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## The College gets some good press as Claremont says goodbye to Steve Koblik

"Now, on to Reed" was the headline in the Claremont, California Courier, on an August story about Reed's new president, Steven Koblik, by interviewer Tim DeRoche. Here it is in its entirety.

Steven and Kerstin Koblik, residents here for 24 years, have departed Claremont to begin again in another west coast college town.

In early May, Mr. Koblik, who will be 51 later this month, was offered the presidency of Reed College, one of the nation's most prestigious liberal arts schools. The former professor at Pomona College had been working since 1989 as dean of faculty at Scripps.

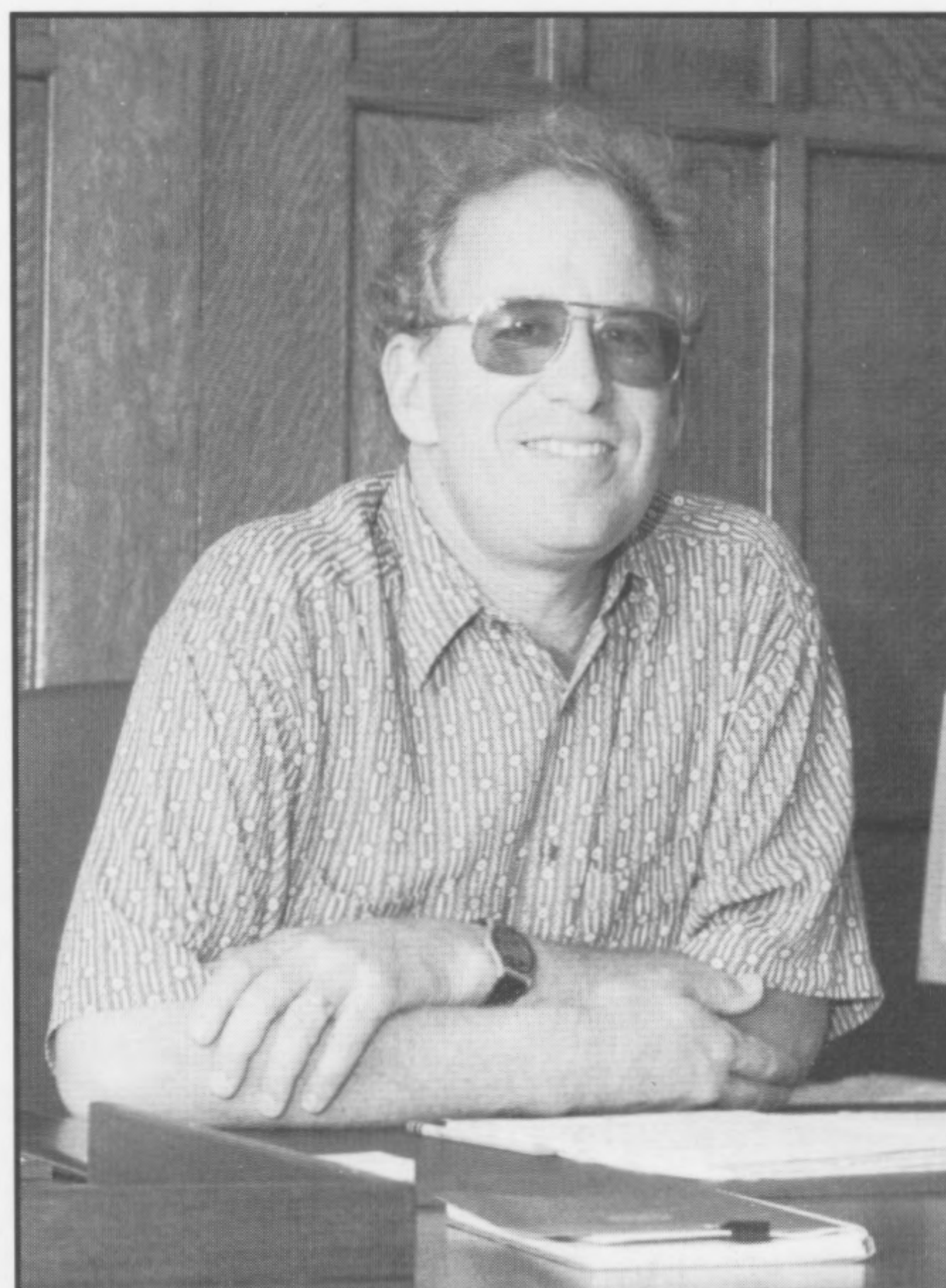
Reed's commitment to academic excellence made Mr. Koblik's decision to accept the offer an easy one. "It is an institution that believes its purpose is to educate, period," he declared.

The Kobliks came to Claremont in 1968. A graduate of the University of California, Berkeley's undergraduate program and Northwestern's doctorate program in history, Mr. Koblik's only previous teaching experience was one year on the faculty of the University of California, Riverside in 1967.

He taught at Pomona in the history and international relations departments from 1968 to 1989, when he accepted the administrative position at Scripps. His academic specialty was Scandinavian history.

"My time at Pomona is very precious to me," he said, noting that he still keeps in contact with many Pomona faculty members and former students.

He also praises Scripps College, his employer for the last 3 years in



Gene Thompson

Steven Koblik at Reed, summer, 1992

Claremont. "The 3 years at Scripps were remarkable," he said. "The support of people at Scripps was something I couldn't have imagined."

Both of the Kobliks' children plan to remain in southern California. Son Paul, 23, graduated from Lewis and Clark College and now lives in Claremont, playing in a local rock band called Gunga Finnigan. Their daughter Lisa, 24, attends California State University, Long Beach.

The new president admits that the Claremont Colleges and Reed possess a "fundamental similarity" in that both institutions are "totally dedicated to teaching undergraduates."

The schools *are* different, though, according to the long-time academic. "The thing that makes Reed most

different from Pomona is that it has a well-established, extraordinarily vigorous curriculum," Mr. Koblik said, comparing Reed to its most similar counterpart among the Claremont Colleges. Like Pomona, Reed has attempted to build a strong general curriculum in the liberal arts, instead of specializing in one area like Harvey Mudd or CMC [Claremont McKenna College].

He also lauds Reed's treatment of students as "intellectual partners and adults" in the community, an attitude that the Claremont Colleges have moved away from in recent years. Mr. Koblik attributes both the social and academic differences to a more European outlook on education at the Oregonian college.

Reed students are much less dependent on the college administration in their daily, non-academic lives, he observed. The college has no intercollegiate sports and there are no fraternities or sororities. Mr. Koblik pointed out that the college produces more future Ph.D. recipients and Rhodes scholars per capita than any other [liberal arts] institution in the country.

Calling Reed "dedicated to the life of the mind," Mr. Koblik believes that he must uphold that tradition as president. "I have a responsibility to ensure that the unique commitment is continued," he added.

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[The Reed magazine plans to carry a feature on President Koblik in the November issue.]

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# Reed

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