

THE PANHANDLER

Columbia College's New Student Newspaper

Vol. 2, Issue 5

November 16, 2005

Columbia getting shortchanged?

By DEBORAH WINTERS
PANHANDLER STAFF

Columbia College isn't getting its full share of funding, according to the college's accreditation self study, and should get more money to cover the relatively higher costs of serving students at a smaller institution.

"The cost per full-time equivalent student is not really out of line for a small college," said Columbia President Jim Riggs. "It is the basic costs that are not being taken into consideration, for example grounds maintenance and the administrative structure."

Columbia College is part of the Yosemite Community College District, with Modesto Junior College. Because the District offices are located at Modesto Junior College, some of MJC's expenses are covered by District Central Services.

At MJC, for instance, security and business services are paid for out of the District's Central Services budget. At Columbia, these services come out of the college budget.

Growth has also been an issue.

Columbia has grown over 30 percent in the past six years and received funding to cover additional part-time instructors but no funding

"It is the basic costs that are not being taken into consideration."

President Jim Riggs

for any additional student services such as tutors, classroom supplies, or programs and services for students.

Being small also hurts Columbia's per-student funding.

"With smaller class sizes at

Columbia we don't enjoy the large return of 'lecture hall' classes," Riggs said.

A task force has been formed to look for additional resources to fund operations, Riggs said. This will be even more important as new buildings come to Columbia, the accreditation study found.

"In fact, improvements in the level of funding are needed if the college is to continue to support its current offerings," the self-study stated. "This will be particularly the case as new facilities funded by the recently passed bond measure are brought on line."

Fire students learn to cut open cars

By SKY KAUFMAN
PANHANDLER STAFF

Pop Quiz: You're driving to school. On Sawmill Flat Road, you come upon a head-on collision between an SUV and a sedan that occurred only moments before. The car is upside down, heavily damaged, and the driver is pinned between the steering wheel and the dashboard.

What do you do?

Call 911.

Fire fighters from the Columbia College Fire

Training Academy will get there soon and they know what to do. They have the right training and tools for prying the vehicle away from the pinned person's body without injuring the person further. Any other effort could be harmful to your health and the driver's health.

Last week, members of the Academy practiced automobile extractions using the "Jaws of Life" and other speciality tools.

The training is part of the 380 hours of training

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Snoopy opens Friday on campus.

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SKY KAUFMAN/PANHANDLER PHOTO

Columbia Fire Technology students practice automobile extraction techniques.

NEWS

Health fee waiver will be eliminated

BY DANNY SHEPHERD
PANHANDLER STAFF

Because of a new state law, all Columbia College students will have to pay the Student Health Fee, including low-to moderate-income students who used to get a waiver.

Not everyone is happy about that, but Columbia College President Jim Riggs said having everyone pay the \$13 fee will go a long way to improve the school's health care system.

"The benefits of having a strong health services program far out weigh the minimal cost of the fee," said Riggs, "The new revenue that will be received from the removal of the

waiver will permit the College to continue, and possibly increase our behavioral and emotional health services as well as expand our other health services programs."

Currently, 142 of Columbia's 1,690 students qualify for the waiver.

Eliminating the waiver was supported state-wide by community college student organizations.

Connie Mical, Columbia College's Chief Operations Officer, also thinks it's a good idea.

"Because of recent support by the state to increase the numbers of students on financial aid, the waiver of health fees has inadvertently caused a crisis in health services funding,"

she explained. "Statewide, students have understood that without the fee, health services must be reduced, or worse health centers may close."

And if that happens, students will spend a lot more going to an off-campus clinic.

"Without the college's health services, students may pay three to four times the \$13 fee for a single visit to a community physician or clinic," Mical said. "The college is committed to help our neediest students access any other alternative resources that may assist them with the cost of the health fee."

The change will take effect in the summer 2006 term.



President Jim Riggs.

Students hit the road for marine field studies

BY DEBORAH WINTERS
PANHANDLER STAFF

Patrick Koepele, Oceanography instructor at Columbia College, takes his class on the road for hands-on learning.

"The field trips are designed to give students an idea how field work is done," said Koepele. "One of the most important and enjoyable aspects of doing any branch of natural science is field work."

