

THE PANHANDLER

Columbia College's New Student Newspaper

Vol. 1, Issue 1

March 9, 2005

Students embrace new library

By MARIA CRISTINA LONG
STAFF WRITER

From Plato to the Internet, learning moves from one generation to the next in an orchestra of books, playing for all minds and growing in strength through the years.

The new library at Columbia College picked up the beat.

The \$8.2 million project gives students an additional 8,000-square feet of space, 70 new computers, three wireless networks and five new study rooms – not to mention a pretty great view of the lake.

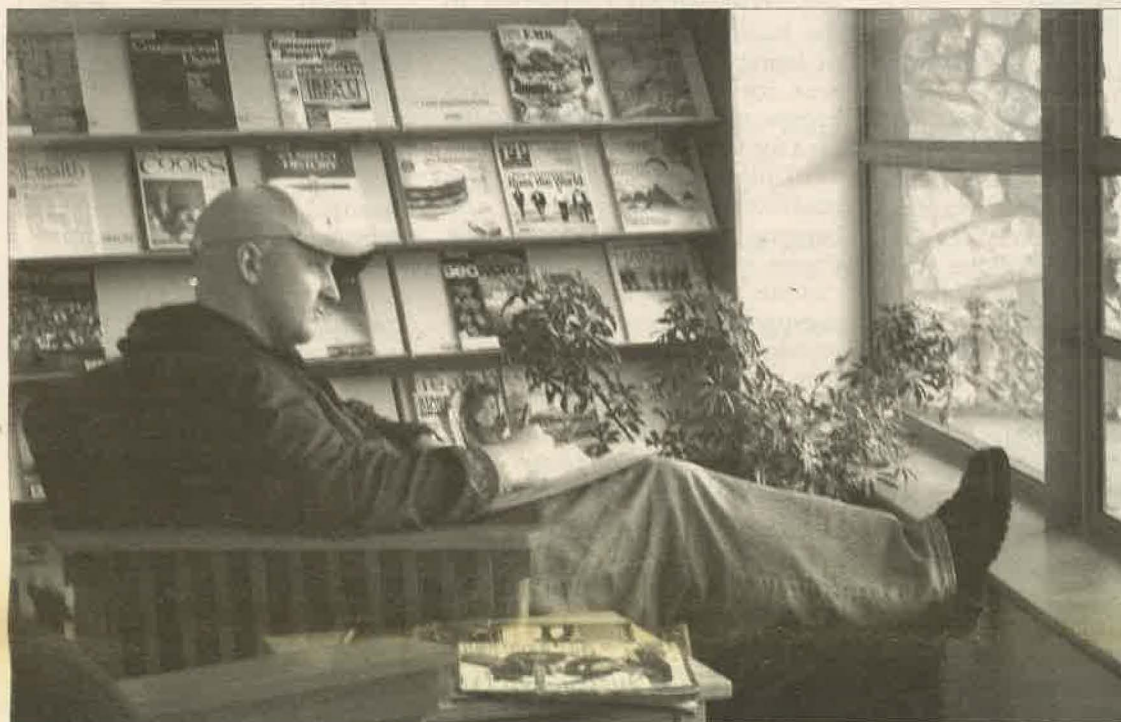
"The new library is a gift to the students," said Larry Steuben, the librarian at Columbia College.

The gift began during the 1994 school year when a visiting accreditation team suggested that the state fund a new library so money from higher student fees could build a student center.

But the college had to qualify for the money, and be ranked according to the urgency of its need. During one unannounced visit from the State Chancellor and State Department of Finance, the urgency was seen first hand – and Columbia was given priority over all other colleges to receive funding.

"I couldn't have wished for a better day," Steuben

See LIBRARY, page 4



ARIEL SCHNEIDER/PANHANDLER PHOTO

Wesley Howland lounges in Tamarack Hall on a recent sunny afternoon.

In this Issue...



We just can't wait to see what Charlie Pelley does with this.

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New parking, buildings planned

By RACHAEL RAJEWSKI
STAFF WRITER

Columbia College will get up to \$55 million to construct and remodel buildings on campus as a result of the passage of Measure E, a \$326 million bond issue for the Yosemite Community College District.

Columbia will get a new science building, new parking lots, and a lot of remodeling on existing buildings. Dean David Baggett is already involved in the planning process.

"I'm very excited," he said. "This opens up a lot of opportunities."

Columbia's funds will come in three phases, one every three years.

In phase one, from 2005 to 2007, the existing bus and truck service loop will be widened. A new 24-space disabled parking lot will be built east of the Manzanita Building, and a 74-space parking lot constructed near the Madrone building. An emergency access road will be built adjacent to Symons Field. A Public Safety

Center expansion will be planned and upgrades made to the current firehouse.

Also in the first phase is planning and developing working drawings of a new Child Development Center and a new Science and Natural Resources building. Major renovations to both the Madrone and Manzanita buildings will be planned in the first phase, and land to build a permanent Calaveras Education Center and Oakdale Education Center will be

located and bought.

The total estimated cost of phase one is \$14.6 million.

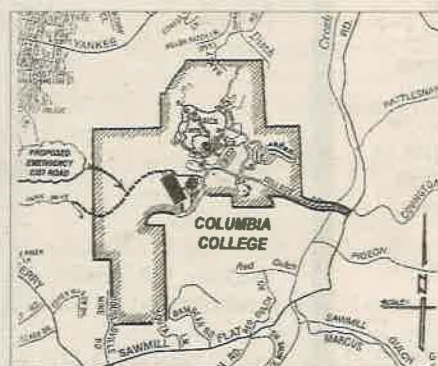
Phase two is scheduled for 2008 to 2010. It includes better bike lanes and pedestrian paths and a 200-space expansion of the main student parking lot. The renovation of the Public Safety Center and Manzanita Building will be done, and the centerpiece – the new Science and Natural Resources building – will be built. The design of the Calaveras Education Center will also be completed.

