

The LumberJACK

Wednesday,
February 28,
2007

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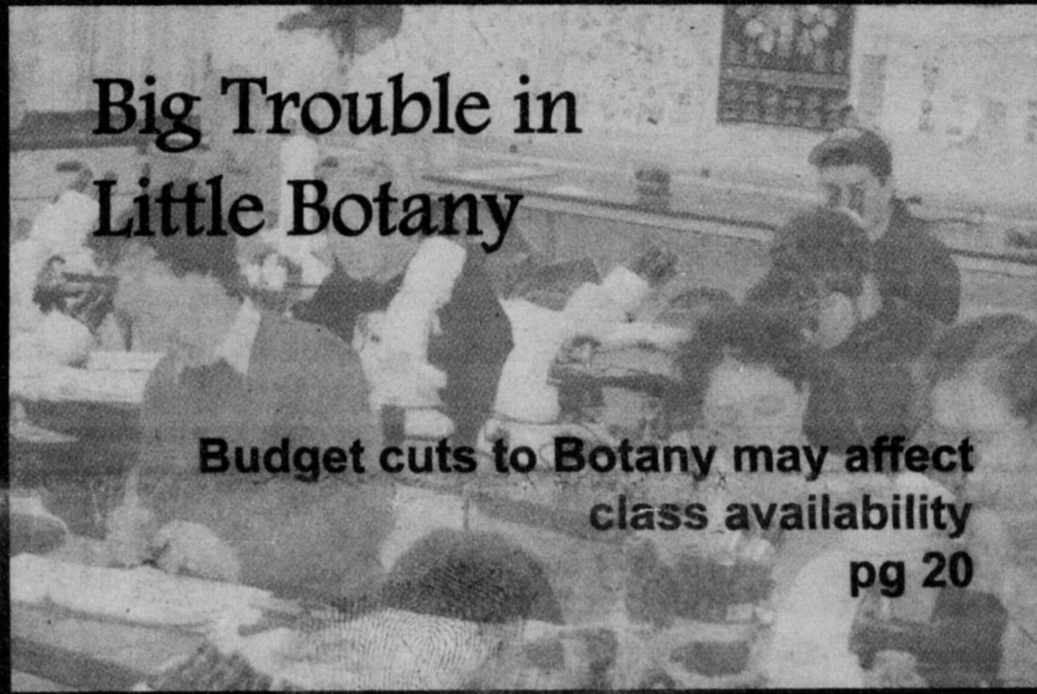


Rally in the Rain

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Cover photo:

Pouring rain couldn't dampen student solidarity on Monday. Their message: "Keep Humboldt Humboldt!" was aimed at Roberta Achtenberg, the chair of the CSU board of trustees

Corrections:

Feb. 21 Issue:

• Pg. 6: The jump for the "Associated Students" article stated that Kintay Johnson supported the neutrality resolution passed by A.S. This is incorrect, he did not support the resolution.

The cover

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One meeting down, two to go

Budget committee finds no clear solutions

John C. Osborn
jco11@humboldt.edu

Students may have to pay higher costs for higher education in order to balance the university's budget.

After the two-hour meeting last Friday, the committee took no clear action addressing next year's budget.

The committee doesn't decide what programs get cut. Instead, it gives each division (Student Affairs, for example) a percentage to trim. The vice presidents then decide how to meet that target. The university used this model for the past four years.

Steve Butler, vice president of Student Affairs, said a cut to his division may force him to eliminate programs. One-third of Student Affairs' budget goes to the University Police Department, which he said couldn't be cut too much.

"This is not my preference," Butler said, "but a consequence of these percents." He added that the model failed to address why the university is in debt to begin with.

Mark Larson and Saeed Mortazavi, two committee members, offered several budget scenarios using the percentage model.

Mortazavi said the committee needs to work the numbers and find consensus.

Several scenarios included the possibility of more student fees to cover a portion of the budget shortfall. In scenarios where no income from increased student fees existed, some division cuts went as high as 12.5 percent.

The committee can only vote to consider an increase in student fees. Chancellor Charles Reed mandated that any fee increase at a campus must be sent to the Student Fee Advisory Committee. That body recommends to the president their position on any student fee.

Lumei Hui, faculty representative for the College of Natural Resources and Sciences, said that the structural deficit has nothing to do with students, and increasing fees was an easy way out.

"It's not just and it's principally

wrong," she said.

Glenn Sonntag, student designee for the Associated Students president, said a fee increase would be unpopular among students, but agreed it was a potential source of income.

Steven Dimon, a political science senior, said more fees would be a bad idea.

"Raising student fees while cutting the budget is a ridiculous situation," he said.

Heather Gilmore, a studio art senior, said it would be hard on most students.

Unclear at the meeting was where a fee could be applied. Any student fee must focus on a specific area, like the Health Center fee paid by students to support the Student Health Center. President Richmond doesn't always take the recommendation of the student fee committee—he created the Health Center fee despite the committee voting it down.

Suggestions at the meeting included an athletics fee, a computer-use fee or a fee for high-cost classes, especially in the sciences.

Humboldt State is the only institution in the CSU system that primarily funded athletics with state money, Butler said. At the same time, student fees fund programs other schools don't, like the Multicultural Center.

Whatever the purpose of a student fee, it could alleviate stress on the budget. For example, if students paid more into athletics, state funds could be used elsewhere.

The committee votes on Friday whether to consider a student fee increase.

Until California's final budget is determined in July, the amount of funds for Humboldt State will remain unknown. However, the committee targeted cuts for next year's budget in the range of \$4.8 million.

Only two meetings remain before a recommendation needs to be presented to Richmond.

"Sitting and discussing won't achieve anything," Mortazavi said. "We need to take action."



Elizabeth Hilbig

Students gather for a protest against the Humboldt State University budget cuts on the University Center Quad on Monday.

Rally brews up a storm over budget crisis

Jaqueline R. Torres
jrt38@humboldt.edu

A surge of students, teachers and university employees stood under pounding rain Monday to voice their concerns about the budget crisis at Humboldt State.

The rally, organized by Community Action United to Save Education (CAUSE) was in response to the Cornerstone Report meeting initially called by the board of trustees.

At the meeting Roberta Achtenberg, chair of the California State University board of trustees, listened to ideas about adjustments the university wants to make to the Cornerstone Report.

This report, which is not designed to blanket all CSU campus plans, relates to educational results, access to higher education, financial stability and accountability throughout the CSU system. It will be the springboard for the CSU's new Access to Excellence strategic plan that will allow Humboldt State to add unique perspectives on the system-wide strategic plan.

Outside, the heavy, beating drums drew students one-by-one to come tell university leaders

what they expect from their college experience. Pounding to the rhythm of the rain, these voices rang against the walls surrounding the quad as if their echoes were repeating the messages of students from last fall.

These events are rooted in the complexities of the severe structural deficit the university is struggling with, its ability to provide education and the feeling that university officials have not listened to student input seriously enough.

Like thunder, voices from the loudspeaker shouted, "Your silence is consent."

With each vibration of voices, drums and applause, the rain came down harder on the crowd of about 90. There were about as many people standing in the torrential rain as there were in the Kate Buchanan Room. Although Achtenberg agreed to speak at the rally during the meeting's lunch break, she did not. Achtenberg was unavailable to comment on why she chose not to speak at the rally.

It was mostly students standing in the quad. They huddled to-

gether, holding signs, encouraging the co-chair of the board of trustees to preserve and bring back the unique qualities of Humboldt State that will determine its rise or fall as a institution long known for its innovative approach to education.

Maxwell Unger took the stage with a presence the crowd responded raucously to before a word escaped his mouth. Unger, a 24-year-old undeclared major, recited a rhythm-spastic poem.

His passionate flow called on students to use their brainpower. Unger pressed students to unite Humboldt State as an eco-village. He challenged the people to first focus the campus and then focus the nation on getting the quality of education it will take for our generation to successfully surpass the mistakes that continue to plague the education system and thus our society.

Some signs read "Save our school," and, "Education through innovation, not corporation."

The meeting in the KBR took a lunch break at the peak of the rally.

see RALLY, pg. 5

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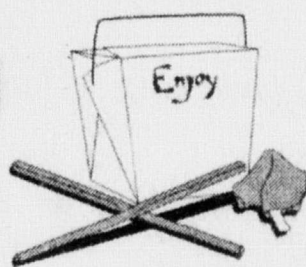
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Looking for leadership

Council presses for vice president to help improve campus diversity

Jaqueline R. Torres
jrt38@humboldt.edu

After the split of the Diversity and Compliance Office over summer 2006, contention remains between all parties involved.

Right now, the Diversity Plan Action Council is the only thing Humboldt State has as far as an entity to improve diversity as a whole on campus, according to Marylyn Paik-Nicely, director of the Multicultural Center and a member of the Cultural Transformation Task Force on the council.

The office's split placed diversity compliance with the Human Resources department and placed diversity programming in the hands of two part-time staff and faculty members. What is seen as efficiency to some, is seen as a limitation by others. Specifically, the Education Summit and the Diversity Conference have been combined this year and there are less people to run the event.

The University is trying to retain students through diversity programming, but each department is going about different ways of doing this and citing different reasons for what has been done.

The council wants to achieve the goals laid out in their diversity plan, a report with hundreds of recommendations that address diversity compliance and programming, officially approved by the administration in 2004.

The report states that the purpose for splitting the Diversity and Compliance Office stemmed from a conflict over prioritizing energy toward compliance, often leaving diversity programming unattended.

Richmond said Humboldt State has focused on diversity for a long time, and that compliance didn't take precedence over diversity. "I mean it worked okay, but it really wasn't as efficient as it might be," he said.

The council's mission is to create a vice president of diversity that the administration of Humboldt State will commit to keeping permanently.

The council hopes that having centralized leadership authorized by the administration will improve the current status of diversity.

Jyoti Rawal, co-chair of the council, said that the Vice President of diversity will be the central coordinator of diversity programming and will also be an advisory person for campus policies.

Asked when the college would have the funds to hire a permanent vice president of diversity, Humboldt State President Rollin Richmond said, "If we had the resources, we'd have it today... in the last four years I've been here, we've had budget cuts almost all that time."

Richmond said he has not cut the diversity budget, referring to a fund of \$35,000 created two years ago.

Paik-Nicely said the sudden death of Eric Rofes in July 2006, a council co-chair also on the Cultural Transformation Task Force, and the firing of Helen Jones, the director of diversity, were pieces in this puzzle of leadership and accountability.

The council decided to press for a vice president of diversity position at an informal meeting Feb. 9. This is not the first time the council has called for

such a authoritative role on campus.

In May 2006, the president, as well as the three vice presidents, immediately denied the council's initial request for a vice president position before their report was issued.

In the diversity report, recommendation six from the Areas of Priority of Action in 2006-2007 in the report states, "DPAC strongly recommends that: President Richmond create a plan to formally separate the tasks of diversity compliance from diversity programming, and create separate senior staff positions and offices for those functions."

Paik-Nicely said the recommendation was simply to start a conversation about splitting the office.

Shortly after, the director of diversity and compliance was asked to leave.

Richmond appointed Rawal and Smith to direct diversity for the time being. Rawal helped write the report and continues to work with the council on all its recommendations.

"In some senses I can say that it was a great move to begin reorganizing in a way that makes more sense, but any time we lose someone on campus we lose a resource," Rawal said.

Richmond said the administration acted quickly to implement the recommendation because it was key to moving forward in addressing diversity.

"I would not say that we've done a very good job in increasing the diversity of faculty and staff," Richmond said. "It's not for want of trying... It makes it difficult to diversify your faculty and staff when you're not hiring people."

Diversity compliance is now under the direction of Mary Fischer, a new member to the council who the university hired about six months ago. She has compiled a list for students, staff and faculty to find the resources they need to resolve conflicts, beginning with ombudspeople.

Margaret Kelso, an ombudsperson for Humboldt State since 2003 said compliance and diversity are important, and the university should give them a lot of attention. Ombudspeople are here to mediate conflicts between students, staff and faculty while avoiding long formal processes.

Richmond said the interim directors of diversity "are there to provide a thorn in the side to the president and other senior administrators to make sure that we remember and pay attention to diversity issues."

However, no matter how thorn-like the council can be, Richmond said the college lacks the resources to effectively do the things expected of it.

Such duties include diversity training for staff and faculty providing the necessary information for the campus.

The idea of diversity and compliance being related to student recruitment and retention is not new to Humboldt State, it is recognized by staff, faculty and administration officials as being essential to building enrollment figures.

