

COLUMBIA COLLEGE MOUNTAIN TIMES

May 1998

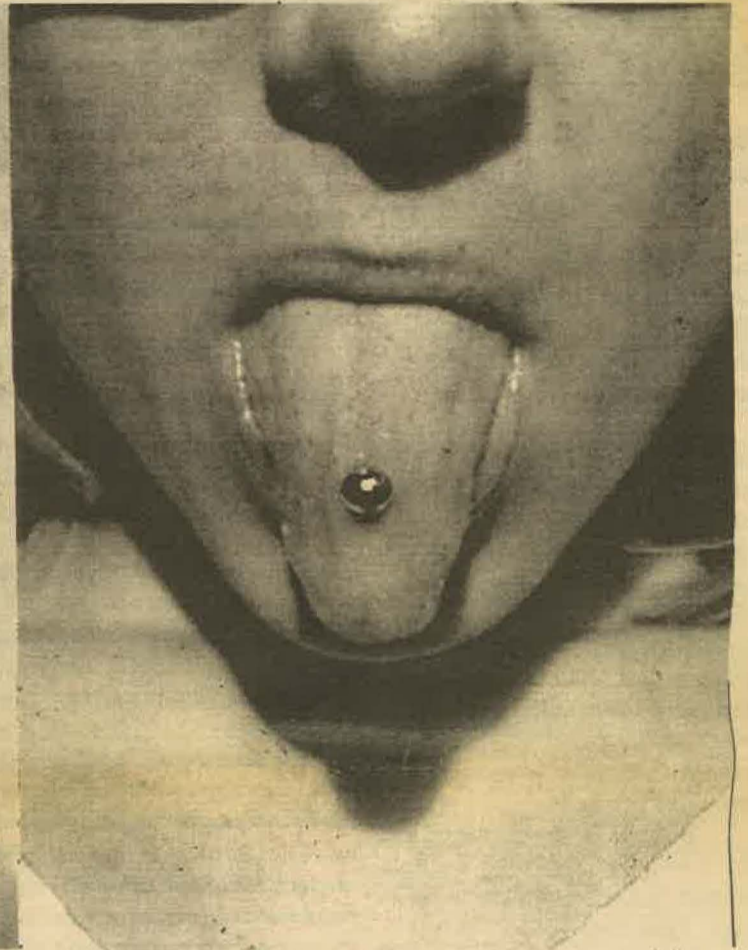
Columbia College

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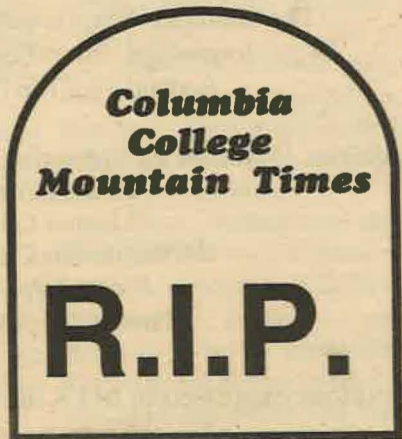
Tattoo You?

You've got to see these photos! The MTX takes a look at tattoos and body piercing on campus. Plus, if you've ever thought about getting a tattoo, check out our "Q&A" and get the info you need before you take the plunge.

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What's Inside the FINAL EDITION of the MTX?



APATHY KILLS MTX

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Letters to the Editor

The Mountain Times prints all letters as they are submitted. Letters are not edited for spelling, grammar, content, or verification of authorship. The opinions of the writers do not necessarily reflect those of the Mountain Times. If you would like to express your opinion please submit it to the Mountain Times box in the instructional office. All letters must be signed to be considered for printing.

HIV HITS HOME

Too many people today think they'll never get any sexually transmitted disease. It's like they live for today without any thought of their future. The first time I ever seriously sat down and thought about it I decided sex wasn't important anymore. Yes its fun but it could be deadly. I don't want any part of having foolish unprotected sex.

I'm so glad people that are infected with the H.I.V. virus are brave enough to go around speaking to others about unprotected sex. I think they've got enter [sic] strength that amazes me. Not just anybody could stand up and witness to strangers about their past. They set aside what other people think about them and just going out to talk about AIDS to me is so brave and noble. I think everybody should commend them on their unselfish nature.

It scares me to see the people that I love have sex with multiple partners. I don't know what to say to them. I just hope and pray they will stop and think about what they are doing and use condoms. I personally could do without sex for the rest of my life if it means saving it. The thought of dying a slow and painful death is enough to turn me off. There is so much I would like to do in life to waste it on one foolish night. Thats all right I think I will pass on that one. I just hope and pray that I will remember and use my own advice and always use condoms or do without. I know it is only a matter of time before it hits home with someone I love and care about.

Amanda D

Talking Heads Too Tabloid & Trashy

Matthew Schmidt asked a number of students "Are Clinton's alleged sexual activities relevant to his job performance and should they be reported by the media? (In essence, is Clinton entitled to penis privacy?)" I think that he, Matthew Schmitt, perverted the question by rephrasing it at the end. I think it was

immature of him to rephrase the question. One lady who was asked, either didn't understand the question or purposely said something stupid just to make people wonder if she's been on acid. Matthew's question was directed at five women and one man. I think that he should of asked all different kinds of people and maybe ask more equally.

He has turned the article into a tabloid writer who doesn't think with his mind but his groin that only The Post and the L.A. Times reporters have the right to write like that. They are inconsiderate, rude and vulgar. Hey, we are all adults here. We're not a bunch of horny high schoolers that think sick innuendos are really a blast. If you're going to ask people questions you should be a little more considerate. I know it's America with the freedom of speech, but you can still use discretion.

I think that Matthew Schmitt has been trying to copy the slick writing style that the slimy tabloid reporters have (as I have stated before). Hey Matt, here's some advice: "Don't try to pose like something you're not."

Michael Wilmshurst

Ethnic Diversity Article Ignores Rich ESL Culture

Regarding your March article by Lisa Larsen entitled "Columbia College Celebrates Cultural Diversity," I was disappointed to note that you had omitted the Columbia College English as a Second Language (ESL) art and literature show. The students in both Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties submitted their art and literature for a month long show in February in OUR rotunda. The Union Democrat did an article on the show. Did you not see the show, in the rotunda for a month? The students in our ESL classes represent more than 20 different countries; some of the students have been here for several years; others a few months. Some of the students were professionals in their countries; some were homemakers. All are here to live a better life and to learn English.

However, they all have retained their cultural diversity which you wax rhapsodically about in your article. Rather than rehash the same old names when "doing a cultural diversity piece", why not look around locally and see what we have right in front of us. People are welcome to come to our ESL classes anytime and volunteer to tutor or just to observe and meet some people from other backgrounds. One of the ways to "encourage cultural celebrations in this community" is first to acknowledge them. Thank you.

Cheryl Divine-Jonas
ESL Program Co-ordinator/
Instructor

Lack of Concern Over Crystal Falls Safety Issues?

The man that fell to his death from the top of Crystal Falls last week was my nephew. I know that my sister and his sister, my niece, must be having the hollow void left from this tragedy ache in their hearts. I know I do.

The sheriff's office has said, "15 or 20 people have fallen over the cliffs at Crystal Falls," in the last 25 years. WELL, which is it, 15 or 20?! It matters to someone! I understand it's 22 now!

Doesn't the sheriff's office and/or the Crystal Falls Property Association realize that ONE was too many? Which well-known upstanding citizen's child has to fall to his or her death before we can get this problem fixed?

My son hates me for backhanding him ten years ago when he went back there again after he had been told not to by his mother and me. The first time he took his three-year-old brother. The second time, his dog slipped in the moss, fell and died. I hope now that since his cousin fell and died, he realizes that I love him, and care for anyone enough to not want him or them to be killed in this type of senseless accident. In the future, I hope nobody has to feel this empty hurt.

Richard Wynne

Drunk Driving Death Saddens/Outrages Students

When I read the article about the very sad death of one of our fellow students, I felt angry at the news that the drunk driver may only face felony manslaughter. If someone

takes a gun with them to a place there may be a fight or some other trouble it is considered premeditated murder. I believe when you get behind the wheel of a vehicle after drinking and you kill someone, it should be the same.

With all of the public service announcements, the fights to change the laws, "just say no" rallies, and even movies of the week there is no way anyone can say they did not know what could happen. People will argue that they did not realize they were drunk. That is not the issue. That is one of the facts that are taught, when you drink you lose the ability to use good judgement. Losing this ability should not ever be a consideration for lessening the charges.

The effects that alcohol and drugs have on people is not a hidden fact. These facts are put in our faces every time we turn around. Everyone that chooses to drink or do drugs knows what it will do to them. That is the reason why most people chose to do it. The fact is before someone chooses to take that first drink or first hit they already know what it will do.

Just the same as a person knows a gun or a knife will kill.

Diane E

Talking Heads Correction

The MTX would like to apologize for any confusion resulting from the misplacement of several photos in the "Talking Heads" feature of the last issue.

Although the pairing of names and quotes were accurate, the photographs of four individuals were misplaced in the paste-up process.

The MTX would like to thank all those who allowed us to use their comments in the feature and again apologize for any confusion or embarrassment that resulted from the error.

The MTX would like to thank all the individuals who contributed letters to the editor; however, due to the overwhelming volume received, not all could be included for print. Every effort was made to print at least one letter representing each viewpoint expressed.

The Mountain Times is:

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Will New Federal Tax Laws Raise Fees for Community College Students in California?

Michael Wadle'
MTX Advisor

Recent changes in federal tax law will potentially have significant impact on community colleges in California. The federal Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 became law last August. The new law contained two key college tuition/fee tax incentive/benefits for taxpayers, the Hope Scholarship and the Lifetime Learning tax credit.

The Hope Scholarship allows taxpayers to claim up to \$1,500 for tuition and fees for students attending college at least half time. This tax credit only applies to the first two years of college. Specifically the scholarship covers the first \$1,000 in costs and 50% of the next \$1,000 for a total of \$1,500 in tax credits. Tax credits begin to phase out at \$80,000 adjusted gross income in joint returns (\$40,000 for single returns).

The Lifetime Learning tax credit is applicable to any year in college. Part-time or full-time students are eligible. It also covers col-

lege tuition and fees at 20% of the first \$5,000 in costs up to a maximum of \$1,000 in tax credits. The \$80,000/\$40,000 phase provisions are also applicable to the Lifetime Learning tax credit.

Although the tax credits sound attractive, California's lower tuition fees, especially in community colleges, may result in the new tax credits actually have a negative impact on enrollment. For example, the average community college fees for full-time students in other states is \$1,250. In California, the comparable average fee is only \$360. The Hope Scholarship would offset all fees in each case, however it could lessen the interest in California's community colleges because their current lower fee structure would not be as attractive.