The estimated cost of phase two projects is \$26.3 million.

The final phase will occur between 2011 and 2013. In this phase, both the Sequoia and Redbud buildings will be remodeled and the Calaveras Education Center will be built. The cost is an estimated \$11.5 million.

Student Kevin DeFranzia likes what's coming.

"I'm just bummed I won't be going to school here once all this stuff is finished," he said.



A new emergency road is planned.

OPINION

Letters to the Editor

Newspaper name begs for improvement

To the Editor

For those of us who have spent too much time in San Francisco, or any of the major cities and even here in Tuolumne county, the term panhandling has taken on a not so pleasant meaning. Panhandling is defined as to "beg by accosting people in the street and asking for money." This was also my husband's first reaction when hearing the new name for the paper.

If you want an image of "a guy crouched in a stream with a gold pan" 'The Prospector' would at least be a clearer and

less controversial connection to the history of the area. Instead of being "one who explores an area for mineral deposits" this prospector could be exploring the area for knowledge.

Unless you are looking for controversy and planning on begging for content in the new paper by accosting people on campus or in cyberspace (known as panhandling or cyberbegging) to submit articles, I would suggest that you go back and reconsider the image you want this new venture to be projecting and have another look at some of the other 99+ submissions you received.

Other synonyms that I found for panhandler included: beggar, bimbo, bum, derelict, down-and-out, drifter, floater, gypsy, hitchhiker, hobo, hussy, jezebel, loafer, moocher, outcast, prostitute, slut, stiff, street arab, strumpet, trumper, vagabond, vagrant, wanderer and whore.

We'd like to hope that students who leave from Columbia will never be reduced to panhandling or any of the other above synonyms.

Kirsti A. Dyer, MD, MS
Instructor, Biology 50

Royal Thoughts

ROYAL H. GARRISON



One question that has haunted Tuolumne County for a long time is: "Should marijuana be legally dispensed in Tuolumne County?"

With the decision of the Calaveras County Supervisors, who voted 3 to 2 in February to allow San Andreas resident Kim Que to open the Calaveras Cannabis Co-Op, the issue takes on new relevance in Tuolumne County.

Last July, I sought approval to open a medical marijuana dispensary in Sonora. The hearing with the Sonora City Council was held last November. The application from the Sonora Cannabis Co-Op and the Medical Relief Dispensary was denied because the proposed location was within 1,000 feet of Cassina High. Another location is now being sought by the Medical Relief staff. A separate application has been filed by the owner of the Oakland Cannabis Club, who is seeking permission to open a dispensary outside the Sonora city limits. All applications are on hold awaiting a decision by both the Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors and the Sonora City Council.

Of course, there are those who are against the legalization of marijuana. They believe it's a gateway drug that opens the door to hard drugs, referred to as level two substances, like cocaine, speed, methamphetamines or heroin.

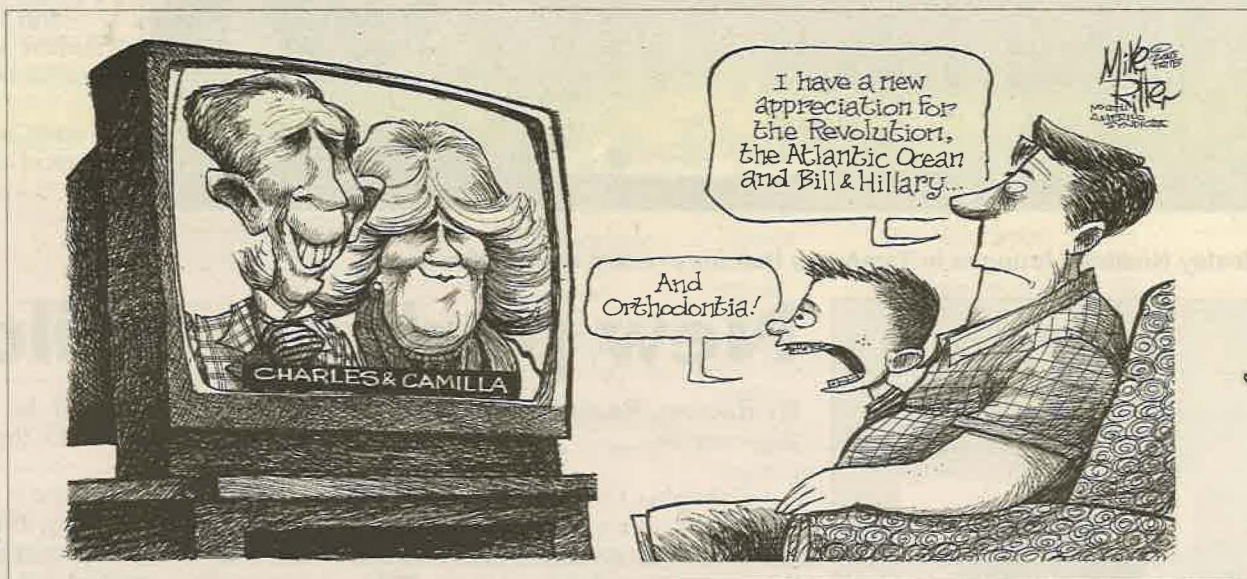
In my opinion, this county's history speaks for itself. It's a history of extreme uses of meth (speed) that continues to this day. I feel safe in saying that young people in this county are exposed to level two substances out of the gate, and the least of our concerns are level one substance like tobacco and hemp.

