

# THE PANHANDLER

Columbia College's New Student Newspaper

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October 5, 2005

## Columbia completes self-study

By DEBORAH WINTERS  
PANHANDLER STAFF

Columbia College recently completed a thorough self-study and is doing well in most areas and needs to work on a few.

The self study is part of the college's on-going process of accreditation, an every six-year evaluation to insure the college is fulfilling its educational mission.

Columbia Vice President Dennis Gervin, the campus's accreditation liaison officer, explained the process.

"The process encourages colleges to go through a self-improvement

review every six years – similar to a peer review from other colleges to see how we stack up," he said. "Accreditation is the 'USDA Stamp of Approval.' An accredited school gives value to degrees and certificates."

Accreditation is the major way that students, families, government officials, prospective employers and others know that an institution or program provides a quality education. This is important to students seeking federal and some state grants and loans. Employers may ask if a college or university is accredited before providing tuition

assistance or when evaluating the credentials of new employees.

"Think about upgrading your drivers' license from a Class C to Class A," said Ibrahim Kamara, president of the Associated Students. "Our self study, with the help of professional peer review faculty and staff from other community colleges, shows that Columbia College is on top of its institutional mission and effectiveness. For students, we may have many more options for learning programs, services, financial aid, and also may increase population and recognition."

The self study covered six

primary themes, from institutional mission and effectiveness to student learning outcomes to integrity.

"This is the glue that holds the institution together, areas where we know we can do a lot better," Gervin said.

Six years ago, the last time Columbia went through the accreditation process, the self-study identified 72 areas for improvement. This time, it was 26.

"All education institutions perform the self-study as preparation and for collection for all things we are

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## Classes offered at high Sierra field campus

By ROYAL GARRISON IV  
PANHANDLER STAFF

Classes began this summer at Baker Station, the high Sierra learning center and field campus for study and research located 58 miles east of

Sonora.

It is a partnership between the Yosemite Community College District, the Stanislaus National Forest and the United States Forest Service. The U.S. Forest Service used the old station as a training ground for rangers.

Columbia College classes held at the newly-restored 1879 stagecoach stop ranged from backpacking to wild flower studies to fly fishing.

Biology Professor Micha Miller did the original first grant to renovate the old stagecoach station. Miller taught a class at Baker Station over the summer and posted photographs and an in-depth history of the project on his web page, [www.columbia.yosemite.cc.ca.us/BakerStation/index.htm](http://www.columbia.yosemite.cc.ca.us/BakerStation/index.htm). "The U.S. Forest Service's \$300,000 grant to renovate Baker Station has dried up," Miller said. "It's time for the Yosemite Community College District to file for the next string of grants to keep the ball rolling. Students and community participation is a must if we are to keep up Baker Station and be able to hold classes at that location."

The college had trouble holding classes at the station this summer. According to Interim Dean of Instructional Services John Williams, the college had verbal permission



PHOTO COURTESY OF LAURIE SLYWESTER

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Natural Bridges beckon.

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Ross Carkeet lectures at Baker Station.



# EDITORIAL

## Royal Thoughts

ROYAL H. GARRISON



It was one of the most frequently asked questions in America: Was the government's slow response to Hurricane Katrina, racially motivated?

My opinion? The government got caught with its pants down, like before Oklahoma City and 9/11. Yes, racial issues like poverty impact the problem, but that's not to say that if this disaster was in a racially diverse city that the same planning mistakes would not have happened.

Is America's homeland security and safety is at risk? Our overall disaster plan is a disaster itself as Hurricane Katrina proved.

It had very little to do with ethnic backgrounds and racial percentages. After all, isn't the mayor of New Orleans an African American? As for President Bush, since he can't run for office again, the Republican Party takes a hard political hit with its Black Conservative vote.

The one thing hopefully learned through this was that readiness in case of an emergency takes better planning, better mobilization of emergency response units, and a better response system in place between state and federal governments.

Hurricane Rita was a second chance to show readiness. Bush's administration saves face and America feels better already, one month after the first hurricane and three days after the second. Mother Nature sure must love Bush.

We seem prepared for disasters abroad but not at home. Will the same hold true next time? Or in war?

Let's hope that we never find out.

## Letters to the Editor

### Nude art model gets high praise

To the Editor,

Danny Shepherd ("Confessions of an undraped model") is my hero! I have been chuckling all week long. 1. The article was tastefully and humorously done. 2. The author did not exploit another "cute" female model to do the story, he had the nerve to explore first-hand.

3. What a model of bravery!

He has set an example for students - confront your fears. Danny's story works on many levels, and the photography was so carefully posed! This may, hopefully encourage others to model. The story brought joy to our ceramics class. Then we went back and read other stories! Our art students are dependent on

the generosity of other students willing to model. This is not an easy job, but we thank their spirit!

Thank you to The Panhandler for making investigative journalism available to our students. We need a new cadre of writers to populate and dominate the puppet rags that exist in this age of information.