This lower fee differential is even more dramatic when comparing California community college fees with fees for students enrolled in the California State University and University of California systems. As noted, the average costs for full-time students attending California community colleges is \$360, for state universities \$1,584, and for the UC system \$3,799. For student/parents generally eligible to take full advantage of the Hope Scholarship credit, these after tax fees would effectively drop to approximately; community colleges (\$0), state universities (\$253) and UC's (\$2,109). Will the resulting reduction in fee differential between community colleges and

universities have the net result of shifting student enrollment from community colleges to the state university and University of California systems? For example, the fee differential between community colleges and state universities is currently \$1,194. Under the Hope Scholarship, this fee differential drops to only \$253.

California's Legislative Analyst's Office has evaluated the new federal tax changes and issued a report speculating on the advantages to actually raise college tuition fees in California. In effect, because higher fees would still be covered by the tax benefits of the new federal law, higher fees would mean more revenue for the states education system by having the federal government pay greater subsidies via education tax benefits.

A recent article in The Chronicle of Higher Education asks, "Will New Federal Tax Breaks Hurt California's Colleges?" Robert Reischauer of the Brookings Institution, states in the article that the new tax breaks will create a "strong economic incentive" for states to raise tuition.

Time will tell if the actual impact of the new federal tax laws will be significant. Students attend community colleges for many reasons, including proximity to home, easy enrollment, curriculum offered, vocational programs, instructors, and environment. Also the new tax laws will not have a significant effect on students/parents whose tax obligations (and therefore benefits) are minimal due to low income.

Con'd ... "Tax Laws," page 15

Columbia College Prepares for 30th Commencement

By Lisa Larsen
MTX Editor-in-Chief

Columbia College will host its 30th annual commencement exercises, Friday, May 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the Oak Pavilion.

The key-note address at this year's ceremony will be given by Lisa Larsen, the Welcome will be given by Associated Student Body President Cliff Ammend, and the closing remarks will be offered by student Gary Bates. As in past years, Dr. Rod Harris and the Columbia College Jazz Choir and Ensemble will provide the music.

The college attempts to make the ceremony a more personal celebration of the student's accomplish-

Dave Willson Recommended as Vice President of Instruction

Columbia College President Jim Riggs recently recommended Dave Willson to Dr. Pam Fisher, YCCD Chancellor, as the permanent Vice President of Instruction at Columbia College.

Willson has served as interim Vice President since last summer, when Joan Barrett left Columbia to become president of a college in Minnesota.

Willson has been a popular member of the faculty and administration at Columbia College for over 23 years. He began his tenure here as an auto-tech instructor and prior to his appointment of interim VP, he was the Dean of Instructional Services. He and his wife, Anita have 3 children and are local residents.

The appointment concluded a selection process that began in February and included applicants from across the country.

Riggs cited Willson's "outstanding dedication to the College..... and his monumental achievements as a faculty member, administrator and community member".

Fisher added, "I am pleased to receive Dr. Riggs' recommendation for Dave Willson as the permanent Vice President of Instruction at Columbia College. Dave is an excellent educator and is committed to

Con'd ... "Wilson, VP," page 15

ments through some unique Columbia College traditions. For example: Students may request to be escorted in the processional by a favorite faculty member, and every student will have the opportunity to have a brief personal statement read as they receive their degree or certificate.

To date, the college has received confirmation of participation from 113 of the 258 eligible graduates. 100 of those will be receiving Associate degrees, the remaining 13 will receive certificates.

A reception will be held in Carkeet Park (weather permitting) immediately following the ceremony.

All graduates intending to participate in the ceremony must attend a mandatory meeting May 14th at 12:20 p.m. in Carkeet Park.

Graduation attire will be available to rent or purchase at the Manzanita Bookstore May 11-22.

Dropping Enrollment at Columbia Prompts Staff Reductions

Columbia College is facing a substantial revenue shortfall due to dropping enrollment. According to the Connie Mical, Acting Director of Accounting/Administrative Services, "the current fiscal year budget of \$6.57M will have to be reduced by \$110,000 in 1999."

Even with the reduction, according to Mical, "current revenue projections estimate an upcoming fiscal year budget revenue shortfall of approximately \$107,000."

Personnel costs account for 94% of the Columbia College budget. As a result, the projected shortfall necessitated the elimination of 3 full classified staff positions. This reduction will be accomplished through layoffs and reductions in work schedules. Adjustments have also been made in the parttime and overtime instruction budgets to help address the budget shortfall.

In response to this situation, Child Care Instructor Phyllis Greenleaf, made a passionate plea to the full Faculty Academic Senate on Tuesday, April 28th.

Citing the "real human effects of job losses", Greenleaf proposed that current staff consider "donating" part of their salary to help reduce or eliminate the (classified) staff layoffs and work schedule reductions.

This issue was brought up again at a May 1st meeting to discuss budget issues conducted by Columbia President Jim Riggs. Riggs stated at the meeting that he would "research the issue" to identify what options were available.

Riggs issued a memo on May 4th, which concluded that the staff donation suggestion was "very generous", however "preliminary analysis....indicated numerous legal and bargaining unit questions" which complicated the issues. Therefore, Riggs concluded that voluntary donations "might not be feasible".

According to Riggs, several staff members had also indicated to President Riggs that "they would not be able to participate in such a program".

The staff cuts and reductions will become effective during the summer.

COLUMBIA or DELTA?

By Lisa Larsen
MTX Editor-in-Chief

Although statistics on the trend are not available, it appears that increasing numbers of students living in the northern areas of Calaveras county, outside of our service area, are attending Columbia College. These students are technically living in the Delta College service area. This trend coupled with shifts in the ethnic composition of Delta's student population have raised the possibility of what some have dubbed a "white flight syndrome."

The MTX researched the changing demographics and interviewed several of these students to uncover the reason for this apparent trend for Columbia to draw students from outside its service area.

During the past ten years the African-American population has remained fairly constant (from 5% in 86-87 to 8% in 96-97); the Hispanic population has risen 10% (from 12% to 22%); and the Asian and other mi-

nority populations have also remained constant. But the most significant changes have been to the white population of the college, which has dropped from 61% of the overall population to 48% of the 96-97 class.

Interestingly, Columbia College has not experienced a similar shift, but instead the proportion of all ethnic groups have remained very consistent.

However, it should be noted that both Delta and Columbia's student body ethnic makeup are basically representative of their communities / services areas.

What is behind these shifts in demographics is still a matter of debate. However it appears there is a tendency for foothill community residents (who are predominately Caucasian) to choose to attend Columbia College rather than Delta.

This tendency could be accounted for by several different factors. Grace Metzger, a student who lives within the Delta service area but chooses to attend Columbia instead, Cont'd ... Delta / Columbia pg. 15

The Love Police:

Controversy Over Policy and Need For Regulating Faculty-Student Relationships

by Lisa Larsen
MTX Editor-in-Chief

Difficult and uncomfortable questions have been raised by an attempt to ban dating between Faculty and Students at San Francisco City College. According to the San Francisco Chronicle (2/28/98), "the proposed policy would prohibit professors from entering into 'amorous/sexual' relationships with any student they supervise. It also strongly discourages such liaisons even when the student and the teacher have no educational relationship." The proposed ban has provoked strong opposition from both faculty and students who claim the policy would allow the college to interfere with their personal lives.

San Francisco City College is not the first college to propose, or implement a policy regarding personal relationships between faculty and students. Whether the proposed policy is adopted or not, it has sparked renewed interest in an age-old dilemma for other community colleges.

At present, neither Columbia College nor the Yosemite Community College District has any written policy regarding Faculty-Student dating. This silent stance is probably due to the fact that, according to Vice President of Student Services Kathryn Jeffery "there have been [according to the best of her knowledge] no verified complaints or legal actions resulting from faculty-student relationships here at Columbia College."

That is not to say, however, that positive or benign relationships between faculty and students do not occur. Such relationships are not surprising in an environment where single adults with similar interests regularly associate, especially when there is very little age difference between faculty and student. In fact, several faculty members at Columbia have been, or are currently, married to former students. And Columbia is by no means exceptional.

According to one university study "over 25 percent of male faculty members reported engaging in at least one sexual encounter or relationship with a student." (Fitzgerald, 1988) A number which -- although substantial -- is also quite likely low.

So why would an educational institution be so concerned as to implement a written policy against the practice, especially considering the fact that both parties are consenting adults? Of course, one of the prime concerns for institutions implementing such policies is the threat of later sexual harassment law suits that such relationships potentially pose.

One male faculty member at Columbia College (who asked to remain anonymous) noted that although he had been happily married to a former student for many years he would "probably not have pursued a relationship with a student in today's environment [of heightened sensitivity to sexual harassment and increased litigation]."

Other concerns regarding intimate faculty-student relationships center around the potential for the abuse of power, especially when the student is one of the faculty member's classes and therefore subject to grading decisions by the faculty member.

Nancy Tuana, in her 1985 study entitled *Sexual harassment in academe: Issues of Power and Coercion*, noted that "regardless of a faculty member's intention, potential coercion -- in the form of uncertainty regarding the academic consequences on noncompliance, for example -- can influence a student to consent to unwanted sexual involvement. What appears to be an adult, consensual, and private relationship may actually be the product of implicit or explicit duress."

While the potential for exploitation and coercion does exist in such relationships, does it justify the interference of an institution into the private lives of two adults?

Although the MTX solicited several instructors for their personal experiences and opinions on the topic, only instructor David Alford was willing to go on record. Alford commented that:

"First, it is necessary to distinguish between a relationship with a student currently in a class and one who is not. With one who is not, no problem. Just another human being. For one who is in a current class, the 'official position' is that it is unethical, given the potential for abuse of the difference in 'power,' similar to an employee / employer relationship. It is also risky, for both parties. Power is a very complex thing. I fell HARD for a student a couple of years ago, and an outside observer would have been hard pressed to say which

of us had the most power! We are all capable of 'falling in love' or 'falling in lust' (see Theodore Reik's book, *Of Love and Lust*). The ancient Greeks honored both Apollo, the god of reason, and Dionysus, the god of 'drunkenness' and 'letting go.' They saw wisdom as the ability to balance the two forces. Passion is always wonderful, always dangerous."

Although some institutions have written policies against any faculty-student relationships (notably Harvard and Radcliffe Colleges), most colleges word their policy to agree with Alford's distinction between relationships by faculty and students that have an educational link, and those who do not.

Even in this seeming middle ground there is controversy. On one side is the problem of a student and faculty having an educational relationship at a future date. Even if the personal relationship has ended before the student enrolls in the faculty member's class, how will that previous relationship affect grading, as well as potential grounds for later sexual harassment/discrimination complaints?

