

# Mountain Times

December 13, 1995

Columbia College

Vol. III, No. 4

## Emotions raised over 13%

By Connie Close  
MTX STAFF WRITER

Despite widespread and vocal opposition from faculty, staff and students, the Yosemite Community College District board voted unanimously once again to grant YCCD Chancellor Pamela Fisher a 13 percent pay raise.

The motion was passed swiftly Dec. 5, making Fisher's annual base salary \$125,000, with a \$700 a month expense account. This raise makes Fisher's salary \$11,000 more than that of the governor of California.

In addition, the board announced she will receive the same raises granted to other district administrators over the next three

years.

More than 100 people attended the meeting, most relegated to a stuffy side room with inadequate seating, while some stood for most of the evening. Instructors and staff listened to the board over a speaker system and could not see the trustees.

Many who came to the meeting were angry about the condi-

tions.

"They don't respect us," said Ron Lane, Humanities professor at Modesto Junior College. "I think they could have been more courteous to faculty and staff."

The decision came quickly, after representatives from the Yosemite Faculty Association and the California School Employees Association expressed their opposition to the salary increase.

"It is not a question of whether or not she (Fisher) is worth it, we are all worth a larger raise," said Gary Largent, President of CSEA. "However, there is the perception that given the fiscal climate at the campuses, when class sections are being cut, restructuring is occurring, when we cannot replace needed positions or buy books for our libraries, or dictionaries for our writing centers, it is simply not an appropriate time for such an increase."

"We feel that Dr. Fisher is a good leader, and can only remain a good leader if she retains the respect of those she leads."

Faculty and staff also expressed concern about the manner in which the raise was granted to Fisher in November during a closed session of the board.

Allegations had been made prior to Tuesday's meeting that the Brown Act -- the state's open meeting law -- was violated during the closed session in which Fisher was originally granted her raise. The law states "closed sessions held pursuant to this section shall not include discussion or action on proposed compensation except for a reduction of compensation that results from the imposition of discipline."

Alan Boyer, MJC Academic Senate President sent registered letters to the trustees, giving them 30 days to declare their action null and void.

The Stanislaus County District Attorney's office began an investigation into the Brown Act violation, however, with Tuesday's meeting handled properly, that investigation ended.

"Providing they comply with the Brown Act sections in open session on Tuesday, they will no longer be in violation," said Deputy District Attorney Tom Quinlan before the meeting. "It is a dead issue because it was on the agenda for December 5th."

In a phone interview with Fisher's office, Jennifer Aries, public information director, explained her raise was "revisited because the Academic Senate had contacted the district attorney about alleged Brown Act violations. By re-doing the session in public, any possible violation was 'cured and corrected'."

One staff person, who asked to remain anonymous because of possible repercussions, asked, "Does this mean that if I run a stoplight and get caught, I get another chance to do it over, and don't get a ticket?"

During the meeting, YFA chief negotiator Ted Hamilton asked the board a series of pointed questions.

- Why have legalistic barriers been created when we asked about how the Chancellor's performance was evaluated?

- Why has there been such secrecy?

- Why were faculty and staff not included in the evaluation?

- Why is it the board failed to recognize that it was the efforts of all staff and faculty that have made our Chancellor so successful?

- Why was the contract renewed in Oct. of 1994 and the announcement of the obscene 13 percent raise delayed until Nov., after all other employees agreed to 3 percent?

The board refused to answer his questions.

"Questionable faith in the leadership of the Chancellor and Board of Trustees remains an issue," wrote Columbia College Academic Senate President Mary Landess in a memo to staff after the meeting.

The embittered instructors and staff argue that the 13 percent increase was not justified and should not be granted considering the present economic climate of college budget cuts, increased class size, reduced class offerings, increased workloads, cuts to library resources, financial aid, career and transfer guidance and health service cuts.

But, according to board member Nancy Rosasco, the board has "had a lot of positive reaction," and was disappointed about the negative response.

"Our mission is to carry out

(See back page, RAISE)



*'Oh Christmas Tree'*

Wendy Archer helps decorate the Christmas Tree in the Rotunda. A canned food drive is going on, as well. Boxes are located under the Christmas Tree. ATCAA is sponsoring the food drive. Cans may be turned in until Dec. 15th.

## Buster resigns, senate content

By Johann Newton  
MTX STAFF WRITER

Student Senate President Caroline Buster resigned last Wednesday, effectively skirting suspension proceedings brought forth by a disgruntled senate majority.

The senate accepted her resignation with one abstention. Buster will remain a senate member.

"My main goal in resigning was not to get out while the getting was good," Buster said. "I was actually unimpressed with the resolution to suspend my presidency."