RALLY: students address crisis

continued from pg. 3

ly on the Quad. Humboldt State President Rollin Richmond stood under an overhang, watching students stand in the rain. Richmond said the administration would not issue a comment on the rally or the student concerns presented there.

As the people inside met in groups to dissect the minutiae of the report, students wrote letters pockmarked with raindrops on the steps of the University Center. The letters varied in ideas, suggestions, criticisms and acknowledgments of projects well done. Stefanie Belli, a 20-year-old political science major, came to the rally and wrote a letter to her elected officials.

"Our campus is in peril right now and I'm here to get educated by my peers and give them support," Belli said.

Joan Bissell, vice provost of the Chancellor's Office, promised that each letter would be read. Bissell accompanied Achtenberg to take notes on the proceedings of the meeting in the KBR. She said there would not be individual responses to the students but a general letter may be sent out sometime in the distant future.

Annie Rueb, an exchange student from New Hampshire, said she was a little disillusioned with the campus after she arrived and discovered the underlying problems of the university.

The many issues Access to Excellence wishes to address are seen as impossible to some, short-sighted to others, and unmanageable with the current information technology used by the CSU. The last time a board of trustees

member visited the campus was Craig Smith in the fall. The board of trustees' headquarters in Long Beach has no official system of tracking or recording trustee visits to the 23 campuses.

Monique Enriquez, the public information officer at the board's Long Beach headquarters, confirmed that there is no system to regulate that board members visit CSU campuses regularly.

Some students find this unacceptable and believe that active student influence in the system would yield more justice.

"The college should be run by students, not people in suits," said Elizabeth Palmer, a 20-year-old molecular biology major. "The president is responding to us with apathy because he doesn't have to listen. And he won't listen until we put his job on the line. What will we have to do? Not pay tuition, not go to class?"

Although most of the key holders and power players missed the outcries of the student movement in the rain, some still have faith and believe things can change.

"I care about the quality of my education and killing the budget limits our potential," said Gary Strokes, a 24-year-old sociology senior. "I'm here to say that we as students of Humboldt have a voice in our future and will not let the administration decide that future for us."

There will be a budget forum meeting on the 10 percent fee increase tomorrow in the South Lounge featuring a question and answer session with administrators.

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WRITING CENTER DOOMED, PG. 7

CUTS IN ATHLETICS, PG. 11

BOTANY TRIMMED, PG. 20

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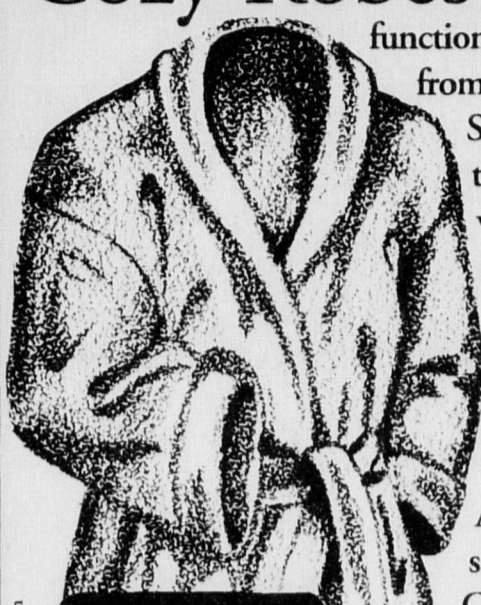
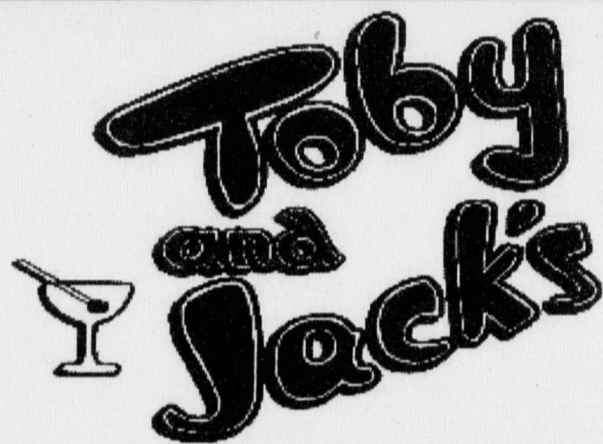
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Cutting out culture

Dwindling funding may harm the Multicultural Center and its programs

Ashley Mackin
dansinmcki@aol.com

DaVonna Foy, Black Student Community Coordinator met Marylyn Paik-Nicely, director of the Multicultural Center, while coming through the Educational Opportunities Program in fall 2004. Soon after, Foy passed a barbecue held by the Multicultural Center and reconnected with Paik-Nicely again.

"I saw people like me, just talking, eating and having a good time," Foy said. She decided to get involved, and has been working with the center ever since.

"If you're trying to promote diversity, why cut from programs that promote diversity?"

Davonna Foy

Black Student Community coordinator

In compliance with the request made by President Rollin Richmond, campus organizations must figure out how to cut seven percent from their budgets. The Multicultural Center, home to more than 10 clubs like the Black Student Union and Global Connections, is one of the organizations that may suffer.

All the programs that face a cut had to prepare a list of the things that would change with a seven percent reduction. According to Jerri Jones, office manager for the Multicultural Center, compiled the specific list.

Foy sees the value of the Multi-

cultural Center at Humboldt State. "I'm not saying that one program is more valuable than another, but if you're trying to promote diversity, why cut from programs that promote diversity?" She said. "We're affected in the long run and it's a slap in the face. It's a reminder that we're a minority."

When the subject of the possible seven percent budget cut for the Multicultural Center came up, Foy became immediately frustrated. "If you want to see a successful Humboldt, and successful students, don't make me feel invisible and cut my programs."

"A seven percent cut would require reductions of staff, events, evening and night programs," Foy said. "Less participation from the community and less prospective students."

The other reductions are hours for cultural events, workshops, diversity and cultural programs, and limiting the staff on committees. "The only thing it adds is the notion that there is nothing to do at HSU," Foy said.

Paik-Nicely, Director of the Multicultural Center, said, "Because we are in a rural area, and most people come from urban areas, there is the feeling that there is not a lot to do up here."

"A lot of what we do at the [Multicultural Center] is try to provide cultural-based and social justice-based activities that one would find in their own communities," she said.

Another concern is for other programs affiliated with Student Affairs that might not be able to

survive the cut. "The Student Disability Resource Center might not be able to afford the cut," Jones said. "And if they can't afford to lose seven percent, that money needs to come from somewhere, so another program might need to pay more."

Jones said most clubs are self-sufficient and can put on some

"It's hard to say what will happen next year if the budget changes. I think people see the value of what we do."

Marylyn Paik-Nicely
director of the Multicultural Center

events on their own. However, with some events, like Black Liberation Month, require more time, publicity and oversight.

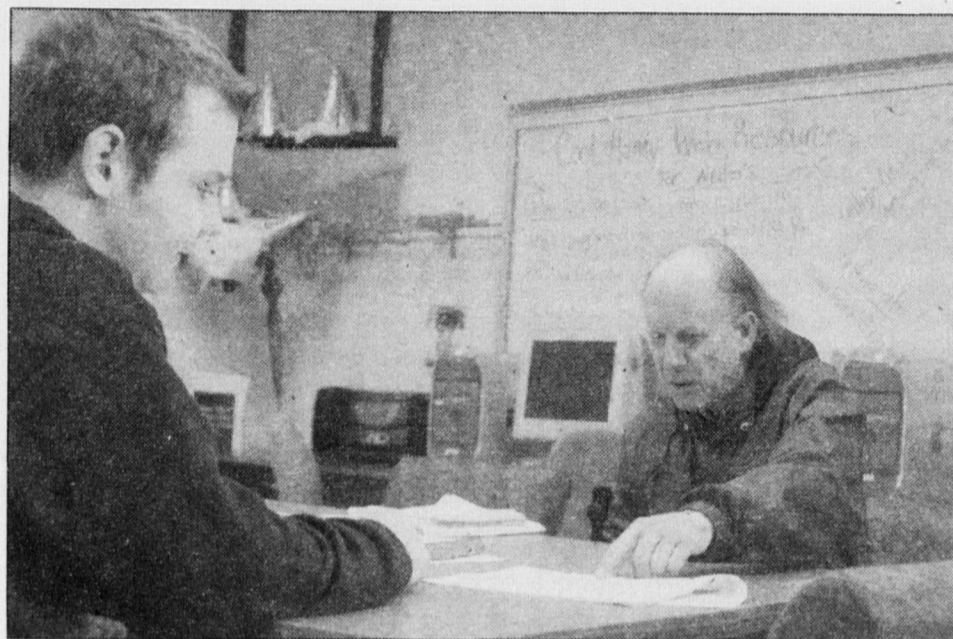
"If there is less staff, there will be less opportunity, because having a staff behind the students really helps make it happen."

Next year's Black Liberation Month's events would not be terribly affected because their operation expenses come from Associated Students. It is the money for the professional staff that will be because it comes from Student Affairs.

"It's hard to say what will happen next year if the budget changes," Paik-Nicely said. "I think people see the value of what we do."

Writing Center doomed

Looming budget cuts may force closure of growing student resource on campus



Elizabeth Hilbig

John Waters discusses his paper with student-employee Chris Hall, an English major.

Bek Brochtrup
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While many Humboldt State programs fight over the disbursement of money from their thinning budgets, the university writing center struggles to stay open to serve students.

It is unclear whether or not there will be enough funding for the center to continue.

Barbara Goldberg, director of the Writing Center and coordinator of developmental writing, said there has been no commitment of funds for next fall.

The center provides help with class papers, resumes, applications and personal statements for those moving on to graduate school.

The center encourages anyone interested from other disciplines besides English to look into it. For example, the demographics of their clients state that many of the people who come in are from the College of Natural Resources and Sciences.

The center also offers paid jobs for Humboldt State students.

Amanda Carter, an English graduate student with an emphasis in teaching of writing, has worked at the center for four years.

"The most important thing about the center is the writing," Carter said. "It is the most universal communication tool. I don't understand an institution that doesn't place a writing center as a priority."

Sarah McGreevy, an English graduate student with an emphasis in teaching of writing, said it's extremely important for students to get feedback.

"So often people struggle in private with their writing, and think that it is a personal issue," she said.

Carter said the constant threat of losing the writing center and her job is hard.

"I don't know what kind of a university doesn't have a writing center," she said. "It's too bad that it isn't valued more here. College of the Redwoods has a nicer writing center than we do."

One of the main reasons the center has been able to stay open is because of a student tutor who participates in work study, a job placement program

through financial aid where the government sponsors a student's wages while working in college. The student was unable to be contacted by deadline.

"There was pretty much not going to be a writing center if it wasn't for her [the work-study tutor]," Carter said.

The student who qualifies for work study puts in 20 hours a week, which is the maximum a student in the program is allowed to work.

Over the years, the center has grown exponentially. In fall 2003, the center served 539 students. That number rose three years later (fall 2006) to 625 students. The demographics of Writing Center clients states that 37 percent of those were first-year students, 18 percent sophomores, 15 percent juniors and 24 percent seniors. Despite its growth, the center had to cut back on staff but managed to stay open 20 hours a week.

The hours are Monday through Thursday, 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. and Fridays from 10-2 p.m.

Carter said that students have a hard time making the hours, and they are unable to expand the hours due to lack of resources.

"I got an e-mail this morning from a grad student who can't make the Writing Center hours," Carter said. "She can't get the help she needs unless someone goes above and beyond and volunteers their time."

The center also helps students who say that English is not their first language.

They were up from the four-year maximum of 17 percent of second language students, to an all-time high of 25 percent of students seeking assistance.

Before they work at the center, the staff must first take Tutoring Developing Writers (ENGL 480), a class that introduces the steps of tutoring to potential tutors. They must also volunteer at the center before being hired to make sure that the staff is trained.

McGreevy said that at the writing center's students can get help just by talking to someone.

"We make better writers not better papers."

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New squad cars for Arcata police

Ashley Mackin
dansinmki@aol.com

Despite how perfect police cars can look, bad things happen to them. They get scratched, they get flat tires and they wear out. The transmission goes, the radios go, and the mileage adds up. When these things happen, the police department does what anyone else would do: They get new cars.

For just under \$90,000, the Arcata Police Department recently got three new cars.

Arcata Police Sgt. Ron Sligh first got a new car in August of 2006. His former vehicle had 114,000 miles, steering problems and the transmission started to wear out. "It becomes a huge maintenance problem," he said.

