

COLUMBIA COLLEGE MOUNTAIN TIMES

May 1997

Columbia College

VOL VI No. 3



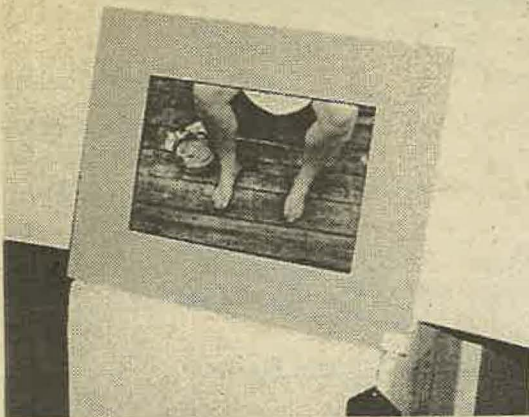
First place in Mixed Media/Graphics and awarded Best of Show, "Portrait" by R. Zavala.



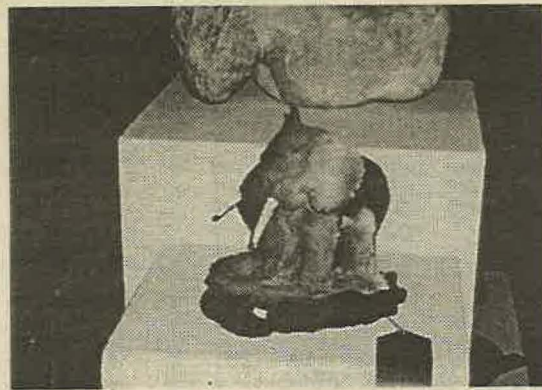
First place in Painting, "At the Fitness Center," by E. Kirby.

24th Annual Juried Student Art and Photography Show

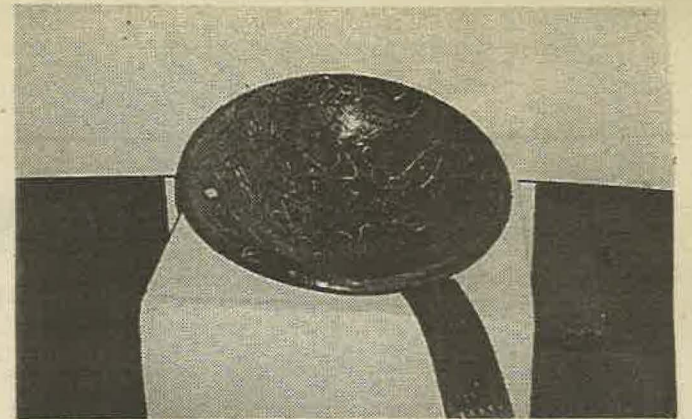
Seventy-five entries by 35 student artists and photographers were on display in the Rotunda of the Manzanita Building through May 9.



First place in Photography, "Green Bean Picker," by K. Wilcoxson.



First place in Sculpture, "Little Bull Elephant," by M. Livingston.



First place in Ceramics & Pottery, "Birds and Fish in Conflict," by E. Heald.

What's Inside
May's
MTX?



Meet Dr. Riggs
see pg. 3



THE LAZY EIGHTS
Lazy Eights Review
see pg. 13



Doell Update
see pg. 3

Pomp and Circumstance Set for May 23

By Lisa Larseh
MTX Staff Writer

Graduation — the day that all students look forward to — is coming up quickly. Last year's record number of 110 graduates could easily be broken with 164 degree candidates and 33 certificate program students eligible for graduation this year. If you have received notification that you are eligible, you are strongly encouraged by the staff of Columbia College to participate in the ceremony.

Not only is this a well-deserved acknowledgment of the hard work you have done, but the ceremony at Columbia College is specifically tailored to be a personal celebration of each individual student. Each student will have a "testimonial card" read as they accept their degree or certificate. The card can be anything the student wishes: a record of accomplishments, or a personal message of thanks to those who helped them achieve their goal. Students are escorted in by a faculty member, and special requests can be made to be escorted by an instructor that has personally been important to you.

Musical selections will be provided by graduating students and the Columbia College Jazz Band. Additionally, every year speeches are delivered by graduating students. Any graduating student is eligible and encouraged to submit a speech for consideration. The graduation committee (comprised of faculty, students, and staff) will then choose the speeches to be delivered. Graduates

chosen to speak at this year's commencement are: Kristoff Cortez, Student Welcome; Thomas Bradbury, Student Graduation Address; and Ramona Ferenczy, Student Farewell.

Graduation will be held on May 23 at 6:30 p.m. in the Oak Pavilion. The ceremony that will last approximately 1 1/2 hours to be followed by a reception in Carkeet Park. The graduation is open to the public, and family and friends of the graduates are encouraged to attend, as are all Columbia College students. Graduates can purchase announcements for \$1.00 each at the Manzanita Bookstore. Caps and gowns can also be purchased or rented at the Manzanita Bookstore between May 12 and May 22, however please note that the bookstore will be CLOSED graduation day, so you must pick up your supplies before May 23.

Graduation is a time of transition. Some graduates will be joining the work force, while for others this is the first step in a long series of educational goals. Whatever your next step is, take the time to stop and celebrate this milestone and reflect on your time spent at Columbia College. See you at graduation!

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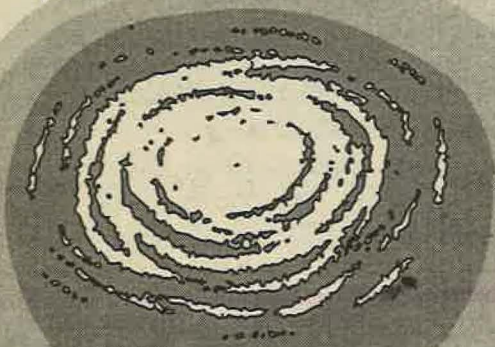
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A Good-Bye message from Lara Lelis, taken from Karen Shelley's talented brain, "Page Maker blows chunks!"

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New President Dr. Riggs Ready to Take Reins

By Lara Lelis
MTX ASSISTANT EDITOR

He knows the singer Jewel's family. He is a music man himself. But, he isn't here for a concert or a music class. He's here to take over the reins from Interim President Dean Cunningham.

He's Dr. Jim Riggs, from Lincoln Land Community College in Illinois, and he was selected as the new President after a long and extensive search throughout the country.

Riggs visited the campus last week and said that he was excited to be here. Riggs had visited the campus before while living in California.

Riggs, who received his bachelor's and master's degrees in music and his doctorate in education, is enthusiastic about the music program.

"They have a great music program here," he said.

Riggs keeps music a part of his life. "My more current interest is ethnomusicology. I'm interested in American cultures." He told of the rural cultures of the south, and he said he tries to attend as many music festivals as he can to listen to the different types of music.

Besides the music department, Riggs feels there are many good programs on this campus.

There's some really neat stuff here," Riggs said. "The Natural Resources, Hospitality Management. And the Fine Arts program is known state-wide. My goal is to expand in other areas."

Riggs would like to enlarge the economic development of the campus. He said that he wants to look at



welfare and 'school to work' initiatives. After meeting with three students last week, he said wants to work with students and improve some things that students are concerned about.

Riggs said that the neat part about this campus is that it is small, where he'll be able to interact with every student and speak one-on-one with them about their concerns.

I'd like to look into student parking space, student retention, activities, things like that," said Riggs. "And helping students stay in school. When a student feels like a part of the school, they'll participate more."

Riggs started a community college in Homer, Alaska, where he met Jewel's parents. He said that the first year the college was housed in a burned-out pizza parlor. Because of the amount of money from oil drilling being "pumped" into the community, the government was allocating funds for more community colleges.

Other jobs Riggs has held have included working at Merced College, Lake Community College in the Yuba Community College District, and currently at Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield.

Riggs will begin his job at Columbia on July 1st.

Technology and tele-courses are somethings that Riggs wants to look into. "More courses (to students) for those who live in areas that are difficult to get to."

The first several months, I'll explore," said Riggs. "I'll get out and see the campus. I want to look into community cooperation. I suspect there is a lot of that going on right now. I'll have to see what we're doing."

The staff of MTX welcomes Dr. Riggs to his new job here at Columbia.

Doell Pleads Guilty to Felony Stalking

By Lara Lelis
MTX ASSISTANT EDITOR

Columbia College English and photography instructor Ed Doell pled guilty to a count of felony stalking on April 21.

Doell pled guilty to this one count and during the court hearing, confessed to the crime.

During an interview with the Mountain Times in October, Doell's ex-girlfriend (who wishes to remain anonymous) told of what happened the night in question.

"I just heard a noise from under my house," she said. "So I called 911. (The sound) was different, not an animal. There's a little door down there (under the house)."

The police arrived and found Doell a few blocks away and brought him back to the house in the patrol car. He was dressed in dark clothing.

According to other media reports, he was arrested there after the police searched the area.

"(The police) decided to come

over here and look under my house. I was in shock, surprise, feeling disbelief. Then, they searched my room and found a microphone attached to my bed."

At the time of his arrest, Doell was carrying a cassette tape used to record her phone conversations.

