

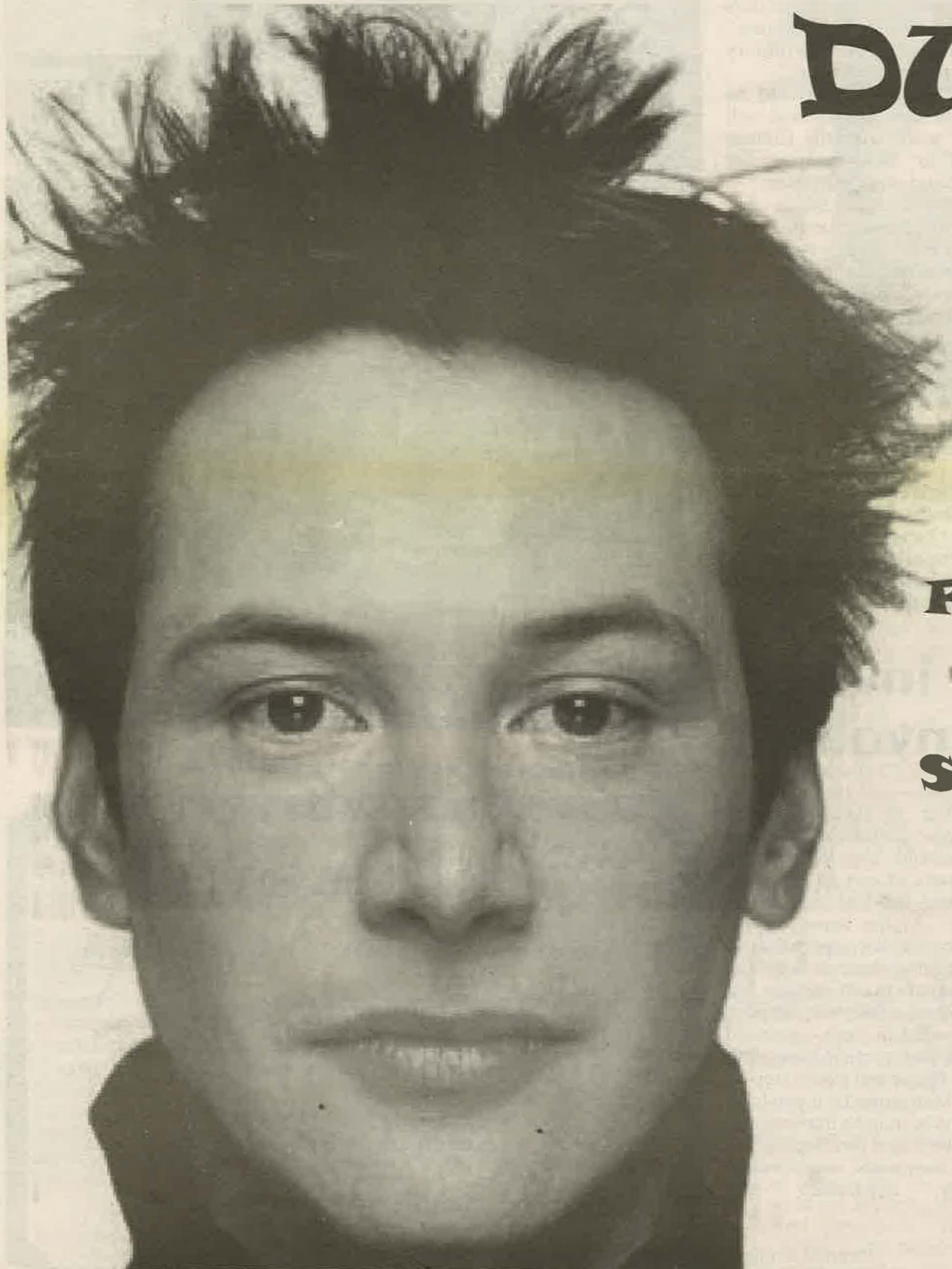
# THE PANHANDLER

Columbia College's New Student Newspaper

Vol. 2, Special Issue

August 29, 2005

## WELCOME BACK, DUDES!



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# President Riggs welcomes students

By DEBORAH WINTERS  
PANHANDLER STAFF

Dr. Jim Riggs, president of Columbia College, does not live in an ivory tower or on a pedestal. He is approachable, not just by faculty and staff, but by students as well.

"I am looking forward to having the students back on campus," Riggs said. "I also teach humanities classes every semester and have a lot of fun getting to know some of the students personally."

Riggs is excited by some of the changes that will be coming to campus.

"I'm looking forward as we go through the school year to designing the new buildings – a science building and child development center – those are the kind of things I'm very excited about," he said. "Other projects we will be working on are a new parking lot up by the Madrone Building and another handicapped parking lot."

Riggs is in his ninth year as Columbia College president, but began his college career as an instructor. He still has advice for students.

"Ask lots of questions," he said. "Feel free and confident to access all resources available to you. Our support staff on this campus is very helpful and will set you on the road to success. Ask now! Don't spend time going the wrong way."

"Look at the long view, read,

study, and follow your interests," Riggs said. "Make use of and take advantage of the faculty, knowledge, and experience we have here at Columbia."

Columbia College has grown by 30 percent since Riggs came to campus.