Laurie Sylwester



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# OPINION

## Evidence of intelligent design lacking

By JERRY HODGE  
SPECIAL TO THE PANHANDLER

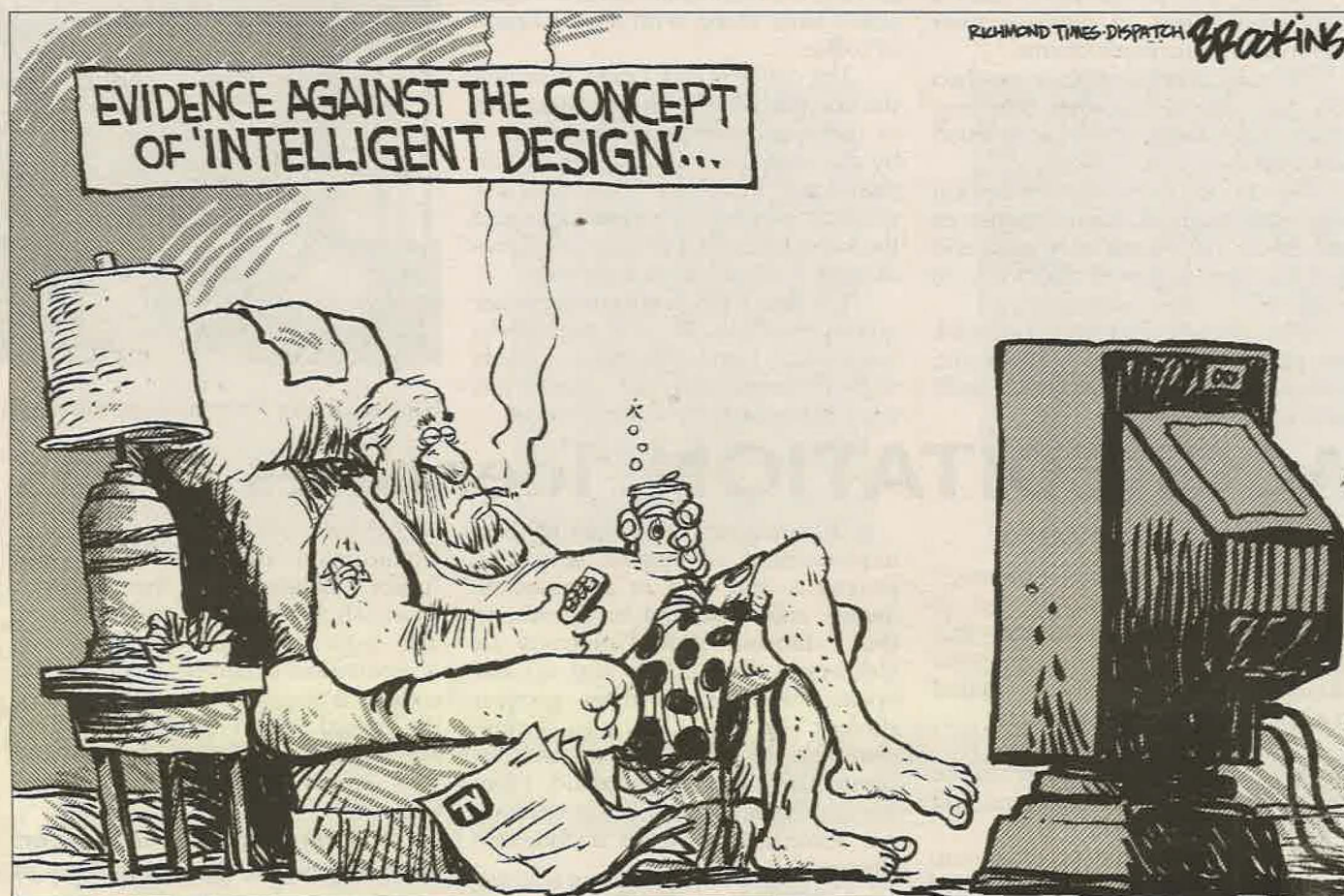
Recently President Bush cast intelligent design (ID) as the "other side" of the evolution "debate." ID proponents promote a false equivalence between these two competing ideas. In explaining the unity and diversity of life on earth, it is wrong to equate ID with evolution.

Among scientists, there are no credible challenges to evolution. All of the major scientific organizations in the U. S. agree that the theory of evolution is robust and serves as a major cornerstone of biology.

A scientific theory is a well-substantiated explanation of some aspect of the natural world that usually incorporates many confirmed observations, and successfully verified hypotheses. Hypotheses must, by definition, be testable. Among the general public, a theory is an idea. ID is not a scientific theory; it is merely a statement of a possibility. There are very few theories in science. These include the atomic theory, the theory of gravity, and the theory of evolution. Without the ability to test ID, it cannot be considered a theory in the scientific sense.

If ID is not science, then what is it? Richard Dawkins has said that, "Darwinian natural selection can produce an uncanny illusion of design. So powerful is the illusion of design, it took humanity until the mid-19th century to realize that it is an illusion." This perception of design is one part of the rationale behind the belief in ID.

The other factor in the push toward acceptance of ID is a misguided attempt to maintain and advance religious faith. The ID movement is financed and disseminated mostly from Christian sources, such as the Discovery Institute (which spends over \$1 million per year on public relations for ID) and the Templeton Foundation. Although many ID proponents deny the religious component, they are not being truthful. Is it a good idea to try to advance the cause of faith by disguising it as science? While all scientific knowledge is provisional - capable of being overturned when better answers are discovered - many people of faith have a view of the world that is the opposite of



provisional: everything is either black or white. I respect all persons of faith. However, theists are wrong to hold creation and evolution as mutually exclusive alternatives, and it is a mistake to take the Holy Scriptures as elementary textbooks of anthropology, astronomy, biology, and geology.

ID proponents base their "theory" on irreducible complexity, describing metabolic pathways and cellular structures that are so complex and organized that if you remove one component, they would cease to function. An analogy can be made to a watch. If you take away even one spring, it would be unable to keep accurate time.

The leading advocate of ID is probably Dr. Michael Behe, the author of "Darwin's Black Box." Behe's favorite example of an irreducibly complex device is the mousetrap. It consists of at least five working parts that are arranged in a specific way. If one part is removed, or if the arrangement is incorrect, Behe says that the mousetrap will fail to work.

Dr. Ken Miller debated Dr.

Behe on "intelligent design" at a forum in 2002. Miller demonstrated that the mousetrap could be made to work without one of its parts. Additionally, Miller was able to show that individual parts of the mouse trap could provide alternative, useful functions. Miller's point was to show that portions of a purported irreducibly complex structure could arise and provide for a positive selective advantage without being a part of the irreducibly complex whole. Behe had maintained that there would be no natural selection advantage (i.e. functional advantage) for an organism unless it had all of the parts in their correct arrangement of an irreducibly complex whole. Additionally, Dr. Miller and others have refuted in print the irreducible complexity of the mammalian blood clotting pathway as well as the bacterial flagellum.

The current ID examples of supposedly irreducible complexity are part of a long series of failed examples. In 1994, Behe himself asked: If whales evolved from land mammals, where are the missing

links? Unfortunately for him, he published this question in the very same year that the discoveries of not one, not two, but three different transitional fossil links between a four-legged land animal and whales were published!

In order to learn more about the details of both the arguments against ID as well as in favor of evolutionary theory, I refer the reader to a book by Dr. Ken Miller, Finding Darwin's God. In this book, Miller describes a "scientist's search for common ground between God and evolution." Dr. Miller is a Professor of Biology at Brown University, a co-author of widely used biology texts at both the high school and college level, a strong advocate of the teaching of evolution, and an evangelical Christian. On April 5, 2006, Dr. Miller will be speaking in Tuolumne County on the topic of evolution and intelligent design.

Proponents of ID never publish their arguments in major scientific journals, mainly because they are

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# Snack Bar improvements come at a cost

By SARAH JONES  
PANHANDLER STAFF

The cost of eating at the Snack Bar has gone up, and officials there say it's because of rising prices elsewhere and more expensive menu items.

Rising gas prices have caused food wholesalers to increase their minimum order requirements.

"If you don't buy \$500 in product you pay the next higher shipping cost," said Dean Zaharias, a Food Service supervisor.

Condiment items that are bought wholesale, such as lettuce, tomatoes and cheese, have gone up in price and that increase is passed along due to increased cost of shipping.

The overall increase in Snack bar prices is less than 10 percent, with most items going up by 25 to 75 cents.

Another reason for the increase is healthier items on the menu.

"Fast food is cheap," said Zaharias.

The cafeteria, in an attempt to improve student eating habits, added several healthier items, like organic cereals, Oddwalla juices and Odwalla snack bars, along with a new brand of coffee.

The coffee is Fair Trade, meaning the company helps improve the lives of coffee growers around the world by allowing them to farm and live on their land. In return, consumers are given an excellent grade of coffee and the knowledge that their money goes directly back to help the growers.

The Snack Bar is also using better quality products, for example iceberg lettuce has been replaced in salads with Romaine and jack cheese has replaced American on sandwiches.