Here's something else to chew on.

Democrat Assemblyman Mark Leno is introducing legislation that would mandate growing hemp for industrial use here in Tuolumne County and Calaveras County. This product would be sold worldwide for use in paper, food products, oil, rope, tweed, clothing, mulch, housing materials and more.

This could bring back income to hard-hit mountain communities falling to the hands of the environmental lobby, and bring back life to old historic mills, like Halter Mill or even the old West Side Lumber mill outside Tuolumne. It would do it in such a way that even environmental extremists would lend support and begin to see eye to eye with logging communities throughout the foothills.

Tuolumne County is way too conservative to project such an image. But it would give a better meaning to the words "Peace Mill."



THE PANHANDLER

Rachael Rajewski, Editor in Chief

News

Daniel Shepherd, Editor
Maria Long
Susan Tinsley
Kris Fontella

The Spot

Guy Sibbald, Editor
Ariel Schneider
Taylor Hunt

Sports

Matt Cushman, Editor

Opinion

Royal H. Garrison IV, Editor

Adviser

Steve Elliott

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Reach us at 209-588-5388 or panhandler@yosemite.cc.ca.us

NEWS

Classes convene in Calaveras Center

By SUSAN TINSLEY
STAFF WRITER

Imagine attending Columbia College without buying a parking permit or the hassle of arriving on campus hours before your class starts just to find a parking space.

It's not a fantasy.

The Calaveras Center at Glory Hole Shopping Center in Angles Camp is where that can happen.

The center was opened in January 2002. Trudy Lackey took over as manager and coordinator of the Calaveras Center four months ago.

"The focus of the center is for student to be able to complete their general education requirements in two years and then be ready to transfer," said Lackey.

There are many conveniences, other than parking, for attending classes at the center, according to Lackey.

Students can purchase text books for classes held at the center as well as for the community education classes held at Bret Harte High School, Lackey said.

"The center is very accessible to students who do not want to cross the river," she said. "And class sizes are

smaller."

Valley Springs resident Briana Yelton, who is finished her nursing pre-requisites, likes the quiet. She was alone in the center's computer lab one recent afternoon, working on an English paper.

"It's been great," she said. "And when I work here, I'm already halfway home."

Students can also request transcripts from previously attended schools and pick them up at the center, said Lackey.

Another benefit is that sometimes a class that is filled at the main campus will have space available at the center.

One focus of the center is fire fighter training.

"You can attend class and obtain a certificate in the Wild Land Urban Interface Fire Management Program," Lackey said.

Lackey is currently working to make this program exclusive to the Calaveras Center.

The center also has a distance learning classroom. This room can seat 16 students, and is equipped with a projection screen and intercoms. Here students can attend classes and meetings being held at other



PANHANDLER PHOTO

Briana Yelton works on an English paper in the Calaveras Center.

campuses, such as Modesto Junior College or Columbia's main campus.

Lackey's long-term goal for the center is to make it a valued resource for the community, offering not only a wide variety of community education classes, but other services as well.

Recently, for instance, the center opened its doors to the public and hosted a flu clinic.

"Students come first, but the community is a very important part of the Calaveras Center," Lackey said.

Newspaper publishing again at Columbia

By DANIEL SHEPHERD
STAFF WRITER

There is a brand-new paper on

campus, and you don't need to go far to find a copy.

It's called The Panhandler, and it's here to inform you of the latest



PANHANDLER PHOTO

Matt Cushman lays out the sports page for the Panhandler's first issue.

campus-related news. But Panhandler advisor Steve Elliott has an even deeper goal than that.

"We can become part of the landscape of the campus," said Elliott. "I want it so people can't imagine not having the paper any more than they can imagine not having the lake."

This is not Columbia's first newspaper. The Mountain Times went defunct several years ago, in part due to a lack of interest. Doralyn Foletti of Student Outreach remembers its final years.

"It kind of had a detached swing to it near the end," she said. "The stories stopped really being about things of interest to students on campus."

Elliott hopes to avoid that.

"We want to do a good, relevant newspaper, a local newspaper, a fun newspaper, and we want it as easy to do as possible," Elliott said.

Not that it will be easy. Since

the beginning of the semester, the newspaper staff has been working to get the first edition out. The journalism room, Toyon 1 has been a beehive of activity. Because it started from scratch, every decision had to be made, from the size of the newspaper to which comics to put in it. Only a handful of the staff had prior journalistic experience. With only four issues to perfect a working newspaper, the staff has its work cut out for it.

Rachael Rajewski, Panhandler editor, is still learning the ropes.

"It's a lot more work than I thought it would be," she said. "The most difficult part is holding down classes, work and a social life."

But the rewards will be worth it. At least student Steve Pappas hopes so.

"I've seen a lot of panhandlers in Tuolumne County, it's about time the college got one of it's own," he joked.

Library: Some regret loss of wildlife habitat

Continued from front page

remembers. "There wasn't one vacant seat available in the entire library; students were sharing seats at the computers, and some were studying on the floor."

Designed to reflect the area's gold mining heritage, (geologists took

core samples before construction, making sure not to blast through unknown gold mines) the library had to be compatible with the rest of the campus buildings. That was accomplished through features like mullioned windows, board and batten siding and stone walls. It also had to be user friendly and welcoming, so

aesthetic features were incorporated: 10 skylights, picnic tables with umbrellas, a terrace, and a view of the lake from almost anywhere in the building.

The fixtures and furniture from Columbia's old library were donated to area schools, and the new Tamarack Hall has gotten mostly rave reviews.