What about the negative effects that written policies prohibiting private relationships may have on other student-faculty interactions? How would the fear of breaking policy affect mentor relationships, as well as the healthy and productive socializing that now occur between instructors and their students? *West's Education Law Quarterly* points out that "the mere idea of regulation threatens not only to further separate the sexes, but also inhibits free and open exchange of ideas and places dangerous limitations on First Amendment associational rights." (Stokes & Vinik, 1995)

Additionally, if there were written policies established against faculty-student relationships, who would define what constituted an improper relationship subject to disciplinary action? Where would the line be drawn: Sexual relationships only? ... Socializing outside of an academic setting? ... Having a meal together? ... Conducting a meeting in the instructor's office without a third party present?

Clearly, the issue is far from a satisfactory resolution. As VP of Student Services, Kathryn Jeffery observed after doing extensive research on the topic, "the issue and its solution are not as clear-cut as I used to believe."

Talking Heads

asked by Lisa Larsen

Do you think dating between faculty and students is ever appropriate? Would you personally date a (faculty member/student)?



Breanna Bird

"It's dangerous business, but would I? Oh yeah!"



Eliana Machuca

"I don't think it's a good idea if the student is in your class. I personally wouldn't date a faculty member."



Gene Womble

"No, I don't think it should go on. Personally, I would never date a student."



Kimberly Peterson

"No, I would say that it is never appropriate for faculty and students to date. I wouldn't participate, it goes against my morals."



Margo Elliott

"I think an instructor is opening the door for a lot of unnecessary problems by dating a student ... No, I would never date a student ... of course if Mel Gibson were in my class I'd have to retract everything I've said."



Andrew Reese

"As long as the student isn't in your class, I think it's just two people who should make that decision between themselves.. Would I? ... If I weren't married, and the person wasn't in my class ... sure."



Tattoo You?

By John Flynn MTX Staff Writer

You're walking down the sidewalk in Sonora with your friends or family. Approaching you are two guys with no shirts. You can't help but notice a skull, eagle and panther tattooed on their chests/arms, navel and nipple rings, and a stud through their tongues. Who knows what they have under their clothes? Genital tattoos and piercing are more widespread than you might think.

How do you react? "Great look!" or "Get lost freak!"

Tattoos and body piercing have become an increasingly popular form of art and expression in today's society. You see them all over, from the obligatory shoulder tattoos on NBA stars, to fellow students in the Columbia College cafeteria.

They're controversial too. Tattoos are often used to signify gang affiliations. Earlier this year, the city of San Jose announced a new \$15,000 program to help young people who were members of gangs to remove unwanted tattoos. Recently in Salt Lake City, an angry mother sued a national pastry chain (Cinnabon), alleging that it allowed an employee (who decided to bring tattooing equipment to work) to tattoo the word "pimpette" on her two daughters. For those of us who aren't hip, apparently the term "pimpette" means a young woman who is socially "with it," not necessarily what you're probably thinking.

There are several tattoo parlors available locally, including BODY FX located at Washington Street in Sonora. The MTX interviewed Keith Pike, the owner, who's been a tattoo artist for the last six years. According to Pike, BODY FX charges a \$40 minimum for a basic tattoo. The shop also uses sterilization equipment, disinfectants, has good lighting and the artists use surgical gloves.

Pike said that state of the art tattooing machines run "between \$2,500 - \$4,000 and now you can actually watch your tattoo being applied on a computer screen."

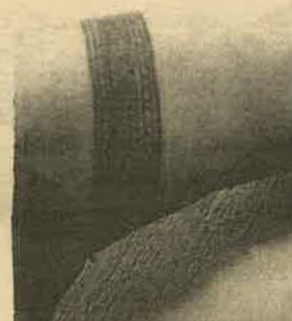
What type of person commonly gets a tattoo? Pike said that "95% of [his] clients are women in their early 20's and 30's."

Tattoos and various body marking techniques have been used in various cultures for thousands of years. Tattooing is the introduction of pigment through punctures in the skin to create various designs - from "Mom" to the more exotic. Body markings have historically been used to indicate religious and cultural affiliations and social status. The word "tattoo" actually is derived from a Tahitian term, hence the association with sailors who sailed the Pacific.

One of the favorite activities of the MTX staff is to ruminate about prospective stories to expand the cultural awareness of the student body at Columbia. With this in mind we solicited students to "Show us your tattoos" and visited the local tattoo/body piercing parlors to get the direct "scoop".

So here goes -- questions, answers and photos -- our unofficial effort to enlighten you on the art and issues of tattooing and body piercing.

(For Tattoo Q&A See Back Page) ...



Stalking... Margo Elliott

by Lisa Larsen
MTX Editor-in-Chief

5:45 Wednesday morning: After guzzling two cups of coffee and feeding her beloved cats, the day has already begun for Margo. It will be a long day like many others, filled with teaching (psychology or human sexuality), grading papers, endless committee meetings, and helping students in crisis.

9:45 p.m.: Finally able to return home, Margo is able to steal a little time to play with the cats and read a bit from one of her latest books before falling into bed dead to the world, only to start all over again tomorrow.

Here's a bit of advice: If you're some kind of sicko looking for a new victim to stalk, don't even think about Margo Elliott. It's just way too much work.

Of course, living life at full speed, not spending too much time in any one place seems to be Margo's trademark style. Although her home here at Columbia College isn't all that far from where she began life in Glendale, California, the path that she took to get here was anything but di-

A penchant for travel and a habit of getting bored with jobs after she had mastered them, ensured that Margo's earlier years were spent moving around, working in a lot of vastly different jobs. Before going to college Margo was many things, among them a: hotel maid, bartender, waitress, shareholder representative at American Express, maker of polymers at a chemical company, and an employment advisor.

Finally, at the age of 24, she decided to enroll in community college in part because she realized that she "was spending way too much time in bars." She explains, "I asked myself if I wanted to be doing this when I was 40 - just going from one job to the next every six months, and spending my time off in some bar. I decided I wanted more, so I started school for something to do."

Eventually, Margo chose psychology/sociology as her major and went on to earn a Master's degree, leaving school just short of finishing her doctorate. Since that time she has worked as a clinical psychologist, and was an instructor at the University of Kentucky in Louisville for nine years before coming full circle

lumbia seven years ago.

Along the way she has seen a great deal of the world: Hitchhiking across the U.S. four times (three times by herself) and traveling throughout Europe, Mexico, Canada, Guatemala, Belize, Switzerland, Jamaica and 46 of the continental United States to name just a few.

When Margo does get the occasional time to just relax, she enjoys spending it outdoors (particularly riding her motorcycle), reading, or watching a film.

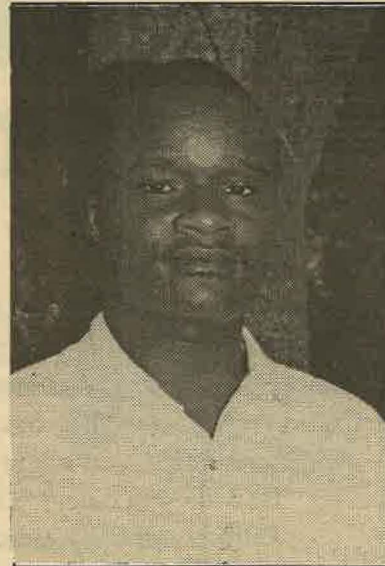
"I'm a major film buff, but I have absolutely no taste," Margo confesses with an honest laugh, "the film doesn't have to be anything refined ... it can even be a Wes Craven 'hack and slash' type, I like just about everything except war movies."

Her taste in books is just as eclectic. Recently she has read both *One Hundred Years of Solitude* as well as *Private Parts* by Howard Stern.

So, what's next for Margo? ... With a life that has had so many twists so far, the future is anyone's guess. But as Margo wishes me a late good night -- with a mischievous smile and an infectious laugh - I'm willing to bet that whatever comes next, it will make a great story.

KENYA TO COLUMBIA: One Student's Journey

By Cryss Black-Wolf
MTX Staff Writer



brought up the interesting point that in Kenya "people get paid by the day as opposed to getting paid by the hour." He states that this is so because a lot of travel is involved, at times, either during or to-and-from work.

Regarding politics, Steve brought up that there are similarities between politics here and in Kenya. Steve states that "we also have Social Security. And it, too, isn't safe! If you want to have money to retire on, you better start investing it now." Steve states that Kenya is also Capitalist, like here, with a free economy.

When asked about the transition from life in Kenya to life in Columbia, California Steve states that he enjoys attending school here. "The people here are very friendly. There were a few things that took getting used to though. At first I found it hard to get used to where all my classes were located." Steve says that because this is a very user-friendly campus that he was able to adjust without too much trouble.

Steven Wachira is one of the many students that have come here from abroad to attend Columbia College. Steve, age 25, comes from the city of Nairobi in Kenya, Africa, where he attended Kenya Utalii College and worked in Hospitality for three years prior to coming here. His family is part of the Kikuyu tribe, and consists of Steve (the eldest sibling), two brothers, two sisters, his mother, his fiancée, as well as several aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews, all of whom are still living back home.

Back home in Kenya Steve lived in the city, but his family had farmland in the country as well, giving Steve and his family the best of both worlds. Said Steve of life in Kenya, "customs are somewhat different. Life in Kenya is not as fast paced as it is here."

We discussed some issues that are, quite unfortunately, a part of American culture. On the issue of racism and violence Steve states that "I wouldn't be killed on the streets in Kenya, but here you could be killed by your neighbor." He also states that racism is not an issue in Kenya, and that "people accept you as you are." And on the issue of drugs he states that "very few people use drugs." He says that when people do use them they are more discreet about it, and that it is not a big part of the culture like it seems to be in other places. Steve summated by stating that "people are accountable for their conduct to 'someone', making everyone accountable for their own actions."

On the topic of social economics and other related issues, Steve

When asked how he learned about Columbia College, Steve states that he got his information from the American council "where you can get lots of information about American colleges." He also states that he had a friend who attended Chico State who recommended this area to him. Steve has a lot of interests ranging from tennis, reading, horses, and driving through the countryside. Steve is working toward and Associate degree here at Columbia, and plans to attend San Francisco State.

In talking to Steve I became knowledgeable about many new things. Not only did I gain a new perspective of African culture from subsequent conversations with Steve, but I gained a new friend. This writer urges students to introduce themselves to our fellow students from abroad. Not only can this provide lasting friendships, but it can provide you with new insight into other cultures, which can only enhance our own experience.

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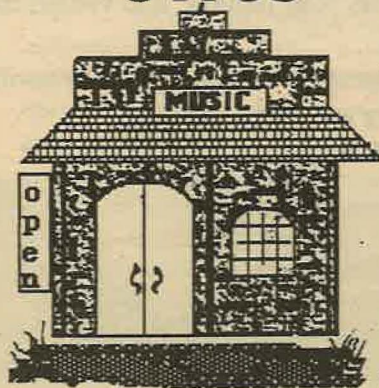
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EL NINO BE DAMNED:

Field Geology Trip -- Success in Spite of Weather

By Chrissy Black-Wolf
MTX Staff Writer

It's 8:15 Friday morning. Our intrepid leader, Jeff Tolhurst assures us -- a small group of about twenty adventurous souls -- that we are about to embark on a journey that is not only going to be full of mystery and suspense, but a journey that we will not soon forget. Our gear is quickly loaded, and we begin making our way out of Tuolumne County.