DEBORAH WINTERS/PANHANDLER PHOTO

Higher prices haven't kept students away from the Snack Bar.

## ACCREDITATION: Identifies areas to improve

Continued from page 1

good at or things we need to do better," Gervin said. "Columbia created 26 Planning Agendas - standards - that need to change or improve to make us a better college. We are committed to accomplishing these agendas."

Some of them include:

- Expand library and reference service in off-campus locations and develop a staffing plan.

- Create a process to ensure that college-wide technology needs are guided by the Columbia College Technology Master Plan.

- Fill administrative position that will provide leadership and expertise to facilitate student learning with technology

- Revise Board of Trustee's policies to specify the consequences of violating the board's Code of Ethics.

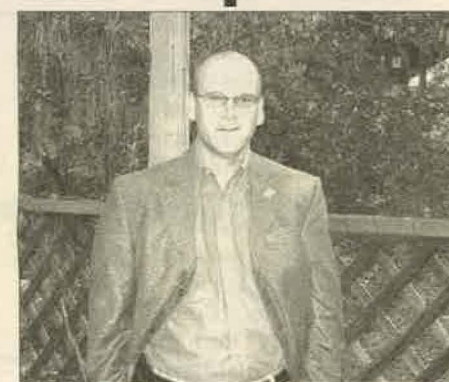
Kamara said the accreditation process benefits students.

"It enhances the eligibility and improvement of higher education programs that lead to an associate degree and may lead to transfer to the California State University or University of California systems and opens the door for more transfer choices," he said. "This means more resources to every department on campus including financial aid. From my understanding, colleges that are not accredited have no transferable classes."

Columbia College is fully

accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Community and Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. The most recent affirmation of this accreditation occurred in 2000. The college is listed in the directories of the United States Office of Education, American Council on Education, and Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

The complete self study report is posted on the Columbia College website [www.gocolumbia.org](http://www.gocolumbia.org).



Vice President Dennis Gervin

## DESIGN: It's theology, not science

Continued from page 3

more interested in advancing a religious cause than they are interested in science. Ken Miller writes, "They are using political and social tools to gain acceptance in the classroom that they are unable or unwilling to win in the scientific community." However, no scientific theory has ever been validated by legislation demanding its inclusion in the classroom.

Does ID or evolution by "descent with modification" offer valid explanations for both the unity and diversity of life on earth? I agree with Theodosius Dobzhansky, who said, "Nothing in biology makes sense except in the light of evolution." Take vitamin C as an example. Humans and chimpanzees are rare among mammals in their inability to synthesize vitamin C. Both humans and chimpanzees require preformed vitamin C in their diet for optimal health, with

a deficiency of vitamin C causing scurvy in humans. Additionally, both humans and chimpanzees possess a "decommissioned" (defective) pseudogene for vitamin C, and, just as evolutionary theory predicted, the chimp and human pseudogenes are closely related.

In fact, they are so closely related that they contain the exact same defect: a rare missing code letter (a deletion), and in the exact same position in the pseudogene! Anyone familiar with Darwin's "descent with modification" theory would easily understand these results.

However, why would the intelligent designer create essentially the same nonfunctioning vitamin C pseudogene in humans and chimpanzees, but an intact vitamin C gene in most other mammals including small monkeys?

What is the evidence in favor of ID? Simply saying, "It looks like design to me" is not considered to

be evidence in science. The current absence of knowledge regarding the origin of a structure or a pathway based on scientific ignorance in 2005 is not positive evidence in favor of irreducible complexity. This is often referred to as the "God of the gaps." In other words, if something is beyond comprehension today, some people invoke God or some other designer in order to explain it. However, "you haven't explained everything yet," is not a competing hypothesis! What will happen to their position in the future when the mechanisms of their pet phenomena are explained? ID is not scientific. It involves public relations, religious faith and politics. ID is not science, and, therefore, it has no place in a science classroom.

See Evolution, Creationism and Intelligent Design links on my web page @ <http://www.gocolumbia.org/hodgej/Default.htm>

## Baker

Continued from page 1

from the Forest Service to hold classes there, but the official paperwork had not gone through.

"Without permission, the college wasn't able to advertise the station and the new classes being offered at the station," Williams said. "The college was surprised that we had as many student enroll as we did. After all there were eight students for the backpacking class alone; next year we even expect more classes and more students."



# NEWS

## Woodcarvings come home to library

BY WHITNEY PAYNE  
PANHANDLER STAFF

Chances are, if you have been in the library recently you noticed the works of art hanging on the wall.

If you haven't noticed, well, you're just missing out.

Six different wood carvings grace the walls of the library, each of them a part of a different Bret Harte mining story. However, the real story is who made the carvings and how they ended up at Columbia at all.

It goes back to 1980 when Columbia's president was Dusty Rhodes and his wife's father, Lucien D. Hertert was part of the California Carvers Guild Corporation. The guild had more than 1,350 members statewide and many of its members carve for fun. The Santa Clara Valley Chapter, which includes the three carvers who created the six wood carvings, had a proposition for the college: If Columbia bought the wood, the carvers would create the carvings and donate them to the college.

"The carvings never would have existed if a special connection hadn't been there between Lucien and his daughter," said Librarian Larry Steuben.

The wood is Jelutong, imported from Malaysia, and used because of its light weight and ability to hold carvings exceptionally well. Separate pieces are glued together to make one giant smooth piece of wood.

Then the woodcarvers spend hundreds of hours on each scene are spent to create the final piece. Three different carvers each carved two scenes and had so much fun that they decided to create a seventh, which also hangs in the library.

Lucien D. Hertert created the two panels "Luck of the Roaring Camp" and "The Devotion of Enriquez," which hang to the left. Heschel Paul Clowers created "Salomy Jane's Kiss" and "Idyll of Red Gulch," which hang in the middle, and Will Currie carved "The Outcasts of Poker Flat" and "A Gentleman of La Porte" which hang to the right.

The carving "El Campo de los Sonoraensis," which translates to Sonoran Camp, hangs by the computer lab. This carving depicts a scene from the William Perkins Journal from before the gold rush.

All of these carvings were made



WHITNEY PAYNE/PANHANDLER PHOTO

**Woodcarvings depicting area history are once again hanging in the Columbia library.**

for the old library. When the new library was built they couldn't be put up right away because the building warranty specified nothing could be attached to the wall for one year. So the carvings remained in the Manzanita building until they could be brought to the new library.

"Now the carvings are visible and can thoroughly been enjoyed by all the students and faculty," said Steuben.

In the dark-walled Manzanita Building, the carvings went unnoticed and blended directly into the wall.

Moving the carvings was easy.

They were remarkably light weight and took only a few hours to put up, rather than the six to eight months it took to carve them.

"When they brought the first carving in, the staff gathered around and said, 'It's starting to look like home,'" Steuben said.

## Professor's story published in book

The short story "Long 'i,' Silent 'e'" written by English professor Rick Rivera made the cut to be printed in "Chicken Soup for the Latino Soul."