"I think it's a great addition to our campus," said student Justin Ambagis. "There's a lot more resources and it's helpful. It also gives us a place to stay when it's raining."

Julie Ducey agreed.

"It's a good place for socializing and studying," she said. "The study group rooms are really good. We go in there all the time before a test."

Faculty, staff and students were involved in the planning, but not all their ideas were embraced.

Jeff Tolhurst, professor of Geosciences, wanted to see appropriate technology designed into the building, such as passive solar concepts to heat and cool the building.

Still, he thinks the library turned out nicely for the most part.

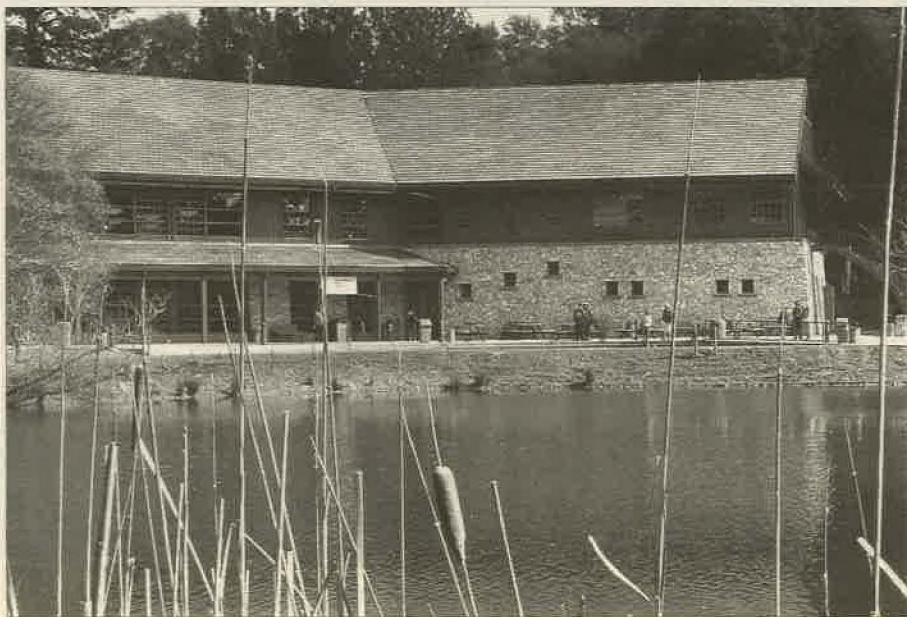
"It really seems to have become a new center for students on campus," he said. "From all reports I hear, students really like the facility and I see them using the high-speed computers and Internet connections. Also, the small study group rooms have been very popular for students working on collaborative projects."

But some students feel a loss.

"I think that the Tamarack Hall is a great place, but it destroyed prime habitat for the wildlife around the school," says Jason Conger. "The new building used to be oak trees that dropped acorns for the deer to eat, now you don't see deer around the campus."

But Tolhurst thinks the change it's brought is mostly positive.

"I think the building has done well to change the complexion of the campus and move us into the 21st Century with style," he said. "Students are fortunate."



PANHANDLER PHOTO

Tamarack Hall has become the new center of campus.



Around the foothills

Slide for the Cure IV - Dodge Ridge, Saturday March 12, 9 a.m. to noon. Call 965-3474.

Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament - Sponsored by Sonora Rotary Club at the Willow Springs Clubhouse in Soulsbyville. Saturday, March 12th. Poker players needed! Call Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau, 533-4420.

The 19th Annual Calaveras Celtic Faire - Calaveras Fair Grounds in Angels Camp, March 12-13, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Guitarist Laurence Juber (formerly of Paul McCartney & Wings)- March 15 at 7:30 p.m. at the Iron Door Saloon in Groveland.

Murphy's Irish Days - Saturday March 19, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Parade at 11 a.m.) Call 736-1507.

Peace March - Tuolumne County Citizens for Peace will march at noon, Saturday March 19 at Courthouse Square in downtown Sonora. Live music and speeches to follow. For information, call 928-3494.

The 24th Annual Home & Garden Show - March 19-20 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Mother Lode Fairgrounds in Sonora. Free admission.

The 155th Anniversary of the Historic Town of Columbia - March 27, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. between Main & State Streets. Parade, a cake in the middle of town, and oratory at noon. Also celebrating Easter with an Easter egg hunt and more.

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Friday: 9am - 4:30pm



The Spot

Good section!

Arts & Entertainment

Student makes news with suit

BY ARIEL SCHNEIDER
STAFF WRITER

Many college students are unique or unusual, but how many wear newspaper pants?

Charlie Pelley does.

The 18-year-old from the Napa Valley is in his first year of college, and he's in the Columbia College dorms. You may have seen him.

What makes Charlie so unique is his ability to create and construct various items out of newspapers, comics, staples, and packaging tape. His creations vary from jackets and suits to wallets and backpacks, and he is known on campus as "The Newspaper Guy."

Charlie got the idea to make newspaper clothing at an art gallery in Napa called Off the Preserve. Inside he saw a jacket made strictly from newspaper and sewing stitches. Charlie thought it was a cool idea.

"I took it and ran," he said.

So just how does one go about making such cool and rare apparel? Charlie says his process is rather easy, but also rather slow.

