

THE PANHANDLER

Columbia College's New Student Newspaper

Vol. 3, Issue 1

February 1, 2006

Tram helps students reach goals



BY DEBORAH WINTERS
PANHANDLER STAFF

The mission of the Columbia College Disabled Students Programs and Services is to help students with disabilities by providing access through support services, special equipment and specially trained staff.

Karin Rodts, Disabled Students Programs & Services Tram Coordinator, oversees a special part of that mission, called Mobility Assistance. This program provides tram service to students who have difficulty accessing the hilly terrain and other obstacles on campus.

The need for a tram for students with disabilities was addressed in the early 1980s when Bill Gaiser, Facilities Operations Department, built a van to transport students to and from parking areas and classes.

"Today we accommodate 15 to 25 students a semester," says Rodts. "We provide transportation to and from parking areas and between classes from 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday."

"If it wasn't for the tram, I wouldn't be coming to school," said Beverly Hernandez, a student rider.

Nancy Keck is in a wheelchair and wouldn't be able to get around this campus without the tram.

"I have asthma and a heart condition," said Theresa Halliday, "I can't walk up these hills."

Tram driver Robert Cox lowers Nancy Keck and her wheelchair from the rear of the van.

See TRAM, page 4

In this Issue...



Winter driving isn't all it's cracked up to be.

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Minimum wage hike good for students

BY SHANNON MCPHERSON
PANHANDLER STAFF

In the State of the State address January 5, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger announced his plan to raise the minimum wage to \$7.75 in fifty cent increments.

That's good news for Columbia College students.

The raise in minimum wage will help students who work, like Kat Souza, pay for their necessities.

"It will help me as an individual pay for my cell phone bill, gas, and tuition, but I don't think that it will help our economy as a whole," said Souza, who works part time at Papa Murphy's. "In fact I think it will hurt us. Inflation is still going to go up and so are our prices."

The first minimum wage hike will occur in September and the last will happen in July 2007.



SHANNON MCPHERSON/PANHANDLER PHOTO
Kat Souza at Papa Murphy's Pizza.

The current federal minimum wage is \$5.15 an hour.

In 2005, Schwarzenegger vetoed a \$1 raise in the minimum wage because it linked minimum wage increases with the previous year's inflation rate.

His upcoming plan does not have automatic increases as inflation goes up.

"I do not support automatic increases to the wage that relieve elected officials of their duty to consider all of the impacts each increase to the wage will have on workers and businesses," Schwarzenegger said in his September veto.

Students should not be concerned about lay offs from the wage increase. "Businesses need these minimum wage jobs in order to function, the industry will absorb the increase and move on," said CalWORKs represent David Chesnut.

OPINION

Associated Students welcomes everyone

On behalf of the Associated Students of Columbia College (ASCC), I would like to welcome all new and returning students to the 2006 Spring Semester. Last year, Columbia College saw an influx of new and returning students for the 2005 Academic Semesters. This year is no exception, and once more many fresh and familiar faces can be seen around campus.

Here in the ASCC, we are excited and ready to start off a brand-new year of representing the student body. As always, we are continually looking for new students who are interested in getting involved in the world of student government. If you have something you wish to say, or want to make your voice heard, the ASCC here on campus is the place to be.

At the moment, we have many positions with which we need assistance, and as always, you can drop in to say hello or ask a question. If you wish to get involved, or have a question regarding the ASCC, drop by the office (Manzanita 15) in the giant rotunda building anytime Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Alternatively, if you wish to make your voice heard we encourage you to attend our ASCC meetings. All students and visitors are welcome, whether you have something to say or just wish to sit in to observe the meeting. Our meetings are held on Fridays from 1 to 2 p.m. in Manzanita 15.

We look forward to answering any questions and seeing new students interested in the ASCC. As always, our mission here is to best serve the students here at Columbia College and make sure that their voices are heard. If you have something to say, get involved and help us make a difference!

Michael Adames-Hill
Director of Activities

Letters to the Editor

One last word on Socratic method

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to the article, "Socratic Classes Are a Challenge," printed 2 November 2005. I graduated from Columbia College in 2000, obtained my B.A. in Anthropology from the University of California, Santa Cruz in 2004, and am currently pursuing a Masters of Science in Development Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. Although currently a long way from Columbia College, I try to keep up-to-date on the goings-on as best as I can – it happened to be the place where my life took on a radically different shape and direction. In part, this is why I'm responding to this recent article.

