



COLUMBIA COLLEGE MOUNTAIN TIMES

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Columbia College

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30 Years at Columbia College

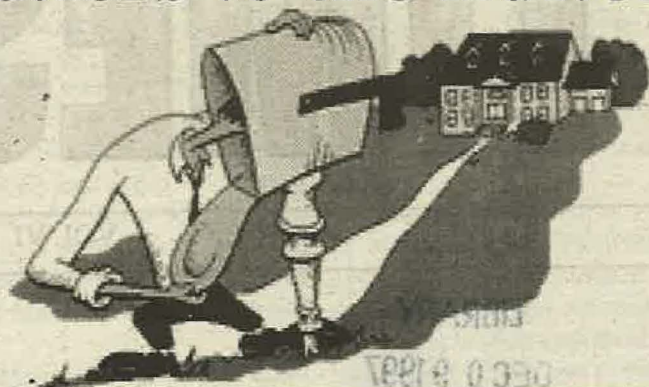
College Anniversary

Dusty Rhodes and Ross Carkeet look back at the beginning years. See page 3.

Sotos' Journey

Meryl Soto travels the country to find home at Columbia. See page 8

Letters to the Editor



The MTX would like to thank all the individuals who contributed letters to the editor; however, due to the overwhelming volume received, not all could be included for print. Every effort was made to print at least one letter representing each viewpoint expressed.

Miller- a teacher students relate to

I really enjoyed reading your article on the new biology instructor, Micha Müller, in the Mountain Times. I am enrolled in his biology 17 course and wanted to learn more about Micha. The article provided me, as a good reader, with a better understanding of the guy. There were three aspects about Micha that you mentioned in the article. Those were his amazing educational background, his socialness, and his facination with the outdoors. As a student of Micha's, I too noticed these things.

Often in class, Micha refers back to his college days. This is a true benefit because they weren't too long ago, so what he is teaching us is not too out dated. Micha was taught with a hands-on approach, and he directs that method into his own methods. This method is beneficial to the class and it encourages the students to enjoy what they are learning, which many times isn't the case.

Another aspect of Micha that keeps students motivated is his socialness. He made it a priority to learn everyone's name in our class. Whenever someone has a question, he makes sure they understand his answer before he moves on. Micha wants to be your friend, and this type of mentality pays off in the effort that the student puts in.

With the amazing educational background that Micha has, it was quite difficult to comprehend why he would choose Columbia as his place of employment. It wasn't until I learned of his interest of the outdoors that I realized why he made that choice. Often Micha tells of his feats on mountains and during a break between labs he goes rock climbing behind the college. He has even invited me to come along sometime. This region is definitely the right place for Micha.

I am sure that Micha will not get bored of his new position at Columbia College. Wit his knowledge, socialness, and hobbies, there couldn't be a better place to be. As long as he is teaching biology, I'm sure that I won't get tired of being one of his students.

Thank you for a great article,
Bobby Curnow

'Wet t-shirt' still not dried up

With regards to the "Wet T-shirt" article in the October issue I have a few comments that I would like to make.

First of all, I think that any fund raising project that gets the Student Body involved is a great thing. The VP of Student Services is quoted as saying that she "would like to see them (ASU) come up with some meaningful and significant events." I think that as hard as we all work, we should have some events that are insignificant and meaningless but entertaining and allow some relief from stress.

Secondly, if the "Iron Man" contest were truly an effort to avoid accusations of sexism, it should be a "Wet Undies" contest. Perhaps we should simply have a "Wet Student Body" contest.

Third, you did not mention what the funds are being raised for. Wouldn't we be able to get more students involved if we knew what we were getting involved in? Thank you for this opportunity to express my thoughts. After reading the article, I have had some of the questions answered and I will look forward to reading "the rest of the story".

Jennifer Barry

To The Editor,
In Vol No.3 of the Mountain

Times it seems to me the Senate has found one way to combat apathy on campus. A wet T-shirt contest. I counted at least 3 different articles on it in the paper. The views on the contest ran from approval to disapproval. The Senate has our attention now.

Whether we approve or not the question has to be asked is this what we want a college to be known for. I would bet all the energy being spent on this wet T-shirt contest would be great in a debate club.

I have to agree with Kathryn Jefferies statement in short, "getting people excited about serious Senate, this is not the way to accomplish it."

As an older student here, I really believe that as a collective adult group we can possibly come up with other ways to raise funds.

Anyone care to buy a candy bar?

Karren Hansen

In reading the October issue of the MTX I was appalled by the article on the "Wet T-Shirt Contest." I can't believe the Student Senate would even consider it. I'm glad the Student Senate wants to find a way to get people's attention and raise money, but what kind of Student Senate do we have if all they can come up with is wet T-shirt contests and mud wrestling? Hey, Jeremy Mills is this what you call "better representation for the students"? As for myself, PLEASE DON'T REPRESENT ME.

This controversial event is generating both good and bad attention. It makes me wonder whether the senate is a joke or serious about the school. I would view the wet T-shirt contest as things you would do at a bar. Maybe they should sell some beer and have a real "party."

I agree with Kathryn Jeffery's reply "happy that they're thinking about planning events, but... would like to see them come up with meaningful and significant events that would truly benefit Columbia College." There are better ways to let everyone know you want to make this a better place.

Then, there is Jeremy Mill's statement "we're not doing anything illegal or against school policy, therefore they cannot stop the contest from taking place." Jeremy Mills, here's a little hint: we are real people in the real world struggling to make it. I don't need a childish Student Senate making up foolish contests. We are trying to further our education, not learn how to "party." This is a place of learning, NOT a frat house.

The last point I would like to make about these events is if this is

open to everyone, don't you think it might be a little uncomfortable for the teachers to attend this and then see their students in class?

If these contests happen what's next, a strip show???????

D. Bettencourt

Dear Editor:

If the MTX is truly a "voice for the students," then I should not wonder whether or not this letter will be published.

I have a serious "beef" with the Student Senate and how they are wasting their time (and ours) by focusing their energy (or lack thereof), into inert (and inept) causes.

I do not know if many others have noticed, but it seems that everything the Student Senate does is always under the pretense of a "party." There are many other issues that should be addressed besides when and where the next "party" will be held. A few friends and I decided to see if our concerns were founded and with merit; we took a period of two

weeks and observed the Student Senate, with their asses rusted to the chairs outside of the senate office, listening to their trivial conversations, learning how much beer could be ingested (and how many chain-smoked cigarette butts could be fit into a plastic jug within a 20 minute period), and how one's nephew (or little brother) could beat someone else's ass if he were pissed off enough... AD NAUSEUM!! I think there are far more issues at stake that the Student Senate could tackle; but I now have my doubts as to the competence and or capability of these "chosen few." There is nothing wrong with stroking one's ego... if one has the goods and the know-how to back it up... these "dolts" do not even have a clue!

Next time, when it comes time for re-elections (where the whole student body participated, rather than just the personal friends of the proposed regime) I am going to vote for someone who could actually pass a pee test!

Deamon Black

The Mountain Times prints all letters as they are submitted, we do not edit for spelling, grammar, content, or verification of authorship. The opinions of the writers do not necessarily reflect those of the Mountain Times. If you would like to express your opinion please submit it to the Mountain Times box in the instructional office. All letters must be signed to be considered for printing.

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Columbia Celebrates 30 Years

Mining Quarry to College Campus, All in 30 years

by Tammy Aguiniga
MTX ASSISTANT EDITOR

In spring 1998, Columbia College will celebrate its 30th anniversary. The MTX will cover the upcoming anniversary events, however, we also wanted to find out about the college's unique history. To get a historical perspective, we sought out and interviewed administrators and faculty who were here in the beginning.

From humble beginnings, Columbia College has come a long way. What was once a mining quarry has developed into a scenic college campus where Tuolumne and Calaveras county residents have been receiving an education for over 30 years.

The first Columbia College President Harvey "Dusty" Rhodes remembers it was a community effort to get the college established.

"The people (faculty, classified staff, maintenance staff) were all Tuolumne County residents and deeply committed to the college pro-

grams," Rhodes said.

The college met for the first year (1966-1967) at Eagle Cottage in Columbia State Park, since the permanent campus would not be completed until Fall 1968.

Ross Carkeet, Forestry/Natural resources instructor, remembers the first year at Eagle Cottage. "We had maybe 200 students and only seven to eight full time faculty." He added, "It [the cottage] was drafty...It leaked...and the bookstore flooded a couple times."

Another problem cropped up while the current campus was still being built. Behind the original art building, which is now Redbud, there was a pond created to store and treat the campus sewage. During a winter storm it had filled with rain water and the limestone bottom fell out. The water washed through a cavern and ended up in the Eagle Cottage parking lot.

"There was three to four feet of water," said Carkeet. "We were lucky it wasn't filled with sewage."

Mishaps aside, the current campus opened for the classes in 1968. Carkeet remembers that the student enrollment grew fast though the faculty growth was slow.

"We were the Jack And Jill's



Looking back 30 years

Above: Redbud, previously the art building, alone on the Northeast shore. Left Corner: Students gather on the grass outside the Rotunda for an afternoon concert. Middle: Faculty break ground for Oak Pavillion.

of all trades," said Carkeet. The instructors taught a couple of disciplines usually covering their majors and minors; even the deans taught classes."

Originally, bad weather created ongoing problems for student attendance, so classes were initially set up on the quarter system to deal with the inclement winter weather.

Rhodes said, "School started earlier and went for 12 week quarters. There was a break for Christmas and school ended a little later. Snow was a real problem."

The only ones who benefited from the snow was the intercollegiate skiing team coached by Bob Gibson. "They did very well," said Rhodes.

According to Rhodes there was

the "desire and demand" of the community to have a football team but, due to finances, it never happened. Over the years there were other college sports teams, including golf and tennis, but the school finances were unable to support them. The current basketball program started in 1976.

