

# THE PANHANDLER

Columbia College's New Student Newspaper

Vol. 5, Issue 1

February 7 2007

## Drillers hit mine; work stops



SEAN DAY/PANHANDLER PHOTO

Dave Anderson, with A.K. Drilling, was forced to stop work when he hit a void 200 feet deep.

BY SEAN DAY  
PANHANDLER STAFF

Crews drilling a geothermal test hole at the planned site of the new Science Building were forced to stop suddenly when they hit a void that could be an old gold mine.

Freelance contractor Dave Anderson of A. K. Drilling said he was drilling about 200 feet deep when he hit the void Feb. 1.

Campus spokesman Doug Lau said the drilling would have to start over in a new location.

If the void is a mine, it could potentially force the campus to reconsider where the planned Science Building is located.

"Of course the location of any mine and the topography of any mine are completely unknown," said biology professor Jerry Hodge. "I'm a little worried about it."

The drilling was to test whether the new Science Building could be heated and cooled geothermally – using the Earth's internal heat.

"Geothermal is a very important part of this project," Hodge said. "It's as green an energy source as heating and cooling can be."

The \$20 million Science Building will hold

See DRILLING, page 4

### In this Issue...



Learning lessons in icing.

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## Fire program on restriction

### Hazing claim investigated

BY SEAN DAY  
PANHANDLER STAFF

Columbia College Fire Department remained on restriction weeks after an alleged hazing incident involving a group of Columbia college student firefighters.

The restriction means that the college fire crews were no longer responding to off-campus calls and fires, but limited to on-campus calls for service.

Columbia President Joan Smith said the restriction will last until multiple investigations into the hazing incident are complete. It was still in effect when this issue of The Panhandler went to press.

According to Tuolumne County sheriff's reports, the hazing incident

happened at a party January 15 at a house in the Crystal Falls neighborhood of Sonora. The victim, a 19-year-old fire academy student from Stockton, was at the party with

several other fire students.

The victim, whose name has not been released, told investigators

See FIRE, page 6



SEAN DAY/PANHANDLER PHOTO

The Columbia College Fire Department remained on restriction weeks after an alleged hazing incident while investigations took place.



# OPINION

## Valentine's Day is not her favorite

BY SHANNON MCPHERSON  
PANHANDLER CONTRIBUTOR

I hate Valentine's Day.

Okay, so I don't hate it exactly, but seriously an entire holiday centered around love and soul mates? Please.

Soul mates is something that was invented by Hallmark as a new spin on a greeting card. It is too cheesy of an idea to be thought of anywhere else.

The whole idea of soul mates is dangerous to me. The thought that there's only one person out there to complete me seems too risky.

What if you never find that person? Are you just left alone, forever wandering the planet incomplete? Or what if you're actually lucky enough to find your soul mate and then they die? Well you've just used up your one shot at a soul mate so now you have to be alone forever too.

That's assuming you live by each other. What if your soul mate lives in France? What then? Do you just live an unfulfilled life?

That brings up another question, can you have more than one soul mate? There are plenty of people that seem to find a new "soul mate" every Friday night, but is there more than one perfect person out there for you?

I believe that there are many different people out there that you can be compatible with as opposed to there being one singular human being that you're destined to be with.

I think it relies too heavily on destiny and fate, things that are out of our control. I like to be in complete control of what is going on in my life and not depend on some unseen force that is supposed to dictate every event that happens in my life.

I know I'm young, I've only been on the planet for nineteen years and I have plenty of years left to find my "soul mate," but sometimes you get to the point where you're like, where is he already? If there is supposed to be one person on the planet destined to be with me, we should have found each other already.

If you're really smart and want to beat all the find a perfect match tricks, you can just go to one of those dating websites. Just enter in everything you desire in your better half and guess what? They just happen to have your soul mate! You don't have to go dating around to find them they're just one click away.

The whole holiday and everything leading up to Valentine's Day depresses me. It makes you see what others have and what you don't.

But as in all gloomy times, there is a bright side.