In September, the class traveled to Monterey for a tour of the Elkhorn

Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve and the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

The objective of the trip was to discover the importance of Elkhorn Slough to the coastal environment, the variety of marine habitats and the variety of strategies organisms use to survive in these habitats.

"This was an exciting opportunity for hands-on experience," said student Scott Kaiser. "It helps to be able to apply information that you read to actual places and events."

"Seeing the restoration projects and the Stanislaus River Weir Projects was well worth the journey."

Student Roy Shimp

On October 29, the class made a second trip into the field to study

watersheds, sediment transport, hydrology and water resources at the San Pedro Dam Visitor's Center.

They then went on to Old La Grange Bridge for discussions on the life history and biology of salmon and the Tuolumne River Salmon Restoration project.

"This is my first trip with the class and I'm really excited," said student Kirsten Hexberg. "I'm a tactile and kinetic learner - I learn best by seeing

See MARINE, page 7



DEBORAH WINTERS/PANHANDLER PHOTO

Biologist Jesse Anderson explains fish-counting techniques.

THE PANHANDLER

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Bakery's success continues to grow

By SKY KAUFMAN
PANHANDLER STAFF

Four years ago, Steve Sheffield attended Columbia College to become a chef. Periodically some students would do extra-credit baking and they would open the door to the bakery randomly. Other times they would give baked goods to staff, take the rest home, or make breadcrumbs for the geese.

After completing his culinary certificate, Sheffield approached Gene Wombel, the Hospitality Coordinator, with the idea of offering a baking class and selling the baked goods. The goods would be reasonably priced but also cover the costs. Sheffield stipulated that the money had to go back in to the pastry arts.

Wombel liked the idea and now Sheffield teaches the baking class and manages the bakery on a volunteer basis.

"Helping students makes me feel good," Sheffield said. "It's a labor of love. I also get more baking and management-type experience."

At first the bakery took baby steps and would get 20 to 30 customers per day. Now it gets 100 to 150 customers per day.

Al Hanson is a regular.

"My favorite two things are the bread with roasted red peppers and gouda cheese, and the cheesy bread with the hot green peppers," he said. "The chocolate chip cookies are outstanding and they're not hard like regular chocolate chip cookies."

Prices range from 50 cents for a cranberry muffin up to \$2.50 for a loaf of bread. The bakery gives students, teachers and staff quality baked goods at an affordable price. There are two paid student employees, Michelle Noel and Juanita Zamarripa.

Noel has been baking for 3 semesters.

"I love it," she said. "It's good experience and it's what I want to do."

The bakery offers up fresh baked goods every Wednesday and Thursday between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Before 11:30 a.m., the bakery sells fresh-fruit muffins, scones with currants or blueberries, and a variety of cookies ranging from chocolate chip to peanut butter. It also has a cinnamon raisin nut swirl bread that goes good with a cup of hot coffee.

Around 11:30 a.m. the bakery starts serving fresh-baked breads such as focaccia bread with sun-dried tomatoes and herbs, all topped with caramelized onions; French baguettes, also known as cheesy



SKY KAUFMAN/PANHANDLER PHOTO

Doug Smuckers is an adjunct math teacher as well as a baking student.

bread, with asiago cheese and fresh jalapeños; and sourdough baguettes with asiago cheese and garlic. There is also Challah bread that is quite tasty and would make a good side dish at a Jewish wedding.

Everything is made from scratch and baked fresh daily. Preservatives are never used. There are no freeze-dried products or day old items either. Freshness is a must with Sheffield. He feels freshness is good for emotional health and well-being.

"It feels better to eat something fresh," he said. "What makes me happy is when someone tells me the food is great."

Baking is one part of the Hospitality Management Program offered at the college. Other areas covered are culinary, wait staff, and management. Students get additional experience from serving customers and selling product in the bakery.

Zamarripa has worked in the bakery for one year.

"It's helped me a lot," she said. "Steve has taught us everything we need to know. It's fun and fast paced."

When the bakery is closed, the class is learning new concepts and

recipes from Sheffield. He tries to balance classroom time with the business side of running the bakery a couple days a week.

Demand has grown every semester according to Sheffield.

"The bakery could open Fridays if demand keeps rising," he said. "Some people want the bakery to be

open full time."

Sheffield reflected on the irony of the growing success of his bakery idea.