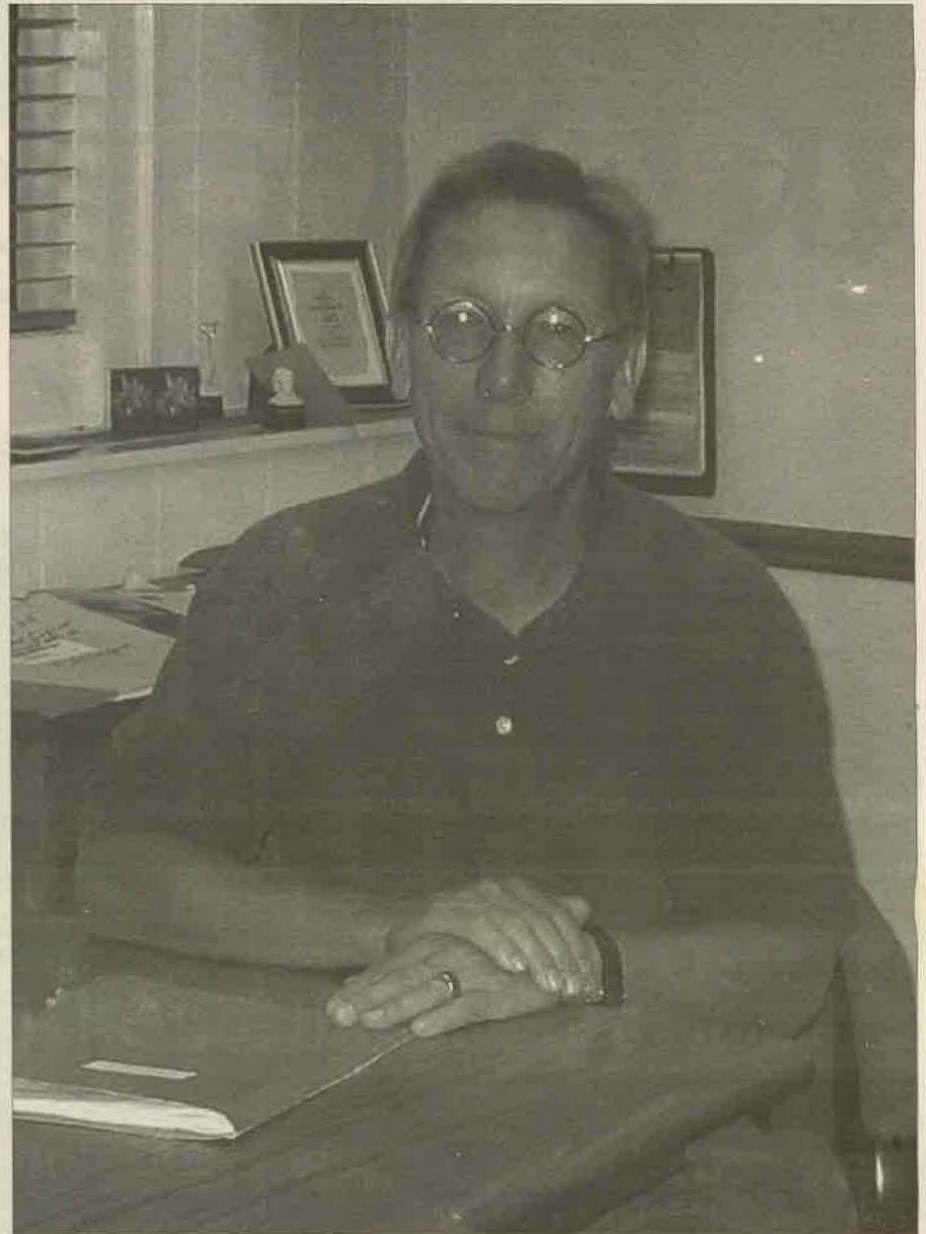
"I have seen some real changes – I've seen a real increase in community interest, our outreach program offers classes at various off-site locations," he said. "Of course, the new library was our greatest achievement."

He said he looks forward to working with new faculty and will continue to work with the College Foundation to raise money for scholarships and other purposes.

Riggs has been a music and humanities professor, instructional dean, executive dean and vice president at other institutions. He went to Homer, Alaska as director of a founding community college offering just a few courses, found and purchased a vacated postal building and began to build what is now the Kenai Peninsula College. During these college administrative appointments Riggs maintained his focus as an educator and continues to take an active interest in music, working with the college orchestra as a conductor.

But his focus is still students.

"I wish (the students) all success this year and in the coming years," he said.



DEBORAH WINTERS/PANHANDLER PHOTO

President Jim Riggs gets ready for the new school year.

## ASCC president invites students to get involved



Ibrahim Kamara

On behalf of the Associated Students of Columbia College (ASCC), I would like to welcome all new comers to our diverse and unique campus and welcome to our community. At the same time, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all returning students that were able to participate in our election last semester. Thanks for your support. We look forward to your continued involvement and participation with the (ASCC). Please feel free to stop by our office at Manzanita 15, if you have any questions or may be interested in getting involved and developing real world skills, teamwork, commitment, responsibility, leadership and motivation.

Ibrahim Kamara  
ASCC President

## THE PANHANDLER

Deborah Winters - Summer Editor

Steve Elliott - Adviser

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Reach us at 209-588-5388

[panhandler@yosemite.cc.ca.us](mailto:panhandler@yosemite.cc.ca.us)



# College success tips from Keanu

By STEVE ELLIOTT  
JOURNALISM INSTRUCTOR

There are a lot of places to get advice about how to succeed in college. Inside this issue you'll find listings of more than a half-dozen places on this campus where you can get tutoring and help.