At least I won't have to worry about some guy writing me a sappy poem and then me having to throw up.

## Can you do the dead man?

BY MICHAEL DUFFETT  
SPECIAL TO THE PANHANDLER

"Can you do the dead man, Daddy?" my youngest son asked me last summer.

So why am I mentioning it now when winter is still with us? Well, first of all, what better time to remember now that we are still fighting fog and ill with chills?

But, more importantly, now that a whole new century and a whole new era has begun, it might be a good time to look at what wisdom was meant out of the mouth of this particular babe. What my little boy meant, in high summer, was, can I float face-down because he can and he is proud of the achievement. It's a wonderful feeling, floating free, attached to nothing yet completely supported.

Maybe that's what death is like: all the attachments, job, family, home, all fall away. But still you're supported, still there is something that holds you up. In the case of the warm midsummer pool, it's the buoyancy of water. In the other part of our analogy, what is it? What remains?

If we are living our life to some purpose, there comes a point in all our lives when we realize, some with horror, some with joy, that we're mortal. We hear the ticking of the clock. If that thought gives you joy, you are ready for the leap.

*If we are living our life to some purpose, there comes a point in all our lives when we realize, some with horror, some with joy, that we're mortal.*

If, however, it's the horrors for you, don't fight them, go with them. When the heeby-jeebies hit, go down down down into that ultimate anxiety instead of seeking escape in all the usual supports: job, family home, etc. The supports, all the great spiritual teachers have agreed, and who better to guide us in the matter of purpose, are there to

hold you where you don't belong anyway. "My kingdom is not of this world," says Christ. "The ten thousand things of this world are illusion," says the Buddha.

So follow the horrors and I guarantee they'll dissipate. Don't gasp for air; drown. I guarantee you'll surface. And you will have become readier for that final leap. Be grateful you have been given the opportunity to practice. Ask anybody who's been near to death and she will tell you she is more alive for the experience.

If it were not for death, life would be insipid, tasteless. Think about it: the fact that death waits at the end of life as its ultimate purpose gives life its meaning.

Can you do the dead man?



## THE PANHANDLER

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# NEWS

## Campus sees enrollment decline

### Age and gender stats also captured

BY DEBORAH WINTERS  
PANHANDLER STAFF

While enrollment at Columbia College dropped in both 2004 and 2005, college officials say it won't hurt the budget – and enrollments should start growing again.

According to Dennis Gervin, vice president for student learning, when enrollment drops state funding usually drops too. However, recent legislation has been more favorable to community colleges.

"New money infused by the state to community colleges has allowed the budgets for instructors, operations and the infrastructure to stay the same," said Gervin.

In the fall of 2004, total enrollment at Columbia was 3,567, a 13.4 percent decrease from 2003. In 2005, it dropped another 7.8 percent to 3,287.

Columbia College recently conducted an unscientific survey to find out reasons for the decline in enrollment.

"What we found was that attendance was difficult for many reasons – class conflicts, interference with work schedules and challenges of day care," said Gervin.

Using a new software program, Class Track, the college will track curriculums, what classes are being

offered and when. This information will be used to better meet student needs.