His ex-girlfriend said that this incident was not the first time Doell had been "stalking" her.

"I caught him outside my house weeks before," she said. "He was peeping in my bedroom window." She called the police and, "they found some evidence and held him. I had a restraining order in the works and he was under my house (on Oct. 16) after the restraining order was served."

According to his ex-girlfriend, Doell was upset about the break-up after a three year relationship between the two. They met while she was a student at Columbia.

"I just want him to leave me alone," she said, "and to quit. I wanted to be friends."

At the beginning of this semester, YCCD stated that Doell was placed on paid administrative leave for other circumstances not relating to this charge of felony stalking.

Since Doell pled guilty to a felony, the district might take action on this.

Because this is a confidential personnel issue, district Chancellor Pam Fisher stated last week, in a phone conversation with MTX, that she cannot directly comment on the case. However, Fisher was able to give some generalizations.

"If a teacher was convicted of a felony," said Fisher, "we would consult with our legal council and take appropriate steps. There is no set answer. It depends (on each case)."

Fisher said that during her tenure as chancellor, there have not been any instructors convicted of a felony, so there are no past cases to compare this one to.

Doell declined to respond.

Doell will be sentenced on June 2nd.



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Library to Get New Books, Maybe New Location

By Vickie Marks
MTX STAFF WRITER

NEW EQUIPMENT

Many of the students at Columbia College will notice some changes that will take effect soon. The library, for instance, has just been awarded money from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

The college grant that was awarded is called the Instructional Equipment /Technology/Library Materials Grant or simply put, Instructional Block Grant.

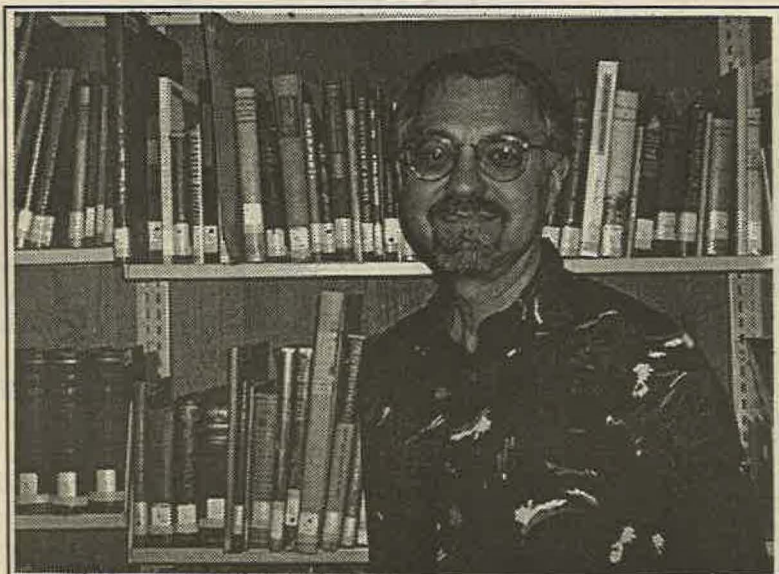
The grant total was \$118,000 and almost eighteen thousand will be set aside for the purchase of new library materials. The rest of the money will be divided up equally for instructional equipment and computer technology products.

A push was recently started to involve the faculty in determining what was needed.

Because of such a wide demand, videos were among the highest requested materials. Videos are becoming an integral part of classroom instructional aides.

According to Larry Steuben, Columbia College's Director of Library Services, many student have been asking for better computers in the library, and he agrees.

"In my opinion," says Steuben, "these computers we have now are better suited as boat anchors than for student use. The ones we have now are hand-me-downs of hand-me-downs. There are so many things that the college needs and wants, and very little money to do



it with."

Steuben is hoping to get another grant like this one next year. He would like to improve the library collection, and wants to provide students with on-line computer database terminals.

Recently, the entire school was outfitted with fiber-optic cable, and Steuben hopes that by this summer the students will have access to the Internet in the library.

NEW LIBRARY

Plans for a new Library/Learning Resources Center are taking effect. This new addition to the school will be located next to the Redbud building. The entire structure will be three times bigger than the current library and the new library will be double in size.

There will be a plaza located in front between the center and the San Diego Reservoir (lake). The plaza will give students a beautiful view of the lake and the Manzanita Building.

The center will also include

faculty offices, and an instructional technology center where students and staff members can put together multi-media presentations, i.e. CD-ROM.

"In order to build any additional facilities, including this one, however, the voters will have to pass a bond issue," says Steuben.

Recommendation to build a new library, and to convert the current space into a student center came from the accreditation team, which determines whether certain college standards are being met.

The new student center will be designed with offices and an area where the Student Senate and other scholastic clubs can hold their meetings. Currently, regular classrooms are being used for most of these purposes. The student center will also provide students with an indoor lounge area.

Provided voters pass the bond issue needed, construction on the center and the new library/learning resources center may not get started until 2002.

Senate Elections Have Minimal Turn-Out

The Annual Student Senate Elections were held on May 7th and 8th. Just over 150 students voted, a turn-out about 150 less than last year's election.

Jeremy Mills won for President against opponent Sean Eriksson. Mike Hamilton, who ran unopposed, won for Vice President of Policies and Procedures. The new Vice President of Clubs Deirdre Harris won over opponent Justin Solomon. No one ran for the other offices of Vice President of Finance, Vice President

of Activities and Executive Secretary. A special election will be held in the Fall for these positions.

Mills has been a member of the senate for just over one year and was the Vice President of Clubs, until resigning a month ago. Eriksson is a member of the senate and has been for this semester. Hamilton is not a member of the current senate. However, he showed interest in some issues last semester and attended a few meetings. Harris has not been a part of the senate yet and Solomon has been a member of the senate since last semester.



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Experiments in DNA Technology at Columbia College

By Lisa Larsen
MTX STAFF WRITER

Advances in the field of genetic engineering have been featured regularly in the news as of late, especially since the successful cloning of the sheep "Dolly." For most of us these advancements seem far removed from our lives here at Columbia College. Not anymore, according to Jerry Hodge, microbiology instructor. His students — enlightened Columbia College students just like the rest of us — have successfully completed an experiment in genetic engineering.

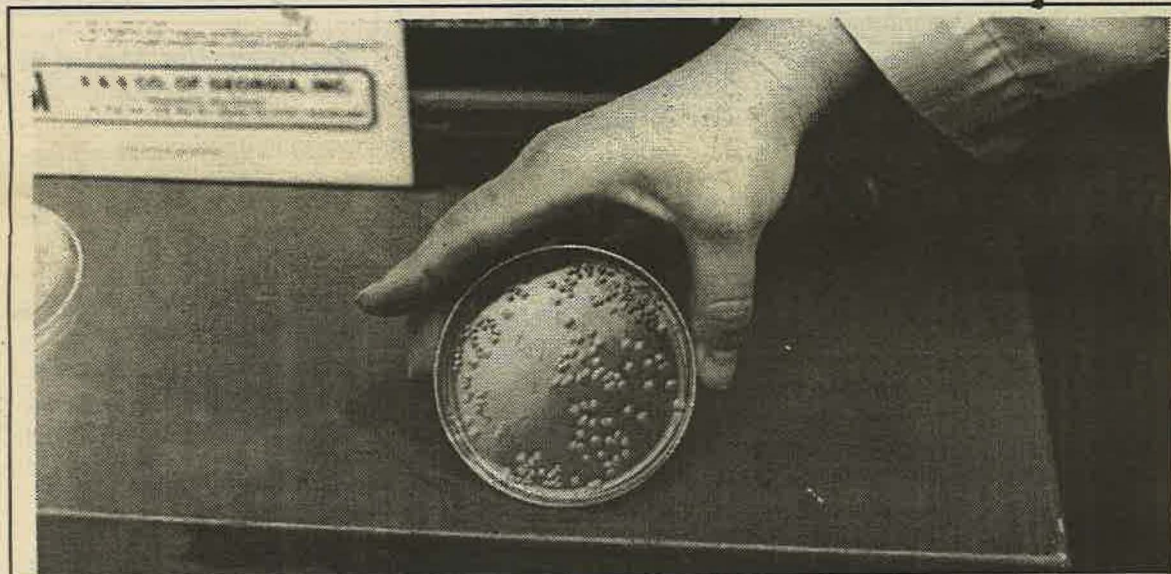
The student's task was to take ordinary *E. coli* bacteria and make it resistant to two different types of antibiotics (ampicillin and kanamycin). This is a frightening prospect when you consider that a pathogenic strain of *E. coli* bacteria was responsible for the deaths in the "Jack in the Box" incident several years ago, and these genetic changes would render ampicillin and kanamycin useless against it. What about dangers to the students exposed to this altered bacteria? Jerry Hodge explained that the first stage of the experiment is to "disable" the bacteria before the students come into contact with it, so that it can not survive outside of laboratory conditions, thereby posing no threat to humans. The college then supplied the students with this newly disabled *E. coli* bacteria and separate samples of DNA fragments containing either ampicillin or kanamycin resistance genes.