We make our way down the highway toward Los Banos, where a bunch of white-knuckled, bulging eyed and forehead-sweating students (who had wished they hadn't drank those two or three cups of coffee before the trip) made a mad exodus to the privy at McDonalds; this is our first, and most welcome stop of the journey. Then, with our bladders emptied and our stomachs filled, we

headed to Hollister.

In Hollister we were astonished by the effects of the strike-slip faulting that stretched through the middle of town. We photographed sidewalks, walls, and entire houses that were being slowly ripped apart by the faulting!

After stops at San Juan Bautista Mission and a few other areas of geological interest, we made our way to where we would pitch camp for the two nights we would be staying.

The ride to our campground, in a remote area just outside of the Pinnacles National Monument, was a memorable one. On both sides of the road we passed numerous herds of cattle. We gazed at several splay-footed calves, with their mothers. We observed them as they tarried carelessly through the yellow-mustard flower and purple lupin speckled hillsides.

Even though El Nino had a few surprises for us that night -- some off us woke up to small lakes inside our tents! -- we awoke to a beautiful

morning. We were surrounded by beautiful, snow-topped peaks just above us, the sounds of wild turkey calls, and the morning songs of the various birds that were up long before most of us were. Although there are remnants of Old-Man Winter around us, Spring is definitely here!

The next day was relatively dry, until we arrived at the Monterey Coastal region. After a brief stop at Marina State Beach, where we witnessed the affects of the erosion of 130 feet of beach in the last four days, we headed to Point Lobos State Reserve where it proceeded to hail. This was my first experience with hail on the beach!

We hiked along the cliffs edges and into small, secluded coves where we were able to admire the various plant life and the sea otters that were playfully swimming just below us. Tollhurst talked about the coastal geological processes just before lunch. Gray Whales, which can reach 40 tons and a length of over 45 feet, migrate through here, surfacing just offshore between December and May. However I was unable to see any, so now I have a good excuse to come back!

We headed back to where our camp was located. That evening was dry, but very cold! The evening included swapping jokes and stories around the fire, and ended with an astronomical discussion that was facilitated by a rather crisp, but clear night sky.

The next morning, after eating breakfast and breaking camp, we drove to Colinga: this is a town that was pretty much leveled by an earthquake a few years back.

After heading back towards the central valley, we veered up to Mariposa and stopped at a mineral and geological exhibit which, to my enjoyment, included several asteroids! Afterward we headed down Hwy. 49 to Coulterville where we were able to study veins of Mariposite and Serpentine (our state rock).

This brief account is just a taste of what was experienced on our field geology course. There wouldn't be enough room to recount all that was experienced, but perhaps this will be

just enough to tantalize you to sign up for one of these excursions in the future. Not only do you earn one unit, but you come away with knowledge that you did not possess before! Yes, we got a little wet. However, it was entirely worth it all.

For those who are interested in future field trips with Jeff Tolhurst, there will be some offered in the Summer as well as in the Fall. These field trips will focus on the Mono and Mammoth Lake areas.

A pre-trip meeting for the summer excursion will be held June 1st at 6-7:30 p.m. in Fir 3. The trip itself will be June 3-5.

For those of you unable to participate this summer, the same field trip will be offered again in the fall. The pre-trip meeting for this excursion will be held September 24th from 6-7:30 p.m., tentatively in Fir 3. The trip will follow on the weekend of October 2-4. For more information contact Jeff Tolhurst at 588-5235.

Skate or Die

By Matthew Schmitt
MTX Staff Writer

Approximately seven months ago, on November 22, Sonora made a progressive move by opening a community skateboard park.

The park was built on county property next to the main library in Sonora. Duke York, Sonora skate park committee chairman, along with other members of the community raised \$25,000 through fundraisers. The Sonora Area Foundation provided an additional grant of \$25,000. These funds, coupled with an anonymous donation of \$40,000, covered the \$90,000 price tag to complete the park.

The work was done by four local area contractors, supplemented by free labor from the Sierra Conservation Center inmates, and donations of labor and material from the Sonora 49er Rotary Club as well as many other businesses and agencies.

Response to the new park has been positive, both from skaters and from law enforcement alike.

According to one skater called Scid, "The bowls are cool and the transition to vertical is wicked..."

The original estimated cost of the park was \$250,000 yet it was accomplished for only \$90,000, proving what our community can accomplish when we work together.

Lessons In a Bottle

by Chrissy Black-Wolf
MTX Staff Writer

It is almost summer break, and the holidays are around the corner. You know, Fourth of July, Memorial Day, those holidays when the drinking and driving deaths go up, and people die for stupid reasons?

I used to work as a Nurses Assistant in a transitional care facility several years ago. The experience was rewarding in many ways, but it was also eye opening in just as many. Although I mostly took care of elderly individuals, I would also take care of people that were my age or even younger. Some of the things I have seen are too graphic to document here, but I would like to share with you two individuals that I had the pleasure of knowing while they were still alive.

The first person we will call Susan. Susan was a nice girl with her whole life ahead of her, until she got behind the wheel of her car while under the influence of alcohol. When I met Susan she was paralyzed from the neck down, and had to rely on strangers to feed her, clothe her, change her dirty diapers...you get the idea. Eventually Susan's vital organs, which were severely damaged, stopped working. She no longer was able to have a bowel movement, and she lived her last week alive having

her bowel movements make their way out of her body through her mouth. That was the last thing Susan experienced, fully aware with all of her faculties, before dying. All because of drinking irresponsibly.

Heather was another special person. She wasn't old enough to buy cigarettes, but she was dying of severe liver damage. She had Scerosis of the liver, a condition that turned her skin a pale yellow. She had her whole life in front of her, yet she threw it all away because she not only chose to drink, but she took it to the level of irresponsibility.

I am not saying you cannot drink. Just stop yourself and realize the consequences you may face if you drink irresponsibly. Line out designated drivers if you are going to be away from home, or take a cab or bus. Think about Susan, Heather, and many unnamed victims. Drinking and driving not only hurts those who drink! More people are killed by those who are drinking and driving by just being in the wrong place at the wrong time, like a side walk or in front of your own home.

So have fun this summer, but please be responsible for your actions and avoid what can be the most miserable of your remaining years...the ones in a hospital bed or the ones in prison.

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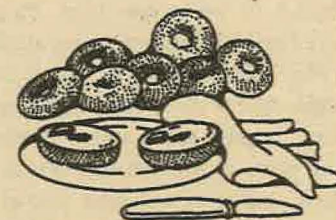
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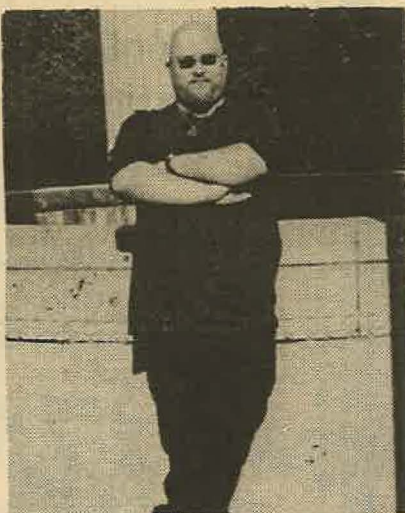
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BLACKWOLF'S BOTTOM LINE

Cryss Blackwolf
MTX Staff Reporter

It has always been my style to call things as I see them. This editorial is intended to hail the "praiseworthy" by anathematizing those who are deserving of our scorn.

First on my list is an issue that has been plastered all over the media in recent months. The question that seems to be on a lot of minds, not health care, not crime, not gangs and drugs, but: Did President Clinton ask former female employees to "blow his saxophone"? For starters, I don't think that it is anybody's job to check for lipstick on the president's boxers but the First Lady! Personally I could care less whether or not these allegations are true: my concerns lie only with the state of our Union. What I care about is the fact that unemployment rates are at an all-time low, and that our country is in better shape than it was. And if it takes a hummer for Billy-Boy to run our country, I say let him have one! This is just another way for people to allow themselves to be diverted from those issues that they themselves are partly responsible for.



harassing the aids-awareness table (an orgasm would probably kill this them!), telling us that if someone were to inject them with the aids-virus, their god would protect them from getting it! It doesn't seem normal to me to see someone who has such an unhealthy need to hang around school campuses when they aren't attending any classes, lingering like the "runs" one gets after ingesting a bad taco. On a side note, did you know that Seventh-Day-Adventism is the root/base origin of the David Koresh, Waco philosophy? Ask certain sign-toting hippies that you might see in town where they go to church!

Another thing that royally

chaps my butt is the whole concept of racism. These beer-swilling, Jerry Springer-bait types that speak of racial purity are morons! These guys are so severely inbred and full of crap that not a one of them can rightfully claim a national heritage as their own! Fortunately we do not have a huge problem with this on our campus, but it does exist in our community. There are a lot more things to hate people for than the color of their skin, as stupidity and ignorance comes in all colors! We really need to focus our hatred towards those who are living their lives in a manner that inhibits the freedom of our ourselves and our children to grow up and thrive in a community that is free of drugs, free of crime, and free of ignorance! The social tolerance of this type of garbage is what is really criminal!

Black-Wolf's bottom line: When are we going to stop encouraging ineptitude through the level of tolerance that we are exhibiting in our schools, in our places of worship, and in our very homes! We are on a crash-course with reality and, euphemistically speaking, Jenny Jones is driving the bus! Whether you consider the fact that Californians are being forced to bend over and grab their ankles because of Prop. 215, or that the quality of life as we know it is being ruined by the devolutionary process that is common to such hippy sensibilities (throwing us back four decades and trashing everything we have worked for to get this far!), we need to make some serious decisions as to where we hope to take ourselves in this next century. We need to consider what kind of society we want to establish for our children and grandchildren. And if you choose not to be a part of the solution, then you are, by default, a part of the problem.

Whew! -- I feel better now.

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BERKELEY OR BRAND-X?

Contributed by:
Margo Elliott

Sometimes it's difficult to differentiate whether it's my own personal burnout that leaves me feeling depressed as I leave campus at 10:15 or 10:30 p.m., or if it's the echoes of those pathetic daily comments that resound in my head: "I haven't been to class in two weeks. Have I missed anything important?" "I know I haven't taken the first two exams, but I can still pass, can't I?" "I didn't do the assignment 'cause I didn't think you'd collect it." "I forgot we were having a test because I broke up with my boyfriend." "I haven't been able

"...this isn't high school with ashtrays; this isn't an institution to punish people too lazy to get jobs ... this is a glorious opportunity to learn ... How can you turn your backs on such a gift?"