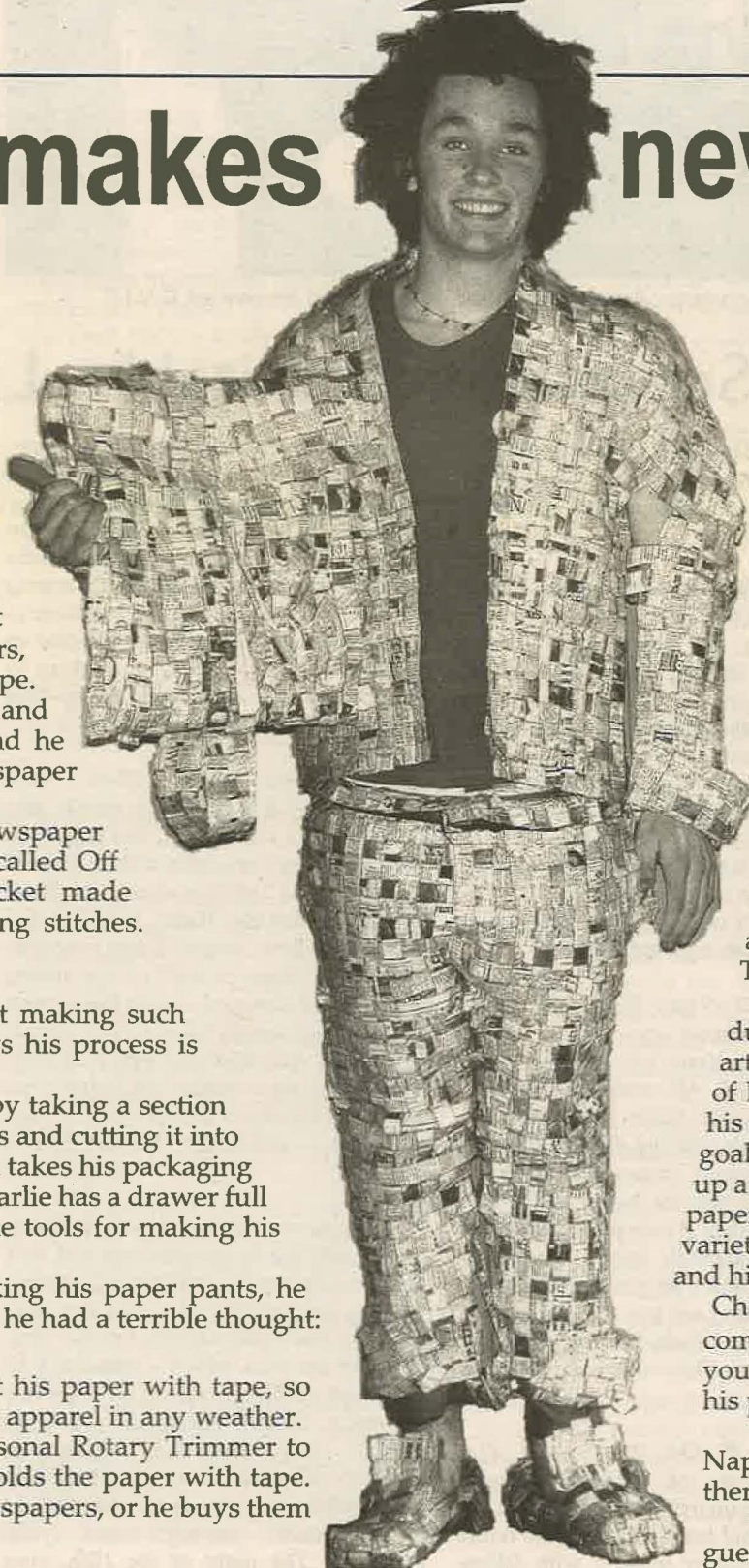
First he makes all of his paper by taking a section of either comic books or newspapers and cutting it into half-inch to one-inch strips. He then takes his packaging tape and "laminates" the strips. (Charlie has a drawer full of laminated strips of paper and the tools for making his fashions.)

When Charlie first started making his paper pants, he didn't use packaging tape. But then he had a terrible thought:

"What if it rains?"

That's when he decided to coat his paper with tape, so someone could wear his newspaper apparel in any weather.

Charlie uses a tool called a Personal Rotary Trimmer to cut the strips just right after he enfolds the paper with tape. His parents either send him the newspapers, or he buys them himself.



"I usually sit down with a piece of paper and bring up ideas onto the paper before actually constructing," Charlie says.

He draws his creations and begins to cut. He makes his "material" first, weaving and stapling the strips together, over and under. Charlie usually works on his creations over a period of time since he has too many obligations to just sit down and complete an entire piece at once. (There is skateboarding and schoolwork to do, after all.)

The full suit Charlie wore on Halloween, made completely out of newspapers, tape, and staples, took about a summer to finish. It consisted of a suit jacket, pants, and newspaper moccasins. Charlie makes his apparel to be sturdy and flexible enough to move and walk in. His backpacks are strong enough to hold books.

Charlie says he spends half his time making his material, and the other half actually constructing clothes and accessories. He says he would love to sell his work and is currently attempting to get it on display at Sassafras or The Vault, both located downtown in Sonoma.

His latest hot idea is to create a recycled art dummy wearing a newspaper suit, and sell it to an art gallery for "big bucks." But before selling any of his art work, though, Charlie wants to perfect his pieces and put more detail into them. One of his goals is to travel to Pier 39 in San Francisco and set up a display in the back of his El Camino with all his paper art and apparel and sell it there. There is more variety and culture in San Francisco, Charlie says, and his work might sell more easily in a city setting.

Charlie doesn't always read the newspapers or comics he makes into masterpieces, but occasionally you might sight a glimpse of one of his friends. On his pant leg, perhaps.

"Sometimes I see pictures of my friends from Napa in the newspapers, so I like to incorporate them into my work," Charlie says.

What happens with *this* paper, one can only guess.