But how is the foreign DNA introduced into the bacteria without it being broken down and destroyed? Something called a plasmid (very small DNA molecules found in many bacteria) is used to "sneak" the foreign DNA in. The students "cut open" the plasmid with a special enzyme, "spliced" in the two different antibiotic resistance genes, and "resealed" the newly changed

plasmid with another type of enzyme. This formed what is called a recombinant-plasmid (or more simply a "recombined" plasmid). The next obstacle the students had to overcome was how to get this recombinant plasmid into the *E. coli* bacteria. Both the bacteria and the plasmid share the same electric charge, and just like the magnets you played with as a child, they repel one another. The students treated the bacterial cells with calcium chloride to strip away the electric charge, and then shocked them with heat to make the cell walls more porous to allow

are enormous — for good or for evil — depending upon your perspective. For example: What about the possibility of someone replicating this experiment without disabling the *E. coli* bacteria first, multiplying the antibiotic resistant bacteria and placing it in a community's water supply? And then of course there are many wonderful uses for this technology, such as the ability to grow actual human insulin in yeast instead of manufacturing a facsimile from animals. Interestingly, the genetic material

participated in Jerry Hodge's microbiology experiment, is Rachael Link. Rachael works for a local firm named Sierra Diagnostics in Crystal Falls. The firm specializes in a new form of gonorrhea testing. Rachael explained that in the past, gonorrhea tests had to be done very quickly, while the bacteria was still living. Sierra Diagnostics has developed a "mutant" gonorrhea bacteria that will only thrive in the presence of gonorrhea DNA, living or dead. Because of this, the test can be done without such strict time requirements, even after the bacteria



Genetically engineered *E. Coli* resistant to ampicillin and kanamycin.

Photo by Michael Wadle

the plasmid inside. Now that the plasmid had been inserted into the bacterial cells and assimilated into its DNA, the students tested the bacteria to see which had "taken," and would demonstrate a resistance to the antibiotics. To test for this all the bacteria were exposed to antibiotics; the ones that survived were the ones that "expressed" the new trait.

So why should we care about some abstract genetic experiment? Because the implications for its use

does not have to be from the same type of organism to be used by another. To the cell, genetic material is genetic material, regardless of where it came from. For example: the incandescent genetic information from a firefly can be implanted into the DNA of a plant, making it glow in the dark.

Businesses are beginning to utilize this technology in one area after another, and Tuolumne County is no exception. One of the students that

itself is dead. Rachael is the first to admit that working with gonorrhea bacteria is far from a glamorous job, but she is excited to have the opportunity to be working in this brand new area of science.

Regardless of our level of interest in the sciences, we need to be aware of the advancements being made all around us — even here at Columbia College — and the implications that they have for all of our futures.

Science Poem

*The Science of Biology
is finally willing to
say
that alcoholism is in
our
genetic DNA*

*The Science of
Psychology
is finally willing to
say
that alcoholism is a
disease
and it will never go
away*

*So if mom and dad
have it in their genes
and through their
passions the trait is
passed along
son or daughter
turning to drink
is proven very strong.*

*So combine the
sciences with what
they've learned
and stretch the story
as you please
to discover that
alcoholism
is a sexually
transmitted disease.*

Written by Randy

corrections

The MTX neglected to credit Mr. Ross Carkeet for the information he contributed to the article about pasteurized water in the last issue. Sorry Ross, and thanks..

The MTX wishes to acknowledge Carol McGuffy's displeasure with the last issue's Talking Heads question, and specifically the use of the word "bitch." In fact, none of the MTX Staff knows Ms. McGuffy and absolutely no disrespect was intended toward McGuffy due to the placement of her picture in the aforementioned section.

JOIN THE MTX STAFF NEXT FALL!

The Man Behind the Cart

By Trina Butler
MTX STAFF WRITER

Have you ever asked yourself "Who's the man in uniform driving around in the golf cart, roaming the parking lots?" Well, I'll tell you. His name is Chester Shears, and he is in charge of parking lot security here at Columbia.

Chester retired from Van Gas Propane where he was a route salesman and service man. He began working for Columbia College in 1995. His job at Columbia consists of checking the parking lots for vandalism, making sure vehicles have parking permits and are parked in the correct places. There are a total of twelve employees in the security department. Chester is, in fact, the only one who gets to ride in that little golf cart. Up until about two years ago, he had to patrol the parking lots by foot.

"I used to be able to run up the stairs," says Chester, "but now I use this cart like a crutch, I'm always depending on it."

"After retiring, why did you decide to come back into the work field?" I asked.

"I came back just for fun and something to do," he responded.

"Do you enjoy your job here at Columbia?" I asked.

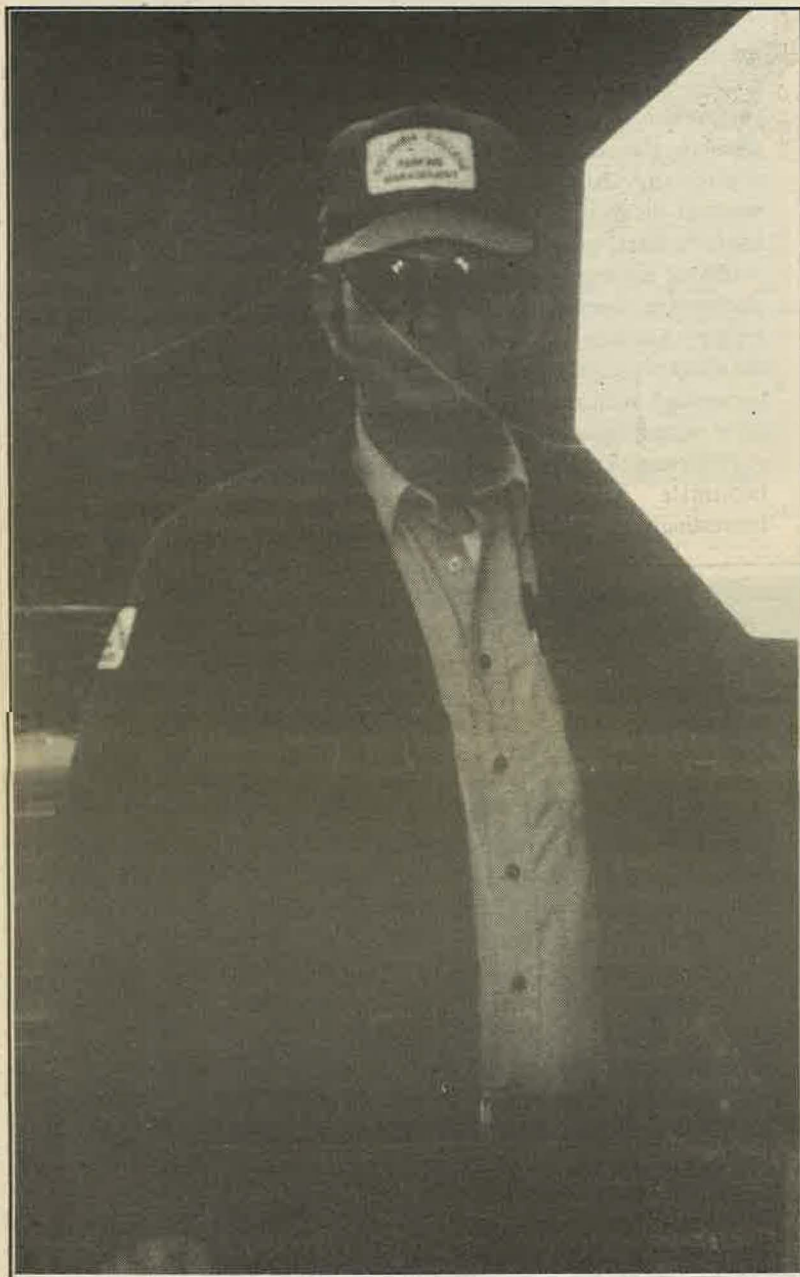
"Yes. There are many good kids and we have a great staff here. I enjoy talking with everyone."

People enjoy talking to Chester, too. Believe me he is a funny man. He has a great sense of humor. If you ever have the chance to talk to him, do it, it's worth it!!

Chester and Marie, his wife of forty-one years, reside in Jamestown. He is the father of three, and has four grandchildren. Chester works the swing shift which isn't a problem for him nor his family.

For entertainment Chester and Marie enjoy going camping. On ATV's they sometimes ride from Tucson to Mexico. (He sure does like those off-rode machines, doesn't he?)

I asked if the students give him a hard time about tickets? "They don't try and run you over in their



cars, do they?"

"Nah, they're good. Instead of giving them a ticket I try to educate them. I feel it's a learning process," he answered.

"Do you have any funny stories to tell?" I asked.

"I remember this one time, it was at the beginning of a semester, and this woman was parked in the wrong place. So, I said to her, 'You can't park there.' She said 'Everyone else is parked here.' Then I asked her, 'If I ran off the road, would you?' She said, 'Yeah, I probably would, I'm from the South.'"

After finally linking his busy schedule with mine, I found I really enjoyed talking with Chester. He even gave me a ride in his infamous cart.

