion, but in its proper place and time).

You know how it is; you are strolling through the park, feeding the ducks and humming a tune in your head that only you could recognize, and all of a sudden, to your left, you notice a nice, luscious area of cool, green grass that has been roped off; and there is a big sign posted right in the middle, "KEEP OFF THE GRASS!" Your curiosity has now been sparked. As you look around, you notice the finer details of this area now deemed forbidden. You didn't realize the beautiful row of imported roses around the side of the gondola. "Wow, is that a ..." and so forth, and so on. You weren't even interested in this area until you knew you couldn't access it!

Our attention and focus seems to fall into areas that are off the beaten path; and usually, to our own demise, we wind up causing ourselves more trouble and more wasted time for it. (It is very much worth our while to make a note of newly discovered territory, in which to explore at a later time, but not to let it detract us from our original heading).

O.K., the "POLE-VAULTING OVER MOUSE TURDS." Someone, whom I consider to be a friend, and I were engaging in a conversation, highlighting the innate attributes of those who spend so much energy doing everything the hard way. An example of this would be how an acquaintance of mine, who smokes two packs of cigarettes per day, was bed-ridden with the flu for a week. Basically, it was just a bad cold, but instead of drinking orange juice and plenty of fluids, eating a

sensible diet, and everything else our doctors tell us to do when recuperating from a cold, this person lied around drinking six-packs, eating tons of fast food, and smoked three packs of smokes per day, because he was bored and had nothing to do except to engage in watching all those nauseating afternoon talk shows all day long (which is why he missed a week of school, instead of one or two days tops). Although, I do admit that if I was subjected to Jenny Jones or Geraldo everyday for a week, I too, would feel pretty self-destructive.

How does Jenny Jones and the Geraldo show resemble rodent excrement? Well, that is another topic in itself. But what does resemble mouse turds is our everyday, mundane, run-of-the-mill problems and obstacles that each of us face every day; to which there is always going to be a natural course or plan of action to execute. In that game plan, we can either take a direct approach, tackle it, and move on to something else, or we can make the process a long, drawn out one; in which case you become one of those individuals that never seems to accomplish anything (or anything worth mentioning, at any rate). And we all know a few of those, don't we.

Now, the "SELF-INFLECTED WEDGE." This is a term that I coined in regards to our ability to royally screw ourselves out of success and accomplishment. Again, in the context of the before mentioned conversation with a friend, there are many that come from, shall we say, my generation, that are in one of a few, yet small categories. 1) They were either smart enough to keep their acts together when they were younger and are currently succeeding in life, love, and career. 2) They are incarcerated. 3) They are drooling on themselves in a sanitarium somewhere because of doing way too many drugs. 4) They are six feet under, (as my brother). 5) They have been fortunate (or unfortunate, depending on how you look at it) enough to have been there, done that, and are still around to talk about it. This is where I am, quite frankly. And this friend and I were discussing how those of us who are still here, have many battle scars to contend with. We have a lot more obstacles in our path, than

say, those who are still young and haven't yet Danced with Decadence. And, quite frankly, it is a lot harder for those of us to concentrate, process information, and a whole list of other things, depending on the nature and extent of the damage done. Sure, there are those of us who suffer from "Self-inflicted Wedgee Syndrome," but it behooves us to try all the harder at succeeding. It's a character builder. And those who may be in the early stages of dabbling in the Wedgee Arts, may just want to re-think, and to reconsider their plan of action. Most can relate when I say that when we were young, there was nothing that anyone could have told us that could have made us act any differently. Am I right? And those that tried were either "stupid" or "out of touch." Our parents were this way, right? What did they know? Well, do you know what the scariest thing is? It's the fact that we turned into these same nefarious monsters that we all hated! I don't know about anyone else, but I can't stand (although they are doing the same thing I was doing at that age) all those subversive character traits that are currently being flaunted by the younger generation, testing their boundaries and their independence. You can't really blame them when you think about how we were at that age.

Now that we have discovered ourselves, and our mistakes, we should pick up the remaining puzzle pieces that make up our lot in the Human Experience, and continue our quest to "beat the clock." And what makes life all worth its toil, is how close we come to completing that puzzle when the buzzer goes off, marking the end of our existence.