The other two new cars began in December.

Police cars need replacement every few years, simply due to wear and tear. Between high mileage and city driving, police cars typically do not last long. Pool cars, which officers share, experience twice the damage.

At around \$28,000 per vehicle, the new cars should last the police a few more years.

About \$22,000 goes to the vehicle itself, and \$6,000 goes to making it a police vehicle.

Harold Miller, the purchasing agent for the City of Arcata, said that there is a lot that goes into a police vehicle. "We need to install the light bars, sirens, all the inside equipment, the mobile radios and the emblem, just to name a few," he said.

As well as a large financial cost, it takes time to get the cars delivered and equipped. Miller said it takes between six and seven months to deliver the cars without the installations. That is why cars are put into use one-by-one.

Because of the constant wear and tear on the cars, new vehicles need to come in quick.

"Every few years, new cars are requested, so I put out the bid," Miller said. Then the cars get delivered and worked on to become police cars, not just a standard Crown Victoria, he added.

Once replaced, the old autos are auctioned off. The auction is usually in September, and



A. Dominic Efferson

One of three new Arcata Police cars waits to have its final parts installed. Usable parts are recycled from the older model police car (back), and placed into the new cruiser.

the cars sell only for parts, because they are not in drivable condition.

Brian Swan, associate supervisor of Spotlight Video, down the street from the station, had yet to notice the new cars.

He sees them starting their rounds every morning, but had not noticed anything that stands out about any particular car.

"It's cool they got new cars," Swan said.

Community Comments

Eureka Assemblywoman Patty Berg, along with Van Nuys Assemblyman Lloyd Levine and Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez of Los Angeles, authored the California Compassionate Choices Act, a bill to allow terminally ill people to get a prescription medication that will end their lives. If passed, this bill would make California the second state in the country, next to Oregon, to allow physician-assisted suicide.

The following is a community response to the bill:



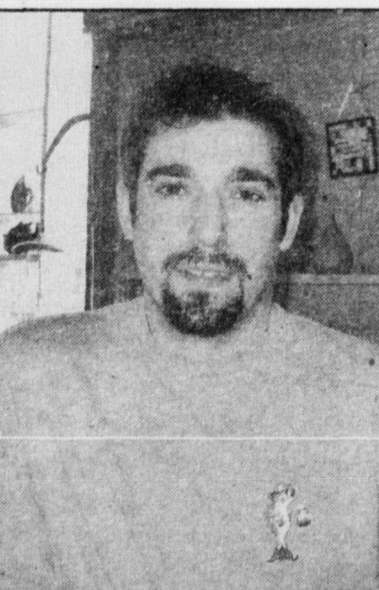
Photos by Ashley Mackin

"I am in favor of it. [Berg] is looking at Oregon and how it has worked there... People in my age group are parents with Alzheimer's, dementia, cancer, you know? I think there should be the option."

Susan Bornstein
Arcata resident

"Personally, I agree with it. As long as the person has a clear head and knows what they're saying; if you have a sound mind and body to make that decision."

Anthony McDonald
Arcata resident



Niconoa Nyswonger
Arcata resident

"It's up to the individual. If they want to go, it's their call. I watched my grandmother die of lung cancer, and she didn't want to go that way."



"It's the person's choice. If they are suffering, they should have the right not to be alive."

Nicomi Levine
Arcata resident

"I'm for it because it's each person's own choice. When they can't make the decision, the people who care for them can make it. When you take away choice, you take away freedom."

Tynel Humphreys
Arcata resident

Vigil for the Wiyot



Photos by Crystal Daman

Karie Hebert, religious studies, carries a candle through the rain during the Wiyot vigil, Saturday.

For the 17th year, members of the Wiyot Tribe and supporters gathered Saturday for the Indian Island Candlelight Vigil. At the Woodley Island ceremony the attendees honored the 80 to 100 Wiyot men, women and children slain February 26, 1860 by a group of Eureka men. The ceremony included prayer, song, drumming and words of hope for the future of the Wiyot people.

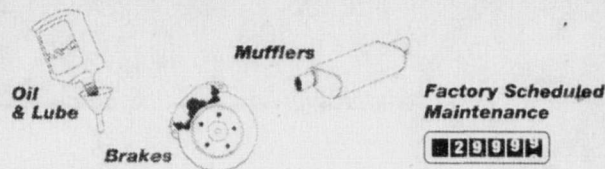


Kevin Simmons leads drumming at the ceremony.



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**"Me and my friend Alex
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-Heard off-campus, Feb. 23

**"I'm so with you. What are
you smoking?"**

-Founders Hall, said by professor, Feb. 16

**"You have to fight dickness
with dickness."**

-Founders Hal, said by professor, Feb. 1

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Here today, gone tomorrow?

Proposed seven percent budget reduction may result in the elimination of two teams from athletics

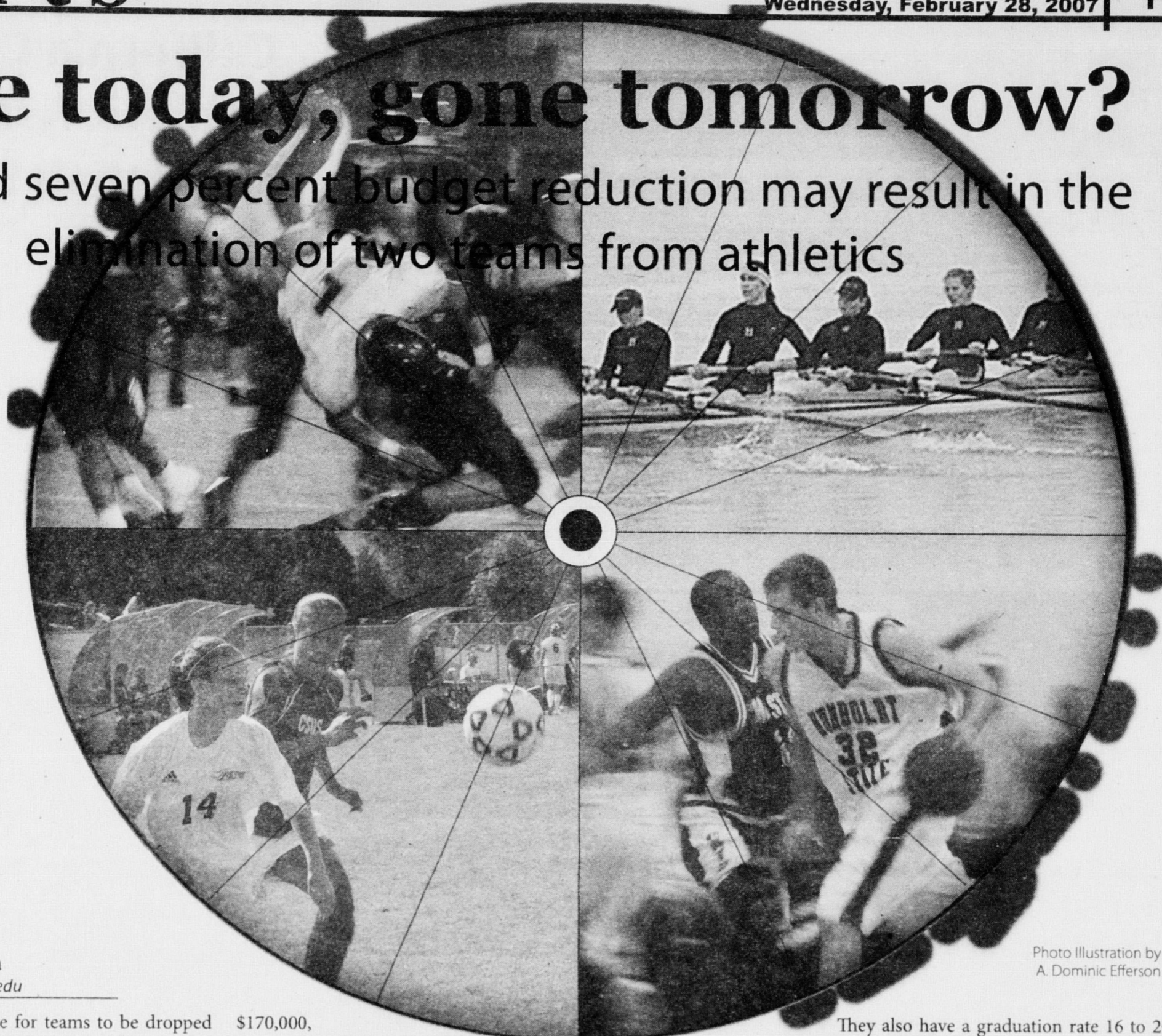


Photo Illustration by A. Dominic Efferson



Daniel Penza
djp28@humboldt.edu

It's not a regular occurrence for teams to be dropped from any school's athletic department, especially one that just had one of its most successful seasons in school history.

However, with the current Humboldt State budget crisis, anything is possible. Current word around campus has football and crew being dropped.

"We obviously don't want to identify teams that may be cut, because we have not reached that decision yet," Vice President of Student Affairs Steve Butler said.

In a recent survey by the University Budget Committee to determine priorities on campus, athletics received a score of two. A score of one is a high priority, while a three is a low priority. This means there will be cuts made, but

"If they cut football, 100 percent of the players would leave."

Jake Anagnosastopolis
freshman linebacker

exact measures have not been determined, just proposed. Freshman linebacker Jake Anagnosastopolis said, "There are a lot of people who are here for athletics. Not everyone who comes here wants to be a marine biologist."

Butler, along with the other divisions at Humboldt State, recently made proposals that included a seven percent cut in funds. In athletics, such a cut would amount to

\$170,000, the largest among any of the divisions in Student Affairs. The money would come out of the department's general fund, which is set at \$2.2 million for the 2007 fiscal year.

In Butler's current proposal, the seven percent cut means there will be fewer assistant coaches, including those assistants who are graduate students. Other proposed changes could be the elimination of a game management/marketing position, a support staff position and a reduction in hourly employees and administrative support.

"We want to build, we want to add, but we have reached the point where we can't cut much more before it starts to affect the programs," Butler said.

Athletic Director Dan Collen said cutting teams would be a drastic measure for the school to take.

"The score of two means that there will be something done," Collen said.

This is nothing new to Collen. The university cut over \$500,000 from the athletics budget since he took over as athletic director in 2002.

Butler said having as many student athletes as possible is important to the development of the campus, as well as the athletic department.

"I am definitely a supporter of athletics on this campus," Butler said. "The athletic teams are important in recruiting and retaining students. Not only for the teams, but throughout the school."

When pointing this out, Butler was quick to add that student athletes, on average, take 15.5 units a semester.

They also have a graduation rate 16 to 20 percent higher than non-student athletes.

Butler said students will still be able to get into games for free, and if possible, ticket prices for community members will stay the same. He added that he would like to see an increase in support from students.

"The community wants us to have athletics," Butler said. "However, student support could help reduce what is happening."

Anagnosastopolis said that if a sport, such as football, were eliminated, the athletes would not hesitate to go to another school.

"Unfortunately, it's out of my control," Anagnosastopolis said.

"We obviously don't want to identify teams that may be cut, because we have not yet reached that decision yet."

Steve Butler
vice president of Student Affairs

olis said. "If they cut football, 100 percent of the players would leave."

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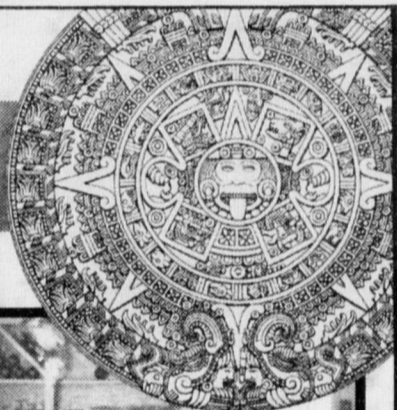
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California Collegiate Athletic Association Basketball Standings

Men's Basketball

School	CCAA	Overall
Humboldt State	17-3	22-3
CSU San Bernardino	16-4	20-5
Cal Poly Pomona	15-5	19-6
CSU Bakersfield	13-7	14-13
Sonoma State	12-8	13-11
CSU Stanislaus	9-11	13-14
CSU Monterey Bay	9-11	12-13
UC San Diego	8-12	10-15
CSU Dominguez Hills	7-13	10-15
CSU Los Angeles	7-13	10-15
Chico State	5-15	7-18
San Francisco State	2-18	6-19

Women's Basketball

School	CCAA	Overall
CSU Bakersfield	18-2	21-6
UC San Diego	17-3	21-4
Chico State	16-4	20-4
CSU San Bernardino	12-8	16-9
Sonoma State	12-8	13-11
Humboldt State	11-9	16-9
CSU Dominguez Hills	11-9	14-10
San Francisco State	7-13	7-18
Cal Poly Pomona	6-14	7-18
CSU Monterey Bay	6-14	7-18
CSU Stanislaus	3-17	6-18
CSU Los Angeles	1-19	3-22

'Jacks avoid upset

Men's basketball defeats CSU Los Angeles to finish unbeaten at home during regular season

Daniel Penza
djp28@humboldt.edu

It was only fitting that on Senior Night the seniors took center stage, as the Humboldt State men's basketball team squeaked out a sloppy 77-75 victory over CSU Los Angeles in the East Gym on Saturday.