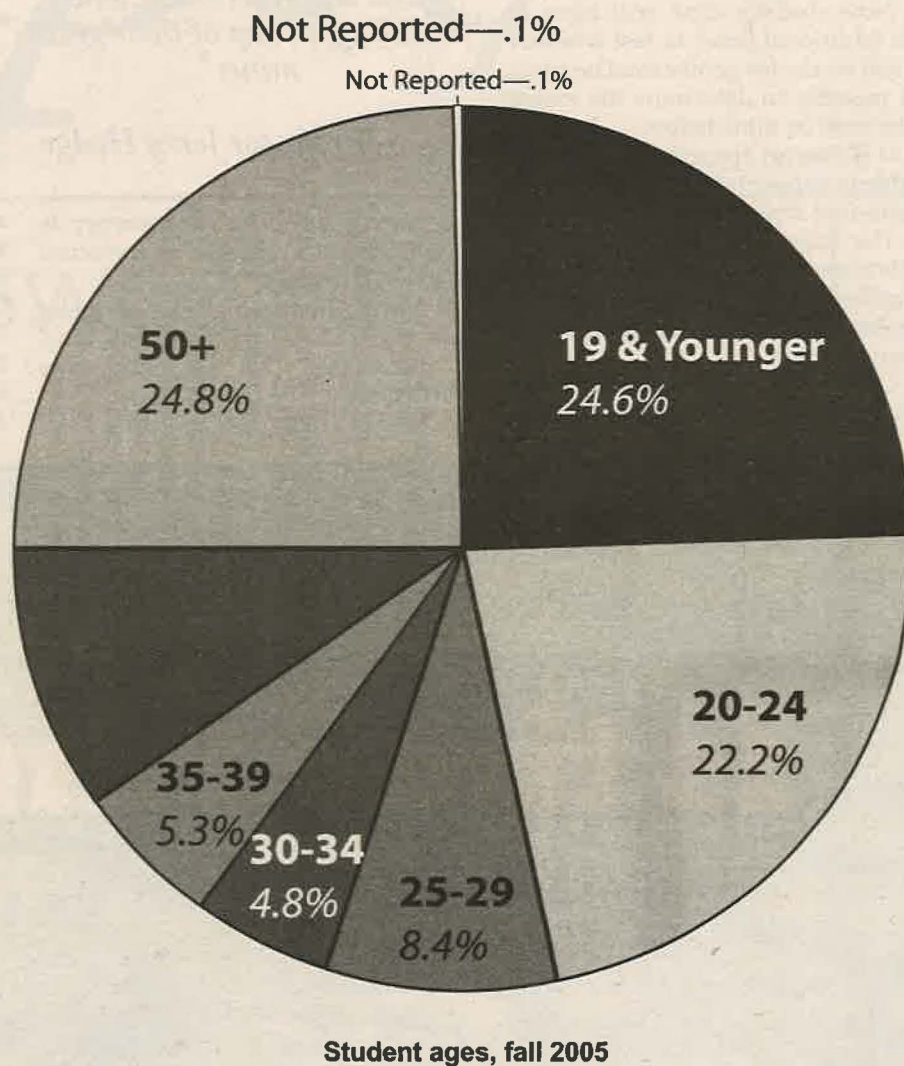
"We are in good shape this year and will grow," Gervin said. "We are projecting a one percent increase in enrollment each year for the next several years."

The enrollment numbers were contained in the Columbia College Spotlight, a statistical look at Columbia and its students.

In terms of age, the single largest demographic is older than people might expect. People age 50 and older make up 24.8 percent of students, slightly outnumbering students 19 and younger, who are 24.6. The next largest age group are students 20 to 24, who make up 22 percent of the student body.

Women slightly outnumbered men 56 percent to 43 percent in 2005, when the latest statistics were captured, but that disparity has fallen dramatically in recent years. In 2001, women were 62 percent of the student population and men just 38 percent.

Since 2001, the number of continuing students – students enrolled for a second year – has increased from 36 percent of campus to 56 percent. The percentage of campus who were first-time students or first time transfers declined.



## CSU business classes top students' wish list

BY CAROLE LOGUE  
PANHANDLER CONTRIBUTOR

Columbia College students who want to take transferable classes from California State University, Stanislaus are most interested in business and applied studies courses, especially if they are taught on the Columbia campus.

Other areas of study students rated highly on a survey conducted last fall are liberal studies and education.

"There is a large degree of interest in pursuing the program," said Doug Lau, Columbia's director of marketing and public relations.

The survey was taken during

the fall semester on the Columbia campus, published in the Union Democrat newspaper and available online.

It asked people about their interest in taking CSU Stanislaus classes, how they wanted those classes taught, their preferred days and times and whether or not they would commute.

The 392 people who completed the survey do want to take CSU Stanislaus classes, and the vast majority, 314, want those classes taught by live instructors in Columbia College classrooms.

Just under 100 people said they want online courses, and 41 rated videoconferencing as the best

teaching method.