The thing that stands out in my memory the most is that when we were driving around the wind was blowing my hair in my face. He was considerate enough to tell me my hair was in my mouth. Not many people tell you when there's something wrong. They just prefer not to, and then when you do realize that something wrong, you feel stupid. Chester doesn't mind telling you how it is. I like that.

It seems to me Chester truly does enjoy his job, and he's damn good at it. Take it from someone who lives on campus, I feel the parking lots are safe and I trust my car being parked out there 24/7. Keep up the good work, Chester!

Student Profile



By Charmaine Mattingly
MTX STAFF WRITER

Bob Drush, 53, a second year student, will share with us his past experience and how it shaped the goals he pursues today.

Drush is a communications major and has his sights set on big things. He plans to be a fundraiser for non-profit organizations designed to aid victims of child abuse and/or drug/alcohol addiction.

"How did you become interested in this area?" I asked.

After a slight hesitation, Drush unequivocally stated, "I have caused so much pain and suffering in this world, it's the only way I can find to really give something back."

Drush does not hesitate to share his experience. "I was incarcerated for 15 years going through 9 different prisons. I lived my life doing anything I wanted to do as long as I was willing to pay the price. I decided I had to change or I was going to die." Drawing on his experience Drush added, "when a person decides to change from negative to positive, there are a lot of people willing to help, but that help is directly proportional to the amount of work the person is willing to do."

Drush did not wait to get out of prison before he began implementing positive changes. He was involved in starting a program called "Another Way" at the Sierra Conservation Center. Drush explains, "Twelve of us guys went out to schools, churches, youth and parenting groups telling them how not to get involved in drugs and crime. From my own experience, drugs and alcohol will destroy your damn life. Many people say, 'it won't happen to me.' We have to recognize it is not the other guy. 'I am the other guy'."

Drush's beliefs run deep and express heartfelt concern. "Life is precious. If you're in a position to help somebody, the benefits are enormous. I try to live by the golden rule. It's like a soul-lift."

"What is the best advice you could give to our readers?" I asked.

"Pick a goal," Drush replied. "Stick to it. Don't let anything like drugs and alcohol interfere with your dreams. The bottom line is: do for others, help those less fortunate. If we all did that, it would be a wonderful world."

I am sure we all can agree with such a caring and positive attitude. Thank you Bob! Our readers thank you too! Best of luck to all of your future plans.

Young Student On the Right Track

By Vickie Marks
MTX STAFF WRITER

One might think that fourteen year-old C.C. student Sean Eriksson is unique, some sort of child prodigy or something. Eriksson doesn't think so. He looks at himself as someone who worked very hard to get where his is today. Probably the truth lies somewhere in between.

Eriksson was born in Honolulu, Hawaii, and is the oldest of seven children. His mother was also born there and his father is from San Diego. The family lived in Hawaii until eight years ago. They now reside in the nearby town of Copperopolis.

Eriksson attended Copperopolis Elementary School from kindergarten to the third grade. After that he received tutoring at home by his parents. Eriksson also attended Brett Harte High School off and on. When he was thirteen, he took the California High School Proficiency Exam (CHSPE), passed it, and then the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT). Eriksson began attending Columbia College in the Fall '96 semester.

When asked what he studied during his home tutoring, Eriksson said, "I'm very independent. I



adjust." He says he loves being here at Columbia because of the location. "It's peaceful and beautiful."

He feels he gets along great with his teachers and has made many new friends since coming here.

Eriksson is a member of the Student Senate and ran for president of the Senate this spring. He has also started a cycling club on campus. Cycling is one of his favorite pastimes.

Eriksson hopes to attend Stanford University and is patiently waiting to hear from them this spring. U.C. Davis would be his second choice if Stanford doesn't work out. He will be majoring in chemistry and physics and has expectations of becoming a doctor some day.

Eriksson says his family is very important to him and he spends his time from school with them, cycling, and in activities with the Boy Scouts. Eriksson is the Senior Patrol Leader of the Copper Cove troop.

Lucky for us that Sean Eriksson chose to attend Columbia College; he's a real asset to the campus, a gentleman, and an inspiration for everyone.

pretty much got to choose what I wanted to learn."

The main thing that has motivated Eriksson to study hard is the fact that he loves to learn new things. He believes that everyone needs variety in their education and so he is really enjoying his general education studies.

"You can't really choose a favorite until you've tried them all," says Eriksson.

Eriksson had some anxiety when he first came to Columbia College, especially over being so much younger than most of the other students. "Once I got into the run of things, I began to relax. Coming into a new environment is a very frightening thing, but I learned to

Salado Sings and Swings Her Way Through Life

By Sandra Corbin
MTX STAFF WRITER

When I speak of Carol Salado, I speak of a woman alive with the passions of life. Among her passions is Columbia College. Carol has been an asset to the college for years. She is currently an employee of New Horizons, where she has been a great source of support and encouragement to the men and women who make use of the reentry program. She first took classes in 1974, enrolling in dance and music.

In 1976, Carol took a brief sabbatical to support her husband's educational endeavors at the University of Utah. She managed the local Marie Calendar's restaurant while in Utah. Carol and her husband returned to the Sonora area in 1981 after he received employment by the U.S. Department of Forestry. Upon her return she became involved with the Jazz Choir and dance production. The Jazz Choir participated and won first place in the state championship in Los Angeles that year.

Family is an important part of Carol's life. She grew up in a loving yet culturally exclusive and traditional environment provided by her parents, Walter and Isabella Salado. Carol was the second youngest of four children, and the only girl. Her brothers, Al, Bob, and Walter have shared with her their youth and have tried to be there for her, now that she has grown and started a family of her own. I asked Carol to tell me a little about her



Carol Salado directing a rehearsal during some free time. Carol will be singing several musical selections during the graduation ceremonies on May 23, at Oak Pavilion. Photo by Karen Shelley

time enrollment in college.

Between 1987 and 1993, Carol involved herself and her sons in the home-school program, through the Superintendent of Schools Office. The one-on-one attention and guidance provided her sons what they needed to expand their extraordinary talents in poetry, art, and logical reasoning. All of her boys have entered and won contests for poetry and art. In the second grade, Jonathan won first place in the state poster contest for the Native Plants Association.

Carol has also incorporated her love of music and dance into, not only her children's lives but, into a cooperative school where she taught creative writing, reading, and kindergarten.

Carol Salado, a dynamic single mother who has lived her life not as a spectator, but as a participant, will soon be taking her joy and passion on to another road. Carol will be graduating this spring with an Associates Degree in Liberal Arts. Among her memories of Columbia College are singing with Al Jarreau, Carl Anderson, Cornelius Bumpus, and Bobby McFerrin. She will also take with her the faces of all those whose lives she has so deeply touched. Carol told me, "If there is no joy in what I am doing, then I'm not doing my life." I believe Carol is on to something that is true for everyone.

mother and what she remembers most about her.

"Betty, that's what my mom goes by, she is a tolerant, affectionate and compassionate woman, but I think its her laughter that I will always remember." Carol went on to tell me how her mother loved the old dramatic movies. "Mom and I would watch old movies and just cry. My dad and brothers came to expect this, saying, 'there they go again.' Then we would all end up laughing."

All Carol's grandparents immigrated from Spain, bringing with them a rich culture. This culture was passed on to their children and grandchildren. Experiencing cultural diversity was both a benefit and a hindrance to Carol as she grew up. Carol found it difficult to find a place where she felt she truly fit in. Carol also attended four schools by the time she finished the fourth grade. "Its important to me to give my children the stability, the sense of community that I didn't have." She said she had a good life, but she wants more for her children.

In 1982, Carol gave birth to the first of four boys. I had the opportunity to meet Carol's children, Seth 15, Jonathan 12, Thomas 10, and Michael 7. Raising four boys can be difficult, and since her marriage separation, it has become even more of a challenge for Carol. I have witnessed the loving environment that, due to her strong determination, Carol provides for her boys. She does this even as she holds down three part-time jobs and full-

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From the Editor's Desk

Karen Shelley

I was sitting in the cafeteria one day last week. It was two weeks before finals. Two guys were playing cards. They seemed relaxed, calm. Do they have all their papers written and typed? By the window, a three-some sat, chatting, laughing. They must have all their work done and turned in. Actually, there is a lightheartedness all around me. What's the matter with all these students? Am I the only one frantic with concern over how to finish the semester, passing every class. I have found myself in the same familiar situation I was in at the end of last semester. I have to write three papers for philosophy, a short story and poem for English and get the final newspaper to print — all in one week's time. Will I be able to do it, or won't I? Will I, or won't I? I'm a nervous wreck. Perhaps I just haven't learned to disguise my wretched stress sufficiently. I'm sure my eyes show the nervous, twitching of one who is guilty of

procrastination to the umpteenth degree; my hurried steps giving away the anxiety of one who needs to get somewhere (anywhere) fast. I jumped up, sending coffee spilling all over the plastic table-top, grabbed napkins to swipe it up, threw my backpack on, and rushed out the door.