I've made a lot of metaphorical inferences, and I've even stepped on some toes. If any of this is applicable to you, great. Use it. If it doesn't, then no harm done except the loss of a couple minutes that could have been better spent on homework or something. It is my aspiration though, that anyone who goes into themselves in contemplation, can strive to discover where they are at in the scheme of things. Periodic self-diagnoses is a good thing. Now if we can occasionally clean out the cobwebs and recalculate our heading now and then, we will all be the better for it. In ten years, it could mean the difference of being at the same job or situation you are right now, or in a position ten times as desirable. Now it is up to you.

Talking Heads**How do you feel about the increase in prices at the school cafeteria?****Brandee Myers**

"I hate it. I bring my own food now. Did you see that cream cheese is 35 cents and cream is 15? It used to be free."

**Timi Peterson**

"I haven't even noticed them. I don't think it's fair because we already pay enough to come here. That's why I bring my own food."

**Shawn Kunz**

"It sucks. A large soda or Snapple for \$1.25 when I can go to the 76 Station and get it for 79 cents. Ridiculous!"

**Jobert Verceles**

"It sucks. Soda prices went up."

**John "Tex" Sevy**

"Well, they have good food, so I'm willing to pay for it."

Angelically good Michael gets thumbs up

By Vickie Marks
MTX STAFF WRITER

"He's no saint," describes the character played by John Travolta. "Michael" is an angel sent down to earth on a bet that he can repair the broken heart of a newspaper columnist, played by William Hurt.

Hurt's character is portrayed as a very uptight reporter working for a tabloid that prints anything as long as it makes money. Hurt's reporter friend is played by Robert Pastorelli ("Elden" of TV's Murphy Brown). This character is the owner of a yapping, pant-leg chewing terrier mutt, named Sparky. Sparky travels everywhere with his owner and is the only thing that has saved his job so far. Also, along for the ride is Andie McDowell, who portrays a newly hired person to the newspaper.

When Hurt receives a letter from an Iowa woman who says she's been living with an angel for six months, his boss sends all three of them to bring the angel in.

They all set out, along with Sparky, for Iowa to see this angel. To their surprise they meet a dirty, overweight, sugar-eating, cigarette smoking angel in a run-down motel in the middle of nowhere. The owner of the motel is played by Jean Stapleton, well known for her role as "Edith Bunker" on All in The Family.

I don't want to tell what happens next, but the movie was very funny and heart-warming. A great one to see if you like to laugh with your heart. All the actors deserve high praise, and Travolta as the unsaintly Michael was wonderful.

Forever Plaid Lives



The Four Plaids are (l-r) Michael Justis, Carson Church, Ken Davenport and Darren Zipperer.

By Lara Lelis
MTX CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

Billed as "The Heavenly Musical Hit," the title sounds more like a holiday tribute than a tribute to the 50s and early 60s music scene. But, the four Plaids make you glad the holidays are over and that you're at Columbia Actors' Repertory (CAR) to witness their return.

A quick summary of the musical is simple to understand. The Plaids, a quartet who never made it big, were killed on their way to their biggest gig yet (an airport lounge). Now, in 1997 at CAR, they make their return to Earth to play one final show before they go back to Heaven.

This story-line may sound a little quirky, but the cast pulled it off. Each one fit the character well and the chemistry between all four singers really showed. Frankie, played by Michael Justis, kept the group together through all the mishaps that go on with a

performance while dealing with asthma attacks. From temporary memory lapses to nose bleeds, the audience couldn't help but feel sorry for poor Jinx (Darren Zipperer). But, boy, could he belt out a song! Smudge, played by Carson Church, the sentimental and deep-voiced one of the quartet, touched the audience while making them laugh by showing home-made album covers he designed for the Plaids. The fourth Plaid, Sparky (Ken Davenport), won the hearts of the audience with his funny goof-ups during the Sixteen Tons/Chain Gang medley.

The songs were great and the Plaids seemed to make everything work like clock-work (well, almost) while keeping the songs rolling in.