"I never intended it to be a profit-making effort," he said. "No labor costs, no rent. All the money comes back to us and we were able to buy a new mixer."



SKY KAUFMAN/PANHANDLER PHOTO

Michell Noel prepares some fresh brownies straight from the oven.

Things to do and places to go

Wal Mart film coming this Friday

The Robert Greenwald documentary "Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Prices" will be a part of Columbia College's upcoming community forum, hosted by the civic engagement committee in Cedar 1 on the Sonora campus.

To accommodate an anticipated large attendance, the film will be shown on Friday, Nov. 18 in two evening presentations: 7 and 9 p.m.

The 95-minute documentary takes audiences behind the lavish television commercials for a look into the everyday lives of the retail giant's workers and their families, local business owners and their communities. The camera reveals the nation's largest discounter's questionable treatment of its employees and its impact on the American value system.

"There will be time for audience discussion after each film presentation," said Jim Toner, the event coordinator. "I've also invited the general manager of the local Wal-Mart store to attend and comment on the movie."

There is no charge for admission or parking to the Columbia College community forum.

For more information contact Jim Toner at 588-5226.



Campus and Community

New coordinator appointed at Instructional Media Center

The YCCD Board of Trustees has approved the probationary appointment of Gail Segerstrom to the position of Instructional Materials Center coordinator at Columbia College.

A Sonora native, Segerstrom is a graduate of Stanford University with a bachelor's degree in fine art and has worked previously as an adjunct professor in desktop publishing at Columbia College. She had a 10-year career in New York City as a publication designer and art director for several national magazines, including Global Finance, Wildlife Conservation, Muppet Magazine, Inside Sports and Adventure Travel.

Since 1988, Gail has owned and operated her own design firm, Gail Segerstrom Design in Sonora. Her work has been recognized through many prestigious national and local awards.

Bird identification class

Biology 158 a short term 1.5 unit course on identifying Central California birds by sight and sound is being taught by Guy Van Cleave and starts November 16.

Students can use the skills they have learned as tools for other related biology fields including anatomy, physiology, behavior and ecology.

Biology 158 consists of both lectures that include three Wednesday evenings from 5 to 7:30 p.m. and also three field trips one on a Sunday and two on a Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Enrollment is now open. For additional information, contact the college's admissions and records office at 588-5231 or 588-5233. This class can also be taken as a credit/no credit class.

Dr. King essay contest open

Students in Tuolumne County will have a chance to win one of two \$100 cash awards for either an essay or some artistic presentation on the subject "How is Dr. King's message still valid today?"

The contest was launched by the local Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observance Committee.

Essays should be between 500 and 1,000 words. The essay topic calls on students to think about Dr. King's message in today's context.

The contest deadline is December 31 and the winner will be announced at the King Day Celebration, which will be held on January 15, 2006 at the Sonora High School Auditorium. The artistic submissions will be on display at the event. This year it will be a Celebration of

Diversity in Unity.

For more information, contact Deanna Lamb at 432-6810 or Marilyn Dungan 533-3516.

Flu shots available on campus

Flu vaccine is now available at the camous Health Center.

The cost is \$7 for students and \$15 for everyone else. Prepay at the Business Office and bring the receipt to the Health Center in Juniper 2.

For more information, call 588-5204

Halloween costume winners

The winners of the Halloween Costume Contest are in. Kristen Bryant took first place as The Monarch. Second place went to Heather Gillis as Willy Wonka. Mindy Morales was in third as The Shark.

Thank you to everyone who participated, and better luck next year.

Food for fines at library

Students that have any overdue fines at the library can pay them off by bringing in canned food and receiving a \$1 credit for each can.

The cans-for-fines program runs through December 1.

HEALTH SERVICES OFFICE

Juniper Building Room 2

Reminds you



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King Crossword — Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

OBOE	SAP	ASKS
RAYS	AGO	STOA
ALEC	DEMOTION	
LIZARD	PEELPS	
PEER	ORE	
DEMEANOR	STOP	
IVE	REBUS	TOE
EAST	DEMI	JOHN
DIP	DIDO	
ADAGIO	NEBULA	
DEMENTIA	BRED	
AVER	ION	EGAD
MOSS	CUT	REDS

Truly Trivial Answers

1. Yellowstone
2. Eleven
3. Miss Hannigan
4. John Cabot
5. Indian
6. Sirius
7. Thanatos
8. Seminoles
9. White House
counsel John Dean
10. Chrysler



The Spot

Good section!