I was practically running down the path, heading for the Dungeon knowing I had three articles to write, when I almost ran over a slow poke. I was about to leave him in the dust when I realized that "he" was my English instructor. I threw myself into first gear, and slowed to walk with him for a moment. We began talking about the short stories that I mentioned above. He was planning on collecting my classes' stories on a Thursday and returning them the next Tuesday (the last real week of school). And then he had other classes turning in final works, which all together constituted a huge mass of work

to be completed in a week's time.

"How are you going to do it? I asked.

Raising a free hand to scratch his head, and with a bewildered look in his eyes, he responded. "I don't know."

We parted and I went on to the Dungeon. My friend and assistant-editor, Lara, took one look at me and said, "You look like you could use some Visine." She scrounged in her bulging back-pack and pulled out a good sized bottle of the clear miracle liquid and handed it to me.

So, in the course of one hour, and in conclusion, I learned how to be cool during spring finals:

1) remember, my instructors are suffering just as much as me (somehow it helps, in a sadistic sort of way),

2) keep a lot of Visine handy to get the red out (from late night vigils over papers due the next morning; it keeps the twitching to a minimum, too).

To the Editor:

When I was first diagnosed with Hepatitis 'C' virus HCV) it was 1980, and I was living in a small town in Texas. Actually at that time it was called "non a, non b" Hepatitis. The information about other types of Hepatitis was virtually unknown at that time. The elderly doctor who was my only source of information in Texas, told me that I probably had at least five years left to live. This was very distressing to me, because I had three young children all under five years old. This news didn't help my already shaky marriage either. The doctor told me there wasn't anything he or I could do about it. So I stuck it in the back of my mind, and tried to go on with my life, raising the kids, getting a divorce, and moving back to California. I didn't drink alcohol, I ate healthy foods, and tried to keep stress at a minimum-(HA!). I remarried and had another child, and went on like anyone else, getting by.

I started feeling sick again in 1988 and so I went through a mind numbing array of doctors. Most of them considered me a nuisance at best, and a hypochondriac at least. But since I knew something was wrong, I had no choice but to keep trying. After a while I avoided doctors completely, to save my own sanity.

But more and more things were going wrong with my body. High blood pressure, migraines, hypothyroidism, and more. In addition to these other things, I had the usual everyday monotony of nausea, dizziness, diarrhea, and pain in my right side.

So, I gave up on local doctors because they seemed unwilling or unable to help me. I decided to go to Stanford University Hospital in Palo Alto (a three hour drive from my home) because I knew they had a great reputation and were up on the latest knowledge in this area. I had another liver biopsy in 1990, which confirmed what I already knew.

But now they finally had a name

for it. Hepatitis 'C.' I found out later that there are also types 'D,' 'E', and 'F.' Doctor Gabriel Garcia, in the liver clinic, was a mental life-saver. Because he knew all about HCV and had many other patients with the same problems as me, and NO, I was NOT crazy. Since that time I have undergone two carpal tunnel surgeries, stomach surgery, bladder surgery, and numerous blood tests, x-rays, UGI's, and on and on. Most of these were directly related to the Hep. 'C' virus, along with Lupus symptoms, Rheumatoid arthritis symptoms, and wildly erratic blood pressure. I am going through the red-tape process of being declared permanently disabled after losing jobs over my health problem, and trying to make sure my kids are taken care of somehow.

My point is that if you are feeling sick, and getting no help from your doctor, maybe you should seek outside help from another town or county if necessary. Listen to your own body and do not give up. I have learned that I have to take care of Me. And I want to live long enough to see my children age, gracefully or not, and to see my grandchildren and rejoice in life. Hey, it is now 1997 and I'm still around. But it has not been easy. There has been a wealth of information out there for reference or guidance, and that is why I would like to start some kind of support network for others in my situation. Knowledge is power, in this case, and I have been told that there are over 100 people with HCV in Calaveras county alone, and 30+ in Tuolumne county, and many more still undiagnosed. It is tragic that HCV gets very little attention because, as we all know, the squeaky wheel gets the oil. You are NOT alone.

Laurene Hathaway

MTX Loses Key Member —————

Longtime MTX staff member, Lara Lelis, is graduating this spring. Lara first enrolled at Columbia in the Fall semester of '94. She's been a member of the MTX staff every semester except the Spring of '96, when she was attending Portland Community College in Portland, Oregon. She joined that college's newspaper staff working in the advertising department.

Lara is graduating with two AA degrees in Language Arts with an emphasis in English and Liberal Studies. She plans to work in the Bay Area for Blue Cross until December. She then plans to move to Morelia, Mexico where she will attend language school. Lara says she wants to eventually get her teaching credential and teach elementary aged children.

Lara worked on her high school newspaper, and just naturally looked for a newspaper to work on when she came to Columbia. Unfortunately, at that time, there was no student paper being published. She and a handful of other students worked hard and succeeded in creating the Mountain Times. The first edition came out in November of '94. Lelis remembers those days well.

"There has never been enough

student involvement in the paper. I remember one issue being done, paste-up and everything, at my house. One time I was the sole person working on it." Lara adds that there has not always been much support from the administration or from the college staff. "I've seen more advisors come through this program than anyone else on the staff. Its been hard to adjust to a new instructor each semester.

Lara has also been active with the Columbia College Student Senate. She was a senator in the Fall and Spring of '95, acting secretary in the fall of '96, and Executive Secretary since December of '96. Since August of '96, Lara has been the Student Trustee representing Modesto Junior College and Columbia College students at YCCD Board of Trustee meetings. Lara is also the president of Rotaract on campus.

Lara says that her work on the paper has been rewarding and a great learning experience. "I am glad I stepped foot in the 'Dungeon' and didn't leave. Working for this paper has made my college experience rich with knowledge and a great understanding of this campus. At times I've wanted to walk out of

the 'Dungeon', screaming, but sticking with it during those times was a great decision, and one I'll never doubt."

Good-Bye, Lara!

Lara Lelis, thanks! You've been an asset to the college campus. You picked up the slack in the student senate. You got involved in the "shared governance" on campus. You kept the student newspaper alive during it's darkest hours. I admire your fierce determination, high spirit and positive attitude.

I'll never forget our late night work sessions, pounding out stories, discussions on the ethics of handling certain stories, the highs of realizing we got a good story, and the lows of discovering the computers aren't talking to each other, or none of the disks are compatible, or that half the scanned photos are the wrong size, etc, etc. Believe it or not, its all been great fun.

Some day when we're both famous and rich and are fighting off publishers who are lined up to print our work, we can call each other and reminisce about the good old days at Columbia College in the Dungeon, when we called ourselves the 'Comma Queens.'

Thanks for your help and support, Lara and good luck.

Guest Editorial:

We Can't Complain Anymore (or can we?)

By Lara Lelis
MTX ASSISTANT EDITOR

How many times have I heard, "Where did they get this instructor? They suck!" while walking around campus? I can't even begin to count how many times and some of those times, I've said those words myself. We students can complain and complain when we're not given the opportunity to do so. Well, we can't complain anymore.

A few weeks ago, a few of my days were filled with listening to pond ecology. Sound boring? No way. I could have been listening about sub-atomic particles or traffic congestion and still been as interested. The reason: I was making a difference. And where were you?

A position for a Biology instructor was open and after the interview process, each of the eight finalists gave a 30-minute lecture/demonstration. I sat in on seven of these half-hour presentations and got to give my input, as a student, on who I thought was the best choice for our campus. I sat alone, almost. I can't believe that with all the complaints and whines I hear around campus daily, no more than 2 people showed up for the demonstrations. Once, there was almost five! But, they were asked to show up by a candidate and they left before the demo began because they had a class to go to.

I might get some letters in response to this argument saying, "Well, I have classes I need to go to and I couldn't miss them." Let me answer your letters before you send them. I have classes, too. I missed a class. But, it's worth it. Because I am the only one (besides the two or three other students who participated) who can complain now. I can say, "I hate my instructor. Where did they get



that guy?"

I guess I feel passionate about this because there was a struggle for Shared Governance last semester. Shared Governance basically means that every area of the college has the opportunity to be a part of the decision making. Time to rewind... A committee put together to hire a history instructor was overlooked by the college president because the candidate was a member of the faculty of this district. According to the Yosemite Faculty Association (YFA) handbook, an instructor may have an inter-district transfer when a position is open. If that's what the YFA handbook says, that's what I'll have to deal with. But, before the committee was overruled, there was not a single student on that committee. Not a single student.

At the December Board of Trustees meeting, Kristoff Cortez, Student Body President, brought this issue to the board's attention. He was concerned about Shared Governance being ignored. I was concerned also and after that board meeting, I had a

meeting with Chancellor Pam Fisher. I said that we needed to work on making set rules for enforcing Shared Governance. I don't know what has happened with that. But, I also had a meeting with Joan Barrett, Vice President of Instruction. I voiced my concerns about the hiring of this history instructor and about Shared Governance. She informed me that there would be these demonstrations from the Biology instructor candidates.

What I am upset with, besides the lack of student participation in these demos, is the amount of involvement the students are given. I, as a student, was not allowed to sit in on the interview process. I was, however, allowed to sit in on the teaching demo only. Do they feel I am not intelligent enough to be a part of the interviews? Or I would be a bother to them?