There wasn't a dry eye in the place during the songs "Day-O" and "Matilda." But, the tears were ones of laughter, not of sadness. The Plaids go all out with panama hats and a tropical flair. Even the

piano player and bassist (Mark Seiver and Dave Sahadi) get into the Caribbean mode with special hats of their own.

A little audience participation doesn't hurt and the audience gets to sing along to "Matilda." One lucky audience member gets to play "Heart and Soul" on the piano with the Plaids.

A tribute to the Ed Sullivan Show is hilarious. But, unfortunately, the Plaids have to leave. The guys get sad and melancholy as their time draws to a close. But, they pull off a finale that makes the audience wish there was an encore.

With comical and amusing dialogue and great music, Stuart Ross wrote a winner. Director Bobby Randle did a great job keeping the Plaids show flowing.

Forever Plaid is playing until Feb. 16 at CAR. My advice is to see it as soon as possible, so you can see it again and again. For ticket information, call 532-4644.



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Jamestown's Bella Union has "off-night"

By Marcia Thompson
MTX STAFF WRITER

The Bella Union, located on Main Street in Jamestown, has a historic, age-old presence. You enter through the cocktail area, with its extended, polished from time, mahogany bar. Several booths for dining are also in this room, which comprises one equal half of the total customer space of the restaurant. The adjacent room is the dining room, consisting of approximately four booths, seating four or six persons, and six or so tables. What the customer would most likely notice and appreciate about this restaurant, in the following order, would be: the historic age and timeless atmosphere and decor to compliment; interesting, creative and even beautiful artwork and artifacts all around, and ...comfortable chairs!

I've heard only good comments from friends and acquaintances who have also dined at Bella Union, and it has taken me three years to finally make my dinner reservation. In this stormy season, it probably wasn't necessary to make a reservation on the Tuesday evening I chose to join my sister and friends from San Francisco, as there was only one other table occupied in the dining area. I could not vouch for other times. Maybe it was just the lousy weather, and every restaurant has "off-nights," and the night I chose seemed to be theirs.

We requested bread as soon as we were seated (after my sister's long drive from SF, arriving famished) and were told politely by our young and perky waitress that

the bread was in the oven and would be out in five minutes. It was an early disappointment, after waiting at least fifteen minutes, to have a mini-one-person loaf for five people—instantly devoured—and upon request, the next loaf would also take another "five" minutes! It was delicious, flavored with asaiago cheese and wild rice.

In contemplating the extensive and exotic menu, and after a difficult question and answer period, such as which items offered were Bella Union specialties, we were essentially left to decide blindly. (Understandably, it is difficult for any server to honestly recommend items such as alligator tail or elk/venison/frog legs, if he or she hasn't tasted them or worse, if they are repulsed by the item.)

In my traditional "Could I possibly taste..." mode, I requested a spoonful of the Cream of Garlic soup. The soup was delicious, tasting like a creamy French onion soup. I think I was pushing it a bit, however, when I then asked to sample the Manhattan chowder.

The appetizers were selected—salmon napoleons (\$6.75 for three puffed pastries with salmon and cream cheese, slivered purple onion on the side), crab cakes (\$5.50) and a leek and blue cheese frittata (also \$5.50)—were delicious and well presented. The crab cakes, shaped like hush puppies one orders in the South, were actually some of the best I've had.

Although there were five of us, we only ordered two salads—the "Roquefort Blue Cheese Salad" (\$5.95), as we wanted to appreciate the more substantial entrees fully. I wondered which it actually was, Roquefort or blue cheese (since

there IS a difference, and I happened to have a taste preference), and it turned out to be a very watery green salad with a faint, bland blue cheese (bits of foil and all...) dressing. Frankly, disappointing, and certainly not worth the 20-30 minute wait for it between courses, when we had requested they be served with the entree. So, yet another 30 minute wait (my 8-year old falling asleep in the corner at this point) for the anticipated entree.

After fifteen or so minutes of waiting for the entrees, it seemed a good idea to get up and explore the walls covered with interesting paintings and photos, fascinating mirror/glass divider between bar and restaurant, old spirit bottles and memorabilia, etc—at least to keep our circulation going. At last, our entrees did arrive. We had selected the venison medallions with Thai curry breading and black beans (\$15.50), which, to be honest, were tasty but tough (with no steak knife to facilitate cutting); the roast duckling with champagne pear puree (\$14.00)—had its moments; and the blackened rib-eye steak (\$15.00), served roasted potatoes and beans (either of these side dishes would have been sufficient). Although flavorful, the steak was also on the tough side and the portion large.