But none of that help comes from The One.

I imagine some people might think that words of wisdom drawn from Keanu Reeves movies ought to be taken with a grain of salt, but some of them will actually help you get through college.

So here they are, the Top 10 Tips for College Success Contained in Keanu Reeves Movies.

## 1. The most important thing in life is showing up. (Hard Ball)

It's a true statement, and goes double for college. One of the biggest differences between high school and college is that here you're not getting detention if you don't show up for class. If you want to hang out at Starbucks all day, no one is going to stop you.

But you still have to show up.

Attendance counts. Even if technically it's not factored into your grade, you can't learn and keep up with a class if you're not there. Getting the lecture notes from someone else isn't the same as being there. You've got to show up.

## 2. Is this a test? (The Devil's Advocate)

You know, it just might be and you'd know for sure if you'd read the syllabus.

This is another big difference between high school and college. In high school, you may or may not have been given a written syllabus at the beginning of every class. In college you will. Keep it. Read it. Understand it. That syllabus is your contract with the professor. It'll tell you what the class will consist of, what tests and assignments will be due, and how the course is graded.

There are no secrets to getting through college. Everything you need to do is written down, from what classes you have to take to graduate to what assignments you have to complete to pass a course. Use that information.

## 3. I can carry nearly eighty gigs of data in my head. (Johnny Mnemonic)

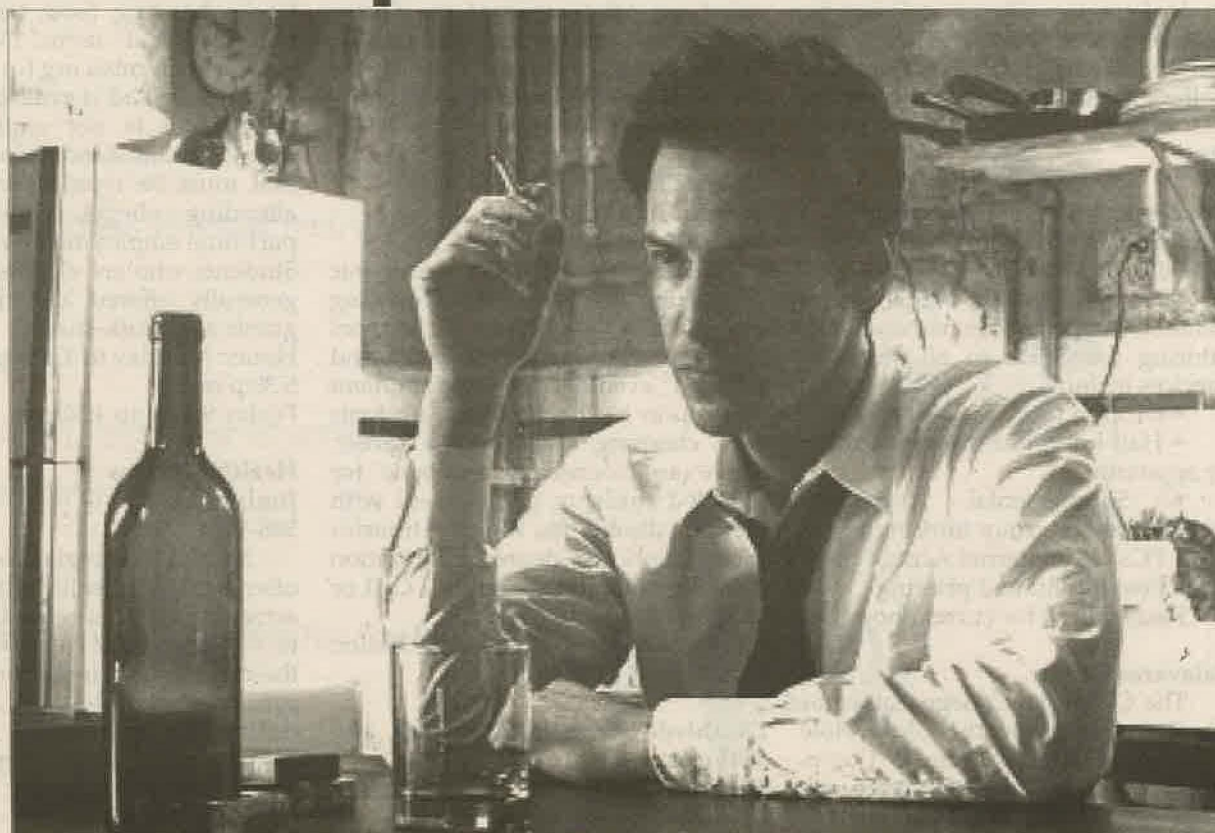
The advice here? Study.

You'd be amazed at the number of students who get into trouble simply by not studying. They get too busy with activities or work. They get lazy. They get the new Madden Football game. Some students don't know how to study. They got through high school without having to do serious studying, and soon discover that they don't have the study skills and study habits they need to succeed in college. (If that's the case, pop into the Academic Achievement Center. They can help.)

Remember that college ultimately isn't getting grades and a degree, it's about learning. It's here to put new data and new ideas and new experiences into your head. To do that, you have to study. Make the time and the commitment and mail Madden to your cousin in Milwaukee if you have to.