"Why do you grade so hard?" "Why did you fail me?" (These are all actual comments from students, Spring 1998).

I'm finishing my 17th year of teaching and, at the risk of sounding like my parents, I am compelled to say: "Things just aren't like they used to be." The school systems are turning out young people who have no concept of the work ethic and what it means to own personal responsibility. And parents aren't pushing those priorities either.

Teachers don't (or at least shouldn't) "give" grades -- we assign them, and there's an immense difference between those two words. Teachers aren't in classrooms to act as jailers, etiquette coaches, entertainers, or spoon-feeding nannies. Teachers are masters-scholars of their own particular disciplines -- hoping to light a flame of interest that develops into a fire of desire for life-long learning.

Why can't you hear our voices, look into our faces and see our per-

sonal investment in you? Instead, The majority of the time, there are sighs of boredom, looks of impatience, mindless doodling, giggles and whispers of last night's escapade, sleeping off a hangover in the corner, watching the clock. And even sometimes stares of downright disgust and hatred.

So why are you here? I really want to know why you spend the eighteen weeks, the money for tuition and books to whine and complain and let the most important opportunities in your life pass you by. Please read that again ... letting the most important opportunities in your life pass you by. Why?

If you're reading this you will know if it's to you I am speaking. Because there's a special elite minority out there -- students as young as fifteen and as old as fifty -- who are nodding their heads and asking the same questions I am. I know those students are there. They sit in my classes, too. They never miss class, they seek out additional challenges, they go the extra mile. And then I get their phone calls, their cards, their letters proudly reporting their acceptance to UC Berkeley's graduate program or completing a Master's degree, even finishing law school. Or at semester's end those special students slip cards in my mailbox thanking me for "being such a tough instructor."... "making me work so hard" ... "challenging me" ... "making me think not memorize" ... because now I "know I can succeed wherever I go" .. even though ... "sometimes I thought you were unreasonably difficult" ... "expected too much" ... but now ... "I realize now you did it for us, not against us."

And that's where I think a part of the problem lies: in your perception of why teachers expect quality work, due on time, written on a college level, typed not scribbled on scrap paper ten minutes prior to class. Why do we do it?

Are you really so shallow that you think our motives are selfish, that we're a bunch of sick academic sadists assigning meaningless bull shit just to keep you busy and deny you a night at your local bar?

Wouldn't it be immensely easier on your instructors to give you minimal reading, simple assignments and an obvious multiple choice quiz? Then we don't have to grade essays, bring home our work every single weekend of every single semester; and we wouldn't have to listen to your whining, criticizing, complaining and endless lamenting of your torturous

lives. Certainly it would make our jobs, our lives, so much simpler! You'd have your "A's" and we'd have no hassles and plenty of free time.

Sounds good? Well, you'd also fail your first semester at the university and your salary would top out at \$23,500 per year because you wouldn't be the one getting the promotions. But of course then you could blame those teachers and those employers for being too hard and expecting too much.

I spoke with a colleague the other day about how a single undergraduate art history course gave us both a lifelong love for the arts. For him, the class brought the artist and his art to life -- giving it emotional, intellectual and psychological content. The result is an extensive art library, artistic works in oils, water colors, pen and ink, sculptures ... that live inside him and make him the superlative individual he is today. For me, that class opened my eyes to the beauty of a Monet, and O'Keefe, or even an inner city ghetto, buildings crumbled and grey.

That single class gave me the knowledge and the courage to put pencil to paper and I am now an accomplished stained glass artist who can make a Tiffany style lamp, a Victorian entrance way or a contemporary glass hanging. A single literature class motivated that same colleague

to purchase the Harvard Classics and read them beginning to end. That same literature class brought

me one of my greatest joys: to read any and everything from Hunter S. Thompson to Marcus Aurelius. And rather than turning on the television for awhile each night, I treasure that hour when I can get lost in the pages of another time, another space, another mind.

What's the point, you say? As my colleague so astutely put it ... that student may walk through this (or any) college one time ... with one chance ... to bring to life something

still unborn ... to add other dimensions to the way one thinks and solves problems ... lives and enjoys life ... and ultimately ... what that life has meant when death calls. Or, on the other hand, you can begrudgingly collect another three units.

I talked with several other of my peers who don't know why you're only in class half the time. I listened to a story from a staff member who takes classes for "personal enrichment" who said student behavior is often so disruptive she can't hear her instructor lecturing.

Last week three students sat late in my office asking me why all their classes started out full and are now half empty. This isn't high school with ashtrays; this isn't an institution to punish people too lazy to get jobs. It is a glorious opportunity to learn to think and live with intelligence and vitality. How can you turn your backs on such a gift?

It is exceedingly apparent that something is very seriously wrong in this scenario. Because it isn't just Columbia College with a fatal case of apathy and lethargy. It is our nation. The articles I read are more than troublesome; the statistics are alarming. Twenty years ago the average high school graduate had a vocabulary of approximately 25,000 words; today it is 10,000! When I began teaching, classroom behavior was a given; today teachers are putting "appropriate classroom behavior" in their syllabi! Twenty years ago we worked our butts off for the damn "A"; today, it's supposed to be "given" so attrition is low and self-esteem is high!

Well, friends and students, it's time to reexamine your priorities. You can ignore the realities of today's world; you can hide in your "Generation X" persona; you can bemoan how hard life is now compared to twenty years ago. Undoubtedly, you can rationalize from now until Hell freezes over. But the fact remains: you and only you will be responsible for what your life is like ten years from now. Princeton or Payless? Berkeley or Burger King? Wall Street or Walmart? It really is your choice.

And to all those students who show up for class, who participate with interest and enthusiasm who don't give up whether it is an A or an F, to those students I give my respect and utmost thanks. You keep my faith, my love for teaching, and my hope alive and well. You tell me your funny, dirty jokes, as well as your dreams and frustrations. You stop by my office not to just seek out, but to give encouragement. You loan me your music, provide me with love and

laughter, you keep me young. And the creativity of your gifts (from exotic wooden ashtrays to home baked banana bread, to great nasty buttons) these all reflect the wonderful people you are and how very much you have to offer this world.

So don't ever sell yourselves short. Live your dreams and reach for the stars. Because, I know you can do it, whatever "it" is. And when you sign up for classes next term, consider taking a class from one of "those hard instructors." You just might find a part of you that hasn't yet been discovered. Why not try it and find out?

Not the enemy,
Margo Elliott
Psychology Department

Note: If you would like information on grade inflation, classroom management problems, and other issues mentioned in this writing, it is available at the Columbia Library Circulation Desk on reserve under the name "Elliott: Mountain Times."



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Teacher Appreciation Day MTX SINKS! Will I Miss It?

Contributed by
Cheryl Divine-Jonas

On August 12, 1997, the day before classes began, I went to work on a training video for my ESL aides. Even though the campus was full. I had with me my 2 year old twins, whom I raise myself rather than put in institutionalized day care. Since I had to carry them, lest they run off or get too tired, I parked momentarily in the empty handicapped lot while I hurried across the road and up the two flights of stairs and in the double doors where I picked up the video recorder which I had prearranged to pick up from Adele Winkler.

Turning around with backpack, 30 pound camcorder and 25 lb. twins in arms, (for a total weight of 80 lbs.), I ambled back out the double doors, down the two flights of stairs, across the road back down to my car where I found a parking ticket for \$275. Great. A fine thanks I get for going out of my way once again to make an exceptional learning experience for my students.

I was livid. I drove up to the loading zone and immediately found Bill Shankey who had issued the ticket and explained my situation. He said, "There's nothing I can do; I already wrote the ticket." I drove off and filled out a form to appeal it to Greg Elam, our campus cop. He denied my appeal stating that the handicapped lot was clearly marked and I should have known better.

I then decided on the next step, an "administrative appeal" which I had to write to a Richard McCullough. I was hopeful though, as I had recently learned that a classified employee's handicapped ticket was waived, (even though he was in no way handicapped).

I spent two hours writing a long letter explaining my situation with 8 points on why I had extenuating circumstances and would like to be forgiven for my crime. First, before he would review it, I had to pay the citation fine of \$275. (guilty until proven innocent); I was told in the business office that the Parking Management Bureau in Merced probably wouldn't cash the check before notifying me of their decision. I even requested community service in lieu of the fine.

Their response: "Nope, we want cash."

Meanwhile, concerned that I hadn't heard from the review officer yet, and that I didn't have \$275. in my account, I paid my bank \$8.50 to put a stop payment on my check so it

wouldn't bounce. Well, as far as Columbia College was concerned, that was the equivalent of bouncing a check and hit me with \$65.00 in fees. So my 5 minute parking fine was now \$340.00 That was October 1st.

Well, McCullough picked one of my eight points (that the campus was closed) cited the California Vehicle code, then said that he didn't have time to address my other points. That was October 27.

My last option is to take it to court, but I am only permitted to do this after I pay the full amount and a

**"I'll see
you in
court,
Greg
Elam."**

- Cheryl Divine-Jonas

\$25.00 filing fee. Fortunately, the college was generous enough to schedule payments for me to pay for my crime. I paid the first \$40.00, went home and got a call from the business office saying they also banned me from writing any checks at the college for one year; please come back with cash.

Thank you adjunct faculty member for going that extra mile to make Columbia College a better place. Needless to say, I have a lot of anger towards my workplace and once a month when I go to the ATM and pay \$1.50 to take out \$40.00 to take to the business office, I can say I really hate the college for punishing me for trying to do a good job.

I'll see you in court, Greg Elam. What did the campus cops teach me? They'd rather I park in the fire zone (\$19.00) and let the school burn, than to park in one of the twenty empty handicapped spaces on a day when school is closed.

Two weeks ago, a student whom I know was given a \$14.00 ticket for parking slightly over the white line in her space. She said she had done it because the car to her right was over the line; however, it had not received a ticket. Overzealous parking enforcement on campus leads to increase negative public perception of our campus, to which we are trying so hard to attract people.

By Michael Wadle'
MTX Faculty Advisor

This issue is the last one for the most recent reincarnation of the Columbia College Mountain Times (MTX). The Mountain Times has surfaced in various forms over the last 25 years. I've had the pleasure, frustration, and satisfaction of keeping the MTX afloat for the last year and a half as the faculty advisor.

Unfortunately, low student enrollment, budget concerns and general lack of interest have sunk the Columbia College's only newspaper once again. More about this later!

I wanted to take this opportunity to "Thank" all of the students, instructors, administrators and staff who've helped keep us above water.

The Last Word ...

By Lisa Larsen
MTX Editor-in-Chief

It's over.