According to Buster, some senators were unaware of the

content of the suspension document the day before the meeting when she resigned. That might possibly be in violation of the Brown Act, the state's open meeting law, she said.

Buster did, however, agree with a couple performance issues regarding late agendas and late meetings.

"The bottom line," Buster said, "is that there wasn't sufficient communication between myself and the executive board members. My hope is that now the board will be more cohesive and run more smoothly."

Ben Caras, vice president of policies and procedures, will fill the position vacated by Buster.

"I feel a lot of people have confidence in me," Caras said.

"I'll bring the guidance and leadership to this organization that it needs to thrive."

"There are a lot of details we need to iron out," Caras said. "We'll work on a uniform communication method so the senate can operate effectively."

Lynn Martin, staff advisor for the senate meetings, said without the confidence of the board, a president can't be effective.

"Caroline Buster had the professional integrity to step down," said Martin. "In my dealing with students, most of them wouldn't be able to do that. She did what she thought would benefit the senate as a whole."

"I thought that was to her credit as a person and a leader."



# Gateway opens doors for students

By Johann Newton  
MTX STAFF WRITER

After school at Sonora High, an eclectic group of about twenty high schoolers meet for one hour twice a week for a group tutorial and study workshop. The mood is informal and there is much talking as the students filter in, sitting where they please. Instructing the meeting are five tutors — all of them Columbia College students — who help the high school counter-parts with selected assignments and keep order in the class. After the initial excitement subsides, the students and tutors settle down to work.

These meetings are part of the of the Yosemite Community College District's Gateway/Trio Program. Designed specifically to give eligible students incentive to stay in school, it provides young people with the necessary skills they'll need to go on to college.

The name Gateway, is basically a trade-name for the district, and Trio is the name for the core programs which were all federally developed and are funded by the U.S. Office of Education.

According to David Chesnut, who facilitates the program here at Columbia, not only does it help the students, but it is also a boon to the tutors who provide the instruction.

"I see the tutors position as beneficial," said Chesnut. "Especially for the ones going into a teaching career. It gets them into the classroom and exposes them to students who are at risk, those who may be lacking motivation or academic training."

"On the students part, all of them are very bright. They just haven't tapped into the mind-set that allows the student to grow academically," he said. Some



**HELP** - Gateway/Trio student Tu Lee helps a Sonora High student.

students have been told they'll never amount to anything, and that sets up a pattern for failure. We show them they can do anything they want to do."

Tom Jakubek, who was hired last fall, is a liberal studies major pursuing a credential in elementary education.

"It can be challenging," he said. "How do you reach every student? They're all different. Some have good days and bad, you have to work with them and roll with it."

Reaching these students is accomplished through a segment of the program called "Talent Search". School counselors who have access to student records encourage the students to apply. To be eligible for the program

students must be between the ages of 12 and 27 and have completed the sixth grade. Two thirds of the program participants must meet requirements based on income, grade point averages and if the student is or will be a first generation college student -- if neither parent has a college degree.

In the Sonora area, the Gateway program is available at Sonora High, Columbia College and Columbia Elementary. There are also several schools in the Modesto area offering the pro-

gram.

As the Sonora High School students engross themselves in their studies, the tutors make sure no questions go unanswered.

Tenth grader, A. J. Busalacchi thinks the program is great.

"Oh I like it a lot," said Busalacchi. "Whenever I need help on anything, science or math or whatever, they help me out."

"What I like is I get my homework done in this hour and can go home and do other things."

Tu Lee, one of the tutors in the program who wants to teach

middle school math, finds this opportunity very rewarding.

"When I can show or explain something to the student and that little light goes on, that's great, it really encourages me," she said.

"One of my students felt bad about making a mistake," said Lee. But I told her that was OK, that's how we learn, from our mistakes. We're here to motivate them and keep them going," she said.

There has been a big change in the student's attitudes according to Chesnut.

"They've turned themselves around," he said. Their outlook is much more positive. They're thinking of college and focusing on their future.

The program has funding through the year 2000 and will serve a total of about 600 students.

For students attending Columbia College, new projects include academic and career counseling, financial aid and transfer workshops, mentor programs and field trips to four-year colleges and universities.