We had the forethought to order our soufflé desserts before ordering our meals, and the Grand Mariner and lemon soufflés were petite and delicious. A dessert cart offering from apple tarts, New York cheesecake to chocolate decadence is also available.

The Bella Union certainly offers a unique and diverse menu which

includes a choice of a la carte. The three or five course dinners are priced at \$21.95 and \$28.95 respectively. Atmosphere complimented by good dinner

company can make any dining occasion a pleasant experience. I recommend you form your own opinion about the Bella Union in Jamestown.

Follow the Fortune Cookie's Advice

By Rebecca Escamilla
MTX STAFF REPORTER

A cold wet Friday night, perfect atmosphere for Chinese food. I chose the Mandarin House located in the Timberhills Shopping Center in Sonora. The special of the evening was the buffet. (\$5.99) The waiter informed us it would only cost an extra \$1.50 for one more entree. I thought a freshly made plate of fried prawns would be a nice addition.

The buffet appeared to be old and lukewarm. I thought it was the lighting. The sweet and sour pork was under-cooked and mushy. The

egg rolls were mediocre at best, and everything was really greasy. My favorite part of a Chinese dinner is always the fried rice, and although I took the bite reluctantly, I found that I actually liked it. It wasn't very warm, but it was really tasty.

The chicken wings, I was told by my companions, were good. I was unbuttoning the top button of my pants by then so I didn't have any. I didn't have the Won Ton soup either, although I was told it was the best thing so far.

I sat sipping my warm tea, waiting for the fortune cookie I love so much, when the very pleasant and charming

waitress brought me the check and cookies. To my dismay all three cookies read alike, "You will have many great disappointments before being truly satisfied." We stopped the waitress and told her we weren't happy about them all being the same, and she responded with a big smile, "That means you are all good friends." We all have known each other now for approximately a week and a half. Maybe the fortunes meant we would all have disappointing food before eating any that truly satisfied. In any case I didn't enjoy the overall quality of the food, but the service was excellent.

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The Mountain Times Literature Review

Burning Embers

It started so small and needlessly, then the fire began to grow.

The brush, the tress, the raging wind, the fire out of control. Its anger ever growing, its hunger ever more.

All creatures upon the forest floor and high atop the trees rushed about in desperation as they began to flee the temper of the creature and it's endless appetite.

Til, all that was left were embers of what there used to be, mere smoldering, burning embers were all that was left to view as far as the eyes could see.

I think that's how I feel deep down inside of me, just like that once majestic forest; burning embers are all that's left within the soul of me.

By Daniel Jones

A Man of Few Words

My father showed me how to shuffle cards and bake cream puffs, he said toothpaste was good for polishing boots and baiting hooks was not all that bad, he said take pride in scrubbing the tub and that kite making was an art.

He rarely spoke of love, but taught me with endless patience that words are not always needed to show that you care.

By Lori Reynolas
(From Jim Toner's English 1B)

SNOOTY FOX

You sit in a gallery

You work mornings at Stanford

You're snooty

Polite and detached

Almost nice

Snooty

You can spot an artist

Half the people that come in your gallery are artists

Snooty fox

Your nose hairs aren't blonde

You sit in a gallery

By Johann Newton

Hate

What makes us hate?
No matter what color, age or race
Gay or straight.
Hate is taught
Hate revolves around us in our everyday
It is we who choose to absorb it.
When you use the word hate
Does it make you feel powerful
or does it echo through your empty soul
HATE!
HATE!
Don't Hate My Brother
Don't Hate My Sister
Together we can be strong and Powerful.
Together we can build a better world for new
Generations to come.

By Kya Hertz

Mother

Green Leaves Fall
from trees that have seen it all
the decaying leaves
lay
near the root system that
Sprawls
underneath it all
how far do the roots
go
do they wind and
twirl
carelessly under my feet
what are they made of
root material
earth

By Lara Lelis

If you have
any art, poems,
short stories, etc...
please leave
them in the
student
newspaper box
in the mailroom.
We would be very
interested in
your work.