## 4. What happens if I fail? (The Matrix Revolutions)

Nobody likes to fail and hopefully it never happens to you. If it does, the important thing is



Keanu Reeves goes to hell in "Constantine."

to understand why it happened and what you need to do so it doesn't happen again. Did you get overloaded and overwhelmed? That's probably the most common reason students fail. Maybe there are time-management changes you can make, or maybe you'll have to cut back somewhere next semester. Did you have health or family issues? Was it an issue of not studying, or having problems with a certain kind of assignment or certain kind of test? If so, visit any one of the offices on campus where you can get help.

Everyone on campus wants you to succeed and there's help available. But you have to ask.

## 5. You must permit me to treat with skepticism anything you have to say... (Dangerous Liaisons)

To put it more bluntly: Don't believe everything you're told, at least not without thinking about it.

One of the things that can happen to students as they go from lecture to lecture, is that they take notes and listen to what they're told and write it down and recite it back on the next test and never really think about it. Don't fall into that trap.

Critical thinking is the most valuable skill you can leave college with. Develop it. Develop it by being skeptical and asking questions. Participate in class discussions, and if you have a different idea about something, share it. Your professors aren't looking for automatons to parrot back what they wrote on the board. They're looking for thinking beings with their own ideas and experiences.

## 6. Who ordered the pizza? (Johnny Mnemonic)

While pizza is a staple of college life, it's not the only food group. You'll do better academically if you take care of yourself physically. The brain, after all, is a prisoner in the body. So eat a reasonably healthy diet. Get some exercise. You'll

relieve stress and feel better. The best part is, you have places on campus to do both.

## 7. Party on, dudes! (Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure)

but

## 8. Stay away from ginger ale and tequila. It's a bitch! (The Night Before)

College isn't all studying and classes, and having a social life should be a part of the equation. So have one. Have fun. Meet new people and make new friends. But this is where balance comes in, not letting your social calendar interfere with your academics. Have fun, but remember that the drinking age in California is 21, hangovers hurt and tattoos don't come off.

## 9. This is it, life will never be better, or sweeter than this. (Sweet November)

You may not know it, but you are the envy of most middle-aged and older folks out there. College is a unique time, and you'll never be able to recapture it or duplicate it again. You not only have nearly limitless possibilities, you have opportunities to do things and see things and learn things that you won't get again. College is an amazing time. Let yourself be amazed by it.

## 10. Pain heals. Chicks dig scars. Glory lasts forever. (The Replacements)

This is related to number nine. You do have possibilities and you do have opportunities, but you have to seize them. So do something that scares you. Join the drama club. Try out for the cross country team. Raise your hand in class and ask a question. This is a time and a place to grow, but it doesn't just happen. You have to make it happen. Challenge yourself. Stretch yourself. You'll have your whole life to be safe and mediocre.

Dare to be great now.



# Campus services exist to help students

Up-to-date information on all student services offered at Columbia College can be found in the Student Handbook and on the Columbia College website at <http://columbia.yosemite.cc.ca.us/StudentServices.htm>

## Academic Achievement Center Manzanita 18-2 588-5088

The Academic Achievement Center (AAC) provides free academic tutoring assistance to all students. Services include:

- Drop-in tutoring/Writing Lab
  - Half-hour, one-on-one tutoring by appointment
  - Supplemental Instruction (course specific group tutoring)
  - PCs with Internet Access
  - Free but limited printing
- Please check for current hours.

## Calaveras Center

The Columbia College Calaveras Center is located in the Glory Hole Shopping Center in Angels Camp. Through, the Center, students can access general education and transfer courses without crossing the river. The center offers:

- Registration for all Columbia College courses
- Business services
- Counseling
- Book sales for Calaveras classes
- Plenty of parking without having to buy a pass
- Computer lab
- Student resource room
- Information including catalogs, schedules, health & mental health pamphlets, & a bulletin board with school & local events posted
- Distance Learning linked to Columbia & Modesto campuses

## CalWORKs/Job Now! Manzanita 17-B 588-5148

Provides services to Welfare to Work participants. Students who have dependent children under 18 and are struggling to make ends meet might benefit from the program, and anyone who is thinking about going on cash aid with the county should come in before going to the county.

## Child Care Center 588-5278

The Columbia College Child Care Center offers high quality child care for children ages 0 to 5. The toddler and preschool classrooms located on campus in the Pinyon and Ponderosa buildings operate Monday through Thursday 7:40 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and

7:40 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Infants are cared for off campus at the Shaws Flat School site open Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Care is free for families who meet the eligibility requirements.

## Counseling Services Manzanita 14 588-5109

Offers professional, academic counseling service to all continuing or returning students. Counselors are available during the day and selected evenings by appointment or drop-in basis. We assist students with choosing a major or a career. There are counselors available for disabled students, and student with learning disabilities. We have transfer information and degree information to make students successful. Call or stop by for an appointment. Hours: Monday to Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

## Disabled Students Programs and Services Manzanita 18-3 588-5130

The Mission of Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSP&S) of Columbia College is to help students with disabilities compete academically on an equal basis with their non-disabled peers. The department provides accessibility through support services, special equipment, specially trained staff, and removal of architectural barriers. We encourage independence and integration in the pursuit of learning and participation in college life.