Only eight respondents said TV courses were best.

A majority of survey takers preferred not to take classes on Fridays or Saturdays, and most wanted morning classes.

The survey gave people three choices of commuting options to choose from – 75 percent of the courses taught at Columbia and 25 percent at the CSU Stanislaus campus in Turlock, 50 percent taught at each location, or 25 percent taught at Columbia and the rest in Turlock.

Most people chose the first option, having 75 percent of the class taught at Columbia. Three hundred and three people said that was an

acceptable option, while 70 said it was not.

The 50-50 split was acceptable to 99 people and unacceptable to 183; and the 25-75 option was acceptable to only 58 people and rejected by 230.

The results have been delivered to CSU Stanislaus, but not much has been done with them yet.

Rodger Pugh, vice president for enrollment management at Stanislaus said the colleges need to decide jointly what happens next.

"I have seen the survey results and need to get in touch with Mr. Gervin and his staff to see what our next course of action will be," he said.



# Drilling: Void could change plans for building

Continued from front page

all the science disciplines taught on campus – anthropology, biology, chemistry, earth sciences, natural resources and physics.

"The faculty extremely excited, but we are stressed over the budget," Hodge said, even before the drilling problems surfaced.

Now drilling crew will have to bore additional holes to test whether the soil works for geothermal heating, and possibly to determine the extent of the void or mine below.

If it's large, the ground may not be able to support the planned 24,000-square-foot structure.

The science building will use earth-friendly construction and technology, including waterless urinals and, if it works, the geothermal heating system.

Geothermal heating works by taking advantage of the heat in

*"It's a reminder that when we change the Earth, it can have affects we can't imagine. I don't think the gold miners considered that one day someone would want to build a geothermal science building on top of their gold mine."*

– Professor Jerry Hodge

the earth's soil. The heat energy is maintained at a constant temperature of 50 to 70 degrees.

It was during the tests to make sure the soil is right for this kind of technology that the void was discovered.

Hodge said the building will

include a cadaver lab which will be used for human anatomy classes.

State-of-the-art air vents will bring clean fresh air into the building while special vents will take the smell of formaldehyde out.

Students will have limited use of the cadavers for dissection, and instructors will do most of the dissection. Students will have their own lab tables with individual venting systems. The cadavers will be kept in a cold room.

Groundbreaking is scheduled to occur in the fall of 2008. The building is projected to open in 2009 or 2010.

It's being paid for Measure E, a tax on homeowners in the district that will be used for building projects at Columbia and Modesto Junior College.

Columbia will get approximately \$50 million to not only build the science building, but also a new child development center.

When complete, the Science Building will include three large labs, small six-person study rooms, a greenhouse for botany, a staff meeting room, two medium-sized classrooms and one or two smaller classrooms.

Construction is planned behind the Toyon building. Despite rumors some people may have heard, there are no plans to tear Toyon down, but it may be integrated into the new building.

The Science Building will make class scheduling more flexible and more classes may be offered.

Hodge said the unexpected discovery of the void is a good science lesson in itself.

"It's a reminder that when we change the Earth, it can have affects we can't imagine," he said. "I don't think the gold miners considered that one day someone would want to build a geothermal science building on top of their gold mine."