Thank you!

Boundries are meaningless, for thou hast none. The diaphanous plane stretches without limitation. You are the asymptote our feeble minds are incapable of reaching. Our models of your behavior are merely a glimpse of a promised land we shall never reach. $\int b^n dn = (1/\ln b)b^n$

uninhibited growth is modeled by a pattern we call an exponential function. It looks like this: $f(n)=b^n$ the model that describes the rate with which it grows looks like this: $f'(n)=\ln b (b^n)$ The rate at which human population grows can be modeled by a function very similar to this. Really tiny numbers get really big really fast. Ode to Mathematics:

Hefferman Keeps Columbia Tradition Alive

By Karen Shelley
MTX MANAGING EDITOR

As I opened the doors to Oak Pavilion I detected the familiar aroma that all gyms have. It's a strange mixture of rubber from quick-footed athletes and of good honest sweat from hard-working bodies. As I opened the inner doors to the gym itself, a cacophony of echoing sounds assaulted my ears. There were the bumping sounds of balls bouncing, people talking from the sidelines, the squeaking and pounding of those rubber soled feet, and coaches yelling to be heard above the din.

The man I had come to observe was instantly recognizable to me. He was pacing up and down the court following the players with the stern countenance and tense body attitude that belies a man with authority. There was the famous red hair (red hair is always famous as anyone who has it knows), and a definitely distinctive voice and accent.

Yes, this was the man in charge. This was Glen Hefferman, from Chicago, Illinois, known to us on campus and in the community as Head Coach Hefferman of the Claim Jumper Men's Basketball team. His story probably should have been told last semester when he arrived from Chicago, just days before school started. Perhaps the story will be even better now that Coach Hefferman and the practically all new Claim Jumper team have fought for and achieved a 19-6 record so far this season.

I felt really lucky to be able to spend some time with Coach Hefferman a couple of days later, especially when his assistants told me they needed to see him too. I didn't feel so lucky as I tried to pose, what I thought to be, enlightened and possibly revealing questions to the Coach only to be interrupted about a zillion times. Everybody wants the ear of the Coach, everyone from his players, to students needing keys, to a lady questioning whether she should run on the mats laying upstairs on the track.

Fortunately, I was able to talk him into meeting me again on the Friday night before the Coalinga game. Thankfully, there were only a couple of outside interruptions, but now there was paper shuffling going on.

"Gotta get these draft letters out,"



Hefferman said as he wrote, shuffled, and sealed envelopes.

"How do you know who you'd like to draft?" I asked.

"I go and watch them," he answered. "Yeah, I went back to Chicago over the holidays and watched lots of high school teams."

"Is Chicago where you grew up?" I asked.

"Yep, born and raised 28 of my 31 years. I grew up about a mile from Wrigley Stadium, where the Cub's play."

"Well," I said, "did you play any baseball?"

"I played basketball and football. I tried to play baseball, but I wasn't any good."

Hefferman said that his parents split up when he was about three years old. He never knew his father and to this day doesn't know whether he's alive or dead. His mother, who works for the Chicago City School District, is his best friend, and along with his grandmother, was the strongest influence in his life.

The male role models in his life were his basketball coaches, whom he got along well with. They had a big influence on him as he grew up

and were part of the reason why he chose coaching as a career.

Hefferman went to Von Steuben Public High School in Chicago, where he says he was a fair student. He played basketball and says he was the best player on the team. Because of that, he dreamed of being a professional ball player. As he went through his junior and senior years and realized that he probably wouldn't make it as a pro, he decided he wanted to coach. He went on to Wabash Valley Jr. College and then graduated from Harper Jr. College with his two-year degree.

Hefferman says that he was fortunate enough to be able to attend and play basketball at Northeastern Illinois University. While there, he also began his coaching career as a student coach for a local high school. Other coaching jobs were at Chicago State University, at Roosevelt High School in Chicago, at the University of Illinois, Chicago, and then at Ball State University, in Muncie, ID, where he also earned his M.S. degree.

After that, he went on to coach at Loyola University of Chicago,

Near North High School in Chicago, and Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant, MI.