"Our plan was to add one sport at a time," said Rhodes, "but the priority was education first."

Initially, the students were almost exclusively locals. "They were pretty good students," notes Carkeet. "They were fun-loving and they really liked the setting. They really seemed to enjoy themselves."

Carkeet also remembered some unique experiences on campus such as protests, streakers and the 'campus naturalist.'

Like most college campuses in the United States in the late 1960's, the war in Vietnam was a controversial issue. In protest several students swam out to the island in San Diego Reservoir and removed their clothes. They eventually left the island and then left school.

There was also a campus streaker, something that was popular at that time. One day he ran through the cafeteria with a mask on. Carkeet said, "Somehow they found out who he was and they asked him to leave."

The most unique character on the Columbia campus had to be Leland Davis. He was a homesteader



Continued on backpage

Columbia Integral in Welfare Reforms

by Tammy Aguiniga
MTX Assistant Editor

Starting next year, Columbia College will be an integral part of the new California program to transition welfare recipients into the workforce.

The new state law, AB 1542, goes into effect on Jan. 1, 1998. The state program, called CalWORKs, is in response to recent federal welfare reform laws. CalWORKs requires counties to establish welfare-to-work programs for people receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) benefits. TANF is the new federal acronym which replaces the older more familiar term AFDC.

Under the new law, current welfare recipients will have 24 months to transition off welfare before losing their welfare benefits. People who go on welfare after January 1, 1998 will have 18 months. There is also a lifetime cumulative welfare benefit cap of 5 years.

Beginning in January 1998, welfare recipients will generally have four weeks to find employment. If they don't, they must enroll in a training program. Counties are required to set up adequate services which will assist welfare recipients in finding employment. These services will also include job training, substance abuse and mental health services, transportation services, and child care assistance.

Columbia College President Jim Riggs said that "such job training in Tuolumne County will be handled primarily through the college." Riggs continued, "The college's role is to provide training and education for individuals who are on welfare."

To develop this program on campus Columbia College formed a Joint Task Force on Welfare Reform earlier this year. Vice President of Student Services, Kathryn Jeffery will have primary responsibility for administering the campus

CalWORKs program.

Approximately \$170,000 in funds have been allocated to the college to facilitate welfare reform. This is part of approximately \$1.6 million provided by the California Community College Chancellor's Office to the Yosemite Community College District. The balance of the money will go to MJC for their welfare program requirements. The new funding will specifically be used for curriculum revision and development, coordination, job placement, work study, and childcare vouchers.

Interim Vice President of Instruction, David Willson has designed a new curriculum pathway that would provide several training options for any student, including CalWORKs recipients. The new pathway model includes three modules.

The first module is an Entry/Intake format where the students will learn fundamental employment skills such as problem solving, work ethic, interviewing and self-esteem. This module is open entry and exit to provide easy student access.

In the second module students actually begin taking occupational training classes which will often be linked to "on the job training" agreements with local employers. The classes will also be flexible and designed to prepare students to become employed in a field that has high demand. Many of these students will need to get into the workforce quickly in order to take care of their families. Most classes will be from one day to six weeks in duration. Others will be longer, enabling the student to complete training and obtain a certificate in six to 18 months.

The third module will provide flexible options for CalWORKs clients/students to continue their training while working, or, re-enter Columbia to complete their A.A. Degree and ultimately transfer to a four year college.

While the CalWORKs students are in school, they will be required to work a minimum of 20 hours a week. Increased work requirements will also apply the longer the person is on welfare, and for married couples receiving CalWORKs benefits. Finding jobs, given our local economy, will be difficult. The college may hire some of these students or help place them in jobs in the community. Limited money will be available to subsidize employers to hire CalWORKs clients while

they're being trained.

To enable the student to work and attend school, the college will also provide childcare assistance. "A major component is providing childcare as they [the students] go to school," said Riggs. The college has applied for a grant to add another child care facility on campus by next fall. It will extend child care services to toddlers.

After students complete the training programs they need to obtain long term employment. The college and other county agencies will participate in job placement. Columbia College is currently hiring a new CalWORKs Program Coordinator position within the Office of Student Services to assist CalWORKs clients. While the college will emphasize curriculum formats for training in areas that allow students to find local employment, many CalWORKs clients will likely have to seek employment in the valley or beyond.

"They need jobs right now but we want them to come back to school and build on their career," Riggs

said. "Hopefully they will come back to school and get more experience so that they have more choices and can work locally, or go to another part of the state or another part of the United States. Work is important. Childcare is a barrier and skills are a barrier," commented Riggs. "Our program plans to address all three of these major issues."

There are approximately 3,000 TANF students currently enrolled in the YCCD. Approximately 265 attend Columbia College. When the new welfare reform laws take full effect next spring, there may be a substantial increase in CalWORKs students at Columbia.

The ultimate effects of the new welfare laws are uncertain, however recent statistics suggest that California must create 500,000 more jobs in the next five years to put welfare recipients to work. It is clear that welfare reform could potentially mean dramatic changes for Columbia College and the student population it serves.

Survey Tests Students Common Knowledge

by Nichole MacDonald

Everyone has had the same problem: Someone asks a seemingly simple question, but for some reason you just can't think of the answer. The Mountain Times staff put together a series of questions that were thought to be common knowledge and surveyed 50 Columbia College students, 25 male and 25 female. The point was to see how much students know about general topics.

1. Who is the Vice president of the United States?
2. What is x times x?
3. What are the three branches of US Government?
4. Who wrote MacBeth?
5. What is the chemical structure for water?
6. What year was the Declaration of Independence signed?

The results to these questions were very surprising. First of all, 24% of males and females did not know that Al Gore is the Vice President of the United States, several seemed to think Bob Dole was.

And what is x times x? Only 52% of the males and 48% of the females knew that the answer is x squared.

The three branches of U.S. Government are the Judicial, Executive, and Legislative. Thirty six percent of the males and 56% of the females missed that one. Common incorrect answers were: The President, the House, and the Senate; or Democrat, Republican, and Independent.

Further, 36% of the males and 48% of the females did not know that Shakespeare wrote MacBeth. Several people thought that Hamlet, another of Shakespeare's fictional characters, wrote MacBeth.

What is the chemical structure for water? A high 80% of the males and females knew that the answer is H₂O.

However, only 50% of males and 40% of females knew that the Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776. Many got this confused with other dates in history, such as: The War of 1812, World War II and the year Columbus sailed.

Attention Students

Columbia is allowing students to defer tuition fees for next semester, until January 1-5, 1998, so students can take advantage of the new Hope Scholarship federal tax credit. Students may take the credit for tuition and other expenses related to their first or second year college work. For more information contact the business office.

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Perceptions and Opinions of Student Housing Vary

by Nichole MacDonald
MTX Assistant Editor

Student Housing for Columbia College students has been available for 10 years. Depending on who you talk to, there are many perceptions and opinions about the dorm lifestyle and housing environment. The MTX interviewed several dorm residents to obtain opinions on student housing at Columbia.

According to manager Samantha Greene, on average, students live in the dorms for only one semester to one year, depending on their prepaid contract. The students gave many different reasons for not living in the dorms very long, from the noise and partying, to the price.

There have been questions raised about the alcohol and drug abuse in the dorms. In March 1995, the MTX reported that two students living at the dorms were arrested for growing marijuana.

Is this a serious issue that requires further attention? The MTX

found contending opinions from dorm residents.

Dorm resident Patrick Hodges stated, "There is definitely a drug and alcohol problem here. There's lots of partying."

Michelle Kummrow added, "A little partying is all right, but some people do it every day. It's obnoxious." This may be the reason some students admitted to skipping class at least once or twice a week and falling behind. Kummrow said, "I've been too distracted to do my homework....I haven't been able to fall asleep."

Yet others think it's normal student behavior. Resident Lindsay Fredericks said, "I don't think it's a problem. I think it's college kids doing what college kids do."

Matt Milojevich agreed, "There's a problem, but that's the way college is."

Greene commented, "I haven't found much of a problem. If someone thinks there's a problem they need to stand up for themselves."

Everyone has a right to say they don't like it. [Drugs and alcohol] may be a problem with a small percentage of the students who really won't succeed. This semester seems to be a good group . . . [not interested] in drugs."

Unfortunately, there aren't many facts to back up the alleged problems. Resident Assistant Greg Dunn stated, "There have been a few incidents involving the police, but it has definitely improved ever since the new managers took over."

The MTX went to Campus Security Chief Greg Elam for some answers. Elam noted that "the college must report data annually on various campus security issues." According to published campus security reports, from March 1995 through November 1997, there have no arrests for alcohol, drug or weapons violations on campus.

Ultimately, the question of whether dorm life is a negative environment is up to the individual. According to resident Sean Roche. "If

you are a negative person it will be a negative experience."

Like almost everything, there is a positive side. Most students felt that, aside from the problems noted, living in the dorms has been a great experience. Roche stated, "What's great is that it's a new [environment] with new people."

The social life in the dorms is always uplifting, according to Jen Ramirez. "Everyone is outgoing and fun to be around."

Hodges commented, "Socially it's positive. It's a lot of fun and all my friends can stop by after their classes because it's so close."

Most students also agree that the location is very convenient. Kummrow said, "It's close to school so I don't have to worry about transportation."

Fredericks stated, "I'm so close to school. If I wasn't this close, I wouldn't go."

Everyone agreed that no matter where you live, there will be ups and downs, so it all boils down to

quality and price. Though some students aren't worried about price, others are paying their own way.

"I think the price would be just right if you didn't have to share a room. But it's good because you only have to pay for your phone bill and food," Ramirez stated.

Greene said, "The price is 10% lower than it was three years ago. And we put in the 'rec' room to give more options of things to do. I think we've made this a healthy study and work environment."