The college personnel that were there thanked me for being there, but were they really glad? I think some of them were. I think that my input was regarded highly. If my opinions

mattered for the demos, why didn't they matter for the interviews? Because I'm not reliable? Because I don't know what kind of instructor would make the subject interesting? Because I don't know what kind of instructor would work for our campus? I hope not. I hope there is a much better reason why I cannot take part in every aspect of hiring someone.

Well, this is my last article for the Mountain Times. I'm graduating and I hope that I have done my job here as a student. I hope I have been involved and done my best. I

know that I will look back on these years and be glad that I got my feet wet. I'm not alone here. There have been some other students who have become involved, right along side me. I would like to acknowledge these students for their interest and commitment to an active college life. Karen, Shelley, the, other, Comma, Queen, thanks, for, heading, up, the, uncontrollable, unconforming, group, of, MTXers. It's, a, tough, job, but, you, can, do, it! I'll miss you! Every active member of the Student Senate, congratulations on surviving a drop-out, rip-on, hair-pulling year. I would like to thank Patsy Gonzales, Joanna Kelly and the other few students who participated in the Biology demonstrations. And to everyone else who participated in our college, thank you for making this college a better place. Thank you for having enough guts to take a full load of classes plus "do the extra-curricular thing." Thank you for not letting the student voice go unnoticed. Thank you for everything. Good-bye!

Unhappy Comet Watcher

To the Editor:

The college recently offered a community education course that encompassed the recent arrival of the Hale-Bopp comet. Now, under normal circumstances, one would presume that the facilitator of such a course would be knowledgeable to an excellent degree in matters pertaining to astronomy. One of the students had to actually correct the instructor as to the proper positioning of Mars; and at this particular time, only three stars were readily visible in the sky.

Myself, and half the class, ended up leaving early. I wasn't the only person who griped about being ripped of ten bucks for something that could have been (and already had been) learned by watching five minutes of the evening news, on any given day, in the comfort of our own homes.

Many of us feel that we've been "Hale-Bopped up the tailpipe" on this one. It is my sincere belief that the college should make sure that students (and the community) are getting their money's worth, not to mention insuring that our valuable time is not being wasted. Personal enrichment!? With things such as this, I think the only thing being enriched is someone's bank account.

Saddle-sore in Sonora

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Problems Brewing in the Culinary Arts Dept.?

To the Editor:

It could have been easier on everyone. In the middle of the Fall semester at Columbia College an instance involving a tussle between two instructors was grossly mismanaged and resulted in the retirement of one of the most effective teachers on the campus. Mr. Francis Lynch was completely humiliated, and embarrassed by not only the actions of his fellow employee, but of the unwillingness of the administration to do anything about the incident. His untimely, and undeserved, resignation has marked the beginning of the downfall of the quality education that used to be the trademark of the Food Service/Culinary Arts department at Columbia College. By the way I am a former employee of the college cafeteria who quit under protest about the lack of instruction, and the wasting of students time and money which I felt was being exhibited by Gene Womble. The following is my opinion of the situation that threatens to destroy the food service program at Columbia.

Now for the worst part. After an apparent half-hearted campaign to replace Mr. Lynch, the Board of Trustees decided to hire a lesser qualified instructor for the purpose of change. It is this mistake that now threatens to destroy this program. However an intelligent, articulate interviewee he might have been, Gene Womble has yet to display many of the characteristics necessary to instruct college level cooking classes. By his own admission he has relatively little practical experience in the skills necessary to work or operate a real restaurant. For the past 17 years he had been the "Home Economics" teacher at a number of schools in the Modesto area. This realization came to me after my first week working with him in the cafeteria. The first incident I witnessed was the improper preparation of a Prime Rib. For those who are not familiar with the way it is done I will just say he wasted the best part and sold you the rest. After many weeks of helping and encouraging the beginning students to

confront Mr. Womble about their concerns, I decided to initiate a petition to address these concerns. It was then that I was confronted by what felt like an endless barrage of shallow concerns made by Gene as to why I started this petition. I told him flat out that the students were not being taught the things that were necessary to gain employment in a working kitchen. He appeared aloof from these concerns and was more interested in why I was so concerned with their education anyway.

It was then that I decided that this man had relatively little interest in the success of the program or the students. The question should not have been why did I care about the students, but rather why HE DID NOT. As an educational instructor he has a duty and an obligation to give these students the highest quality of education that they are seeking.

It's sad though that we cannot lay the blame entirely on the shoulders of the instructor, he was not alone. The Vice-President in charge of Student Services, David Wilson, was alerted to the problem that was brewing in the food service department, not only by myself, but by other students and employees of the cafeteria. Once again our calls for help had landed on deaf ears. I believe Mr. Wilson seemed more interested in quelling this insurgence than by actually trying to solve the problem. This is not what the students expect when they choose to attend Columbia College.

The college has the obligation to provide the highest quality education available. By allowing incidents like these, we only see how bureaucratic and disillusioned our system of education has become. When an institution of higher learning begins to care more about it's image and its bottom line than it does about it's students, we all lose the one benefit of education....

Justin Coyle

It's A Sin To Kill A Mockingbird

To the Editor:

No longer being in the newspaper business, I find myself out of the political information loop. As such, I have very little knowledge regarding the ins-and-outs of the drama department's impending changes. However, I'd like to relate an experience I had recently that reflects the importance of their work.

Faced with a lecture on Shakespeare's *Merchant of Venice*, I asked my English 1B class if they'd prefer attending the Columbia Actors' Repertory production of *To Kill A Mocking Bird*. The suggestion met, somewhat unsettlingly, with unanimous approval. The class-wide intuition, despite their rather exuberant enthusiasm, was extremely fortuitous as we enjoyed an extraordinary learning experience.

Under Ellen Stewart's direction, C.A.R. very effectively captured the intentions of Harper Lee's novel, in which the narrator (Scout) reflects back upon three influential years of her childhood. During these years, Scout learns from her father, Atticus, a respect for individualism; she learns a great deal about courage; she learns about prejudice and the effects of prejudice on law and society; and she learns the differences between just and unjust behavior. Additionally, in the C.A.R. production, the audience becomes a member of a jury that unjustly convicts an innocent man, ultimately sentencing him to death. This dramatic technique effectively turned Scout's experiences into an allegorical civics lesson.

Most importantly, after the play, I felt a rejuvenated sense of community. As I had seen many students in the production, I couldn't help but feel that events like C.A.R.'s productions, and the college's association with the City Hotel, the Jazz program, the school newspaper, and the basketball team, etcetera, etcetera, make Columbia a legitimate educational force. I hope the impending changes to the drama department won't weaken the college's ties to the community.

Ross Alford

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter to inform the student body of the inconsiderate actions of one or more people here on campus. My car has been repeatedly struck in the parking area by an unknown vehicle. I realize my car is an older model car and others may not appreciate it's value as much as I do, but I am in the process of restoring it to it's original condition. With the amount of damage that a light blue car has done to both sides of my car, it only makes it more difficult for me to finish the costly improvements I plan to make. It hurts me deeply to think that one of the people here could be so callous in their behavior to not even try to notify me of the situation. I am more upset over the lack of concern then I am at the actual damage done. One last thought to who ever hit my car, because of your actions security has been intensified and hopefully any other incident will not go undetected.

Pat Evans
69 Pontiac Lemans (green)

Thanks a lot.

Thanks A Million

Thank You to IMC for all their help
with scanning pictures for our paper.
Thank you Doreyne and Andy!

PARADIGM SHIFTING WITHOUT A CLUTCH: BUILDING PRISONS FOR OUR CHILDREN

By David M. Chesnut

The popular British author of the 1700's, Jonathan Swift, wrote many memorable tales most of us have read or have had read to us, *Gulliver's Travels* probably the most easily recognized. Swift, who chiefly wrote what could be considered 18th century socio-political criticism heavily laced with satire, was a champion of the downtrodden and the oppressed, and rarely missed an opportunity to take a swipe at the ruling class.

A Swift essay that just about every community college and university student is familiar with is one with the unassuming title of "A Modest Proposal." This essay, published in 1729, was written as a response to the treatment of the people of Ireland by the British crown. To Swift, the oppression and abuse of the Irish had reached an intolerable point and these horrible conditions demanded public attention. Families were cast into the streets to beg for scraps to eat and rags to wear. Mothers with "...three, four, or six children" could be found sleeping huddled upon the walkways and "Cabbindoors." The children of these beggars, according to Swift, would surely grow up to be "Thieves for want of work." Or worse.

Swift's proposal was ingenious though hideous. On one hand, the plan clearly appealed to the general public: if indeed the plan were executed, the streets would be cleared of the human debris that cluttered society. Decent folks could stroll and hop without the inconvenience of having to step over and around beggars on the walkways, and could avoid the unpleasantness of coming into contact with someone with a hand out for a handout. The ruling class would be happy because at least one major social woe could be eliminated. And of course, those living in poverty would be no longer have to beg for sustenance; indeed they would be paid a decent wage while helping to sustain a hungry nation.