As I write this column, the last edition of the MTX lays on the light table nearly ready to go to press. When I look at it I feel a mixture of emotions. First, I'm just relieved to have it finished, but I'm also sad to see it go. Above all, I'm irritated.

I'm irritated because the paper didn't have to die, we the student body killed it. When you get right down to the heart of the matter, the MTX didn't die because of budget cuts, it died because no one would get off their apathetic butts and do the work it took to keep it alive.

For the last year I've heard the same negative comments about the paper over and over again. My personal favorite is the one about how the paper is like "a stinking yearbook, it only comes out once a year."

Oh that's so cute. Seems like everyone has the energy to complain very loudly, but no one has the energy to put out any work to make the paper come out with more frequency. To those people --and you know who you are -- I'd just like to ask, where were you when I was down here working my butt off on weekends, nights, and lunch hours so that you could have a forum to express your opinions?

Well now it's gone, and so am I. Maybe now that you've lost the MTX you'll realize what a valuable tool you had and try to get it back.

My last word to you is this: Spare me your whining "Gen-X" attitude. Grow up and take some responsibility before you lose everything that could be really important.

There are so many, however, I'd like to recognize some individually ...

Joan Barrett ... Joan asked me to teach Journalism and be the advisor to the MTX in late 1996. Joan's requests were simple: Produce a good paper and (please) make the paper production profitable (I did). Joan really believed in a college newspaper and gave us the computers and tools to bring the MTX into the 20th century ... **Karen Shelley and Lara Lelis** ... I was fortunate to "inherit" Karen and Lara in the spring of 1997. Their commitment of time and energy was unending and critical to continuing the evolution of the MTX. ... **The entire IMC Staff** ... I wouldn't have blamed Doryene Rapini for hiding when she saw me coming with a last minute "rush" request. Instead, she'd just say "yes" and smiled ... **Larry Steuben** ... Larry's assistance has been critical to helping the MTX improve...through his personal commitment to the paper and providing us with a digital camera which saved us hours of time and money ... **Lisa Larsen** ... Under Lisa's editorial tenure, the MTX made a quantum leap in its quality, appearance and editorial content. Saturdays, Sundays, and weeknights, Lisa was always willing to devote the time necessary to produce a quality paper. Also, she never complained when I insisted on playing AC/DC or various blues CD's while writing

and pasting up the paper!

Thanks too to **Jim Riggs** (see page 13), **Dave Willson**, **Kathryn Jeffery**, **Jerry Hodge**, **Ross Carekeet**, **Jim Toner** and the many other staff, faculty and students who committed their time, guidance, writing, thoughts and energy to help us over the last year and a half.

A final thought ... as faculty advisor, I read and edited every article of every edition of the MTX before I take it to the printer. I was particularly touched by **Margo Elliott's** contribution/pleas in this edition (page 9). Margo's comments articulate several of my own thoughts and frustrations and, I believe, those of other staff and students at Columbia. I'll let her points speak for themselves.

However, in the context of producing a college newspaper, I'd like to note that the required effort often parallels success in life ... it simply gets down to the basics, "hard work and commitment." Stories have to be researched, deadlines have to be met, and writing has to be edited. Time and again, students would simply "quit" the journalism class rather than put out that effort. Ultimately that attitude has contributed to sinking the latest reincarnation of the MTX.

Will I miss it? YES - but ultimately, the Columbia College community will miss it even more.



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Band Review

U.F.O. Sighting!

by Cryss Black-Wolf
MTX Staff Writer

While U.F.O.'s may exist in our universe, the original U.F.O. line up does once again!

Yes, all five original members are back for a world assault in support of their new album Walk on Water.

It's Thursday night, April 16th, 1998. I dust off the old leather jacket, which doesn't fit as well as it used to, and stuff my tickets in the front zipper pocket (the one that used to hold the Marlboros, and now holds the inhaler I use because of smoking those damn things!). Cindy and I warm up the Maroon Monster Mobile and speed off to Palo Alto to The Edge, which is a quaint little night club in the down town area.

"Michael!...Michael!...Michael!" is all the crowd could chant for the duration of our time in line, before the mad dash into the club at 7:00 pm began.

Michael Schenker, who has twenty four albums to show for his career including his stints with U.F.O., the Scorpions, Contraband,

MSG, and other projects. Michael Schenker remains, hands down, one of the most influential rock and roll guitarists of all time, and most rockers, famous or struggling, name him as such.

The lights dim and the fog machine spews forth her venom, as Michael takes his solo into a level of technical ecstasy, making his Marshall stacks bleed with a crescendo of harmonics that ring into the ears of the devoted rockers that have packed in like sardines in front of the stage.

Throughout the evening a lot of the classic U.F.O. hits were covered, like Lights out London, Doctor Doctor, Too hot to handle, Only you can rock me, Rock bottom, Love to love, as well as several songs from off the new album.

These guys have been around for awhile, and have seen the world many times over. One would think they would easily tire, but the show was presented with such fresh and intense energy one would have to take a double take to notice that these guys were seasoned rockers.

After the show ended one of my dreams came true (and just in time for my birthday!). I got the chance to meet Michael Schenker and have him autograph my CD.

It was an honor to shake the hand of this rock and roll legend, the hand that played the hit songs that made the whole world rock for twenty five years!

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BLOODCURDLING TALES OF HORROR AND THE MACABRE!

By Cryss Black-Wolf
MTX Staff Writer

No, it's not a reference to the last couple of weeks before final exams. It is the title of a recent compilation of short stories written by the Master of Macabre: H.P. Lovecraft. Although written in the early 1900's the works of Howard Phillips Lovecraft remain as the most horrific and the most macabre ever written. Lovecraftians and Cthulhuians alike understand the influence that Howard has had on the minds of aspiring writers of this genre. Yet, as in the words of Steven King himself, he states "Now that time has given us some perspective on his work, I think it is beyond doubt that H.P. Lovecraft has yet to be surpassed as the Twentieth Century's greatest practitioner of the classic horror tale," proving the loyalty of even the Masters themselves!

Bloodcurdling Tales of Horror and the Macabre is a "Best of" compilation. And once one of his short stories are experience on a dark, stormy night (when you are in your bed and the house is empty (it also helps if, as does this writer, you live near an old cemetery!) and you nestle in for a night of the uncanny, an instant devotee you shall become of Lovecraft's work! This "best of" is a good introduction, but be forewarned: you will soon be ordering more at the local book dealer.

Upon creaking open the freshly-bound book of heart shuddering tales, you will be treated to an introduction of the "Heritage of Horror" by Robert Bloch, giving you an overview of Lovecraft and his works. You will then be drawn into sixteen classic tales that include "The Rats in the Walls," "The Call of Cthulhu," "The Dunwich Horror," "The Haunter of the Dark," "The Thing on the Doorstep," and others.

Since the publication of this book there have been three additional compilations, all complete with the trademarked book-cover artwork (the kind that makes your mother cringe!). So if you're brave enough, go order yourself a copy of this strange and horrific book. It retails for about \$12 and its ISBN number is 0-345-35080-4. If you are not susceptible to night terrors and/or fits of midnight screaming, all that will soon change. Go ahead, buy it ... or are you too chicken!

Mountain Times Staff Restaurant Reviews

Craving Cheap Chinese Chow? ... Cryss Black-Wolf

Wah Yeun, a quaint little Chinese food restaurant in Angels Camp, provides weary travelers with an excellent place to sit down and eat a nicely prepared meal without having to spend a great deal of money. This writer recommends the seafood chow mein, which includes soft or pan-fried noodles, fresh vegetables including water chestnuts, baby corns, snow peas and mushrooms, and an assortment of seafood ranging from callamari, to shrimp, to scallops. This particular menu item costs around seven or eight dollars, but can provide a meal for two if you are inclined to share. Located near the Altaville post office, Wah Yeun is about a fifteen-minute drive from Columbia on Hwy 49. This restaurant is a great alternative for those who like to relax when they eat, or that refuse to be screwed blind by the local fast food chains who's menu items get skimpier and more expensive.

Feeling Famished for Finer Food? ... John Flynn

For a more leisurely and elegant weekend dining experience, check out Sunday Brunch at The National Hotel in Jamestown. I had the Florentine Vegetarian Omllette. Delicious, huge portion accompanied by toast. Finished the meal with a slice of New York Cheesecake. Brunch for two will set you back approximately \$25.00 plus tip. Costs a bit more than the usual frozen-egg hockey-puck at McDonald's, then again it tastes a lot better too!

Live Theatre Listings

Stage 3
208 S. Green Street
"The American Plan"
Playing through May 24th
General Admission \$12
5/14 or 5/21, Admission \$8

Mountain Actors Conservatory
1 block south of the Post Office
Washington Street, Sonora
"Same Time Next Year" and
"Same Time Another Year"
Playing through May 17th
General Admission \$16, Student \$8

Sierra Repertory Theatre
General Admission: \$14-\$17
Student Rush -- Half Price
Fallon House, Columbia:
"The Unvarnished Truth"
Playing May 15 - June 14
EastSonora Theatre:
"Smoke and Mirrors"
Playing through May 17th

Columbia College Drama Dept.
Improv Show:
May 14, 7:00 p.m., Dogwood
May 18, 8:00 p.m., Coyote Creek

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Local Spotlight:
Last Caravan

By Cryss Black-Wolf
MTX Staff Writer

Last Caravan: a symposium of global rhythms and traditional beats that draw from the Flamenco and Latin traditions are what make up this powerful local. They carved their niche into the music scene by bringing an inventive flavor to what has now been dubbed as Original American Gypsy Music. They recently performed here at Columbia College, their eclectic style appealing to the diverse fan-base that came to the Dogwood forum to hear them perform. The music of Last Caravan is uniquely presented and well liked by a wide audience, appealing to even the most skeptical music connoisseur.

Last Caravan, comprised of Garth D. Brooks and Vincent Todd

Zornon on Nylon string guitars, Omar Mansour on drums, Kelly Ramirez on percussion and Brian Jirka on electric bass, are a highly energetic and fun loving bunch who are also very talented musicians. Together as a band for just under one year they have managed to climb to the top of the local spotlight.

Their current self titled CD is selling very well, and the band has plans to record their next album in December. They will be one of the bands featured at Mountain Aire (yes, Mountain Aire is coming back!) in Angels Camp. Tickets are available at a variety of places including BASS Tickets.

For further information about Last Caravan, their merchandise, booking, album and tour information, you can reach them at Last Caravan: P.O. Box 993, Angels Camp, CA 95222, or at their website address <http://lastcaravan.iuma.com>.

RADIO I-CHING -- Say What?!

By Chryss Black-Wolf
MTX Staff Writer

No, it's not the sound of your dog horking up a half-digested raw-hide chewey! It's the latest "effort," by this Southern California band, entitled "Sigh," which is what this writer would have done, had he actually spent fifteen bucks of his own money on this album!