So the question remains: What type of lifestyle is promoted by the dorm environment? Greene stated, "I've gone to many different colleges and I've seen it a lot worse. I go to school here and live here and I see what anyone else sees."

Most agreed that it depends on the individual. The majority felt that the lifestyle will be the same at any college, it's just normal student behavior.

Columbia Mines for Student Prospects

Local Principals, Superintendents Tour College

by Otis Anderson
MTX Reporter

Columbia College draws students from across the Mother Lode and the valley. Local high schools are an important source for prospective students.

Of the 737 new students who enrolled at Columbia in the fall 1997 semester, 221 came from local high schools. With this fact in mind, Columbia College President, Dr. Jim Riggs, invited several local high school superintendents and principals to tour the college.

The tours occurred on October 23rd and 29th and were conducted by Interim Vice President of Instruction, Dave Willson. The meetings were intended to generate ideas and support to make Columbia College a more viable and attractive option to local students.

The group ranged from Bret Harte Superintendent Joe Wilimek, who had never been on the Columbia campus, to Oakdale Superintendent John Casey, an alumnus of Columbia.

Representatives from Sonora, Tioga, Mother Lode Christian and Summerville High also participated. They attended college classes, labs and ate lunch at the Cellar.

According to Willson, many constructive suggestions were generated by the meeting. Their comments included the following:

- Offering colleging courses for advanced high school seniors and juniors on the high school campuses.
 - Having a college booth at back-to-school nights and other events held at the high schools.
 - Increasing academic and vocational program and course articulation with area and regional high schools.
 - Including information on the college web site that would be of interest and attractive to high school students.
 - Sponsoring a high school leadership camp at the college for student body leaders from area and valley high schools.
 - Increasing direct recruitment activities.
 - Increasing visitations to high schools.
 - Increasing the number of meetings at the college that involve high school teachers and counselors.
- Vice President Willson noted,

"The interest in offering college courses at high school, articulating vocational programs and linking high school curriculum with college in a 2+2 format were especially popular."

Wilimek concluded, "The college tour was a positive step to articulate the curriculums of the high schools and Columbia College. It really helped to enhance the lines of communication in our local education community."

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Stereotypes and Realities: One Disabled Columbia Students Story

by Lisa Larsen
MTX EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Most of the people walking by seem to be unaware of his presence. Some may steal a curious glance, looking away quickly if they are noticed, others smile nervously, but most people walk quickly by without acknowledgment. These are not cold, uncaring people, they are people just like the rest of us, perhaps unsure of what to say or how to behave when in the company of a disabled person.

Paul Pope, the object of this uncertainty, understands. Thirty-four years of living with Cerebral Palsy [CP] has conditioned him to the response of people unfamiliar with disability. According to Paul, humor is his most effective method of reaching out to people. "If I see a person who is nervous around me, or if I fall down and they don't know what to do or say, I'll make a joke to help them relax and maybe see that I can be cool. I just want people to treat me the same as everyone else."

One stereotype that gets in the way of his goal is the misconception that because he is physically disabled, he must also be mentally disabled. "I understand why people would think that -- quite often people with CP do have some mental retardation -- but I don't. There are a wide range of causes and effects of CP, mine was present from birth. The doctor's think that it was probably from a problem resulting from Rh factor [complications]. The doctor told my mother that I would never even learn to walk, but I did. It took me until I was 10 years old to learn to walk effectively, but I did it." And that was certainly not the last of Paul's accomplishments. He continues, "I was raised to do things on my own, and I want to encourage other disabled people to do things for themselves too."

It was this goal that led Paul back to school after a thirteen year absence. A native resident of San Jose, Paul worked for eight years in the clerical/office management field. Although naturally an optimist, Paul became dissatisfied with his career and its lack of opportunity for growth as he watched less experienced (and non-disabled) workers receive pro-



Breaking Stereotypes

Paul Pope defies the misconception that he isn't like others and shows Columbia he is.

motions while he remained in the same job. Both in the workplace and socially, Paul says he was "stagnating in the bay area." This feeling prompted Paul decided to take some time off to think about what he wanted to do with his life. "I knew that I enjoyed helping other people, and I wanted to find a way to pass on the experience and knowledge that I had gathered to other disabled people so they could have more independence." Paul knew he would need more education to meet his goals and made the decision to go back to college, but he was still ambivalent about living in the bay area.

It was then that Paul received a fateful phone call from a friend. His friend was moving to Sonora and had

called asking for Paul's help. Ironically, the move actually ended up helping Paul. When he made the trip up to Sonora, Paul found that he didn't want to leave. He acted on his impulse, "I had nothing holding me to the bay area so I went home, got my stuff and moved."

After settling into his new life, Paul followed through with his decision and enrolled in Columbia College to pursue a certificate in human services and eventually his A.A. Degree. These accomplishments would serve as a stepping stone to his ultimate goal, "I want to get back to work, get off SSI, and pull my own weight." He would like to work with other disabled people and help them get the tools they need to pursue their

own dreams.

But for now, it's studying, working, and finals just like the rest of us. "Currently I'm taking Math 202 [which he says he finds rather easy], and a health class. Next semester I plan on taking sociology and psychology." At the time of this interview he had A's in both classes he was attending.

So, what else is in Paul's future plans? "I'd like to settle down, be married and have a family like anyone else. It's hard to meet the right person though. Basically I'm outgoing, but there is a part of me that is insecure and wants people to accept me. It can be frustrating to try to talk to someone, the physical limitations can get in the way and I

have a hard time talking, especially when I'm nervous because the person is someone I'm attracted to." What type of person does he look for? "I look for the person inside, whether they have a disability or not doesn't matter."

Perhaps that also could be good advice for all of the well meaning people out there who are unsure of how to talk with a disabled person. Try to forget about the exterior, and look for the person inside. Soon you too will find that not only does the disability not matter to you, but that you cannot even see it anymore. All you see is another human being, a human being remarkably similar to yourself.

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by Cryss Black Wolf
MTX Reporter

A "writer", as defined by Webster's New Dictionary of Synonyms, is "[someone who] gives expression to his ideas or feelings..."; this includes just about everyone here on campus. But the question to ask yourself is, am I doing it well? Now there is no reason to wonder, thanks to a new writing center for students right here on campus!

The Academic Resource Center (ARC) has branched to Redbud 9, materializing in the form of the ARC Writing Center; where surrealism tantalizes the cerebral, forming a catalyst for the formation of thought and the conception of ideas. The Writing Center is but one of the components of the ARC (which also in-

cludes tutoring).

Writing Center staff member Andrew Reese said, "Writing is a social act, rather than just a regurgitation of words. We [the staff] like to work with the writer, not just with the writing."

Patricia Harrelson, the Academic Resource Coordinator added, "The Writing Center is more than just a place to word-process your papers. Although that is reason enough to come, we like to take it one step further; the Writing Center provides students an atmosphere of interaction. Ideas are shared with other students, and are talked out. We do this with any subject, and at any level. The Writing Center is a community of writers, for writers, addressing the different needs of the students."

It is the aspiration of the ARC Writing Center staff that students will embrace the benefits of being able to express their ideas through the writing process.

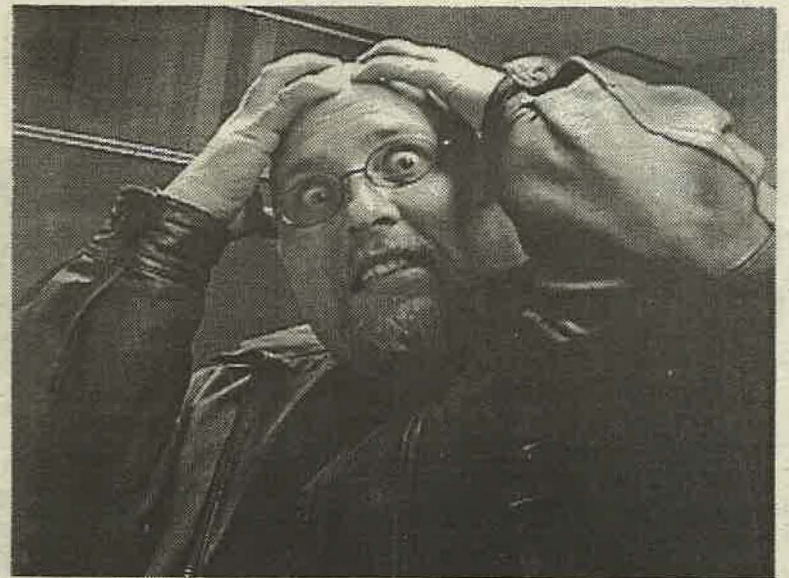
Harrelson continued, "Writing is a skill that everyone uses in every

academic situation. By learning to write well, one can increase their chances of success."

Two students, coming from different academic backgrounds, spoke about their experience with the Writing Center. Rhonda Ratkowski stated that "coming to the writing lab helped me to develop better writing skills, resulting in my first perfect score ever!"

Another student, Chandra Morgan, stated that "the Writing Center has been an incredible asset and tool to accomplish my goal of being a competent, powerful writer." Chandra states that she is also able to get good advice about her papers, which in turn helps her to be more confident when she hands in her assignments. She also stated that "the ARC is more of a one-on-one type of help; such things as sentence structure and punctuation are also covered."

The ARC Writing Center offers personalized support to students by addressing their personal needs, for any class that requires writing. Al-



Going Postal

Cryss Black Wolf demonstrates life during finals without ARCs help.

though the staff does not edit or write your papers, they do offer individualized instruction and peer work.

Reese said, "we build knowledge through the act of writing."

Harrelson interjected, "and we would like the Writing Center to be responsible for that happening in the student's lives. We want students to be comfortable with the writing process."