Fourth Indie Fest coming to Sonora

By GUY SIBBALD
STAFF WRITER

Love death metal?

Got a thing for spoken word? Or perhaps something in between?

It will all be on tap at this year's Central Valley Indie Fest, running from May 13 to May 20.

This year's festival, the fourth annual, will have something for everybody. The Fest will take place all around the Central Valley, with dates scheduled in Stockton, Modesto, Merced and one show in Sonora.

Night by night, the festival will be different. With well over a hundred different bands on the bills, local bands will be getting out of their usual scene and local concertgoers will likewise get an opportunity to see something new.

Classifying all the different acts would be a chore but suffice it to say

that this year's roster will include metal, industrial, experimental, electroclash, hip hop, mc's, dj's, indie, rock, alternative, country, folk, ska, punk, hardcore and just about every other genre one can think of.



Middagh Goodwin, Anastasia Rego, and Robert Brown of C.V.I.F

The Indie Fest tradition began in 2002, when the first festival was held. Instrumental in the hefty amounts of organization, planning, and networking were Anastasia Rego and Robert Brown. They went through the

process of putting on shows where ever possible in hopes of producing something unique. They did, and it's grown in to a full-blown yearly event.

But getting the festival this far has been no easy task. Without major promotion or funding, the festival relies on other means for money.

"We'll have a car wash if we have to," said Anastasia. "Garage sales maybe."

This year, an extensive program will be printed and available at all of the shows.

With acts from across the country still being confirmed, one band from Holland has signed on for three shows.

For more information, visit www.myspace.com/centralvalleyindiefest.

Updates on who is playing what and where will be posted in the coming weeks.

Horablescope: Scorpios are irritable, Libras social

Continued from back page

areprieve, you deserve it. Single? Use your great communication skills to wrangle that Leo or Aries into an intellectual date beyond your local hangout. Attached? Tell your partner you feel tied down and stuck in the same old rut, you can do this without hurting their feelings. Your eloquence will smooth things over and free your trapped mind-set. This week is versatile 5.

Cancer ♋ June 22nd - July 22nd— You're tired of babysitting your dim-witted friends or family members. It's time to tell them to grow up and take responsibility for their own actions. You have held your tongue long enough; all this turmoil has you riding an emotional roller coaster. You're drained from all that hard travel just to wind up in the same place. Single? Let that Taurus take you out and paint the town red. Attached? You know exactly what your partner wants from you, and love to please them even if this means temporarily crossing your line of comfort. This week is an intuitive 7.

Leo ♌ July 23rd - Aug. 22nd - Pay close attention to that pesky little voice in your head, it's telling you something very important and it won't go away by ignoring it. Take control of the crazy situation that has you wondering who's in charge? You are, head-strong Leo. Speak firm and loud and let the small minded ones know it. Single? Take a Sagittarian to lunch and they'll counter with a date that thrills you. Attached? Lavish your partner with generous helpings of hugs

and kisses. This will stimulate both of you and take your relationship to an unexpected new level. This week is a domineering 8.

Virgo ♍ Aug. 23rd - Sept. 22nd - Love is in the air for you, passionate Virgo. With the presence of Venus you are the interim ambassador of the Goddess of Love for the next few weeks. Take great advantage of this, and try not to be so modest. Sometimes you are your own worst enemy. Single or attached you need to be brave and show a little more of that beautiful skin you have been blessed with. Trust Venus, she won't let you down. Let go of your practical and shy traits just for a while and see what comes of it. This week is a confident 9.

Libra ♎ Sept. 23rd- Oct. 22nd — This weekend, go out, or invite friends over. Your social soul needs to be validated. All work and no play, dear Libra, will leave you mundane. Your insatiable craving for balance and stability demands immediate attention. Single? Look out for Virgo and Pisces associations; they'll only push you farther in your melancholic mood. Attached? On the 10th don't let your better-halves harmless ribbing rub you the wrong way, when the New Moon (no moon) leaves you vulnerable. This week is a productive 8.

Scorpio ♏ Oct. 23rd - Nov. 21st - The presence of Venus, passionate Scorpio, has you irritable all month. Take a chill pill, and keep the medicine bottle close! Circumvent feuding with fellow

students and co-workers, take a time-out and go walk off that rage. Single? A casual affair heats up mid-month so play vigilantly, this could be your permanent partner. Conceal that stinging tail, just the pure threat of it could send them running for cover. Attached? Your reputation as a secret-keeper allows your devotee to confide in you. Don't disappoint them by over-reacting, or spilling the beans. This week is a prudent 4.

Sagittarius ♐ Nov. 22nd - Dec. 21st— Around the first ¼, moon (the 17th) attend a regal event, and engage in stimulating conversations with a VIP who could help you. Let them stroke your huge but well-hidden ego. Relax, fiery Sag, and go with the flow. Single? Keep your eyes open at the library or coffee shop, among the books or beans you could find a mate adequately decent to take home to family gatherings. Attached? Nay-say your lover who insists on monopolizing your time with the same old worn-out agenda. They are stifling your libido. This week is a jovial 5.

Capricorn ♑ Dec. 22nd - Jan. 19th — On the 20th be spontaneous and seek out new adventures. Don't be afraid, dear Cap, to venture out on a one-day road trip or a last-minute flight. On the 10th, don't let the New Moon's induced funk keep you at home sulking in a private pity-party. Single? Sorry, but your salty attitude lately has been frightening suitable relations away. Adjust your inner-psyche or you'll be trapped in the regrettable one-night-stand cycle. Attached? The night of the 12th, your

lover is glued to the boob-tube watching reruns. Choose to compromise! This is not your usual move, so the negotiation will get their attention. Hang with your lover for a few hours then drag them out. This week is a powerful 7.