Swift's plan, simple and modest, was to have the poor sell their youngsters for slaughter and, ultimately, food and other household goods. The author takes pains to explain how this might all come about, and in solid economic theory describes how much a family might

expect to earn per child, how many meals could be expected from a single child, and different ways the meat could be cooked and served. The author admits that the food will be "...somewhat dear, and therefore very proper for Landlords, who, as they have already devoured most of the parents, seem to have the best title to the children." However humorous Swift's intentions appear, the essay can be shocking and not a little morbid to someone who is unfamiliar with his work.

Today, across the nation, we are experiencing a similar phenomenon: many, many citizens have become homeless and cast into poverty due, in a very large part, to uncaring government and business leaders. Society is bombarded daily with images of homelessness and poverty, so much so that we ourselves have become unsympathetic and uncaring. We are warned that more laws, police officers, and prisons are needed to keep society safe from the rapidly increasing number of criminals. We are told we must vote for increases in public safety funding and reject funding for education, welfare, and rehabilitation. And, in many ways both blatant as well as discreet, we are being told that the youth of America are the ones we need protection from. Americans, it seems, are just about ready to consider eating their young.

At the federal level, for example, conservative Republicans have been mulling over the idea of reviving orphanages as a way of "meeting the needs" of impoverished children. Parents living in poverty or on welfare would be encouraged to give up their young, to place them in these orphanages to be "adopted" by those who can afford to support and raise children. Sure: thousands of childless, wealthy couples (*different sex couples*, of course...) will be lining up to adopt the spawn of what the government considers to be human offal, non-participants in America's great Dream.

California's lame duck governor recently hinted that legislation could be introduced in this state that would make it mandatory for parents who could not provide for their children to give the kids up for adoption. This legislation, he has said, could be

included in California's new welfare reform package. One California legislator, however, with a tongue clearly planted in his cheek, suggested the governor go one step further and introduce legislation that would make living in poverty a crime in California. As impulsive as Wilson has proven himself to be over the years, it would not be surprising to find a law such as this trying to sneak its way into the books.

But wait...this might be the economic boon the state has been needing. There has been a strong push for more and more prison funding in recent years. State reps regularly visit the small communities and counties and warn of tough economic times ahead if citizens do not back prison funding and construction in their regions.

Furthermore, prime-time television literally reeks with crime and cop shows, designed to keep the population in a state of fear. Other news media focus on crimes of violence, offering suggestions on how to avoid becoming a victim and how to avoid being killed if accosted by a violent criminal. In short, Californians are being brainwashed into believing prisons are good investments, or at least, better investments than schools.

So why not? Society has already given up on the poor and the homeless; we may as well realize some profits from these human discards. If living in poverty was made a crime, the state could use welfare rolls to determine exactly how many cells needed to be built. And the state would not need the will of the people to build them...indeed, the law would make building prisons a necessity. The state could also determine approximately how many children would be born into poverty and plan accordingly. Under the law, a child born into poverty would arrive at the orphanage with a birth certificate and a criminal record. Unless adopted by the "proper family" with an "acceptable income," the youngsters would simply transition out of the orphanage right into the prison system.

In the end, Jonathan Swift may not be quite as shocking as we first believed. In fact, reality is always much more horrible than fiction.

Talking Heads

by Amy Ward

Do you think the Student Senate did a good job this year?



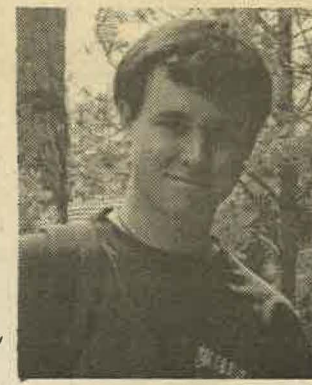
Jeremiah Heath

What is Student Senate? That pretty much describes the way I feel about the Student Senate. They could have more bands, more variety, poetry readings.



Alisha Rock

I don't know about what they've done. I haven't noticed anything bad.



Sean Carney

What I hear is that they didn't get a lot accomplished and that they didn't get a lot done that was planned.



Neil Graf

I ignored it. That's pretty much it. I haven't noticed anything they've done.



Peter Sergerstrom

It's challenging to come up with a creative response to such a dull topic. You should ask more interesting questions. Such as, "What's your opinion on Midgets Whipping Cats?"

Coyote Creek Offers Something For Everyone



Coyote Creek Owner and Main Chef, Clell Hoffman, standing near the eclectic back dining room wall.

By Marcia Thompson
MTX STAFF WRITER

Right smack in the heart of Sonora, there runs a "creek". Well, actually Clell Hoffman runs this creek. Hoffman is both owner and chef of the **Coyote Creek Cafe and Grill**.

I visited the Creek (as it is affectionately known by regulars) on a Friday night recently. My companions for dinner were my two children, up-and-coming critics, Leland (9 yrs.), and Jenny (7 yrs.) Joining us was my fellow culinary student, Johnny Rives. These three immediately discovered the game room and left to play a game of pool, while I relaxed to enjoy the atmosphere of the back dining room. Three walls house art works of local artisans. The back wall is covered with odds and ends ranging from an antique Life game board, to a panorama photo of Pearl Harbor in 1932, to a childhood picture of the owner and his two sisters.

The restaurant layout consists of a front bar (wine and beer only) and dining area which looks out on the main street of Sonora, a back dining room, and an adjacent room which is as large as the other two areas combined. This larger room, which was opened in January of this year, is where music and entertainment is performed. During the day and during dinner hours the room is open for games. There are ping pong tables, a pool table, a foosball table, and a jukebox.

When we were all hungry enough we settled at a quiet table on the

platform-like stage in the back dining room (a great vantage point to view everyone else).

Coyote Creek features a very diverse dinner menu which ranges from great salads such as the Szechwan Chicken Salad (\$7.25), to the Geno Burger (\$6.50), to the Top Sirloin Steak (\$12.25, petite \$10.95). One of their most popular dishes is the Zuni Black Bean plate (\$6.50) which is great for vegetarians. The Zuni plate is also offered with a cajun spiced chicken breast or 1/2 honeyed game hen (\$7.95). These prices may seem rather high for the pockets of some, but for what you get, the value is excellent.

Tonight we were going to order from the middle section of the menu. These dishes (about ten or so) known as "Tapas" are where the real uniqueness of dining at Coyote Creek lie. Tapa is Spanish and means "small entree". The tapas are presented like entrees, but the portions are somewhere between an appetizer and a main course. Hoffman changes the tapa section of the menu every few weeks and constantly offers new and exotic delights. The prices for the tapas range from \$4.25 to \$7.95. On the menu Hoffman recommends ordering several for a group and sharing "Chinese restaurant" style.

We decided to order the Coyote Light suppers which, for \$4.50 more, gave us soups or salads, bread, and a choice of house wine/draft beer or chocolate sundae.

We began our taste fest on this night with the Santa Fe Clam chowder, which was spicy and

delicious. There is always one soup de jour and is usually vegetarian unless seafood. Next came our dinner salads. They consisted of red leaf and romaine lettuces, red cabbage, carrots, and mushrooms. We chose the poppy seed dressing, and although a bit overdressed, found it to be very flavorful.

Of the tapas, the grilled sea bass with pumpkinseed and cornmeal breading, sweet and succulent on a bed of black beans, was our favorite.

Our second tapa was the Linguine with clams. The pasta was perfect with a creamy sauce loaded with small clams and four large clams on top. Even the kids enjoyed these.

The sourdough bread served was delicious, hot, crusty with soft butter (just a little pat) and they kept it coming.

Our waitress, Kalissa, was sweet, friendly and professional. Also, she was obliging when it came to getting answers to my many questions.

We thought we had finished, when out came a third tapa compliments of the chef. Sizzling prawns with vegetables and rice. Nice presentation, sizzling and steaming in a cast iron skillet. The sauce was spicy, flavorful; the prawns tender and juicy. It was the kid's favorite.

I felt comfortable bringing my kids to Coyote Creek. The game room kept them entertained while being free to come and go as they pleased, pausing to nibble a clam or shrimp. This is unusual in restaurants today. It's obvious they sincerely like children, the wall behind the bar is loaded with pictures of employee's and patron's kids.

We had to order a dessert or two, so the kids chose sundaes while John and I had the chocolate cheesecake pie. The only fault was the tired strawberries on top of the cheesecake. Kalissa was quick to replace it with a chocolate peanut-butter ice cream cake. Yum!

About the Chef...

Before purchasing the Coyote Creek about five years ago, owner Clell Hoffman worked at the Avery Hotel. After this he spent several years catering for the Grateful Dead.

I think he's done a great job arranging the menu to accommodate varying appetites and I highly recommend Coyote Creek for lunch, dinner, or just a game of ping pong or pool.

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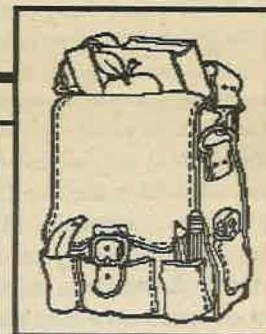
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Reno Band Plays the Creek

By Karen L. Shelley
MTX MANAGING EDITOR

I recently had the good fortune to hear a fantastic band, *The Lazy Eights*. They were setting up their equipment on stage at Coyote Creek Cafe in Sonora when I heard them play a couple of numbers. They were irresistible. Unfortunately, not many others heard. I don't know if the advertising was inadequate or if everyone was out of town for the week-end, but the audience that night for the show consisted of only a handful of listeners, and NO dancers.