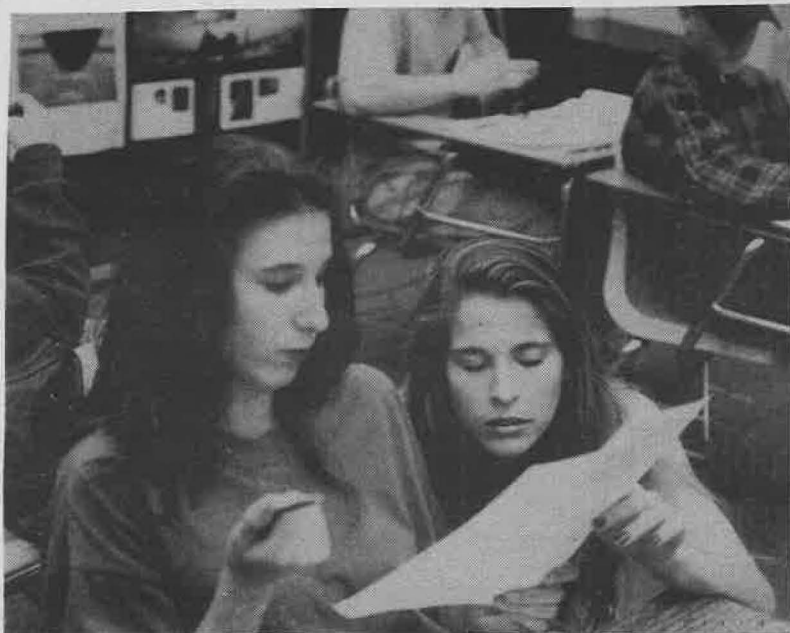
Gateway/Trio is hiring tutors for the spring semester. Those interested should contact Cass Larkin in the job placement office. Tutors must have completed 24 units and have a 3.0 grade point average.

"We go by the precept that all students have the capabilities of achieving academic success, even though their grades and test scores might not reflect that," said Chesnut. "We're looking for hidden talent."

## Top Ten Good Things About Attending Columbia College

by Dwayne Smith

- 10) Bagel-crazed ducks nipping at your heels help get students to class on time.
- 9) Large vat of nacho cheese dip in cafeteria for student hour wrestling matches.
- 8) Promise of an exciting future in entertainment industry. (Sorry, that's the Columbia School of Broadcasting.)
- 7) Long walk from parking lot eliminated need for PE classes.
- 6) Never have to wait for a terminal in the Etch-a-Sketch lab.
- 5) Large wooded campus makes it easy to hide under a tree and weep uncontrollably after failing tests.
- 4) Lack of cable TV helps Amish students feel right at home.
- 3) Two words: Mountain Lingerie.
- 2) Pond now free of those annoying Budweiser frogs thanks to overzealous biology department specimen collectors.
- 1) "Alien mothership" appearance of Oak Pavilion frightens Claim Jumper opponents.





DECEMBER 13, 1995

# \$873,333 for 867 students

By Heather Ficklin  
MTX STAFF WRITER

Sally Schoettgen and Candy Bailey are the two-member team that run the financial aid office.

In the 1994-95 academic year, they helped 867 students get \$873,333 worth of financial aid.

There are several program available to help students afford the cost of Columbia College.

The four federal programs are the Pell Grant, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, Federal Work Study and Perkins Loan Program.

It's not also cheaper to apply for financial aid, Schoettgen said. Federal applications used to cost \$10 but are now free, and that has resulted in many for federal applications.

The deadline to apply is Dec. 15.



**CASH IT IN** - Candy Bailey (left) and Sally Schoettgen run the Financial Aid office, located in the Manzanita Building near the pay phones.

## Bye, Bye Sonora, I'll miss you

By Lara Lelis  
MTX MANAGING EDITOR

Sonora. Population 4,502. I used to joke with my friends that they were the two in that number, when they first moved up here. And I really wouldn't be surprised if someone really did change the sign with every new resident.

I guess that's what great about a small town. I mean, out of that 4,502, I probably know about 4,127 and I've only lived here for a year and a half.

The town is magnified even more here at Columbia College. Everyone seems to know one another, if not by name, by face and vice versa.

I can remember my first day at Columbia, all 104 degrees of it. Being from the Bay Area, I wasn't used to the heat and wore a shirt and jeans. After standing in line for 45 minutes in the Bookstore, I headed out around campus to find my first class. My first stop was the cafeteria to get a Pepsi.

Ten minutes later, I sat on a bench, completely lost. At least I had my Pepsi, I thought, wiping the sweat off my nose. I had a map of the campus in front of me and as I turned it upside down and sideways, a girl walked by and I asked her where Juniper was.

She gave me the most valuable tip that day. "The buildings are located in alphabetical order around the lake," she told me. That was the most important thing I learned on that first day of my college career.

After that, college life became easier and easier. I began to meet new people and after a while, I stopped reciting the alphabet just to get to my class.

I guess I just got used to Columbia College and it was getting used to me.

Christmas break came and went and that's when Sarah and Josh moved up to Sonora, increasing the population by two. It seemed to never stop raining and I became more accustomed to college life and activities.