Arts & Entertainment

Snoopy opens!



Charlie Brown and Lucy -- Sam Tune and Taryn Smith -- will take stage Friday in the Columbia College Drama Department's presentation of the family musical Snoopy in the college's Dogwood Forum.

Featuring the beloved Peanut characters by Charles Schultz, performances will be held on Friday, Nov. 18 at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Nov. 19 at 2 and 7 p.m.; and on Sunday, Nov. 20 at 2 p.m.

Admission is \$5 for students and \$8 for adults. Tickets are available at the college's Manzanita Bookstore Mountain Bookshop, Beat Music and Murphys Music Company.

For more information, call 588-5154.

Sonora man keeps tabs on area UFOs

By ANDY CLEMO
PANHANDLER STAFF

The night sky is amazing up here in the mountains.

On a clear night, you can see billions of stars splattered like tiny drops of paint against the canvas of the sky. Constellations are clearly visible, including Andromeda, Cassiopeia, Phoenix, and Pisces.

Earlier this July, there was one night when Mars, Venus, Jupiter, and Saturn were all lined up near the Western horizon, and in August, the Perseid Meteor Showers filled the sky with shooting stars, leaving blazing

trails of light over the heavens.

But Mark Olson has noticed another phenomenon. He often sees strange lights that fly over his home near Lyon's Bald Mountain. He believes these objects are UFOs and said they come in different sizes and shapes and vary in speed, color, and brightness.

On his website, sonorasightings.com, he has recorded and catalogued over a year of UFO sightings -- more than 100 video clips.

The clips date back to May 2004. They were recorded with Sony

See UFO, page 6



This photo by Mark Olson shows something in the evening sky.

Debate competition is valuable training

By DEBORAH WINTERS
PANHANDLER STAFF

Want to get noticed? Forget adding blond highlights.

Tim Elizondo, an experienced team debater and Columbia College's new speech instructor has different advice.

"Being successful at debate

attracts attention," he said.

Students who are well-read, can think quickly and like to argue may want to consider joining the debate team.

Not only does competitive debate help build confidence and self esteem, it's a great tool for development of a student's critical thinking ability - they must think about the

consequences of each argument and evaluate its worth

Elizondo describes forensics debate as being like a track and field event - teams compete in 12 events. For example, in parliamentary debate a two-person team is given a topic and 15 minutes later must argue that topic against another team.

"Debate is the art of verbal self

defense," he said. "The battle of intelligence"

Intercollegiate debate competition creates opportunities for students to gain recognition, scholarships and exposure to other universities.

"Being successful at debate attracts attention," said Elizondo. "I was able to fund my education by competing at MJC."

UFOs: Sonora man tracks sightings on his website

Continued from page 5

camcorders. Most of the sightings happen at night, but some appear during the day. So far, Olson's footage has appeared in two documentaries, including "Visitors: California UFO Wave" and "Dan Akroyd Unplugged on UFOs."

This is Olson description of a UFO sighting July 14, 2004:

"At 8:55 p.m., as we were getting set up for another night of sky-watching, another glowing object appeared to our left as we faced east. This object traveled slowly over Lyons Bald Mountain and flew behind a tree. This is the tenth glowing object captured on video since July 6, 2004. These glowing objects have appeared

once or twice a night for the last eight nights in a row!"

Several triangular UFOs have been sighted, which might easily be confused with conventional aircraft. However, Olson said, compared to conventional aircraft these objects lack federally mandated FAA signal lights, there was no engine noise and the shape is different.

Olson has also seen flying objects that are easy to identify - and perhaps more ominous.

On July 2, Olson said an unmarked black helicopter flew low over his home while he was outside with his brother on the porch. It hovered over them for a few seconds and then flew away and disappeared behind Bald Mountain.

It was not a red fire helicopter or a red and white medical helicopter like the ones he was used to seeing, so he called the airport in Tuolumne to see if they knew anything about it.

He said the woman he talked to at the airport said she didn't know of any military exercises going on that

day.

The event left Olson feeling chilled. So what does it all mean?