Rivera was asked to submit the story by Chicken Soup collection editor Susan Sanchez-Casal about one year ago.

"Susan described the project to me as an assortment of stories, showcasing the Latino culture and the Latino community," Rivera said. "I had written a short story five or six years ago about a humorous experience with my mother while dining out that I felt would work."

Rivera has written two novels, "A Fabricated Mexican" and "Stars Always Shine." He was the youngest

of nine children and lived in several locations in the Central Valley and currently lives in Mi-Wuk. His father spoke only Spanish and his mother spoke broken English, but that didn't stop them from leaving a Texas-Mexico border town for field work in Modesto in the 1940s. Rivera's father died at age 57 leaving his mother to provide for the big family of ten by working in the fields.

Rivera's sister gave him much encouragement during his early 30s and he began attending Santa Rosa Junior College and received an A.A. degree. He then attended Sonoma State University and received a

See, RIVERA, page 6



Rick Rivera



# Students benefit from technology center

By **DANNY SHEPHERD**  
PANHANDLER STAFF

In Tamarack Hall, there is a room of technological wonders.

It is the Instructional Technology Center (ITC), and instructors use it for many things, including their Power Point presentations, photo scanning, WebCT help, and multimedia presentations.

Jim Toner, who recently used the center to record the Hurricane Katrina Forum, also utilizes the room in his Film Appreciation class. Students are expected to make two short films over the course of the semester, and both the staff and computers in the ITC are well-equipped to help students with their editing.

Randy Bartok, the ITC's student worker, is anxious to help students with this task.

"I had such a great time editing last semester," Bartok said, "that I want to do it some more this semester. I mean, I can't edit it for them, but I want to at least help out."

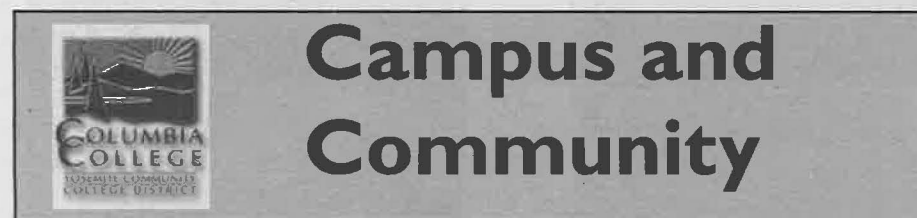
In the mean time, Bartok has been making a tutorial for Adobe Premiere Pro and helping make a video presentation of the Hurricane Katrina Forum.

The other person working in the ITC is Melissa Colon, the ITC coordinator and Informational Technology Instructor. She is a great resource for instructors and students alike, as she is well-acquainted with all of the programs that the ITC offers.

"We have sessions every Friday for all sorts of programs," she said. "Instructors just come in and we go over the basics. Sometimes we get only one or two people, other times we get about five."

Last semester, limited hours were a problem for a few students wishing to edit their movies, but this semester, the ITC is open 21 hours a week, including Friday sessions for instructors wishing to learn about FrontPage, WebCT, Power Point, and an anti-plagiarism tool called Turnitin.

"There's a flier that tells you everything we're covering during the month," Colon said.



## Campus and Community

## King Lear to be analyzed

A Community Education class to study Shakespeare's King Lear will be held on Saturday, October 8 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in room 18-1 of the college's Manzanita Building, room 18-1 and on Sunday, October 9 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Sonora Repertory Theater. A buffet lunch will be provided by the college's culinary students on Saturday.

Shakespeare's King Lear will be analyzed and studied in a Columbia College classroom, followed by viewing Sierra Repertory Theatre's performance of the play on the second day.

Instructor Laura Bozanich has worked as an actor and teacher for the past ten years. She has appeared locally with Sonora Repertory Theater as well as with acting companies in Southern California and England.

Bozanich also writes and produces her own work, as well as recently engaging in teaching at Columbia College.

Cost for the class is \$30 and includes the registration fee and buffet lunch. Tickets for the Sonora Repertory Theater performance are additional.

For more information, contact Trudy Lackey at 588-5144.

## Faculty and staff art exhibit

The theme of this year's faculty and staff art exhibit is New! New artists, new directions and new themes.

Highlights include a stunning black-and-white study of Yosemite's Half Dome by Peter Lee who teaches comparative religion here on campus. Laurie Sylwester shows off her success with the camera in a blindingly brilliant yellow and red street scene in one photo and a subtly colored landscape of distant mountains behind a lake and a lone tree in the foreground.

Other highlights include a huge mixed media work by Gereon Rios, photography by Jessie Pearson and Thad Waterbury, and a delicate graffiti drawing on dried fungus by Cheryl Divine-Jonas.

The exhibit is on display in the Rotunda of the Manzanita Building through October 12. Hours are Monday to Thursday 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Fridays 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

There is no charge for admission.

## Students in ceramics show

Columbia ceramics art faculty and a selection of Columbia College students are being featured in the ceramic show that opened Sat. October 1. The show will run through November 5 at the Central Sierra Arts Council, 48 S. Washington Street, Sonora. Please join us throughout the month; there will be demonstrations held each Saturday.

## U.C. Extension helps farmers and students

By **ROYAL H. GARRISON IV**  
PANHANDLER STAFF

University of California Cooperative Extension County of Tuolumne came to the Mother Lode in late 1947 and serves as an outreach to local farmers and community members through a joint program with University of California Berkeley, Davis and Riverside.

This program offers extended information and research based knowledge from the University system to help bring about positive changes in the lives of community members in the areas of youth development, natural resources, family and consumer sciences, and agriculture.

The University of California Cooperative Extension program offers informal, one-on-one, or group seminars, workshops, computer programs, meetings, newsletters, newspaper articles, farm and home visits, radio programs, and office calls.

The U.C. Cooperative Extension program conducts classes in Food Stamp Nutrition Education. This is a class taught by Jenia Harrison, a community health program representative. There is a Master Gardner program headed by Becky Miller-Cripps. The volunteer teachers in the Master Gardner program were all trained at the U.C. Davis, to assist community members with home horticulture questions.

"We train several times a year, going to different campus around Northern California," said Miller-Cripps.

The U.C. Statewide Integrated Pest Management Program is also a program set in place by the Cooperative Extension and U.C. Davis to answer questions concerning pest problems in inside and outside gardens. This and many other programs are available free to community members.

This is also great resource for college students as well. Miller-Cripps has lectured in Professor Micha Miller's biology class at Columbia College, and students can avail themselves of valuable information for essays and reports.

## Rivera

Continued from page 5

bachelor's degree in humanities and a master's degree in English. He taught English composition for eight years at Modesto Junior College before accepting a job at Columbia College for the fall semester of 2005.

Rivera is the keynote speaker at a workshop for educators of English learners, entitled Crossing Borders, Connecting Cultures: Ensuring Success for English Learners. The event will be held October 8 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Sierra Hall at the Modesto Junior College West Campus. The cost is \$20 for California Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages members and \$30 for nonmembers.