Although a useful description of the Socratic method and of the courses taught by Professors Clarke and Hamilton, the article has neglected two vital issues that are pertinent to an understanding of these professors' teaching methods, and education more broadly (both in terms of contemporary conditions and its historical socializing role). These are: the underlying principles of

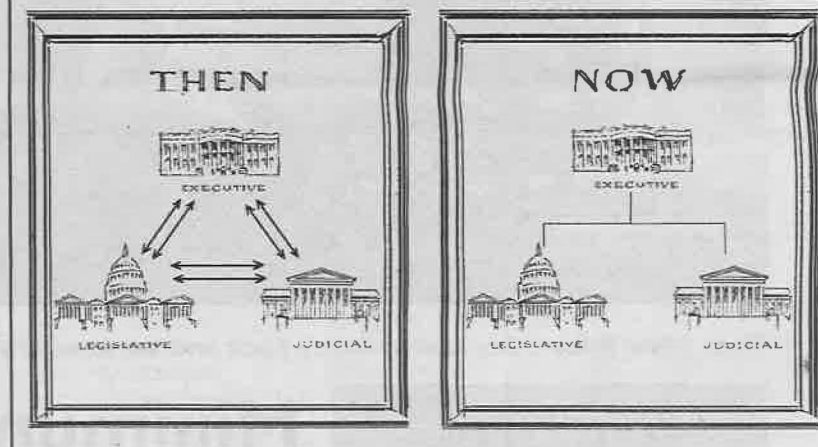
Professors Clarke and Hamilton's courses, and the potential outcomes of "challenging" students and teaching them "how to learn."

Operating under the assumption that education is (and should be) challenging, Professors Clarke and Hamilton's rationale for conducting their courses in the manner they do is underlined by the highly democratic principles that: (1) all students should have the opportunities to obtain a meaningful education, and (2) to

be successful, multiple forms of support/assistance are (and should be) offered. As rightly noted by Mendenhall, the high expectations of these professors' courses are "by design," in order to expose students "to higher-learning skills before they transfer to a four-year college." However, unlike a university setting, Professors Clarke and Hamilton's courses are accompanied by numerous (and diverse) opportunities to succeed

See SOCRATIC, page 4

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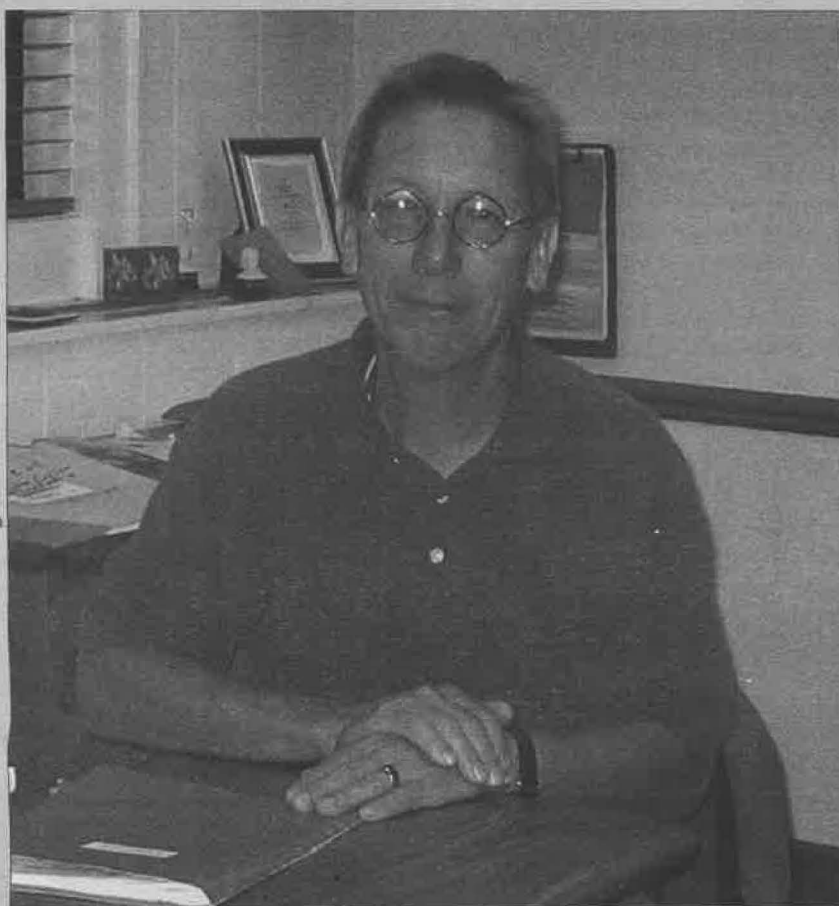
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NEWS