What a shame! I was dancing in my seat all night long.

The Lazy Eights played a number of cover songs and a lot of original compositions, all played with high energy, infectious joy, and incredible precision. The band's sound is a combination of

country, jazz, and blues. But their basic rock roots are very evident, especially when you hear them play live.

I was simply captivated by the talent and precision that each of the band members played with. The

drum and cymbal work was strong and brash, sometimes coming to the forefront without being out of place at all. The bass sound was big, bold, and full bodied. Lead guitar, and the electric banjo were played with uncommon talent; their solo

spots were incredible. The singer/songwriter Ben Wilborn plays the electric violin, and mandolin. Not only does Ben bring talent and enthusiasm, but by virtue of his own enjoyment of the music he's playing, commands his listeners to



have fun.

The Lazy Eights hail from Reno, Nevada and are Ross Nickerson, electric banjo; Mike Tilton, lead guitar; Derek Smith, drummer; Joey McKinney, electric bass; and Ben Wilborn, violinist/mandolinist. The band has recently released a second CD called "five eights." The first CD is called "HUBCAP." They have won over a large and loyal following in the Reno/Tahoe areas and were twice voted as "Reno's Favorite Group."

All is not lost as far as your being able to catch these guys in Sonora again. I heard that some plans are being made for them to return in June. Watch for Coyote Creek ads and flyers, and don't miss *The Lazy Eights* for a night of fun and dancing.

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Cashew Rice Loaf

Ingredients:

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1 c. cashews, ground dry in
blender (non-roasted, no salt)
1 large onion, chopped and
sauteed
2 slices whole grain bread,
ground or blended
1/3 c. milk, nut or soy
1 Tbs. soy sauce
1/2 tsp. salt or to taste
1 Tbs. dried parsley
1/4 tsp. celery salt

Mix and place in a well oiled
baking pan or in mold. Bake at
350 for 40 mins. Delicious
entre served with gravy.
Potatoes, cooked vegetable
accompaniment, salad and
bread makes a well-balanced
meal. Buon appetito!

Come On Down! My Experience on The Price is Right!

By Rebecca Escamilla
MTX STAFF WRITER

"Come on down!" is the best sound you can hear Rod Rodey yell, if you are attending a taping of the popular game show "The Price Is Right." After eight hours of standing in line, you are ready to hear those words called. Rod Rodey never called my name, but I did learn about the process of picking contestants.

First, since I live in Valley Springs and the CBS studio is in L.A. (a seven hour drive), my mom and I decided to get a hotel in L.A. on Monday, so that we could get up really early to get a good place in line on Tuesday. My aunt who is obsessed with learning grocery store prices, insisted that she go with us because she watches the show all the time, and she was sure she'd get called up on stage. She booked the hotel in L.A., and personally supervised getting directions to the studio. We stayed at the Los Angeles Athletic Club which was a 15 minute drive from the studio. We woke up at 4:30 a.m. to ensure our place in line. We drove my aunt's Volvo from downtown L.A. to the CBS building which is located across from Farmers Market in Studio City.

We arrived at CBS shortly before 6:00 a.m., and we were greeted with tired eyes by the other hundred contestants who were already in line. The line consisted of 4 rows of cold metal benches. Your place in line determined how close you were to the stage. We sat at the beginning of the second bench. If you didn't have tickets, there was a will-call line that opened at 7:30. We were in this line, because I had forgotten the tickets in Bakersfield when we stopped for Easter at my aunt's house. We didn't realize that we didn't have tickets until the night before the taping. It was March 31st, and when I told my aunt that we had no tickets she said, "That would not be a very funny April Fool's joke!" She was pissed. She got on the phone to my aunt Chris who had attended a taping a month earlier. She was trying to fix my mistake. Chris told her about the will-call line, so she calmed down.

I got in the will-call line at 7:30 and the lady behind the counter gave me three tickets for the first taping. I promptly returned to my mom and my aunt who were saving my seat on the bench.

My Aunt Linda took her ticket from me with a sigh of relief. She

was sure we weren't going to get in until she had a ticket in her hand. At 7:45 a man's voice echoed through the air over the loud speaker. He said, "Those of you waiting in line to see the first taping of the fabulous 60 minute game show 'The Price Is Right', will no longer be required to have a ticket at this time. We will be handing out priority numbers in the order you are seated on the bench. If you are not seated on the bench at this time you will lose your place in line."

All of that work we went through to get the tickets, and all the bitching I heard from Linda about losing the tickets, and now we didn't need tickets! The three of us sat quietly steaming. Happy, excited college girls screamed behind us. A man dressed in a maroon suit came out and handed us our priority numbers. He then released us until 9:30, when we were supposed to meet on the other side of the building to another set of benches.

During the free time, we walked over to Farmer's Market and had some coffee at Starbucks. The shops didn't open until 9:00, and it wasn't even 8:00. So, we walked aimlessly, sleep deprived, window shopping and sampling pastries. There was a candle shop with a myriad of beautiful and artistic candles. There was a juice bar for every type of juice you could think of.

Finally by 9:00, we knew what we wanted to buy, how long it would take us, and how much time we had to get back to CBS to make our 9:30 deadline. My mom and my aunt insisted I buy them each a glass of carrot juice from the bar before we go. I spilled them all over my hands and down my arms because the lady filled them to the top and didn't have any lids to give me.

We arrived at the second set of benches, where I sat next to an old man who smelled like moth balls. He explained the process to us and told us that he goes to all the tapings in this area. He said he was retired and it got him out of his house. Across from me sat a tall, blonde guy who was holding a place in line for his girlfriend. He did this for almost the whole four hours.

After waiting on the second set of benches for about an hour, a man's voice boomed over the loudspeaker. "The attendants will be handing out the rule sheet. This is not a souvenir. Please hand them back to the attendants when you are finished reading them. Thank you."

We read the rules, then the man over the loud speaker read the rules again. My mom decided that they were just killing time.

It seemed as if we sat and waited for a long time, but every time one of us had to go to the bathroom, we hurried so that we wouldn't lose our places in line. We didn't chance waiting in the line for pretzels, because we didn't want to lose our place. Some people had left during the first few hours so we ended up with new numbers in line. We were numbers 95, 96 and 97.

By the time we were ready to give up and go to lunch, the attendants handed out the name tags. A guy in a maroon shirt squished my long name onto the small name tag. We were told to post them over our priority numbers on our left shoulder. Finally, the line started moving. They were letting people into the studio, ten at a time. We were shifted to a new line where the producers sat, interviewing each possible contestant.

When the producer said, "Hello and what's your name?" we were supposed to answer with enthusiasm, and say something else exciting and fun, or witty and clever. They were looking for originality, or personality. Anyone who was camera shy, probably wouldn't be called on stage.

Once we were finished talking to the producers, they moved us to a third set of benches where we had to be quiet, so that the producers could conduct their interviews without distractions. Luckily we only sat on those benches for about five minutes.

When they let us inside the studio I was shocked! From watching the game show on T.V., I thought it seemed so big, with all those prizes. I thought the wheel was a huge object attached to the side of a wall. But when I saw the studio, I found that there was one room, with tons of cameras and people on one small stage. The wheel was so small that Bob Barker could wheel it out on stage himself, if he wanted to.

Rod Rodey came out on stage first, before the taping began. He talked to us about the taping process and told us when to say "ooo" and when to say "aahh." He did a little bit of cheesy comedy, and introduced Bob Barker on stage. Bob started the game and everyone was really excited. The girl who barely had to wait in line, because her faithful boyfriend saved her place, got called

on stage. And so did one of the college girls who had been screaming behind us in line. During the commercial break Bob talked to the audience, answered our questions, and listened to our dumb stories. People seemed to ask the silliest questions.

Like one lady asked him, "How involved are you with the SPCA?" Come on lady? He doesn't spay and neuter the dogs and cats himself!

Nobody really won too many prizes that day, except a contestant named Cinnamon, who won \$1500 on the wheel. The girlfriend, who didn't wait in line, won a dinette set, and some silverware. She and Cinnamon had a showcase showdown. Cinnamon won the showcase at the end of the show.

I was disappointed that I didn't get my chance at a new car, but I

was satisfied with seeing myself on screen in the audience during the taping. It was fun participating in the game, yelling out what we thought the answers were, and clapping every time the applause light came on. Just being a part of Hollywood was exciting!

As an added bonus, the attendants gave us "Price Is Right" post cards and provided us with postage and a drop box. We could send them to whomever to say, "Watch me on the Price Is Right on April 30th." I sent mine to myself.

I had a really good time despite waking up so early, getting yelled at by Linda, and not being called on stage. I would recommend the experience to anyone who loves excitement. I will definitely go back, but this time I will take my college friends, and I won't worry about getting tickets.

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Richard A. Elter
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