"Sigh" is a juvenile attempt to fit into "the Scene," and I can only imagine what was ingested by those who would disagree with me. It reminds me of that old joke about what Dead Heads say about the music of the Grateful Dead now that they are grown up, employed and drug free..."wow, now that I don't smoke dope anymore this music really

sucks!"

After playing it on my stereo I had to play three hours of Jimi Hendrix just to exorcise the evil out of my stereo system and to protect my home from any possible poltergeist activity that might try and take over my CD changer! This album should have a warning label on the front cover stating that you would be better off taking fifteen dollars out of your wallet and wiping your butt with it, then to purchase this album!

Now I apologize to anyone who is a part of Radio I-Ching for offending them, but you sent the CD to us, and I cannot honestly say very many good things about it...well, except for one thing. At least the CD didn't skip!

Megadeth Assaults Stockton With Heavy Metal Mayhem!

Cryss Black-Wolf
MTX Staff Writer

Dave Mustaine and Company hit the Stockton Civic Auditorium like a ton of bricks, rocking the building right off its foundation in true Megadeth fashion. Opening acts were Life of Agony and Coal Chamber, both good bands with an impressive following in and of themselves.

Megadeth fans were, in a sense, pacified for the time being with the opening acts, tasting them like hors d'oeuvres just before the Main Course. For the rabid fans of Megadeth the wait was well worth it. From the first ear-frying powerchords of the latest hit single to the

ballsey rendition of the final song, a Mustaine version of the Sex Pistols' Anarchy in the U.S.A., the fans were yearning for more, at the expense of their vocal chords now raw from singing along to songs that spanned the entire Megadeth legacy.

For this writer, and card-carrying Megadeth Cybersoldier, the experience was a memorable one. It started with the freak snowstorm that attempted to chill the feverish fans (who had been waiting in front of the auditorium for three to four hours before the doors were to be opened). It continued inside with the humid atmosphere that blanketed the entire room from hundreds of rocking fans who had been spent to the point of

exhaustion by the time the show was over, Dave Mustaine proved to the crowd once again that you can still rock and have a good time while remaining sober and drug free! After years of drug abuse, and subsequent years of sobriety, Dave Mustaine remains one of the only few guitarists that can play the guitar like it was an extension of his torso. It was as if he were able to actually make his fret board smoke as he effortlessly led into each of his physics-defying guitar solos. This band is truly talented, and gives true meaning to the term "rocking your ass off," as the band drew from a seemingly inexhaustible source of energy, giving the fans more bang for their buck.

Concerts & Events

Bands	Place	Dates
• Monkey & Critical Mass	Coyote Creek, Sonora	5/16
• Columbia College Improv	Coyote Creek, Sonora	5/18
• Undercover S.K.A.	Paradise Lounge, San Francisco	5/23
• Mountain Aire	Fairgrounds, Angels Camp	5/23 & 5/24
• Boyz II Men	Arco Arena, Sacramento	5/24
• Sonic Youth	Filmore, San Francisco	5/25
• Slayer/Clutch	Warfield, San Francisco	5/31
• Megadeth / Monster Magnet	Sacramento State, Sacramento	6/13
• Tommy Castro	Slims, San Francisco	6/19
• Lilith Fair	Shoreline Amphitheatre	6/23
• Phish	Shoreline Amphitheatre	7/19

God Bless You, Mr. Trout:

A review of Kurt Vonnegut's latest novel, Timequake

Contributed by
David M. Chestnut

Readers hoping to discover a new gem of a story in Kurt Vonnegut's latest, and by his own admission, last novel will not be disappointed. While lacking the punch delivered by his earlier novels -- for instance, Player Piano, Slaughterhouse-five, or Cat's Cradle -- Vonnegut succeeds in tying up some of his literary loose ends in his now familiar style of writing: part autobiography, part fiction.

Timequake solidly confirms two main themes often promoted by the author; the need for extended family, and the need for compassion and mercy in the world.

Vonnegut has for years been considered a science-fiction writer by

many critics, and he remains true to his dubious roots in Timequake by employing a favorite story-telling device, time travel and time-space irregularities. Set in the near future, the author revives one of his most endearing characters, Kilgore Trout.

A timequake -- the time-space irregularity the book is titled for -- is a disruption of the expansion of the universe which forces everything, including the Earth and all its inhabitants, to relive all of the events of the last decade "like a deja vu that wouldn't quit for ten years." As such, all living things are deprived of any sense of free will, living their lives on automatic pilot. When free will kicks in again, in the year 2001, chaos reigns until Trout comes to the rescue, saving mankind with a single sentence, Kilgore's Creed.

If Timequake is indeed Vonnegut's final book, it will surely cause a sigh of relief from those he has tirelessly campaigned against throughout his writing career, namely technocrats, as well as religious and political zealots. Often banned in schools and criticized for his glaringly honest and uncompromising views, Vonnegut will be sorely missed by those who appreciate his vision and humor and his attempts to enlighten a lonely and frightened population.

One can just imagine Vonnegut, the old science fiction writer, reaching out to save his country with that single sentence, Kilgore's Creed: "You've been very sick America, but you're well now and there's a lot of work to do."

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So you've been around Columbia College for a while and you think you know everyone pretty well, right?
Think again.

You may be surprised to find out what your fellow faculty, staff and students have *really* been up to when the MTX reveals:

The Skeletons in Columbia College's Closet

It's a little known fact that ...

Psychology Instructor **Margo Elliott**, once participated in a contest to see who could drop acid for the longest period of time. She was the first to quit ... the winner of the contest held out for over one year.

History, Geography, and Political Science instructor **Ted Hamilton**, once worked for a mass murderer ... the Shah of Iran, to be more specific. Ted was the Historian and Director of Archaeology for the Shah in 1973-74.

After a program of intense physical conditioning and months of training Health and Human Performance Instructor **Terry Hoff** won 1st place in a tricycle race as a sophomore in college.

The rebellious and mischievous Physical Education Instructor **Morgan McBride**, originally was working toward becoming a Southern Baptist Missionary in Africa.

Editor-in-Chief of the MTX **Lisa Larsen**, has had a portion of herself "surgically enhanced."

MTX writer **Cryss Black-Wolf** lost his virginity at age 15 to the married daughter of a Seventh-Day-Adventist minister, who was 20 years his senior.

Mathematics and Physics instructor **Dennis Albers** (who is also an accomplished gymnast) got swept up in the "streaking" fad of the 1970's, running naked by the light of a bonfire with three other students during a University of Nebraska "Woodsy."

Library Assistant **Adele Wikner** once ate road-kill Iguana washed down with Tequila while on a hiking trip in Mexico.

Mathematics Instructor **Virginia Gray** once threatened to have a tattoo of a battleship emblazoned across her chest along with the words "Welcome Aboard." Ginny also can twirl a mean fire baton.

Financial Aide Coordinator, **Sally Shoettgen** was arrested by the FDA for selling Chaparral as a cancer cure at a health fair.

English Instructor **Meryl Soto** shared a house in the early 70's called "The Pumpkin House" with eleven roommates and hitchhiked around the Western United States. According to Meryl, "the best and worst rides I got were from the truckers."

Earth Science Instructor **Jeff Tolhurst** was once arrested for "unsafe riding, failing to stop, speeding, and failure to signal" while following a group of girls on his motorcycle.

Rinnè West, from Admissions and Records, spent the 60's as a flower child, living in a commune staying "high by osmosis." The 70's were spent overseas visiting nudist colonies down the coast of Italy, France and Greece, or skiing in a bikini in the Swiss Alps. What has she been up to in the 80's and 90's? All she will say is that they've been "just as exciting ... I'll let you use your imagination."

Tia Anderson, Math Instructor and Tutoring Center Coordinator, once played the drums for a rock band.

MTX Faculty Advisor and Political Science Instructor, **Michael Wadlè** has led a life full of scandal: as a young altar boy he would steal the priest's wine; as a young adult he had both a ponytail and a mohawk (although not at the same time) and flunked out of community college his first time through.

Photo Flashback ...

Can you guess the identities of these Columbia College Faculty and Staff Members?



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.

1. No, that's not Tom Petty ... It's Columbia College President Jim Riggs.
2. Oh those embarrassing 70's ... be sure to compliment Jeff Tolhurst on his hair.
3. Would you believe this was Disabled Student Service's Paul Lockman? Paul was participating in a "Vietnam Veterans Against the War" protest when a newspaper photographer snapped this photo of him.
4. Only her hairdresser knew for sure ... until now. Yes, that's Spanish instructor Yonna Brezza-Martin in all of her blond glory!
5. Who's that Sandra Dee look-alike? Kathy Smith, Head of Admissions and Records.
6. Who would have believed this starry-eyed poet would become Math instructor Virginia Gray.

Health and Fitness News

John Flynn
MTX Staff Writer

Staff and students now have an easy way to check out current health and fitness issues on campus.

Columbia College Health and Human Performance instructor Terry

together for my student's awareness and for any other student, faculty or visitors on campus who visit Oak Pavilion. I want my students to have the latest fitness, health and nutritional information."

The Health Bulletin Board also has fitness magazines and recipes for you to try. According to Hoff, "updates are done every four to six weeks."

There's new fitness news for college staff too. The track, aerobic

health fee. It's a great deal. Lockers are also available. Contact the office in Oak Pavilion for details, Ext. 5180.

Spring Hiking Class Offered

A hike to Eagle Peak is set for Sunday, May 31, if high country snow conditions allow. Instructor Ross Carkeet will meet students at Eagle Meadow turnoff, 11 miles east of Pinecrest on Highway 49 at 9 a.m. to caravan to the trailhead.

Carkeet will present natural, history information about the flora, fauna, geology and lore of the locale during the hike to the 9,200-foot-summit where a spectacular 360-degree view of the Emigrant and Carson-Iceburg Wilderness areas will be the reward.

Carkeet describes the outing as a strenuous cross-country hike of four miles round trip with an elevation gain of 1,400 feet, including hiking on spring snow with steep slopes. The outing is recommended for persons in good physical condition.

The trip is open to children 13 or older if accompanied by an adult. No pets will be allowed. In case of inclement weather or unfavorable snow conditions, an alternate date is scheduled for Sunday, June 7.

Interested persons may contact 588-5144 or 588-5160 for info.

Claim Jumper Golfer Qualifies for NorCal Championships

By John Flynn
MTX Staff Writer

Columbia College golf team member Brian Heard was recently informed that he has qualified for the Northern California Community College Championships at Riverview

Columbia has had a golf team for the last six years. The head coach is Chris Bittisks and the assistant coach is Berry Finch. According to Finch, the team is "very young and lacks experience. Most of them are freshmen."

Finch continued, "We have attended every match this season. some of our players would play like champions one week and would really struggle the next. It's a real crap shoot week to week, however, I have faith in them."