President Riggs prepares to step down.

Riggs returning to classroom in fall

BY DEBORAH WINTERS
PANHANDLER STAFF

Jim Riggs has announced that he will be stepping down as Columbia College's president in January 2007.

"Teaching will be my first priority," said Riggs. "It has been my plan all along to return to teaching after 10 years as president here at Columbia College."

With a 24-year career in college administration, Riggs has been the school's top administrator since 1997 and came to Columbia College after three years as vice president of education and student services at Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield, Illinois.

He is also currently an adjunct faculty member of the California State University, Stanislaus

Community College Leadership Graduate Certificate Program.

"I am really looking forward to returning to the classroom and teaching," said Riggs.

Riggs has been active in the California community college education system from 1987 to 1994, having held the position of executive dean of the Lake County campus of Yuba College and associate dean of instruction/extended education at Merced College prior to that.

Riggs earned both a bachelor's and master's degree in music from Eastern Washington University. His doctorate in higher education is from the University of Southern California.

"I'm excited at this great opportunity to take the next step in my career," he said.

Lack of full-time staff hurts Career Center

BY REX ROBERTS
PANHANDLER STAFF

Columbia College's Career/Transfer Center used to be an active hub of our educational community, but lately it hasn't been as effective.

"Since the retirement of Wendy Archer there has been no one hired to assist or guide our students with the wonderful tools and resources we have available," said Lynn Martin, a Columbia College guidance counselor.

Student Nick L. Anderson agrees.

"There are plenty of excellent resources, but how do you use them?" he asked.

The Career/Transfer Center is available to all Columbia College students. It provides resource information relating to career

opportunities and is a great place to explore career goals.

The center's computerized Eureka program provides students with updated information about vocations and career pathways. It also provides hard copy and computer information on transferring to other colleges in and out of state. The computers are also available for exploring college and university websites and enable students to apply to those institutions.

There is so much information that other college employees feel a full-time expert is needed.

"We would really like to see the college hire a full-time Career Technician," said Susan Medeiros a EOPS/CARE counselor at Columbia College. "It's very important that the students have someone readily available to assist them with their questions."



REX ROBERTS/PANHANDLER PHOTO

Nick Anderson looks for information in the Career Center.

Gardener gets a big surprise



Robin Rutherford shows off her funky two-pound carrot.

BY DEBORAH WINTERS
PANHANDLER STAFF

Robin Retherford was picking vegetables in her father's garden when she discovered something very strange.

One area of the garden had some carrots and the carrot tops seemed a little weird. When Robin began pulling carrots from the ground, all she got were very small, stubby carrots. Then she pulled a carrot top and *oh my gosh, oh what a surprise*, it was a mutant – very peculiar looking to say the least.

Jack Tune, a biology instructor at Columbia College, said the cause for this mutation could be several things.

"The physical environment can cause changes – tight soil could have

forced numerous seeds to merge," said Tune.

The carrot seeds were planted in summer 2005 and picked on January 15, 2006. There were no other anomalies found in the garden. Robin refers to her father, Ralph, as an "unintentional gardener" – he does not plan, design or layout his garden; he just throws out seeds along with a little horse manure and sawdust.

"There may have been a genetic mutation that caused them [the seeds] not to separate out," said Tune. "Try planting seeds from the mutant carrot and see what happens, see if it mutates again."