The newspaper finally got rolling and the former editor Mark (or is it Mike?) left and dropped the position into my lap.

Now that I was somewhat involved in school and meeting more people, I decided what-the-heck and joined the Student Senate and began volunteering at Sonora Elementary School.

It never really clicked in my mind how much I was growing attached to this place.

Summer began and I went back to the Bay Area to work. I live in a relatively small place in the Bay Area compared to, say, Oakland or San Francisco. So, when I went back to Castro Valley and it seemed too big, I knew then that I had grown attached to small town life.

When I returned to the Mother Lode for this semester, I went to go see a play at Sierra Repertory Theater. Either my Grandpa or I knew everyone seated in our row and my grandparents and I went there by ourselves.

Just then, it clicked. I like this feeling of reading the local newspaper and knowing at least half the people in it (and hopefully not in News of Record). I like driving down Washington Street and having your wrist hurt from waving so much.

A life-long Sonora resident and friend of mine told me the other day that he was ready to leave Sonora so bad a few years ago. And when he went away, he was homesick. Now, he really enjoys living in Sonora. I can see why.

Now, I'm leaving this great, small town for the hustle and bustle of downtown Portland, Oregon. Why? I don't know.

It'll be weird not walking into the cafeteria and seeing people laughing, playing Magic and eating a slice of pizza. It'll be weird not going to another Rotaract or Senate meeting or pasting up another Mountain

Times. It'll be weird not coming home to my grandparents' house and having Ginger meet me at the door, wagging her tail. It'll be weird not having another P.E. class and seeing a railroad. It'll be weird not to walk in late to Biology. It'll be weird not having this small town around anymore.

So, before I go, wave to me if you see me, to make those last few days of small town life just like the year and a half have been.

Time to change that sign:  
Population 4,501.

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DO YOU HAVE A SPECIAL INTEREST?

Columbia College Community Education offers short courses in

Computer Basics/Windows  
Color Printing from Slides  
Drawing Cartoons  
Downhill & Cross-Country Skiing  
Self-Defense for Women  
Welding Certification  
Non-Traditional Degrees  
California Notary Public  
Domestic Water Treatment Operation  
Build Your Own Personal Computer  
Real-Time Mapping using PenMap  
WordPerfect 6.1  
Ice Skating  
GIS and Arc View

Check the center pull-out section of the Spring Schedule for details, or call 533-5139!

## Mountain Times

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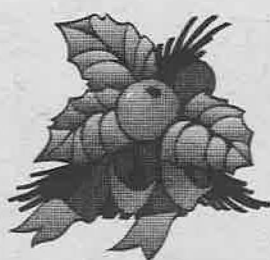
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# Talking Heads

by Mathew Schmitt

**What do you want for Christmas  
and what do you think you  
deserve?**

Peace throughout the  
community and would  
deserve equality.

Wendy Archer



I want lotto. Winning a  
big-winning lotto. A new  
library here on campus with  
thousands of new books and  
videos. I deserve a nicely  
crafted novel on a  
warm beach.

Larry Steuben



I want an end to household  
repairs I've had to do and  
leaky windows in my car  
fixed. I deserve peace of  
mind and spirit.

Kathryn Jeffery



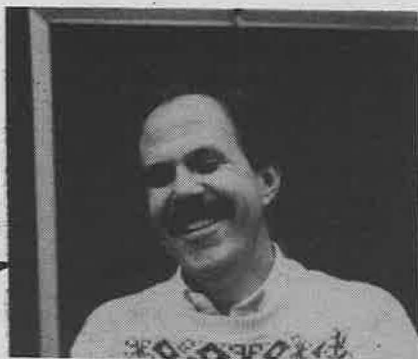
I'd like to hold my  
new granddaughter,  
and I deserve just  
that.

Joan Barrett



A new car, a CD  
player. I could go  
on and on. I  
deserve nothing.

John Carter



A cool tie.

Dr. Ken White



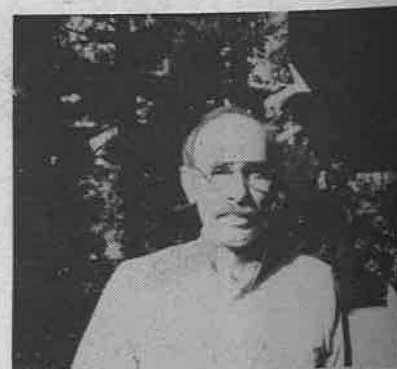
I want to have all my  
girls home. I deserve a  
Mercedes Benz to take  
the girls for a drive  
when they get home.

Kathy Smith



I'd like better times  
for everyone.  
Everyone deserves  
better times.