The times and days that are available for students to come into the Writing Center are Monday/Wednesday/Friday- 8:00am-9:00am, Monday/Wednesday-1:00pm-

4:00pm, Tuesday/Thursday- 1:30pm-4:30pm, and Friday-1:00pm-3:00pm. Stop by Redbud 9 within these times and days, and treat yourself to yet another valuable tool available to the students of Columbia College.

Pat Rapier, tutor for the ARC had some final comments. She stated that "It's really a great resource for any students to get feedback on any subject that they may be working on. I think students just do not realize that we're here or what we have to offer. I urge students to at least drop by and check us out."



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Overtime to be Eliminated

by John Flynn
MTX Reporter

As of January 1, 1998, overtime as you know it will vanish!

Last April, the California Industrial Welfare Commission (IWC) enacted a new regulation which eliminated the requirement to pay overtime for work exceeding 8 hours per day.

This new regulation is patterned after existing federal law and the overtime laws in most other states. It is important to note that the new law affects non-union employees whether you are classified full-time or part-time.

In effect, your employer will no longer have to ask for your permission to work additional hours. Now your employer legally can hold you over beyond 8 hours on your daily work schedule and pay you only straight time for up to 16 hours, which is considered a days work.

According to State Senator Dick Monteith's representative Mark Holman, "there is no overtime involved, just straight time."

The new overtime concept,

which was sponsored by employers, is in theory, a way to utilize the increasingly popular four day/ten hour work shift and provide employers with maximum flexibility to schedule personnel. This option has always been available for the employers to offer their employees, provided they paid overtime.

Proponents of the new overtime regulation argue that the new law will now provide employers and employees throughout California with options such as flextime, job sharing, increase part-time work and a compressed work week. It also allows employees a desirable work week that does not punish employers.

Tuolumne County Chamber of Commerce President Dan Buckman stated, "We sent a letter to the Industrial Welfare Commission to urge the Commission to have the State's overtime rules conform with federal law, thus joining 47 other states that pay overtime after 40 hours of work in any given week. The popular four/ten work week is most desirable for employers in Tuolumne County."

Tony Porter, manager of the

Employment Development Department in Sonoma doesn't anticipate any abuse of this new law eliminating overtime and extending longer daily work schedules for the employees.

Porter stated, "This will actually be a real asset for employers to work around their employees and family life to meet the company's goal in the end."

Earlier this year, legislation (SB680- Solis D) was passed by the California Legislature to reverse the IWC regulation and generally retain the current law which provides for time and a half pay after 8 hours. SB680 was supported by labor unions who argued that it is necessary to continue daily overtime pay to protect workers from abusive employers who require them to work long hours without premium pay. They further argue that the IWC repeal of overtime regulations reflects the Governor's attempt to appeal to big business interest at the expense of workers.

The Governor vetoed the legislation in September, stating in part,

See overtime, backpage

Sotos' Journey Brings Her To Columbia

English Instructor Enjoys Teaching at Community College

by Cynthia Edwards
MTX Reporter

I sat in Meryl Soto's English 1A class back in the fall of 1994. She was so easy to listen to, gaining the group's attention, not by raising her voice, but by speaking quietly. She spoke as if she were going to share a secret with you, and you didn't want to miss a word that she said. Fall 1994 was Ms. Soto's first semester of teaching at Columbia College: the ending of one journey and the beginning of another.

Soto's journey started back in Brooklyn, New York, where she grew up. She recalled the past, "I remember listening to Otis Redding's song, Sitting on the Dock of the Bay, and it had the most profound effect on me. That song urged me to travel to California and find that dock to sit on."

She traveled to California, and made a connection with acquaintances who were living in the Lassen area. There she lived and worked, without any definite direction. Working at minimum wage jobs quickly got old. Soto decided to pick up some classes at the local community college, in hopes of furthering her education and consequently earning more money.

At this point in our interview, Soto looks down at her hands and tells me "I realized that I wanted to do work that would have a healing effect in people's lives. I thought that meant being a doctor, though later I turned down a National Merit Scholarship to study physical therapy." Instead she married, devoted her energy to being a wife, and had a baby.

A few years later, finding herself a single parent, Soto went to work in sales, making decent money.

She explained, "Sales taught me to be organized, and I learned how to talk to people."

During this time, Soto worked at parenting, worked at her sales job, and worked at something very pleasurable: a radio program for children on listener sponsored radio, KFCF in Fresno. For an hour every Saturday morning, Soto would read children's stories over the radio, loving every minute of it.

"Reading had always been a part of my life," she told me, "Even when I was in high school, ditching class. Most of the time I'd be off reading somewhere. I wouldn't go do anything bad, I'd go read. My high school was just being integrated, and there were a lot of problems, even violence. It wasn't a pleasant place to be."

At this point in her life, Soto pondered the possibility of returning to college, major-



ing in English, and some day teaching. However miserable the thought of getting through the algebra part of college was though, the idea of being forty by the time she earned her B.A. was worse.

She recalled advice from a friend, "Jannett told me that whether I went to college or not, I was still going to be forty, and she asked me what I wanted to be doing at forty. Her question really made a lot of sense."

She stayed at her sales job, saved money, and prepared to go back to school full-time.

Soon she found herself with her B.A. from CSU Fresno. As she was planning earn her Masters degree she received a phone call from the Dean of Humanities at Fresno City College. The Dean, Deborah Blue, had learned of Soto through the graduate advisor at CSU Fresno. Soto remembers the phone call, "I told her I didn't have my Masters yet, but that I could start working tomorrow, and to please just meet with me. I rushed home, put on more appropriate clothes, had a three hour long interview, got the job to teach one English night class, and started the next day. It was my first time to stand in front of a class."

Soto liked working at Fresno City College, but there weren't any permanent full-time jobs opening up in the English department. Armed with her newly minted Masters degree, the search for a full-time position began.

Soto explains, "When I was working on my Masters, I didn't let many people know that I wanted to eventually work at a community college. It wasn't thought to be as serious a goal as pursuing a PhD to teach at a university, but I liked the philosophy and mission of the community college." So, she started sending off resumes to community colleges that had full-time openings in their English departments. Columbia College called her in for an interview.

Soto describes the experience, "I remember driving up for the interview and turning off at Merced thinking, 'This looks pretty nice,' and then getting closer and closer, thinking, 'This looks really good, I'm never going to get this job!' I was so relaxed for the interview -- thinking that I didn't stand a chance -- that it actually went perfectly. Afterwards I felt like I'd aced it." A few weeks later, she learned that out of 250 applicants, she had gotten the job.

Three and a half years have passed since she started teaching at Columbia. She admits, "There are times when I feel like a duck out of water, I left a lot of good friends in Fresno. Though one of the things I appreciate about working at Columbia is the level of collegial respect that permeates relationships here."

Then she adds, "I feel very strongly about people showing common courtesy toward each other. It's obvious that the staff at Columbia College treat each other with respect. The friendliness starts with a smile and a wave as you drive past the parking permit booth. Even

the staff in the bookstore are friendly, and they are generally notorious for being curt. The secretaries, and administrative staff and faculty treat each other respectfully. Faculty go out of their way to help one another, and to support student's efforts. People like their jobs at Columbia."

Soto's passion for what she teaches is contagious to any student in her class. She can make English fun, and writing possible for anyone. In the spring semester Soto will teach English 250, English 151, English 1B, and Creative Writing.



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More Letters ...

Bathroom Issues

I can really relate to your notice of our soap in the bathrooms. Yes, it would be nice if we had the same soap as the instructors do in their bathrooms. Go look and see what type of soap they use. Then think who pays for it.

Please don't forget that little tissue we use too. I laugh at it because it's the same size as I used in kindergarten. You would think the bigger we get the bigger the choice would be ours as to how much toilet tissue we use.

I thought to myself, I wonder if the teachers still use this little tissue too. I went into the instructors office and looked in the bathroom there. Bam there is was a hole roll of toilet tissue. Hum what's wrong with this picture.

Don't we rate too!
Theresa Kalivuder

The smoke lingers

Chris Luhdorff you have hit the nail on the head about smoking on campus. I am not a smoker but I have been around smokers for 36 years. The one thing I have noticed since moving to this area, is the risk factor for fires, yet people have flicked their cigarette down right in front of me.

I have had the unpleasant privilege of living with smokers. The generation I grew up with were not aware of the dangers of smoking, so there was no problem driving in a vehicle with my mother, with all the windows rolled up while my sister, brother and I were all sitting in the backseat inhaling it.

Cigarette smoke has always bothered me. My eyes would burn, I couldn't breathe and my hair smelled like cigarettes by the time I got to school. Children could not have an opinion in those days. You were to be seen and not heard.

Well I am Not a child anymore, and I can speak out. I want to say that walking out of class and into a cloud of smoke outside the door does bother me at Columbia College. Not to mention the fact that the butts on the ground are disgusting. Breathing second hand smoke scares me to death. I contribute my cancer to the second hand smoke that I was forced to breath. I love Columbia College but I'm Tired of having to hold my breath until I reach the classroom.

Victoria Kilmer

To the editor:

I would like to make a few comments on one of your articles that I have read in your Mountain Times, "To Smoke or Not to Smoke." I am a smoker, have been for some time. Yes, I would like to quit, but right now I don't feel I can. It's hard to to quit for some people, it's not like you can say, "I quit and throw the pack away." Smoking is like a drug, you get addicted to them just like alcohol or drugs. I'd rather smoke a dirty little cigarette than stick a needle in my arm or pour myself a stiff drink from a bottle. At least when I light up a Camel, I don't see pink elephants, cop cars hiding in trees or crocodiles walking in between cars. I still have the ability to walk, talk and take care of my children.