In the hopes of having a record-breaking mutant carrot, Robin contacted the Guinness Book of World Records only to find that her two-plus-pound carrot had already been beaten out by an 18-pounder.

TRAM: Drivers' first concern is safety

Continued from page 1

All tram drivers are student workers, but it's not just a driving job; a driver must have good people skills and be sensitive to students with disabilities.

Student safety is the first concern and drivers are trained and drive the campus roads to become familiar with road hazards such as exposed conduits.

Other services available through the Disabled Students Programs and Services to students with verified disabilities include:

- Learning Disabilities Program: Academic support for those with a professionally verified learning disability.

- High Tech Center: Access to and training on adapted computer hardware and software, especially for the visually, learning and mobility

impaired.

- Alternate Media Format: Provides textbooks, syllabi, handouts, tests assignments in Braille, large text, audio files or other formats, talking calculators, screen readers, screen magnifiers, and accessible computer stations throughout the campus.

- Alternative Testing Services: Including extended time, quiet rooms, proctoring and audio versions of tests.

- Skills 210: Provides access to and instruction on specialized computer programs for students with verified learning, developmental, or physical disabilities.

Services for vocational counseling, academic advising, special equipment loans and assistance with registration are also available through Disabled Students Programs & Services.



The first tram for disabled students on campus.

SOCRATIC: Former student praises tough classes

Continued from page 2

(see Course Syllabi and Contract available on reserve in the College library).

The second issue, to which my own experience bears testament, is that of outcomes.

The opportunities available in Professors Clarke and Hamilton's courses are nothing short of extraordinary – they can (and do) prepare all students willing to take on

the challenges (and responsibilities) of higher education for upper division academic work, as well as informed and participatory citizenship (an aspect that, for reasons of brevity, can not be elaborated here).

To briefly illustrate, I give you my own experience. Initially, I returned to Columbia College to obtain a 2-year degree, after which I planned to enter the workforce; my motivations for returning to college were strictly economic.

However, after (accidentally) taking a course from Professor Hamilton, I realized I had established an artificial ceiling for myself. I continued to study under Professors Clarke and Hamilton and developed not only my intellectual skills, but also my moral and ethical foundations.

I went on to graduate from UCSC with highest honors and am nearly finished with my first (successful) term at the University of London.

My point is this: I would not be

here had those opportunities, and support, not been made available by Professors Clarke and Hamilton.

Therefore, it is necessary not only to describe the Socratic method as employed by these professors, but also to explore the underlying principles and outcomes of their courses.

Sara E. Keene
University of London



The Spot

Good section!

Arts & Entertainment

The Labyrinth's Lure

By REX ROBERTS
PANHANDLER STAFF

A cool breeze blows on a sunny day and the sounds of birds chirping drowns out all other noise.

Out here the many stresses of college life just seem to drift away.