With the win, the 'Jacks improved to 17-3 in the California Collegiate Athletic Association and 22-3 overall. They also avenged a 94-85 loss to CSU Los Angeles in January and finished their regular season undefeated at home.

"We didn't play our best, but we did what top teams do and find a way to win when we don't play well," Head Coach Tom Wood said.

Throughout the game, both teams struggled to find a rhythm offensively, with the 'Jacks shooting just 46 percent from the field and the Golden Eagles shooting 41 percent.

The first half was a back-and-forth battle with both teams struggling to establish a legitimate lead. The biggest lead of the half was when the Eagles went up by five points.

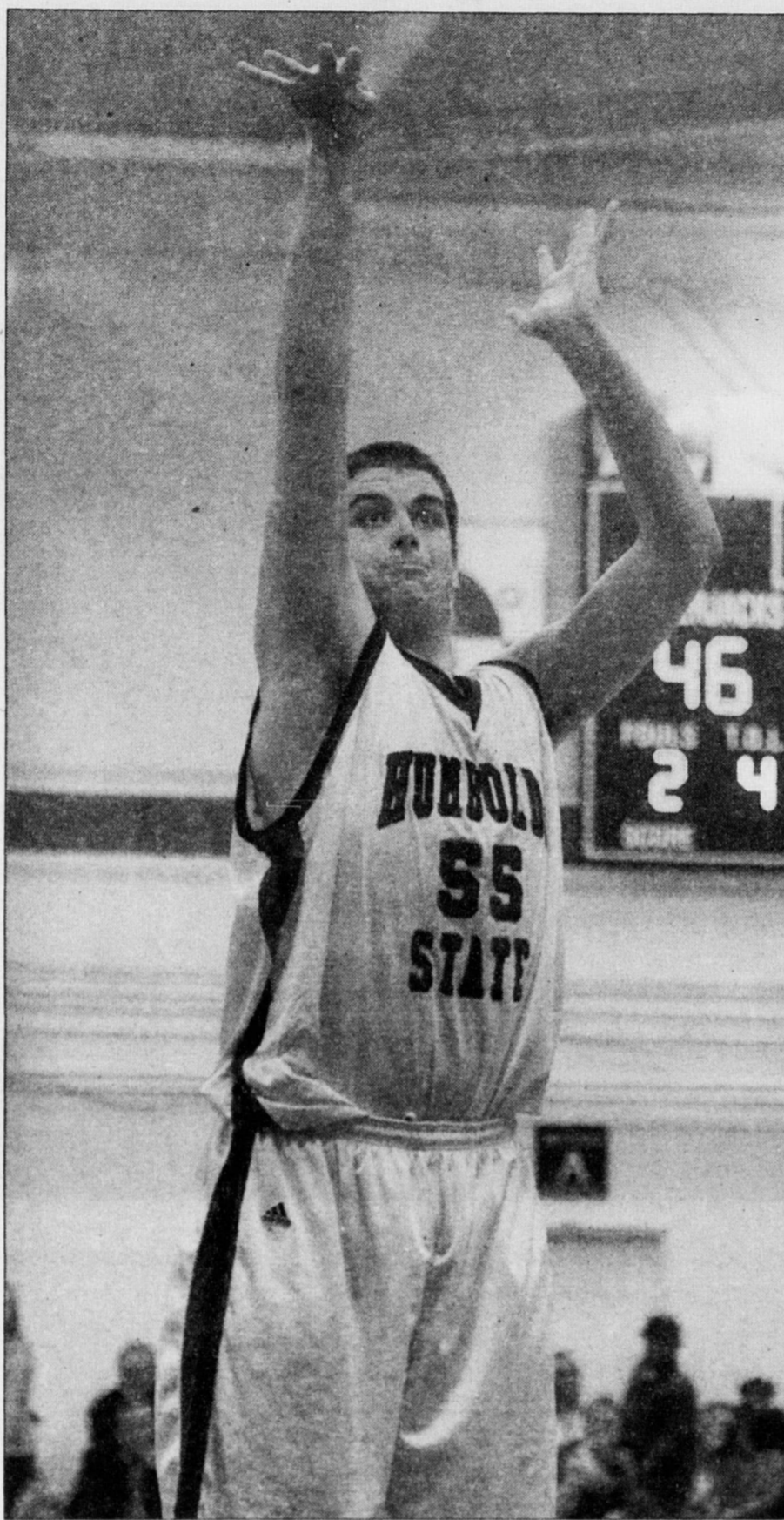
A key in the first half for the 'Jacks was shutting down the CCAA's leading scorer, Jon-tae Vinson. Although he led the Golden Eagles in scoring for the game with 17 points, Vinson was limited to three points in the first half. He missed all six of his shots from the field and his only points came from the free throw line.

In the second half the 'Jacks reclaimed the lead, but were not able to put the Golden Eagles away for good. The lead never reached more than eight points in the second half.

"We have to tip our hats to them," Wood said. "They played a way which made us have a difficult time out there."

Throughout the second half the 'Jacks went down to the post time and time again, finding senior Kevin Johnson and junior Devin Peal, both of whom did the grunt work in the post all night.

The Golden Eagles made things interesting down the stretch for the 'Jacks, never allowing them to pull away. They came as close as one point at the 2:01 mark, but that was as close as they would get. The referees made a contro-



A. Dominic Efferson

Junior center Cy Vandermeer shoots a free throw.

versial call that went the 'Jacks' way and allowed them to run out the clock.

Leading the way for the 'Jacks was Johnson with 23 points, 15 of which came in the second half. Johnson also pulled 17 rebounds, giving him his 37th career double-double.

Fellow senior Jeremiah Ward also had a solid night, contributing 17 points on 7-14 shooting from the field.

"We all know it was their last regular season game here, so we wanted them to put a stamp on the East Gym," Peal said.

The win helps the 'Jacks' chances of hosting the West Region Tournament, which would

mean they would not have to travel until a possible Elite Eight appearance in Springfield, Massachusetts.

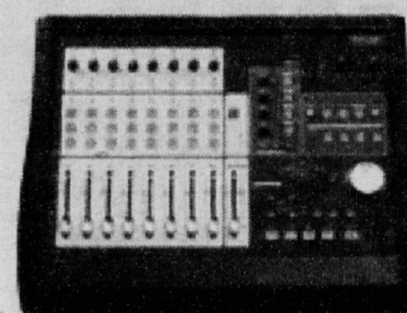
To ensure they will get consideration for hosting the regional tournament, the 'Jacks will have to go on the road to clinch the conference title. On Thursday the 'Jacks will travel to Chico State, who they defeated 74-56 in late January. They will travel to Cal State Stanislaus, who they defeated 94-88, to close out the regular season on Saturday.

Junior forward Grayson Moyer said, "It would be huge for us to play at home. We love playing here and not having to travel anywhere would be nice."

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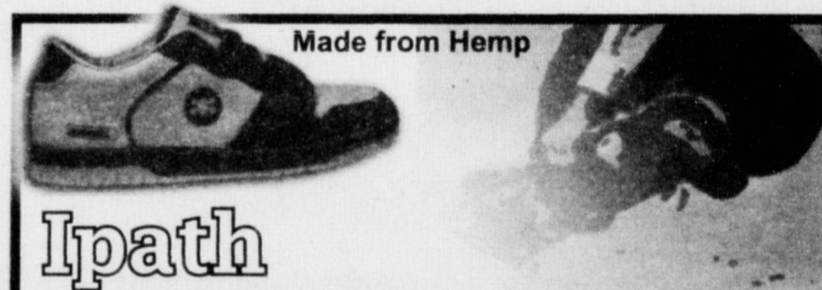
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Artist brightens up Humboldt

Janel Lammons makes McKinleyville, Arcata colorful



Dorothy Cronin

The side of Roger's Market in McKinleyville is Janel Lammons' canvas as she puts the finishing touches on a pastoral scene complete with green rolling hills.

Dorothy Cronin
dpc9@humboldt.edu

What started as a logo for a McKinleyville convenience store, soon turned into a mural that the community could see evolve.

The mural is on the side of Roger's Market, just off of the School Road exit. Artist of the mural, Janel Lammons, said she started painting it in November and wants to finish this spring.

"The mural is a tribute to the beauty of the area and [its] wildlife," Lammons said.

There are two sides of the mural: One side mimics the ocean and sunset, while the other is a farm setting, which includes the Hammond Trail. Lammons said she started with the ocean side, but couldn't decide what colors she wanted the sunset to be, so for inspiration, she watched the sunsets by the Hammond Trail.

Lammons' dog, Wolfy, and another local dog, Roxanne, are both in the mural. Lammons said that other locals of the area want Lammons to put their dog in the mural but there is not enough room.

Carol Suarez has owned Roger's Market for just over 18 months. Suarez said that Roger's Market is a sort-of community center, which holds meetings, petitions and has the only bulletin board in the community.

"The mural not only attracts the local community but also draws in tourists to the Hammond Trail," Suarez said. She added that clients of Roger's Market love that the mural is always changing, and said that it brightens the neighborhood.

"They enjoy Janel's energy and the mural which reflects

"The mural is a tribute to the beauty of the area and [its] wildlife."

Janel Lammons
local mural painter

the beauty of the area," Suarez said.

The mural includes native flowers and birds, such as herons and red tail hawks, that reflect the area. She said that they want to add anything to the mural that localizes it.

Kevin Blake, a resident of the area, said, "The mural enhances the store for one, and it makes the area in general more aesthetically pleasing because the artwork stands

out."

Although the mural reflects the surrounding natural area, Suarez said there is a mystical aspect to the mural. Suarez's granddaughter will add a mermaid to the mural the next time she visits. They might add a mountain lion peeking from the bushes because of recent sightings of mountain lions in the area.

Lammons, a Louisiana-native, said that her family was always into art, and constantly encouraged her. Lammons learned the basics of art in high school and taught herself most of her techniques.

"The mural is a learning process for me," Lammons, who calls her talent an inherited gift, said.

She said that sometimes she paints too late in the day, or rain causes the paint to smear and not dry properly. When this happens she has to scrape that paint off and repaint parts of the mural, causing the changing colors of the mural.

Lammons wishes she had made art more of a main focus in her life because it makes others happy. "[With] the shortness of life, we have to enjoy the things that come with it. I love to make others happy and to make them smile," she said.

Taking care of business

North Coast Environmental Center continues to make a difference in the community

Marianne Donovan
mkd18@humboldt.edu

The North Coast Environmental Center educates, activates and, when necessary, litigates on environmental issues. They are currently in the process of moving locations while continuing to tackle tough issues about the environment while maintaining fundraising.

The center is currently located at 575 H Street in Arcata, Acting Director Susan Penn said that they will be moving to an historic Victorian building at 1465 G Street later this year. The new location is in a commercial area, with convenient access from the university.

Since the opening of the center in 1971, it has accomplished a great deal. It founded the oldest rural-recycling program in the U.S., and pioneered the now-international "Adopt-a-Beach" coastal clean-up program.

Penn and the center are going to put more effort into "Adopt-a-Beach" since more people are getting involved and the program is constantly growing. Each beach is cleaned at least three times a year and the center provides all the supplies needed. Scheduled cleanings are up to the volunteers but if you are hoping to get involved with "Adopt-a-Beach," call the center at (707) 822-6918. Any-

one can help out with this program.

"It's more fun with a group of people to get out there and clean," Penn said.

The center works closely with the public and has always had a work study program for student employees, which is open to any major.

Freshman Kayla Gunderson started work with the center at the beginning of the spring semester.

Student employees like Gunderson help with research, filing, working on and distributing the newsletter, working in the center's boutique and, recently, packing up for the move.