For more information, call Beverly Di Salvo at (209) 384-6318, or Tricia Lima at (209) 525-4906.





# The Spot

Good section!

Arts & Entertainment

## Natural Bridges make a cool retreat

By SKY KAUFMAN  
PANHANDLER STAFF

Natural Bridges is a majestic wonder that has lured people from all walks of life into its depths for over a hundreds years.

Best of all, they're nearby.

Natural Bridges are actually two different land bridges that cross over Coyote Creek.

Many people like to swim downstream through the upper bridge. Inside, the water stays at a constant temperature. The upper bridge is a popular swimming hole in the summer time.

Clothing is optional.

"The numbing water feel is good after a long, hot day," said Lisa Bledsoe, who recently visited the bridges on a field trip with her dendrology class. "It's the coolest thing I've done in my life."

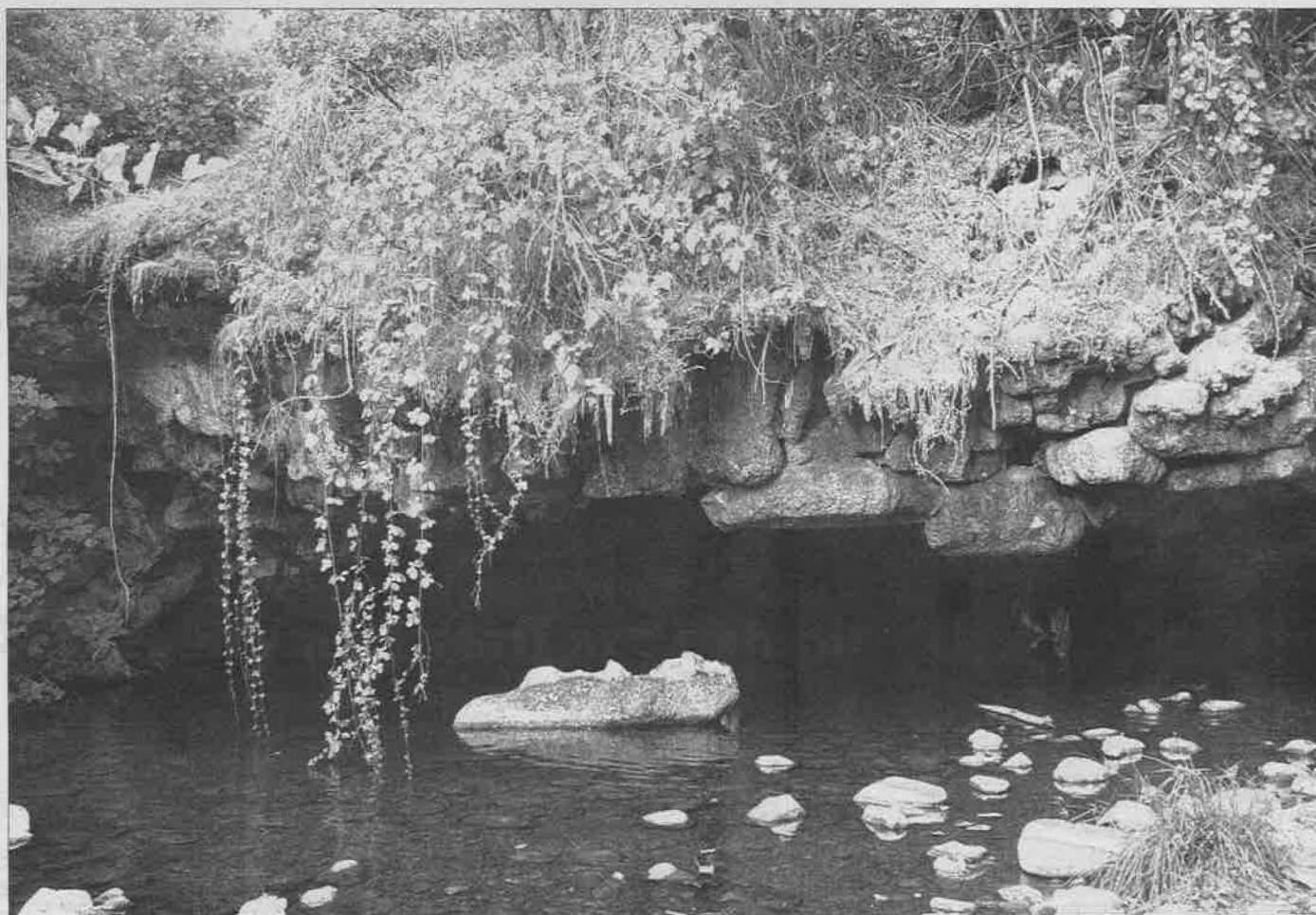
The trailhead to reach the bridges is located one mile past the Calaveras County line going north on Parrots Ferry Road. Look for signs. A three-quarter mile hike downhill will lead to the first bridge.

The trail still includes part of an old spur road built by T.J. Madison that was used to ascend into the Coyote Creek Valley. The trail is easy, but watch out for protruding rocks. There are a couple of picnic benches that were put in by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. The bridges are part of the New Melones Recreation Area and the bureau maintains the trail.

Jaime Paquin, a Columbia College student from Florida, also visited the bridges with the dendrology class.

"I was blown away because I didn't expect it to be here," she said. "There's nothing like this where I'm from."

There is some interesting history attached to the bridges.



SKY KAUFMAN/PANHANDLER PHOTO

Colleen Costa (left) and Lisa Bledsoe explore Natural Bridges with their Columbia dendrology class.

James Hutchings described the east entrance of the upper bridge in his book "Scenes of Wonder and Curiosity in California" written in 1862.

"Approaching the upper bridge from the east, along the strewn, the entrance beneath presents the appearance of noble Gothic arch of massive stone-work, thirty-two feet in height above the water, and twenty-five feet in width at the abutments; while the rock and earth

above, supported by the arch, are thirty or more feet in thickness, and overgrown to some extent with trees and shrubbery."

There is also a waterfall just inside the west entrance of the upper bridge.

L.A. Barnes, known as "Old Batch," was the official caretaker of the bridge area during the early days. He had mining claims along the creek and built a couple of cabins. Travellers would stay overnight and it was popular with honeymooners.

Inside the bridges are stalactites and stalagmites. Stalactites are coned shaped limestone that has gradually built up as a deposit from ground water seeping and hang from the roof of the caves. Stalagmites are on the bottom of caves and point upward.

According to Patti Guida, from the Melones Visitor's Center, the inside of the caves are very sensitive to being touched and oil from a person's hand will stop further growth of the formations.



# Acting club bringing 'Snoopy' to stage

BY ANDY CLEMO  
PANHANDLER STAFF

Four members of ACCLAIM, the student acting club of Columbia College are sitting on the ground inside a teepee.

Outside, a storm is brewing. You can feel the static electricity bristling in the air. Someone is playing a didgeridoo. The low hypnotic sound reverberates around inside the teepee.

"You could totally make a bong out of one of those," said Shane Hark.