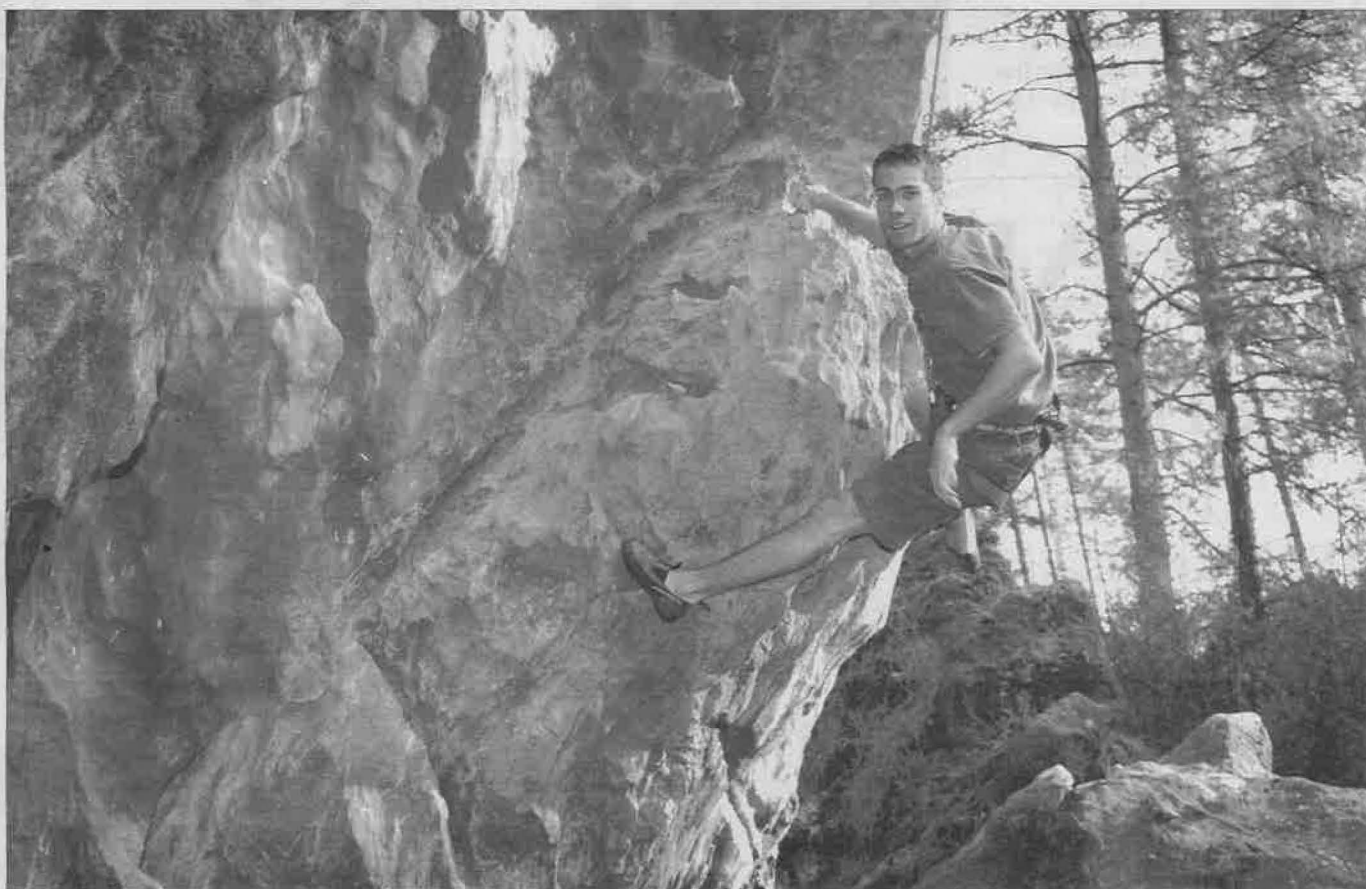
This is the Labyrinth — a maze-like structure of towering rock formations that seem to stretch on for miles. But not many people know why the Labyrinth is that way.

Dr. Thaddeus Hildreth and his brother George first discovered gold in Columbia on March 27, 1850. The cry of "gold" brought miners from all over in an attempt to get a piece of the pie.

Because they were mining placer gold — gold found in sediments from rivers — water would be an indispensable mining tool. Hydraulic mining was the primary process of mining gold in Columbia.

In hydraulic mining, miners shoot water at high pressure in order to blast loose the gold-bearing gravel and wash out the gold. This type of mining is extremely destructive to the land, but did create the Labyrinth's incredible rock formations.

This unique mining operation produced an excellent



REX ROBERTS/PANHANDLER PHOTO

Student Ben Pope climbs one of the many formations at the Labyrinth.

environment for many activities, such as hiking, rock climbing, caving and simply just hanging out upon the high rocks.

Ben Pope, a Fire Academy student at Columbia College likes climbing the Labyrinth's challenging formations.

"For a college campus it is completely unique," he said. "It is a cool place not only to climb, but also to hang out and explore."

The Labyrinth is reached by taking the trails that continue past the Staff Parking Lot or by following the trails behind Willow,

the art building.

Ian Wilson is Pope's climbing partner.

"I have never seen anything like this on a college campus before," Wilson said. "The rock formations are absolutely amazing."



Campus and Community



Work begins on access road

A \$326 million general obligation bond for the repair, upgrade and new construction of Columbia College and Modesto Junior College facilities was approved by voters in the Yosemite Community College District in November 2004.