"I am really excited about the new location. It will be great," Gunderson said.

If you don't know what you're doing on St. Patrick's Day, the North Coast Environmental Center will host a rummage sale with items such as books and furniture that will not fit into its new location.

"We are downsizing our library. There are lots of good books," Penn said. But they are keeping program-oriented books and books that are not readily available. Some of the boutique items may be on sale as well.

Local resident Darlene Amann has worked in the center's boutique for two-and-a-half years and said Christmas is the busiest time of the year for retail, but the sale should be busy too.

Another fundraiser for the center is the 23rd Annual Auction and Dinner scheduled for April 28 at the Arcata Community Center. Tickets are on sale at the center. Penn is currently working on this event and says the center will be auctioning art, paintings, ceramics, trips, services, dinners and gift certificates from local businesses.

"This [the auction and dinner] is our biggest fundraiser of the year," Penn said. "The vast majority of our support comes from local donations."

Overall, the center works to conserve the area's biological assets, in the public's interest. It is widely recognized and respected as a place for environmental information and educational resources and positive, effective action.

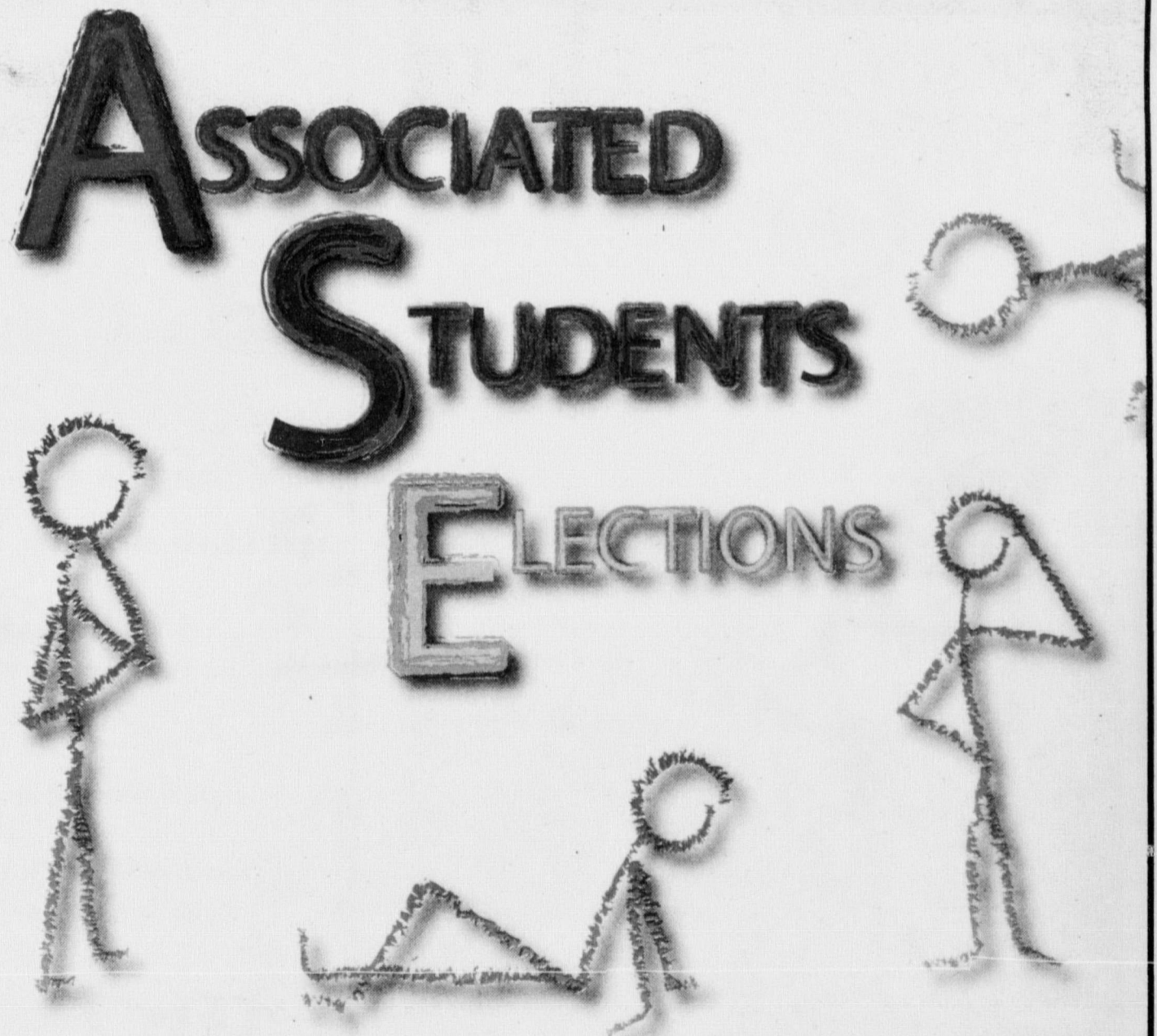
To learn about upcoming events and to support the North Coast Environmental Center check out its Web site at <http://necandeconews.to>, as well as the center's newsletter, ECONEWS.

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- Eleanor Roosevelt

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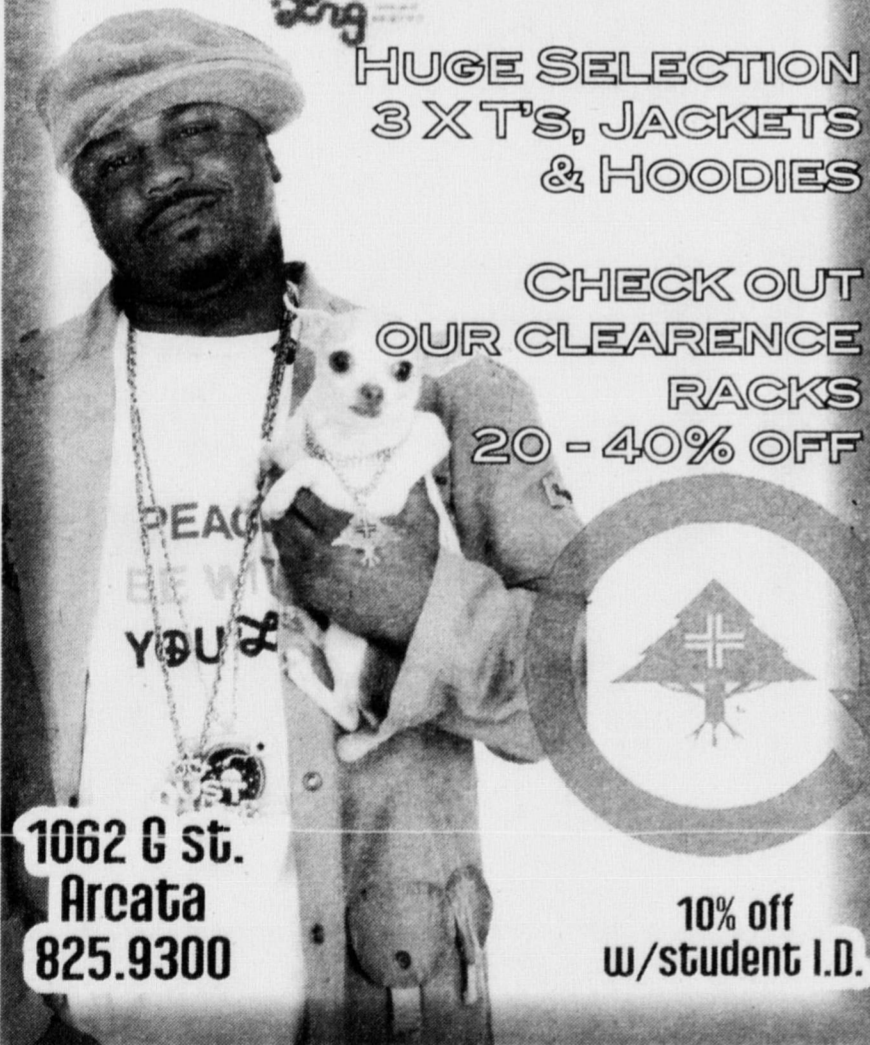
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Steel drums to benefit arts scholarship fund



Courtesy of Chris Cook

Above: Melody Walker sambas to Womama, a band comprised of Humboldt State Percussion Club members, at their performance last Tuesday, Feb. 20. Below: The hands of Rudy Slizewski

Lindsay Brokaw
lob1@humboldt.edu

What began with people banging on just about anything they could find evolved into a worldwide cultural and musical phenomenon, and it might save the Summer Arts Scholarship.

The booming timbre and explosive rhythm of the Humboldt State Percussion Club's steel drum bands will exhilarate the Fulkerson Recital Hall this Friday, March 4 at 8 p.m. as a benefit for the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences College. The club, organized into bands Womama, Bloco Firmeza, and Dun Dun Fare, will perform calypso, Afro-Cuban, Brazilian Samba, and West African ensembles on instruments that, with the exception of a drum kit and brake drum, are made entirely of 50-gallon oil drums.

At \$5 a ticket, the admission price will help replenish the scholarship fund that was cut by the Dean to send eligible students to Summer Arts. Hosted by Fresno State, the series of intensive, two-week art workshops is a retreat

for all kinds of creative genius, from musicians to photographers, visual artists to writers, dancers to actors.

"It's our duty to let other people know that this program is available," said Jesse Jonathon, a music senior, who organized and will perform in the event. Jonathon wants to send the next generation of artists and musicians to this program. "It's a priceless opportunity," he said.

Jonathan's favorite instrument of the ensemble is the brake drum, which is literally the brake drum off an old truck.

"It's what they use to keep time in Trinidad," he said. "It's the engine that drives the whole bus, and the grass roots of this whole movement."

Jonathan Kip will play the cello pan. He is a music sophomore and said that when playing in the ensemble, he can't help but dance.

Jonathon attended the Summer Arts program and completed the percussion and



See BENEFIT, pg. 19

*We could have gone anywhere.
We chose Florida International University.*

*Miguel Alonso, Jr.
Miami
Electrical Engineering*

*Megan Bottegal
North Carolina
Forensic Chemistry*

*Douglas Houghton
New York
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BENEFIT: World music

continued from pg. 17



Courtesy of Chris Cook

Womama member Rudy Slizewski hammers out a beat.

world music program. For the duration of the program, Jonathon attended class all day, rehearsed all night, and, at the end, performed for the community what he and colleagues had created and fine-tuned. All this was done under what Jonathon called "the watchful eye of Dr. Eugene Novotney."

Novotney, a Humboldt State music professor, founded the percussion and world music program in 1989, and is a special guest at the benefit concert.

"I'm thrilled the [California State University system] promoted the percussion and world music program," Novotney said. "It was very competitive because we were competing against the entire CSU."

"[Summer Arts] is a priceless opportunity."

Jesse Jonathon

Percussion and World Music Benefit organizer

"I can't pick a favorite instrument," Novotney said, "but I can tell you what my favorite thing is—rhythm." Novotney recalled artists he has worked with, gazing up at stage lights reflected back in wide pupils. Steel drum artists like Ray Holman and Liam Teague of Trinidad, and C.K. Ladzekpo, a master drummer from Ghana, originators of the art form, have worked with students at the Summer Arts Program, he said.


AS PRESENTS
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3/08

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3/30



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4/29

Loeillet *Trio Sonata No. 2 in B minor*
Shostakovich *Trio in E minor for piano and strings, No. 2, Op. 67*
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Botany classes to be trimmed

Budget cuts limit availability of classes required for graduation

Devin Clark

devin.clark@gmail.com

The Biological Science Department is bracing for a budget cutback.

At the request of the Budget Committee, the Biology Department currently plans for a seven-percent cutback as well as a current 3.5-percent deficit, according to Casey Lu, chair of the department.

The Biology Department is amputating elective courses and tentatively chiseling away at required courses for majors.

For example, plant physiology, a requirement for botany majors, will only be offered once a year, Lu said.

"We're doing an analysis of the entire curriculum; whether or not it's going to stay that way I don't know," he said.

Vice President of the Biological Science Department Frank Shaughnessy re-

"Cutbacks are forcing students to take classes they don't want unless they pay the extra tuition and wait for classes they do want."

Nathan Mack

environmental science senior



John H. Anderson Jr.

Botany students evaluate plant samples in the Science D Laboratory 147. Class availability changes could delay students from meeting graduation requirements. As it is two classes sections are set to be reduced to once a school year.

cently conducted a survey evaluating student and professional input. The goal was to find more effective teaching methods and increase student retention. He declined to comment on the results, as they are still being evaluated.