## Is time running out?

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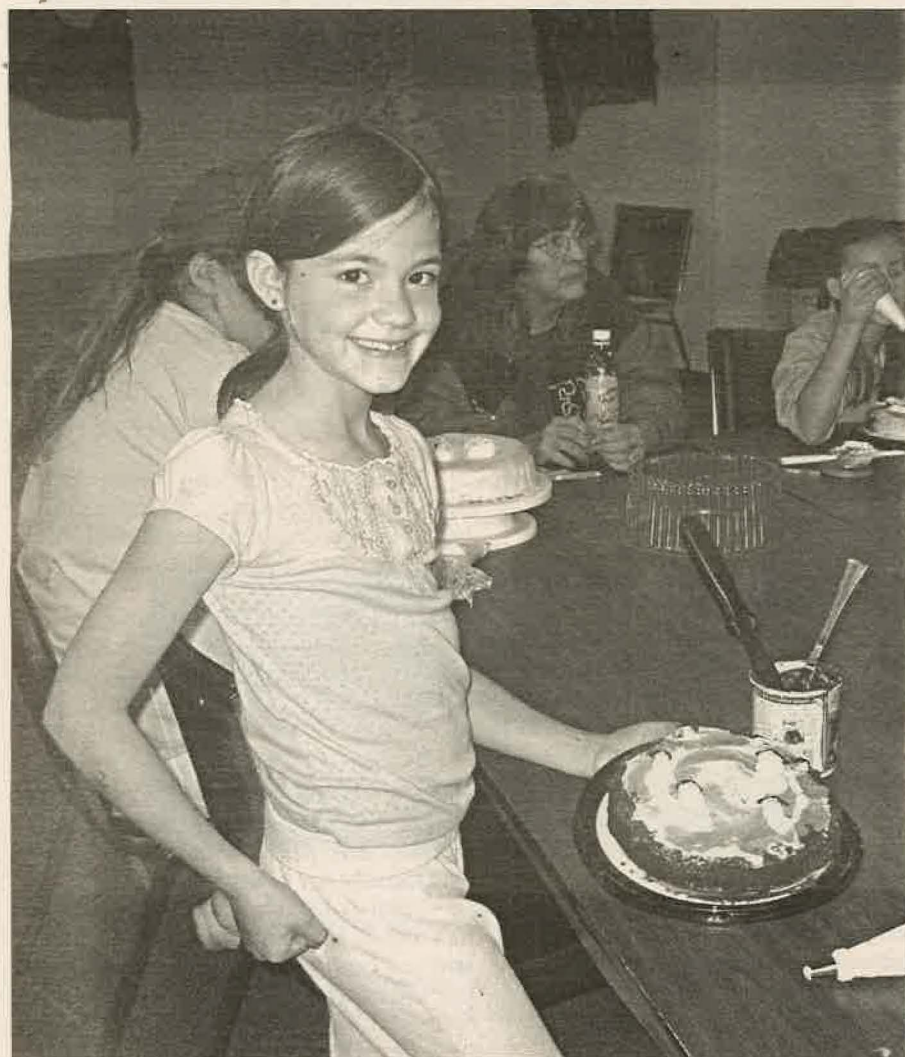


# The Spot

Good section!

Arts & Entertainment

## Student teaches sweet art to kids



Comfort Shirley shows off her Christmas cake.

*Story and photos by  
Deborah Winters*

Cake decorating expert Susan Tinsley shows kids how to make perfect frosting roses using a flower nail during the 4-H class in cake decorating.

Susan, a Columbia College student, has been sharing her expertise in cake decorating with the Foothill Swine, a local 4-H group lead by Columbia instructor Ida Ponder.

Susan has been decorating cakes professionally and teaching the techniques for the past 18 years, usually to adults. This was her first experience with kids.

"I just love teaching the kids," she said. "They're not afraid to try new things."

Susan made and decorated her first cake at eight years old and announced to her family that she was going to become a professional cake decorator. By 12, she had her own equipment, had taken her first class and was decorating cakes for friends and family.

After a second class, Susan was creating wedding cakes, special designs and edible images. At 20, Susan advanced to special effects and creating realistic-looking cakes using images and photographs.

Last September, Ida Ponder asked Susan to teach cake decorating as one of the annual projects for the Foothill Swine.

Using the skills and techniques learned in class, several of the kids decorated cakes and entered their creations in a cake auction and contest held at the January 12 Tuolumne County 4-H fund raising dinner. The cake auction raised approximately \$3,000.

Suzette Ponder, 12, received a first place blue ribbon for her "School Bus" cake, which sold for \$95.

"Cake decorating is fun," said Suzette.

Another cake decorated to resemble a turkey by Linda Mathiesen sold for \$75. Linda, 12, said she is really enjoying the class.

"It's a great chance to learn something different," she said. "It's also a talent I can use in the future."

