

THE PANHANDLER

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Brian Greene Relates to Books *Columbia College Librarian*

by Adam Bergen

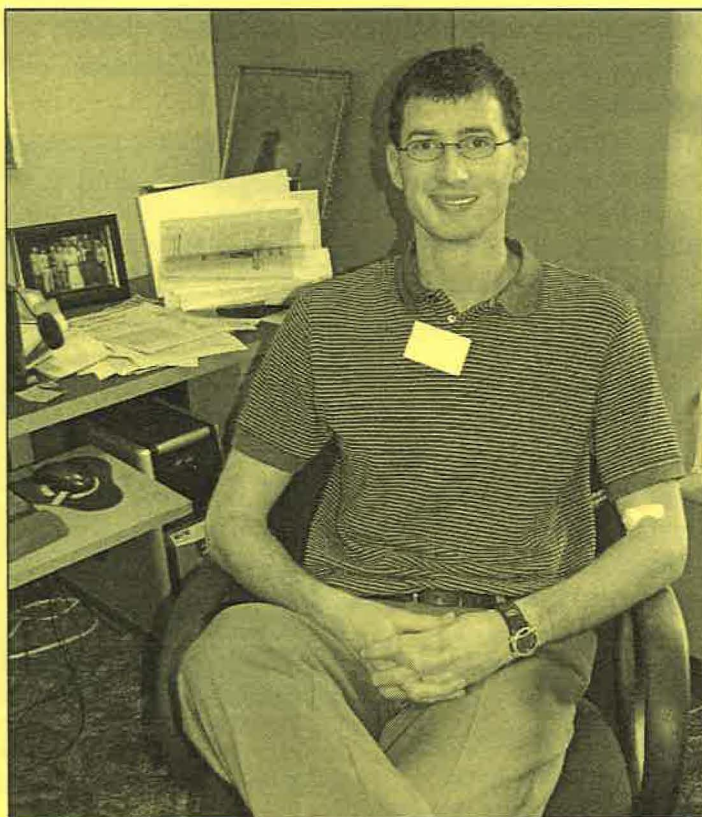
An exceptionally low number of people ever make it to Antarctica, but there is one such traveler in our midst.

The Columbia College librarian, Brian Greene, has visited the farthest southern continent twice, for six months each time. It was at McMurdo, the largest U.S. Antarctic base, that he first worked in a library. During his time in McMurdo, he also worked as a bartender and a pinsetter at the two non-automated bowling lanes.

Both of his trips have been during the summer when the sun never sets, and the base's population swells to 1,000 from the winter average of 150 people.

People who go to the Antarctic base are only allowed to bring 65 pounds of personal belongings when they go in and when they leave. Greene says that one thing commonly left at the southern extreme of the world is books. The library at McMurdo is mainly made up of donations and fiction, a way to escape.

However, the librarians' personal reading focuses more on non-fiction. He wishes to read a biography of every



Brian Greene is the Columbia College Librarian *staff photo*

U.S. president but, if he reads fiction, prefers that it be historical or classic science fiction such as that of Ray Bradbury.

Greene, 28, holds a B.A. in Environmental Studies from Plymouth State College in New Hampshire and a Master's in Library and Information Science from University of Washington Information School. He has traveled extensively and seemed to always end up in libraries wherever he happened to be.

His decision to attend the Information School formulated after a conversation with his mother in which she pointed out that he liked and seemed to always be in libraries.

While in graduate school, Greene worked in four libraries at the same time. First, that of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration base in Seattle, Wash, where he spent the largest amount of time, and had the least amount of work to do. Second, he worked in the University of Washington library. The third, and only for-profit library in which he has ever worked is that of Integral Consulting, an environmental consulting firm

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Mountain Women's Resource Center Seeks Volunteers

by Brian Moore

Mountain Women's Resource Center representatives Marta Herron and Wesley Sheffilt are seeking a few volunteers.

The pair was on the Columbia College campus recently to discuss how students could assist the organization in a variety of their programs.

Herron and Sheffilt encouraged both men and women passing by a table they set up to grab whatever they wanted, such as emergency phone numbers, safe sex packs, snacks, gadgets, as well as an array of brochures.

The Mountain Women's Resource Center is a Sonora-based nonprofit whose mission is, "to celebrate equality, oppose

violence against women, and impact policies regarding women, children and families."