Joe Grillo





DECEMBER 13, 1995

# Web crawler Babcock gets on-line

By Lara Lelis  
MTX MANAGING EDITOR

Web sites. Surfing the net. Down-loading. E-mail.

New words for a new era of technology, and it's just kid's stuff for Brett Babcock.

Babcock has been on-line for a little less than six months and is able to use the Internet to access useful information.

"I can find things like sites where I can look at recipes," said the Culinary Arts major. "You can go from place to place and check things out. Like general entertainment."

Babcock had to learn how to use the Internet and use it well.

"I didn't really know what I was doing at first," he said. "In the first hours, you're so busy. They (service provider) don't have time to help you a lot. Through trial and error, I finally got the hang of it."

"I used to be on-line practically 24-hours a day. Now, it didn't really get old, it just isn't as new to me," said Babcock, who claims he's on-line an average of 3 to 4 hours a day.

Now that Babcock has gotten the hang of surfing the net, he can practically see anything in the world, if it is on-line.

"You can see pictures of the

White House and of Socks, their cat. I sent a (E-mail) letter to the President and I got a form letter back on my computer. I've down-loaded live pictures from Dream Inn, a hotel in Santa Cruz. You can see the ocean, live on your computer."

Why did Babcock get on-line in the first place?

"I just heard a lot about it," he said. "Now that I've got a decent computer, I had to try it. I had a Mac Plus and that couldn't do anything."

There are many service providers on the market today. There are two Internet providers in Sonora, Mother Lode and Sonora On-Line (SONNET). National providers which have their own on-line information systems as well as access to the Internet are CompuServe, America On-Line and Prodigy.

"When you get on the Internet with a company, you pay only once a month. Don't go through a company like CompuServe. Go through SONNET or Mother Lode," he said.

The national providers do not have "headquarters" in the Sonora area. This makes them more expensive because of the toll-call to somewhere in the Bay Area, Sacramento or Stockton.



**POWER UP** - Brett Babcock is on-line and loving it. With the Internet, Babcock can access anything from recipes to the White House.

Mother Lode and SONNET are local companies and there is not a long-distance charge to the phone bill.

The cost is around \$25 a month for service through a local provider. The cost for getting on-line with a

national provider can be very expensive.

"You need to try to get on-line," said Babcock. "It's worth the money."

You can e-mail Babcock at [Brett@mlode.com](mailto:Brett@mlode.com).

Local  
Internet  
Providers

B & D  
Computers  
(Mother Lode  
Internet)  
533-7788

Sonora On-Line  
(SONNET)  
532-2750

Gold Rush  
Access  
736-01111

## Nude models get respect, experience and money

By Rebecca Hansen  
MTX STAFF WRITER

Sue Smith helps people find jobs for the art classes she teaches. Nude models is what she looks for. Smith used to take the classes, now she teaches them.

On Tuesdays, from 9:30 until noon on Douglas Flat Road at the Community Center, a small group gathers. Their emphasis is on the human form. Of course, it's all very professional, it's "just a technique."

Smith would prefer to have a variety of models to choose from. Unfortunately, their selection isn't that broad.

"It's kinda like babysitters," she said. "You should always have a back-up, just in case."

Columbia College only pays \$6 an hour, which makes one session (usually 2 1/2 hours) worth about

\$15. Smith says it's all hard work.

"It takes concentration," she said. "You have to hold those poses perfectly still. It takes a lot of physical effort."

According to Smith, the short poses seem to teach the models better, because they learn to do everything very quickly.

"Besides," Smith said, "no one's at the point of making a masterpiece. So we don't need to go for that long."

Two of these talented, hard-working models are Violet Hutchinson, 18, a Liberal Studies major, working on her teaching credential, and Jennifer Gonzales, 20, an art major.

Hutchinson's mother is an artist. She's been modeling since her mother could tell her to.

Hutchinson has never modeled for larger groups, only one-to-one

with artists. She believes that it wouldn't make a difference between big and small groups.

"It's just the same," she said. "It's not really a big deal. It's just a bunch of older people."

Hutchinson believes that Columbia doesn't pay enough for models, when other colleges pay about \$30 an hour.

Gonzales started modeling at Columbia over a year ago. She has modeled for a variety of artists, college classes as large as 30 people, private artists and photographers.

Gonzales has also posed with other models, both male and female. She says she feels comfortable with both, but many think having two models is awkward because they compete for space.

"(Nude modeling is) all about how and what the artist makes you

feel. The best experiences are when they respect your space and treat you like a human being instead of a piece of meat."

Currently, Gonzales is working on her portfolio and is hoping her nude modeling will pay her way through art school.