Aquarius ♒ Jan. 20th - Feb 18th - Avoid the shortcuts, each one only turns to a dead end and wastes your precious time. You'll only get things done the tried and true way. Get out and go shopping, and not just for the little items either. Your inventive side is craving a necessary renovation of home life. Splurge a little, you haven't done this in a long, long time. Single? Get out there and attend a local protest, you'll bump into an old Libra flame that shares your beliefs in this cause. Attached? Be careful, your independence might be seen as a lack of interest in your partner; just simply tell them you care. This week is an intellectual 8.

— King Crossword — Answers

A	S	S		I	C	Y		F	L	E	D
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SPORTS

So much powder, so little free time

By MATT CUSHMAN
STAFF WRITER

People have been strapping and snapping into their boards and skis for months now. If someone you know isn't where they are supposed to be on a nice, sunny day, there is a good chance that they are up at the snow.

With above average levels of snow on the peaks of the Sierra, people have been making this migration from the flatlands to the higher altitudes to enjoy the gift from the gods that we call snow.

Both local ski resorts, Dodge Ridge and Bear Valley, have been having good seasons with lots of snow and people to ride it.

Both resorts are within a couple hours drive, so locals have to be careful and resist the urge to call in sick for the day and go to the slopes.

Many students have jobs at Dodge Ridge. These jobs ensure that they get lots of riding time and an excuse to go to the snow as often as possible.

T.J. Renna works as a snowboard instructor at Dodge Ridge and tries to go to school as often as possible.

"There's more snow than I've ever seen at Dodge," Renna said.

Dodge Ridge has reported 375 inches of snow this year, and has a base depth between 93 and 152 inches. Bear Valley reports an average base depth of 132 inches and usually gets around 375 inches per year. This snow pack ensures that barring a sudden heat wave, it will be a long season for everyone who likes to play in the snow.

Both resorts are open daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and are open on holidays.

Frequent visitors to the resorts are usually smart enough to buy season passes early. There are always stragglers, but season passes are still available. Passes at Dodge Ridge are \$269 for an adult pass, and are on sale now at Bear Valley for \$299. Depending on how often you go, it could save you a lot of money. Day passes at both resorts range between \$38 and \$45.

Both resorts have a ton of events coming up and always offer lessons for the people who need them.

Of course everyone has their own opinion about which park is better and both have their own qualities.

"Bear Grizzly Bowl is insane," Renna said. "The best I've ever ridden. I hope I don't get in trouble at work for saying that."

Locals are pretty steady customers, but it seems to be the weather that dictates how well the resorts do.

"It's been pretty busy," Renna said. "Flatlanders all come on sunny days. The flatlanders are scared of the cold weather."

Or maybe they are just smart enough to stay warm and wait for summer to come and warm things up.

The mad, mad, mad, mad month of March

With the Columbia Claim Jumpers basketball season over, local basketball junkies will have to get their fix somewhere else.

Luckily there is the NBA and the NCAA Men's Division I championship tournament - March Madness -- which starts March 15.

For those of you not familiar with March Madness, it is a month of basketball games fought out between the top 64 teams in the nation. Lose, you go home. Win, you go on.

The championship game will be held in St. Louis on April 4.

It seems like every year the same basketball powerhouses like Duke, North Carolina, Kansas and Kentucky make their customary appearances at the tournament. But this could be the year for the underdogs to make their way to the top of the pack.

The Fighting Illini of Illinois are making the most noise in the league this year. The Illini have been number one in the nation for most of the year and are fighting to remain the only unbeaten team in the nation. Right now they look like the team to beat and with a top seed in their bracket they should skate through the early rounds.

Maybe the biggest surprise in the nation so far is the disappointing play of the Huskies of U.Conn. Last year's national champs have fallen from grace, but under Coach Jim Calhoun, they are always a team that will be in the hunt.

Another surprise has been the play of the Boston College Eagles. The Eagles are leading the always powerful Big East division with a 23-3 record, that nobody outside of Boston saw coming. The Eagles play big both inside and out and are having their best season since the mid-'80s. Can

the Eagles follow the New England Patriots and the Boston red Sox and bring a third championship to Boston this year?

For some local flavor you can watch and root for the University of the Pacific Tigers. The Tigers from Stockton are ranked 17th in the nation and lead the West Coast Conference with a 23-2 record. The Tigers should get a good draw in the bracket so we will have to see how far they can go. Everybody has a chance once the tournament starts.

There are the usual teams like the Duke Blue Devils and their coach Mike Krzyzewski. The Blue Devils are led by Junior Guard J.J. Redick who seems to hit shot after shot from everywhere on the court.

Another team to watch out for is the Wake Forest Demon Deacons led by who some consider the best all around player in the nation, Sophomore Guard Chris Paul. The Deacons are big on the inside and get great play from their guards every night.

There will always be your upsets in the tournament. It seems like a number one loses to a number 16 or a number two loses to a 15 every year. Hopefully that is the case this year.

Anything can happen in the madness of March.

Off
Sides

MATT CUSHMAN



Cross country coming back to Columbia College sports

By KRIS FONTELLA
STAFF WRITER

A cross country team for men and women will return to Columbia College next fall.

The college last competed in cross country in the 1980s.

Dean David Baggett, the acting athletic director, said there was a demand -- and an interest in something new on campus.

"Only so many people can play basketball," he said.

The team will be coached by Tony O'Geen, who coaches cross country at Brett Harte High School. There's he's accumulated three state championship titles, ten sectional titles and 31 league titles, and was named the California State High School Cross Country Coach of the year in 1990.