ACCLAIM stands for Actors of Columbia College Lackadaisically Acting In Minimalism. The club started out with three guys, Anthony DePage, Hark and Jordan Horth.

"What we really hope to accomplish is to create something that will live on after we graduate," said DePage. "It's a good club because we all work together. Everyone does everything together. We have some really good times. It's a lot of fun."

Last semester, they performed a play called "A 1959 Pink Thunderbird." The next performance will be "Snoopy," a musical scheduled for November 17-20.

The club chose Snoopy because it will be a fun, family musical that everyone can enjoy, said DePage. Auditions took place September 26.

"I am so nervous, I feel like I have butterflies fluttering out of my mouth," said Sean Close.

He wasn't the only one.

"I don't know if I am going to



ANDY CLEMO/PANHANDLER PHOTO

Columbia actors rehearse a dance routine for the November performance of 'Snoopy.'

make it. This is the first time I have acted in a musical since I was a little kid," said Leena Vantrece.

Director Ellen Stewart had high hopes for the auditions.

"We are looking for six voices to jump out that can sing their hearts out and sell the lines that tell their

stories," she said.

Fifteen people showed up to try out for the parts of Snoopy, Charlie Brown, Linus, Lucy, Sally and Woodstock, as well as other characters. They began with a round of warm-up exercises which included singing scales and counting off into

groups of three to rehearse a short dance routine.

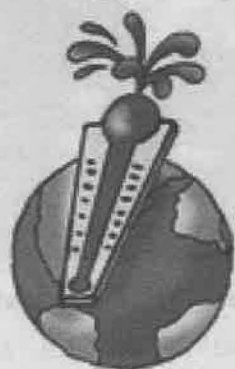
"It is really exciting to see everything coming together," said DePage. "With the level of talent and professionalism we have going into this play, it is going to be an amazing production."

## Global warming forum coming October 14

Views on the history of global warming and the uncertainty of its future effects on California will be the focus of Columbia College's public forum on Friday, Oct. 14 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. in the college's Dogwood Theatre.

Featured speaker Dr. Philip B. Duffy is a research scientist at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and is an associate adjunct professor in the School of Natural Sciences at UC Merced. He is also director of the University of California's Institute for Research on Climate Change and its Societal Impacts (IRCCSI).

Dr. Duffy will provide evidence of global climate changes throughout the 20th century and distinguish between climate changes of natural origin and those caused by humankind. He will highlight the impacts of climate



changes on our water availability, air quality and human health. Along with his projections on the uncertain future of worldwide climate, he will also present his understanding of how it might impact our state and in particular, our water system.

Dr. Duffy holds a B.S. degree from Harvard University in astrophysics

and a Ph.D. from Stanford University in applied physics. He has published papers in astrophysics, atomic physics and climate research.

There is no charge for admission or parking to attend the forum.

For more information, contact Jim Toner at 588-5226.

### Truly Trivial Answers

1. May 15, 1940 (also marketed by manufacturer Du Pont as "N-Day")
2. Carter
3. 3 miles
4. Jack Nicholson
5. Ukraine
6. Cartwright
7. Louis Philippe
8. Marble (also slate or soapstone)
9. Voltaire
10. From the top

### — King Crossword — Answers

S	T	R	A	P	H	A	S	S	L	E
G	A	R	A	G	E	A	V	A	T	A
O	R	I	S	O	N	L	O	G	A	N
P	A	S	T	C	R	O	W	N	E	E
			A	C	H	E	S	A	D	
A	B	S	P	A	L	S	M	O	M	S
M	A	K	E	A	N	O	T	E	O	F
A	N	E	W	T	A	R	E	F	R	Y
			L	E	G	D	E	L	E	
A	C	E	E	L	S	A	F	L	U	B
R	O	T	A	T	E	K	A	R	A	T
A	D	O	N	I	S	E	L	E	V	E
T	E	N	A	N	T	R	E	M	A	P



# SPORTS

## X-C team faces a tough road ahead



By SKY KAUFMAN  
PANHANDLER STAFF

When is the last time you ran three miles with out stopping?

Imagine running up and down hills for three miles in the hot sun with very little to drink trying to beat the clock. That's what the men and women of the cross-country do five days a week. The team is new this year.

"You got to like to run", said Head Coach Tony O'Geen. "When you first start it's not very fun. After you build your strength and endurance you feel like a machine"

The team faces a few obstacles.

"This year's rough," O'Geen said. "I'm used to having 40 to 50 kids, but this year I have only nine. Most schools have lots of mile over us."

Brian Forbes ran by himself before joining the team.

"I need a good challenge and the coach pushes you pretty good," he said.

Forbes is optimistic about the first year.

"We're pioneering this thing," he said. "We're not going to break any records, but we're going to run as fast as we can."

The team has already competed in

Julie Claspill (left), Jeanette Massey and Ellie McCracken pace themselves during practice.

SKY KAUFMAN/PANHANDLER PHOTO

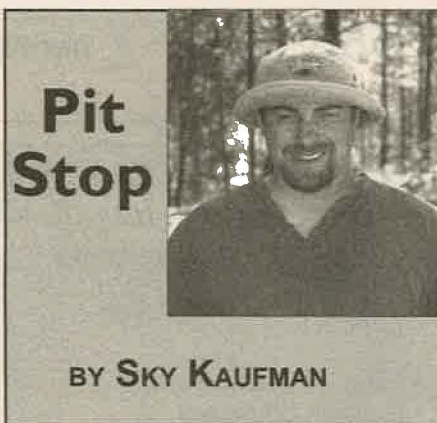
See RUNNERS, page 10

## Oakland Raiders are missing their mojo

What is up with the Oakland Raiders? They started the season by losing three games and they lost all the preseason games.

Things looked promising in the first game against defending Super Bowl champs the New England Patriots. The Raiders scored on their first drive and then the Raiders defense held the Patriots to three points the very next drive. The Raiders had the mojo workin' and led going into half time. During the second half the Raiders quarterback Kerry Collins was sacked numerous times breaking his rhythm and the teams' momentum. The Raiders lost that game 20-30.

In the second game, against their division rivals the Kansas City Chiefs, Raiders new receiver Randy Moss scored on 64-yard touch down pass.



Kansas began to triple team Moss and began putting together some long drives for some field goals. Late in the game Kansas City marched down the field and sealed the victory with a field goal. The Raiders lost again, 17-23.

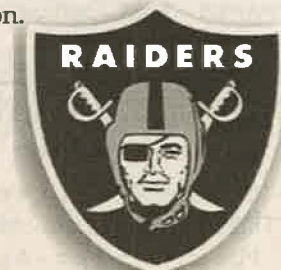
In the game against the Philadelphia Eagles the Raiders looked to turn things around. The game was really close and came down to an Eagles field goal attempt at the end of the game with nine seconds on the clock. Eagle's kicker David Ackers was playing with an injured leg but that didn't stop him from kicking the 42-yard field goal. Once again the Raiders lost, 20-23.