Lu added that next year is going to be a "transitional year" for his department.

Lu said that plant morphology (BOT372) and plant anatomy (BOT 321), which are offered in spring and fall, respectively, will be offered in alternating years.

If a student cannot take plant anatomy, for example, that student will have to wait two full years to be able to take it again. The major requirements, however, are such that students can take one or the other, depending on their preference.

Professor Alexandru Tomescu was hired to teach these courses. Tomescu's morphology class this semester is "low-enrolled," which means it did not meet

the minimum 15 students.

"As long as minimum enrollment is 15 students, I won't be able to have those classes. Someone will get stuck taking something they don't want," he said.

Nathan Mack, an environmental biology senior, is taking social ecology (SOC 320) because six of the classes for practical applications of environmental biology are not offered this semester and may not be in the future.

Natural resources planning methods is unreasonable for him and his major because of prerequisites, and the last three of the classes for that section of his major are offered at the same time this semester.

"Although social ecology may fit into my major requirements, it does not coincide with my career goals," Mack said. "Cutbacks are

forcing students to take classes they don't want unless they pay the extra tuition and wait for classes they do want."

What does this mean for students? Tomescu replied, "They're going to have to plan a little better."

"We're already operating at low cost. [The administration] will probably have to start cutting staff."

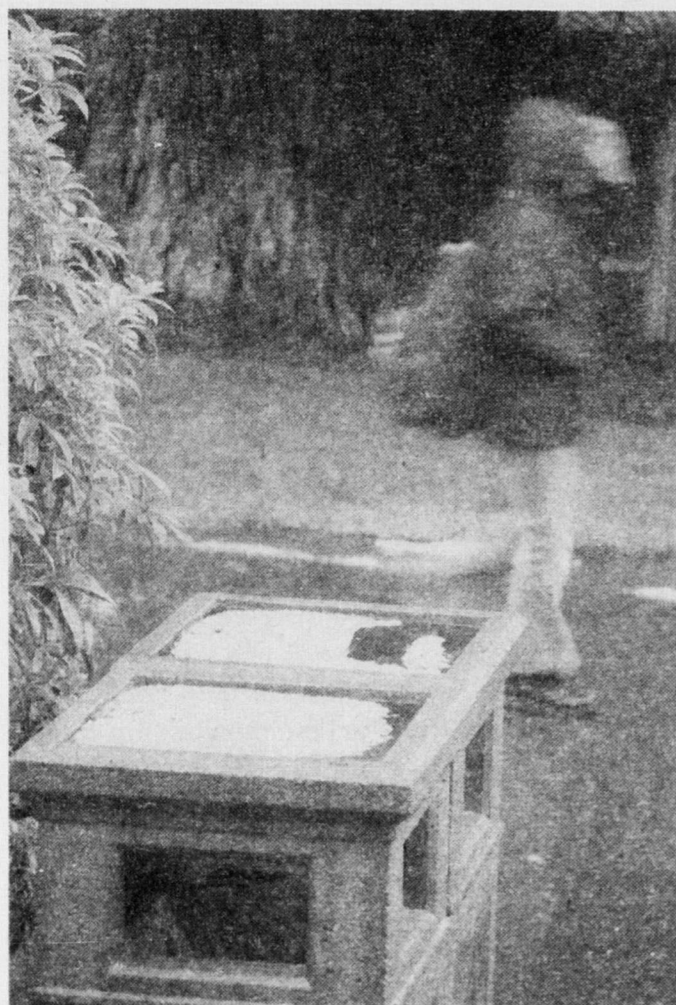
Alexandru Tomescu
Humboldt State biology professor

The real problem is that with the deficit, courses and departments are already running at skeletal levels. Where will the cuts come from?

"We're already operating at low cost. [The administration] will probably have to start cutting staff. The Greenhouse is run by one person. Quite a few people do a lot more than their jobs would suppose," Tomescu said.

Lu explained that the priority of the department is that students are able to continue through to graduation. He continued that analysis of the curriculum is necessary. "It's a very healthy thing to be doing," Lu said.

Hailstorm!



A student walks passed Nelson Hall East side entrance during last Thursday's hailstorm that brought down pebble-sized balls of ice for about 30 minutes. No one was injured during the storm.

The National Weather Service predicts steady percipitation through the end of the week, but has not issued any severe weather warnings other than high-surf advisories. A break from the rain is expected on Saturday.

A snow advisory is in effect, with 2-4 inches expected at 1,500ft, and increasing with elevation.

Computer lab shortages

James Wallace

shinra_rocket27@hotmail.com

Locations and access to open computer labs are changing, as students will see in future semesters.

RJ Wilson, manager of academic computing, said a combination of administrative disagreement and remodeling of the university are the main reasons for the change to the labs. "One [computer lab] we're losing is the student-parent lab in the University Annex. The lease is running out, and it's too bad because it is a kid-safe environment for children of students or others who want to get away from the more busy computer labs," Wilson said.

Academic computing is currently searching for a suitable location to move this lab, but little, if any, possibilities are clear at the moment, Wilson said.

There are currently 12 computer labs located from Founder's Hall to the Annex. Complete lists of which computer labs are Macintosh or PC are found outside any of the lab's doors, updated weekly by Jeanne Wielgus, academic computing lab manager.

"Maintenance hours are posted on the door, so are lecture hours for the week and the class

list is updated every week," Wielgus said.

The labs in Harry Griffith Hall are going to be closed during an upcoming remodel, scheduled to begin during the summer. Once finished, the computer lab in HGH 105 will no longer be an open lab. The labs in the library and Gist Hall are always available to students, while labs such as Siemen's Hall and Jenkin's Hall have hours set aside for classes.

If getting a reserved spot at a given time seems to be difficult, it may be that the time slot is one of the busiest for that location. Knowing where other labs are may help, but it may be too time consuming to check out every one.

To avoid spending precious time walking around campus in search of an open lab, students who have laptops are turning to independent wireless internet.

Some of the wireless spots on campus are the library, in the food friendly area and most of the periodicals section on the second floor, the University Center area, including the Kate Buchanan Room, the bookstore area and the

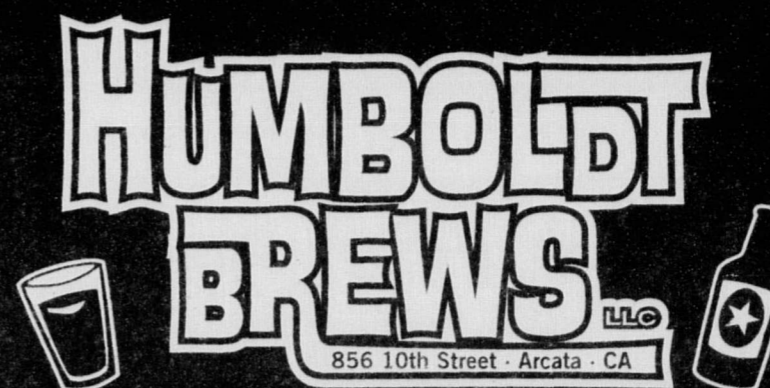
Depot, the Student Business Services building, the second floor of Nelson Hall East and the engineering and biological sciences building.

Big Pete's and Sacred Grounds are a couple other spots where wireless service may be found off campus. Sacred Grounds only requires a login name and password to use its server, and it is free to sign up.

Even though adding extra lab hours may not solve problems because it will cost more money to staff, having labs with extended hours could help, especially for students who like to do work after hours.

Managing time, e-mailing folders or backup files to a separate e-mail account and being aware of others' needs will help everyone when it is near the end of the semester and projects are all due at the same time, causing congestion of computer labs.

"Gist Hall's lab (room 218) is opened, during the week days, until midnight, and during the last four weeks of the semester, is open 8 to 2 a.m.," Wielgus said.



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We're Humboldt!

Right now the CSU funds Humboldt State and the other 22 campuses in the CSU system based on the number of students enrolled. Under this system, schools like Cal State Long Beach, with approximately 35,000 students, get more money than smaller schools like Humboldt State.

While Humboldt can't compete with the larger schools in terms of enrollment, it does offer programs that can't be found anywhere else in the CSU system.

Students, staff, faculty and administrators approached the new system-wide strategic plan, entitled Access to Excellence, with this in mind.

Many at the daylong collaboration session on Monday said funding based on the types of programs each campus has is more appropriate for schools like Humboldt State, which is known for its science programs despite its relatively low enrollment.

Students, staff, faculty and administrators said they don't want Humboldt State to become a "cookie cutter" satellite facility of the CSU, and hoped Board of Trustee Chair Roberta Achtenberg would take that sentiment back with her to Long Beach.

What she and other board members need to recognize is that people don't come to Humboldt State because it's close to home or another urban area. The quality of the university should be measured on successful student-implemented programs like the Campus Center for Appropriate Technology and Youth Educational Services, not on a school's demographics. Humboldt State will never become another Cal State Long Beach or San Diego State, and it's probably safe to say that everyone on campus and in the community is thankful for that.

Letters to the Editor

Cock Tales

Dear editor,

On Friday, Feb. 23, we attended "Cock Tales," promoted as an equivalent to the "Vagina Monologues." While we applaud the intentions to support ending violence against women we feel there were a few important aspects that weren't addressed.

The nine white, heterosexual men, who were drinking alcohol on stage, did not address their own privilege, or question if they had ever committed violence against women. At the start of the show it was stated that individual men don't make women feel unsafe, and that it's only society's construction of men that creates women's fear. One piece seemed hopeful when the man began questioning insecurities regarding penis size, but instead of honestly reflecting on the issue, he candy-coated it by stating that

it is only the size of the heart that matters. Sexual orientation was only discussed in terms of rape.

So, let's clear up a few things: Individual men can make women feel unsafe, and they should have taken responsibility for this instead of chalking it up to society. You can talk about insecurities without apology or the need to turn it into a cheesy, feel-good moment. There are many women who are raped by men and go on to have healthy relationships with men. Rape is not an excuse to not question sexual identity. Rape is about power, not sex.

In regard to the alcohol consumption on stage, we feel it highlighted a few contradictions in the performance. One man talked about not remembering the details of a one-night stand due to drinking. Alcohol often contributes to violent situations. It demonstrated a lack of introspection

of their own privilege -- women doing the "Vagina Monologues" would not have been taken seriously if they had been getting drunk on stage.

With the exception of the piece that discussed circumcision as genital mutilation, and urged the audience to question the practice, there were no strategies discussed toward ending violence. We would have liked a pledge to use their own privilege to stand in solidarity to end violence against women. Men questioning their roles and stereotypes are important and rare. If we were male we would have been embarrassed by the superficial scratching at what it means to live as men in America. Certainly there is more to it than what you would do if you had the last cock on earth.

*Jen Quick and Hillary Houck
Arcata, Calif.*

Budget Motives

Dear editor,

One thing was clear from the budget presentations on Feb. 12: If the deep cuts proposed are actually made to the Office of Academic Affairs, the quality of education at Humboldt State will take a serious hit.

Another thing that is clear is that this does not appear to bother President Richmond in the least. The dirty little secret is that there is not really a budget shortfall at Humboldt State, but rather a desire on the part of Richmond to shift money away from academics to other programs. The scary talk of cuts in athletics and student services is really just a smoke screen to cover his shifting of resources within the university.

Humboldt State is one of the best science and arts schools in the CSU system, and adequate funding for the academic side of the University is critical to maintaining the quality education Humboldt State provides.

Rick Vrem said the cuts proposed by the president to the colleges would mean a loss of at least 750 full-time-equivalent students, bigger classes, and fewer course offerings, along with the loss of 31 faculty and 16 staff positions.

This is totally unacceptable.

Clearly, the loss of faculty and staff will mean a decrease in quality of education for Humboldt State students. The loss of the [full-time students] will mean that Humboldt State will fail to meet our enrollment targets and

will be forced to make further cuts, which Richmond will certainly want to come out of academics, because he seems to view them as "overfunded."

Richmond's true motives are unclear. He does not seem to have a real interest in maintaining Humboldt State's reputation as a university strong in the natural resources and sciences. So, what are his motives?

It is time for students, faculty, staff and alumni to stand up to President Richmond and say, "no, we will not allow him to sacrifice the quality education provided by Humboldt State University!"

*Katherine Lee
Humboldt State Alum, Class of '95*

Here's how to get in the forum.