As we sat in his small, cluttered office, Hefferman leaned back in his chair with his feet up in the seat, and I wondered out loud what he thought about our small, quiet community.

"It's a whole new life style from what I'm used to. I'm used to coming home around 10:30, taking a shower, and then going out someplace." (We locals know that's virtually impossible around here.)

Hefferman continued, "I'm used to going to the Bulls' games, a lot of college basketball games where I'm around thousands of people, and then afterwards going out. Here you can't do that." (Boy, don't I know this.)

"You know, in Chicago you can go out about every night of the week to a different spot and see different people every single time you go somewhere. Here, you know, there's one or two spots and you go there and you see the exact same people. I'm not saying it's bad. I haven't had a chance to experience it that much, I've been so busy with my coaching."

Speaking of busy, here's a short synopsis of what occurred in the fall of '96'. Hefferman and former

Claim Jumper head coach Jim Saia had a mutual friend who informed Hefferman about the open position as coach at Columbia. Hefferman contacted Saia and they talked about the job.

Hefferman contacted Columbia College and submitted his application. After all applicants were interviewed, on a Tuesday night at 11:30 PM, a week before school was to begin, Glen Hefferman was hired as the new head coach.

Hefferman flew back to Mt. Pleasant, MI where he had been coaching at Central Michigan University, said his good-byes, rented a U-Haul truck, packed his things, and was at work on Columbia's campus on Monday morning for his first PE class. Hefferman teaches PE and weight training classes as well as coaching the men's basketball team.

On a sad note, Hefferman and his wife are separating. She and their three young children will remain in Chicago where her parents and family reside.

We all know (even those of us who are comparatively new in the area) of the incredible winning tradition and great teams in basketball here at Columbia. The team Hefferman inherited consisted of one returning player.

Continued on next page..

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1996 Claim Jumper Volleyball Team (l-r) Shannon Douglass, Kim Miller, Cari Rigsby, Amanda Fournier, Stephanie Gates, Lisa Christopher, April Meyer, Janelle Mendes, Shana Casey, Peniel Wilk, and Coach Morgan McBride.

Coach Hefferman continued from page 11

"I had an assistant, a good friend of mine ('Slash Glash's Classes', MTX Issue IV,#1), who came here with me. He was here three weeks and he was offered a head coaching job. He took it and he left. So, for two months I was by myself."

Hefferman added that Bill Vaughn, a long time volunteer for the athletic department, has helped him a lot, especially with the fund-raising efforts.

Eventually, Assistant Coach Gil Miranda, who most recently had coached at the University of Texas, El Paso, joined Hefferman.

The team Hefferman had put together by then consisted of five California natives, three from Chicago, and one from Michigan.

"It's been a miracle. It's like, everything has clicked just right. The kids that I have, have stuck it out. I'm very demanding as far as the time they put into their practices, and the time they put into their academics. In the beginning, a couple of kids quit, because they didn't want to put in the time that was demanded. But now the record speaks for itself. We have a winning record of 16-6 (now 19-6), and this team has the highest GPA (3.2) of any basketball team in the history of the school. Four out of the nine have over a 3.5 GPA, and one is getting straight A's. If they don't do their work, and they fall behind in their classes, they don't play. They have to do the work to make it to the court."

Just then a young man poked his head through the door. "Come on in," the Coach barked. Two very large young guys filled up the little space in the office.

"These are two of my sophomore

captains, Alton Sanders and Shaun Kunz," Hefferman said as he made introductions.

"Hey Coach, if you make the Dean's List what do you get?" Sanders asked.

"Well," Hefferman said as he stood up in the little area left to him, "you get to shake my hand." They shook heartily.

"I didn't know I made the Dean's list," the young titan claimed incredulously, "they told me this morning."

There was some more talk and the giants shuffled out to start practice (hey, I'm 5'4", it hurt my neck to talk to them). "We've got some good kids here," Hefferman said as they left. "They're working hard. Sanders, Matt Williams, Sherod Dent, and Tyreese Stewart all made the Dean's List."

I couldn't let the interview go without asking about the letter.

"On Jan. 21, there was a letter to the editor printed in the Union Democrat in which your coaching style was criticized, and in which the reader suggested that the team was in a first place tie in spite of you. How do you feel about that letter?" I asked.