Baggett said he believes that cross country fits the personality of the college, and he's gotten community support as well.

"People have been calling in regards to the assistant coaching job," said Baggett. "The community really wants to help."

Students, too. George Van Buskirk mapped out a running course in his GIS class as a student project.

Baggett said there is another reason he likes cross country.

"It brings men and woman together," he said. "They are able to participate on the same team and not be separate."

Anyone interested in joining the team is asked to contact Dean Baggett in the Manzanita Building.

PASTTIMES

Horablescopes

by Susan Zinsley



Pisces ♓ Feb. 19th - March 20th. Have you noticed that luck has been a lady for you recently? Go try your new luck at the local casino or buy a lotto ticket. Your luck is running extremely high this month, but don't go overboard, quit while you're ahead. If not the gambling type, take a good look around and bask in all the simple treasures that surround you. Single? Your luck is prevalent here too, go ahead and ask that Scorpio or Cancer out, they'll accept your invite. Attached? Plan for some much desired romance, lucky one. This week is a selfless 6.

Aries ♈ March 21st - April 19th

Now is the time for all courageous Rams to be rowdy. Go with your impulses, and break free from the norm. Your desire for dangerous quests can wait no longer. Single? Your spontaneity will attract a feisty Gemini that loves to play fight and get you riled, you thrive in this opposition. Attached? Your pioneering spirit wants to try something new with your long-time partner, patience is not

you're strong point, but your enthusiasm and quick wit will win them over. This week is an adventurous 7.

Taurus ♉ April 20th - May 20th

Don't be jealous of a friend's success. See it as inspiration to scope out your own possibilities. You will find this inspiration by getting out and about. Go skiing, surfing, hiking or fishing, don't let the winter weather be a deterrent; you succeed in the elements. Single? Check out the Virgo and Pisces ski bums or bunnies, they'll be attracted to your organic side. Attached? Wrap your partner in leather or silk this weekend. These natural fabrics will warm up your long-lasting love affair. This week is an indulgent 10.

Gemini ♊ May 21st - June 21st— It's time to let go, and let it be. You have worked hard toward your goals. If you have studied for mid-terms or tests you will do great. Your diligence will soon pay off. Allow yourself

See HORABLESCOPES, Page 6

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

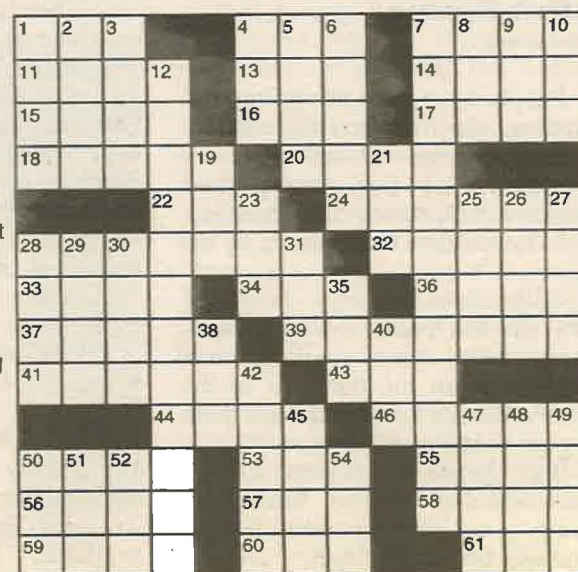


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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Beast of burden
- 4 Gelid
- 7 Took off
- 11 Engage in idling
- 13 Wish undone
- 14 Leo's comment
- 15 "Ironsides" star
- 16 "Jeopardy!" juggernaut Jennings
- 17 Horribly wrong
- 18 Jennifer Garner series
- 20 Knock for a loop
- 22 Actress Peebles
- 24 Making inquiries
- 28 Nutty
- 32 Michaelmas daisy
- 33 Malaria symptom
- 34 Chart
- 36 "Got it"
- 37 Dustin Hoffman biopic
- 39 Cereal container?
- 41 Boggles (up)
- 43 Eggs
- 44 Autocrat
- 46 Upper regions of space
- 50 Fill to the max
- 53 Prune
- 55 Characterization
- 56 New Zealand bird



- 57 Gorilla
- 58 Chester - Arthur
- 59 Fe
- 60 Morning moisture
- 61 Conclusion
- 8 Depressed
- 9 Listening device
- 10 Parched
- 12 Karloff portrayal
- 19 "Sprechen - Deutsch?"
- 21 Mex. neighbor
- 23 Branch
- 25 "Wonderful Life"
- 26 Opposite of "always"
- 27 Swayze's "Dirty Dancing" co-star
- 28 Ointment
- 29 Curved mold
- 30 Convent group
- 31 React to gravity
- 35 Expert
- 38 "Indubitably"
- 40 Rd.
- 42 Dieter's lunch
- 45 Double Dutch prop
- 47 Pit
- 48 Verve
- 49 Tear
- 50 Tackle moguls
- 51 Melody
- 52 Only even prime
- 54 Church seat

Answers are on page 6

On the Street: If you could add one item to the snack bar menu, what would it be?



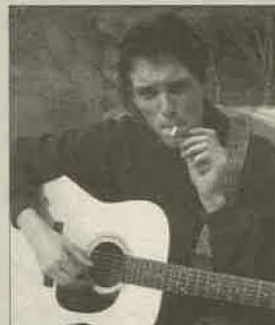
Jerome Damien

Just healthy food. Talk to a nutritionist.



Kristen Bryant

Tacos.



Joe Poley

Jojo potatoes were awesome.



Caroline Nelson

We need a healthy alternative. Organic foods.