Susan is pleased by how well the class has gone.

"Seeing their success makes it worthwhile and I look forward to seeing how they interpret and evolve to their own style over the next few months," she said.



Stefany Haynie and Ida Ponder watch Susan Tinsley mix frosting.



Spring 2007

# awareness

## documentary films

Wednesdays 7:30pm / FREE!

Columbia College Dogwood Forum

Open discussions will follow all films



Jan 17

**Eyes on the Prize: Excerpts on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

From the documentary series about the American Civil Rights Movement, a look at Dr. Martin Luther King's protests against voting rights, poverty, and war.



Jan 24

**American Blackout**

This indictment of the election process exposes the disturbing tactics of today that disenfranchise black voters and silence dissent.



Jan 31 Parts / 1, 2

Feb 7 Parts / 3, 4

**When the Levees Broke**

Spike Lee's epic documentary on Hurricane Katrina that doesn't just recount the events of late August 2005 but asks why they unfolded the way they did in the first place.



Feb 14

**Waging a Living**

Filmed in California, New York and New Jersey over a three-year period, this thought-provoking documentary tests the mantra "get a job" to see whether low-wage jobholders—otherwise known as the "working poor"—can pull themselves and their families out of poverty.



Feb 21

**America's Wars Against the 3rd World**

America is "addicted to war" according to this video compilation of CIA covert operations and US military interventions since World War II.



Feb 28

**Why We Fight**

Filmed during the Iraq War, this documentary dissects America's military machine with a keen eye to answering the question: Why does America engage in war?



March 7

**Power of Nightmares / Parts 1, 2**

This BBC documentary explores the use of fear for political gain, looking at how two seemingly disparate groups—radical Islamists and neo-conservatives—apply similar tactics.



March 14

**Power of Nightmares / Part 3****and War is Sell**

The finale of this BBC documentary asks whether organized terrorism is an illusion for political gain. Excerpts from *War is Sell* uncover the tactics of propaganda used to persuade people to support war.



March 21

**The War Tapes**

Armed with minicams mounted on their gun turrets, helmets and dashboards, three National Guardsmen capture an unprecedented perspective of the Iraq war.



March 28

**Iraq in Fragments**

A collage of images and commentary from ordinary Iraqi citizens coping with the effects of war, political unrest, religious feuds and an uncertain future.



April 4

**My Country, My Country**

Can America bring a Western-styled democracy to Iraq? This film, shot alone by an American woman, documents the 2005 elections by following an Iraqi doctor running for political office. Symbolized by fingers marked with purple ink, these elections pose challenges to all sides of the debate about the war.



April 11

**Obsession and 30 Days**

Two views of Islam: in one, a radical view that Islam is a threat to Western civilization; in the other, a moderate view that shows a Christian "becoming" a Muslim for 30 days.



April 18

**With God on our Side**

After tracing the rise of the conservative evangelical movement in America, this film then explores how President Bush's religious beliefs inform his decisions.



April 25

**Jesus Camp**

An unfiltered look at a revivalist subculture where devout Christian youngsters are being primed at a summer camp to "take back America for Christ."

## Fire

Continued from front page

he was singled out by other fire students and hazed because he was the last of the new recruits to come off probationary status.

He said the others forced him to drink excessive amounts of beer, then threw him to the ground and punched and kicked him repeatedly in the face.

The sheriff's report said the student fled to a nearby house and called the sheriff's department. He told the responding officers that his attackers were other firefighters.

The victim was taken to Sonora Regional Medical Center where he was treated and released.

The sheriff's department identified two suspects by description, but had not released names when this issue of *The Panhandler* went to press. The first suspect was described as 5-foot-11, 240 pounds from San Jose, and the second as 6-foot-2, 165 pounds from Sonora.

The sheriff's department, the Tuolumne County District Attorney's Office and the California Department of Forestry are all investigating the incident. Sheriff Jim Mele has asked anyone with information about this incident – or any other similar incidents in the past – to call Lt. Dan Bressler or Detective Ken Diaz at 694-2900.