I know that smoking is unhealthy for the smoker and non-smoker. Yes, they are nasty and messy. It's not good for the environment or the animals that choose to come here to feed and pick up dropping from the students. But not only the smokers are messing things up. True the cigarette butts do come from the smokers, but what about all the paper wrappers? What about the automobiles or even the air we breath? I'm not a scientist, but I bet there's lots of chemicals we breath besides cigarette smoke.

I have to agree with you on the part about seeing the butts all over. When we walk in between classes and light up, I put my butt in my pocket, right along with my gumm wrapper. I have seen cigarettes butted out on the ground right next to the cigarette bin. I have seen paper and cups in the cigarette bins but not necessarily put there by the smokers.

So what is left to do about this problem? Ban all smoking from the campus, that will make a lot of smokers unhappy. Run around giving out tickets to the ones you catch butting them out on the ground? You would probably run out of tickets before the week was up. How about putting more cigarette bins and signs asking the smokers, "Please don't butt your cigarette out on the ground."

For non-smoking people, if I am standing beside you and you don't like the smell or it makes you sick. Just tell me and I'll either put it out or move it away. I can only speak for myself and I do have respect for the non-smokers. I was one of them at one time, myself.

Joyce Held

Political Apathy

Dear Editor:

Very recently I took some time to gather signatures of people that were opposed to the incident

involving pepper spray and protesters in Humboldt County. I was able to get 303 signatures after two days of hard work. One thing that came to my attention, was that most people didn't seem to care about what I was doing. They would just walk right on by. I would have to call people over, and round them up so they would at least come over to find out what I was doing. I also noticed that half of those people didn't think what I was doing would change a thing. It is this attitude that has allowed our government to lead us on a leash. When the constitution was written it gave power to the people. This still stands today. The people of this nation need to start caring and making a difference so that our government will be what we want it to be.

Dear Editor:

I read the article "Housing Staff Aims to Increase Student Activity" in the Mountain Times. I disagree with your ideas. In this article, you discuss the dorm manager about increasing the number of students in dorms. The dorm manger is also thinking about room for a pool table and games. Have they thought about the price of the dorms? Did they ask students about what they need in dorms? I asked some of the students about the student housing, and they said "The student housing is not comfortable. It is noisy. There is no counter in the kitchen," and other problems.

This is my first semester in Columbia College. In the beginning of the semester, I was thinking of living in the dorms. However, the price at the dorm was almost the same as a small one bedroom apartment in Sonora which is more comfortable, has a better stove, and has a nice kitchen. I think they should think about how students can have a more comfortable place with a cheaper price. I think, the students need a quiet place for studying not for playing pool or other games. Have the dorm managers thought about why the students want to live in the dorms instead of an apartment? I think it's because they want to have more time to study. . . If a student wants to have date night or movie, they can go to Sonora or Columbia. Those cities have enough room for those students. Those people who are real students don't have time to go to date night or a movie. I think the dorm managers should change their mind and think about the best way to help students have time to study, not play games. . .

Hossein A. Salari
Skills 270

Talking Heads

asked by Otis Anderson, Joe Gilliam and John Flynn

What do you do to relieve stress at the end of the semester?



Karen Rodts

"Go to Coyote Creek and dance my brains out!"



Gerte Stoiber

"Probably take my stress out on everybody else. And eat chocolate."



Joelle Parker

"I'm planning to burn the book 'Conflict and Consensus' in effigy."



Tammy Aguiniga

"I drink 'Clamato Juice' by the gallon until I pass out."



Otis Anderson

"I like to play nude hacky-sack with squirrel heads."



Slappy Squirrel

"I store up small, hard objects to drop on the heads of the bastards that decapitate my relatives [maniacal laughter]"
(drawn by Heidi Sullivan)

The View From My Desk...

by Lisa Larsen
MTX EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

I think I have burned-out every neuron I have ever possessed. I can no longer concentrate on things like standard deviations of sample populations or the myths and realities of the civil war. Evil dreams of the pleasures of intellectual slumming keep interfering. Pathetic dreams I'm ashamed to admit to, things like drinking hot mulled wine while reading some piece of garbage like "People" magazine that has no redeeming literary value whatsoever and then napping under a pile of warm laundry just out of the dryer.

It's my own fault. No one should cram this much stuff into their head in only eighteen weeks. There have been several times over the last



few weeks that I was certain I was going to have an aneurysm in my brain. I have learned a lot from the experience though. Oddly enough, this little 1-unit class (Journalism 10) has taught me a great deal. I'm not talking about all the bull you put on your college applications "...it has improved my managerial and writing skills as well as my awareness of

blah, blah, blah..." No, I'm talking about learning the realities of working on, and sticking with something you believe in. When I began this semester I had no idea what being the editor of a paper meant. I had written articles for the MTX last year, but it is another thing entirely to be responsible for its production. What I had imagined to be a good writing experience that would look good on a transfer application has turned out to be something much more.

First of all, it is not nearly as glamorous as I had hoped. In fact "the view from my desk..." in reality is pretty scary. My desk is actually a table covered in trash confined to a freezing, windowless room with exposed plumbing in the basement of the Redbud building. (They don't call it "The Dungeon" for nothing!) Occasionally frogs from the reservoir find their way in, or we find a special surprise like I did this week: the shed

skin of a snake (I have yet to find the snake it belonged to...[shiver]).

And speaking of skins -- that was another reality I was not quite prepared for -- I have learned the need to thicken mine. I was prepared for some disagreement and reactions when I decided to run the Wet T-Shirt contest as our cover story in my first issue of the MTX. What I was not prepared for was the personal nature of the comments. One male student I spoke to commented that perhaps I wouldn't be so opposed to the contest if I were thinner, younger and prettier. Another unsigned letter I received remarked that my column was "wishy-washy and hollow" among other flattering comments.

At first it really affected me. It is difficult enough to write something, sign your name to it, and allow the entire school to read it. It is far more difficult to gracefully and objectively accept the sometimes biting criticisms of other students

who disagree with you. At first I was crushed by the comments, but a little time and some advice from my Journalism advisor helped me get some perspective on the situation.

The reason I signed up for this job was because I strongly believed that there should be an uncensored, student-run news source on campus, I believed in freedom of speech and freedom of the press. And as difficult as it sometimes is, that belief means extending that same freedom of speech to others, even if it is directed at you personally.

So bring it on. Tell me what's on your mind, even if it's negative, even if it's directed at me personally. You should have the right to speak your mind. The only thing I ask is that you have the courage to do the same thing that I do -- sign your name to your writing and your opinion. This isn't an easy job, but I'll keep it. It's not always pretty, but I'm starting to like the view from my desk...

My Turn...

by Tammy Aguiniga
MTX Assistant Editor

Something horrible happened to me the other night. I saw a dog get hit by a car. For me this was very traumatic and I felt this intense amount of guilt because I felt I could have prevented it.

I had seen the dog running around the parking lot and I saw his owner chasing him and calling for him, but the dog wasn't responding.

The dog came by my car and I tapped the window trying to get his attention. It did for a moment. After that the dog continued to run around and by this time I had left the parking lot and was driving on Mono Way and there was the dog again, in the road.



I knew this was trouble and started to get out of the car. I could not allow this dog to get hurt, but before I could open the door all the way, he had been hit. At that point all I could do was cry. My fiancée tried to comfort me but it was no good. He knows how sensitive I am about animals. We have three cats that I treat like my children. I can never imagine what I will do if anything happens to them.

Knowing how much I love Meowser, Tabitha, and Bubba, I knew that owner was suffering but I never stopped to help.

I have this immense weight on my chest because I did not help. I hate that about myself but yet I never change that about myself.

My fiancée pointed out that I wasn't the only one who could have helped and they didn't make an effort either.

Why don't people help each other? People get shot or attacked on streets with several people watching and act as if nothing happened. What are we afraid of?

I could have prevented the loss of a friend if I hadn't been afraid to help. Afraid to lend a hand.

It is an interesting aspect of human nature. Because of it we live in a world and a society that is self-absorbed and self-satisfying. A place

that is harsh and cold.

Granted not everyone is like this. People do donate time and money to help others but not enough.

I try to help others but only on a limited basis. I donate money, but that is more like buying my way out of helping. I need to do more.

We are in the middle of the Christmas season, the most giving time of year, but there are other times of the year that people need help.

We all need to remember what it's like when we ourselves need help and return to that memory when others are in need. I know some people think they can't help but you can. Even in the worst times of my life, I still could have helped another. I have to make the conscious decision to not be apathetic. The change could begin a process that in the end leads to a better world.

I know that gets a little senti-

mental and far stretching but it could happen.

Our generation is seen as very apathetic and we should change that. At one time there were causes to get involved in but it seems now they have fallen by the wayside. Has anyone heard anything about the rainforest lately? We still need those forests to help maintain life on earth.

There has been some effort to try to save Tibet, but it is all from movie stars. There are still another thousand causes to get involved with. We need to get involved.

Here's my New Years Resolution. I am going to find a cause and I am going to help others who need it.

I have decided that the next time someone needs help I am going to help. How do I know what the end results will be? It may be that next time I save a human's life or better yet an animal's.

My Turn...

by Nichole MacDonald
MTX Assistant Editor

Being the holiday season I felt it necessary to reflect upon the sentiment of holiday spirit and how it never ceases to amaze me how involved we become with traditions. Indeed, it is healthy to get away from ordinary life for a while to appreciate what you have and share that joy with others. I am probably the most traditional old-fashioned person you will ever meet, but where did all the traditions come from?

If you really think about it,



our traditions are kind of wacky. Take Halloween for instance; Did someone just decide one day that they thought it would be cool if everyone went door to door to get a sack full of candy? And Christmas; Presents are good and all, but why on Christmas?

It seems like there must

have been an official "Holiday Committee" that sat around a big table with charts, calendars, body heat, excitement, and college degrees planning the future of American holidays. You know, they all have their sleeves rolled up and raise their voices, trying to get their idea across.