DEAR SANTA,

WE'RE NOT ASKING FOR MUCH THIS YEAR. JUST SOME COMPUTERS WITH PAGE MAKING SOFTWARE, A LASER PRINTER, A SCANNER AND ADVERTISEMENTS SO WE CAN KEEP THIS PAPER GOING. PLEASE HELP US IN ANY WAY POSSIBLE.

SINCERELY,  
THE MOUNTAIN TIMES



# My Truck Called Karma

By Chris Van Tuyl  
MTX STAFF WRITER

I realized my mistake as soon as I heard him give me the estimate over the phone.

"With parts at...let's see now, one-sixty-one-ninety-four, plus twenty-three twice for the two sets of drums, and three hours labor, that should be nine carry the one..."

"You're talking about four or five hundred dollars," I screamed.

"Yessir, what with having to replace all four brake cylinders and---"

I couldn't hear anything else he said. It wasn't until then that I realized what had really happened and why. I think it was his politeness that burned away the emotional fog and let me see clearly what had transpired before I had called him.

When I climbed into my truck that unseasonably mild November morning, it was with a spring in my step. I was about as content as I'll ever be. I had a decent place to live. I had a reliable source of income that was looked upon favorably enough by society. I even had a date for the next evening. I had a direction in life and a 1970 Chevy 3/4-ton pickup to take me there.

At the time I didn't think I was taking all this for granted, but I did sleep in that morning. And then I tempted fate even more by getting in the truck with the full intention of going to look at another car that my best friend's mom was selling cheap. My truck didn't know that. It's not like I'm getting anthropomorphic.

I also don't ascribe to the theory that human beings were never meant to drive in the first place; the Amish notwithstanding. Or that the blame for America's constant mechanical breakdowns lies with the sinister manipulations of OPEC, the large car manufacturers, the CIA, or the second gunman on the grassy knoll.

I know what happened. Beyond a shadow of a doubt, my karma caught up with me. What went around, came around--and didn't stop. Literally, as my brake pedal kept going until it hit the floor on that sunny Thursday before Thanksgiving. At first I thought nothing of it because I'd been having to pump the brakes for



about a year.

It might seem that this irresponsibility on my part--my inattention to the most routine maintenance--was somehow directly linked to my misfortunes. I think not. Science and technology may show how things happen, but that's it. No whys, wherefores, or what-have-yous.

I don't even blame my family, though I could. My family firmly believes that trouble comes in threes. Sure, many people ascribe to this simple superstition, but my family knows it for a fact. This is mainly because my parents had three sons. I am the eldest and, if not the one most prone to trouble, the one with the longest history of it.

So, this year, when one brother's truck broke down and the youngest crashed into an oak tree, I was informed matter-of-factly that I was next. When the first's broke down again and my father crashed into the car in front of him, I was once again looked upon with a benignly sad smile, patted collectively on the back and warned to be careful. Everyone knew this was futile because there was nothing on God's green earth to save me from, say, crashing into Bigfoot at the next available opportunity.

They knew it had been a dozen or so (13?) years since my last accident and they knew I was a safe driver. Still, they knew about karma. When the youngest

crashed again, I even felt a little guilty that I seemed to be getting away scot-free. It went to my head. I started feeling safe. Karma was for other people, especially the likes of my younger, more reckless brothers and my tail-gating father. I was a good driver with a vehicle that was immune to anything Vanna White could spin on my cosmic automotive Wheel of Fortune. Karmic denial.

When I heard the ka-ching of the mechanic's voice, I realized that my overconfidence had been a large part of my downfall.

I most certainly was not being charged for my brakes. They were not the problem. It was my hopeful outlook for the future. I had flown in the face of unlimited possibilities, naively thinking that my good fortune might never end. Brueghel's sun may have had a smiley face on it in my picture, but my wings, like so many Icari before me, had melted and I had plunged into the sea.

Actually, I had rolled backwards in my driveway so slowly that what was left of my emergency brakes had stopped me from running into the propane tank directly behind me.

My initial feeling was relief. I had once had a flat tire right in front of Big O Tires, but I couldn't think of a more fortunate locale to completely lose my brakes than my very own, very flat driveway. I like to watch Hitchcock films, not live them. Visions of the descent I had made only that Monday to the

Parrott's Ferry Bridge for the Rabin Memorial flashed through my mind. Then I thought of the divine satisfaction that this would give my family. For them, this was proof that all was right in the world. They would never wish any harm on me, well, not much, but as I wasn't seriously hurt, I was simply a casualty to karma.