Columbia President Smith said there is no campus investigation because the incident happened off campus. But there still could be disciplinary action.

"Columbia College has a zero-tolerance policy on hazing," Smith said. "Firefighters have gone over the policy before signing into the program."

Tuolumne County Fire Marshal Kary Hubbard said the Columbia College fire science program, and station, has been an asset to the community for many years.

"The Columbia College fire house has been in operation since 1972, and is one of two student-staffed fire departments at community colleges in California," she said. "The program gives a hands-on experience in the field, and has always had successful firefighters come out of the program."

"Tattoos Are A Good Distraction For The Aesthetically Impaired!"

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# Debate team continues its winning ways

The Columbia College Speech and Debate Team continued its winning streak by swiping nine awards at the Chabot Gladiator Speech and Debate Invitational held the last weekend in January.

Teams from Columbia College blazed through Friday's preliminary debate rounds with an impressive won-loss record of 5-1. In addition, Columbia College scored a perfect hat-trick by having all three of its entries debate their way to the championship rounds.

The two-person teams of Taureanna Shimp and Cody Cooper, Trevor Wittke and Zack Macbeth, and Danielle Carmack and Caitlin Ellis each argued their way to Saturday's quarterfinal elimination round. The topic assigned to the debaters asked the team to assert that "The sun had set on the U.S. Empire."

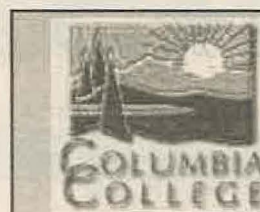
It was decided that Columbia

College was able to prove that the sun is setting on the U.S. Empire, but that the team had not proven that the sun had set.

As a result, the Claim Jumpers were eliminated when the judges gave a 2-1 split decision to Modesto Junior College.

The format of debate dictates that debaters compete in teams of two, yet students are also judged on their individual speaking ability. Macbeth, Shimp and Jordan Horn placed in the top 10 individual speakers. In addition, Wittke became the first Columbia College student to reach the finals in three separate events. He placed fourth in Extemporaneous Speaking and third in Impromptu Speaking.

The team is looking forward to continuing this momentum forward in the Northern California Forensics Association Championships.



## Campus and Community

## Tickets on sale for popular college wine tasting event

Three decades of success have helped build the Columbia Wine Tasting Festival into one of Northern California's premier wine events.

Last year's festival brought together representatives from more than 40 wineries from throughout the state - along with numerous local food purveyors.

The 31st Annual Columbia Wine Tasting Festival will be held on Sunday, Apr. 22 from 1 to 4 p.m. at Columbia State Historic Park.

Participants will be able to spend an enjoyable afternoon strolling throughout the historic state park, a completely restored gold rush-era mining town. Wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served at several convenient tasting stations located on the park grounds.

Sponsored by the Columbia College Foundation, festival proceeds will benefit the college's Hospitality Management and Culinary Arts Program. Graduates of this well-respected program are employed in kitchens and dining rooms throughout the culinary world.

Event tickets are \$45 each and are available from the Columbia College Foundation, 11600 Columbia College Drive, Sonoma, CA 95370.

Tickets can also be obtained through a message phone line at (209) 588-5089.

## Civic engagement films free

Organizers of Columbia College's civic engagement project have decided to eliminate admission fees for the public to attend the film series on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. in the Dogwood Forum. Charges for the thought-provoking documentaries were removed to encourage all to attend and welcome community participation. The entire 14-week series runs through April 25 and open discussions follow each presentation.

*Too much to carry ...  
Too far to walk ...  
Bad weather ...*

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## Bistro resumes fine dining

The Cellar Bistro is again opening its doors for fine dining on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.

The menu will change weekly and include soup, salad or appetizer, choice of two entrées, and dessert. The four-course menus are student planned, prepared and served in a fine-dining setting.

Dinner will be served from 5 to 7 p.m., and range in price from \$16.95 to \$18.95, plus tax and gratuity.