Actually, every holiday derived from some sort of tradition that has grown through the years. Did you know that Halloween is thought to have been originated among the ancient Druids, who believed that on that evening, Saman, the lord of the dead, called forth evil spirits. So the Druids lit great fires on Halloween to ward off the spirits. This tradition was common around most parts of the world, which led to witchcraft and

the concept of ghosts and spirits when festivals were held. The festivals, of course, led to games, such as bobbing for apples, and has grown to the tradition we know of today. So, it all started out as fires and spirits and ended up as Trick-Or-Treating.

I think everyone knows where Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter came from. Well, however they came about, they sure have proven to be enjoyable, especially Christmas. What is it about Christmas that gets everyone so spirited and giving? What makes the sights, smells and sounds of Christmas so enchanting? I guess it's something that everyone has their own answer for.

It may be the same thing

that puts people on a more thankful note around Thanksgiving. I hope everyone will supply enough thanks to make up for my lack thereof. Don't get me wrong, I am more than appreciative for the blessings that I have received. But I could have lived without getting in a car wreck, getting stung in the head by a bee, running out of gas twice, and missing deadline on my stories.

But, how selfish of me to complain when there are starving, homeless people all over the world who still manage to be thankful for all they have, though it may be very little. I would like to take this little moment and paper space to personally wish everyone a happy holiday season.

Claimjumpers Seeking Conference Success

Team comes together in hopes of success

by Nichole MacDonald
MTX Assistant Editor

The basketball team is off to a hopeful start as they begin a new season with a new coach and new players. The team members may come from many different places and backgrounds, but they seem to have one common goal: To succeed, whether it be a State Championship, a Central Valley Conference (CVC) Championship, making it to the play-offs, or just holding a winning record.

Donnell Meekins, a guard from Los Angeles said, "Our ultimate goal is to win a State Championship. We want to have a good year and improve every game."

Allen Ramsey, a guard from Detroit, Michigan said, "I want a CVC Championship and a State Championship."

Matt Williams, a forward from Santa Barbara has a similar goal. He stated, "[My goal] would be to win the CVC and to make it to the state playoffs." Being the only returning player, Williams has additional things he wants to work on. "One thing I need to do is be a good leader," he said.

Head coach Andrew Vasher said he is "very pleased with Matt. He shows a lot of leadership."

However, Vasher has already pin pointed the things that need to be worked on. He stated, "In the games they've showed how good they can be, and how mediocre they can be. The problem is playing by yourself rather than a team. They need to play as a team."

Although the players have been practicing together for a while, the team chemistry is still developing.

Ahmaal Bodden, a guard from Port Arthur, Texas said, "Right now it's kinda shaky, but we will shape together. We're still trying to learn each other."

Williams agreed, "The team chemistry is not totally there. We need to work together a lot because that's how we'll win."

Paul Boone, a guard from Snow Flake, Arizona stated, "I think part of what we need to work on is playing together. I think to play as a team should be our goal."



Most of the members have things they want to work on for themselves as well as for the team.

Ramsey said, "Right now, I don't feel like I have any real strong points. I have to work to be at the top of my game. We need to work on defense, turnovers, and freethrows. You gotta have ice water in the veins at the line."

Meekins stated, "I need to work on every part of my game. I can never be satisfied with how I'm playing. And as a team we need to work on defense."

Whatever it is they are working on, every team member seems to thank Vasher for their improvement.

Meekins said, "I think he's a

very fundamental coach who accepts nothing but the best."

Bodden said, "He's a great teacher. He's real enthusiastic and he cares a lot about us."

The fact that this is Vasher's first year at Columbia will enhance the Claimjumper's reputation, according to Boone, who was coached by Vasher in the past. He stated, "I think he's going to have a winning season no matter where he goes. I came all the way up here just to play for him."

In regards to his new coach, Williams said, "I anticipate it being a positive experience. He expects everyone to work hard and he knows a lot about the game."

Grueling Season Ends for Lady Claimjumpers

by Nichole MacDonald
MTX ASSISTANT EDITOR

With only six players remaining, the grueling women's volleyball season came to an end. For the final game, the team consisted of the two captains, Crystal Peterson and Lisa Christopher, and four freshman, Jenny Hursky, Cori Pritchard, Sachiko Masuyama, and Brianne Miller.

The lady Claimjumpers ended with a record of three wins, 11 losses, beating Modesto the last game of the season.

Playing the second half of the season with only six players left the team a bit limited. "We've gone through a lot this year. We had some set-backs and some injuries, but we all kept playing with our hearts," said Pritchard.

Hursky said, "We had a lot

of tragedies through the season, but we pulled it together as a team and did well considering the circumstances. We didn't have the best season, but at least we played with our hearts."

Aside from the unfortunate loss of many players, the team members remained positive and leaned on each other for support.

Coach Morgan McBride said, "This team got along better than any team I have coached in 23 years."

Pritchard commented, "We all got along well. We did a lot of team building stuff, like sleep-overs."

Captains Peterson and Christopher had a lot to do with the team unity, according to Hursky. "They were our leaders. We looked up to them the whole season and worked well together," she said.

continued on backpage

Practice makes perfect

In a scrimmage game the jumpers are perfecting their game.

Claim Jumpers Game Schedule

The Jumpers open Tuesday, Dec. 9, at 8:45 p.m. against Race Express. If they win they will play the winner of Fresno City-Merritt game on Thursday at 9:00 a.m. The Jumpers will play San Joaquin Delta College in Stockton on Dec. 16 and Shasta College in Redding on Dec. 29. The next home game will be Jan. 2 when the Jumpers host Sierra College. The Jumpers are currently 1-5 with a victory over the highly rated Diablo Valley team.

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Nightlife and Club Shows for Sonora and Bay Area Venues Alternatives to Saturday Night CowTipping

by Lisa Larsen
MTX Editor-in-Chief

Stressed out from studying for finals and need to have some fun? Sick of watching "Beevis and Butthead" marathons in your footed jammies over winter break? We've lined up a calendar of music events to break up the monotony whether you're on campus, in Sonora, or up for a short weekend trip with your friends.

What if nothing here does it for you? No problem. This is just a short list of the larger concerts scheduled and some of the local club acts. If you're looking for something more adventurous try some of the bay area clubs, a great list complete with directions and listings of acts scheduled can be found online at <http://www.sfgate.com/eguide>. Click on nightlife for club listings, or check out something totally different (classical, jazz, and blues events can all be found here as well.)

For up to date additions to the concert schedule later in the month, check out the website at <http://www.khop.com> or <http://sfbayconcerts.com>. If you still can't find what you're looking for, try <http://www.ubl.com> to search for concert dates and dirt on your favorite bands.

/www.ubl.com to search for concert dates and dirt on your favorite bands.

Local Stuff:

December:

- 9: Symphony of the Sierra
8 pm, Sonora High Auditorium
- 10: Columbia College Recital
6:30 p.m., Forum
- 12: Killer Blues Band w/Lita Hope
Coyote Creek
- 13: Mofo Party Band
Coyote Creek
- 18: Voodoo Glowskulls w/guests:
Falling Sickness and
Assorted Jellybeans
Mother Lode Fairgrounds
6:30 p.m., \$10, Info: 588-1204
- 20: Mother Wheel
Coyote Creek
- 22: Last Caravan
Coyote Creek

Stuff You Have To Drive To:

December:

- 11-14: "Yes,"
San Jose Events Center
- 14: Fiona Apple
The Warfield
- 14-16: Green Day

- 27: The Fillmore
Megadeth
Sacramento Memorial
- 28: Megadeth
San Jose Events Center
- New Years Eve
Hot Tuna/ Sheri Jackson
The Fillmore
John Lee Hooker
Boom Boom Club
Primus/ Deftones
Henry J. Kaiser Aud.
Tommy Castro
Mystic- Petaluma
Brian Setzer Orchestra
The Warfield
SFNYE- Bill Graham Civic
with Boz Scaggs, Robert
Cray, Buckwheat Zydeco, plus.

Closet Beatnik Enclave Discovered in Sonora

by Lisa Larsen
MTX EDITOR in CHIEF

Slowly, they filtered [no pun intended] into the coffeshop. Loners or small groups, clad in turtleneck sweaters, clutching well-worn books and journals. It was the elusive band of underground poets that were, until now, only a shocking rumor to the beer drinking regulars at the Rawhide Saloon.

"Open Mike Night" at Cups in downtown Sonora attracted a group of about 30 participants. Nearly everyone had brought something to contribute: a favorite poem, an original piece of music, and original prose and poetry.

The nearly 3 hour reading session passed quickly with poetry of

every imaginable style: cowboy, beat, traditional rhymed, foreign translations, as well as some poetry that was, well . . . beyond description (What the heck is "Puppy Larva" anyway?)

The series of "Open Mike Nights" -- organized by Cups, Central Sierra Arts Council and Jim Toner's Creative Writing class -- provides a great opportunity to read some of your work in front of a supportive audience, share an old favorite piece, or just be entertained. So dust off your turtleneck, start writing and join in.

"Open Mike Night"
December 10, 1997
Central Sierra Arts Council
(Next to Cups & Stage 3)
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Group Reads for Pleasure

by Tammy Aguiniga
MTX Assistant Editor

Last year Oprah started a huge trend when she began her bookclub. Her goal was to get America reading. Here on campus, Pat Harrelson tried to do the same thing several years ago with only limited success.

"Our attendance is sparse. It ranges from 2 to 7 people, depending on the book," said Harrelson.

Those who do attend are all faculty members. Harrelson suggest the low turnout of students may have something to do with how busy students are. She understood that it is hard for students to read a book for

pleasure with all their schoolwork. She also points out that the discussion groups are not like english classes.