## Extended Opportunity Programs & Services Manzanita 18-3 588-5130

EOP&S is a state-funded program that targets community college students with financial and academic disadvantages and provides extra financial and academic support to promote student success in higher education. The primary function of EOP&S is to recruit, retain, and transition economically and educationally challenged students. Apply for EOP&S by printing out the EOP&S application form and the BOG application, fill them out and return to the EOP&S Office or the Financial Aid Office.

Hours: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## Financial Aid Manzanita 18 588-5105

Financial Aid is money that helps needy students pay for the costs of

going to college, such as tuition, fees, books, housing, food, transportation and personal items. Visit <http://www.gocolumbia.org> for scholarship application. Aid is available as grants (repayment is not required under normal circumstances), loans (awards that must be repaid after you stop attending college), scholarships and part-time employment (work-study). Students who are eligible for aid are generally offered a combination of grants and work-study.

Hours: Monday to Thursday 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Friday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## Health Services Juniper 2. 588-5204

Staffed by a registered nurse, we offer first aid, health education and screening services, referrals as needed to community providers, over-the-counter medications and condoms, help to quit smoking, a resting cot, information on health insurance and more. A professional mental health counselor is available by appointment on a limited basis. Services are free. Please stop by and look through our large selection of educational pamphlets and get a free gift.

Hours: Monday to Wednesday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Thursday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

## Job Placement Services Manzanita 14 588-5312

The Columbia College Job Placement Office offers free employment assistance to all students. The office serves as a source of information on jobs available in the local community and on-campus. Desk is staffed exclusively by students who maintain the database that appears online and process student referrals. We recently began offering online job information requests which can be submitted by students by simply going to our webpage and opening the online request form. Once submitted, the info is processed by JPS staff who then email a response back to the student with job contact info. Fall desk hours will be posted when we have a schedule in place.

## Library

Located in Tamarack Hall, the Columbia College Library is a center for study, class research and leisure reading. The Library welcomes use by students, staff and community residents. Visit the Library's webpage: [www.gocolumbia.org/library](http://www.gocolumbia.org/library).

Along with the Library collections

of books, magazines and newspapers, brochures, maps, art prints, and audio and video recordings, are a variety of electronic databases, including full-text magazines and journals, encyclopedias, statistics and other reference sources. Personal computers are available for use during Library hours, along with a coin-operated computer printer (10 cents a copy) and photocopier (10 cents a copy). Typewriters are also available. There are eight group study rooms available for quiet and group study. Through the Interlibrary Loan Program, the Columbia College Library can locate and borrow materials which are unavailable on campus from local, regional and national locations. The Library is open when the College is in session.

Hours: Monday to Thursday 7:45 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Friday 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## Manzanita Bookstore

The Manzanita Bookstore located on the lower level of the Manzanita Building is the "happening place" on campus for new and used textbooks, school supplies, Columbia College apparel, gift items, food, beverages, and MORE! The bookstore carries all required textbooks and classroom materials for courses taught at Columbia College. The "Art Corner" provides our students and the community with a great selection of art supplies. Textbooks and merchandise may be purchased online by visiting [gocolumbia.org](http://gocolumbia.org) and click on the BOOKSTORE.

Hours: Monday to Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Friday 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## Mathematics Resource Center Juniper 5

The Mathematics Resource Center is open Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. This is a drop-in center where students can receive free assistance with any math course. Students may also check out books and videos for further assistance with their math.

## Snack Bar

Need a quick stop for a bagel, pizza, sandwich, salad, or beverage? The Columbia College Snack Bar, located on the lower level of the Manzanita Building is the place to go! A great selection of "Grab and Go" breakfast and lunch items prepared daily using the freshest ingredients. We strive to accommodate the college community by providing healthy and affordable food choices daily in

See SERVICES, Page 5



# 2005 Fall Calendar

## **AUGUST**

29 Fall 2005 Semester begins

## **SEPTEMBER**

2\* Last day to enter a full semester class without instructor's signature

5 Labor Day Holiday

9\* Last Day to Apply for a Refund

23\* Last day to withdraw without a "W" showing on permanent record

29\* Last day to elect for CR/NC grading



## **OCTOBER**

4 Deadline for Filing for Graduation and Certificates for Spring 2006

## **NOVEMBER**

11 Veteran's Day holiday

18\* Last day to withdraw from any course

23 No Evening classes DSP&S/EOP&S Registration

24 & 25 Thanksgiving holiday

Nov 28-Dec 9 Continuing Students, Registration



## **DECEMBER**

12 & 13 Newly matriculated students registration

13 & 14 All students - open registration

12 - 16 Final exams

17 Fall semester ends

19 - Jan. 6 Winter Recess



## SERVICES: Lots of assistance for students

Continued from Page 4

the Snack Bar and Bookstore. We are now serving Organic Fair Trade Coffee, Soy Milk, and Odwalla Juices and Smoothies as a step to diversify our offerings. Please take advantage of the recycling can located near the Manzanita Dining Deck for your bottles and cans. Please help us to keep our campus clean!

Hours: Monday to Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Friday 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**Student Government  
Manzanita 15-A  
588-5270**

All students are members of the Associated Students of Columbia College and they, in turn, develop a student government. The Student Senate addresses student affairs, campus organizations and activities. Senators serve as spokespersons for the entire student body. Those wishing to form a student organization or participate in Columbia College's Student Senate must contact the Student Senate for applications, procedures and handbook.

Hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Transfer Center  
Manzanita 17  
588-5271**

Staff, counselors and resources at the Transfer Center can assist you with formulating an educational plan. College catalogs, videos, Internet access to other college and university websites, as well as on-line applications, Eureka Guidance/resources software program, transfer application workshops for CSU and UC, are also available in the Transfer Center. The center coordinates

regular visits from two and four-year institution representatives to assist you with policies and requirements for transfer.

**Veterans Affairs  
Manzanita 15-B  
588-5105**

Services for disabled veterans, post-Vietnam era veterans who participated in the payroll deduction programs, members of reserve units and dependents of disabled, deceased or retired veterans. Veterans may be eligible to receive educational benefits while attending college at least half-time.



# All students can apply for financial aid

BY DEBORAH WINTERS  
PANHANDLER STAFF

There's free money out there – and some of it could be yours.

According to Cass Larkin, Financial Aid manager, Columbia College disbursed over \$2 million to students during the 2004-05 school year and expects to exceed that amount this year.

And, the best part is, all students are eligible to apply for a share of this money. All you have to do, Larkin said, is ask for it by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the California Board of Governors Waiver (BOGW).

"The Financial Aid Office aspires to get the FAFSA and BOGW application into the hands of every student on this campus," Larkin said.

The Columbia College Financial Aid Office administers the following Federal and State assistance programs:

**Federal Pell Grant:** \$400 - \$4,050 per academic year for full-time status, prorated for three-quarters and less-than-half-time students.

**Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant:** \$150

- \$800 per academic year, available to half-time students.

**Federal Work Study:** \$200 - \$2,350 per academic year earnings from part-time jobs on campus, average 5 to 10 hours a week at \$7.25 an hour.

**Extended Opportunity Programs and Services:** Up to \$600 per academic year including a cash grant and book grant. Must be enrolled full-time initially.

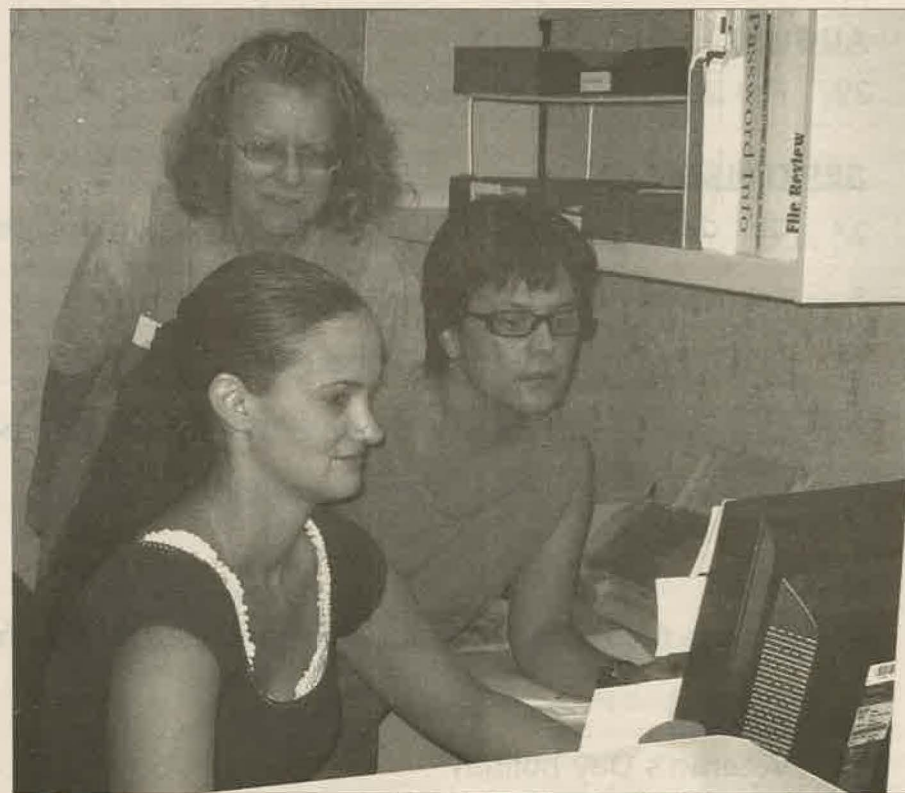
**Cal Grant A:** \$1,428 - \$9,708 per academic year as tuition to a 4-year institution, put on reserve while you attend a community college. Must not have completed more than six semesters by date of enrollment.

**Cal Grant B:** \$1,551 - \$9,708 per academic year, must not have completed more than 16 semester units by date of enrollment.

**Cal Grant C:** \$576 - \$2,592 per academic year as assistance for vocational program training for four months to two years duration.

**California Board of Governors Waiver (BOGW):** Waiver of enrollment and health fees. No cash award.

Columbia College also has an extensive number of scholarships and awards provided by organizations



DEBORAH WINTERS/PANHANDLER PHOTO

Financial aid staff Michelle Vidaurri, Wendy Hesse and Cass Larkin review a student aid form.

and individuals. They range from \$100 to \$3,000. One application is used for most scholarships, and the deadline is November 23.

"Thanks to special funding from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, the Financial Aid Office now has a computer center that students can use to complete the FAFSA application, scholarship application, any financial aid forms, and to research additional scholarship/grant opportunities," Larkin said.

Financial Aid staff are available

to help students with the forms, she said.

FAFSA applications are submitted directly to the U.S. Department of Education for verification. The awards are based on income and need and the Columbia Financial Aid Office can make adjustments based on additional information.