"I had a long letter of rebuttal I was going to send in. I changed my mind, though." After finding out who the author of the letter was, Hefferman said he felt it stemmed from a few former players' dissatisfaction with their playing time. "Anytime you have twelve or thirteen players, you're always going to have a couple of players who're unhappy with their playing time. You can't please everybody. I think my record speaks for itself, you know. My

guys know what's going on, they know I'm there for them."

I asked the Coach what he might say to young men who were interested in coming to Columbia College and playing basketball.

"I'd tell them that we offer a great combination, second to none, as far as education, and a great basketball tradition. There are good opportunities to win scholarships, and I think, most important, Columbia is a great stepping stone for young people to start their lives."

As my interview time wound down and I began to feel that I needed to let the Coach get on with his work, I asked him one final question.

"Is there anything at all that you'd like to add to this interview?"

"Yes, I'd just like to thank Dean Cunningham, Dave Wilson, Josh Bigelow, Bill Wilson, and Bill Vaughn, for taking the chance in hiring someone who was not from California. I'd like to also thank all the teachers, administrators, financial aid and other staff members, and the whole Columbia community for being so kind to me as a new-comer. Without all the help and cooperation of all the people just mentioned, I could not have managed it."

In spite of his irrepressibly intense court side manner, I found Coach Hefferman to be pleasant, easy to talk with, cooperative, and boyishly charming. Certainly the pressure has been and continues to be on him, as he sits under the microscope of this community, but the Columbia College winning tradition is alive and well. I have a feeling that as long as Coach Hefferman is here it will remain so.

Lady Jumpers Still Smiling Despite Losing Season

The Claim Jumper Volleyball 1996 season ended with a banquet at The Columbia House restaurant in Columbia on Dec. 11, 1996. At the banquet the following awards were made. Most Valuable Player went to Janelle Mendes, Outstanding Hustle to Lisa Christopher, Most Inspirational to Kim Miller, and Most Improved to Shana Casey.

The teams' final overall record stood at 8-10. The Claim Jumpers placed 5th in their Central Valley Conference with a 7-9 record.

Janelle Mendes, the team's setter, was honored for her season's play by being named to the 1st Team All Conference. Crystal Peterson,

middle blocker, was named to the 2nd Team All Conference. Peniel Wilk, outside hitter, April Meyer, right side hitter, Kim Miller, outside hitter, and Lisa Christopher, outside hitter, received All CVC Team Honorable Mention.

During the season the team played in several tournaments. Here are the results.

-The Wine Country Classic Volleyball Tournament

2nd place out of 4 teams

-The American River Tournament

9th place out of 18 teams

-The San Jose City College Jaguar Invitational Tourney

4th place out of 22 teams

COLUMBIA CANDLE & SOAP WORKS

CANDLES

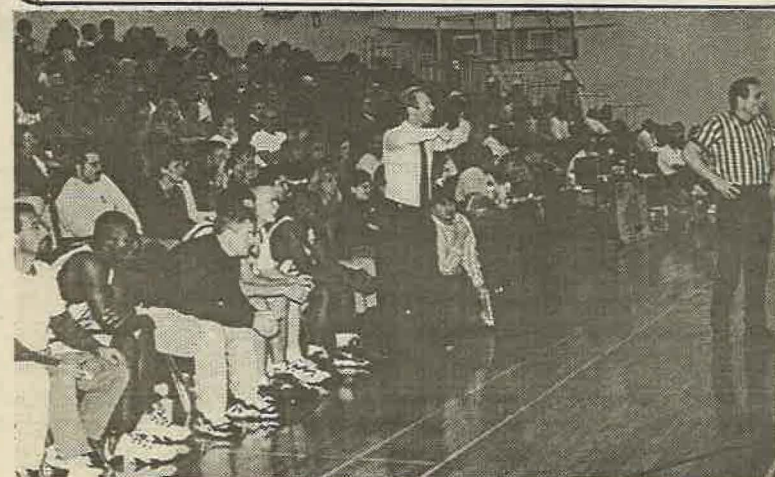
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Coach Glen Hefferman in action.