- Letters to the Editor: No more than 350 words
- Guest Columns: No more than 750 words
- Letters and columns are edited for grammar and spelling
- For consideration for the next issue, please send letters/columns by Friday at 5 p.m.
- Please include your name, telephone number and city of residence
- We also welcome cartoons, spoof articles and just about anything

Send submissions to:

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 Nelson Hall East Room 6
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 Arcata, CA 95521

The Maussakelle Reservoir, Sri Lanka

By Xerxes N. Marduk

The Maussakelle Reservoir is a large lake, formed by tropical rainfall, smack dab in the middle of the tiny island nation of Sri Lanka, off the southern coast of India. On this day I had been invited to go gem hunting by the owner of my guest house and his two sons.

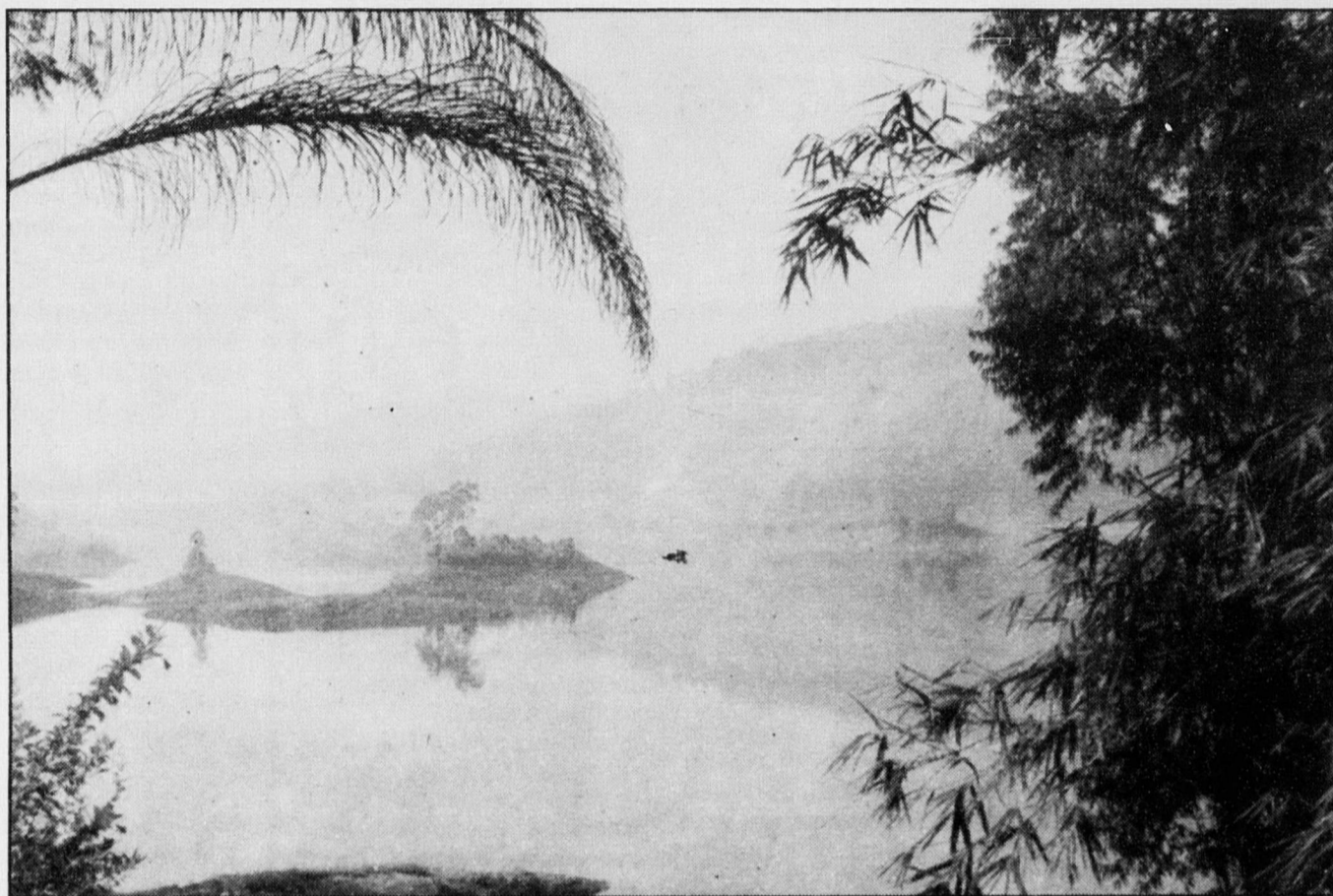
The night before, as I sat at the table eating a gigantic dinner his wife had prepared for me, the head of the family told me stories of hunting elephants and wild boars as a young man. But now, on account of his age and old battle wounds, he had retired to his second-favorite pastime, gem hunting. His two sons, aged 19 and 15, had the day off from school, so we brought a picnic to have out on the lake.

The man of the household, also my guide, told me the lake, which was 15 feet below its normal level due to drought, was a natural depository for precious stones washed out of the mountains by numerous rivers. Because it was so low, many previously hidden rock deposits should be easily visible, he said. In particular we were hunting for sapphires, rubies, cats-eyes, spinals, garnets and diamonds on the lakes muddy shore.

We walked a few miles on a dirt road to a tiny fishing village perched on the shore of the lake. Here our leader enlisted the help of two thin and brittle looking old fishermen to row our boat. The two stringy old men had but a few yellow teeth each left in their heads, but they rowed the boat with even strokes which spoke of a lifetime of hard, manual labor.

When we reached a promising location we all hoped off the boat and began poked through piles of small rocks and digging through debris in the dry stream beds. Though the man and his kids took this as a game, the old fishermen from the village searched with more intensity, probably relying more upon the money gained from a potential find to feed themselves.

After two hours of searching one spot, and then rowing to another to look there, the results were mixed. I ended up with a rather fine piece of smoky quartz the father discovered and gave to me, but I didn't find anything worth keeping myself. I guess I don't have the eye for gem hunting. But I did see many varieties of porous volcanic rocks, obsidian, and conglomerates. My old geology teacher



Maussakelle Reservoir at dawn when we started our adventure.

Xerxes N. Marduk

would be proud.

In a sudden change, the sky turned from blue and calm, to dark and thunderous, with threatening storm clouds rolling in over the sky. Our group dashed into a little village just as the rain started to pour down. This village was a workers camp, housing the poor families who worked on the tea plantations on the surrounding hills. The main structure in the camp consisted of a long, concrete building partitioned off into small, one-room dwellings to house entire families.

The father told me the families living here had originally been imported from India by the British to work the tea plantations, and these families were the fourth generation tea plantation workers to live here. Without any chance for advancement or education, these families, and many like them all over Sri Lanka, were virtually serfs to the land. The land is still owned mainly by Germans, English, and French, the father said. The few Sri Lankans who owned tea plantations here lived not in Sri Lanka, but with their European counterparts on the continent.

The father explained that he was an overseer on one of the tea plantations in this area, and therefore quite well off. It was evident to me by his talk of buying a digital camera, and his sons' talk of what kind of European car they wanted to buy in a few years. The opposite side of the coin was the squalor of those living in the village we ate lunch in.

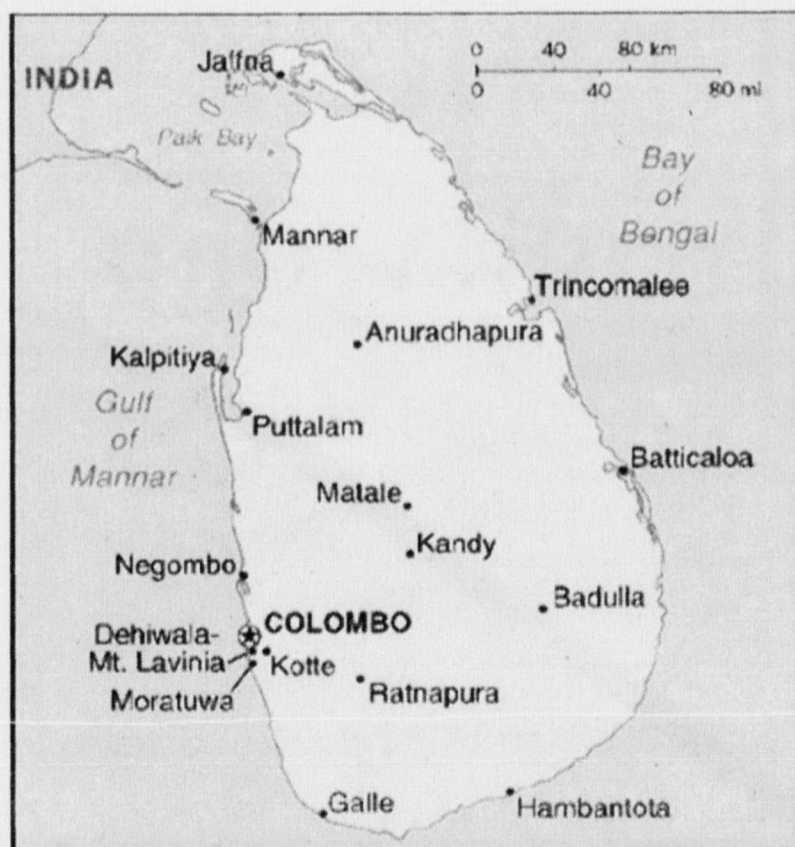
I went inside a dwelling and it was of the meanest type. In one corner of the dark, damp, concrete room sat an old lady in a plastic chair with a child on her lap watching a small black and white TV. I gave the little girl a

cracker from my lunch, and watched in amusement and wonder as she rubbed her bare feet with it, and hit a passing dog over the head with it, before taking a bite out of the corner. All the while the old lady in the chair paid her no heed.

I drew many curious stares and shy hellos, from the curious residents, who had never seen a white person there before. They all acted in a friendly manner, though they gave me a wide berth, seeing how I was there with a well to do local family and not on my own.

Getting back into our boat we heard the sounds of thunder close by, and it was only when we were halfway back across the lake and lightning started arching out of the sky that I thought this probably wasn't the safest place to be. Indeed, my story could have ended right there, with a sudden bolt of white hot electricity passing through my body in less time than it takes to blink. But fortunately all that happened was I got soaked to the skin.

When we reached the boat landing the torrential downpour had not let up, and we hurried into a nearby house to shelter in. The house showed undeniable signs of the owner's prosperity. There was an old Singer sewing machine in one corner. And in another were two telephones and a mobile phone on a table. The proud owner of the house passed around the mobile phone for our inspection and praise, as if they were rare ceramic eggs from Russia. Much fanfare was made over the various phones, though it was in the local language of Tamil, so I was excluded from taking part. We waited out the storm watching a Bollywood movie on his TV. And then, when the rain stopped, we walked back to the guesthouse just as the sun was breaking through the clouds once again.



Map of Sri Lanka

Courtesy of About.com

Xerxes N. Marduk is a curious individual and an avid traveler since taking his first trip when 18. Since 1998, he has traveled to every continent and visited places like Vietnam, Egypt, Russia and Peru. He attends Humboldt State.

This is the sixth installment of the world travels of Xerxes.



Sunvalley Group flower warehouse: an observation

Erika Valadez
Guest Columnist

Six o'clock on the clock above the once white walls, now tinged slightly tan from the dirt in the air. The night shift of about 100 or so people crowd around a supervisor in her bright orange mesh vest with bright yellow reflection tape. Some shiver under their layers of clothing: jackets, vest, sweatshirts printed with athletic logos and rap artists. There are tired smiles, high fives, and sporadic bursts of laughter as everyone prepares for a long night. The rough blacktop on the floor is wet, muddy, sandy and instantly covers the bottom of your shoes and bottoms of your pants with a heavy, hard clay substance that smells like grass and something else. It's a slightly sharp smell that, after a week or so, you begin to recognize as the smell of half-frozen tulips, cut just before they can bloom. The bee-like buzz of the workers will soon be taken over by the roar of the machines and the music on the loudspeakers.

Large aluminum-colored carts roll in, assisted by two workers in navy blue coveralls, and the smell of tulips overpowers the room.

These tall carts are piled high with smaller black plastic baskets stuffed with at least 100 freshly picked tulips in all sizes, ranging from arm length to barely bigger than your palm. Employees line up

at a belt, seven or eight per line. They lean against the metal bar that reaches right up to your hip, your first line of defense against the roaring, grass-green machine that slices the egg shell-colored bulb at the bottom of the tulip and rolls each flower gently onto a brick-red belt that rolls right in front of you at a reasonable speed.