**For more information: Visit the Financial Aid Website at [www.gocolumbia.org](http://www.gocolumbia.org). Go directly to the FAFSA website at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).**

## Columbia College Financial Aid Department welcomes you ...

### IMPORTANT DEADLINE:

Your

**FAFSA**  
FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID

must be postmarked by  
**FRI., SEPT. 2, 2005**  
in order for you  
to qualify for  
2005-2006  
CalGrants.



**FINANCIAL AID**  
Manzanita 18-3; 588-5105  
Mon - Thurs; 8am - 5:30pm  
Fridays 9am - 4:30pm

Hours extended for the first week of school:

Mon., 8/29 - Thurs., 9/2, 8 am - 6 pm



Let us help you check off your

Back to School To Do List:

- Enroll in classes
- Buy books
- Apply for financial aid

### Upcoming Financial Aid Workshops

all in the FA Office

Tuesday, 9/6, 10 am - 11 am  
Monday, 9/13, 1 pm - 2 pm  
Tuesday, 9/21, 3 pm - 4 pm

## Important Financial Aid dates to remember:

**September 2: Deadline to file FAFSA  
to be considered for a Cal Grant.**

**November 23: Columbia College  
scholarship applications due.**

**April 2006: BOGW application due.**



# Smoking restricted to marked areas

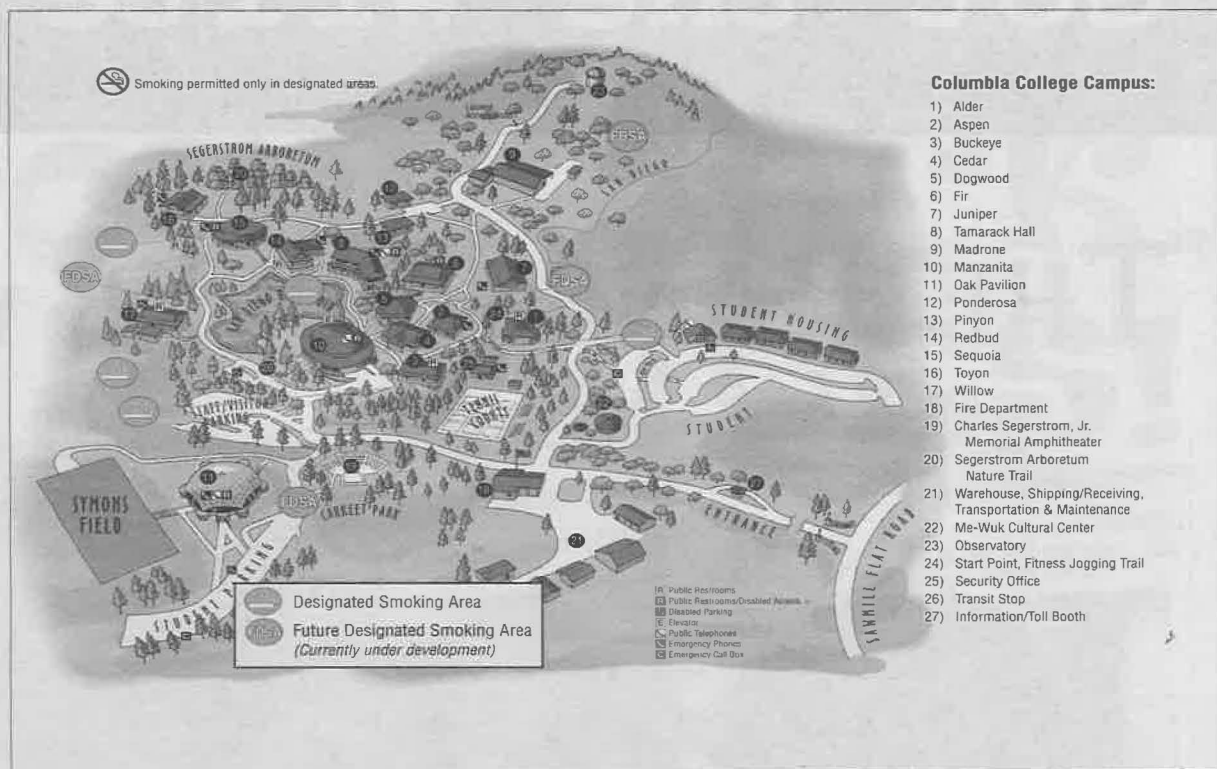
Although the Yosemite Community College District has \$24 million in construction bond money in the bank, Columbia College students won't see a lot of dust flying right away.

Of the projects planned for Columbia College, only a few are set to begin this semester. Work will begin on an emergency access road, and students may see survey crews and bulldozers before the winter rains come.

The other short-term projects, parking lot expansions planned near the Madrone and Buckeye buildings, may get under way this fall, or may have to go through a review by the state architect's office, said President Jim Riggs. If the state does review the projects, work won't begin for four or five months, he said.

The change that many students will notice this fall is the designation of specific smoking areas around campus. (See map) The five current and four future designated smoking areas are now the only places on campus smokers can light up. The rest of the campus has been designated a non-smoking area.

Current smoking areas are located outside Buckeye, Tamarack Hall, both sides of Manzanita, and Sequoia. Future areas are planned outside Willow, the Oak Pavilion, Dogwood and Madrone.



Columbia is now a non-smoking campus, except in the designated areas.