At first I thought I was being overcharged. On the face of it, my truck was a perfect fit for this mechanic's shop. I had the utmost respect for him. He was a great man with a wrench and if you had one of those, a good doctor, and a good tax accountant, you could conquer the world. Anyway, my mechanic is an outdoorsman--a hunter, a fisherman. My truck is forest-service green with a shotgun rack. Perfect, right?

Unfortunately, I have a golf putter on the rack. I noticed that as the truck was being towed away. I also saw my bumperstickers for what was really the first time. I mean, I'm usually driving. I saw the LOVE YOUR MOTHER next to picture of the globe and I thought that maybe, just maybe, the locals up here thought that I, too, believed that one's momma is the easiest date in town. Then I saw the FLUSH LIMBAUGH, TOSS PEROT, and the NO NEWTS IS GOOD NEWTS. I started to run after the canary yellow Vic's tow truck, but to no avail.

So I figured I was being charged on a "liberal" scale. I

could see him in his shop with the shotgun he showed me once that he used on customers upset over the bill. I could see the NRA poster over the place where his hunting dog sat, licking the scar on his butt where the hair hadn't grown back yet.

He wasn't overcharging me. He's an honest man. I knew that. He was simply a karmic messenger. When I finally became resigned to my situation, I found new peace. My friends tried to console me with tales of their own bigger and far more tragically important problems. They need have bothered. I was now happy to go to the poorhouse to supply my driving habit. With these bills, might not be going anywhere for a while, but at least I could stop when I there.

I'm happy because I'm healing my family is well, and we could all dit around the Thanksgiving turkey and commiserate about trouble in the world--the assassination of Israel's Prime Minister, the thought that anyone but Sean Connery could be Jar Bond, and why it was that my mechanic was spending the holidays in a different equator.

I'm happy because a squirrel darted out in front of me today I had to slam on the brakes. I stopped. The squirrel kept going even, I thought, glancing over me thankfully.

Karma.



DECEMBER 13, 1995

# Vision check for YCCD

By Johann Newton  
MTX STAFF WRITER

Vision 2000 is the optimistic design for the preferred future of the Yosemite Community College District.

The 56-page document highlights 10 separate "visions" and covers educational, staff and unit facilities needs. Many of these visions have become, or are well on their way, to becoming a reality. Due in part, however, to the recent trend of voting down school bond measures, some areas, such as new equipment and facilities needs are stalled due to revenue shortfalls.

At one time, according to Columbia College President Ken White, a student center topped the list for new structures at Columbia, but a student center is very low on the state's priority list for new structures. A formula used by the state shows Columbia is short on library space.

"Our highest priority right now," White said, "is for a library/media building, which we would dearly love to have."

According to White, the state is not even accepting applications for new structures at this time.

"The chances of acquiring any new facilities by the year 2000 are highly problematic," White said.

Areas of technological advancements are getting

attention from the district.

According to Chancellor Pamela Fisher, the district is working with a consultant to write a proposal for bids on a technology infrastructure to upgrade the existing communications system.

"We are certainly trying to move forward as a district to link all school sites with fiber optics and microwave capabilities, and take that kind of technology to every classroom," said Fisher.

As the college approaches the new century, the vision will undergo periodic review.

During October, the district council conducted a series of meetings titled "Vision Check", a mid-course evaluation of the Vision 2000 plan.

"We are gathering information," said Jane Saldana, Director of Research and Planning for the district. "There is an enormous amount of diversity within the college district as a whole. We want ideas, the best thinking and expertise the participants have to offer."

"In each of the (four review) sessions we've had, there have been suggestions for minor modifications. The group that got together early on have done a fine job."

"By and large, the 10 vision statements have stood the test of time and with minor modification, will continue to guide us into the 21st century."

## THE VISIONS

- 1) Educational Excellence
- 2) Access and Growth
- 3) Student Development
- 4) Staff Development
- 5) Quality Staff
- 6) Land and Facilities
- 7) Equipment and Technology
- 8) Student Articulation
- 9) Partnerships
- 10) Shared Governance

## Help is in the Tutoring Center



By Dwayne P. Smith  
MTX STAFF WRITER

Students who find themselves having trouble with their classes as Columbia College winds down another semester can find some much needed assistance at the learning skills center.

The 21 students working out of the center in the Manzanita building are able to offer help in 22 subjects representing over 100 classes taught at Columbia College.

Michelle Griffith, program coordinator for the center oversees a program that last year logged over 1,500 hours of student-to-student instruction.

On the rare occasion that help is not readily available (as is the case with some upper level courses) Griffith and her staff will contact an instructor who will in turn

recommend a capable student.

Every student is allowed up to 18 hours of peer tutoring each semester free of charge. Some may even qualify for more. (check with the counseling or financial aid office for eligibility requirements.)