The first project to be paid for with these funds, the construction of an emergency access road here at Columbia College, started this week. When completed, the new road will be 20 feet wide with turnouts, permanent drainage control and night reflectors.

With only one road for traffic entering and leaving the campus, the addition of the emergency access road will enhance campus safety – the new road will be capable of handling full-size fire trucks – a great advantage in the event of a fire or any other disaster. The road will be accessible only in emergencies.

More information about Measure E can be found online at www.yosemite.edu/bond/.

Columbia instructor weds

On a starry starry night, January 14, 2006 to be exact, Rebekah Sandlin and Columbia College speech instructor Timothy Elizondo were married in a ceremony performed by Elvis at the Hollywood Wedding Chapel in Las Vegas, Nevada.



UC Merced trip planned

Interested in transferring to UC Merced?

The Columbia College Transfer Center will host a field trip to UC Merced for students interested in transferring. At this meeting, students will receive a college catalog, a campus tour, and an opportunity to ask faculty and UC Merced students questions. Lunch and transportation will be provided. The trip to UC Merced is on February 15 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Contact Jeff Fitzwater in the Counseling office (Manzanita 14), or call 588-5028 for more details and to reserve your place.

— King Crossword — Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

TRULY TRIVIAL ANSWERS

1. WILLIAM THORNTON
2. GEOLOGY
3. 1940s
4. SHOSHONE
5. NEW JERSEY
6. SATYR
7. MEXICO
8. IBN SAUD
9. KURT VONNEGUT
10. THEODORE ROOSEVELT

The FAFSA ... the Heart of Financial Aid


File your 2006 - 2007 FAFSA
(Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
by **March 2**
to meet the **Cal Grant deadline!**



The FAFSA serves as the application for many financial aid programs including PELL grants, Cal Grants, FSEOG, Federal Work Study, and fee waivers. Many of these programs are first-come-first-served; file early for access to the widest range of financial aid options.

Visit the Financial Aid office for a wide range of services:

- Access to computer lab -- file your FAFSA online
- Assistance in completing financial aid forms
- Answers to all your financial aid questions


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

Upcoming Financial Aid Workshops

located in the FA Office

Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2 - 3 pm
Thursday, Feb. 9, 3 - 4 pm
Monday, Feb. 13, 10 - 11 am
Tuesday, Feb. 21, 11 am - Noon
Wednesday, March 1, 1 - 2 pm

How (not) to drive on icy mountain roads

By SHANNON MCPHERSON
PANHANDLER STAFF

Winter brings with it many wonderful encounters; snow-covered mountains, skiing and snowboarding.

It also brings black ice, car accidents and the long, cumbersome ordeal of putting on chains.

As someone who was born and raised in Salinas, where it last snowed in 1961, I was not accustomed to driving in dangerous road conditions. So I had no idea what to expect as I drove to work at Dodge Ridge the day after Christmas.

I thought I did everything I could to be prepared for that drive; I read driving tips, I practiced attaching the spike spider tracks on my red Toyota Celica. I thought I was ready.

I had no idea what awaited me.

I left my house in Don Pedro early, at 5:45 in the pouring rain. As soon as I reached Sugar Pine I knew I was in for a long ride. There was snow all over the roads and my tires were slipping all over the place.

I decided to pull over and put on my spike spider tracks, hoping they would make my drive a lot less stressful. But people forgot to tell me about the horrible noise they made; I could barely hear my Fall Out Boy CD over the deafening roar.

Oddly enough, after about one minute of driving, the sound began to subside.

Interesting, I said to myself as I thought that the sound would get louder. After two more minutes passed, the noise completely disappeared and I looked into my rearview mirror to see my spike spider bouncing down the highway.

Cursing loudly, I turned my car around and drove back to where they were lying on the side of the road. After dodging cars that seemed like they wanted to take me out, I threw them into my trunk and sped off again. Apparently, the whole setup came unattached from my tire and now I had no traction on the snow and ice.