## STUDENT HOUSING

at

Columbia College



For more information or a guided tour,

contact Samantha at

**(209) 533-3039**

**11800 Columbia College Drive  
Sonora, CA 95370**

## Now Accepting Applications for the Fall 2005 Semester!

### Overall Benefits

- Walk to Classes
- Meet New Friends
- Furnished Units
- Utilities Included
  - Air/Heat
  - Satellite TV
  - Water and Garbage
- On-site Coin Laundry
- Barbecue Area
- Basketball (half) Court
- Recreation and Study Center
  - Study Room
  - Pool Table
  - Big Screen TV

### Apartment Features

Furnished two-bedroom apartments w/one bathroom and two sinks, living room with furnished seating, plus kitchenette w/full-size refrigerator, sink and two-burner stove top.

### 2005/2006 Prepaid Rates

#### Semester Lease

– August '05 to December '05 –

Shared Bedroom -- \$1,620.00  
Single Bedroom -- \$2,410.00

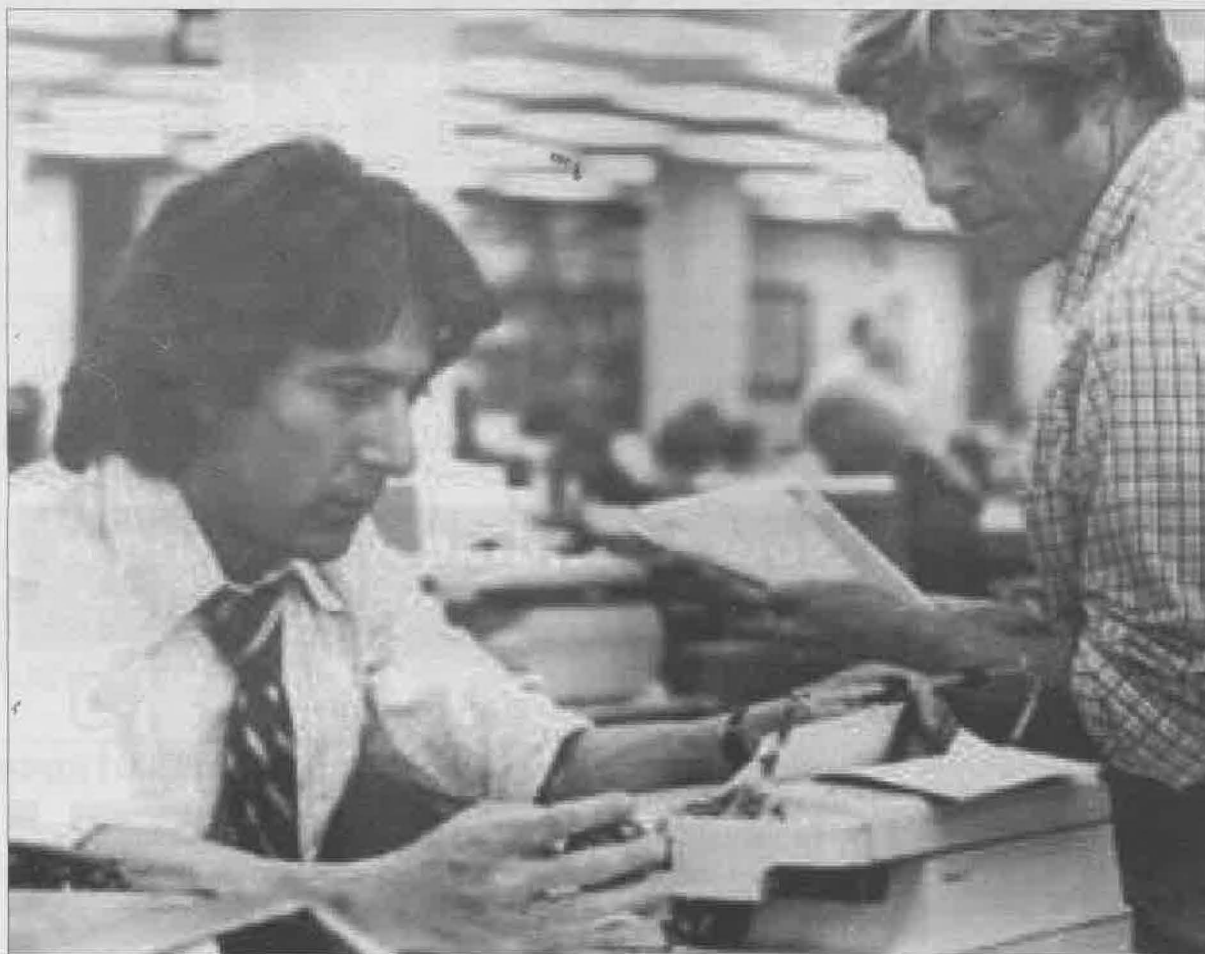
#### Academic Year Lease

– August '05 to August '06 –

Shared Bedroom -- \$4,615.00  
Single Bedroom -- \$6,865.00

# Got the write stuff?

## THE PANHANDLER wants *you*



Interested in what's going on on campus? Got something to say?

Then join our staff. The Panhandler is looking for reporters, photographers and sports writers for the fall semester.

No experience necessary. Sign up for JOURN 1 to learn newswriting, and JOURN 10 to work for The Panhandler.

# Register for JOURN 10

# Do it. Do it now.