Olson said he prefers that people think for themselves.

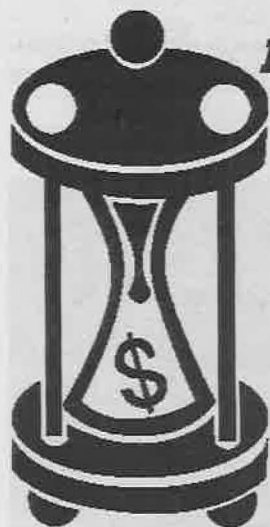
"It makes life more interesting and enjoyably unpredictable," he said.

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One deadline you can't afford to miss:
Wednesday
November 23, 2005



for Spring 2006 Scholarships

Complete one simple application to be considered for all scholarships for which you qualify. Columbia College Scholarship Program donors offer over 150 awards ranging from \$50 to \$3,000. GPA requirements start at 2.0. Donors offer scholarships for vocational and academic disciplines and to transferring, returning, and international students.

Applications available in Financial Aid, the Business Office, on Financial Aid information racks around campus or on line at <http://columbia.yosemite.cc.ca.us/Scholarship/Default.htm>. Applications must be typed and include two recommendations.

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Tuesday, 12/1, 3 pm - 4 pm



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Fridays 9am - 4:30pm

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MERCURY
NAIL POLISH REMOVER (acetone)
GASOLINE (nitrobenzene, butane)
FORMALDEHYDE
ROCKET FUEL (methanol)
GAS CHAMBER POISON (hydrogen cyanide)

Join other smokers nationwide and give up tobacco for 24 hours in celebration of

The Great American Smokeout
Thursday, November 17th

Who knows, maybe this could be the first day of a tobacco-free life!

For information on how to quit call
1-800-NO-BUTTS



FIRE: Students try out the Jaws of Life

Continued from front page

they receive. The automobile extrication segment lasts 16 hours and is designed to teach the fire fighters how to use hydraulic tools and hand tools to pry vehicles away from people pinned inside a vehicle.

And that's the trick: Not prying the person away from the smashed and crumpled car, but prying the car away from the fragile and injured

person.

The hydraulic tools are spreaders, cutters and jacks. The Jaws of Life is the most useful tool in extrication because it is a spreader and cutter combined.

The tool was first developed for NASCAR track crews. The first

versions were very heavy and were mounted on a truck. They are now much lighter in comparison and can be used by one fire fighter.

David Polse used the hydraulic spreader for the first time last week.

"They're heavy," he said. "They weigh 60 to 70 pounds; there's a lot

of pressure, power and they're bad."

The Jaws can enlarge a window opening or cut through metal like scissors. Rescuers in the past had to use circular saws to cut threw metal, causing

sparks to fly. Leaking gas are common at accident sites and flying sparks only added to the danger. The Jaws of Life are much safer, faster, and quieter.

If there is more than one accident at the same time the fire fighters must respond and there are not enough

hydraulic tools to go around, fire fighters use hand tools.

The hand tools are sledgehammers, axes, pry bars, jacks and 4 x 4 posts. Fire fighters basically beat, pry, and cut their way to the victim, all while keeping the injured person stable and safe.

Joseph Doherty is the lead instructor for the Academy and thinks it is important that training covers old and new techniques.

"We do it for practice," said Doherty. "Some of is 19th Century and some is 20th Century, but you need both."



SKY KAUFMAN/PANHANDLER PHOTO

Columbia Fire Technology students cut apart junkers.

Winter Driving Safety Tips

Pay attention to road conditions.

Watch for black ice and wet leaves.

Change or rotate your tires.

Carry chains.

Change windshield wiper blades.

Drive at safe speeds.

Make a difference.

THE PANHANDLER wants you



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

Then join our staff. The Panhandler will be looking for reporters, photographers, sports writers and advertising staff for the spring semester.

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

Sign up for JOUR 10.

MARINE: Hands-on learning

Continued from page 2

fish swim - how things work. It's fun getting out seeing things and how they work, even at 7 a.m. on a Saturday morning."

According to Koepele, students are expected to keep a field notebook and record their observations and drawings while in the field.

The last stop of the day was the Stanislaus River Weir Project - a weir is a fence placed across the river that directs migrating fish through an

opening so they can be counted.