The Golf Team is composed of Brian Heard, Taylor Hamman, Tim



Hoff, has recently created a Health Bulletin Board in Oak Pavilion. The board is located on the second floor just to the left of the top of the stairs by the aerobic room.

Hoff told the MTX, "I put it

room, weight room and court will now be open on Mondays & Wednesdays from noon to 2:00 p.m. and on Fridays from noon to 1:00 p.m. Staff can use these facilities during the above time frames without enrolling in a class.

Staff that prefer to exercise at other times can still sign up for a fitness class (Section #9654) for the \$11

Vasher Hired as Claim-Jumpers' Basketball Coach

Andy Vasher has been hired as a full time Health and Human Performance faculty and as head coach of the Claimjumpers basketball team.

Vasher came to Columbia last fall as a last minute replacement for Glen Heffernan who left abruptly for Ventura College.

Although the Claimjumpers 1997-98 season record was only 12-21, Vasher's team had outstanding success in the state tournament as they went to the final 16. According to Vasher, last season was a "great experience".

Vasher and his wife Anita, a RN at Sonora Community Hospital, have four children (and one on the way in August).

Vasher noted, that he was "excited to have it (the coach selection process) done with and is excited to work and develop next year's basketball team."

Athletic Director Josh Bigelow, stated that the "head basketball coaching position at Columbia is one of the most sought after in the nation."



Country Club in Redding. This is the first time a member of the Columbia golf team has qualified for the prestigious championship. Heard qualified by finishing 3rd in the CVC Mini Tournament at Saddle Creek Golf Course in Copperopolis on April 23rd.

Webber, Donnie Blameuser, Klile Nugent, Gerome Thormann, Scott Growden, Zandon Ashlock and Ryan Hayes. The team is open to men and women who are enrolled in at least 12 units (9 academic).

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C-4 Cleans Up With a Vengeance

By Cryss Black-Wolf
MTX Staff Writer

The student senate C-4 (or, Columbia College Clean-up Committee) -- a committee that is made up of several student government senators, aided by caring faculty and students -- has been making a positive impact on campus.

What began as an idea by one student senator, has turned into an ongoing, enthusiastic environmental program, thanks to the efforts of several environmentally conscious senators. C-4 activities have spawned into actions that are not only becoming habitual by an increasing number of students, but into actions that are sparking interest by various media and others within the community.

C-4 officially started its environmental impact via a pond area clean up, aided by Laura Sanders, Lindsay Travino, Cori Laviolette, Ben Turner, Steve Harrell, John Hague, and Cryss Black-Wolf. This led into other activities on campus and eventually built into its famed "Sawmill Flat Cleanup" which received media attention in both Tuolumne and Calaveras counties.

It is the intention of C-4 to teach students and faculty to take pride in our campus by keeping it clean and distinct, making it enjoyable to walk around on campus without having to stumble over someone else's trash.

It is the intention of C-4 to show that with just a little effort we can establish an ethic of campus appreciation with a minimum amount of time invested. The campus events have been ranging from 20 to thirty minutes, twice a month, with a participation of 8-12 students and faculty.

Look for future C-4 events next semester, and donate a few minutes of your lunch hour every other week and make a lasting difference.

POW WOW

By Lisa Larsen
MTX Editor-in-Chief

Columbia College Student Senate's 5th annual Pow Wow drew a crowd of several hundred people on Saturday, April 25th.

The event, which was supported by many local area businesses, ran until 10 p.m. Saturday night and featured competition dancing, prizes, and a series of booths (see photo at right). Associated Student President, Cliff Ammend said that he was "pleased with the participation and support that the event received."



Delta / Columbia ... Cont'd

explained that "because I grew up in a small town, I am a lot more comfortable here at Columbia ... there is not the same dynamic at a city community college where there are so many people."

Others have noted that safety and security issues were at the core of their decision to attend Columbia Elizabeth Sholer and Tamara Shaw, both of Mountain Ranch, stated that they "felt safer here. Stockton just isn't a safe place. [We] were raised in a small town that was mostly white, and in Stockton [we feel] out of place."

In contrast, the course offerings and ethnic makeup that attracted Sholer and Shaw to Columbia, is seen as a drawback by others. For example, Political Science instructor Michael Wadlè comments that he

believes "at times class discussions often suffer because of lack ethnic diversity and input from contending perspectives."

Vice President of Student Services Kathryn Jeffery commented that in her opinion "the majority of students tend to go where they feel comfortable, or to a school that offers the type of classes they are interested in ... except for a very small minority, ethnicity issues are not generally a factor."

Rather, Jeffery explained the enrollment shifts as a result of changes to the economy. "Since the economy has improved more people are getting jobs instead of going to school. The trend is for overall enrollment to drop, and that's going to affect the makeup of the student population."

Tax Laws ... Cont'd from pg. 3

Is a potential tidal wave of enrollment shift welling up from Columbia and MJC to CSU Stanislaus? Maybe the answer will come after April 15th, 1999.

Wilson-VP, Cont'd from pg. 3

Columbia's future. He will provide the leadership necessary to take the instruction program into the next century."

Willson stated, "He's very excited with his appointment and the opportunity to work with the entire college staff and community."

He emphasized his "desire to develop curriculums to meet the needs of our community as a top priority."

Fisher will recommend Willson for formal appointment to the full YCCD at their May meeting.

Columbia College Student Wins State Championship

By Lisa Larsen
MTX Editor-in-Chief

Columbia College Student Cory Baldwin took first place for Architectural Computer Aided Drafting (Postsecondary Division) at the annual Vocational Industrial Clubs of America contest held in Fresno April 24 and 25.

Baldwin first won a regional contest at Sacramento's American River College before advancing (along with another winner) to represent our region at the state level. The statewide competition consisted of a rigorous 4-hour contest in which participants had to design, draft, and draw an artist's conception of an addition to an

historic home.

Although pleased with his prize -- a scholarship to Delta College, a gold medal and software -- Baldwin states his reason for competing was "just for fun."



Cory Baldwin displays his Gold Medal for Architectural CAD at state competition.

Baldwin, of Valley Springs, is an 18-year-old first year student at Columbia with the goal of pursuing a career in Civil Engineering. He currently works for Calaveras County Water District.

Baldwin is now eligible to compete at the National Competition to be held this summer.

Tattoo Q&A -- The Basics

For those of you who have resolved the internal struggle and answered "Yes" to the basic question -- Should I get a permanent Tattoo? -- here are some questions you should ask and issues you should consider.

Does it Hurt? Yes. How Much? According to our research, not nearly as bad as you might imagine - something akin to a constant vibration or a light cat scratch. Beware though, some people and some sections of the body are more sensitive than others!

How Can I Find a Good Tattoo Artist? Check out the local phone book and get good references. Stop by the shop and ask questions, ask to see their portfolio, including the quality and clarity of the tattoos.

What Questions Should I Ask? What is their favorite style (if possible, you want your desire to match their specialty)... How long has the shop been in business? ... How long have they been in the shop? ... How long have they been tattooing? Do they do custom work? ... **DON'T BE AFRAID TO ASK QUESTIONS - YOU'LL HAVE TO LIVE WITH YOUR DECISION FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE!**

What Kind of Design Do You Want? Skulls, anchors, roses, names? There are basically two types: *Flash*, these are classic or stock designs, and *Custom* designs. **THINK ABOUT THIS ONE** -- Do you really want the "Alien" on your shoulder for the rest of your life? ... Are you and "Debbie" or "Gabe" going to spend the rest of your lives in blissful happiness? ... When you roll up your sleeve when your at work will "Big Business Sucks" score points with the boss? ... **Do You Want Multiple Colors?** It's a good idea to get a "patch test" to checkskin reaction and pigmentation effect.

Look Around the Shop -- Does the place smell wierd? **IS IT CLEAN?** Does the owner make you feel "comfortable," or does he/she have an attitude? **IT'S YOUR BODY!**

How Much Does It Cost To Get a Tattoo? According to our research, if you get a stock design approximately 2" x 2" it should run less than \$100 or about an hour's work. Custom work will result in custom prices.

Should you Dicker on the Price? It's your call, but remember: Do you really want to piss off the guy who will be making a permanent mark on your body, just to save a couple of bucks?

Can You Get an Infectious Disease From Tattoo Needles? Yes you can, however, shops that maintain quality sanitation standards greatly reduce the possibility.

What Should You Look for In a Sanitary Shop Environment? Good lighting, no obvious dirt, gloves (the artist should wash their hands before putting on the glove) ... Needles must be sterile before the tattoo and discarded after EACH customer, or must be "autoclaved", a process which pressurizes instruments to kill any virus or bacteria. (dentists also use them) ... According to our research, particular attention must be paid to "outdoor fair booth" tattoo business ... while many are safe, there is more potential for inadequate sanitary conditions.

Can I Get AIDS from Tattooing? Although there is a possibility of contracting AIDS, the chances in a well sanitized tattoo parlor appear very remote. For an in depth discussion on this and other issues concerning tattoos and body piercing, check out the website below.

Finally, Can I Get a Tattoo Removed? Yes, however, it's much easier to get a tattoo than to remove one. Tattoos can be reworked, touched up, covered up and removed through various processes, including - tissue expansion, staged excision and medical lasers.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The only one on the MTX staff with a tattoo is Cryss Black-Wolf. Therefore, it's important to note that we generally do not speak from personal experience. We conducted our research and obtained much of our information for this article from the internet at the following website www.rec.arts.bodyart. We used the college ethernet connection and "Excite" and keyed in the above info and hit "search". Once there you'll find several FAQ's regarding tattooing and bodyart.

The Lavender Pages New Resource for Gay Consumers Available in Library

By John Flynn
MTX Staff Writer

The Lavender Pages, a telephone/business directory specifically designed for the gay consumer is now available for use in the Columbia College Library. The directory, which is basically the equivalent of the traditional "yellow pages," was donated by Columbia College's S.A.L.S.A. club.

The Lavender Pages directory

was designed to promote businesses -- that did not discriminate against, or were owned by members of the gay community-- to the largely untargeted homosexual demographic, a group which spends an estimated \$500 billion nationwide.

The directory, which services the San Francisco Bay Area, has grown from a mere 98 pages when it began in 1992 to its current size of 472 pages with over 1,400 advertisers.

For more information on the Lavender Pages, check out their web site (www.lavenderpages.com, or www.sfbay.yahoo.com) or call for a free directory at 1-800-440-4446.

VOLUNTEER JOB OPPORTUNITY


Contributed By: Connie Rafferty

Are you trying to qualify for scholarships or transfer to a four-year university but would like to have more community service experience to add to your applications? Why don't you become a volunteer at Tuolumne General Hospital (TGH)?

If you are interested in volunteering, here's how it works: Call 533-5174 and leave a message. Next, you will pay an annual fee of \$7.50 and will be oriented to the hospital and receive a TB test. Then you will be assigned to LTC or another section of the hospital.

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