The air horn blows, the conveyor belts roar to life, the belt begins to move, the flowers begin to drop. Your hands in latex medical gloves grasp at the tulip stems, icy cold from the night and the refrigeration system used to keep the tulips from blooming. You match the same deep purple-tipped flowers at the stem and at the base of the bloom before setting them on an upper conveyor belt made of cardboard triangles that roll into a binding machine that resembles a large scale sewing machine. Before one of two employees at the other end picks up your newly made bunch, wraps them into a printed celluloid bag, places it back on the triangle belt, and sends it through another binding machine. The finished bunch is put in a tall black bucket, one-quarter filled with cold water, then rolled away on the same type of tall aluminum cart it came in on.



YOUR WORD

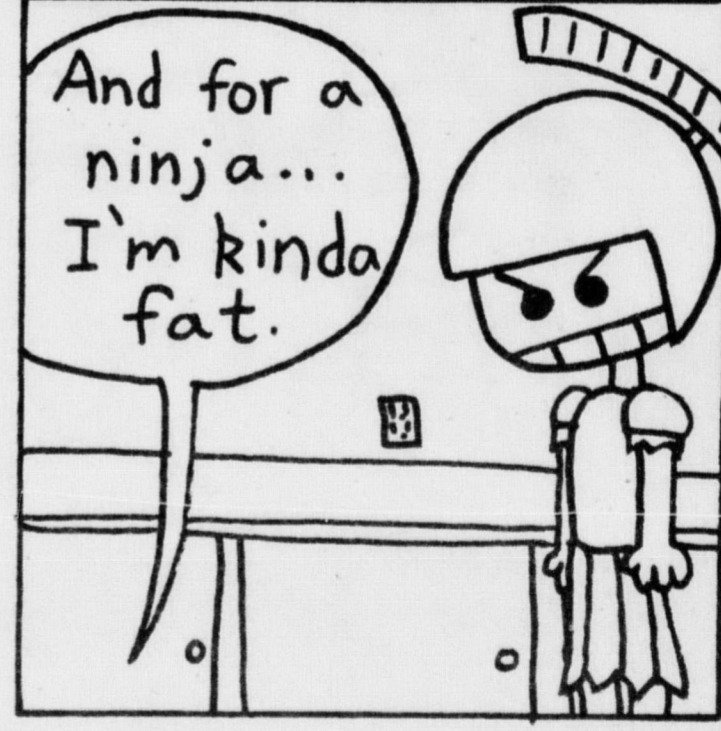
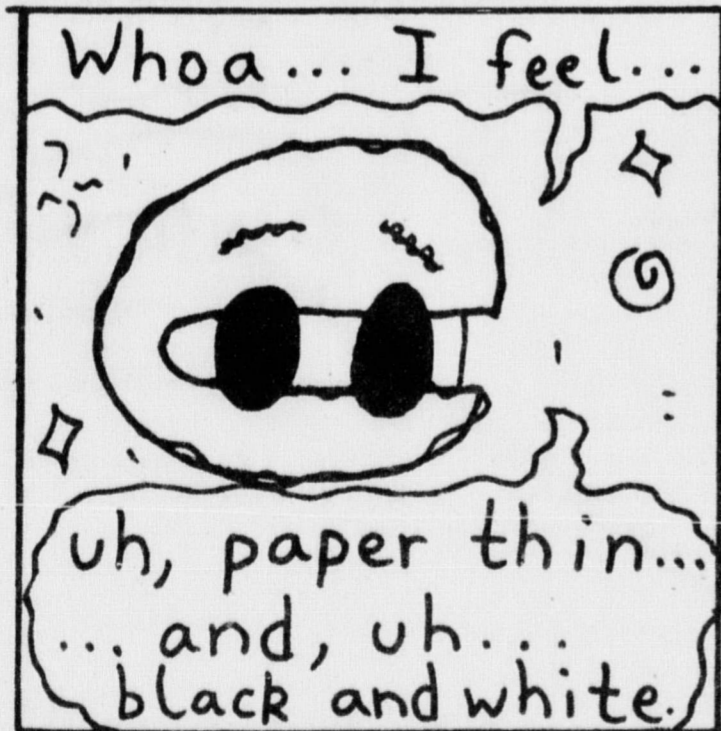
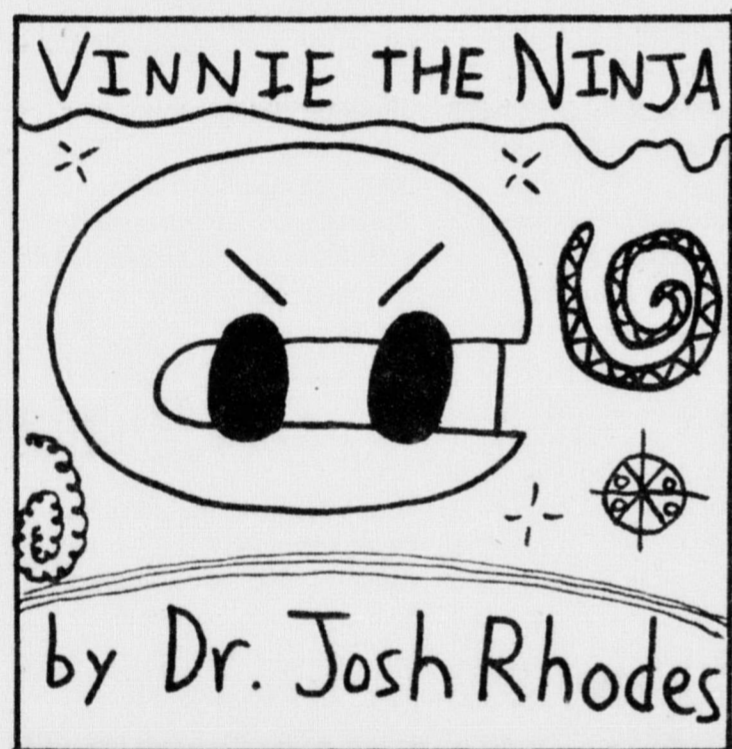
The forum section wants your word. Do you have something important to say? Here is your chance! We welcome column pieces written by individuals, clubs or organizations.

E-mail to: jco11@humboldt.edu

Puzzle Pieces, By Erik Mason

THE SECRET LIVES OF VEGANS.

©07' ERIK MASON.





Monday - Saturday
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28 Wednesday

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) Teach-In with Dr. Milton Boyd. Hosted by Environmental Politics Club and Oceanography Club. NHE 119 at 6 p.m.

2007 Spring Mentor Training Series presents **Child and Adolescent Development Workshop** led by Carmela Wnger, MPCC. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Humboldt County Office of Education, 901 Myrtle Ave., Eureka. For more information, call 269-2052.

Peace Corps meeting. Returning volunteer Richard Engel will discuss his experiences as an environmental activist in Honduras. 12-12:50 p.m. FH 118

01 Thursday

CenterArts presents **Peter Serkin.** 8 p.m. at the Van Duzer Theatre. \$35 general admission/\$33 seniors and children/\$25 HSU students. Tickets available at the University Ticket Office, The Works and The Metro. For credit card orders or more information, call 826-3928.

Wepeel (Weezer cover band), Carl Weathers for Govenor, and Republican Duck Hunters at the Boiler Room, 3534 Broadway, Eureka. 443-5464 for more information.

Sierra Club North Group meeting. At the Humboldt Area Foundation, Indianola Cutoff between Hwy. 101 and Old Arcata Road. 6-8:30 p.m. Call 826-3740 for more information.

Planning an event?

Call us at
(707) 826-3271

or send an e-mail to
thejack@humboldt.edu

Please include
'attn: calendar' in the
subject line.

02 Friday

AS Presents **An Evening with Wynona LaDuke** at 7 p.m. in the Van Duzer Theatre. \$2 HSU students, \$10 all others. Tickets available at the University Ticket Office, The Works and The Metro. For credit card orders or more information, call 826-3928.

13th Annual Diversity Conference and Education Summit begins, continuing through Sunday. Three days of workshops, speakers, reflection and action, intercultural dialogues, networking, community building and more. For more information, contact the Multicultural Center at 826-3369 or mcc@humboldt.edu

California Fish and Game Commission meeting. Goodwin Forum, 8:30 a.m.

First Friday theme skate at the Blue Lake Roller Rink. Theme is "80's Tunes" 6:30-9:30 p.m. \$5 adults/\$4 ages 9-17/\$3 8 and under. Call 668-5932 for more information.

"**Say the Say**," and interactive performance by MFA students of the Dell'Arte International School of Physical Theatre and Youth Services Bureau of Humboldt. At the New Hope Fellowship, 5th and A Streets in Eureka. 8 p.m., continues on Saturday. Call 668-5993 ext. 26 for more information.

Empty Bottle Boys ('old-timey') at Café Mokka, 5th and J St. 8 p.m., no cover.

03 Saturday

Iceage Cobra (rock/funk) at the Alibi.

TapWater (jam band from San Diego) with Bucky Walters at Six Rivers Brewery. 1330 Central Ave., McKinleyville. 21+, 9 p.m. 839-7580 for more information.

Free CPR Classes offered by the American Red Cross. 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at St. Bernard High School Auditorium, 222 Dollison St. (Between C & D St.). Register online at www.humboldtredcross.org or call 443-4521.

"**Rites of Passage**" composed by alumnus Dante De Silva and

graduating student composers. 8 p.m., Fulkerson Recital Hall. \$6 general adm./\$2 students and seniors/free for HSU students. Contact the HSU Box Office at 826-3928 for more information.

Reptile and Amphibian Discovery Day at the HSU Natural History Museum, 1315 G St. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information, call 826-4479.

Arcata Marsh will be holding free **docent training** classes at 9 a.m. at the Interpretive Center on South G Street. Call 826-2359 for more information or to sign up. Continues on Sunday.

HSU Clubs' Trade Fair to benefit SLAM Fest 2007. Featuring food and music. At the Bayside Grange Hall. Suggested donation of \$1. Call 496-8752 for more information.

04 Sunday

Bunny Rabbit (Melodramatic pop from Brooklyn) at the Boiler Room, 3534 Broadway, Eureka. 443-5464 for more information.

Blues Jam at Six Rivers Brewery. 1330 Central Ave., McKinleyville. 9 p.m. 839-7580 for more information.

05 Monday

Humboldt Blues Association open blues jam (blues-only open mic) at the Jambalaya, 915 H St. \$3 Contact cmd1234@sonic.net for more information.

Deke Dickerson (rockabilly) at Six Rivers Brewery 1330 Central Ave., McKinleyville. 8 p.m. 839-7580 for more information.

06 Tuesday

Spring Sociology Film Series presents "**Crash**" with Dr. Jennifer Eichstedt. This award-winning film explores racial tensions characterizing everyday life in America. FH 163 at 7 p.m. Contact adm33@humboldt.edu for more information.

Classifieds

Wanted

ROOM AND BOARD FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS. Drug free healthy home/family environments wanted for ESL HSU International students. Must be within walking distance of Red and Gold or RTS buses. Room and Board paid by students. Call Nicola at IELI 826-5878 or email ieli@humboldt.edu.

DONATIONS OF PRESENTABLE (NEW OR USED) FURNITURE (arm chairs, sofas, etc.) for Journalism office reception/reading area. Call Linda at 826-4775 or mcmaster@humboldt.edu.


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Wellness

HSU AA MEETINGS now meet in SBS Building room 405. Call 822-1758 for more information. Marijuana Anonymous meets every Wednesday night from 5-6 in HSU Annex room 152, 618-9228.

ADDICTED TO PORN/SEX? Sex Addicts Anonymous meets weekly on campus and in the community. Go to www.sexaa.org (locate an SAA Meeting link) for info on meetings in Arcata and Fortuna.

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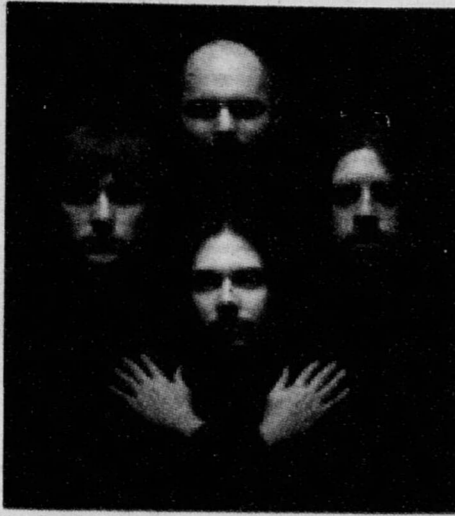
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