"We'd like to offer members of the community a first-class dining experience that's reasonably priced and at the same time, provide some practical hands-on training for our students," said Tom Bender, a veteran culinary arts professor at the college.

"The dinners are entirely student-driven and it's very rewarding to see how enthusiastic our students are about this," Bender said.

Reservations are recommended and can be made by calling 588-5300.

### Weekly SUDOKU

#### Answer

4	2	6	9	5	3	8	7	1
3	8	7	2	1	4	9	5	6
9	1	5	8	7	6	4	3	2
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6	3	1	4	2	9	5	8	7
8	4	2	7	9	1	3	6	5
1	6	9	3	4	5	7	2	8
7	5	3	6	8	2	1	4	9

### Solution time: 25 mins.

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# PASTIMES

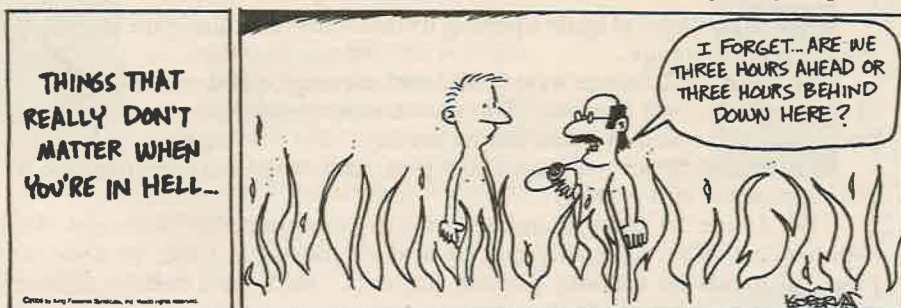
## Weekly Sudoku

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1				4				8
	5		6		2		4	

Puzzle answers are on page 7

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



## King Crossword

### Across

- 1 Diamond Head locale
- 5 Taxi
- 8 Pub refreshments
- 12 Press agent?
- 13 Dos Passos trilogy
- 14 Stick in the mud
- 15 Languid
- 17 Largest of the seven
- 18 Pianist-composer Erik
- 19 Tea Party figure
- 21 One-on-one battle
- 24 Conk out
- 25 Cheat on a test
- 28 Faction
- 30 Thanksgiving abbr.
- 33 Monokini's lack
- 34 Argonauts' skipper
- 35 Cain's mother
- 36 D.C. VIP
- 37 Anise-flavored liqueur
- 38 Boast
- 39 Comic-strip squeal
- 41 Small combo
- 43 Toppled
- 46 Seedy bars
- 50 Pelvic bones
- 51 Believer in perfection
- 54 Hit ABC series
- 55 Sticky stuff
- 56 Differently
- 57 Apportion
- 58 Coop occupant
- 59 Profound

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50					51	52	53					
54					55				56			
57					58				59			

- 23 "Mephisto Waltz" composer
- 25 "60 Minutes" home
- 26 Raw rock
- 27 "Meet the Press" participant
- 29 Entrance
- 31 Eggs
- 32 What couch potatoes do
- 34 Monologue component
- 38 Prepared lobster
- 40 Cheer up
- 42 Mrs. McKinley
- 43 Movie
- 44 Lotion additive
- 45 Almost here
- 47 Contemptible
- 48 Being, to Brutus
- 49 Dance lesson
- 52 A female deer
- 53 A billion years

### Down

- 1 Rembrandt's creations
- 2 Met melody
- 3 Emcee
- 4 Sloppy
- 5 Poolroom need
- 6 Ninny
- 7 Wild party
- 8 Cremona craftsman
- 9 Audience member
- 10 Pennsylvania port
- 11 Burn somewhat
- 16 Romanian money
- 20 Mideast gulf
- 22 Birthright barterer

## On the Street: What is your major and why?



Chris Caletini

Photo journalist  
I want to show people what issues are effecting the world.



Kamarah Guerrero

Getting an A.A.  
I haven't decided on a major.



Colin Taylor

Teaching  
I want to make a difference in children's lives.



Tara Konberg

Getting an A.A.  
I would like to be a kindergarten teacher.