There is no doubt in my mind that the Raiders have the players on both sides of the ball that can deliver the plays. The Raiders must win a game to establish some mojo and carry that into the rest of the season. They are currently 0-3 and at the bottom of their division.

How can the Raiders turn things around? First by establishing a running game. Kerry Collins must

find his rhythm by passing to the open man and not focus on always finding Randy Moss. Moss must avoid getting offensive pass interference penalties during pivotal plays in the game. Also Sebastian Janikowski needs to nail his field goal attempts so that the team will not lose at the very end of the game by three points.

Head Coach Norv Turner better make changes quick if he hopes to redeem himself and the Raider Nation.





# RUNNERS: Small team runs with pride

Continued from page 9

two invitational meets, at Fresno and Folsom, finishing 100th and 134th. O'Geen's goal is that his runners will pick up their times and placements and move the entire team up in the standings.

"I'm looking for kids to improve and to have pride in what they have done," O'Geen said.

The team looks forward to the

competing with MJC, our sister college, and has a rough road ahead going to Delta College and American River College soon.

"Bigger schools have faster teams and seem to have an advantage so far this season," said Forbes.

Practice is the key to success. Practice days are broken up into distance days, speed days, and trail speed work. On distance days the team will run six to 11 miles; during speed days they run the 400 meter dash 12 times at race pace, and the run a quarter mile loop four times on Kennebec Hill behind the Oak Pavilion.

Other training consists of running the 200 meter eight times and running the par course around the college twice.

O'Geen has been teaching cross-country at Bret Harte High School in Angels Camp for 37 years and is still coaching for there.



SKY KAUFMAN/PANHANDLER PHOTO

Brian Forbers (left) and Ryan Flowers train.

## HEALTH SERVICES OFFICE

Juniper Building Room 2

Reminds you



MENTAL HEALTH  
COUNSELING

is

FREE

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And Thursday AM

Call 588-5204

Or stop by the office  
To set up your time

## Volleyball spikes MJC for third straight win

The Columbia College volleyball team won its third straight match last week by beating arch-rival Modesto Junior College in four games.

The home win September 28 came with scores of 26-30, 30-22, 30-26, 30-26.

The win improved the Claim Jumpers to 3-1 in the Central Valley Conference.

Sophomore Jessica Fernandez led the team with 20 kills and 12 digs.

Kim Lorenzen had 10 kills, while Casey Geyer had nine, Adrianna Tovar four, Kayla Rodgers two and Holly Barton one.

Andrea Alves served four aces,

Barton three, Lorenzen two and Geyer one; Tovar had nine digs, Geyer and Rodgers seven digs, Barton and Lorenzen six, and Alves one; Lorenzen and Geyer had two blocks, Fernandez and Barton one; and Barton set for 22 assists, Geyer five, Fernandez four, and Rodgers and Alves one.

The victory over MJC came after home wins over Merced College and a road victory at West Hills College in Colinga.

## Financial Aid Myth #9



**Myth:** "It's too late to apply for financial aid; I missed the September 2nd deadline."

**Reality:** While you may have missed the September 2nd deadline for 2005-2006 Cal Grant awards, you can apply for Federal grants or submit your fee waiver application at any time.

**Submit your FAFSA\* today!**

- Submit your FAFSA online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
- File from home or use the Financial Aid computer lab
- Submit a paper FAFSA by mail

\* FAFSA = Free Application for Federal Student Aid

### Upcoming Financial Aid Workshops

all in the FA Office

Tuesday, 9/21, 3 pm - 4 pm  
Thursday, 9/29, 11 am - Noon  
Monday, 10/3, 3 pm - 4 pm

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

## Advertise in THE PANHANDLER!

588-5388      [panhandler@yosemite.cc.ca.us](mailto:panhandler@yosemite.cc.ca.us)

## COLUMBIA COLLEGE AUXILIARY SERVICES

Check us out, we are here for you

### MANZANITA BOOKSTORE

Mon - Thurs 7:30 - 6:30  
Fridays 7:30 - 3:00

- Gifts -- for everyone
- Balloon bouquets
- Logo clothing
- Food, candy & snacks

**Fall Columbia Logo Sale**  
20% off, October 6 - 14  
Don't miss out on this great sale!

### SNACK BAR

Mon - Thurs 7:30 - 3:00  
Fridays 7:30 - 1:30

CHECK OUT OUR NEW AND EXCITING ITEMS

- Fair Trade Organic Coffee
- Odwalla Juices & Bars
- Organic Peace Cereals
- Yogi Organic Tea

MADE FRESH DAILY

- Salads
- Sandwiches
- Soups



# Diversity conference coming soon at MJC

The Yosemite Community College District, Seeds of Wisdom and Ceres Unified School District will cosponsor a Diversity and Human Rights Conference entitled "Economic Empowerment & Social Justice by Embracing Diversity."

The two-day event will be held on Thursday, October 27, 6:30 to 8 p.m. and Friday, October 28, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Mary Stuart Rogers student center located on Modesto Junior College's West Campus.

The event is free to the public.

The Conference is consistent with the mission of our district's nationally acclaimed "Beyond Tolerance Initiative," said YCCD Chancellor Jim Williams.

The purpose of the conference is to bring together youth, their parents and teachers, as well as business

leaders and area community members to help address issues of sensitivity and diversity throughout the greater Central Valley.

The opening night, October 27, will feature keynote speaker Reverend Cecil "Chip" Murray of the First AME Church in Los Angeles.

Reverend Murray was assigned to Los Angeles' oldest black congregation. It had 300 active members in 1977, and the congregation has grown to over 17,500 now.

Notable facets of his congregation's "Take the Church Beyond the Walls" design include raising \$4 million for the physically disabled, reclaiming communities from drugs and gangs by men's nightly patrol and prison ministries, raising \$5 million for transportation

programs for seniors and disabled, and others.

The program will conclude October 28 with separate sessions on topics such as Vocational/Technical Education, Building Economic Wealth, Hate Crimes, Civil Rights, Gangs, Employment, Small Business Ownership, Health Issues and Health

Services.

Pre-registration is required as lunch will be provided.

For more information or a registration form, contact Timothy Daniels, at (209) 652-2109 or the Chancellor's Office at (209) 575-6959.

## Food service training planned

Columbia College will offer training and certification for food service workers in April.

The course, called Serving Safe Food, will offer seven hours of training designed by the Educational Foundation of the National Restaurant Association.