"Seeing the restoration project and the Stanislaus River Weir Projects was well worth the journey," said student Roy Shimp. "The most impressive part of the field trip for me was seeing how the weir functioned and how the data on the salmon was collected."

Koepele felt the trip was a success.

"It was a long day, but we accomplished a lot and I really enjoyed being in the field with students."

COLUMBIA COLLEGE AUXILIARY SERVICES

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December 12

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2006 wall calendars have arrived. Come by to see the great selection!

PASTTIMES

TRIVIA TEST

By FIFI RODRIGUEZ

- NATURAL WORLD:** What was the world's first national park?
- HISTORY:** How many states formed the Confederate States of America in 1861?
- THEATER:** In the musical "Annie," who ran the orphanage where Annie lived?
- EXPLORERS:** Which European explorer discovered Newfoundland in 1497?
- GEOGRAPHY:** The Timor Sea is an arm of which ocean?
- ASTRONOMY:** What is the formal name of the Dog Star?
- MYTHOLOGY:** According to the Greeks, who was death personified?
- NATIVE AMERICANS:** Osceola was the leader of which Indian tribe?
- NEWSMAKERS:** Who said the Watergate scandal was "a cancer" growing on the presidency?
- AUTOS:** Which company makes the PT Cruiser?

Answers are on page 4

Out on a Limb

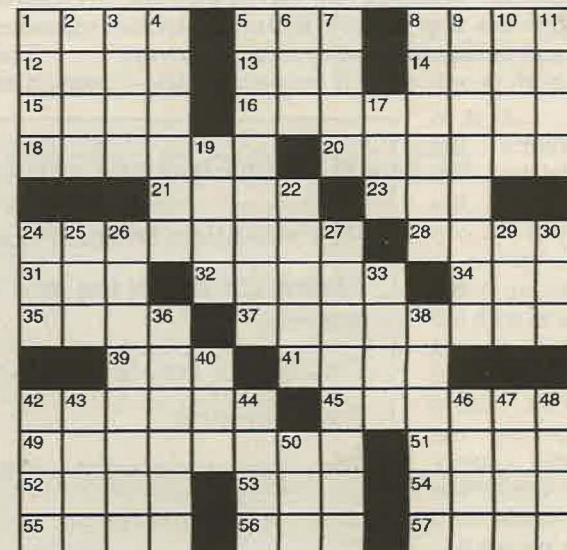
by Gary Kopervas



King Crossword

ACROSS

- Contrabassoon cousin
- Potential syrup
- Requests
- What beachgoers "catch"
- Way back when
- Old portico
- Actor Baldwin
- Loss of a stripe, maybe
- Iguana, e.g.
- "Mission: Impossible" name
- Juror, theoretically
- Raw rock
- Conduct
- Halt
- "- been robbed!"
- Pictorial poser
- Pirouette pivot
- Right on the map?
- Wicker-cased bottle
- Chips accessory
- Prank
- Played slowly (mus.)
- Interstellar cloud
- Madness
- Raised
- State for sure



53 Charged bit

54 "Zounds!"

55 Rolling stone's lack

56 Snip

57 Ohio nine

DOWN

1 Exam format

2 "- Ha'it"

3 Court officer's call

4 Houdini's specialty

5 Turned blue?

6 Time of your life

7 "- and

Circumstance"

8 Late-summer flowers

9 Heel type

10 Former surgeon general

11 Without

17 Discoverer's cry

19 Bring up

22 Clad like a jurist

24 Conk out

25 Zsa Zsa's sis

26 Monsieurs' mates

27 Cud chewer

29 La-la lead-in

30 Corral

33 Faction

36 Princeton's team

38 Small-scale wholesaler

40 Brooch

42 Leading man?

43 "Whip It" group

44 Ear-related

46 Incite

47 Graphite

48 Puts in the mix

50 Debtor's letters

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Answers are on page 4

On the Street: *If you could change one thing about Columbia College, what would it be?*



Mariah Matthews -

The prices of food in the Snack Bar versus their portions.



Warren Holmes -

I didn't think anything needed changing. I think it's a pretty cool place.



Jeff Oller -

Columbia College needs a broader teaching pool to pull from.



Chentel Henry -

Give the smoking sections a covering. Even if it's just a tarp.