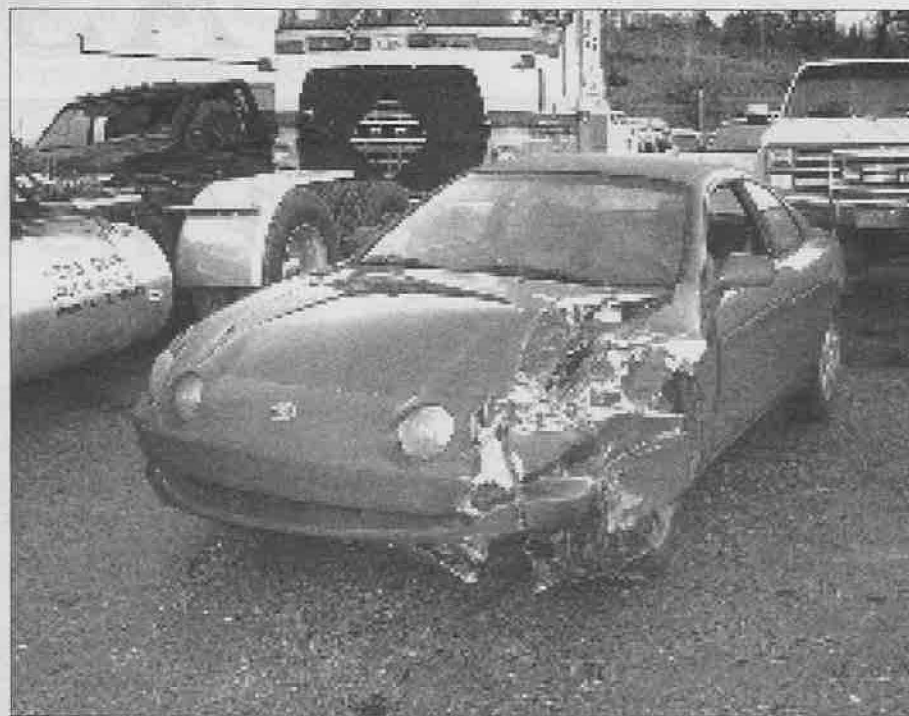
At this point a logical person would have decided to call their work and say that they could not come in and turn around to go home. But I decided to not be very logical and continued on up. Not only was I driving without chains or four wheel drive, I was also going 40 to 45 mph.

Everyone else was, so it seemed like the thing to do.

But, when I neared Cold Springs, I arrived at a sharp turn. So I put on the brakes.

Bad idea.

As soon as I braked, the back end of my Celica started fishtailing. I



Shannon McPherson's former Toyota...

tried to remember what my dad told me to do when this happened; was it turn into the slide or turn away from it? But since I was sliding two ways, which way should I turn?

I looked out ahead of me and saw I was skidding for the edge of the road, toward a drop off. I didn't know how far off it was or how long it would take me to die once I went over the edge.

I decided to slam on the brakes to delay my imminent death, at least for a few seconds. With a huge jerk and a spray of snow, I finally came to a stop.

I peeled open my eyes; I was not at the bottom of a cliff or hanging upside down for dear life. I was still on flat ground. An odd tingly sensation came over my body and I let out a shaky breath.

I opened my car door to assess the damage. My front tires were a two inches from the edge of a 30-foot drop. But now what? I had no cell service, no way to get out. I thought about walking to the gas station, but I'd be risking death again by walking on the highway. Luckily someone stopped and pulled me out and I got back on the road.

So I turned around and went home, right?

Nope.

I went to work with no other incidents. I'd had my first snow-driving experience and survived, even if it wasn't picture perfect. I made it to work and my car stuck by me.

Two days later, I rear ended a Yukon and totaled the Celica.

It wasn't even snow-related, I swear.

So now I drive a small SUV with four wheel drive and can put on chains in 12 minutes flat with no help at all.

The Salinas girl has been left back in the coastal fog.

I'm a mountain woman now.



...and her new one.