"It is an opportunity to talk about books we have just read," stressed Harrelson. "A one hour meeting to share what you liked and didn't like."

Another problem may be that the book is not necessarily what someone wants to read. She has tried to counteract this by allowing whom-ever shows up at the meeting to choose the next book.

"(The group) is open to just about anything," Harrelson noted. "The last two books we read were memoirs and we have also done some short stories."

Harrelson feels that reading is important. For her it is treasured time. She reads a lot to keep up with what her students are reading. She also feels it is important to make time to read.

"It's my time and I am selecting what I want to read and where I send my mind," Harrelson said.

Harrelson added, "Reading is a raw medium... I don't want our culture to lose the opportunity to spend sometime in that medium."

The group meets in Redbud 9 the third tuesday of every month during college hour (12:30- 1:30). The book for January is "The Book of Ruth" by Jane Hamilton. All are encouraged to participate.

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Happy Holidays at Columbia



Outings Club Endures Trek to Three Chimneys

by Ross Carkeet
MTX Contributor

Ten stalwarts from the Outings Club drifted into the Long Valley Creek canyon, well after first light on the morning of October 18th, to initiate the first annual Three Chimneys climb. Led by advisors Ross Carkeet and Jeff Tolhurst (Earth Science Instructor), the caffeine-charged group included: Karen Shelley, Mike Hall, Mathew Schmitt, Sean McCarthy, Jessica Dennen, Adrianna Brown, Mike Wulf, and Meryl Soto, English Instructor.

My first doubts concerning the day were piqued when Dennen's car died in the middle of the creek, then coughed and lurched to its final repository on the north shore. Schmitt emerged from the smoking chariot and shuffled toward me in his bedroom mukluks, stating incredulously, "Jeez, I forgot my hiking boots, does anyone have an extra pair of boots?" Johnny-on-the-spot McCarthy produced an extra pair, but alas, two sizes too small. Liners were cast off to increase toe space, and Schmitt was destined to hobble around on hard leather soles with boot nails gouging against the heels and balls of his feet for the next eight hours.

Car-pooling in mud-splattered 4 x 4's, we sloggled along the north side of Long Valley Creek for two miles and pulled off into the sagebrush below the snow-covered, 1,200 foot north face of the Three Chimneys - often chronicled in Emigrant diaries as the "Three Needles". The Chimneys rise eighty feet above the face as prominent, eroded volcanic relics, ten million years old, and highly visible on the horizon from the east end of the four-lane Highway 108 at Little Sweden.

Tolhurst bade us farewell, having tweaked his ankle the week before, high on the unstable slopes of Mt. Hood. With downcast head and never looking back, he sped away, knowing he was missing out.

Lacking ice climbing gear, we chose the easiest ascent route located directly to the northeast of the Chimneys. After traversing a steep quarter mile of loose glacial and volcanic debris, we trekked for a mile along a precipitous granite sheet dissected inconveniently by deep canyons. Almost immediately, the group became scattered along the route with the youngest and most energetic in front, oldest and wisest trailing. I held to the rear, giving encouragement to those who (1) showed the



Survivors

The members of the Outings Club who made it to the top. From left to right: Adrianna Brown, Mike Wulf, Matt Schmitt, Sean Mc Carthy, Jessica Dennen, Mike hall, Karen Shelley, and Ross Carkeet.

hypoxia effects of 8,000 feet elevation, (2) displayed sluggishness from sleep deprivation, (3) harbored a gnawing realization they had bitten off too much, or else (4) felt duped into the climb without proper warning of the severity level. Soto qualified in all of these categories. Her initial exuberance had ebbed noticeably with each slick granite in-

"If you slip off here, you're dead meat."
- Ross Carkeet

cline and corresponding elevation gain, and we both struggled with our failing eye contact and strained dialogue. Conversely, Hall's booming voice reverberated continually off of the Chimneys, still far above us, and threatened to launch an avalanche that would snuff all. At 8,500 feet we began to encounter drifts of snow ten inches deep as we left the inclined granite slab, crossing over a deep ravine onto a fifty degree slope. Here the snow had melted recently, leaving instead, a saturated, greasy surface of volcanic ash, covered with rounded, marble-sized surface rocks requiring use of all fours for upward movement. Brown, Wulf, Dennen and Schmitt crawled upward undaunted, seemingly immune to fatigue - indomitable. Shelley, resolute and still smiling, appeared vertically mobile, while McCarthy gave Soto verbal

and physical support from below. Hall's echoing voice continued to be omnipresent. Fifty yards above Soto, I surveyed the terrain and informed her the situation would improve in a hundred yards when the flank of a significant ridge would be attained, thus leading after another quarter mile to our lunch stop on a comfortable shelf at 8,900 feet. Thereby convinced Soto's morale had been bolstered, I dug in with renewed fervor and doubled my ascent rate with insect-like movements, feeling good. Then, with meat bee speed from below, the Spanish expletives from Soto hit me from the backside, drowning out Hall's chatter, leaving me dazed and totally clueless, especially since my most current language training had terminated epochs ago with high school French and Latin. I spun around and made distant eye contact, but after perceiving the fire in her eyes, struggled to croak weakly, "Hang in there Soto, you're doing great."

Lunch pulled us back together as a team and the elevated blood-sugar levels stoked our vigor. We continued upward along the ridge for a couple hundred yards until we crested at 9,000 feet onto the divide separating Long Valley Creek and Emigrant Wilderness. Another quarter mile along a steep slope with loose rock led us to the 9,200 foot summit. A world of snow and wilderness lay to the south and east of us and we loudly reveled, celebrating our achievement as if we had just con-

quered the Eiger. Cooper Meadow sprawled far below us and Granite Dome, Emigrant's most prominent landmark, sparkled as a snow-covered monolith to the southeast.

I peered over the edge down the north face wall from between two of the Chimneys to experience an icy 1,200 foot near-vertical view into Long Valley. I thought, "If you slip off here, you're dead meat." It was then I saw the movement of Schmitt and Dennen to my right, perched precariously on the edge of the face and stopped cold. Instead of approaching the Chimneys from behind as did the rest of the group, they diverted too early and had tried to complete the last couple of hundred feet using a horribly steep route adjacent to the face. They hoped to attain the summit by entering the base of the largest Chimney through its natural arch, a cave sizeable enough to accommodate a small bus. From a hundred feet away I yelled, "Hey, our plan was to approach from the rear, what are you doing there?" No answer, only bewildered looks. "Hold on, I'll go up into the cave and see how it looks for you." I scrambled fifty yards upslope to the cave while the remainder of my colleagues continued their celebrations by snapping pictures, back-slapping, and boasting in ever deepening voices, quite oblivious to our impending crisis. Looking down upon the two trapped renegades, I decided they could access us if they kept their wits. I scrambled carefully down and met them half way on a

shelf immediately above the snow and underlying ice they would need to cross. Extending my arm I said, "We'll do a fireman's arm grab, hand to forearm, and I'll yank you up." As Schmitt began to close the forty foot distance between us I heard Hall lamenting at least three times how he had thought of packing a rope, but didn't, and now wished he had. I entertained the notion of hooking belts and suspenders together for security, but quickly dismissed this foolishness, and kept my arm fully extended as a focal point, reliable and attainable. Schmitt crawled upward across the last ten feet of snow and grabbed my arm, stating his hands were numb and had little feeling. His grip was cold, but viselike, and I yanked him up. Others were now behind me to assist him into the cave. Dennen then moved upward, much slower than Schmitt, but surefooted, clawing across snow and ice in shorts and bearing a sizeable daypack. I noticed her hand was warm as we established a good grip and I yanked once again. As she passed alongside

"Hang in there Soto, you're doing great."
- Ross Carkeet

we faltered momentarily, gravity our adversary, so I braced myself better and pushed her upward with impropriety from behind into the arms of my colleagues. We all celebrated together now, with redundant photos, many of them prominently displaying Dennen's bloody knee, acquired during the recent adrenalin rush. Shelley produced a sizeable flag she had sewn with dedication the previous night, sporting a prominent display in bold letters, "CC Outings Club".

Unknown to us, Blaine Rogers (Biology Instructor), hopelessly tardy, was at this time situated a mile below on the upper end of the granite incline, shouting and flailing his arms in a vain attempt to draw our attention - undoubtedly appearing as a blithering idiot to the local marmot population. Disillusioned, he quickly departed for home after his achievement went unnoticed. Later, at the end of the trek, I found his professional card stuck to my truck windshield, mute testimony of his solitary effort and typical of his consistent support of my collegiate endeavors.

(continued on page 15)

Chimney

Meanwhile, we sat and enjoyed the view and I mentioned with regret those who were not with us, naming students who had dropped out at the last minute, and what they were missing. The conversation lulled. Nobody appeared interested in those who bailed on us. Then we caught the pungent smoke drift from McCarthy's cigar as he sat, stoic, forty feet above us, euphoric in his own mode of celebration. We chastized him for fouling the alpine air, whereupon he smiled puckishly from the side of his mouth unencumbered by the cigar. As a group we continued to look upward for a verbal response. Slowly, he removed the cigar. From an impressive profile angle, his bearded, Lincoln-like countenance stated sagely, "Far better it is to dare mighty things than to take rank with those poor, timid spirits who know neither victory, nor defeat" (Theodore Roosevelt, 1899). For a long time the only sound was that of sporadic wind whistling

through the Chimney cave as all of us continued to stare, slackjawed, to the Oracle above us.

Before our descent I produced my cellular phone. Bouncing off of a repeater twenty miles distant on Mt. Reba, we telephoned to boast of our conquest and anticipated fame to friends, roommates, wives, lovers, companions, moms, and for one climber, a therapist. In most cases their responses were the same: "Who?" "Where?" "Huh?"