In addition to Herron and Sheffilt, MWRC has between 20 and 30 active members, and is always looking for volunteers. If you are interested in a "Domestic Violence/ Sexual Assault Crisis Line and Peer



Marta Herron and Wesley Sheffilt, with the nonprofit Mountain Women's Resource Center in Sonora, were on the Columbia College campus recently recruiting volunteers.

staff photo

Counseling volunteer opportunity" contact the MWRC office. A 12-week-course will allow volunteers to earn a state- approved

certificate, in exchange for a one-year commitment to MWRC. Sheffilt, of Sonora, graduated from college and went through the 12-week-course in order to obtain her certificate.

Now she is building her resume and preparing for graduate school while volunteering with MWRC.

The Mountain Women's Resource Center is a vital tool that brings awareness to our community, as well as a resource that, "helps survivors get the support they need for healing,"

Herron said. MWRC offers a crisis line, emergency

shelter, counseling, legal assistance and a transitional shelter that helps victims become survivors. MWRC volunteer, Herron states, "The most effective way to prevent violence is educate before it happens." She added, "I'd love to work myself out of the job."

MWRC is located at 19900 Cedar Road North in Sonora. For information about MWRC, volunteering or donations, call the office at 209-588-9305, or visit their Web site www.mountainwomen.org, or e-mail them at mwrc@sonic.net. If you are in need of the MWRC confidential crisis line, call 209-533-3401.

Scholarships Available to Many Students

by April Graham

Over the years more and more Web sites have been created to inform students of financial aid opportunities such as loans, grants, and scholarships.

Cass Larkin, head of the Columbia College financial aid office, calls fastweb.com the "host of scholarships." She says that in Columbia College financial aid offerings, there are over 135 scholarships ranging from \$50 to \$3,500 each, just for Columbia College students alone. Larkin said when filling out the financial aid application, every student is automatically applying for 150 scholarships. Although not every student has the qualifications to compete for each scholarship, Larkin believes there's a scholarship out there for everyone.

Because scholarships applications have been declining during the past three years, Larkin says her goal, "Is to break the barriers so that we can assist those who are in need of financial aid." Scholarships are given to students with a variety of credentials, ranging from being a single parent to ethnicity. Larkin talks about how every applicant has great chances of getting a scholarship, and that at least 80 percent of all applicants are awarded some financial aid.

Each semester there is a festive scholarship celebration. This year's lands on April 17th starting at 4 p.m. It will be held in Dogwood and the culinary classes will be providing pastries. The ceremony celebrates both the donor and the recipient. All community members are encouraged to attend.



Students also Qualify for a Tax Rebate

By Adam Bergan

Under the recently-passed \$168 billion economic stimulus package, some Columbia College students may qualify to receive tax rebates of \$300 to \$600. Students who earned at least \$3,000 in taxable income over the past year may be eligible. Also, for 2008 alone, the tax rate on one's first \$6,000 earnings will be zero percent. The government hopes that getting this extra money in the hands of consumers will encourage them to spend more.

On what might Columbia students spend their rebates? "Probably spend it on a guitar, knowing me," said Steven Segerstrom.

Economics professor Randy Barton admitted, "I really haven't considered it."

The word of a possible recession has been a feature in newscasts for at least the last couple months. Barton says the recession fears evolved when the subprime loan crisis could not be contained and began to effect the broader economy, with implications for the rest of the world.

"I would commend the administration for acting quickly," he says of the stimulus package, but continued, "personally I would like to see it go more toward the investment side." Approximately \$68 billion of the plan is made up of incentives for large and small business, mostly in the way of tax write-offs when purchasing capital. This is meant to encourage the expansion of businesses, which could create jobs.

Barton offered an idea on how to decrease unemployment among construction workers and better bolster the economy, "Instead of giving out so many rebate checks you could fund existing government projects either to absorb or increase construction employment that has been lost in our housing market."



staff photo

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where he did very specific research and spent as much time recording billing information as researching. Finally, he did an internship at North Seattle Community College where he figured out that he wanted to be a community college librarian.

While Columbia is the first college library that Greene has been in charge of, he says that he doesn't

have an ambition to move to a bigger school, he believes that he has a good thing going here and plans to stay to retirement.

When asked about the effect of the Internet on libraries he responded "the problem with Internet for libraries is that it fuels this consumerism where people will just go to Amazon and buy the books instead of going to the library and getting them for free."

Thomas Fleener of Angels Camp, a freshman studying Spanish, recently looked through some of the books the Columbia College Library is discarding.