PASTIMES

Truly Trivial

By FIFI RODRIGUEZ

- 1. ARCHITECTURE:** WHO DESIGNED THE U.S. CAPITOL BUILDING?
- 2. SCIENCE:** TECTONICS IS A FIELD OF WHAT SCIENCE?
- 3. INVENTIONS:** IN WHAT DECADE WAS THE MICROWAVE OVEN INVENTED?
- 4. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:** SACAJAWEA, THE NATIVE AMERICAN GUIDE WHO LED EXPLORERS LEWIS AND CLARK ON THEIR WESTERN EXPEDITION, BELONGED TO WHICH TRIBE?
- 5. U.S. STATES:** WHICH STATE IS KNOWN AS THE GARDEN STATE?
- 6. MYTHOLOGY:** WHAT WAS THE NAME OF THE CREATURE IN GREEK MYTHOLOGY WHO WAS HALF MAN AND HALF GOAT?
- 7. GEOGRAPHY:** WHERE ARE MOST OF THE SIERRA MADRE MOUNTAINS FOUND?
- 8. HISTORY:** WHO FOUNDED THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA?
- 9. LITERATURE:** WHO WROTE THE NOVEL "SLAUGHTERHOUSE FIVE"?
- 10. U.S. PRESIDENTS:** WHICH PRESIDENT COINED THE TERM "MUCKRAKERS" FOR CRUSADING JOURNALISTS?

Answers are on page 6

Out on a Limb

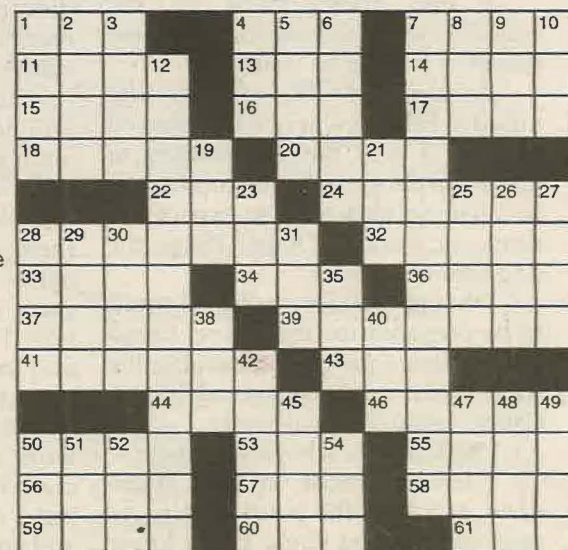


by Gary Kopervas

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Third deg.
- 4 Sty dweller
- 7 Entrance
- 11 Told tales
- 13 Greek vowel
- 14 Inactive
- 15 Tangelo type
- 16 Fire up a motor
- 17 Coral structure
- 18 Avoid (a task)
- 20 Come together
- 22 Gratuity
- 24 "Leave me alone!"
- 28 Shrill-sounding grasshopper
- 32 Re an arm bone
- 33 Not up yet
- 34 British bar
- 36 Clearasil target
- 37 "American Graffiti" director
- 39 Dead give-away?
- 41 Like specialty cuisine
- 43 Holster occupant
- 44 Harvester's collection
- 46 Affix
- 50 Opposed
- 53 Egg yolk
- 55 Anger
- 56 Stitched



- 57 Scream
- 58 Scream
- 59 Booty
- 60 Height of fashion?
- 61 "My Gal -"

- 10 Ump
- 12 Swayze/Grey movie
- 19 Tease
- 21 Water (Fr.)
- 23 Spade or diamond
- 25 Formerly
- 26 Bleacherites
- 27 Worry
- 28 Hardy cabbage
- 29 Touch
- 30 Cal —
- 31 Bestow knight-hood upon
- 35 Plead
- 38 Round Table address

- 40 Sine-non link
- 42 Spiral-shaped shell
- 45 Hole in the head?
- 47 Fades away
- 48 Earthenware pot
- 49 Dudley Do-Right's love
- 50 Simpleton
- 51 Fresh
- 52 2001
- American acquisition
- 54 Workout venue

DOWN

- 1 Asset
- 2 Lofty
- 3 Sandwich shop
- 4 Apiece
- 5 Particular
- 6 Judge's prop
- 7 Tabloid topics
- 8 Tribute in verse
- 9 Bullring bravo

Answers are on page 6

On the Street: Which do you prefer, Valentine's Day or Super Bowl Sunday and why?



David Young

The Super Bowl holds no interest to me, so Valentine's Day.



Desimay Jenkins

Valentine's Day because my boyfriend is going to get me something.



Stef McKannon

Neither, don't have a girlfriend and I don't like sports.



Kendra Burlison

Super Bowl because of the commercials