We peered over the north-facing edge one last time and I pointed out my cabin perched far below in Long Valley, where we would have dinner. Someone with powerful binoculars noticed a lounging human form on my deck, shirt removed, exposing an upper torso with exceptionally high albedo. We took turns with the binoculars and concurred it was Tolhurst, sunbathing and grading papers.

I lingered on the summit and was the last to leave, noticing Soto heading downslope quickly, deer-

like. I caught up with her after a quarter mile, at the top of an extremely steep and long descent on slick ash topped with loose, rounded rocks.

Play for more than you can afford to lose and you will learn the game."

She hesitated there while others passed by in fading light. I approached, looked at her, and she confessed her acrophobia. We were both tired and beyond verbal jousting. I extended my left arm and her right hand wrapped tightly around my bicep and we bonded, as humans and colleagues should, but often don't. By the time we descended this final barrier the others were far ahead of us. As of this printing, her fingernail gouges remain indelibly etched into the epidermis of my upper arm.

Toward dusk while deep in the shadow of the Chimneys in Long Valley, our group shared dinner in my small, modest cabin, warmed by stove-cooked spaghetti, garlic bread, and our camaraderie. We also consumed the odd cup of herbal tea and shared stories of our recent victory. All looked ruddy-faced and displayed exhaustion. We retired early.

In a warm and comfortable loft bed, suspended between the twilight zone of slumber and consciousness, I mulled over the myriad events the day had produced on the unforgiving slopes above, and pondered on how a saga considerably less mundane would have been recorded had we not had such good fortune. A quote by Sir Winston Churchill fogged into my tired mind: "Play for more than you can afford to lose and you will learn the game."

I silently gave thanks to all those fine folks who spent their day with me and endured. Then my mind and body rendered itself comatose for nine hours.

The Columbia College Outings Club began in Spring 1997 with the purpose of blending recreational field trips with biological, ecological, and earth science academics. Club advisors Ross Carkeeth (Forestry- Natural Resources) and Jeff Tolhurst (Earth Science) are available on the trips to inform and spark interest in natural sciences. Outings planned for winter and spring are: Mountain bike ride on the Sugar Pine Railroad Grade. Cross-country skiing in the Dodge Ridge area, snowshoe trek in the high country, foothill-country road mountain bike ride, and spring wildflower trek on Table Mountain. Membership is open to all Columbia College students and dues are \$5.00 per semester. Meetings are held on scheduled Thursdays during college hour in Toyon 2 and are advertised in the weekly bulletin and on Outings club "sandwich boards" on campus.

Class Offers Space Communication

Course will teach usage of global positioning system

by Cryss Black Wolf
MTX Reporter

Have you ever wanted to communicate with things in outer space? Well you can learn how to do just that, right here at Columbia College!

A new course being offered, Computer Science 59, offers students an unique opportunity to learn cutting edge technology. The course will enable students to familiarize themselves with current Global Positioning System (GPS) concepts and the practical implementation of GPS principles as they are integrated into Geographic Information Systems (GIS) applications.

GPS is a "constellation" of satellites that enable a person, anywhere on the planet, to be able to pinpoint his or her position with uncanny accuracy. This "constellation" consists of twenty-four satellites that orbit our planet (plus three spares) at an altitude of approximately 12,500 miles above the earth's surface.

GPS receivers listen to these satellites and transmit precise time and location for wherever you may be, twenty four hours a day, three hundred-sixty five days a year. They also tell how fast and in which direction, if any, the pinpointed target is



You are here

Josh Willson displays how to use the Global Positioning System. The handheld device is valued at \$12,000.

moving. And if that wasn't enough, it also provides latitude, longitude, and elevation.

Jeff Tolhurst, instructor in the geological sciences/GIS department said, "GPS is a cutting edge technology that is being implemented in just about every job market. And new applications for this technology are frequently being discovered."

Whether it be in the transportation markets, construction, geology, land-planning/management, agriculture, forestry, GPS is a trend that is already being used in multiple applications. And it would be beneficial for anyone to get this training.

Tolhurst continued, "Also,

there are practical applications for backpackers, hunters, cross-country skiers, and fisherman, to just name a few. Anyone who enjoys outdoor activities can greatly benefit by GPS principles".

Regarding the course curriculum, Tolhurst states that "we will be focusing one third of our time to GPS, utilizing hand held GPS satellite trackers, as well as the more advanced models. Another third will be spent on the implementation of this GPS derived data into GIS applications by focusing on various targeted areas here on campus. Students will learn how to produce two and three dimensional maps from this data. The

focus of the remaining third will be for the students to apply these principles into the creation of a personal project."

Along with learning how to navigate with GPS, focus will be given on the satellite system, the control system, and limitations of accuracy issues. This course will explore various other aspects and applications for those who plan to use this technology during their employment. It will also benefit those who just want to have another tool to enhance any outdoor activity.

Jeff Tolhurst wants anyone who may not be sure whether or not this class could be beneficial to them to know that, "this course is designed so that even the lay-person will be able to use this technology for personal enrichment. As in the case of a fisherman or a hiker, hand held GPS receivers can be used to plot courses, predict estimated time of arrival, bases on momentum and trajectory, and to be able to mark a favorite fishing or camping spot so that they can return to it from anywhere on the planet. Students will learn how easy it is to implement this technology into something that is useful and fun."

Computer Science 59 will be offered in the spring, Wednesdays from 2:00pm to 4:50, in fir 3. Plan early for this one, as interest is anticipated to be high for this class.



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who lived in a cabin next to the reservoir since the 1930's. When the property was sold to the district there was a clause in the deed that gave him the right to continue to live on campus until his days ended. The district built him a new cabin, which is now the security office. Davis spent his days tending his garden which was located where the tennis courts are now.

"His garden was the best in the county," according to Carkeet. "He used to bring me things like mushrooms and other plants. I called him the resident naturalist."

Carkeet described Davis as a colorful guy who would come into the classrooms and tell stories. "The students really liked him," added Carkeet.

Like all colleges, when Columbia first was established it had a philosophy that was very student oriented. According to the philosophy statement in the first catalog the college was "dedicated to the worth and dignity of each student." The statement also noted that the college will involve each student in developing their capabilities and helping them become a "useful and contributing member of the American society."

Rhodes emphasized, "The philosophy was very important. The college was built on this philosophy."

He added that everyone associated with the school such as the faculty and classified staff had to pledge allegiance to the philosophy.

"We never planned to exceed 3,000 students, that is why the buildings are small," Rhodes said. To this date Columbia College has never exceeded that number.

He commented that the school has changed somewhat over the years and students have changed, but it is still an excellent school.

Carkeet noted that the students

30th anniversary
have changed. "There is less activism. This is more of a commuter campus now." He added, "In the past students were more club active. There were more student activities on and off campus."

One of those activities was Litter Ridder. It was an Earth Day activity that included the whole campus. The school broke into teams and when out collecting trash from all the county roads. There was a contest to see who could collect the most trash.

"The student body is not a cohesive as it used to be," lamented Carkeet.

Though today the faculty, staff, and enrollment have grown, Carkeet believes one of the unique aspects of the college is how personal it continues to be. "There is still a quality one to one interaction on the campus."

"Most people who work here really care about this school," said Carkeet. "The faculty has continually updated themselves as the world around us has changed." He felt that the school has kept up really well considering how small the school is.

"There is no other place like it," said Carkeet.

In conjunction with Community College Month in April, Columbia will organize several large events to celebrate the 30th Anniversary. At that time according to College President Dr. Jim Riggs, he and faculty will introduce their new vision statement, a new mission statement and a new logo for the college.

Dr. Riggs said, "It will be very student centered and very future oriented."

If you would like to serve on an anniversary committee, contact Pat Panteleone.

Watch for the MTX's upcoming series of articles on the history and future of Columbia College in our Spring issues.

volleyball

Mastuyama stated, "At first it was difficult. I had never seen anything about volleyball until I came here. The returning players did a good job. Lisa and Crystal made us stick together."

So far there are only two players, Hursky and Pritchard, who

overtime

"This bill would deny the majority of hourly workers equal access to flexible work hours currently bargained for and enjoyed by workers in union under collective bargaining agreements.....This measure would also be detrimental to thousands of California's family operated businesses....."

plan to return next season. McBride said, "I want to start out with 18 players next year instead of 12. I need solid players who will make a solid effort."

Two members received All-Central Valley Conference honors. Crystal Peterson was named to the first team and Lisa Christopher was named to the second team.

"The season, to those who completed it, was successful," according to McBride. She stated, "All things considered, I'm relatively pleased with the outcome of the season. We played with a tremendous amount of heart and attitude."

College Gets Connected with Internet

by John Flynn
MTX Reporter

Just in time for all those end of the semester research papers Columbia College has acquired four computers hooked up to the Internet. You can find the new Internet wing in the library near the Xerox machine.

According to Larry Steuben it has been "an enormously big success with the students, it [the Internet wing] has been bursting with use. Its always being used until four or five o'clock p.m. each day. Then they're somewhat deserted in the evening."

Student Sara Tate, from Murphys was found exploring sources for an English research paper. Tate stated "once you get the hang of it, its very easy to use and very time saving."

Her only complaint was the lack of an available printer. Steuben reports that the college is aware of the problem and they are planning to acquire a printer for student Internet use in the near future. Until that time, students needing printouts of their information can "insert a 3" floppy disk and save all your data you would like to keep. Then you can transfer

this information to a computer that is hooked up to a printer."

The computers are otherwise well equipped, according to Steuben, "We have Netscape, Yahoo!, HotBot (Wired magazine), Lycos, Excite!, InfoSeek and AltaVista...[search engines that can be used to] check its data files for Internet sites on whatever subject you are interested in."

The Internet wing is available for use during regular library hours: 7:45 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Mon - Thurs., and 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Fridays.

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