The reasons for being a tutor are as varied as the students who need their help.

"It's a very dedicated staff of students who themselves are learning a lot from this program," said Griffith. "It's good reinforcement, looks great on a resume and provides valuable experience for those who would like to teach."

One of the peer tutors who would like to do just that is Brandon Cox. Cox, who teaches eight to 12 hours a week on subjects such as statistics,

trigonometry and algebra would like to teach math someday.

"I'm in the program because I like the feeling I get helping others and hope to use the experience teaching in the future," he said.

He has only a few complaints.

"No-shows are my biggest problem," he said, "Studying for a students requirement and then their not showing up happens occasionally and I lose time and money."

The peer tutoring project is certified by the College Reading and Learning Association.

Any one wishing to be a tutor must undergo a three-day session and have excelled at the subject they wish to teach, as well as receiving recommendation from that courses' instructor.

## Registration time is here

By Dwayne P. Smith  
MTX STAFF WRITER

Another semester has come to a close, and that can only mean one thing: It's time to register again.

Registration is already underway, and will continue through Jan. 18. Both phone and by-mail registration option make the process simple for most.

This semester, it's also cheaper for students who already have bachelors degrees. The \$50-a-unit fee imposed by the state legislature in 1993 expires on Jan. 1, so students who have higher degrees won't have to pay

the extra charge for spring semester classes.

Students will have to pay \$13 a unit, but there are several financial aid programs that can even bring that cost down further if you qualify. Call 533-5105 or stop by the financial aid office for further details.

There are some new charges students will have to pay this spring. A \$1 per unit student center fee -- with a \$10 cap -- will be imposed to eventually build a student center building.

The health fee will be \$10, and parking will still cost \$20. Non-resident students face a \$114 surcharge.

### REGISTER!! REGISTER!!!

Sign up for Journalism 1 or 10 this Spring. Did we put you in a trance yet?

Just think how much more exciting this campus is with MTX and you can be a part of that!

Register today!





### *I'm Going Riding on the Bike Lanes to Columbia College*

Plans are in the works for bike lanes to be installed from Sonora to Columbia with a lane going to Columbia College. Bike enthusiasts are excited because there will no longer be the worry of passing traffic. The Public Works Dept. in Sonora was unavailable for comment on the progress of the project.

## Raise

(Cont. from front page)

our educational program and many seem to have lost sight of this," said Rosasco. "Unfortunately, people don't realize how good she is...and how sought after by other schools. They take for granted how well our institution is doing.

"Instructors are very dedicated people, helping others is a real calling," said Rosasco before the board meeting. "I'm sorry staff saw this as a real put down. It wasn't intended to be. We are proud of our faculty and want to support them."

At the meeting, Hamilton displayed a chancellor's "report card" drawn up by YFA that had "unsatisfactory" marks in areas of ethics, communication, sensitivity and respect of faculty and staff.

But the board defended its decision.

"When a CEO is hired, it is done on a competitive basis," said board member Brice Draper. "We hired a good one and will do our best to keep that person."

"We have listened to staff and their needs," said Trustee Delsie Shrimp. "We have excellent faculty and staff and need the best CEO."

"Turnovers of CEO's are high in California, when the State Chancellor resigned, they wanted her (Fisher) to apply," said Allister Allen. A resounding thunder of applause was heard from staff and faculty upon mention of Fisher moving on.

Following the board's decision, faculty and staff made plans for continued action.

"We will meet with faculty in the spring and determine how to proceed at that time," said Dick Higginbotham, YFA presi-

dent. "People worked hard for Fisher, and she literally betrayed us.

"I would not do this to my worst enemy."

Criticism from the community and students has been increasing daily.

"Considering these economic times, for the board to vote in Fisher's 13 percent raise, which in actuality comes to 25 percent over the past two years, is absolutely ludicrous," said student Teri Telles. "The money could be going into the learning skills center, part-time instructors' salaries, and books for the library."

There has been an "impact on morale," acknowledged Columbia College President Ken White, because most employees have withdrawn from participation in councils and committees as part of their protest.

"This has been affecting

meetings," said White. "This has clearly affected our ability to perform and get issues resolved."


Although the most vocal response had been from those dissatisfied with Fisher's raise, some felt the issue was more complex.

"I'm not on the bandwagon to yell and scream — it's more complicated than one issue," said biology instructor Blaine Rogers. "There are solvable problems that

can be addressed, but it takes communication."

But opponents promised the controversy would not go away — and would be the main issue when the current board member come up for re-election.

"I think it's time the public participated in changing the face of the board," said Josh Bigelow, YFA representative at Columbia College.



# Columbine

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