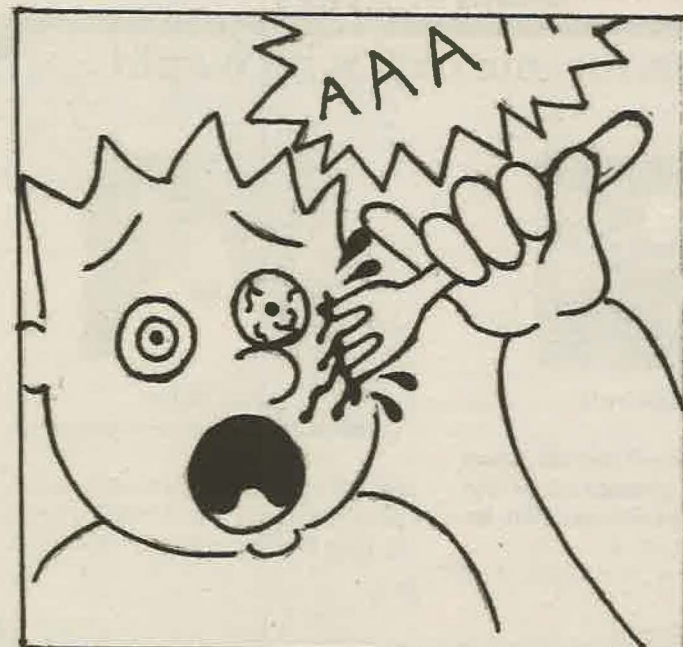
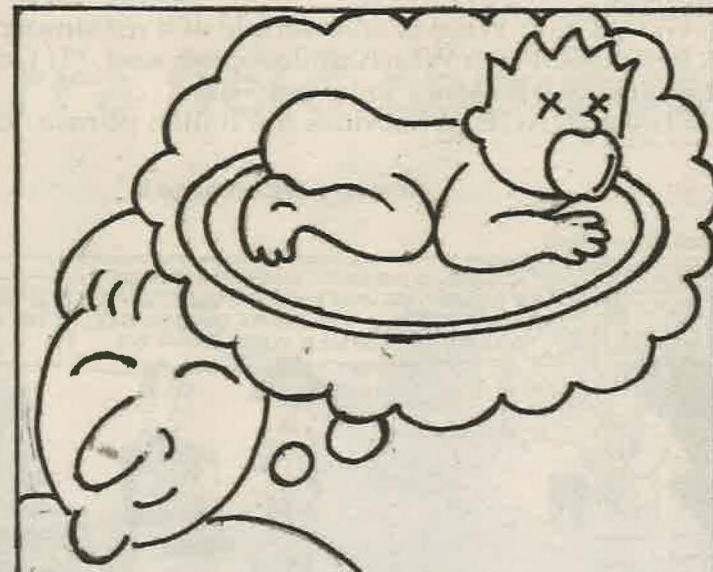
After training is complete, students take the ServSafe

Certification examination, which meets the knowledge requirements of the California Uniform Retail Food Facility Law.

Jason Boetzer, an employee of the Calaveras County Environmental Health Department, will conduct the class on two Mondays, April 18 and 25 from 5 to 9 p.m. in Manzanita 18-1 on the college campus.

## MY THOUGHTS ON CANNIBALISM...

by Andy Clemo





# PASTTIMES

## Truly Trivial

By Fifi Rodriquez

1. INVENTIONS: When did nylon stockings first appear on the market?
2. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president signed the treaty giving the Panama Canal back to Panama?
3. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Generally, how many miles must one travel offshore to be in international waters?
4. MOVIES: Who starred in the 1975 movie "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest"?
5. GEOGRAPHY: The Crimean Peninsula is part of which republic?
6. TELEVISION: What was the family's name on the long-running Western "Bonanza"?
7. HISTORY: Which French king abdicated during the Revolution of 1848?
8. GEOLOGY: What is an example of a metamorphic rock?
9. PHILOSOPHY: Which philosopher said, "If God did not exist, it would be necessary to invent Him."
10. LANGUAGE: What does the Italian phrase "de capo" mean?

Answers are on page 8

Out on a Limb

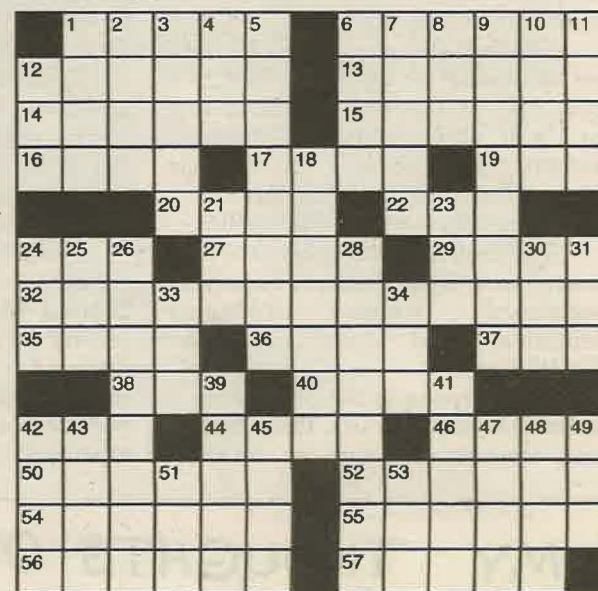
by Gary Kopervas



## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Watchband
- 6 Turmoil
- 12 Sale site
- 13 Incarnation of a Hindu deity
- 14 Prayer
- 15 1976 movie, "Run"
- 16 Tense situation?
- 17 Boast
- 19 Born
- 20 Rue the run
- 22 Blue
- 24 Tummy muscles
- 27 The gang
- 29 Mid-May honorees
- 32 "Don't forget"
- 35 From the top
- 36 Container weight
- 37 Sauté
- 38 Stocking stuffer
- 40 Take out of context?
- 42 Hardware chain
- 44 "Born Free" heroine
- 46 Blunder
- 50 Spin
- 52 Chopping spree?
- 54 Handsome youth
- 55 "Spinal Tap" amp setting
- 56 Lease signato-



ry  
57 Change the chart

### DOWN

- 1 - Lee
- 2 Speaker of baseball
- 3 Selassie worshipping
- 4 Way back when
- 5 Inclination
- 6 Head light
- 7 Makes an assertion
- 8 Succumb to gravity
- 9 Tie
- 10 Country road
- 11 Gaelic
- 12 Bush league?
- 18 Takes on another cargo
- 21 Figure head? (Abbr.)
- 23 Latin 101 word
- 24 Docs' org.
- 25 Proscribe
- 26 Structural framework
- 28 One who jogs sans togs
- 30 Russian spacecraft
- 31 Pigs' digs
- 33 Ram's ma'am
- 34 Slithery one
- 39 Invitation to a hitchhiker
- 41 Actor
- 42 Smell - (suspect)
- 43 "The Da Vinci"
- 45 For fear that
- 47 Stromboli spillage
- 48 Lone Star State sch.
- 49 Stiller or Steh
- 51 Literary collection
- 53 Pub potation

Answers are on page 8

## On the Street: If you could be any famous person for one day, who would it be and why?



Skyla Hartsinck

Princess Diana - because she didn't use her fame for her own benefit, but to benefit others. I was pretty young when she died -- but I was devastated.



Al Hanson

Michael Jordan - I collect basketball, and all sports, card. I love basketball and Michael I my favorite player.



Cody Edwards

George W. Bush - I would work my butt off and change all of the environmental problems that he has caused!



Jim Wiley  
Learning Disabilities Specialists

Matt Cain - the 21-year old pitcher for the Giants. As a kid I wanted to play 2nd base for the Yankees.